

**SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
SCHOOL ONE PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**

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March 1, 2022

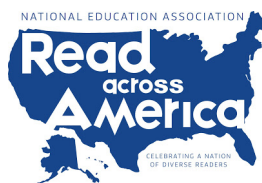
**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:** School Safety is our number one concern at School One. In addition to health and safety protocols, we also continue to take part in security drills and consistently remind our students of our procedures in the event of an emergency. Everyone has a part in keeping our school community safe. Parents can also assist by NOT parking in the staff parking lot so that we can make sure that all vehicles in the lot are those designated to be there. I also ask that when dropping off in the morning the driver please stay in their vehicle and move as far forward as possible. We have staff available to assist your child. I thank you for your continued support and I welcome any discussions from parents regarding the safety and security of our students.

As per Dr. Mast's correspondence dated February 7, 2022, the district will move to "mask optional" starting on March 7. With that said, I would like to encourage you as parents to remind your children to be respectful of the choices and decisions others will make as many of our families have personal circumstances they are considering. Please note that with our ever-changing Covid-19 climate, the district mask policy may change, so I kindly ask that you remain flexible in the district decisions. Thank you for your understanding.

A special thank you to our School One community for donating food items for the Kids Care "**Supper Bowl**". We've collected a number of items to be delivered to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains.

**IMPORTANT MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER**

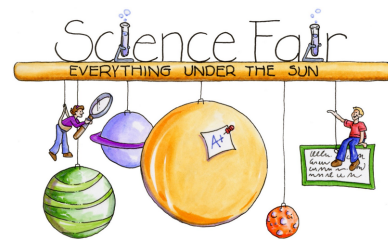
- Feb. 28-March 4 - Read Across America Activities
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> - National Read Across America Day
- March 4<sup>th</sup> - PTA Author Visit & Workshops Grades K-4, *Raakhee Mirchandani*  
- PTA Pretzel Sale
- March 9<sup>th</sup> - PTA Science Fair @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 10<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to Nettingham Middle School
- March 11<sup>th</sup> - International Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Day  
- PTA 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Bingo @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 16<sup>th</sup> - PTA Variety Show Rehearsal @ Terrill Middle School, 4:00 p.m.
- March 17<sup>th</sup> - School Spirit Day - Wear Green For Luck!
- March 18<sup>th</sup> - End of Trimester 2
- March 19<sup>th</sup> - PTA Variety Show @ Terrill Middle School, 6:00 p.m.
- March 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> - Think Purple Week
- March 21<sup>st</sup> - PTA Virtual Author Visit, Grades 2-4, *Nick Bruel*
- March 25<sup>th</sup> - Report Cards available to Parents on PowerSchool Portal  
- PTA 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Movie Night @ 6:30 p.m.



**READ ACROSS AMERICA CELEBRATION:** On Wednesday, March 2, we will be celebrating "Read Across America". Dignitaries from our school district and local community will be visiting School One to read to our students. We are honored and privileged that they are dedicating their time to share their love of reading. I am confident our children will enjoy this visit. Research indicates that children do better academically at school when they read outside of the school setting. Please support reading as a life-long activity in your home by reading to and with your child. Encourage your child to enjoy a good book and engage in reading activities at home on a daily basis.

During the week of February 28<sup>th</sup>, students will be participating in a "Read Across America Activities". A flyer will be going home with a theme for each day.

**PTA SCIENCE FAIR:** The School One Science Fair will be held on **Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**. Participating students in Grades 1 through 4 will present a science experiment to family and friends in this non-judged event. In past years, the Science Fair has had over 100 students participate. We hope to have this same size involvement again this year.



**PTA CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY WEEK:** During the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>, our District is participating in the National PTA Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week. We will join Parent-Teacher Associations across the nation in working towards a drug-free society.

