



# Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

Dec.  
2024

## A Message From the Superintendent

Dear Scotch Plains–Fanwood  
Community,

As we approach winter break, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for each of you! #SPFProud is built on the dedication of our teachers and staff; it's built on the collaboration between our families and school communities; and it's built on the enthusiasm for learning that our students bring to school every day! When each of these pieces connects, *our community is truly special.*



I especially felt that pride this month as I, along with Board of Education Vice President Dr. Karen Kulikowski, SPFEA President Candice Testa, and other members of the district's administrative team, surprised teachers and support staff at each school to recognize them with the prestigious Governor's Educator of the Year awards. It's one of my favorite things to do each year, as we recognize the amazing people in our district.

While I know this is often a busy time of year, I also hope that you will take time this month to continue learning about the upcoming vote on January 28, 2025. Space in our schools is truly at a premium – and this vote can help address some of the space needs in our elementary schools and provide critical upgrades to fire alarm, electrical, and HVAC systems across the entire district. The dedicated website [spfk12.org/future](https://spfk12.org/future) provides more information.

I hope this winter break brings you joy with loved ones and time to rest. I look forward to welcoming you back in January, as we continue our journey together!

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Joan Mast**  
*Superintendent of Schools*



## Governor's Educator of the Year Awards



We are excited to recognize 16 exceptional teachers and educational services professionals nominated for the 2024–25 Governor's Educator of the Year Recognition Program. Each year, New Jersey school districts nominate their educators for the prestigious Governor's Educator of the Year Award through the New Jersey Department of Education. The program seeks to recognize educators "who have gone above and beyond in their service to New Jersey's students" and to create a culture that recognizes excellence and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators.



The Governor's Educator of the Year recipients are:

### Teachers:

Alexandra Graham, *Brunner Special Education Teacher*

Jessica Mandy, *Coles 2nd Grade Teacher*

Paige Kovacs, *Evergreen Special Education Teacher*

Kristen Zmuda, *McGinn Special Education Teacher*

### Service Professionals:

Rosemarie Pearce, *Brunner Classroom Aide*

Deborah Mehl, *Coles Support Specialist*

Patricia Compierchio, *Evergreen Classroom Aide*

Katherine Dreyer, *McGinn Classroom Aide*



Marina Beirne, *School One 1st Grade Teacher*

Jerri Tanella, *McGinn Classroom Aide*

Katelyn Washuta, *Nettingham Special Education Teacher*

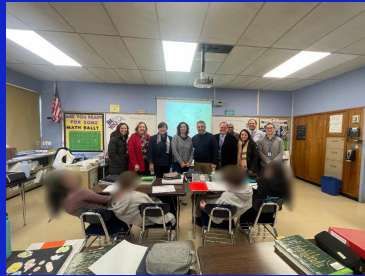
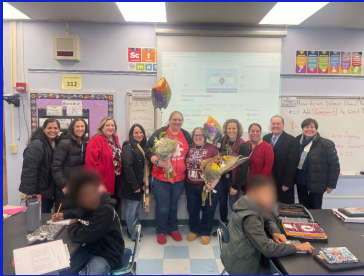
Carol Ekstrand, *School One Classroom Aide*

Ellen Christiano, *Terrill Math Teacher*

Lori Sciachitano, *Nettingham Classroom Aide*

Lorissa Clark, *SPFHS Spanish & ESL Teacher*

Denise Palozzola, *SPFHS Guidance Counselor*



# Referendum News

Five ways to learn about the January 28, 2025 vote:

1. Join us for an in-person, open-mic forum on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Terrill Middle School Auditorium. Bring your questions for the board members and administrators who guided the plans based on community feedback!
2. Read the FAQs on [spfk12.org/future](https://spfk12.org/future). You'll find answers to common questions, like "What's the long-term plan for space across the district?" and "How would La Grande School ease space issues in the elementary schools?"
3. Submit questions to [future@spfk12.org](mailto:future@spfk12.org) if you don't see answers on the website.
4. Follow the district on Facebook and Instagram. You'll see regular updates about the referendum that you can share with your friends and family.
5. Make a plan for voting! Polls will be open on January 28 from 2–8

