



# Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

February  
2023

## A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood Community,

Every year, Read Across America Week is a special opportunity to celebrate reading in our classrooms, libraries, and homes and to instill in our children a lifelong love of reading. The week will be celebrated this year from February 27–March 3.

As parents and educators, I encourage you to acknowledge this week with your children and dedicate time to reading with them. Look for opportunities across our schools to get involved with Read Across America Week.



Sincerely,  
Dr. Joan Mast  
Superintendent

## Get Ready for Flavors Around the World!

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SPF's food service partner Pomptonian is proud to present the Flavors Around the World promotion in March. SPFHS students and staff will explore new countries and flavors one day per week throughout the month.

Get ready to taste delicious new foods, including Colombian arepas, chicken pad thai from Thailand, coconut chicken from Madagascar, Egyptian goulash, and French crepes with ratatouille. Enjoy!



## SPFHS Senior Wins in VFW Voice of Democracy Program



SPFHS Senior Cara Argila recently won first place in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Program for Memorial Post 10122 in Scotch Plains–Fanwood.

Argila was awarded a Certificate of Merit and a \$300 cash prize. She now advances to the NJ VFW state competition where she'll continue competing against other high school students from the state for a chance at the national competition and larger scholarship prize.

The VFW Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Program is a yearly competition which invites high school students to express their perspectives on democratic or patriotic themes. This year's theme asked students to consider why veterans are important.

Argila's compelling audio essay explained how veterans are "real-life superheroes" who have "saved our country and numerous others countless times.

Although their jobs are physically and mentally demanding, require years of service, and sometimes, traumatize them permanently, they complete the most important task: protecting the country they love and its people.”

Congratulations, Cara!

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

## Nettingham Students Become Principal and Assistant Principal for the Day

Nettingham eighth grader **Sarina Llano** and fifth grader **Chloe Racinez** stepped into the roles of principal and assistant principal last week, while Principal Dr. Jocelyn Dumaresq and Assistant Principal Sara Durand headed to class. The fun swap left a lasting impression for all four!





“

I learned [from the day] that kindness can go a long way. I think that even just today when I said 'good morning' or when I gave someone a high five that it made their day, and it made me feel like a good person, too.

**- Sarina Llano, 8th Grade**

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Stepping into a student's shoes was both humbling and thrilling! My favorite part of the day was lunch. I sat down at an empty table and immediately seven other students joined me to talk about how my experience was going. I'm always proud of how much we teach our students, but on that day, I was MOST proud of their kindness.

**- Principal Dr. Jocelyn Dumaresq**

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My favorite part of the day was decorating the bulletin board, the meeting with Ms. Roteli, and playing 'would you rather' because in my school experiences I wasn't able to do the activities I have done today.

**- Chloe Racinez, 5th Grade**

“

I loved the day! What a great experience to be with students all day long and be in their shoes. I am grateful for the students in class with me that helped me navigate the procedures all day.

- Assistant Principal Sara Durand



## Featured Events

March 1, 6:30 pm – School One PTA Science Fair

March 2 and 3, 7:30 pm; March 4, 2 pm and 7:30 pm; March 5, 2 pm – SPFRep Presents “The Drowsy Chaperone” in HS Auditorium

March 3, 6:30 pm – Evergreen Science Fair

March 4, 12 pm – Brunner Day of Discovery

March 8, 6:30 pm – The Price of Silence Documentary Screening at Nettingham (Pre-register [here](#))

March 16, 6 pm – SPFHS Mental Health & Wellness Fair

March 17 and 18, 7 pm; March 19, 2 – 4 pm – Peter Pan, Jr. at Terrill

March 21, 6:30 pm – School One PTA Multi–Culture Night

March 23, 8 pm – Board of Education Regular Public Meeting

March 24, 5 pm – SPFHS Moonglowers Jazz Festival at HS

March 24, 6:30 pm; March 25, 12 – 1 pm – Coles Variety Show at Terrill

March 24, 7 pm – Evergreen Glow Party

March 24 and 25, 7 pm; March 26, 2 pm – High School Musical, Jr. at Nettingham

March 28, 7:30 pm – Ask the Superintendent & Board of Ed. at Nettingham

Full calendar of events: [Scotch Plains–Fanwood Public Schools / Calendar \(spfk12.org\)](https://scotchplainsfanwoodpublicschools.org/calendar)

The district released the calendar for the 2023–24 school year. [Click here to view the calendar.](#)

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## You're Invited to a Wellness Fair Hosted by SPFHS Club

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**WHO:** Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School's Mental Health Awareness Club invites parents, teachers, and other community members.

