



# R.F. PETTIGREW panther tracks

A monthly newsletter from the Pettigrew PTO

ISSUE NUMBER: DECEMBER 2019

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## CONNECT:



[www.rfpettigrew.org](http://www.rfpettigrew.org)



Pettigrew Elementary PTO Parents



## From the Principal's Desk:

December is the month for giving and receiving gifts. We are so blessed at Pettigrew that the families at Pettigrew give us the opportunity to work alongside with them, to improve the future of our students in the area of academics, as well as their emotional growth, social skills implementation and physical well-being. Our Pettigrew mission statement talks directly about this focus, as it says, ***"To educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world by emphasizing growth in social skills, emotional well-being, and academic progress."*** We are very blessed to have the family support that we enjoy, and when we all understand that we

have the same goals and aspirations for our students, we might sometimes differ on our ideas for the daily implementation of these goals. We can discuss these differences and sometimes agree to disagree, as we keep the focus on our mission, purpose and interest for all students in our learning community at Pettigrew.

In the interest of sharing some gifts, I would like to share some additional at-home reading strategies that families can do to improve their students learning in this area. As December may allow us some additional time at home to spend with our children, I hope that some of these suggestions can be helpful to you and will also prove helpful to us, as we work within this short month of classroom hours with our students to address reading improvement, and as we also measure it at the interim session with our MAP testing, coming in the next two weeks.

When reading.....

**Spot the details:** Nonfiction books have the answers to many questions children may ask, if your children read carefully, they will find them.

**Read around the text:** The pages of many nonfiction books are covered with extras that stories don't have (headings, photo captions, an index, a glossary). Point out these features. Then, ask your youngsters what questions they have about the topics that the book might answer. Say they are reading, "Archaeologists Dig for Clues" by Kate Duke, they might think, "What tools do archaeologists use?" or "What are fossils?" Help them read the book and see how many answers they can find.

**Pair fiction and nonfiction:** Together, read a story like, "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" by James Marshall, followed by a nonfiction book such as "Bears" by Deborah Hodge. As you read the second book, encourage your child to look for ways that real bears are different from the fictional ones. For example, they might say real bears eat things like grass, berries, fish and insects, while the three bears eat porridge.

**Have fun with words:**

1. Choose a three-letter word, such as cap. Have your youngsters substitute different beginning sounds from the alphabet to make new words (lap, map, nap, rap, sap, tap, zap). How many can they think of?
2. Pick a long word and tell them to clap once as she says each syllable. For mozzarella, they would clap four times: moz-za-rel-la.

3. Ask your child to say a word without the first sound. Example: "Can you say 'sit' without the s? (it).
4. Think of a word and give your youngsters a sound clue to figure it out. For instance, I am thinking of a word for something that you chew but don't swallow, the word has an 'uh' sound in it. (gum).

**Vocabulary Boosters:** A large vocabulary can turn your children into a better reader and writer. Try these everyday ways to help them learn new words.

1. **Keep your ears open.** When you have your youngsters go places, point out words that people use. Maybe a waiter describes an entrée or the dentist talks about molars. Encourage your children to figure out what the words mean by the way they are used.
2. **Go beyond nouns.** Help your youngsters add adjectives and verbs to their vocabulary. Sports and games offer opportunities to use action words. Let your children hear you comment on the softball that soars or the runner who sprints. When they send thank you notes or greeting cards, suggest descriptive words such as a polka-dotted shirt or a fantastic birthday.

**Journal writing** traditions can be important. If your children see you writing in a journal, they may ask what you are doing. Explain why you are writing in a journal, when you started, and ask if they would want to write in a journal, too. If they do, give them a notebook. When considering what they should write about, explain to them that a journal can be a place to store their memories, but they can also do things like drawing pictures or writing stories. You can even decide to sketch yourself as the parent and the student, writing together in your journals. Then you can take turns writing sentences about this picture. Have your children write in their journals and encourage them to share selections from their journals with you and with others, possibly in the family.

A quick reminder about our December events we will have at Pettigrew on December 20. The parents who are helping with set up or the party activities and are assigned to this task by the teacher, will be admitted to rooms at 1:45. Then, the other spectators or other guests will be admitted at 2:00. Please remember our expectation that children of less than school age will not be admitted to our grade level parties. We hope you have a blessed holiday season with your family and friends.

## R. F. Pettigrew Activity Schedule

December 2019		
Date	Time	Activity
Dec. 2-Dec. 19	Window	Grade K-5 MAP testing
Dec. 2-Dec. 19	Window	Olweus Survey – 3-5
Thurs. Dec. 19	3:00–8:00 PM	Pettigrew Night at SkyZone
Fri. Dec. 20	1:55-2:55 PM	Christmas Classroom Parties (alternative activities provided)
Dec. 21-Dec. 31	All Day	NO SCHOOL – Holiday Break



# **PETTIGREW PTO**

## **activities + events**



The next PTO meeting will be February 10, 2020  
@ 6pm.

