

Scotch Plains- Fanwood *High School*



A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Principal

Dear SPF Community,

Please enjoy our November newsletter to catch up on many different activities from the past month and hear about upcoming SPFHS events in the month ahead!

Sincerely,

Warren Hynes

Union Latina Event

On Thursday night, Oct. 30, the high school held its second annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Unión Latina, a new and growing SPFHS club, started this tradition last year. Unión Latina was founded in 2023 by current seniors Kayla McNair and Samuel Duque and has provided a community to students whose first language is not English. For the Oct. 30 celebration, the SALSA Club, Bilingual Connections Club, and Spanish Honor Society also played a big role in setting up and organizing. Thanks to the volunteer work, student assistance, and staff support, it was a great success! The Hispanic Heritage Celebration provided a great way for students' families to come together, learn about culture and language, participate and represent their culture, and have a great time!



Italian Exchange Visit

SPFHS and our community welcomed 15 Italian Exchange students from Sala Consilina-Teggiano during the month of October. During their 10-day visit, students enjoyed shadowing their SPF students in their classes and making trips to New York City, Princeton University, Scotch Plains Town Hall, and the Scotch Plains Police Department (for a behind-the-scenes tour). The exchange students also carved pumpkins, enjoyed hibachi dinners, and made many trips to Wawa!

This cycle will continue at the end of February when the students meet again in the hills of Southern Italy for our students' 10-day adventure!



Conservation in the Classroom

This year, the high school's Environmental Science students received five baby Diamondback terrapins and 300 Rainbow trout eggs as a part of our Conservation in the Classroom program. Students are responsible for caring for these animals by maintaining proper water and providing them with food to help them grow as part of a head-start program. Thanks to the hard work our students contribute all year long, these animals will be ready to be returned to the wild in June. This project encourages students to take part in environmental stewardship, and in deepening their understanding of the ecosystem, biodiversity, and how humans can support wildlife. In addition, our Environmental Club introduced the

terrapins to our eighth-graders during this past month's eighth-grade visits to SPFHHS.

Fall Sports

Congratulations to the SPFHHS boys soccer and gymnastics teams, both of which repeated as Union County champions this year. Our fall sports teams are in various stages of state playoffs, and we wish all of our athletes the very best as they conclude their seasons.



United Against Hate Week

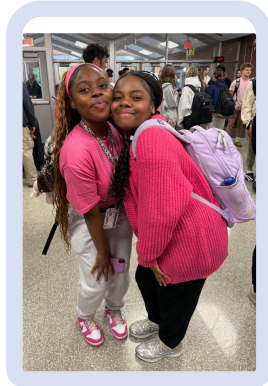
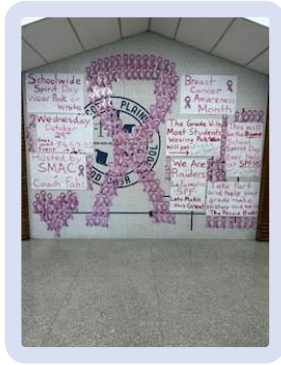
The Not in Our School Committee hosted a “United Against Hate” week of activities between Oct. 22-24. October is National Bullying Prevention Month, and students and staff wore orange for Unity Day on Oct. 22. The color orange provides a powerful, visually compelling expression of solidarity for bullying prevention. By coming together and wearing orange on this “orange-out” day, the goal was to send a unified message that no one is alone. Not in Our School members handed out orange bracelets, necklaces, ribbons and stickers to go along with the orange shirts that many students wore. On Oct. 23, the club had an orange chalk and crafts activity after school. And on Oct. 24, there was an orange-themed bake sale after school.



Breast Cancer Awareness (SMAC)

On October 29, the Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC) Club, along with Coach Fabiano, hosted a school-wide Spirit Day to raise awareness for breast cancer. It was an incredible display of Raider pride, with more than 60 percent of the student body wearing pink or white in support of the cause. To add some fun competition, each grade competed to see who could show the most spirit. The senior class came out on top and earned a bagel breakfast

reward.



