Scotch Plains-Fanwood *High School*

A Community of Learners Seeking Excellence Together

A Message from the Principal

Dear SPF Community,

As March begins and we edge away from the snow, we have a very active month ahead for SPFHS. We also have plenty of news to share from the past four weeks.

Sincerely,

Warren Hynes

Guest Speaker Encourages SPFHS to "Fight Forward"

On March 2, nationally acclaimed speaker Carlos Ojeda Jr. spoke with the entire student body in two assemblies - one for grades 9 and 10 during block 1, and the other for grades 11 and 12 during block 2. Mr. Ojeda, who is an educator, youth development expert and founder of the youth engagement company CoolSpeak, shared his and his family's stories of facing adversity and finding a way to "fight forward" instead of fighting back. His experiences and insight shed light on some of the ways we can move through challenges, embrace community, and seek the better angels of our nature. Mr. Ojeda's moving speech brought dozens of students up to talk with him individually and in small groups after each assembly. This assembly was sponsored by Not in Our School, and as always all students, staff and community members are welcome to take part in this program. Not in Our School's next meeting is March 16 during unit lunch.









Barcelona Exchange Program Takes on Spain

From Feb. 17-28, a total of 19 SPFHS juniors and seniors, along with chaperones Ms. Breanna Marin and Mr. Nick Tropeano, participated in the long-running Barcelona Exchange Program, coordinated by Ms. Ann Barcellona. Over the course of these two weeks, students lived with host families in Spain and enjoyed day tours of Barcelona and Madrid. Highlights included visiting Gaudi's famously under-construction Sagrada Familia Cathedral, which reached its pinnacle during the visit. Students also enjoyed works of art by Picasso, Velazquez, and many others. All got to enjoy an overnight excursion to Spain's capital of Madrid, where they experienced authentic flamenco firsthand. The trip was capped off by a visit to 2,000-year-old Girona, which was founded by the Romans. The exchange will be completed when our SPF students host their penpals here in the USA beginning in mid-March.













Cabaret Night Raises Money for Cause

The SPFHS choirs recently had their annual Cabaret for a Cause concert on Feb. 11. The idea behind this concert is to partner with both local and national non-profit

organizations in a fundraising concert, with previous performances benefiting organizations ranging from Habitat for Humanity to the Trevor Project. This year, we collaborated with the non-profit TheraYouth, an organization that supports children with physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other services that they may not be able to afford otherwise. The choirs and soloists performed music from shows such as *Newsies*, *Wicked*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Hercules*, with a special closer from Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical *In The Heights*.

Junior Christopher Allen functioned as the lead student coordinator, and spearheaded the partnership between TheraYouth and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Choir department. He was also assisted by the planning team of Nathan Hyman, Sofia Vanterpool, Cooper Pomponio, Gayatri Phatak, Juilee Joshi and Teresa Jackson. Their work in organizing the event was essential to its success.

We are thrilled to announce that the concert raised more than $2,700 for TheraYouth!

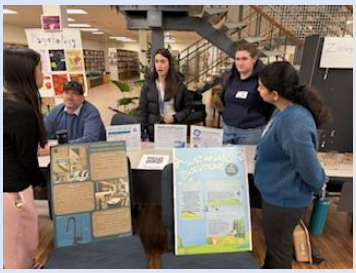
To learn more about TheraYouth and make online donations, visit therayouth.org.





Electives Fair Shows off Courses

On Feb. 26, all students were invited to the library media center for an Electives Fair. Students and staff in various elective classes shared information about those courses with 9th, 10th and 11th graders as our scheduling season begins. SPHS students were able to learn about courses ranging from journalism to psychology to zoology to visual arts to robotics, among many others.





