



South Plainfield Middle School

2022-2023

Newsletter Committee

Chrissy Briskin
Melissa Cook

Elyse Phillips
Kelly Richkus
Michele Rodriguez

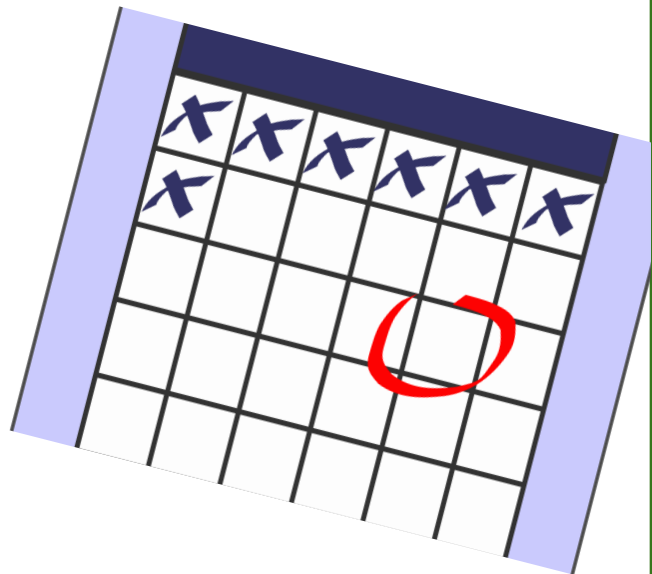
December 2022 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS!

December:

- 6-End of first trimester for specials
- 13-Winter Concert
- 20-Movie Night
- 24- Early Dismissal for Students and Staff (12:35 pm)
- 25 - Jan 1st - Winter Recess
School/Office Closed

Happy Holidays
To You



Patriotism at the Middle School



SPMS Honors Veterans for Veterans Day

The annual South Plainfield Middle School Veterans Day Assembly was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2002, in the Middle School Gym. Various District Administrators, South Plainfield Town Council members, and veterans from South Plainfield VFW Post 6763 were special guests and were acknowledged by Mrs. Richkus, who was the Master of Ceremonies. There were many outstanding musical performances conducted by the Middle School Band and Middle School Chorus in tribute to our country and the different branches of the US Armed Forces. Toward the end of the ceremony, Mr. Richard Doerr announced the winners of the 2022 VFW Patriots' Pen Essay Contest. The winners were 8th grade students: Noah Dennis, Syeda Fatima, Kira Godley, and Taryn Lodato.

Veterans Day, which is observed on November 11 each year, is a day we remember and thank the millions of American men and women who have served in the military during war or peace, at home or abroad. In May, the Middle School will observe Memorial Day which is a day we remember and pay tribute to those who died while defending this great nation.



DAY OF THE DEAD

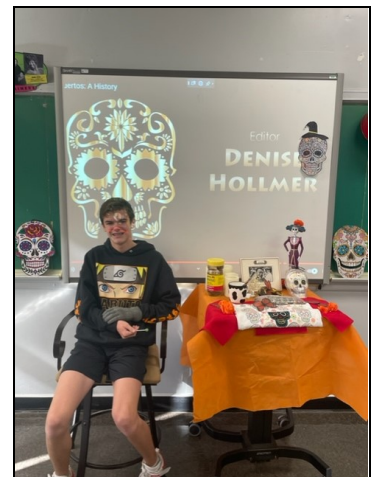


Day of the Dead is celebrated on Nov. 1st and 2nd.

On November 1st students in Spanish classes enjoyed the celebration of the Day of the Dead tradition where loved ones are remembered. This was the culmination of having created masks, pamphlets, and viewing educational videos and/or snippets of the movie "Coco" as part of their cultural lessons on the tradition of this holiday.

Ms. Rendon and Ms. Salazar re-enacted a presentation of how altars are created in Latin America. They placed cempasuchiles (marigolds), velas (candles), comida (food), calaveras (sugar skulls), and photos (pictures) on the altar. On November 2nd students shared their own short anecdotes of deceased family members and pets and everyone thanked each other for sharing.