**WHAT:** The Wellness Fair will share information about adolescent mental health and connect adults with local resources to support the children in their lives. Attendees will hear from a keynote speaker from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Representatives from more than a dozen local organizations will then be stationed in classrooms to offer brief presentations on various mental health topics.

**WHERE:** Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, NJ

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 16, 6 – 8 p.m.

**RSVP:** Admission is free, and refreshments and snacks will be served. [Click here](#) to RSVP.





No one deserves to suffer from mental illness alone or in silence. We all need a support system so this event will help provide that support and start the community conversations that are needed to reduce the stigma of mental illness.

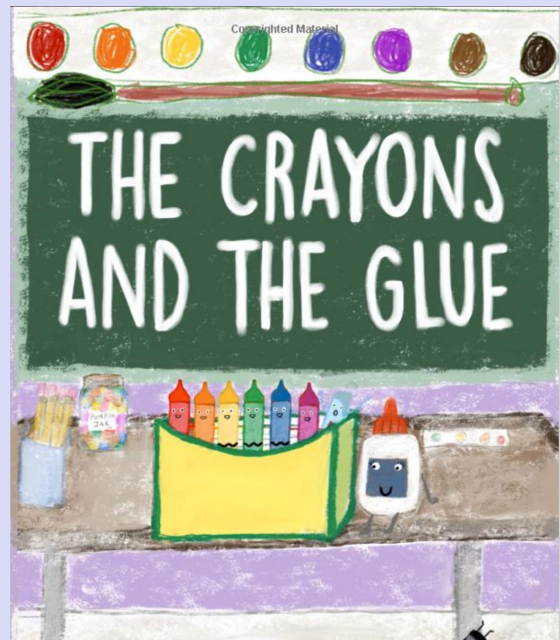
– Senior Jordana Reisberg,

*Founder and president of the Mental Health Awareness Club*

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## Art Teacher Publishes Second Book, Inspired by Students

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Coles Elementary School Art Teacher Rahama Alvi has published her second children's book, *"The Crayons and the Glue."*

Alvi collaborated with her husband to write and publish the first book, "The Ramadan Tree," in February 2022. This second book is a solo project; Alvi produced both the words and illustrations for "The Crayons and the Glue."

"I love teaching in part because the students inspire me," she said. "I have dedicated my second book to my students because they teach me something new every day."

The idea for "The Crayons and the Glue" came to Alvi after observing a school competition led by school librarian Stephanie Giannacio, in which students tried to disguise gingerbread persons as something else.

“In my book, brand-new crayons are excited to start the school year until they find out from an older crayon what could happen to them,” she adds. “He tells them that the children sometimes tear off the paper and break the crayon’s tips when they are coloring. At first, they panic, but Glue helps them to create disguises using the materials in the art room.”

When Alvi read “The Crayons and the Glue” to her students at Coles, they were especially excited to see that the illustrations of the book’s classroom look a lot like their own art room. Additionally, they loved discovering that the last several pages are coloring pages and an activity that allows them to create their own crayon disguise.

“I hope that ‘The Crayons and the Glue’ will be enjoyed by many students,” Alvi said. “For the youngest readers, it offers a fun way to review colors, and for the upper elementary students, it taps their creativity and problem-solving skills.”

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

## SPF PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public School District will begin accepting **preschool applications** for the 2023-24 school year on **March 1, 2023**.

The registration process is different than enrolling a student for kindergarten through grade 12 at SPF due to limited space. **There are three phases:**

1. Application (March 1, 2023)
2. Placement (May 2023)
3. Registration (June 2023)

**CLICK HERE TO  
LEARN MORE**

[spfk12.org/Page/4960](https://spfk12.org/Page/4960)









## Stepping It Up: Black Student Union Holds Dance Workshop

The Black Student Union hosted a stepping workshop with María Daniel from iDance on Feb. 21. The high-energy, fun workshop drew nearly two dozen SPFHS students and could lead to a revitalization of The Blue Diamond Step Squad, which is under the BSU umbrella. Check out the video!



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Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education | 512 Cedar St, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

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