



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

May
2022

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood Community,

This is always an exciting time of year here in Scotch Plains–Fanwood Public Schools. The calendar fills with spring sports, concerts, field days, award ceremonies, and, of course, graduations. You can feel the buzz in the air as summer approaches!



The core strength of our community; our parents, our Board of Education, and our entire staff, are what made the 2021–2022 school year successful for all our students.

As summer quickly approaches, let's celebrate and cherish these final weeks of the school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast

Superintendent

School One Takes a Tour Around the World

School One Elementary celebrated our community's diversity with a multicultural evening on April 27. At the fourth annual event, about 27 families shared educational posters, regional foods, dance, special clothing, and more to show the many cultures represented in our school. The countries represented include Germany, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Albania, Portugal, India, Colombia, Turkey, and Egypt.



A Milestone Day: Media Specialist John Lohn's 400th Read-Aloud

McGinn Media Specialist John Lohn celebrated his 400th read-aloud on YouTube on May 5. What started as a way to keep in touch with students when schools shut down due to the pandemic has become a passion. Bravo, Mr. Lohn!

Watch the read-alouds on [YouTube](#).

Read more about Mr. Lohn on [TapInto](#).



Featured Events



June 1, 7 pm: Senior Scholarship Awards Program in SPFHS Auditorium

June 2, 8 pm: Open Agenda Board Meeting

June 3, 7 pm: Evergreen Variety Show at SPFHS

June 8, 6pm & 8 pm: Nettingham Chorus Spring Concert in Auditorium

June 9, 7 pm: Terrill Choral & Band Concert in Auditorium

June 13, 7 pm: McGinn 4th Grade Spring Concert in Terrill Auditorium

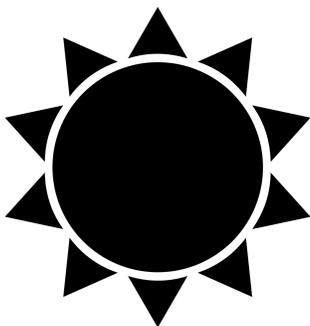
June 14, 6 pm: Brunner 4th Grade Spring Concert & Evening of Recognition

June 14, 7 pm: Coles 4th Grade Spring Concert in Terrill Auditorium

June 15, 7:30 pm: Senior Music Recital in SPFHS Auditorium

June 16, 4 pm: Senior Car Parade

June 22: Last Day of School/Graduation



[District Calendar](#)

College Board Recognizes 7 SPFHS Seniors

College Board recognized seven Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School students for the 2021–2022 National Recognition Program.

“ We are proud of these students for excelling academically and being recognized nationally by the College Board National Recognition Program. On behalf of the district’s teachers and staff, I want to congratulate these students and encourage them to continue shining in college and beyond.”

Dr. Joan Mast



National Hispanic Recognition Program

Isabella Segarra
Jazlyn Navarro Jimenez
Lucas Vega
Kayla Morrow
Yasmin Ulerio

National Indigenous Recognition Program

Isaiah Nathaniel

National African American Recognition Program

Isaiah Nathaniel
Yasmin Ulerio
Chloe Howell

Read additional coverage on [TAPinto](#) or [Patch](#).

Lacrosse Coach of the Year: Nick Miceli

Check out this [NJ.com](#) article for a special shout out to lacrosse head coach, Nick Miceli, and his [winning Raiders team](#). The mid-season article notes the best coaches and players in the state.



As the article put it, Miceli has grown the district's lacrosse program into one of the state's top contenders over the last 10 seasons.

We're lucky to have him!

Meet the Board

Karen Mitchell, *Board Member*

Committees: Member of Wellness and Equity Committee, Personnel Committee, and Policy Committee.

Profession: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Four sons – one graduated from SPFHS and is attending college, one attends SPFHS, and two attend Nettingham

Why did you become a board member?

I became a board member to be involved in our community and serve our school district. Our children are Scotch Plain-Fanwood's greatest asset.



Moonglowers Win State Jazz Band Championship



The SPFHs Moonglowers took first place in the New Jersey Association for Jazz Education Division II finals at Princeton High School on April 30. The NJAJE festival is a prestigious yearly competition for jazz bands from New Jersey schools.

This was the second year in a row the Moonglowers, led by Director Durand Thomas, won the state championship, following a two-year pause in competitions due to the pandemic. The Moonglowers beat out eight bands to earn the top spot and received the Outstanding Award for its Rhythm section.

In addition, senior Nirayka Monga received the NJAJE's Rick Kerber Scholarship at the finals. The scholarship is presented to an outstanding senior who will attend college for the further study of music. Monga, a pianist, will attend Brown University in the fall.

Nice job, Moonglowers!

Jeff Koegel – Math Teacher, Cross Country Coach, Wordle Master

SPFHS teacher Jeff Koegel doesn't really remember a time when math wasn't part of his life. You might say that math is in his DNA, with both his parents having math-related occupations.

In fact, his father was also a high school math teacher who would occasionally use a dinner napkin to explain math concepts. The younger Koegel fondly remembers: "My dad usually had better ways to look at things that generally deepened conceptual understanding, and I've been able to draw heavily on them to shape how I teach."

Koegel utilizes those tools to help students who might be struggling with AP Calculus or other subjects. Being a bridge to conquering math isn't confined to the walls of SPFHS either; he's helped students doing math homework on the sidelines at track meets, even if they're not Raiders.

Teaching might be part of "what makes Koegel run," but so is coaching track. He started running early in his life and while he might have lost a step or two in recent years, it is a constant for him. Becoming a coach seemed like a natural progression when a coaching slot opened not long after he began teaching in the district. A recent



inductee into Lebanon Valley College's Athletic Hall of Fame, he remembers the challenges and frustrations of competing but also has many fond memories of overcoming the hurdles (so to speak) and reaching new goals.

Coach Koegel enjoys working with students and athletes, learning new technologies, etc. for connecting in the classroom and on the track. Teaching and running are two constants to which he's recently added a Wordle habit but Mr. Koegel's life is anything but routine.

He grins and shakes his head when asked if there's a finish line in sight after 25 plus years of teaching and coaching. Listening to Koegel speak about both vocations, his remarks are peppered with words like "passionate" and "fortunate" but not retirement. In SPFSD, we know we're fortunate to have him around a while longer.

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