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COLES STUDENTS FOCUS ON GIVING, RESPECT, AND SAFETY

Scotch Plains Public Schools

Since the start of the 2022 school year, the Coles student calendar has been filled with events and opportunities to demonstrate some of the school community's core values - supporting others in our community, respect, and making healthy and safe choices.

SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

Students carried on the tradition of the Sharing Lunches Program, in which students prepare and share lunches with local families in need. In partnership with the Salvation Army, 170 lunches were donated by students to feed families. Sharing Lunches is a cornerstone of the Coles Kids Care effort and is an easy way to engage even the youngest of students in giving back to our local community.

Coles students also got into the Halloween Spirit with a Halloween Costume Drive, and donated over 100 new or gently used costumes to be distributed to local children in need via the Salvation Army of Plainfield. Another Coles Kids Care program, the Halloween Costume Drive is a reminder of how holidays are an important time to give, and to help others enjoy and participate in holiday fun.

RESPECT & EXPECTATIONS ASSEMBLIES

Coles hosted several assemblies at the start of the year, including assemblies focused on respect, as well as on expectations for how students show one another respect throughout the school day and while in common situations such as walking in the hallways, playing at recess, and sitting on the bus.

COLES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

In early October, many Coles students and their families put on their walking shoes or readied their bikes to participate in the Coles Walk to School Day. Accompanied by Dr. Joan Mast, Superintendent of SPF Public Schools, Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo, Deputy Scotch Plains Mayor Elizabeth Stamler, Skip Paal and members of the Scotch Plains Fire Department, and Sgt. Brown and members of the Scotch Plains Police Department, Coles families walked throughout the school's neighborhood, arriving safely and on time for the start of the day. This event is part of the International Walk to School Day campaign, which aims to empower communities to make walking and biking to school a safe and appealing option.

Photos by Scotch Plains Public Schools



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Fanwood Post

5K AND PAJAMA FUN RUN TAKE OVER FANWOOD

Borough of Fanwood

A great turnout crowded the streets of Fanwood's south side on October 16 with the return of the 5K and Family Fun Run for the first time in a couple of years.

Josh Breighner of Fanwood won the 5K while everyone was a winner in the Fun Run, in which participants were encouraged to wear their favorite pajamas. Entire families including kids in strollers participated in the Fun Run, which basically made a circle around LaGrande Park. Food trucks provided waffles and other breakfast

treats.

Just a few feet away in the LaGrande Park pavilion was the second annual Fanwood Health Fair with local and regional health and wellness providers offering giveaways, blood pressure screenings, vaccines, and wellness information.

Thanks to the Fanwood Recreation Commission, Public Works Department, Fanwood Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad, the health providers, vendors, and the dozens of volunteers who made the event possible!



(above) Josh Breighner was this year's 5K winner.



(above) Girl Scouts volunteered at the water station.

Photos by Tom Kranz

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TINY TIM FUND NEEDS VOLUNTEER CAROLERS

Volunteers are needed to help the Tiny Tim Fund continue its mission of providing financial assistance to local families to pay for children's medical expenses.



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The Tiny Tim Fund is a registered NJ Non-Profit Corporation 501(c)(3) that raises funds to provide financial assistance to help families pay for the medical expenses of children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. 100% of funds collected are dispersed for medical expenses including doctors, dentists, and psychological counseling. The organization has been assisting local families since 1983.

The Tiny Tim Fund is administered by a volunteer board of trustees, which consists of Fanwood and Scotch Plains citizens from varied sections of the community.

This year there are two ways that volunteers can help the members of the Tiny Tim Fund board raise funds to be able to continue its mission.

The Tiny Tim Fund Board is inviting community members who have enjoyed the tradition of caroling on Tiny Tim Carol Night and spreading holiday cheer while soliciting donations to form a group and commit to caroling on December 5. A carol group can be made up of family members, neighbors, co-


workers, scout groups, church organizations, etc., and a group can select a date to carol that is more convenient if needed.

Since carol groups will not be able to reach all neighborhoods in Fanwood and Scotch Plains, volunteers are also needed to deliver solicitation letters to homes in Fanwood and Scotch Plains during November and December.

To register a carol group, receive information about materials and the collection site, or to volunteer to deliver letters please contact

Barbara at 732-259-6348
or email bnranilo@gmail.com
or Mary Beth at 732-616-7695
or email tinytimspf@gmail.com.

The Tiny Tim Fund actively solicits donations once during the year and the board members are hopeful that community members who have generously supported the Fund in the past will make it possible for the Tiny Tim Fund to continue to assist current cases as well as to be able to accept new referrals and requests for financial assistance for medical expenses during the coming year.




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FANWOOD HELPS MARGE PALMER CELEBRATE HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Borough of Fanwood

Fanwood police, fire, EMS and public works paid a noisy visit to resident Marge Palmer at her home on Vinton Circle on the occasion of her 100th birthday Tuesday, October 18th, 2022.

