



# Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

April  
2023

## A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood  
Community,

Each month, this newsletter celebrates the impressive accomplishments of our students. Behind many of the gold medals, contest and game wins, and innovative projects is a Scotch Plains–Fanwood teacher, administrator or staff member. Our impressive team of educators shows up every day focused on helping our students succeed.



With Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week coming up May 1–5, please join me in taking this opportunity to commend the teachers and staff of SPF. Thank you for your dedication to our students and the extra ways you go above and beyond to offer support.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Joan Mast  
Superintendent of Schools

## SPFHS Seniors Earn Gold at Special Olympics



Two SPFHS seniors – Diego Arcila and Diego Otero – earned gold at the state-level Special Olympics bowling competition in North Brunswick on April 2.

Arcila and Otero are part of a Special Olympics of New Jersey bowling league called the NJ Hawks. They are coached by Tracey Starker, who also serves as an aide in their SPFHS classroom.

They have had an exciting run since beginning practices in November. Following their strong performance at the area

tournament, Arcila and Otero earned gold medals at the sectional tournament, qualifying them to move on to the state competition, where they earned gold once again.

“We are incredibly proud of our two athletes,” said Starker, who noted how the experience not only resulted in medals, but a boost in confidence and new friendships for the two competitors.

*[Read more on TAPinto Scotch Plains/Fanwood](#)*

## SPFHS Raiders Overwatch 2 Team Wins Esports State Championship

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The SPFHS Raiders Overwatch 2 team won the Garden State Esports Championship on April 1 at Kean University.

“It was an epic day for SPF Esports and hopefully the first of many championships to come,” said Raymond Moskal, SPFHS Esports coach. “I’m incredibly proud of the students’ dedication, teamwork and strategy.”

Congratulations to Overwatch 2 team members: Nathan Arnold, Brian Bartley, Drew Bartley, Max Gal, Alex Jones, Louis Messano and Dylan Strzalkowski!

Three Raiders were also honored at the championship as winter all-stars: senior Wesley Lewis for Knockout City, junior Nathan Arnold for Overwatch 2 and sophomore Matthew Benedetto for Rocket League.

This recent success reflects the popularity of Esports at SPFHS. The high school had four teams participate in four different games this season. SPFHS was the *only* high school in the state to qualify for playoffs in all four games offered for the high school league.

Garden State Esports is a nonprofit founded by educators to create a platform for students to grow socially, emotionally and academically. Students share their love of gaming, working together for team-based play, which requires communication, accountability, relationship-building and other important life skills.



## Three Terrill Middle School (TMS) Students Win Arbor Day Poetry Contest

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Three TMS students have been named winners in the Union County Arbor Day Poetry Contest. The contest is held each year to encourage environmental stewardship and tree conservation among grades 4–8, in partnership with the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board.

Karl Asuncion placed first among sixth graders with his poem, “Trees.” Seventh graders Julia Pappalardo and Athena Bishop placed second and third, respectively, at their grade level with poems titled “Go on a Hike with Me” (Pappalardo) and “One, Two, Three Breaths” (Bishop).

The students wrote their poems as voluntary assignments in writing workshop classes with TMS teachers Nora Shalan and Kira Manniello.

“I really enjoy providing students with writing opportunities outside of typical classroom assignments, specifically writing contests,” said Shalan. “I believe these moments really allow students to tap into their creativity as well as broadcast their hard work and dedication.”

The students received their awards during a regular public meeting of the Commissioner Board on Thursday, April 27.

**Congratulations, Julia, Athena, and Karl!**



## Evergreen Elementary School Adopts Cubs Logo and Mascot

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Evergreen Elementary School collaborated to select its mascot – the Evergreen Cubs. Staff, students and families submitted suggestions in a school-wide contest. Art teacher Scott Fourre translated the winning idea (submitted by the Goldstein family) into the finished design, which incorporates previous design elements.



“I’m so proud of the way our community came together to create a symbol that both celebrates and unifies us,” said Erin Mullman, principal of Evergreen Elementary School. “A lot of thought went into this decision, and we will wear our Evergreen Cub logo proudly!”

# Featured Events

May 1 – 5 Staff Appreciation Week

May 1, 7 – 9:30 pm – District Jazz Festival in SPFHS Auditorium

May 3, 7– 9:00 pm – District Art Show at SPFHS

May 8, 8 pm – Board of Education Regular Public Meeting

May 10, 7:30 – 9:30 pm – Spring Choral Concert at SPFHS

May 11, 7 – 8 pm – Art Show at Coles Elementary School

May 17, 7:30 – 9:30 pm Instrumental Spring Concert at SPFHS

May 31, 7 – 8:30 pm – Senior Scholarship Night at SPFHS

May 24 – 26 – Extended Memorial Day Weekend

May 29 – Memorial Day: Schools & Offices Closed

Full calendar of events: *Scotch Plains–Fanwood Public Schools / Calendar (spf12.org)*

## REMINDER: SPF SOFTBALL YOUTH DAY

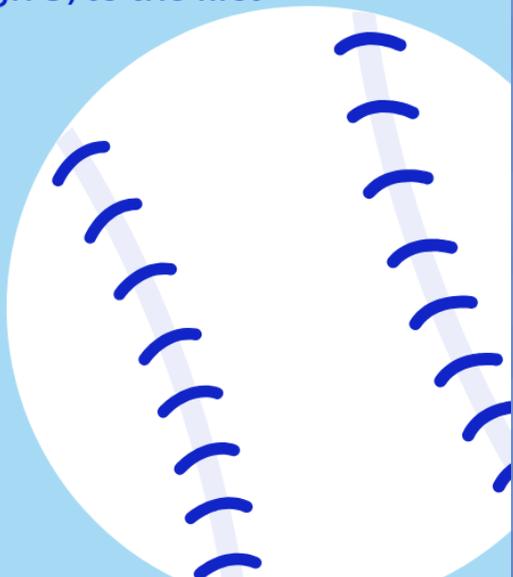
Saturday, April 29 at 11 AM

SPFHS Varsity Softball Team invites all youth softball families & players (grades K through 8) to the first annual SPF Softball Youth Day!

- Practice with players
- Post game activities
- Infield, outfield and hitting drills
- Pictures with the team

If the game is cancelled due to rain, the event will be moved to **Tuesday, May 9.**

[CLICK HERE  
TO SIGN UP](#)



# SCOTCH PLAINS- FANWOOD'S CREATIVE SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Join us for five weeks of summer programming,  
including the SPF Summer Instrumental Music School.

Our talented professional staff will lead exciting and  
challenging courses in an engaging atmosphere.

**Where?** Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

**When?** June 26 - July 28, 2023; 8:30am - 1pm

[CLICK HERE TO  
LEARN MORE](#)

Open to all public and private school students who reside in  
Scotch Plains and Fanwood, as well as all surrounding towns.

[www.spfk12.org](http://www.spfk12.org) ● (908) 232 6161  
512 Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076



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