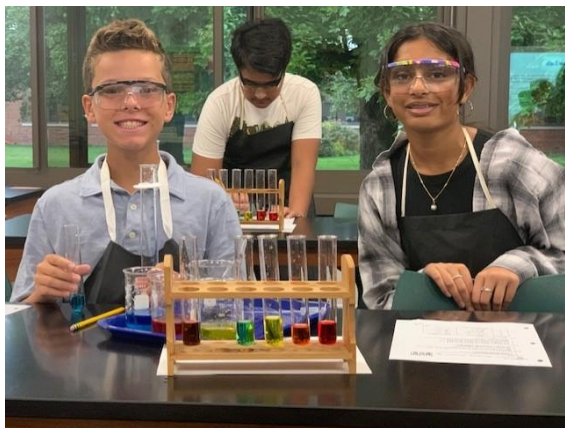
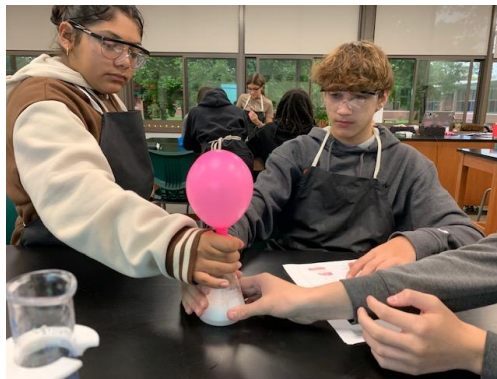
Students in Pictures: Dylan Nicolay , Yi Tin Zhang , Alex Wordel, Brian Pascale , Maahi Patel , Christopher Maldonado, Marlena Rasmussen, Candor Plum, Brayden Gregory , Ellah Sanzalone .



In The Lab....

Students in 8th grade science were challenged to follow directions and accurately measure using a graduated cylinder to produce a rainbow of colors! Their next challenge was to test systems to see which better supports the Law of Conservation of Matter. Lastly, they had to answer the question, "Which paper towel absorbs more water, Bounty or Costco?" and identify the different science variables found in a science investigation.

Students pictured: Ben Wordel, Sashi Shukla, Trace Donnelly, Melanie Mejia, Brayden Gregory, Kelsey Edmondson, Nooriya Sajid, Vincent Gerardo, Brandon Wright, Hunter Ravi, Joshua Gould, Victoria Melick, Carly Russo, and Rylee Curtis



Lending a Helping Paw



Students in the SPMS National Junior Honor Society held a drive during October and November to help the Plainfield Area Humane Society with much needed supply donations. Thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause. Students pictured: Candor Plum, Aliyah Davis, Leah Shatkin, Madison Droge, Ben Wordel, Josh Wilson, Shane Magalong, Hunter Ravi, Brandon DeGeronimo, Natalie Travers, Aaliyah Lewis, Sashi Shukla, Vishva Patel, Justin Andrade