Guest speaker:  
Zachary Seefeldt  
Stronghold Counseling Services

Childcare will be provided!

### **SAVE THE DATE**

January 24, 2020 - Pettigrew Winter Dance

February 7, 2020 - Pizza Bingo

March 17, 2020 - Science Fair

April 17, 2020 - Art Show & Cookie Social

Visit our website to learn more and to volunteer!  
<https://www.rfpettigrew.org>



### **Outdoor Classroom Project**

The PTO voted to move forward on this project at the December 2 special session meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting or provided written comments.

For more information about the project,  
visit: <https://www.rfpettigrew.org/outdoor-classroom>



# **Happy Holidays from Pettigrew PTO!**



# An Invitation to Engage

By: Dr. Brian Maher, Superintendent



Long-time District employees call it one of the most significant undertakings in the history of their work in education. I anticipate it will be just that. Redrawing school attendance boundaries is a monumental task that affects the lives of thousands of children, their parents, and our community, in general. It was more than 25 years ago that the last significant boundary change was implemented in Sioux Falls with the opening of Roosevelt High School.

In January, the Sioux Falls School District begins a six-month-long process as a result of the successful \$190 Million bond that approved the construction of Ben Reifel Middle School and Thomas Jefferson High School. Overcrowding due to growth on the west side of Sioux Falls drove the need for those new facilities and new boundaries are necessary to ensure overall efficiency and diversity of each school building.

A 30-member task force has been selected to gather information and make recommendations. They will do their work in three public meetings in January and February and make recommendations that will then be taken to the broader community for input during the months of March and April. Public meetings are scheduled at each of the five middle schools. School leaders will present the recommendations and listen to feedback. All reasonable input that is in line with the priorities approved by the School Board will be considered. Those priorities include:

- Priority 1: Quality Education for All Students
- Priority 2: Student safety/Well-Being
- Priority 3: Budget Considerations
- Priority 4: Natural Borders as School Boundary Lines
- Priority 5: Accommodate Growth and Change

Mark your calendars now to attend one of five community engagement meetings.

- Thursday, March 12 at Memorial Middle School - 5:30-6:30pm – 1401 S. Sertoma Ave.
- Monday, March 16 at Patrick Henry Middle School - 5:30-6:30pm – 2200 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- Thursday, March 26 at Whittier Middle School - 5:30-6:30pm – 930 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St.
- Tuesday, April 7 at McGovern Middle School - 5:30-6:30pm – 6221 W. Maple St.
- Thursday, April 9 at Edison Middle School - 5:30-6:30pm – 2101 S. West Ave.

The final plan will be voted upon by the school board in June 2020 but will not go into effect until the new schools open in the Fall of 2021. I assure you there is no preconceived plan already drawn up and hiding in a backroom. I firmly believe, and the District has demonstrated through its process to develop the plan for the bond, that community input makes good plans even better.

As your superintendent, I look forward to participating in good and thoughtful dialogue to move our school district forward. I fully expect it will be an emotional issue. The good news is that all our schools are well-maintained and welcoming places to learn. Sioux Falls has much to be proud of and I know the outcome of this difficult work will only make our schools and our community stronger.





**Sydnee Van Bruggen and Sutton Kracke  
were our top sellers for the fall coupon book fundraiser.**

**They each sold 25 books!**

**Way to go Sydnee and Sutton!**



# 32nd Annual **TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**2 • 0 • 2 • 0**

Do you know a teacher who stands out in differentiating their instruction based on student needs? Someone who designs engaging lessons to improve classroom and/or school culture, and inspires students to recognize their potential impact and role in the larger community?

Nominate them for the Dr. John W. Harris Sioux Falls Teacher of the Year Award! Now in its 32nd year, sponsor Vern Eide Motorcars donates a \$4,000 award to the winner!

Nominations are due by **5:00pm Monday, January 27th, 2020** either electronically or by mail to the Instructional Planning Center, 201 E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Nomination forms, including information on letters of support, are available online at:

[www.sf.k12.sd.us/parents/teacher-of-the-year-program](http://www.sf.k12.sd.us/parents/teacher-of-the-year-program)





# RF Pettigrew Elementary Night at Sky Zone

Visit Sky Zone on these special nights:

**December 19**, January 16, February 20,  
March 19 and April 16

**Time:** 3:00pm to 8:00pm

**Price:** 30 Minutes: \$9

60 Minutes: \$14

90 Minutes: \$18

120 Minutes: \$21

**Sky Zone Jump Socks:** \$3 (reusable)

**Waiver:** A Sky Zone liability waiver is required for each jumper. Participants under age 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian. Please submit waivers at [www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls](http://www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls).



