



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

January
2022

A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood Community,

The new year brings new energy and enthusiasm to our schools. We returned from winter break refreshed and ready to take on the continuing challenges of the pandemic – together.

Our community spirit is what has carried us through thus far. I am grateful for the way each of you pitched in to prioritize the well-being of our students. You are what makes our schools great!

We hope this e-newsletter will provide you with another connection to each other. On a regular basis, you'll get to read and share in the pride of our staff and students' accomplishments. I also encourage you to follow the district's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts for more good news.

On behalf of the Administration Team and Board of Education, we thank you for your continued support. Happy new year!

**Sincerely,
Dr. Joan Mast
Superintendent**



Raider Robotics Climbs the Rankings

Raider Robotics hosted and competed in its second competition last month, improving their scores from November and increasing their ranking to 9th of 45 teams in the NE Edge League. With a prior 1st place finish under their belt and a successful run at their second competition, the team is raising eyebrows as they prep for upcoming events.

Coach Matthew Ducker Duffy attributes their success to student resiliency and community support, and he's optimistic that their ascent in the league rankings will continue. Top ranked teams will have a shot at competing in *The Garden State Rumble*, the state championship hosted by [FIRST Tech Challenge New Jersey](#) in February.

And younger students are joining in on the fun, too! The district recently celebrated milestones at the middle school level, with Nettingham and Terrill students both competing in the [FIRST Lego League Challenge](#).



February Events



TUES, Feb. 15: SPFHS Cabaret Concert 7:30 pm

WED, Feb. 16: Terrill Middle School 5th & 6th Grade Concert 7 pm

WED, Feb. 16: School One Elementary Winter Concert 7 pm (location: Nettingham)

TUES, Feb. 22: McGinn Elementary School Winter Concert 7 pm (location: Nettingham)

WED, Feb. 23: Coles Elementary School Winter Concert 7 pm (location: Terrill)

WED, Feb 23: Evergreen Elementary School Winter Concert 7pm (location: Nettingham)

FRI, Feb. 25: Brunner Elementary School Winter Concert 9:30 am



District Calendar

Math Competition: 160+ Students Compete



Over 160 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools students in grades 6-8 competed Jan. 20 in a national math competition hosted by the Mathematical Association of America.

AMC 8 is a 25-question, 40-minute multiple choice mathematics examination for middle school students to test their problem-solving skills. The annual competition allows middle school students to develop positive attitudes toward mathematics and prepare for future careers. The competition also complements the district's mathematics curriculum, which supports critical thinking at all levels and perseverance in solving real-world problems.

Official scores are expected in late February.

Congrats to all our students who participated!



Spotlight on Finance

Welcome to our new Business Administrator and Board Secretary Christopher Jones!

Mr. Jones joined Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools in July 2021 and is proud to serve on the Administration Team. He most recently served as business administrator in Little Falls Township Public School District and High Bridge Borough School District. Prior to his public school service, he had a successful career in business, most recently at JPMorgan Chase.

He is a certified public accountant (CPA) and a proud graduate of Drexel University's LeBow College of Business for both his MBA in Financial Management and Economics and BS in Accounting and Finance. Mr. Jones enjoys CrossFit with his wife of ten years and spending time with his two-year-old daughter and eight-month-old son.



We are excited to have him leading our district's finances!

Strategic Planning Update

Thank you to the community members who shared input with our Board of Education and Administration Team at the three Strategic Planning sessions. We are developing goals and action plans based on your feedback - and we look forward to presenting at the Feb. 24 board meeting. The 2022-2025 Strategic Plan will capture the vision of our district and provide us with a roadmap for current and future success!

To learn more, visit: <https://www.spfk12.org/Page/5543>

Governor's Educators of the Year Named

Help us congratulate the 2021-2022 recipients in our district! These 15 exceptional individuals connect with students to enhance learning, collaborate with colleagues and families to create a strong school culture, and always demonstrate expertise, leadership and innovation in and out of the building.

We're so proud of their hard work and dedication.



- **Karen Joseph Lee**, 2nd grade teacher, Brunner
- **Melissa Paine**, nurse, Brunner
- **Michelle Kolbeck**, 2nd grade teacher, Coles
- **Danielle Hoey**, classroom aide, Coles
- **Jessica Prussman**, SPED teacher, Evergreen
- **Connie Roth**, classroom aide, Evergreen
- **Candice Testa**, 1st grade teacher, McGinn
- **Cheryl Ward**, nurse, McGinn

- **Caitlin Disney**, 1st grade teacher, School One
- **Lori Lidofsky**, SAS/social worker, School One
- **Adrienne Stack**, 5th grade teacher, Nettingham
- **Ellen Makely**, classroom aide, Nettingham
- **Alex Passucci**, health & PE teacher, Terrill
- **Rasheeda Adams**, LDTTC, Terrill
- **Matt Krip**, science teacher, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

Meet the Board



Dr. Karen Kulikowski, President

Committees: The President sits on any committee meeting as long as no more than four board members are in attendance. Dr. Kulikowski has been attending the Finance and Facilities Committee meetings. She is also a member of the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee, Supervisors and Administrators Negotiations, Alternate for SP-F Shared Services, and Grievance Team A.

Profession: Dentist in Westfield

Son graduated from School One and Park Middle School, now Nettingham Middle School

What do you enjoy about serving on the Board, and have there been challenges?

"I enjoy helping the district keep our schools safe and running smoothly. I like being involved in my community even though my son has graduated already. The biggest challenges are keeping the public



Evan Murray, Vice President

Committees: Chair of Facilities Committee, Chair of Student Activities and Athletics Committee, Member of Finance Committee, Member of Superintendent's Evaluation

Profession: Vice President of Operations within a global fixed income asset manager

Daughter in 7th grade at Terrill Middle School; Son in 10th grade at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

Why did you become a board member?

"I have always been interested in the decision-making processes surrounding education. I am the son and the husband of strong women who have dedicated their lives to teaching in the public school system. I wanted to ensure that the students of Scotch Plains-Fanwood continue to be adequately prepared to enter a competitive and diverse world by

up to date as lately things change day to day with COVID."

receiving unique, research-based, educational experiences".

Did You Know?

The Board of Education values public comment and understands the importance of allowing the public to discuss school matters of community interest. It has policies in place to ensure fair and orderly comments at each meeting. Visit the [District's Policy manual](#) to learn more about public participation at Board of Education meetings.

www.spfk12.org ● (908) 232 6161
512 Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

