

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



Vol. XXXXI, No. 7

March 1, 2025

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.

Last month we introduced the Energy Bus with interactive assemblies for staff and students. Guest readers have joined the assemblies reading "The Energy Bus for Kids" book. We launched the "5 rules" for students to have the "ride of their life" in this ever changing world. Seeking positivity in all aspects of our daily routine is the theme to achieve happiness on our energy bus. Please ask your children about the Energy Bus and how you can support their ride on the bus of life to success!

A huge thank you to Ms. Caroline Voyack and Mr. Joe Reo for an amazing 4th Grade Winter Concert. Our students did amazing! Also, thank you to Mrs. Colleen Meyer for arranging the Dental Magic Show for our Kindergarteners for National Children's Dental Awareness Month. Healthy dental routines will keep our students' smiles bright. The PTA Author Visit with Jay Cooper was a huge hit with our students and our Multi-Cultural Night hosted by the PTA had a great turnout of parents sharing their cultures. 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 which were delivered to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. We are so lucky to have a wonderful School One community.

Our first graders will be hosting our P.R.I.D.E. Assembly on Diversity this month. As always, we are proud of our students who have received cardinal cards. Thank you to our School One families. Your continued support to our staff and students to continue reinforcing P.R.I.D.E. at home is greatly important to us. Make sure you join our social media accounts to see pictures of those who receive cards.

Visit **Facebook:** SchoolOne Cardinals or **Instagram:** @schoolonecardinals!

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.

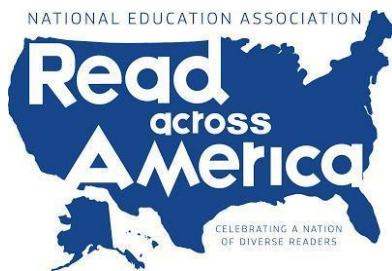
There are lots of things happening this month. Please see the following dates.

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 3rd-7th - Read Across America Activities, **March 5 - Visit from Readers**
- March 6th - P.R.I.D.E. Assembly for Staff and Students
- March 7th - NMS Jazz/Choir Assembly for 3rd and 4th Grade Staff & Students
- March 11th - PTA Author Visit Gr. 4, **Kwane Brown & Mo Williams**

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER (Con't)

- March 12th
 - 4th Grade Visit to NMS
 - PTA Science Fair
- March 14th
 - PTA Decades Dance Gr. 3 & 4
- March 17th
 - School Spirit Day - *Wear Green for Luck*
 - QUEST Field Trip
- March 19th
 - Bee True to You Assembly for All Staff & Students
- March 20th
 - PTA Meeting
- March 21st
 - End of Trimester 2
 - PTA Author Visit Gr. 3 & 4, *Gordon Korman*
 - PTA 2nd Grade Movie Night
- March 26th
 - PTA Author Visit Gr. K-4, *Laurie Keller*
- March 28th
 - Report Cards available to Parents on the PowerSchool Portal
 - PTA Pretzel Sale
- March 31st
 - School Closed for Staff & Students - *Eid Al-Fitr*



READ ACROSS AMERICA CELEBRATION: On **Wednesday, March 5**, 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.

PTA AUTHOR VISITS: The PTA will be hosting three Author Visits this month. Grade 4 will visit with Authors Kwane Brown & Mo Williams on **Tuesday, March 11th**. Grades 3 & 4 will have the opportunity to meet Author Gordon Korman who will be visiting School One on **Friday, March 21st**. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 4 will meet Author Laurie Keller as she shares her favorite books on **Wednesday, March 26th**.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION: Kindergarten registration for the 2025/2026 school year is underway. Please visit the district website at <https://www.spfk12.org/enrollment> for more information. The district encourages that all kindergarten age children, both returning students and new students, register by the end of April to ensure information regarding Kindergarten orientation is shared to all families.



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 Ms. Jessica Dillon, 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 notify the school 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. Please use any of the preferred options listed below. You may also send an email to Mrs. Eschbacher at meschbacher@spfk12.org or Mrs. O'Brien at cobrien@spfk12.org. If we do not hear from you regarding your child's absence, we will call you. Should we be unable to contact you, the police may be called for assistance.

EMAIL

schooloneabsence@spfk12.org

SCHOOL ONE ATTENDANCE LINE

(908) 322-7731, PRESS 1

POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

www.spf.powerschool.com

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 late in the day. If for any reason a student will not be going home according to their regular routine, a **WRITTEN NOTE, EMAIL TO THE OFFICE, A PHONE CALL, OR POWERSCHOOL ENTRY IS REQUIRED** and should be provided in the **MORNING OR AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE**.



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 PowerSchool Dismissal Procedures form), will be picking up the child at dismissal time, a notification **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 2:30 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 \$3.70 and on pizzeria pizza day, an EXTRA slice is \$3.00. 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 **FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH**, in the amount of \$12.75 (17 days x \$.75). A milk order form will be sent home with your child on **MONDAY, MARCH 3RD**. *Please complete the form and return to school with your payment (either exact change, or a check made payable to SPF BOE) in a sealed envelope. Pre-K students participating in the free-milk program MUST submit an order form.*