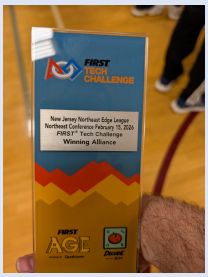


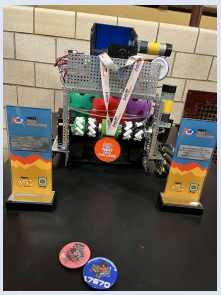


Raider Robotics Advances to State Championship

Our Raider Robotics team has made it to the FTCNJ State Championship for the second year in a row, which will be held on March 15 at Hillsborough High School. After winning the playoff bracket at the Feb. 15 meet in Bayonne, SPFHS stood at second place in a conference of 42 teams. Raider Robotics also has secured the highest award, winning the Inspire Award for the second year in a row. The Inspire Award goes to teams that have succeeded not only in competition, but also in service as a role model to other teams, through professionalism, knowledge, enthusiasm, and outreach.





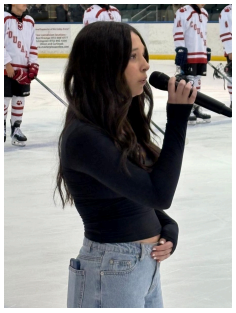


Hockey Team Claims Kelly Cup

For the second year in a row, the SPFHS hockey team claimed the Kelly Cup, with a 6-1 win against Frisch on Feb. 17 at Codey Arena in West Orange. The Raiders scored six unanswered goals, led by Nick Movsesian's hat trick, to secure the division title for the second straight year. Congratulations to our hockey team! Special thanks to Ashley Bowling for showcasing her amazing vocal talents by performing the National Anthem before the game and to our cheer program who supported the team through their victory.







World Language Clubs Support Coles Multicultural Night

Our World Language Clubs brought global culture to life at Coles Elementary's Multicultural Night! Students from our Italian, Mandarin, Union Latina, Bilingual Connections, and Spanish Honor Society clubs led interactive stations with crafts and games for all ages. A highlight of the evening was a performance by freshman Francisco Gonzalez-Negron, an active member of Union Latina and the Bilingual Connections Club. Francisco captivated the audience with the *Marinera Norteña*, a

traditional Peruvian dance. Huge thanks to all our student volunteers for their hard work and teamwork.







Seniors Enjoy Winter Breakfast

The Senior Class Council treated the senior class to a breakfast on Feb. 13 in the Multi-Purpose Room. As seniors enjoyed bagels and donuts together, they prepared for the final semester of their K-12 school experience!





Avian Wildlife Center Visits SPFHS

During the month of February, the Environmental Club had the privilege of hosting the Avian Wildlife Center for an exciting live animal program. Students had the unique chance to see live birds up close and learn about the species that live in our local environment. The audience learned practical ways of helping bird populations, such as using bird feeders, to ensure wildlife safety. This visit was complemented by the approaching Great Backyard Bird Count, helping students bridge classroom knowledge with real-world efforts. This event was very educational and significant, allowing the Avian Wildlife Center to share their expertise with the school community.





SPFHS Students Support Nettingham Eighth-Grade Leaders

On Feb. 20, members of the SPFHS Student Council joined with Not in Our School to support Nettingham Middle School eighth-graders as these students prepare to mentor fifth-graders in Nettingham. The high school students led a workshop on leadership that focused on the different ways we can speak up when we hear biased remarks (interrupt, question, educate and echo). The high school and middle-school students also bonded over their shared leadership interests as they met in the library media center. Thanks to Nettingham teachers Ms. Anne Guard and Ms. Sue Zazzara, and to SPFHS teacher Ms. Swati Bulusu for coordinating this workshop.







Random Acts of Kindness Week

During Random Acts of Kindness Week, members of Not In Our School greeted students as they entered the building before school on Feb. 18 and 19 with Post-It notes. Students could then “stick up” for kindness by writing thoughtful messages to share with our school. On Feb. 20, all were invited to wear orange to support kindness, community and Not in Our School.



Mandarin Club Leads Lunar New Year Celebration

On Feb. 20, the Mandarin Club held its annual Lunar New Year celebration in the Multi-Purpose Room and Cafeteria. Students enjoyed a variety of food as well as numerous performances, ranging from fan dances to diabolo (or Chinese yo-yo).









March Calendar

March 12-15 School Musical: "Guys & Dolls"
March 13 Senior Citizens Day
March 16-18 NJGPA Testing
March 17 Freshman & Sophomore Class Assembly
March 20 Delayed opening
March 24 District Instrumental & Jazz Fest
March 30-April 3 No school, Spring Break

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

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