



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

Feb.
2024

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood
Community,

The end of February and beginning of March is a special time to celebrate the power of reading.

Read Across America Week is more than just a celebration of literacy; it is a celebration of the unique way that books can open ‘mirrors’ and ‘windows’ – a key philosophy of our district. Mirrors allow us to see and reflect on our own identities and experiences, while windows give us insight into the identities and experiences of others. Reading is one of the best ways for students to learn about the world around them and to gain empathy and imagination.



In a world filled with distractions, I invite you during this time to sit quietly with a book or read to your own children or visit a local library. These moments can foster a lifelong love of reading and be a time for connection.

Look for opportunities to celebrate Read Across America Week in each of SPF’s schools. Together, we can empower students to become lifelong learners and passionate readers.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent of Schools

Join *Imagine* for a “How to talk to Children about the Grief in the World” Workshop

SPF recognizes that many of our families have been and continue to be impacted by the various conflicts taking place across the globe. We

share with members of our community deep concern and sadness for the loss of innocent lives and the destruction of communities. Also, we as a district understand the shared need for all members of the community to feel safe, supported and heard.

In an effort to respond to the needs of the SPF community, we are partnering with *Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss* to become a grief informed school community.

WHO? Parents/caregivers of SPF students are invited. *Imagine* is a children's grief support center located in Mountainside and Newark that offers free, peer support groups for children and their families coping with a loss due to death. In addition, they also provide training within schools and workplaces.

WHAT? *Imagine's* first parent/caregiver workshop will focus on "How to Talk to Children about the Grief in the World".

WHERE? SPFHS Media Center

WHEN? 7 – 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19

WHY? We are looking to acknowledge and address the widespread grief that many of us are currently navigating. We look forward to our parents/caregivers receiving this important information as we work toward creating a supportive grief informed school community.

Featured Events

March 1, 6 p.m. – School One 4th Grade Bingo

March 1, 7 p.m.; March 2, 1 p.m. – Coles Variety Show at Terrill

March 1, 7 p.m. – Evergreen Science Fair

March 2, 9 a.m. – McGinn Super Science Saturday

March 2, 12 p.m. – Brunner Day of Discovery

March 8 – School One Spring Fling

March 20, 6:30 p.m. – Coles Science Fair

March 14, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Ask the Superintendent at Nettingham

March 14, 7 p.m. – Middle School STEM Expo at Nettingham

March 14, 15, 16 at 7 p.m.; March 17 at 2 p.m. – SPFHS Spring Musical

in HS Auditorium

March 15 – Music in Our Schools – Terrill Jazz and Terrill Select Choir to Coles/McGinn

March 21, 8 p.m. – Board of Education Meeting

March 22, 5 p.m. – Moonglowers Jazz Festival

March 25 – 29 – Spring Recess

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

A Student Voice on the Board of Education: Mac Bastable

SPFHS junior Mac Bastable joined the Board of Education as a student representative.

Activities: Concert Choir; Select Choir; Men’s Choir; Chamber Choir; Theater Program (including a role in the upcoming spring production of Addams Family); Student Government Association representative; Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Competition Chair; DECA member

What made you want to join the Board of Education as a student representative?

I am part of a Student Advisory Group at the high school, and during one of the meetings with Dr. Heisey and Dr. Mast, I learned about an opening for a student representative for the Board of Education. The position intrigued me because I wanted to learn more about the Board of Education. I have been in the district since elementary school, and I have always heard about the Board of Education and have always known Dr. Mast, but I wanted to get a behind-the-scenes-look at what they do.

What have you enjoyed most in this role?

I enjoyed meeting all the board members and seeing the work they put in for students in our school district. They put in so much hard work and sometimes it goes unnoticed.

“I am looking forward to becoming the senior representative next year and helping to bring on a junior representative to the Board of Education.”

I have also become close with the senior student representative, Sairah Llano, and Dr. Mast. Before each board meeting, Sairah, Dr. Mast, and I meet to prepare. I have seen how dedicated Dr. Mast is to her job, and it is truly inspiring to see the work she does for our schools.

Has anything surprised you since you joined the Board of Education?

As a member of FBLA and DECA, I was interested in learning about school budgets. The Board of Education meetings often are about how school budgets can support student learning and experiences. It has been both surprising and interesting to see the big impact these decisions can have on us students.



