



R.F. PETTIGREW panther tracks

A monthly newsletter from the Pettigrew PTO

ISSUE NUMBER: FEBRUARY 2020

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CONNECT:



www.rfpettigrew.org



Pettigrew Elementary PTO Parents



From the Principal's Desk:

Social Emotional Learning and CARES at Pettigrew—

CARES stand for the first letters of the words -- Cooperation, Assertive, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Control. CARES is an important component of our social skills curriculum and program called Responsive Classroom that has been a foundation at Pettigrew since it opened. It also plays in nicely with our Character Education efforts and it really is a piece of citizen education as well – what it means to be a good citizen at Pettigrew Elementary and every other community we are a part of. Each of the first five months of the year, as part of our on-going #BeYouBePettigrew campaign, we focus on each one of these five words during our morning announcements and during our Morning Meetings in the classrooms. We talk about what it means to Be Cooperative, Be Assertive, Be Responsible, Show Empathy and Have Self-Control. At the end of each month of school, we involve all the staff at school to recognize one student member of each classroom that has done a nice job that month of exhibiting the characteristic we are focusing on. They come to the office, get their picture taken as a group with their grade-level peers, and receive a nice certificate and a special coupon they can redeem at a restaurant in town. The last 3 or 4 months of the year, we move on to another word of the month, but all we do and practice and teach in the area of community and getting along with others can be traced back to these 5 core values that we celebrate and learn about at Pettigrew.

The Pettigrew Panther Pledge—

Last year, a group of teachers at Pettigrew wrote a pledge that we, as a school, recite and review each week on the first day of the week. It incorporates all the principles that our school focuses on with CARES. You may hear it, see it or read it around Pettigrew at some point. Its words go something like this --

I will cooperate, the Pettigrew way

I'll be assertive, in a positive way!

I am responsible, it's a choice I made

I'll show empathy, no matter the day!

My Self-Control -- is something I need

If I give it my all, I will succeed!

Valentines Party Change of Procedures –

In the interest of continuing to promote safety and security at Pettigrew, and because of some potential incidents that have occurred at Pettigrew and other area schools, our admission procedures to the Valentines Party is going to look a bit different this February. As you know, to be admitted to school during regular school hours, a government issued photo-ID with scanning capabilities (usually your SD

Drivers License) is provided to the office clerical, it is scanned to check it against several restricted lists of people who may not be able to visit public schools, and then your ID is kept and a time-stamped visitor sticker is issued. When a visitor checks out, they turn in the sticker and their badge is returned as they leave.

For the Valentine's Party, we **ARE GOING TO SCAN** all visitor's IDs, but we will **NOT KEEP** the ID during this function. You will receive a visitor sticker that is **not** time stamped and **does not** need to be turned back in, simply discard the sticker as you leave the event and there is no need to check out in the office. We anticipate this scanning process **will take more time** than the previous sign-in-and-receive-a-sticker process we have followed for previous parties. Please plan ahead and also, when the traffic gets busy, please plan to wait for a while, as we only have two clerical and one scanner. In preparation of this process, we will begin scanning badges at 1:30 pm, but approved parents will be asked to wait until they are admitted to the Valentine's Party at 1:50 pm. **PLEASE NOTE**—If your student is a bus rider and they will be going home with you, please notify the office of this change before 2:00 on the day of the change. Our bus lists are prepared each day by 2:00, and after that time, changes are difficult to make.

We would also like to limit our visitors to only the parents or guardians who have indicated to their classroom teachers that they will be attending the party, and that the purpose of these parent/guardians is to assist with the party in the classroom. This change is so that the students may be our primary focus and their enjoyment of the classroom party can be our corporate goal for the event. We realize our students enjoy these events immensely, and there is a temptation for family members and other relatives to want to come and enjoy the party with their students. However, it can be cumbersome and distracting when we have 10 or more adults added to each classroom as the students and teacher are trying to participate in their party activities. Most classrooms welcome a couple of key parents to help with setting up, leading or participating in the games and activities. However, some relatives and other visitors have not understood this expectation of assisting at the party, and merely attend for the purpose of watching the party. We would like to encourage you to have a special event outside of school for your family and relatives that CAN include all family members, even those not of school age or those beyond Pettigrew's grade level, but limit the number attending the school party to those parents/guardians who have communicated with the classroom teacher and are designated to assist in the party activities. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility in this area of our school life.