A caravan of police cars, ambulances and fire engines paraded down the street, lights and sirens blaring, to honor the town's latest centenarian. Mrs. Palmer was thrilled as she greeted the entourage. Joining her was daughter Peg, son John, daughter in law Donna,

neighbors and friends.

Mrs. Palmer has a history of volunteer service to Fanwood that goes back decades. A resident since 1955, she volunteered for many years at Muhlenberg Hospital, the Fanwood Library, as a Cub Scout den mother and Girl Scout Leader. She served as President of the Fanwood Women's Club and worked on several charitable projects for FISH, Runnells Hospital and Books for the Blind. She volunteered at the Scotch Plains Fanwood Service League Thrift Shop for

21 years.

"You've made our town a better place to live," said Fire Chief John Piccola as he shook her hand.

The caravan was organized by Fanwood Purchasing Agent Pat Hoynes and carried out by Lt. Dan Kranz of Fanwood PD, Chief John Piccola of Fanwood FD, Capt. Ian Lewis of Fanwood Rescue and Clint Dickson of Fanwood DPW.

YouTube video: youtu.be/9fD5_2gP3Q0



(above, left) Marge Palmer, (center) with first responders and family (right) Marge in chair, daughter in law Donna Palmer, Carmel Cameron, daughter Peg Mara, son John Palmer

Photos by Tom Kranz



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CANDICE TESTA NAMED UNION COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Candice Testa, a First Grade Teacher at William J. McGinn Elementary School in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District, has been named Union County Teacher of the Year.

Candice Testa graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Scranton and a master's degree from Rutgers University. For the past 20 years, she has influenced the lives and guided the learning of hundreds of elementary students. Her dedication to her profession can be seen each day, where she regularly encourages and meets the needs of all levels of learners in her first-grade class. As a teacher leader, Candice supports her colleagues where her door is always open to veteran and young teachers alike. She serves as the President of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association where she has molded a tight-knit community of educators and staff who recognize their best interests will be met during the school year and beyond. Candice is a recipient of the Building Teacher Leader Capacity Grant Project, awarded by Kean University, in collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). Advocating for her students has been her drive and knowing that she played a part in their success over the last two decades is her greatest accomplishment.

SERVICE LEAGUE THRIFT SHOP ANNUAL DOLL AND TOY EVENT

The non-profit Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop will host its ever-popular annual Doll and Toy event beginning Tuesday, November 8, at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains. Christmas-themed bric-a-brac will also be out for sale to jump-start your holiday spirit.

Toy items for sale include some 50 vintage Barbie dolls courtesy of a generous donor who gifted her collection to the Thrift Shop. All of these Barbie dolls are in their original boxes and were never played with or used, including Dentist Barbie, Pet Doctor Barbie, Barbie & Curious George, and more. You will also find porcelain dolls in their original boxes such as Faithful Friends by Heidi Ott (Beth and Benjamin) and dolls by Seymour Mann (Abigail and Erin), along with many other baby dolls and accessories.

Other toys will also make this a great opportunity to shop for children from infants to teens. Find trucks and cars, books, crafts, stuffed animals, and puzzles and board games that are 100 percent complete, all either new or in excellent condition. Name brands such as Fisher-Price, Melissa & Doug, Lego, and more are all well represented.

And, for yourself or the grown-ups on your holiday list, don't miss the one-day "Jewelry Extravaganza" taking place on Saturday, November 19, when the front displays within the store showcase a wide array of vintage jewelry and other high-end items donated throughout the year. It is a one-day chance for discriminating

buyers to scoop up very good quality necklaces, bracelets, earrings, rings, pearls, watches, sterling silver and more at extremely reasonable prices.

Thrift Shop hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The shop will be closed Thanksgiving Week from Tuesday, November 22 through Friday, November 25, opening on Saturday, November 26 for "Small Business Saturday." Remember to shop early for the best selections. Have questions? Call the store during Thrift Shop business hours: 908-322-5420.



(above) Toys on sale appeal to children of all ages including dolls of all shapes and sizes will line the shelves of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Thrift Shop during the annual Doll and Toy event starting November 8.

CALLING ALL VETERANS: JOIN THE ROTARY CLUB FOR LUNCH - NOV 16

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club is hosting a Veterans Appreciation lunch at their meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 12:15 p.m. at the Stage House Restaurant in Scotch Plains. They'll honor veterans in the club as well as veterans in the local community. The Rotary Club is very grateful to all men and women who served the United States Armed

Forces and will pay tribute to those who served, those who continue to serve and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans in the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains are invited to attend but must register in advance because space is limited. To register for the event, Veterans can contact Susan Pastir at secretary@fsprotary.org or Al Smith at 908-317-4646.

