

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

Vol. XXXXI, No. 2

October 1, 2018

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:** The start of the 2018/2019 school year was great. I've had the pleasure to get to get to know your children and all of you throughout the past month. It's been wonderful to see how excited the children are and it's overflowing to all of us. I commend our staff for their efforts in establishing routines and beginning the implementation of the curriculum. Working together with each of you builds a path of success for an outstanding year for all of our students.



A special *Thank You* goes out to the PTA for the Back-to School Staff Luncheon. Once again it was a huge success and is greatly appreciated by our staff. We are grateful for the effort provided by the parents.

Back to School Night was a success thanks to your positive energy. We appreciate all of the support you give to the School One staff and our children, and look forward to continuing our collective efforts as the month of October unfolds.

The month of October promises to be full of enjoyable and meaningful experiences for our students and parents. Upcoming events and activities are outlined below.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

October 1-5	Week of Respect
October 1 & 2	PTA Picture Days
October 3	PTA Respect Assembly
October 4	Coffee with the Principal
	QUEST 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation, 9-11 a.m., Media Center
October 8	Schools Closed for Students – Columbus Day
October 8-12	Fire Prevention Week
October 10	International Walk to School Day
October 11	Pre-K Milk Orders for November Due
October 12	PTA Pretzel Sale
October 15-19	School Violence Awareness Week
October 16, 17, & 18	CogATs Testing for Grade 3
October 19	PTA Fall Family Festival
October 23	PTA Dr. Recess Assembly
	PTA Book Fair Preview Night
October 24 & 25	PTA Book Fair
October 26	PTA Pretzel Sale
October 31	Halloween Parade @ 1:30 p.m.

**INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY** will be held on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 8:00 a.m., at Fanwood Borough Hall by the flagpole to begin our walk to School One. There was a wonderful turn out last October, and we are looking forward to increasing our student and community involvement this year. *Please remember to wear School One attire, or red and white clothing, to show your school spirit.*

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK** The second week in October is Fire Prevention Week. As part of our fire safety instruction, our pre-k and kindergarten students will have a visit from the Fanwood Fire Department, and our first graders will take a walking trip to the Fanwood Firehouse to learn more about fire safety.

**SCHOOL VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK** Since 2003, our District has been observing School Violence Awareness Week, which will be sponsored once again during the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>. Activities will be conducted in our classrooms to teach the children about respecting oneself, others, and property. Additionally, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, C 122) requires that the week beginning with the first Monday in October of each year be designated as a “Week of Respect” in New Jersey. We will focus on lessons on character education by providing age-appropriate instruction on preventing harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The PTA will be hosting an assembly on October 3.



Other activities that will take place in the month ahead include the “Dr. Recess” Assembly, the PTA Book Fair on October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> (with a Parent Preview the evening of October 23<sup>th</sup>); the ever-popular PTA Fall Family Festival on October 19<sup>th</sup>; and last, but not least, our annual Halloween celebration at 1:30 p.m. on the 31<sup>st</sup>!

**SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY:** Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> is School Spirit Day...wear your School One attire or red and white clothing.

**CogAT<sup>®</sup>** Students in Grade 3 will be taking the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt this month. This online test measures developed abilities that are influenced by both in-school and out-of-school experiences that begin at birth and extend into early adulthood.

Children will be assessed in a multilevel content format that focuses on verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal reasoning skills. The assessment will be given over three days, **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>**. A separate component will be administered on each day. Our third-grade teachers will implement a practice test the week before to acquaint the children with the format and style of questions that they will be responding to.

The best way for our students to be prepared for test taking is to report to school refreshed after a good night’s sleep and fortified by a well-balanced breakfast. Please reassure your children of your belief in their overall ability and your satisfaction with their general achievement and accomplishments. We appreciate all of your efforts to ensure that your children will be able to function at their best, and that they attend school every day throughout their specific assessment period.

**FIELD TRIP ALERT:** A concern expressed over the years has involved children who may need to have medication administered while they are on a field trip. We request that you please complete all the information on the field trip permission slip to ensure that your child’s needs are addressed. ***It is the policy of our Board of Education that medication NOT be sent on field trips. If your child needs to have medication(s) administered, please call our school nurse, Ms. Cristaldi, several days prior to the field trip to receive information regarding how this issue will be handled.***

**ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL:** Thanks to those of you adhering to the established traffic patterns during arrival and dismissal time. As you drop your child off in the front of the building, please stay in the line of traffic and do not cut in front of anyone. Once you move into the drop-off zone, pull up as far as possible and allow the child(ren) in your vehicle to **depart on the passenger side in a timely manner**. After your child has safely left your car, move cautiously into the street so other cars may move forward. Please remain patient so that all children can be dropped off safely. Do not attempt to move forward unless you have a clear, direct path. And please....do NOT park at the curb or in the bus lane.

**I would also like to remind all parents that the School One parking lot is reserved for staff members only. Parents and visitors are NOT to enter or park in the staff lot during school hours, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please make use of space available on the street. In addition, please refrain from pulling into the staff parking lot to drop your child off for school or to pick your child up at dismissal time.** You may refer to the September Newsletter or the Parent/Student Handbook for more specific information, or call the Main Office if you need further clarification. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

Also, please remember to do our best to move along when on the sidewalks. There are many families that have strollers and a number of children with them and we have to do our best to keep the sidewalks clear so that children do not have to pass by walking in the street. On inclement weather days please stand back from the exit so that teachers and students can see parents/guardians as they are being picked up. If at all possible, please try to limit the number of umbrellas to help allow proper sight.

Finally, *students should not arrive on school grounds earlier than 8:20 a.m.* Some students are arriving at school as early as 8:05 a.m. This presents a safety concern to all of us since duty assignments do not begin until 8:20 a.m.

**MEDICATION:** According to State law, **NO medication may be given by the school nurse without the following:**

- (1) a written order from the physician;**
- (2) medication in a correctly labeled prescription bottle;**
- (3) a written note from the parent giving the nurse permission to give the medication.**

All medications are to be brought to the school by a parent or a responsible adult. Parents must know that they will be legally accountable if they send in medication with their child and an injury results to another child because of their action.

**LUNCH PROGRAM:** A lunch menu for the month of October 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](mailto:comments@pomptonian.com). Please direct any inquires to: Steve Esposito, Food Service Director, (908) 889-7333, or [cafeteria@spfk12.org](mailto:cafeteria@spfk12.org).

**PRE-K MILK MONEY:** Pre-K milk money for the month of NOVEMBER will be collected on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**, in the amount of **\$9.80 (14 days x \$ .70)**. A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Tuesday, October 9<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. Milk is NOT served on single-session days (November 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>).*