Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Principal

Dear SPF Community,

We're happy to share with you this December newsletter featuring various updates on high school activities. In addition, we wish you the very best during this holiday season and a happy new year.

Sincerely,

Warren Hynes

Metamorphoses Shines at SPFHS

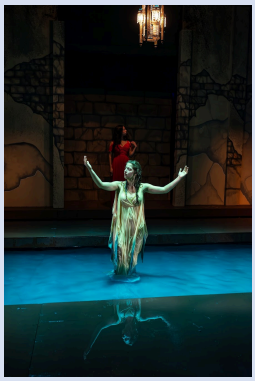
The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre presented a stunning performance of this year's fall play, *Metamorphoses.* This one-of-a-kind play was staged in and around a real pool of water, transforming the stage into a mythical realm filled with stories of love, loss, and change. The Manya Ungar Memorial Auditorium was reconfigured into an immersive black box theater, with seating arranged on three sides so audiences could look down into the water and become part of the storytelling experience.

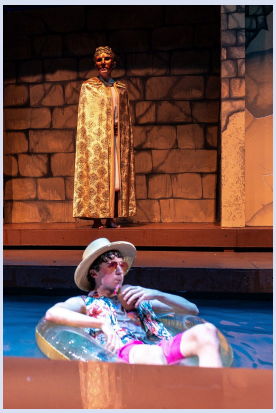
Metamorphoses is a play by Mary Zimmerman based on the myths of Ovid. It reimagines timeless Greek myths — including "Orpheus and Eurydice" and "King Midas" — through poetic storytelling and breathtaking visuals. As the play's director, Mr. Morgan Knight, wrote in his director's note, this play is not just a collection of myths, "but a meditation on what it means to change," making water the "perfect metaphor" for a play about change.

Congratulations to the cast and crew, as well as to Mr. Knight and all of the staff and adult volunteers who collaborated in creating this magical play. Up next: The SPFHS spring musical, *Guys and Dolls*, will run from March 12-15 in the Manya Ungar Memorial Auditorium.









Eighth Grade Parent & Student Night

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School welcomed eighth grade parents and students to see our school in action for Eighth Grade Parent & Student Night on Nov. 13. The evening consisted of a brief gathering in the auditorium followed by an opportunity to walk around the school and see our students and staff at work, engaged in the activities that make our school such a special place. The building was full of students and staff ready to share all that we do in the high school, from robotics to repertory theatre, from school newspaper to school yearbook, from world language to marketing, and from curriculum to counseling, to name just a few. Parents and students were able to ask questions and learn so much about what lies ahead for them as they schedule freshman classes this winter and begin their high school journeys in September.













Boys Soccer Repeats as Sectional Champs

Congratulations to the SPFHS boys soccer team, which repeated as North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 champions with a 1-0 victory against Westfield on Nov. 14. This marked the second consecutive year that SPF claimed the sectional crown by defeating the rival Blue Devils at home. Congrats to the Raider soccer players and to all of our fall sports athletes on their many team and individual accomplishments.

National Honor Society Inducts New Members

The SPFHS chapter of the National Honor Society inducted more than 100 new members in a Nov. 10 ceremony in the Manya Ungar Memorial Auditorium. The new inductees met the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership and character, and will now take part in both individual and chapter-wide service projects in the SPFHS community throughout the school year.



SPFHS Student-Athletes Commit on Signing Day

Three SPFHS senior student-athletes committed to universities during a Nov. 12 “Signing Day” event in the SPFHS Library Media Center. Caleb McDowell will attend Yale University, and will play on the Bulldogs’ boys lacrosse team. Sadie Shapiro will attend Duquesne University, and will play on the Dukes’ girls soccer team. Delaney Farley will attend West Chester University and will run on the Golden Rams’ track team. Boys lacrosse coach Mr. Nick Miceli, girls soccer coach Mr. Kevin Ewing and track coach Mr. Jeff Koegel all spoke on behalf of these superb athletes, in a ceremony hosted by our athletic director, Dr. Ryan Miller.



Not in Our School Serves Up Stories

The SPFHS Not in Our School program hosted an afternoon of food, fellowship and stories in the SPFHS Library Media Center on Nov. 14. Titled “Serving Up Stories,” the event saw more than 100 students, staff and community members gather in the library to enjoy various international foods from local restaurants, family kitchens, and our own Pomptonian food service.
While enjoying this pre-Thanksgiving meal, students shared stories of community. Some spoke of times when they had been accepted despite differences, and others spoke of challenges they’ve overcome with regard to community support. Still others spoke of times when they or family members arrived new to this district, state or country, and described how they adjusted to the changes. All of these stories supported the Not in Our School mission of advocating for community and acceptance while standing up against bullying and discrimination.