History Club Volunteer Visit

On Oct. 18 and 19, members of the SPFHS History Club volunteered for the “Four Centuries in a Weekend” celebration, in which Union County historic sites were open to the public to visit. Thirteen high school students volunteered at the Osborn Cannonball House Museum on Front Street in Scotch Plains, led by co-presidents Spencer Martin and Max Nicholson. Students assisted with crafts, worked the information desk, helped with pictures of the Osborns, and conducted tours. The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood was very grateful for the student support.



Fanscotian Staff Shines at GSSPA

Congratulations to the *Fanscotian* staff for outstanding achievements at this year’s Garden State Scholastic Press Association competition. The staff was awarded second place in the state for their Social Media presence, second place for Overall Online Excellence, and honorable mention for Overall Print

Excellence. Individual award winners included: Sylvia Haley, 2nd Place in Feature Writing; Jonah Leske, 3rd Place in Sports Writing and 2nd Place in Breaking News; Michael Savare, 3rd Place in Personal Narrative; Nikos Zoganas, 1st Place in Photography; and Cooper Tamase, 2nd Place in Sports Writing. Congratulations to all of our student journalists for representing SPFHS with excellence, creativity, and Raider pride!



Marching Band Dazzles Again

Congratulations to the SPF Raiders Marching Band on another successful marching band season. Their show, “Verses,” was both musically and aesthetically outstanding, and the students conducted themselves as true musicians. On Sunday, Nov. 2, the band performed at the New Jersey Marching Band Directors Association State Finals at The College of New Jersey, finishing their season with a 6th-place ranking and a score of 87.3.

Special congratulations and thanks go to the entire marching band staff: Durand Thomas, Charlie Jackson, John Gillick, Hailey Riccardo, Laura Bancone, Samantha Jasiak, Stephen Oduro, and Joe Elkin. They and their staff of parent volunteers have gone beyond the call of duty to make this a successful year for our students.

Student Contribution to Academic Journal

Ninth-grader Manahil Adnan recently collaborated with several academics in the research and writing of an academic journal article on the link between internet gaming disorder and teen mental health. Here is the [abstract](#) for this article. Way to go, Manahil!



Union County CSI Division Visits Forensic Science Classes

Students in the Forensic Science courses hosted members of the Union County Sheriff’s Office CSI Division for a hands-on presentation on Oct. 29 and 30. Investigators demonstrated how they process crime scenes, explaining the proper methods for searching for weapons, collecting and preserving evidence, and

documenting a scene. Students were offered a first-hand look at the science and collaboration behind solving crimes through documentation of real-case examples. Students were then talked through examining a mock crime scene setup, identifying key evidence and discussing how it would be collected and analyzed in a real investigation.

This hands-on experience gave students an authentic look into the intersection of science and law enforcement and a glimpse into possible careers in forensic science and criminal justice.

Eighth-Grade Student Visits

Nettingham and Terrill Middle School eighth-graders visited SPFHS during October to take a tour of the school while in session, sit in on classes, learn about different clubs, and ask questions of Dr. Hynes and Mr. Gerace. The second phase of our eighth-grade orientation takes place on Nov. 13, when Eighth-Grade Parent & Student Night takes place at the high school from 7-8:30 p.m. Parents and students will have the opportunity to walk throughout the school and see our students and staff at work, engaged in the activities that make our school such a special place.

Raider Peer Tutoring

SPFHS Raider Peer Tutoring is back in session. Raider Peer Tutoring, or RPT for short, is a program in which students volunteer to tutor other students for courses with which they could use help. Operating every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the second half of lunch (11:10 to 11:40 a.m.) in the classroom at the back of the library media center, 2-4 tutors are available each day to tutor students in courses ranging from English, Math, and Science to History and World Language at all levels (College Prep, Honors & AP). Not only do our student volunteers tutor school courses, but they will also have SAT tutoring/prep coming soon! Stay tuned for more information. This program is also pleased to announce the addition of three Student Peer Coordinators (Gabriella Suriani, Zhaoxiang Chen, and Alexandra Chung) to the leadership team. These coordinators are instrumental in developing and maintaining tutor schedules, communicating with teachers, and promoting the program throughout the school and local community. Their efforts are vital in enhancing the visibility and effectiveness of the Raider Peer Tutoring Program.

