Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Principal

Dear SPF Community,

Happy February! We have many exciting events and activities to share from this past month, and we look forward to a very busy February.

Sincerely,

Warren Hynes

SPFHS Senior Honored by Marine Corps

SPFHS senior Daniel Burke received a surprise visit at the high school on January 7, when Capt. Maximillian Berry stopped by to give Daniel a $180,000 tuition check from the United States Marine Corps. The Marines will pay the full tuition cost for the college of Daniel's choosing, and he will then commit to four years of Marine Corps service after college graduation. His family, along with his guidance counselor, Mr. John McManus, his assistant principal, Mr. Ralph Gerace, and his principal, Dr. Warren Hynes, were on hand to join in congratulating Daniel.





Model UN Shines

The SPFHS Model UN team attended the annual Model UN Conference from January 9-11 in Hershey, Pa., and received numerous honors. In addition to our school being named as an Outstanding Delegation, Noah Lieberman was named Premier First-Year Diplomat in Historical Security Council, representing Uganda; Alya Abedrabbo earned outstanding country honors as part of Colombia; Sabrina Bogatz and Grace MacDougall earned outstanding country honors as part of Japan; and Mackenna Fischer earned premier country honors as part of Egypt. Grace MacDougall was also named Premier Diplomat in the Social, Cultural & Humanitarian Committee. Lastly, both Gabby Suriani, chair of the World Health Organization, and Grace MacDougall were selected to attend the Congress on National Affairs this summer, where they will meet with students selected from all over the nation to deliberate on national and world affairs.

Great job, SPF delegates! If any students are interested in joining us next year, they are more than welcome to email Ms. McGowan or Mrs. Oels for more information.













Super Sports Saturday

Super Sports Saturday is an annual SPFHS event that combines our basketball and wrestling programs with volunteer clinics led by SPFHS coaches. This year's event took place on January 10, with clinics held for tennis, ice hockey, cheer, and wrestling. These clinics focused on our elementary-school students to introduce them to these unique and exciting sports options. Wrestling put on a JV jamboree that included teams from across the state and focused on having our JV wrestlers compete and improve. Boys' basketball defeated Rahway and the girls' basketball team defeated Union City. During the event, the PTA showcased local vendors. All of the proceeds from Super Sports Saturday supported the District PTA Scholarship Fund.



BSU Helps Lead Day of Service

The SPFHS Black Student Union played a major role in the MLK Day of Service hosted by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA on January 19. The BSU prepared and presented a spectacular re-enactment compiling highlights of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life. SPFHS students Reagan Estivene, Savannah Hudson, Kaylin Lowe, CJ Laughlin, Janat Moudiab, Mia Powell, Cyla Solomon and Chase Worthey all took part in the re-enactment.
The BSU is a student-led organization that celebrates Black excellence, culture and community while encouraging leadership and positive change.

Animal Care Club Supports Humane Society

The SPFHS Animal Care Club was proud to participate in Scotch Plains' MLK Day of Service on January 19, honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's legacy through

meaningful community service. Students collected food, toys, treats, and other much-needed supplies for the Hope for Paws Humane Society in Plainfield, to support animals waiting for safe, loving homes. The club also invited community members to join them in making healthy, homemade treats for the pups, creating a hands-on opportunity to put Dr. King's message of compassion and service into action.





Robotics Wins Meet

On Sunday, February 1, the Raider Robotics team competed in the First Tech Challenge Northeast New Jersey Edge League Meet in Jersey City. Raider Robotics placed first in the league out of 42 teams, consistently winning their matches throughout the competition. The students demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork, and preparation, and their performance positions the team well for continued success at the next conference on February 15 in Bayonne.







POPS Concert Dazzles

The SPFHS instrumental program held its annual POPS Concert on January 21 in the Manya Ungar Auditorium, with six different music groups performing for those in attendance. The Moonglowers performed jazz standards throughout the evening, with additional performances from Rhythmsense, the Symphonic Band, the Wind Ensemble, the SPF Jazz Band, and the Concert Band. During the Wind Ensemble's performance of selections from *The Lion King*, district theater technology specialist Evan Perrotta surprised and delighted all in attendance by hopping onstage to sing "I Just Can't Wait to Be King." Band directors Mr. Durand Thomas, Mr. Charlie Jackson, and Mr. John Gillick coordinated and led the evening's events.





