

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

Vol. XXXXI, No. 4

*Happy Holidays!*

December 1, 2023

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:** We greet you at the close of what has been a very busy month, and with the anticipation of a hectic holiday season ahead. I'd like to commend the faculty for all their hard work over recent weeks as we conducted parent/teacher conferences. I hope you were pleased with the information about your child during your conference. Two of our goals were (1) to develop a partnership between parents and teachers, and (2) to attain your support as we strive to enable our students to reach their maximum potential. As educators, we appreciate all that you do to extend your child's learning, and we look forward to your continued involvement.

Our P.R.I.D.E. initiative is in full swing. We are continuously working with our students and reminding them to live each day proudly and work everyday on being a true role model to themselves. Our assemblies are continuing to reinforce our P.R.I.D.E. values. We look forward to our 3rd Graders hosting our "Respect" assembly. Please remember to check out the social media sites for pictures to see our recent School One Cardinal Card recipients.



@schoolonecardinals



@SchoolOne Cardinals

***DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?!?!?!?*** Our School One Cardinal Mascot was named...we welcome **BLAZE!** Our students and staff had the opportunity to vote on Election Day. Voting booths were available for a real-life voting experience. This event not only was fun for our students but also of great educational value. Learning about voting and making a difference in using ones voice to make a change was awesome.

A special thank you to our Veterans who visited our classrooms and shared their experiences and stories. We will always be indebted for their service to our country. In addition, I'd like to thank the Rotary Club for visiting our 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students and presenting them with dictionaries. Their support year after year in providing dictionaries to our students to achieve academic success is invaluable.

I would also like to recognize the PTA SOS Committee and the Kids Care Club for their Candy and Thanksgiving Food Drive collection. The abundant donations are greatly appreciated. Items will be distributed to local food pantries. We are grateful for your support and kindness.

Every year, we support School One families in need during the holiday season. We are proud to say we are able to continue this tradition with our "Flurries of Kindness". Thank you for those families that were able to grab a snowflake to donate a gift to add some holiday cheer to our families in need. We kindly ask that items be returned unwrapped by December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to attach your snowflake to the item. If you have any questions, contact the Main Office.

As the holidays approach, both children and adults experience excitement, joy, and stress. This time of year also provides opportunities for visiting family and friends, as well as other obligations resulting in some late evenings. Our students put forth a great deal of effort and energy throughout the school day. It is extremely important for them to maintain a regular schedule to remain healthy, alert and prepared for school. Please encourage your child to stay focused and put forth their best effort in terms of class work and homework assignments.

On behalf of the School One Staff, we would like to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and all the best in the New Year!

### **IMPORTANT DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER**

- December 1<sup>st</sup> - PTA Plant Sale Pick Up
- December 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> - PTA Book Swap Collection
- December 6<sup>th</sup> - P.R.I.D.E. Assembly for Staff and Students
- December 8<sup>th</sup> - End of 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester
- December 12<sup>th</sup> - Kids Care Club Visit to The Chelsea, Fanwood
- December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> - PTA Book Swap For Students
- December 15<sup>th</sup> - Report Cards available to parents via PowerSchool
- December 21<sup>st</sup> - Homeroom winter parties with PTA Room Parents
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> - Single Session Day - Dismissal @ 12:40 p.m.  
- School Spirit Day - Pajama Day  
- Holiday Sing-A-Long for Staff & Students
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - Schools Closed for Winter Break

**UPCOMING SPECIAL ASSEMBLY** - School One staff and students will be attending a schoolwide assembly on **Wednesday, January 10th** at Nettingham Middle School. Motivational speaker “Black Jack” Ryan will be sharing his story and entertaining the crowd with his eye-catching basketball tricks and skills. Permission slips will be going home in backpacks in the next few days. Please return them to your child’s homeroom teacher as soon as possible.

**WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT:** The SWIFTK12 Messaging System quickly notifies families of school closings, delayed openings, and emergency early dismissals. ***Please be sure your information is current to receive the instant alert message.*** If you wish to update your home phone, cell phone, email address and/or test message contacts, please contact the Main Office.

Announcements will also be carried on Radio Station 101.5 FM, TV station WNBC-TV (Channel 4), and on NJ12. Internet notice will be posted on the District website at: [www.spfk12.org](http://www.spfk12.org).

**Late (Delayed) Opening of School**—Under certain conditions it may become necessary to delay the opening of school. The announcement of delayed opening means that our school doors will **open at 9:55 a.m. (with instruction beginning at 10:05 a.m.)** for students in Grades K through 4. Students are requested to arrive at school no earlier than 9:50 a.m. Dismissal time will remain the same (3:10 p.m.) and students will remain in school for a 45-minute period.