One of the programs we are sponsoring includes the “Think Purple” campaign. The tradition of tying purple ribbons throughout our towns began by the PTA and community members. There are also a variety of activities being sponsored in memory of children who have lost their lives or have been physically or emotionally injured, either directly or indirectly, due to drugs or alcohol. A series of themes will be set for each day of the week.

The entire student population will again be asked to participate in designing the “I Am Special” dolls. Students are encouraged to work with their families on this project at home to raise awareness towards substance abuse. These “special people” will be linked together in our lobby and throughout our first-floor hallway for everyone to see.

We are looking forward to your support in each of these programs during this important week. I’d like to recognize our PTA Chemical Dependency Committee for making this week so special for our children.

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION:** Kindergarten registration for the 2022/2023 school year is underway. Please visit the district website at <https://www.spfk12.org/enrollment> for more information. The district is requesting that all kindergarten age children, both returning students and new students, register by **May 26, 2022** to ensure placement in their home schools.

Parents of students currently attending the district’s preschool program must confirm their intention to have their child(ren) attend kindergarten in the district by **May 26, 2022**, via PowerSchool to ensure placement in their home schools.

Registration will take place at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. To assist with security and safety procedures, it is required that parents make an appointment via PowerSchool with Mrs. Shatika Nathaniel, Registration Secretary.

Should you know of a neighboring family with a school-age child, please pass this information along to them.

**TELEPHONE MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS:** We have been experiencing a significant increase in the number of phone messages from parents regarding their child’s dismissal from school. If for any reason a student will not be going home according to their regular routine, a **WRITTEN NOTE IS REQUIRED** and should be sent to the classroom teacher in the **morning**. As noted in the Parent/Student Handbook and the September Principal’s Newsletter, parents are requested to make all necessary arrangements for their child’s dismissal from school **BEFORE THEIR CHILD ARRIVES AT SCHOOL FOR THE DAY**. If someone other than the parent (or the family member or friend indicated on the Dismissal Procedures form), will be picking up the child at dismissal time, a written note **needs to be sent** to the child’s teacher. Please understand that classroom instruction will **ONLY** be interrupted to deliver a message that is a **TRUE EMERGENCY**; messages of a social nature are **NOT** considered an emergency.

We are also concerned about messages arriving at the end of the school day, some as late as 3:05 to 3:10 p.m. This is a time when we cannot assure that the message will be relayed to the child since dismissal procedures are already in progress. We respectfully request that all messages regarding dismissal be received no later than 3 p.m.

**STUDENT ARRIVAL TIME:** Please remember that on inclement weather days, students may **NOT** enter the building prior to 8:20 a.m. Please plan your child's arrival at school accordingly, especially on days when the weather is inclement.

**ATTENTION PARENTS OF NETTINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS:** If you have a child at NMS that picks up a younger sibling at School One, please read the following:

- Nettingham students are to wait for their School One sibling(s) in the front of School One. They should arrive in a timely fashion after dismissal from Nettingham.
- Nettingham students are to wait in a quiet and orderly manner so as not to disrupt the instruction that is taking place at School One.
- Calls will be made to the parents of any Nettingham student that does not comply with this request.

**PRE-K MILK MONEY:** Pre-K milk money for the month of APRIL will be collected **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>**, in the amount of \$5.25 (15 days x \$ .35). A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. *Please complete the form and return to school with your payment (either exact change, or a check made payable to SPFHS Cafeteria) in a sealed envelope. Pre-K students participating in the free-milk program MUST submit an order form.*



**LUNCH PROGRAM:** All school lunches must be preordered through the Pay Schools Central website using your student's lunch account information at [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). Please be sure to complete the lunch choice/days option, along with the payment process to complete your child's lunch order. Meals can be preordered for multiple days.

If you have any general comments regarding the school lunch program, you may e-mail Pomptonian at [comments@pomptonian.com](mailto:comments@pomptonian.com). Please direct any inquires to the Food Services Director at (908) 889-8600 x31184 or [cafeteria@spfk12.org](mailto:cafeteria@spfk12.org).