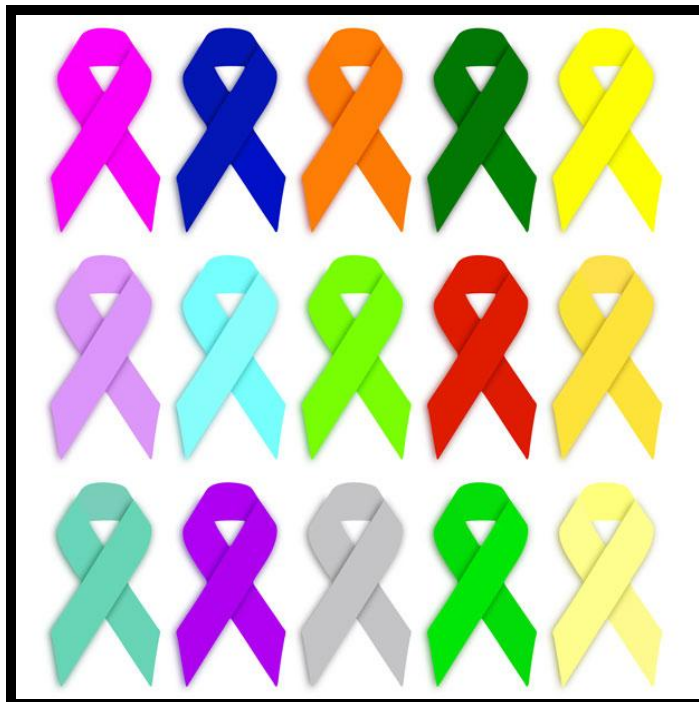




Cancer Awareness Club

The 2022 South Plainfield Middle School Cancer Awareness Club is hitting the ground running with our fundraisers this year! We donate to families in town affected by cancer. Our student Club meets every Wednesday morning. Our club organizes fundraisers, hosts guest speakers, and collaborates on ideas that spread Awareness for different kinds of Cancer. For example, we have donated to the "Pink Socs" organization in town as well as families in need.

Come check us out in Room 39 Wednesday mornings!



COUNSELING CORNER



Mrs. de Mello
7th Grade Counselor

Mrs. Mikaelian
8th Grade Counselor

Ms. Tamborra
Student Assistance Counselor

Welcome to the Counseling Corner! In the month of November, guidance worked with our 8th grade wingman leaders who taught their first lesson at Grant School! The Wingman Program has been established at all of our elementary schools in the district, and we are very excited that it has now made its way to the Middle School and Grant School.

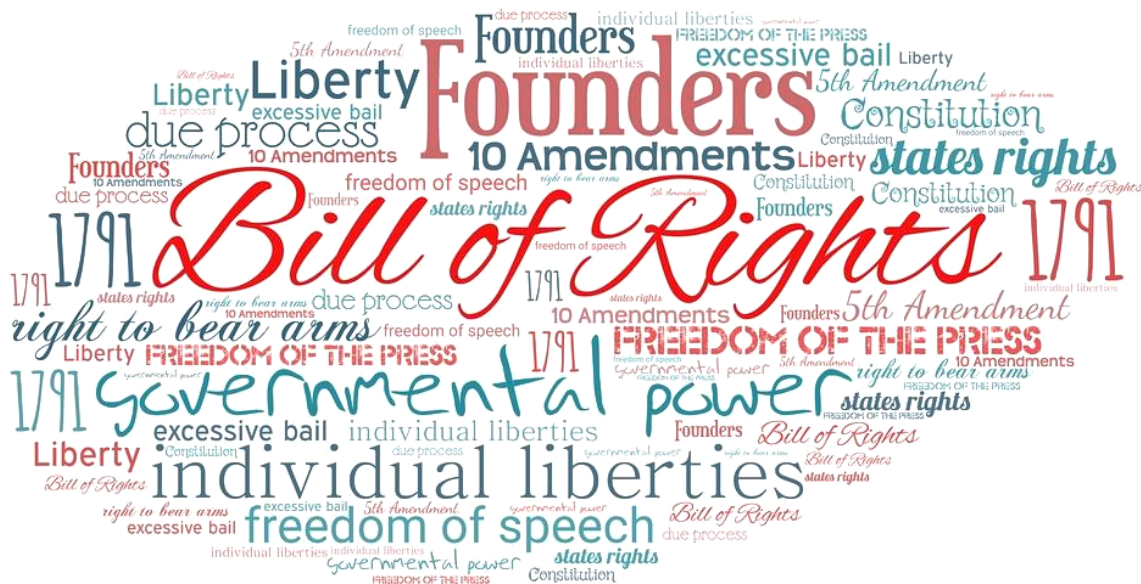
Wingman is a unique youth leadership program from Dylan's Wings of Change that creates empathy and acceptance leading to inclusion for all children. Participants explore the qualities of a wingman, such as courage, perseverance and resilience. The wingman builds stronger and more connected communities. Our wingman leaders teach important social and emotional lessons and engage their 5th grade classes in interactive and team building activities once a month.

