

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

Vol. XXXXI, No. 7

March 1, 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: School Safety is our number one concern at School One. We continue to take part in security drills and consistently remind our students of our procedures in the event of an emergency. Everyone has a part in keeping our school community safe. Parents can also assist by NOT parking in the staff parking lot so that we can make sure that all vehicles in the lot are those designated to be there. I also ask that when dropping off in the morning the driver please stay in their vehicle and move as far forward as possible. We have staff available to assist your child. I thank you for your continued support and I welcome any discussions from parents regarding the safety and security of our students.

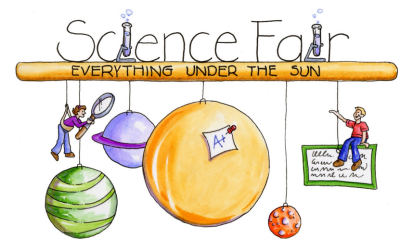
Please remember that on inclement weather days, students may NOT enter the building prior to 8:25 a.m. Please plan your child's arrival at school accordingly, especially on days when the weather is inclement.

A special thank you to our School One community for donating food items for the Kids Care "*Supper Bowl*". We've collected a number of items to be delivered to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains.

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb. 27th-March 3rd - Read Across America Activities
- March 1st - PTA Science Fair @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 2nd - National Read Across America Day
- March 3rd - PTA Author Visit, Sharee Miller
- PTA 4th Grade Bingo @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 8th - 4th Grade Visit to Nettingham Middle School
- March 9th - International Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Day
- March 10th - School Closed for Students - Staff Professional Development Day
- PTA Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- March 17th - School Spirit Day - Wear Green for Luck!
- SPF Elementary Music Tour for Students in Grades 3 & 4
- End of Trimester 2
- March 19th-24th - Kids Care Share a Sandwich Collection
- March 20th - Neuro Diversity Celebration Assembly - "*Kids on the Block*"
- March 21st - PTA Multi-Culture Night @ 6:30 p.m.
- March 24th - Report Cards available to Parents on PowerSchool Portal
- March 27th-31st - Think Purple Week – *School assembly scheduled for March 29th*

PTA SCIENCE FAIR: The School One Science Fair will be held on **Wednesday, March 1st**. Participating students in Grades 1 through 4 will present a science experiment to family and friends in this non-judged event. In past years, the Science Fair has had over 100 students participate. We hope to have this same size involvement again this year.





READ ACROSS AMERICA CELEBRATION: On Thursday, March 2, we will be celebrating "Read Across America". Dignitaries from our school district and local community will be visiting School One to read to our students. We are honored and privileged that they are dedicating their time to share their love of reading. I am confident our children will enjoy this visit. Research indicates that children do better academically at school when they read outside of the school setting. Please support reading as a life-long activity in your home by reading to and with your child. Encourage your child to enjoy a good book and engage in reading activities at home on a daily basis.

During the week of February 27th, students will be participating in a "Read Across America Activities". A flyer will be going home with a theme for each day.

PTA AUTHOR VISIT: Author Sharee Miller will be visiting School One on **Friday, March 3** in celebration of Read Across America Week. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 4 will have an opportunity to engage with Ms. Miller as she shares her favorite books.



PTA CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY WEEK: During the week of March 27th, our District is participating in the National PTA Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week. We will join Parent-Teacher Associations across the nation in working towards a drug-free society.

One of the programs we are sponsoring includes the "Think Purple" campaign. The tradition of tying purple ribbons throughout our towns began by the PTA and community members. There are also a variety of activities being sponsored in memory of children who have lost their lives or have been physically or emotionally injured, either directly or indirectly, due to drugs or alcohol. A series of themes will be set for each day of the week.

The entire student population will again be asked to participate in designing the "I Am Special" dolls. Students are encouraged to work with their families on this project at home to raise awareness towards substance abuse. These "special people" will be linked together in our lobby and throughout our first-floor hallway for everyone to see.

We are looking forward to your support in each of these programs during this important week. I'd like to recognize our PTA Chemical Dependency Committee for making this week so special for our children.

