

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

Vol. XXXXI, No. 2

October 1, 2024

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 in September! 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 prepared 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

Sept. 30 th -Oct. 2 nd	- PTA Book Swap Collection
October 2 nd	- Walk to School Day
October 3 rd & 4 th	- School Closed - Rosh Hashanah
October 7 th -11 th	- Week of Respect
	- PTA Health and Wellness Week
	- Fire Prevention Week
October 7 th -25 th	- PTA Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser
October 8 th & 9 th	- PTA Book Swap for Students
October 8 th	- 2nd Grade Walking Trip
October 10 th	- 4th Grade Field Trip
	- PTA Color Run
October 11 th	- Pre-K/Kindergarten Scotch Plains Fire Department Visit
October 14 th	- Schools Closed for Students, Columbus Day
October 15 th -17 th	- PTA Book Fair, Preview Night
October 16 th	- PTA Dudes, Donuts, and Grownups
October 18 th	- Schoolwide P.R.I.D.E. Assembly hosted by 4 th Grade
	- PTA Fall Festival


October 21 st -25 th	- Violence Prevention Week
October 22 nd	- CoGAT Testing for Grade 3
October 25 th	- PTA 3 rd Grade Movie Night
	- PTA 4 th Grade Committee Pretzel Sale
October 26 th	- PTA Clothing Drive
October 31 st	- Halloween Parade

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 2nd. 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.***

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 2024, October 7th-11th 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 7th 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.

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 21st. 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 on **Tuesday, October 22nd**. 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 Color Run on October 10th, PTA Book Fair on October 16th and 17th with a Parent Preview the evening of October 15th; the PTA Dudes and Donuts Breakfast on the 17th, the ever-popular PTA Fall Family Festival on October 18th; and last, but not least, our annual Halloween celebration at 1:45 p.m. on the 31st!

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 \$3.70 and on pizzeria pizza day, an EXTRA slice is \$3.00. Please discuss with your child if you would like them to have a second slice or not. A copy of the October 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 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. 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 11TH**, in the amount of **\$8.25 (11 days x \$.75)**. A milk order form will be sent home with your child on Monday, October 7th. *Please complete the form and return with your payment (either exact change, or a check made payable to SPF BOE) 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 12th, 13th, 14th, and 27th)*