Here are some other reminders about our Classroom Party procedures:

Per school policy, no younger siblings may attend our classroom parties. Please help make this a special time for your **school-aged** children and all their classmates. **Alternative educational activities** will be provided for any students who do not celebrate Valentine's Day during this same time. Please notify your child's teacher or the office of your interest for them to be a part of this alternative activity.

Deliveries -- Pettigrew does not accept nor deliver flowers, balloons or other gift deliveries to students at any time, including during class parties or other events. Please plan for these deliveries at other locations. This does not include decorations that may be organized by the classroom teacher, but please be aware of latex or other allergens that some students should not be in contact with.

Drop off and Pick up Reminders:

It may also be a good time to remind all school visitors and parent/guardians of the following procedures surrounding morning drop off and afternoon pickup.....

- Please review our morning drop off procedures video, again, it is short and worth viewing to see the procedural reminders one more time. View the video at: <https://youtu.be/BJxhqDrpNTY>
- In the mornings, children should arrive **NO EARLIER THAN 7:50** and go directly to the playground, unless they are eating breakfast in the Multi-Purpose Room. **Breakfast** begins at **7:40 am**. The bell will ring at 8:05 AM and students will line up by their designated playground door to enter the building.
- If you choose to meet your child after school as they exit the building, you are expected to park in the lot and do this on the playground. The left lane of the drive-through loop needs to be kept open at all times. It is NOT for waiting in your car for students NOR for parking and going on the playground or in the building.
- After school, cars **WITH DRIVERS IN THEM** can wait in the right- hand lane. If students can find their way to your car on their own, you may wait **IN YOUR CAR** in this lane. If you need to leave your car, you **MUST** park in the lot or on the street and go to the playground or to the front door.
- Only buses or day care vans are allowed in the bus drop off area on the west side of the school.
- The circle drive in front of the school is a fire lane. It should never be used to park and go into the school or onto the playground. It is only a loading and unloading area.
- We keep the front row of parking in our lot for people who visit the school or need to park and come in.

R. F. Pettigrew Activity Schedule

February 2020		
Date	Time	Activity
Mon. Feb. 3	All Day	NO SCHOOL – Staff In-service (District)
Mon. Feb 3	12:00 PM-7:30PM	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
Thur. Feb. 6	3:30-7:30 PM	Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
Fri. Feb. 7	6:30–8:00 PM	Pizza Bingo Night in the Pettigrew Gym and Multi-Purpose Room
Mon. Feb. 10	6:00PM-7:00PM	PTO Meeting in Library
Fri. Feb. 14	1:55-2:55 PM	Valentine’s Day Classroom Parties (alternative activities provided)
Feb. 17-18	All Day	NO SCHOOL – Presidents’ Day Break
Thur. Feb. 20	3:00–8:00 PM	Pettigrew Night at SkyZone
Thurs. Feb. 27	7:00 PM	5 th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert



PETTIGREW PTO

activities + events



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

Guest speaker:

Zachary Seefeldt

Stronghold Counseling Services

Social Media, Screen time, and Cyber Security

Childcare will be provided!

SAVE THE DATE

February 7, 2020 - Pizza Bingo

February 10, 2020 - PTO meeting

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>



New Spiritwear Now Available!

Look for the new design at an upcoming event.

Available in: Short-sleeve t-shirts, long-sleeve t-shirts, water bottles, and tote bags.

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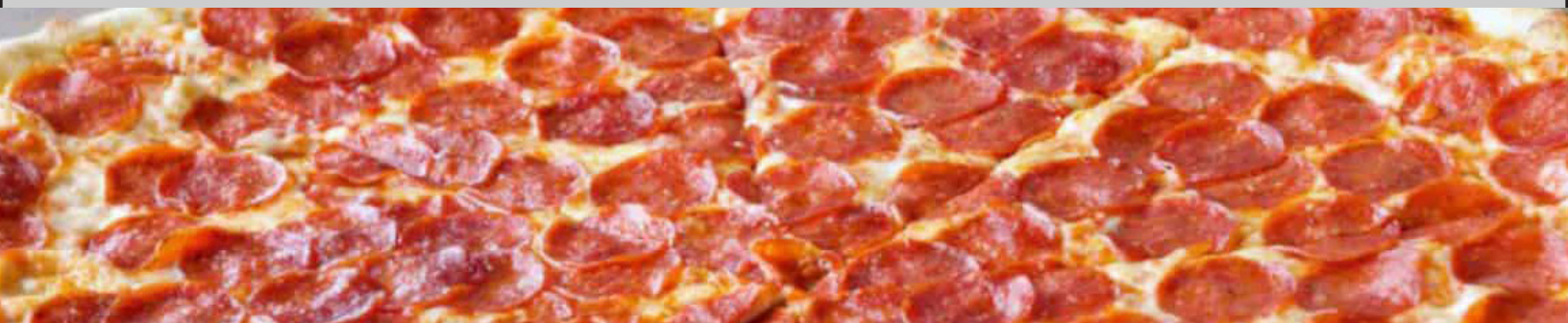
**R.F. PETTIGREW
ELEMENTARY**