PTA MULTI-CULTURE NIGHT: The PTA is once again hosting Multi-Culture Night on **Tuesday, March 21st**. Families will have an opportunity to share and highlight their culture through artifacts, customs, clothing, food, and more. Online registration is open to all School One families. We look forward to a night of learning and fun.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: Kindergarten registration for the 2023/2024 school year is underway. Please visit the district website at <https://www.spfk12.org/enrollment> for more information. The district is requesting that all kindergarten age children, both returning students and new students, register by **April 28, 2023** to ensure placement in their home schools.

Parents of students currently attending the district's preschool program must confirm their intention to have their child(ren) attend kindergarten in the district by **April 28, 2023**, via PowerSchool to ensure placement in their home schools.

Registration will take place at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. To assist with security and safety procedures, it is required that parents make an appointment via PowerSchool with Mrs. Shatika Nathaniel, Registration Coordinator.

Should you know of a neighboring family with a school-age child, please pass this information along to them.

STUDENT ABSENCES: Please remember to call the School One Attendance Line when your child is going to be absent and include your child's name, grade, your child's teacher's name, and a detailed reason for your child's absence. You may also send an email to Mrs. Karen Hofmann at khofmann@spfk12.org or Mrs. Christina O'Brien at cobrien@spfk12.org or enter your child's absence in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If we do not hear from you to report your child's absence, we will call you. Should we be unable to contact you, the police may be called for assistance.

SCHOOL ONE ATTENDANCE LINE

(908) 322-7731, PRESS 1

EMAIL

Mrs. Karen Hofmann – khofmann@spfk12.org

Mrs. Christina O'Brien – cobrien@spfk12.org

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

<https://spf.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS: It is my responsibility to ensure that our students have a safe entrance and dismissal from school. Therefore, I am appealing to all families who walk their dogs to or from school to please refrain from having their pets on school grounds. An ordinance is posted by our driveway entrance that states, "Walking dogs on school grounds is a violation which subjects dog owners to a fine and penalty by order of the Board of Education Scotch Plains-Fanwood." I'm sure you will understand the importance of our students' comfort levels as they come to and from school every day. I would greatly appreciate your cooperation as we abide by the ordinance recognized by our Board of Education.

TELEPHONE MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS: We have been experiencing a significant increase in the number of phone messages from parents regarding their child's dismissal from school. If for any reason a student will not be going home according to their regular routine, a **WRITTEN NOTE or EMAIL IS REQUIRED** and should be sent to the classroom teacher or Main Office in the **morning**. As noted in the September Principal's Newsletter, parents are requested to make all necessary arrangements for their child's dismissal from school **BEFORE THEIR CHILD ARRIVES AT SCHOOL FOR THE DAY**. If someone other than the parent (or the family member or friend indicated on the Dismissal Procedures form), will be picking up the child at dismissal time, a written note **needs to be sent** to the child's teacher or to the Main Office. Please understand that classroom instruction will **ONLY** be interrupted to deliver a message that is a **TRUE EMERGENCY**; messages of a social nature are **NOT** considered an emergency.

We are also concerned about messages arriving at the end of the school day, some as late as 3:05 to 3:10 p.m. This is a time when we cannot assure that the message will be relayed to the child since dismissal procedures are already in progress. We respectfully request that all messages regarding dismissal be received no later than 3 p.m.

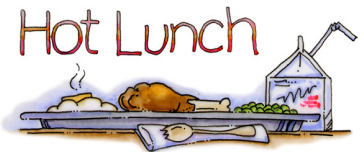
ATTENTION PARENTS OF NETTINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS: If you have a child at NMS that picks up a younger sibling at School One, please read the following:

- Nettingham students are to wait for their School One sibling(s) in the front of School One. They should arrive in a timely fashion after dismissal from Nettingham.
- Nettingham students are to wait in a quiet and orderly manner so as not to disrupt the instruction that is taking place at School One.
- Calls will be made to the parents of any Nettingham student that does not comply with this request.

LUNCH PROGRAM (GRADES K – 4): School lunches are \$3.50 and on pizzeria pizza day, an EXTRA slice is \$2.75. A copy of the March 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. 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. Please direct any inquiries to Mr. DelBane at (908) 889-7333.

PRE-K MILK MONEY: Pre-K milk money for the month of APRIL will be collected **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH**, in the amount of \$15.75 (15 days x \$.70). A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Monday, March 6th. *Please complete the form and return to school with your payment (either exact change, or a check made payable to SPFHS Cafeteria) in a sealed envelope. Pre-K students participating in the free-milk program MUST submit an order form.*