# Featured Events

- Dec. 23 – Jan. 1** – Schools Closed for Winter Break
- Jan. 7** – Board of Education Annual Organization Meeting
- Jan. 10, 6-7:30 p.m.** – School One PTA 4th Grade Bingo
- Jan. 10, 6:30-8 p.m.** – McGinn PTA Bingo Night
- Jan. 11** – Super Sports Saturday (see below)
- Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.** – Terrill Grades 5 & 6 Concert in Terrill Auditorium
- Jan. 17, 7-8 p.m.** – Evergreen 4th Grade Amazing Race
- Jan. 20** – Schools Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 21, 6:30-8 p.m.** – Coles Snowflake Social (Snow date is Jan. 28)
- Jan. 22, 7-8:30 p.m.** – SPFHS POPs Concert in HS Auditorium
- Jan. 23, 8-9:30 p.m.** – Board of Education Meeting in SPFHS Media Center
- Jan. 24, 7-8 p.m.** – Evergreen Multicultural Night
- Jan. 28** – VOTE! Polls open 2-8 p.m.
- Jan. 28, 7-8:30 p.m.** – School One 4th Grade Winter Concert at Nettingham
- Jan. 29** – Schools Closed for Students
- Jan. 30, 6:30-8 p.m.** – McGinn PTA Global Family Night
- Jan. 30, 7-8:30 p.m.** – Brunner 4th Grade Winter Concert at Brunner
- Jan. 31** – McGinn Day of Global Cultures

[View the full calendar.](#)

SPF PTA PRESENTS

# SUPER SPORTS SATURDAY

SATURDAY **11** JANUARY

Wrestling Quad vs. Barringer/Orange/TBA - New Gym 8:30am

Freshmen Boys Basketball vs. Union - Old Gym @ 9am

JV Boys Basketball vs. Union - Old Gym @ 10:30am

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Varsity Boys Basketball vs. Union - New Gym @ 1pm

Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Piscataway - New Gym @ 2:30pm

(Shootout Contest at Halftime for both games)

## YOUTH CLINIC SCHEDULE

Tennis 12:30pm - 1:15pm

Wrestling 1:30pm - 2:15pm

Cheerleading 2:30pm - 3:15pm

Field Hockey 3:30pm - 4:15pm

Ice Hockey 4:30pm - 5:15pm

CONCESSION  
STAND FOR  
TASTY SNACKS

50/50

Recommended grades for clinics: 1st - 8th



**ENTRY TICKET \$5**

**VENDOR FAIR**

**IN CAFETERIA!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

The Scotch Plains – Fanwood School District, SPF PTA Council and SPF PTAs are excited to announce the upcoming SPF Super Sports Saturday, taking place on Saturday, Jan. 11 at Scotch Plains–Fanwood High School!

Please see the link to buy your tickets and register for clinics: [Super Sports Saturday – Tickets](#)

The day will feature Wrestling Quad, Freshman, JV and Varsity Basketball with Shootout contest at halftime for both Varsity games. The event will feature introductory sports clinics for Elementary (1st – 4th grade) and Middle (5th – 8th grade) school students, a vendor fair, and delicious breakfast and lunch services. The sports clinics have limited availability and are first come per registration so, **buy your**

tickets now!

We are also looking for your support to make this community event a success. Please see link to sign up to volunteer: [Super Sports Saturday – Volunteer](#). There are volunteer opportunities for High School students also.

This day is not only about fun and sportsmanship but also an opportunity for all of us to make a difference in the lives of our students and community. All proceeds support PTA Council scholarships.



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



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education | 512 Cedar St | Scotch Plains, NJ 07076 US

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