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A monthly newsletter from the Pettigrew PTO

ISSUE NUMBER: **JANUARY 2021**

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CONNECT:



www.rfpettigrew.org



Pettigrew Elementary PTO Parents

From the Principal's Desk: Mr. Kevin Dick



This seems like a good time to read an article about kids, school, families, and germs. First, a few things about upcoming events at Pettigrew this winter and spring. School buildings still remain closed to the public and parents through third quarter, or mid-March. Unfortunately, that means that many of the PTO activities that were scheduled for this school year, will not be able to happen. As such, things will look different than previous years, as they have so far this year. Conferences will be scheduled soon with teachers on Google Calendar and conducted remotely in Google Meets. These occur the afternoon of January 18 and evenings of January 21 and 25. Watch for scheduling information, soon. February brings Valentine's Day parties on Friday, February 12, and more information will be coming soon in your email inboxes. March will bring a chance for parents to provide input for classroom placement for next year. At least this year, we can't complain too much about the weather, at least not yet!

Practice Healthy Habits with Your Children

Handwashing: Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family against the spread of germs. Use soap and water to lather your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails. It is important to scrub for at least 20 seconds. If you need a timer, hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.

Proper Cough & Sneeze Technique: Covering coughs and sneezes can help prevent germs from spreading. Teach your family to cover their mouths and noses with a tissue when they cough or sneeze and immediately throw the tissue in the trash. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow and not your hands.

Attend School Meetings: Schools might offer virtual meetings or town halls that are open to parents. These meetings can be a way to express any concerns you might have about your school's plans.

Make Healthy Habit Decisions for Your Family

Social Distancing: Before you and your family leave home for an outing, it is important to choose safe social activities and to follow the guidance from local health authorities. While you are out, encourage your family to practice social distancing by staying at least six feet away from others who are not in your household.

Cleaning & Disinfecting: Practice routine cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces around your home like doorknobs, light switches, faucets, and countertops. Cleaning with soap and water reduces the number of germs, dirt, and impurities on a surface, while disinfecting products kill germs on surfaces.

We are off to a new calendar year at Pettigrew, so please keep your family healthy and safe, and we anticipate being able to stay in session with face to face, in person learning, for as long as possible this year!!

COVID-19

Student and Staff Daily Screening

Parents and staff must complete a daily health check by answering yes or no to the following questions before going to school or work.



Yes ___ No___ Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher



Yes ___ No___ Sore throat



Yes ___ No___ New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing



Yes ___ No___ Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain



Yes ___ No___ New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever



Yes ___ No___ Has the student or staff been identified as having COVID-19, and not been cleared by the SD Dept. of Health for return to work and school?



Yes ___ No___ Has the student or staff been identified as a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case (15 minutes or more within 6 feet or less)? * (see below)



If you answer Yes to any of the above...

1. DO NOT go to school or work.

2. Contact your healthcare provider.

3. Contact your school to inform them of symptoms. You may also contact the SD Department of Health with any COVID-19 questions 1-800-997-2880.

4. EXCLUDE until negative COVID test OR if untested, at least 10 days since symptom onset AND 24 hours without fever AND symptoms improved.

*** A 14-day quarantine is recommended for those exposed to a positive COVID-19 person. Shorter 10-or-7-day exclusions may be acceptable, if certain conditions are met. A 10-day exclusion can be used if the exposed person has no symptoms, but continues to monitor. A 7-day exclusion can be used if the exposed person has no symptoms, a negative test taken on day 5 or after, and continues to monitor.**

**Screen criteria is subject to change based on level of community transmission and CDC and SD DOH recommendations.*

Mentoring Matters

By Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent



A quick search of the internet reveals no shortage of inspiring quotes about the value of a quality mentoring relationship. Leaders, past and present, recognize the power of walking along side someone to share in the learning and growth for ourselves and others.

- *"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image but giving them the opportunity to create themselves."* - Director/Producer Steven Spielberg
- *"Our chief want in life is somebody who will make us do what we can."* – Poet and Philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson
- *"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."* – Scientist and Ecologist Rachel Carson
- *"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember involve me and I learn."* – Inventor and Founding Father of the United States Benjamin Franklin

Positive mentoring relationships exist throughout business and industry, on the fields and courts of sports activities, and perhaps most importantly, in the classrooms and hallways of our public schools.

The Sioux Falls School District is better because our seasoned teachers support new teachers leading a classroom for the first time. Veteran principals guide aspiring administrators, and thanks to established programs like Lutheran Social Services School-Based Mentoring and TeamMates, community volunteers build meaningful relationships with students through regular mentoring opportunities.

While COVID-19 has limited in-person meetings between mentors and mentees at schools this year, those who understand the value of mentoring relationships have been working hard to overcome challenges for second semester.

With the support of the Sioux Falls Downtown Rotary Club, which is championing Mayor Paul Ten Haken's "Sioux 52 Initiative," virtual mentoring will be piloted in a few schools during the second semester. This means students will be able to re-connect with their mentor to continue to learn and grow with the support of another caring adult. I could not be more pleased with the way in which our community has responded to finding a way to make mentoring happen, even amidst the pandemic.

In my short time in Sioux Falls, not only have I been impressed with the community's philanthropic support for our public schools, I have also been impressed by the fortitude of the many genuinely caring individuals who recognize that time continues to be a valuable gift for those most in need. Where there is a will, there is a way!

January is National Mentoring Month, and as a long-time mentor myself, I encourage you to consider being a mentor. If you have time to listen, share your own personal experiences, appreciate honest conversations, and want to make a difference in the life of a child, you will be a great mentor! Contact one of our schools to get started.

The immediate rewards are smiles, laughter, and friendship, and the real return on investment is the kind of personal growth that is hard to learn from a book.



HERE COMES KINDERGARTEN VIRTUAL MEETING

Do you have a child entering Kindergarten in the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. If so, then you will want to attend this informational meeting.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4TH 2021

- LEARN WHAT TO EXPECT IN KINDERGARTEN.
- LEARN WHAT A TYPICAL DAY IN KINDERGARTEN IS LIKE.
- LEARN KINDERGARTEN READINESS SKILLS
- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH A PRINCIPAL AND KINDERGARTEN TEACHER.

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS

SPONSORED BY SIOUX FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT



Winter 2021 READING PR^{❄️}GRAM

READ BOOKS. WIN PRIZES.

BINGO BEGINS DECEMBER 14

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



FOR ALL AGES

REGISTER AT [SIOUXLANDLIB.READSQUARED.COM](https://siouxlandlib.readsquared.com)

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

TURN YOUR BINGO CARD IN BY FEBRUARY 28 TO RECEIVE PRIZE.

If an ADA accommodation is needed, please contact the City of Sioux Falls Human Relations Office at 367-6745 or humanrelations@siouxfalls.org at least 72 hours before the event.

