

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

Vol. XXXXI, No. 2

October 1, 2023

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:** What an amazing first month of school!!! It has been such a pleasure getting to know your children (and all of you) throughout September. The energy and excitement coming from the students is contagious to us all. Our teachers have been doing such a nice job of establishing the routines of school and learning a little about your children each and every day. As the calendar changes to October and the weather begins to get a little cooler, we are excited about the year ahead. We know that working in collaboration with you, each and every one of your children is going to have an outstanding school year!



Our **Soaring with School One P.R.I.D.E.** character initiative was kicked off this month! Our core values, **P**erseverance, **R**espect, **I**ntegrity, **D**iversity, and **E**mpathy touch upon what we believe will help make our school and community full of well-rounded and accountable people. We are looking forward to the assemblies presented by our staff and students throughout the year to model our core values. Please take time to talk to your children about what each letter stands for and how they are showing **P.R.I.D.E.** each day at school and home.

**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. We are grateful for our PTA and their sincere generosity.

**Thank you** for joining us at Back to School Night. I was very happy to see so many of our families take advantage of visiting classrooms and getting a glimpse of a day in the life of a student here at School One. Our teachers prepare for this special evening and I am happy to say it was successful for all.

The month of October promises to be full of enjoyable and meaningful experiences for our students, and parents.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**


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| October 2 <sup>nd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>    | - Week of Respect   |
|   | - PTA Health and Wellness Week                            |
| October 2 <sup>nd</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>   | - PTA Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser                            |
| October 4 <sup>th</sup>                     | - Walk to School Day                                      |
| October 6 <sup>th</sup>                     | - PTA Color Run @ 3:10 p.m.                               |
|   | - PTA Family Picnic and Movie Night @ 6:30 p.m.           |
| October 9 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>  | - Fire Prevention Week                                    |
| October 9 <sup>th</sup>                     | - Schools Closed for Students, <b>Columbus Day</b>        |
| October 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> | - PTA Picture Day, <b>Sibling Pictures 10/13 @ 8 a.m.</b> |
| October 13 <sup>th</sup>                    | - PTA 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Movie Night @ 6 p.m.          |
| October 16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>  | - Violence Prevention Week                                |
| October 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>  | - PTA Book Fair, <b>Preview Night 10/17 @ 6:00 p.m.</b>   |
| October 18 <sup>th</sup>                    | - PTA Dudes, Donuts, and Grownups, <b>MPR @ 7:30 a.m.</b> |
| October 20 <sup>th</sup>                    | - Schoolwide <b>P.R.I.D.E.</b> Assembly                   |
|   | - PTA 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Committee Pretzel Sale          |
| October 24 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>  | - CoGAT Testing for Grade 3                               |
| October 27 <sup>th</sup>                    | - PTA Fall Festival, <b>Gym @ 6 p.m.</b>                  |
| October 31 <sup>st</sup>                    | - Halloween Parade @ 1:45 p.m.                            |

**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 2023, October 2-6 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 week of October 9<sup>th</sup> is 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** Each year, International Walk to School Day is held on the first Wednesday of October. We will be celebrating on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. **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.*

**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 16<sup>th</sup>. Activities will be conducted in our classrooms to teach the children about respecting oneself, others, and property.

 **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 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, & 26<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.



Other activities that will take place in the month ahead include Picture Days on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, PTA Book Fair on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with a Parent Preview the evening of October 17<sup>th</sup>; the PTA Dudes and Donuts Breakfast on the 18<sup>th</sup>, the ever-popular PTA Fall Family Festival on October 27<sup>th</sup>; and last, but not least, our annual Halloween celebration at 1:45 p.m. on the 31<sup>st</sup>!

**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 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 8:25 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 (GRADES K - 4):** School lunches are \$3.50 and on pizzeria pizza day, an EXTRA slice is \$3.00. A copy of the September 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](http://www.payschoolscentral.com). Cash and checks (payable to the Scotch Plains BOE) are accepted. Please be sure to provide the Main Office 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](mailto: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 NOVEMBER will be collected on **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>**, in the amount of **\$9.75 (13 days x \$ .75)**. A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Tuesday, October 10<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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>)*