If your child would like to join by tutoring others, please send us an email. If your child would like to receive help from the tutors, they're always welcome to walk in or to make an appointment. For more information and updates, follow us on **Instagram @rpt_spfhs**, or email us at

raiderpeertutoring@spfk12.org



Gabriella Suriani
RPT Peer Coordinator
Grade 12



Zhaoxiang Chen
RPT Peer Coordinator
Grade 12



Alexandra Chung
RPT Peer Coordinator
Grade 11

“Serving Up Stories” Event

On Friday, Nov. 14 after Block 4A in the library media center, Not in Our School and the Student Government Association will co-host a special event open to all students, staff and community members. We’re calling it “Serving Up Stories,” and here’s what it will involve:

- Food
- Shared Stories
- Fellowship

Specifically, we are asking restaurants and families to donate food from all around the world for this event. As we enjoy this pre-Thanksgiving meal together, we will enjoy socializing. We’ll also invite anyone who wishes to share a story with the group. As with last year’s “Sharing Stories” event (which took place in classrooms), individuals can share anecdotes of times when they experienced community support and allyship, and also of times when they experienced challenges on account of some aspect of their identity. In addition, we’ll welcome anyone who wishes to share stories of how they or others in their family made their way to New Jersey from other parts of the country or world. It will be a great chance for us to learn about one another.

If you’re interested, please [RSVP](#) and we will look forward to seeing you there!

Fall Play - *Metamorphoses*

The SPFHS Fall Play students cordially invite all district faculty and staff to their production of *Metamorphoses*. The performances will take place in the Manya Ungar Memorial Auditorium on Friday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for students and seniors, and are on sale at www.spfhsrep.com. *Metamorphoses* reimagines timeless Greek myths □ including “Orpheus and Eurydice” and “King Midas” □ through poetic storytelling and breathtaking visuals. This one-of-a-kind production unfolds in and around a real pool of water onstage, transforming the auditorium into an intimate, three-sided black box theater where audiences look down into the mythical world of love, loss, and transformation. *Metamorphoses* is beautiful, funny, haunting, and unforgettable □ we look forward to sharing this experience with you!

Mentors - Senior Project

Repeating this announcement from last month: A number of our seniors will

take part in a Senior Project during May and June, in which eligible seniors have the opportunity to conclude their educational experience and graduation requirements by taking part in community service, an internship, or a specialized project. *We are always looking for adults who are part of organizations or businesses, or who have specialized areas of expertise, and are willing to serve as mentors for students.* While many students find a mentor on their own, others could use some help with connections. If you are willing to serve as a mentor or would like to know more about what such mentorship would require, please reach out to Dr. Hynes at whynes@spfk12.org. We are gathering a list of willing volunteers well in advance of students receiving their Senior Project guidelines in January.

Raider Relief Reminder

All families are invited to support the Raider Relief Fund, which is designed to support Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students, staff and their families when they experience significant hardships that create immediate financial need. These hardships may include illness, family loss, weather-related crises and other unexpected financial struggles. We shared a letter with families about this fund in the summer back-to-school packet, but the letter is again included [here](#), complete with information about how to make a contribution.

Drop-Off Bins, Visitors' Log

If you have items to drop off for your students, we ask that you use the plastic bins outside Door 1, label the item if you haven't already (using Post-It notes provided), then ring the bell to inform the hall monitor at Door 1 that you've made a drop-off. That hall monitor will then retrieve the item and bring it into the attendance office so that your student can pick it up. In addition, we ask that all who wish to meet with staff in the building make an appointment, so that you are on our visitors' log.

Calendar

Nov. 6 & 7 No school for students and teachers
Nov. 10 National Honor Society induction, 6 p.m.
Nov. 13 Eighth-Grade Parent & Student Night, 7 p.m.
Nov. 21 Fall play - *Metamorphoses* - 7 p.m.
Nov. 22 Fall play - *Metamorphoses* - 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Nov. 23 Fall play - *Metamorphoses* - 2 p.m.
Nov. 26 Single-Session Day
Nov. 27 & 28 No school for students and staff





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