

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

Vol. XXXXI, No. 2

October 1, 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: What a great start to the 2021-2022 school year. It has been a pleasure getting to know your children (and all of you) throughout September. The excitement coming from the students is contagious to all. Our staff has done a wonderful job of establishing routines and beginning the implementation of the curriculum. We know that working in collaboration with you, each and every one of our students is going to have an outstanding school year!



Thank You to the PTA for the Back-to School Staff Luncheon. Once again, it was wonderful and was greatly appreciated by our entire staff. In addition, our Book Swap was a success. We received many donations from our families and communities which provided a large selection for our students to choose from.

A friendly reminder...All school visitors and volunteers will need to present their COVID-19 Vaccination card or a negative COVID-19 PCR test result (collected within 7 days of the date you are volunteering) to the school administrator or designee prior to being permitted to volunteer in the building.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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| October 4 th -8 th | - Week of Respect
- Fire Prevention Week |
| October 4 th -22 nd | - PTA Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser |
| October 5 th | - PTA 4 th Grade Committee Parent Meeting @7 p.m. |
| October 6 th | - Walk to School Day |
| October 7 th | - Back to School Night, Single Session |
| October 11 th | - Schools Closed for Students, Columbus Day |
| October 11 th -15 th | - PTA Health and Wellness Week, Color Run 10/15 |
| October 18 th -22 nd | - School Violence Awareness Week |
| October 18 th -20 th | - Book PTA Book Fair, Preview Night 10/18 @ 6:00 p.m. |
| October 19 th | - PTA Dudes, Donuts, and Grownups |
| October 19 th -21 st | - CoGAT Testing for Grade 3 |
| October 26 th & 27 th | - PTA Picture Day, Sibling Pictures 10/27 @ 8 a.m. |
| October 29 th | - Halloween Parade @ 1:30 p.m.
- PTA Fall Festival |

WEEK OF RESPECT 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. For the year 2021, October 4-8 will be declared as the Week of Respect. To recognize the importance of social and emotional learning and character education, school districts, charter schools and renaissance school projects are required to observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focused on preventing HIB. Teachers will be sharing ways to foster respect among students and staff for the diverse cultures and personalities represented in our neighborhood and school community to prevent harassment, intimidation and bullying.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK The first week in October is also Fire Prevention Week. As part of our fire safety instruction, teachers will share and discuss simple and important things students can do to keep themselves safe from fire in their home.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY will be held on **Wednesday, October 6th**. We will have **TWO walking groups**. One group will be gathering in front of the **Fanwood Municipal Building at 8:00 a.m.** and another group will gather in front of the **Scotch Plains Municipal Building at 8:00 a.m.** We look forward to our student and community involvement this year. ***Please remember to wear School One attire, or red and white clothing, to show your school spirit. Mask wearing is highly encouraged as well as social distancing.***

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Back to School Night will be held **virtually** on Thursday, October 7th. Elementary schools will follow a single-session schedule that day as follows:

Morning Pre-K: 8:35 – 10:35 a.m.

Afternoon Pre-K: 10:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Grades K through 4: 8:35 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Please remember that lunch and Pre-K milk is not served on single-session days. More details to follow.

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 18th. Activities will be conducted in our classrooms to teach the children about respecting oneself, others, and property.

CogAT[®] **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 19th, 20th, and 21st**. 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.



Other activities that will take place in the month ahead include the PTA Book Fair on October 19th and 20th with a Parent Preview the evening of October 18th; the PTA Dudes and Donuts Breakfast on the 19th, Picture Day on the 26th and 27th, the ever-popular PTA Fall Family Festival on October 29th; and last, but not least, our annual Halloween celebration at 1:30 p.m. on the 29th!

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 completed Administration of Medication Form.

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: All school lunches must be preordered through the Pay Schools Central website using your student's lunch account information at www.payschoolscentral.com. Please be sure to complete the lunch choice/days option along with the payment process to complete your child's lunch order. Meals can be preordered for multiple days.



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 the Food Services Director at (908) 889-8600 x31184 or cafeteria@spfk12.org.

PRE-K MILK MONEY: Pre-K milk money for the month of **NOVEMBER** will be collected on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH**, in the amount of **\$11.20** (16 days x \$.70). A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Monday, October 4th. *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 2nd and 24th).*