On delayed opening days, the pre-k morning sessions will be held from 10:05 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; the afternoon sessions will be from 1:00 to 3:10 p.m.



**STUDENTS WHO ARE BUSED SHOULD MEET THEIR BUS AT THE SAME BUS STOP EXACTLY 1 1/2 HOURS LATER THAN THE NORMAL TIME.**

**Closing of School and Delayed Openings**—A decision regarding school closings or delayed openings will be made by 6:30 a.m. For Internet announcements, see the District’s home page at [www.spfk12.org](http://www.spfk12.org). You will find emergency school closing notices at the top of the left-hand column by 6:30 a.m. **Please do not call the Scotch Plains or Fanwood Police Departments.** They will not give out school closing information and their lines must be kept open for emergency needs.

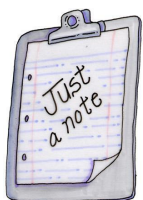
**Emergency Dismissal**—If there is a situation when schools must either close early (or be extended after regular dismissal time) because of unusual circumstances the following procedures will be followed:

- ❖ The Superintendent will make the decision regarding an emergency closing, and put into operation the SWIFTK12 Alert System.
- ❖ In the event of an emergency closing, parents will be responsible to make arrangements to have their child picked up at school at the determined time. Should a responsible adult not be at School One when the children are dismissed, they will remain in school until alternate arrangements can be made. Information on the Yearly Registration Forms will be used to locate a neighbor or a relative who can assume responsibility for the student.
- ❖ Parents should have a plan in place should an emergency closing occur, and if developmentally appropriate, your child should be informed of this procedure. **Please make sure that the information on your Yearly Registration Form is updated and accurate. If changes are necessary, please contact the Main Office at (908) 322-7731 (press Option 3 or Extension 1802), or e-mail Christina O'Brien (at [cobrien@spfk12.org](mailto:cobrien@spfk12.org)) or Meaghan Eschbacher (at [meschbacher@spfk12.org](mailto:meschbacher@spfk12.org)).**
- ❖ Please note that children will NOT be released from school unless a parent/guardian has been contacted or the school office has been notified of alternate arrangements.

**BRRR...IT'S COLD OUTSIDE:** The colder weather has already arrived. Our goal is to still allow the children go outside for their 30-minute recess time. We do not use a specific formula to determine if they should go outside, but rather look at all aspects of the weather each day. Should it rain or snow and the grass area become unsafe, we have blacktop space that can be cleared so that our students may go outdoors during recess. This decision is made on a daily basis. **Please have your children wear the proper clothing (including a coat, hat, and gloves or mittens) to school** so that they will be able to enjoy the fresh air and be rejuvenated for the afternoon session.



**LOST & FOUND:** We regularly collect many articles of clothing that have not been claimed by our students. If your child has lost something at school, we may very well have it! You may either have your child check the Lost and Found cabinet while at school, or stop by and check it yourself. We'd like to suggest that you describe the item that has been lost to your child in order to help him/her recognize the article of clothing that has been misplaced. At the end of each month, items remaining will be donated.



**MESSAGE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS:** It would be very much appreciated if you would make all necessary arrangements regarding your child's dismissal from school in the **morning BEFORE your child arrives at school**. It is our policy to try and avoid any unnecessary interruptions to our classrooms during the school day, except in the event of a **true** emergency.

**MILK MONEY:** Pre-K milk money for the month of JANUARY will be collected on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>**, in the amount of \$15.75 (21 days x \$.75). A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. *Please complete the form and return with your payment (either exact change, or a check made payable to SPFHS Cafeteria) in a sealed envelope.*



*Please indicate your child's milk choice for the upcoming month (fat free, low fat, low-fat chocolate or low-fat strawberry). Pre-K students participating in the free-milk program MUST submit an order form.*

**LUNCH PROGRAM (GRADES K - 4):** School lunches are \$3.50 and on pizzeria pizza day, an EXTRA slice is \$3.00. A copy of the December menu can be found on the district website. Gluten-free menus are available by request only. Please contact the Main Office if you would like to receive a copy.

For easy service, students should have balances on their PaySchool accounts to purchase lunch from the food service lines. To register for an account, please visit [www.payschoolscentral.com](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). Cash and checks (payable to the Scotch Plains BOE) are accepted. Please be sure to provide an envelope marked with your child's name and "Lunch Money" clearly printed.

Please keep in mind that the school is unable to provide refrigeration for lunches brought from home or heat lunches that students bring to school.

If you have any comments about the school lunch program, you may email Pomptonian Food Service at [comments@pomptonian.com](mailto:comments@pomptonian.com). Please direct any inquiries to Mr. DelBane at (908) 889-7333.