We hope to build strong connections across school buildings and have our wingman leaders serve as positive role models who drive home important character messages!

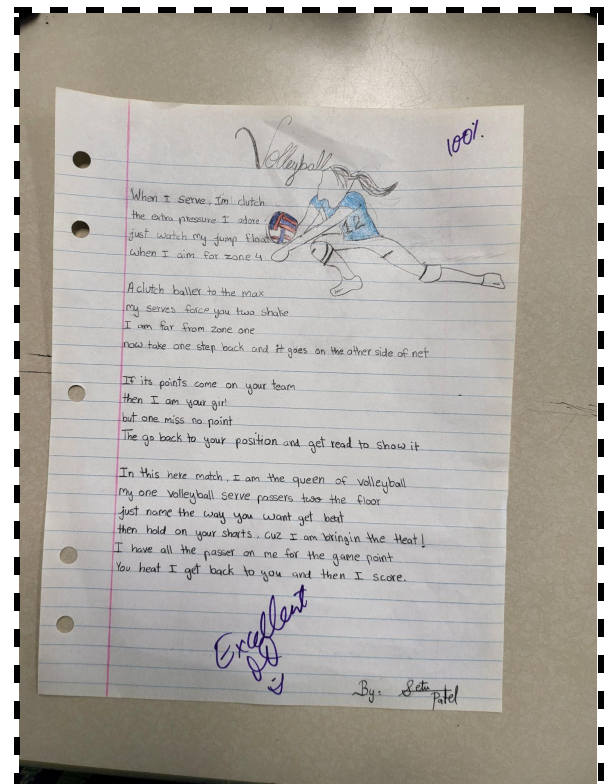
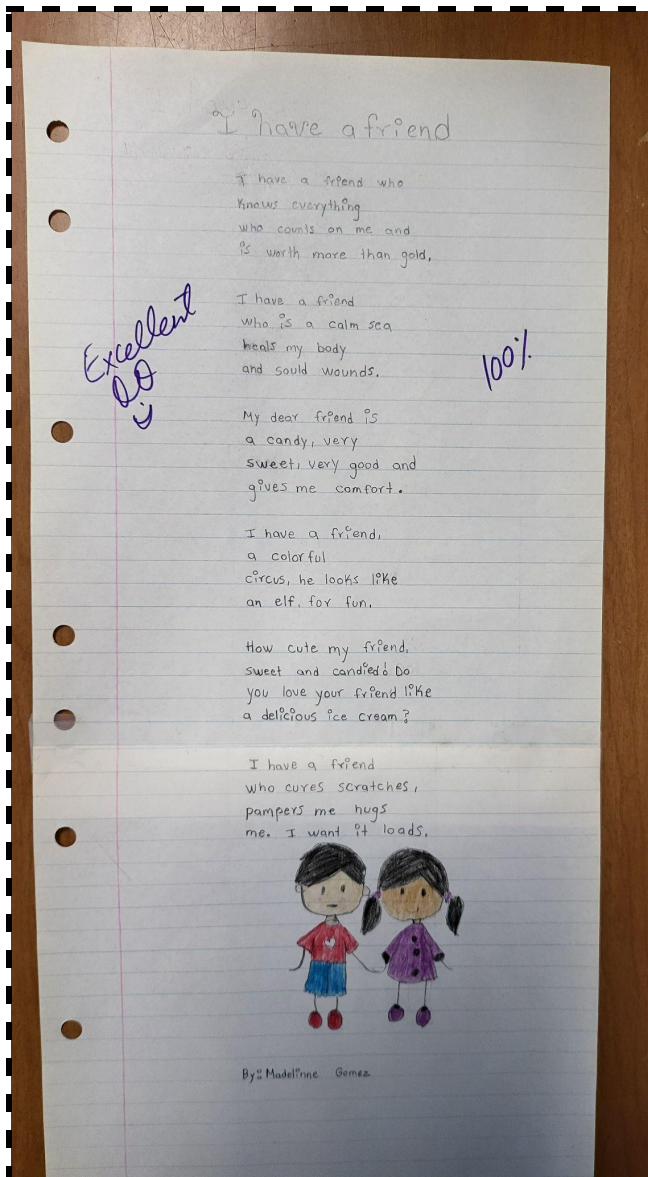


History Has It

Ms. Pinelli's 8th-grade History classes have been learning about the Bill of Rights. Some classes have been putting the First 10 Amendments in their own words in order to understand them more and to teach others in their classes. Other classes have been analyzing how specific amendments became the reason for Supreme Court cases and how the outcomes affect how we view the amendments. The students learned so much from their hands-on projects and did an excellent job!



