Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Principal

Dear SPF Community,

Happy New Year! We fit a lot of good news into our three weeks of school last month. Check out some of the highlights below!

Sincerely,

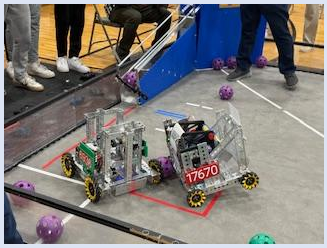
Warren Hynes

Raider Robotics Shines

The SPFHS Raider Robotics team had a jam-packed month of success in December. On Dec. 7, the team hosted a robotics meet at the high school, featuring dozens of teams from throughout the state. SPFHS placed fourth on the day, finishing 4-1 in the day's matches. This placed Raider Robotics in fifth place in a league of 41 teams as they prepare for their upcoming league meet on Jan. 25.

On Dec. 12, Raider Robotics assisted the Coles PTA with Coles STEAM night, held in the Coles Media Center. At this event, the Raider Robotics team helped attendees make buttons and bristlebots, play and test LEGO robots, and drive the team's outreach robot.

On Dec. 19, the annual SPF Hackathon was held at the high school. Raider Robotics, members of the robotics club, and members of the Student Council volunteered to run workshops for students in grades 3-12. Student attendees experienced various workshops, designed to introduce them to different programming languages, such as Blocks, Python, and Java. It was a great demonstration of what student leadership looks like at SPFHS.








SPFHS Students Accepted into Region II Band and Choir

In December, students from Central New Jersey auditioned for the Central New Jersey (Region II) ensembles, and several SPFHS students were accepted into both the Region II Band and Choir. This is an amazing achievement, made possible only through hard work and dedication. Thank you to Ms. Jan Allen and Mr. Durand Thomas for their work preparing the students.
The Band Concert will be on Sunday, January 18, at 3 p.m., while the Choir Concert will be on Sunday, January 25, also at 3 pm. Both concerts will be at the Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers University. We congratulate the following students for their successful auditions:
Symphonic Band: Aleksander Stevens (trumpet)
Treble Choir: Juilee Joshi, Alex Martins, Kayla Mathew
Mixed Choir: Mackenna Fischer, Logan Griffiths, Jordin Iazzetti, Teresa Jackson, Gayatri Phatak, Knevin Pilley, Aaron Pinsky, Arielle Solomon



Winter Choral Concert

The many beautiful voices of SPFHS joined together on Dec. 22 for the Winter Choral Concert, held in the Manya Ungar Memorial Auditorium. The Chamber Choir, Virtuoso Voices, Fortis Chorum, Select Choir, Concert Choir — and choral alumni — all took the stage to sing various holiday songs. Directed by Ms. Jan Allen, Ms. Kelly Ruggieri and Fine Arts Supervisor Dr. Wayne Mallette, the dozens of SPFHS singers were joined by collaborative pianist Mr. James Lubrano and several student musicians, along with instrumental teacher Mr. Charles Jackson.



Mr. Spiffy High

Their talents ranged from guitar solos to magic acts to burger tasting to Chinese yo-yo. Nine SPFHS seniors competed in the annual Mr. Spiffy High, an annual DECA fund-raiser held on Dec. 5 in the Manya Ungar Memorial Auditorium. Directed by SPFHS senior Sydney Klein, hosted by seniors Gregory Baerson and Vance Slack, and facilitated by DECA advisors Ms. Marjorie FitzGibbon and Ms. Bethany Henry, Mr. Spiffy High drew an audience of more than 500 and raised more than $7,500 for Mallory's Army, a non-profit dedicated to preventing bullying and cyberbullying, while also promoting a culture of kindness and empathy. This year's participants were: John Buckley, Darren Edelman, Callum Fynes, Alexander Ho, Asher Jackvony, Jonah Leske, Sal Racanelli, Lorenzo Tittanegro and Marco Vidone. After a *Trolls* dance mashup and a "Defying Gravity" lip sync, Marco Vidone claimed the crown this year. After an inspiring guitar solo of the Beatles' "Blackbird" (featuring junior Joey Estevez on vocals), John Buckley was the runner-up. All of our spirited senior participants closed with a dance and lip-sync version of NSYNC's "Bye Bye Bye."

























World Language Honor Society

SPHS held its World Language Honor Society induction on Dec. 3 in the Manya Ungar Memorial Auditorium. This year saw more than 90 new inductees, with 33 apiece joining the Italian and Spanish Honor Societies, another 14 students joining the French Honor Society and 12 more joining the Chinese Honor Society.
The induction ceremonies were hosted by senior Alexander Ho with student speakers representing each language. The following students spoke about their experiences with learning a new language and culture: Benjamin Sohmer, French; Grace Brown, Mandarin; Alexa Ramos, Spanish; and Mahnoor Chaudhary, Italian.





Governor's Educators of the Year

Congratulations to this year's SPFHS Governor's Educators of the Year! Our Educational Services Professional of the Year is Mr. Rick Dorry, who is our student assistance specialist. Our Teacher of the Year is Ms. Andrea Karanik, who is one of our social studies teachers and teaches our AP Art History course. Congratulations to Mr. Dorry and Ms. Karanik!





Holiday Cheer

Every December, SPFHS secretary Ms. Karen Taylor decorates our main office for the holidays, featuring everything from staff holiday cards to a menorah to a Kwanzaa kinara to a festive tree. Mr. Dan Valentine and Ms. Andrea Karanik did the honors of trimming this year's tree.



Calendar

Jan. 5 - Classes resume
Jan. 10 - Super Sports Saturday, starting at 8:30 a.m.
Jan. 15 - College Planning Night, 7 p.m.
Jan. 19 - No school for students and staff
Jan. 21 - POPS Instrumental Concert, 7 p.m.
Jan. 30 - End of Marking Period 2 & Semester 1

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

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