

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

Vol. XXXXI, No. 4

Happy Holidays!

December 1, 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: This newsletter greets you at the close of what has been a very busy month. We experienced our first snow fall causing a delayed opening, altered schedules for Parent/Teacher Conferences, and extended weekends due to the NJEA Convention, and Thanksgiving recess. Even so, our instructional staff maintained continuity in the classroom and I commend their hard work and conscientious effort.

I would like to thank the staff for planning and preparing for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Additionally, I would like to extend my appreciate to all of our School One parents/guardians for their commitment and assistance. Two of our goals are (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.

A special thank you goes out to the Veterans who visited our classrooms and shared their experiences and stories. We are grateful for their service to our country. The feedback from both our guests and students was tremendous. What a wonderful learning experience for all. Additionally, I'd like to thank the Rotary Club for visiting our 3rd Grade students and presenting them with dictionaries. Their support year after year in providing dictionaries to our students to achieve academic success is invaluable.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the PTA SOS Committee and the Kids Care Club for their Halloween Candy and Thanksgiving Food Drive collections. Approximately 537 bags of candy were distributed to local shelters/food pantries. In addition, a total of 545 food items were collected and distributed. Your support and kindness is greatly appreciated.

I realize this time of year provides opportunities for visiting family and friends, and that you may have other obligations that result in some late evenings. Our students put forth a great deal of effort and energy, both mentally and physically, during the school day. It is extremely important for them to maintain a regular schedule that includes enough rest and a proper diet in order to be healthy, alert, and academically prepared. By establishing a healthy routine, they will be able to work to the best of their ability and meet the challenges of their instructional program. With that in mind, 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 6th - PTA Holiday Boutique
- December 14th - Kids Care Club visit to the SP Senior Center
- PTA 3rd Gr. Movie Night
- December 21st - School Spirit Day - Pajama Day
- Holiday Sing-A-Long for Staff & Students
- Dec. 24th-Jan. 1st - Schools Closed for Winter Break

WINTER WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT: The Honeywell Instant Alert Messaging System quickly notifies families of school closings, delayed openings, and emergency early dismissals. *Please be sure you have registered with Honeywell to receive the instant alert message.* If you have not already done so, or you wish to update your home phone, cell phone, email address and/or test message contacts, please follow the instructions below to set up your profile.



Register with Honeywell Instant Alert!

- Go to www.spfk12.org
- Click on Instant Alert in the left-hand column of the District's home webpage
- Input your personal contact information
- Select which type of school information you would like to receive on each of your contact devices

If you cannot access the system via computer, call Robert Apati at (908) 322-6097 for assistance. **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.

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**, and our self-contained special education program. 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. 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 Honeywell Emergency 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 Blue Emergency Contact Cards 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) or Michele Barcia (at mbarcia@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 becomes 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.



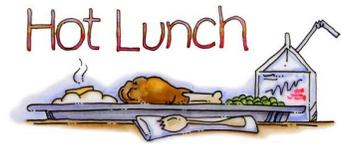
MESSAGE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS: It would be very much appreciated if you would make all necessary arrangements regarding your child's dismissal from school in the **morning BEFORE your child arrives at school**. It is our policy to try and avoid any unnecessary interruptions to our classrooms during the 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 5TH**, in the amount of \$14.70 (21 days x \$.70). A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Monday, December 3rd. *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: A lunch menu for the month of December may be viewed on our school website (go to the “Shortcut” section in the lower left-hand side of our home page and click on “Lunch Menu”).



For more information on our lunch program, including payment options, again, please go to our school website and click on “Lunch Program” in the “Shortcut” section. You may also call the school office.

If you have any general comments regarding the school lunch program, you may e-mail Pomptonian at comments@pomptonian.com. Please direct any inquires to: Steve Esposito, Food Services Director, (908) 889-7333, or cafeteria@spfk12.org.

*Happy Holidays
to You and Yours!*