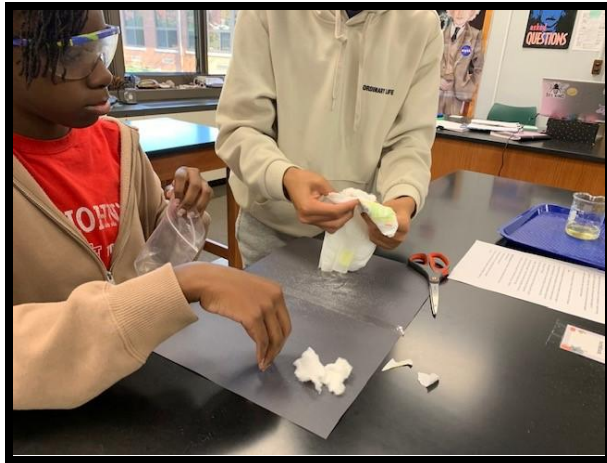
This month our emerging bilingual students wrote beautiful poems!



December 2022

And finally from the research and development department

Students gathered information about synthetic hydrophilic polymers and how they improve the absorbency of diapers. Students pictured: Imelda (Josie) Joseph, Leo Dang, Brayden Gregory, and Kylie Chee



Nurse's Nook

Brighten your winter months by making health and safety a priority and taking good care of yourself and others.



Cold days ahead! Bundle up and stay warm...warm layers, gloves, hats, scarves and waterproof boots. Make sure your students are dressed warmly.



Get recommended immunizations (Covid, flu, etc): the best defense is prevention!



Eat healthy! Bolster your diet with lots of fruits and veggies which are packed with vitamins and nutrients to help boost our immunity and fight off illness.



Be Active.... Try to do any type of exercise for at least 1 hour a day. Walking, yoga, ice skating, riding a stationary bike are just a few ideas.



Stay hydrated. Sometimes during the cold months, we don't feel thirsty and we forget to drink enough water. Be creative with your water consumption! Add chunks of fruit or an herbal tea bag to add a touch of flavor to your water.



Manage stress/ Practice mindfulness: Give yourself a break if you feel stressed out or overwhelmed. Gift yourself with at least 5 minutes a day to meditate (guided apps are great!).

As always, feel free to contact your school nurse, Stephanie Wollman, with any health related questions or concerns. 908-754-4620, ext 2620. swollman@spboe.org

December 2022



PLEASE JOIN THE PTO & STUDENT COUNCIL
FOR

Holiday MOVIE NIGHT

A special viewing of

THE GRINCH



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH @ 6 PM
SPMS GYM
PJS ENCOURAGED
PLEASE BRING A BLANKET TO SIT ON!

OPTIONAL:

Please bring a canned good if you would like to donate to the South Plainfield Food Bank for the Holiday Season.

ADMINISTRATION

908-754-4620



Main Office

- *Principal: Mr. Leo Whalen ext. 2610*
- *Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Lodato ext. 2601*
- *Assistant Principal: Mrs. Kelly Richkus ext. 2611*
- *Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Santiago ext. 2602*

Guidance

- *7th Grade Counselor: Mrs. Mikaelian ext. 2633*
- *8th Grade Counselor: Mrs. DeMello ext. 2632*
- *SAC: Ms. Tamborra ext. 2634*
- *Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Giannakis ext. 2631*

School Nurse

- *Mrs. Wollman: ext. 2620*
Please visit the new [nurse's page](#) on the middle school website