



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

January
2023

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood Community,

January is School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey, a time to raise public awareness of the roles and responsibilities of local boards of education and to thank school board members for their efforts.



We appreciate our SPF Board of Education all year round, and especially want to recognize the important role they play in our schools this month. Please help me say thank you to President Evan Murray, Vice President Dr. Karen Kulikowski, Nancy Bauer, Amy Boroff, Deb Brody, Karen Mitchell, Stephanie Suriani, Tonya Williams, Amy Winkler, and student representatives Jada Montgomery and Sairah Llano.

Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent



50 SPFHS Students Excelled at Model United Nations Conference



The Scotch Plains–Fanwood Model United Nations team recently earned numerous accolades at the YMCA Model United Nations (UN) Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

During the weekend of January 6–8, more than 1,000 students from schools in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut and Maryland participated in the

conference, the first “in-person” event since 2020. SPF sent a team of 50 high school students, as well as advisors Brooke Oels and Erin Sassaman and teacher–chaperones Matt Ritter, Kelly Robertson, Ashley Farhan and nurse Mackie McArdle.

SPF was recognized for the following achievements:

- Jason DelCore, a junior representing Guatemala: Outstanding Government Research Paper for General Assembly A (one of the two largest committees)
- Emma Telpis, a freshman representing the United States: Outstanding First-Year Delegate who assisted in helping her assigned nation win an Outstanding Country award
- Hasan Ali, a senior representing China: assisted in helping his assigned nation win an Outstanding Country award
- Olivia Gomez, a junior representing Sweden: elected as the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee's chairperson for next year's conference.
- Gomez was also selected to attend the national Conference on National Affairs this summer in North Carolina, which selects 26 students from each state along with 26 students from just this conference to attend in order to further their love of international affairs, debate, and community building.
- Over more than 20 years as participants in Model UN conferences, SPFHS has routinely earned recognition as one of several teams named Outstanding Delegation at each conference. However, this year, the team was named Premier Delegation, an honor reserved for only the top team.
- In addition to the student and team awards, advisor Brooke Oels was honored as the 2023 conference's Advisor of the Year.

“ Model UN forced me to move out of my comfort zone, especially in terms of public speaking. But I benefited from the process, increasing my confidence in general and learning about another country and a real-world, meaningful topic. - HASAN ALI - ”



Senior Receives Youth Leadership Award from the New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association



Congratulations to senior Christopher Largoso, who was awarded the New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association (NJCTA) Youth Leadership Award!

The Youth Leadership Award recognizes outstanding students for their dedication, service and leadership to Chinese culture in their community. Largoso is one of

only 19 students in New Jersey chosen for the award.

Li Salewski, the Mandarin teacher and Chinese Club advisor at Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School, recommended Christopher apply for the award.

“I am so grateful for Mrs. Salewski’s recommendation and encouragement throughout this process,” Largoso said. “I’m feeling especially proud as this is the first award I’ve received, and it has given me confidence for the future.”

Largoso is co-president of both the Mandarin National Honors Society, the Chinese Club and is an active member of the National Honors Society. As co-president, he helps organize community events to increase awareness of the Chinese culture.

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

McGinn Celebrates Dozens of Global Cultures



From a demonstration of Afro-Brazilian Capoeira to a lesson about the Lunar New Year to tasty foods from India, William J. McGinn Elementary School students and their families recently celebrated the array of cultural experiences that make the school and district special. They celebrated McGinn Day of Global Cultures and Global Family Night on Friday, Jan. 27.

“Our students learn about what ‘culture’ is from their first days in kindergarten, where we focus on families,” said McGinn Principal Dr. Sasha Slocum. “The Day of Global Cultures and Global Family Night

celebrates how each person’s culture combines to make our McGinn family special. Every experience, big or small, builds and shapes our children’s future and their perspectives.”

On Friday, the celebration kicked off with McGinn Day of Global Cultures during the school day. Staff and parents were asked to present about cultural experiences, stories, pictures, artifacts, and more for McGinn students during three sessions.

The cultural experiences continued in the evening when the McGinn Parent Teacher Association (PTA) hosted Global Family Night. The evening was filled with a potluck-style meal featuring foods and traditional attire from every continent, as well as a demonstration and interactive lesson on Capoeira by the Afro-Brazilian Arts and Education Academy’s Grupo Liberdade de Capoeira.



Terrill Middle School Students Showcase Ancient Civilizations



Did you know that Ancient Romans created the first sewer tunnels or that the Han Dynasty invented paper? These facts came to life on Tuesday, Jan. 24 as Terrill Middle Schools eighth grade students presented the contributions of ancient civilizations and showcased artifacts in the Media Center.

Students in Social Studies Teacher Sherry Atta's eighth grade world history class spent three weeks researching one of six ancient civilizations: Ancient Greece, Ancient China (Han Dynasty), Ancient Maya, Ancient Rome, Ancient Egypt, or Islamic Kingdoms. They determined the major contributions of the civilizations, wrote scripts about how their civilizations' accomplishments changed the world, and created artifacts from the time period.

The research culminated on Jan. 24 in a museum-style event in which the eighth graders taught the school's fifth grade students about the six ancient cultures, including the arts and culture, science and

technology, economy, religion, and more.

“They became experts on each of these research topics and worked collaboratively to understand the major contributions,” Atta said. “I told them ‘you are a museum curator – you know everything about this topic and can share that knowledge.’ This helped them present the facts with confidence.”

After hearing the presentations and viewing posters and artifacts, the fifth grade students analyzed the contributions of each civilization and voted on which was most influential. This year, they chose Ancient Greece – focusing on the birth of democracy in that ancient culture.



Featured Events



Feb. 1 – SPFHS National Letter of Intent Signing Celebration

Feb. 3, 12:30 – 2:40 pm – Nettingham Middle School 8th Grade Career Day

Week of Feb. 6 – Souper Bowl Food Drive at Brunner, Coles, McGinn

Feb. 8, 7:30 – 9 pm – Cabaret Night at SPFHS

Feb. 20, 9:30 – 11:30 am – Evergreen Family Skate Party

Feb. 16, 8 pm – Board of Education Regular Public Meeting

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

www.spfk12.org ● (908) 232 6161
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Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education | 512 Cedar St, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

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