## Earn 10% back for your school!

Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park  
5129 S. Solberg Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108  
[www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls](http://www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls)



**SKY ZONE**  
TRAMPOLINE PARK





We're participating in the

# Hy-Vee Giving Tag Program



Buy the \$2.50 red My Heart Reusable Bag  
at ANY Hy-Vee location and use the  
Giving Tag to send a \$1 donation to:

R.F. Pettigrew PTO

# Prairie West Library Events

## November & December 2019

[www.sioxlandlib.org](http://www.sioxlandlib.org) | 978-6899

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### Kids Create

**Wednesdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. – K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Registration is not required**

Explore your creative side through stories, crafts, games, and activities.

**November 6** – Diary of a Mystery Animal

**November 13** – Lakota Tipi

**November 20** – Fancy Feathers

**November 27** – *No Program*

**December 4** – Exploring Differences

**December 11** – DIY Rocks

**December 18** – Fairy Tale Characters on  
Vacation

**December 25** – *No Program*

### Special Events

**For ages 3-8**

#### Light Up the Dark Storytime

**Saturday, November 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Light up the dark during storytime with activities and crafts that glow.  
Storytime starts at 10:30 a.m.

#### Winter Princess Event

**Saturday, December 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.**

Storytime at 10:30 a.m., followed by icy crafts and frosty activities.



### Library Closed

Monday, November 11

Thursday, November 28

Wednesday, December 25

*For the safety and comfort of children, a parent or responsible caregiver should be with their children while they are using the Library. Parents are responsible for supervising their children in the Library. The Library is not able to provide long- or short-term care.*



*If an ADA accommodation is needed, please contact the City of Sioux Falls Human Relations Office at 367-8745 or [humanrelations@siouxfalls.org](mailto:humanrelations@siouxfalls.org) at least 72 hours before the event.*



# Winter 2020 READING PROGRAM

READ BOOKS. WIN PRIZES.

*BINGO BEGINS DECEMBER 15*

**COMPLETE  
A BINGO,  
WIN A PRIZE!**



FOR KIDS, TEENS, AND ADULTS

**REGISTER AT SIOUXLAND LIBRARIES!**

GET A BINGO AND YOU WILL BE REGISTERED TO WIN A  
GRAND PRIZE.

*TURN YOUR BINGO CARD IN BY MARCH 2 TO RECEIVE PRIZE.*

If an ADA accommodation is needed, please contact the City of Sioux Falls Human Relations Office at 367-8745  
or [humanrelations@siouxfalls.org](mailto:humanrelations@siouxfalls.org) at least 72 hours before the event.

LIB19\_580



**SIOUXLAND  
LIBRARIES**  
SIOUXLANDLIB.ORG



# OUR LOCATIONS

**BALTIC BRANCH**  
213 ST. OLAF AVE.  
BALTIC, SD 57003

**BRANDON  
COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
305 S. SPLITROCK BLVD.  
BRANDON, SD 57005

**CAILLE BRANCH**  
4100 CARNEGIE CIR.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106

**COLTON BRANCH**  
402 S. DAKOTA AVE.  
COLTON, SD 57018

**CROOKS BRANCH**  
900 N. WEST AVE.  
CROOKS, SD 57020

**DOWNTOWN LIBRARY  
SIOUX FALLS**  
200 N. DAKOTA AVE.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57117

**GARRETSON BRANCH**  
649 MAIN AVE.  
GARRETSON, SD 57030

**HARTFORD BRANCH**  
119 N. MAIN AVE., SUITE A  
HARTFORD, SD 57033

**HUMBOLDT BRANCH**  
201 S. MAIN ST.  
HUMBOLDT, SD 57035

**OAK VIEW BRANCH**  
3700 E. 3RD ST.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103

**PRAIRIE WEST BRANCH**  
7630 W. 26TH ST.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57106

**RONNING BRANCH**  
3100 E. 49TH ST.  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57103

**VALLEY SPRINGS BRANCH**  
401 BROADWAY AVE.  
VALLEY SPRINGS, SD 57068







Please consider supporting the  
**14th Annual Project Warm-Up**

Saturday, December 14th

11:00-3:00

Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School  
1510 S Lake Avenue

Over the past 13 years **Project Warm-Up** has collected and distributed over **22,000** blankets to local children and families in need due to financial hardship, family tragedy, illness, loss of home due to flood, tornado, fire or poverty.

Project Warm-Up is fully funded by the generous donations of wonderful people in our local communities.

To continue to our mission-

## **We need your help!**

Host a blanket making party with your club, team, youth group, book club, colleagues, class, family, or friends!

Donate funds

Donate fleece (sizes: 1.25 yard, 1.5 yard, 1.75 yard, or 2 yards)

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Donations can be dropped off at **Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School** or the **Instructional Planning Center**

Join us on **Saturday, December 14th at Sonia Sotomayor** for the **biggest** blanket-making party ever!

Thank you for helping us, help others!



Like us on Facebook: **Project Warm-Up**  
[www.projectwarmup.org](http://www.projectwarmup.org)

For more information contact:  
**Tracy Vik** : [Tracy.vik@k12.sd.us](mailto:Tracy.vik@k12.sd.us)  
605-360-4858