Documentary and Panel at Terrill on Feb. 12

On Thursday, February 12, SPF Public Schools will host a screening of the three-part NJ PBS documentary *The Price of Silence*, which addresses the history of slavery in New Jersey. The event begins at 7 p.m. and will take place at Terrill Middle School. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the writer/executive producer as well as featured historians and artists. Students and their families can click here to register.

Ice Hockey Teams Raise Funds to Fight Cancer

This week, the Raiders ice hockey teams have been joining in the fight against cancer by raising funds for the American Cancer Society. All are welcome to make a donation at a game, donate using the QR code on the flyer, or visit this website. The fundraising games have been as follows: Raiders varsity vs. Montclair Kimberley Academy, Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 6:35 p.m. in the Warinanco Sports Center in Elizabeth; and Raiders junior varsity vs. Westfield High, Thursday, Feb. 5, at 3:30 p.m. in the Warinanco Sports Center in Elizabeth.



Environmental Club Speaker Addresses Water Resources

The Environmental Club was excited to welcome guest speaker Betsy Chernoff on Thursday, January 29, in the Manya Ungar Auditorium. Ms. Chernoff spoke with students about the New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program and the role students could play in protecting New Jersey's water resources. Students learned about local watersheds and how students can get involved in conservation across the entire state. The presentation encouraged students to think critically about water and how we impact its quality.

FBI Investigators Speak with Forensic Students

The forensic science students at SPFHS recently had the unique opportunity to attend a presentation led by two FBI Evidence Response Team (ERT) investigators, one from the New York City Field Office (Mr. Farbod Azad) and the other from the Newark Field Office (Ms. Sara Monaghan). The agents shared a wealth of real-world

knowledge and first-hand experiences from their careers in federal investigations, offering students an authentic look into the role and responsibilities of an FBI agent.

They discussed the rigorous path to becoming an agent, the advanced technology and tools used in modern investigations, and the critical importance of teamwork during evidence collection and scene processing. The presentation directly connected to our forensic science curriculum, reinforcing key content areas such as trace evidence, fingerprint analysis, and impression evidence, and highlighting how these concepts are applied in real investigative settings. Overall, the presentation was both educational and inspiring, providing students with meaningful insight into careers in forensic science and law enforcement.





English Classes Design Food Truck Literary Projects

Ms. Zonis' English II Honors classes filled the SPFHS library media center with books and food trucks on January 22. This was the culminating project for an independent-reading assignment, in which students had read either *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng, *New Boy* by Tracy Chevalier, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, or *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë. Students worked in groups to create literary-themed food trucks inspired by the books they had read. From menu to design, every part of the project reflected the book's story in symbolic and creative ways. As projects were presented in the media center, students had the chance to view every group's project, ask questions, and learn about books with a food-truck twist.









SPFHS Wins County Consumer Bowl

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School won the 2026 Union County NJ Consumer Bowl competition and will be representing our school and Union County in April. The New Jersey Department of Consumer Affairs sponsors the statewide Consumer Bowl, which is an educational competition for high school students across the state. It was established in 1997 to educate young adults on a variety of consumer issues. Students compete at the county level and the top team from each county moves on to regional competition. SPF was represented by sophomores Ben Lipsky, Vandit Bhatia, Emma Pisarchik, Kaya Desai and captain Enzo Primiano. Mrs. Marjorie FitzGibbon is the advisor to the students.







Italian Club Holds Clothing Drive

The Italian Club held a Winter Clothing Drive, collecting several bags of warm clothes for those in need between mid-December and mid-January. Donations were delivered to the St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark, which also houses a women's and children's shelter. Our club officer, Emma Piszko, spearheaded the clothing drive and was told that most of the clothes that were collected from the high school were gone within minutes of being dropped off. The Italian Club thanks all who donated, as your generosity is greatly appreciated.



February Calendar

Feb. 11 SPFHS Cabaret Night, 7 p.m.
Feb. 12 *The Price of Silence* screening, 7 p.m., Terrill Middle School
Feb. 16 Schools Closed
Feb. 17 Schools Closed for Students (Staff PD Day)

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

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