FUN FACT: Mac loves to travel! He has been to three continents (North America, South America, and Europe). His favorite trips were to Italy, where he loved the beautiful scenery, and to Ireland, where he met his dad's family.

Multicultural Nights Highlight the Diversity of SPF

Evergreen Elementary School

Evergreen was abuzz on Jan. 26 with its first ever Multicultural Night! Over 100 students and their families stamped their 'passports' and came together to celebrate the cultural diversity that makes Evergreen and the district a special place. From henna body art from India to japchae noodles from South Korea, families presented books, games, art, crafts, food, and traditional clothing from their cultures. Countries represented included India, England, Germany, Italy, Armenia, South Korea, Jewish Traditions, Portugal, Jamaica, Philippines, Pakistan, Trinidad & Tobago, Dominican Republic. Thank you to the PTA for promoting, planning, and helping host this event!



“This event was a wonderful way to celebrate the diversity within our school and build a foundation of belonging and acceptance. The students and families learned about each other's cultures and what makes each culture unique and special.”

– Erin Mullman, Principal

School One Elementary School

School One's Multicultural Night was also a wonderful success, bringing together parents, students, and staff. In collaboration with the PTA, School One families hosted 24 tables representing Sweden, Ireland, Palestine, Eastern European Jewry, Dominican Republic, Philippines, India, Turkiye, Trinidad and Tobago, Iraq/MiddleEast/Arab, Ghana, Albania/Kosovo/other Albanian regions, Hungary, African American, Argentina, Romania, Mexico, Egypt, Taiwan, and Colombia. Many of the tables shared traditional food, like Jewish Hamantaschen (cookies), boba tea from Taiwan, and samosas and kebabs from India. Some students also performed an Indian dance and Filipino dance.



“There is beauty in diversity and it's important for everyone in our community to feel seen. Multicultural Night was a great way for families to share their culture with others and learn about other cultures.”

– Justin Fiory, Principal

Cabaret for a Cause Raises Over \$1,000 for Nonprofit

On Valentine's Day, Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School Choirs raised over \$1,000 to support the nonprofit organization, LifeTown, which offers social and recreational opportunities for children and teenagers with autism and other special needs, as well as their families.

The event on Feb. 14 was a huge success; the high school choir students performed music from "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," "Hamilton," "Toy Story," "The Man of La Mancha" and "Hairspray," in addition to songs performed by featured soloists.



Marc Shaiman, a composer and lyricist who co-wrote the Broadway musical "Hairspray" and recently won a Grammy for the musical comedy "Some Like It Hot", gave a special video message at the performance. As a SPFHS alumnus, he was happy to support the cause and to hear that the Concert Choir students were performing a Hairspray medley.





- CREATE THE SPF LEGACY -

Join the Hall of Fame Committee

Are you passionate about celebrating and preserving the unique history of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools? Do you want to play a role in recognizing excellence in our communities? If yes, please consider joining the new **Hall of Fame Committee!**

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools has a long tradition of recognizing outstanding alumni who have excelled in their fields or contributed to the betterment of their communities. The district is now formalizing that process by creating a revamped Hall of Fame Committee to do the important work of recruiting nominees and selecting future hall of famers. The Committee will work closely with the Board of Education's Community Relations Committee to make a lasting impact.

To express your interest in joining the SPF Hall of Fame Committee, please contact Robin Broadbent at rbroadbent@spfk12.org or [908-232-6161](tel:908-232-6161), Ext. 41103. We welcome individuals from all backgrounds and experiences. Don't miss the opportunity to join!



\$197*
Per Class

SPF SCHOOL DISTRICT

JUNE 24
TO
JULY 26

CREATIVE SUMMER WORKSHOP

Kindergarten - 9th Grade



FUN & CREATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

COOKING, WRITING, TECHNOLOGY, MUSIC, ART, ATHLETICS
BUILDING, CREATIVE, IMAGINATIVE, ENGAGING
ALL COURSES TAUGHT BY SPF CERTIFIED TEACHERS

**SAVE THE
DATES**

**M-F
8:30am
-1pm**

CLASSES HELD AT SPF HIGH SCHOOL, SCOTCH PLAINS

REGISTRATION OPENS IN APRIL
Questions? Email Jenn Passuth- jpassuth@spfk12.org

*Some courses may be higher in price.



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