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FIVE GIRL SCOUTS EARN SILVER AWARDS

Fanwood Scotch Plains Girl Scouts Service Team

Five cadettes from Girl Scout Troop 40304 of Scotch Plains, NJ, earned their Silver Award, one of the highest awards in Girl Scouting. To earn this award, Girl Scouts work independently or in small teams to complete a project that addresses an issue in the community and effect a lasting change.

Taylor Mingoia worked with the Township of Scotch Plains to create a fun, colorful and interactive space at Brookside Park. Remembering how she used draw games on the blacktop with chalk to play on when she attended summer camp at the park, Taylor was excited to be able to create something that will brighten up the park, and that children will use and enjoy. With the help of family and friends, Taylor painted 2 four-square games, 2 Twister games, 4 hopscotch races, 3 finish the pictures, and 3 selfie stations for everyone to enjoy, and completed this expansive blacktop project in time for the start of the 2022 summer camp at the park. Taylor is grateful that kids will get to enjoy her hard work on this colorful Silver Award project.

Normandie Beversluis and Elyse Lamberti wanted a way to engage younger children in outdoor activities, so their Silver Award project idea focused on creating a fairy trail that can make taking a hike more interactive and interesting. After exploring different locations for the trail, Normandie and Elyse reached out to Girl Scout Heart of NJ Council Camp Director Deborah Hooker to propose installing a fairy trail at Camp Henry Lou Hoover in Middleville, NJ. Working closely with Ms. Hooker, Normandie and Elyse used an existing trail in the middle of camp and converted it to a "Fairy Tale Trail". The

trail itself is an easy, flat trail that is perfect for the beginner hiker. The project not only included installing fairy doors, enchanted elements and a storytelling area, it also provides a great introduction to the 7 principles of "Leave No Trace", an important part of protecting and preserving natural spaces. Normandie and Elyse wrote fairy stories that teach each of the seven principles and the stories can be accessed through QR codes on tree-safe tags posted along the trail. They hope that the trail encourages imagination and an appreciation for nature to anyone that visits.

Samantha Lionetti and Claire Abadir collaborated with both Union County and the Township of Scotch Plains for their Silver Award project, which aimed to promote inclusivity and diversity. The project involved installing an Inclusive Little Free Library ("Library") at Ponderosa Farm Park, a county park located in Scotch Plains, NJ. Sam and Claire reached out to teachers and publishing professionals for recommendations on books with themes that supported their cause. With the recommendations, they distributed flyers and contacted local businesses for book donations to put in the Library. They were happy to see how much support there is for greater awareness of the diversity within the community and the importance of inclusivity from the responses they received. The donated books were added into the Library with a custom bookplate to recognize a business or individual's participation in the project. Sam and Claire are excited to have been able to put this welcome feature into the park to provide fun and an educational resource.

COLLEGE AND CAREER NIGHT - NOV. 15

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains, in cooperation with the Counseling Department of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, will host the 69th Annual College and Career Night. More than 130 universities are scheduled to attend College Night on Tuesday, November 15, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School located at 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains.

All students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades from Scotch Plains, Fanwood, and neighboring private and parochial schools are invited to attend. This event gives students and their parents an opportunity to gather information and speak directly with representatives from colleges, universities, branches of the military, and technical schools. A list of schools and institutions that will be in attendance is posted on the Counseling website of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and will continue to be updated until the night of the event.

Additional information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be obtained by sending an email message to Collegeclub.fsp@gmail.com.



(above) The 69th Annual College and Career Night will be held on Tuesday, November 15, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

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TURNING GRAPES INTO VINO

Fanwood Post • Page 11 • November 2022

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO gathers annually for an Italian tradition, homemade winemaking. This year, the chapter made a Super Tuscany Blend, a blend of Sangiovese, Merlot and Cabernet grapes. With the help of George Featherman and other staff members of Grape Expectations in Bridgewater, the process began with the grape crushing. A week later, the grape pressing took place. The wine will continue to ferment, then age and condition for several months. The final Super Tuscany blend will be bottled and ready to enjoy

in late spring.

UNICO National is the largest Italian-American organization in the US. Our objective is to promote the image of Italian Americans, to serve the community, and to contribute to charitable, cultural and educational organizations and projects. To learn more about our local Chapter or if you are a US citizen of Italian descent and would like to join our chapter, please visit our website at unicospf.org or email spfunico@gmail.com.

Courtesy photo



(above) The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO continued their annual tradition of wine-making this year.

UNICO WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO recently swore in its two newest members, Gina Barber and Marla Mackey. UNICO is the largest Italian-American organization in the US. Our objective is to promote the image of Italian Americans, to serve the community, and to contribute to charitable, cultural and educational organizations and projects. To learn more about our local Chapter or if you are a US citizen of Italian descent and would like to join our chapter, please visit our website at unicospf.org or email spfunico@gmail.com.



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