Robotics Holds Open House

On Nov. 25, the SPFHS robotics team held its annual open house to kick off the robotics season. The open house allows the team to present the season’s game, their current design, their future design plans, their efforts to be a sustainable (long-lasting) team, while simultaneously inspiring future generations to take part in STEM and robotics. It also provided a unique opportunity to fill in parents, friends, and family members of this year’s game.





Student Leaders Travel to Kean

Members of the SPFHS Social Justice Teaching Academy and Black Student Union traveled to Kean University on Nov. 21 for the Kean Diversity Council's High School Leadership Conference. Students engaged in collaborative leadership activities while also listening to keynote speaker Carlos Ojeda Jr., a youth development expert, entrepreneur, and inspirational speaker.







Student Council Celebrates Gratitude

The SPFHS Student Council hosted a Thanksgiving-themed art display in the Door 12 foyer this past month. Students from all grades and various school clubs contributed by creating warm, handwritten messages of gratitude. Each note reflected the true spirit of Thanksgiving and unified the school community in celebration.



Seniors Share Pre-Thanksgiving Breakfast

The SPFHS Senior Council hosted a breakfast for seniors on November 26, complete with bagels, donuts and hot chocolate. Seniors enjoyed the chance to gather in the Multi-Purpose Room before school on the last day before the long weekend to share food and conversation with one another and with staff.



AP African-American History Activities Abound

This year's Advanced Placement African-American History class has engaged in active learning in a number of ways this year. "Anatomy of an Empire" projects depicted the achievements and culture of an African kingdom. In "Blackout poems," students were asked to select facing pages of text from discarded books in the library, or from one of two sources provided, and create a blackout poem about the transatlantic slave trade. In another activity, students used indigo vats to dye fabric, which was a valued skill both within Africa as well as with enslaved individuals. These engaging assignments are coupled with rigorous AP reading and writing assignments, connecting students to the depth of the African-American experience.





Environmental Program Screens Documentary

This past month, the SPFHS Environmental Club had the pleasure of hosting an advanced screening of *ADAPTED*, a new documentary following three outdoor enthusiasts and their journey after traumatic spinal cord injuries. Students came together in the Multi-Purpose Room to watch their powerful stories and their connections to nature. After the screening, the students welcomed director and Chris Morgan Wildlife Ambassador Paul Bikis for a question-and-answer session, asking him about the filming process and his advocacy for nature. This event gave students an opportunity to witness how nature can support healing, offering a valuable reminder of why the outdoors is important for everyone.



Italian Exchange Reunion

Julia Poeschl, former graduate of SPFHS, recently reunited with her Italian exchange student from 2017! Sindi first visited SPF in the fall of 2017. Julia traveled with our program to Reggio Emilia in 2018 and lived with Sindi and her family. Over the past eight years, the girls kept in touch via social media. Sindi came back to visit the U.S. and the families were able to meet for the very first time in November.



Marathon Support for New SPFHS Teacher

Mr. Jeffrey Dunker is in his first year teaching at SPFHS, and is teaching AP Psychology and U.S. History 1. On Nov. 2, Mr. Dunker ran the New York City Marathon, one of many races he has run in his life. During the marathon, Mr. Dunker sustained a leg injury while running over the Queensboro Bridge. As he started up First Avenue after the bridge, Mr. Dunker saw Alexander Ho, an SPFHS senior and AP Psych student. Alex was at the race to root for both his cousin and for Mr. Dunker. Alex offered his teacher encouragement at the 16th mile, then met up with Mr. Dunker at the 25th mile to run the final mile with him, while shouting words of encouragement the whole time. Mr. Dunker shared photos of this, adding, “There are amazing human beings that attend this school!”





Calendar

Dec. 3 World Language Honor Society Induction, 6 p.m.
Dec. 5 Mr. Spiffy High, 7 p.m.
Dec. 6 SAT testing, 8 a.m.
Dec. 7 Robotics Meet, 10 a.m.
Dec. 19 SPF Hackathon, 5 p.m.
Dec. 22 Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m.

Dec. 24-Jan. 4 Winter Break!

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

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!