PIZZA BINGO

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7, 2020

6:30 - 8:00 PM

MORE INFORMATION: RFPETTIGREW.ORG





R.F. PETTIGREW ELEMENTARY

SCIENCE FAIR

TUESDAY MARCH 17, 2020

PRIZES AWARDED!

REGISTER ONLINE: RFPETTIGREW.ORG BY FEB 24



RF Pettigrew Elementary Night at Sky Zone

Looking for an exciting way to earn money for your school?
Stay fit and have fun with your friends and family at Sky Zone!
Join us for the ultimate playing experience...and earn 10% back!

Visit Sky Zone on these special nights:

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.



Earn 10% back for your school!

Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park
5129 S. Solberg Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls



SKY ZONE®
TRAMPOLINE PARK



2020 HERE COMES KINDERGARTEN EVENT!

Do you have a child who is eligible for Kindergarten in the upcoming 2020-2021 school year?

If so, then you will want to attend our informational night!

WHEN: THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2020

**WHERE: PETTIGREW ELEMENTARY
7900 W. 53RD STREET, SIOUX FALLS, SD 5710**

Please call **367-8488** to Register or click here:

[2020 Here Comes Kindergarten Registration](#)



General Session

5:45-6:15pm

*A typical day in Kindergarten

* What children will be learning

Break Out Sessions

6:15-6:45pm

*Questions and Answers with a Principal and a Kindergarten Teacher

*Readiness skills for Kindergarten

* The effects of screen time on a child's brain and some positive alternatives

Informational Booths

5:45-7:00pm

Childcare

Free childcare from 5:45-7:00pm for parents attending.

Please call 367-8488 to register for childcare.

SPONSORED BY THE SIOUX FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT



2020-2021 Online Registration for **NEW INCOMING KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS** is now available through the Parent Portal and the SFSD website. This includes next year's incoming kindergarten students and any early childhood students moving to kindergarten.

All families currently in the Sioux Falls School District may add their incoming kindergartener to their existing parent portal using the 20-21 dropdown box feature. Do not update any other students at this time, **ONLY** add your incoming kindergartener. Updates to your other students will be allowed in May.

****All families brand new to the district will register as a NEW family.**

Please be sure to have your incoming kindergartener registered prior to our Kindergarten Open House event on March 26, 2020.



Prairie West Library Events

January & February 2020

www.siouxlandlib.org | 978-6899



Kids Create

Wednesdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. – K to 5th Grade

Registration is not required

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

January 8 – Move It, Move It!

January 15 – Scribble Art Creatures

January 22 – Where's Waldo?

January 29 – Make a Campaign Video for President Squid

February 5 – Hidden Animals

February 12 – Earthquake!

February 19 – Weaving Around

February 26 – Detective Training

Special Events

For ages 3-8

Frosty Frolics

Saturday, January 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

It's cold outside, come in for fun! Storytime at 10:30 a.m. Hot chocolate, crafts and activities to follow. *While supplies last.*



Pioneer Day

Saturday, February 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bring the family to experience our prairie heritage. Churn butter, make newspaper twists and button whirligigs. Dress up as a pioneer, play school, and more!

Library Closed

Wednesday, January 1

Monday, January 20

Monday, February 17

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 at least 72 hours before the event.

Prairie West Library Events

March & April 2020

www.siouxlandlib.org | 978-6899



Kids Create

Wednesdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4 p.m. – K to 5th Grade

Registration is not required

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

March 4 – Gotcha!

March 11 – Life-Size Trouble

March 18 – Stinky Poetry

March 25 – Life-Size Animals

April 1 – Drip, Drip, Drop

April 8 – Scrabble Scramble

April 15 – Powerful Paper

April 22 – Puzzled States of America

April 29 – Digest This

Special Events

For ages 3-8

Community Helpers

Saturday, March 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join us for a special storytime featuring everyday helpers you find in the community. Crafts and activities to follow.

Alaskan Adventures

Saturday, April 4 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Join us on an Alaskan adventure with storytime at 10:30 a.m., and activities to follow.



Library Closed

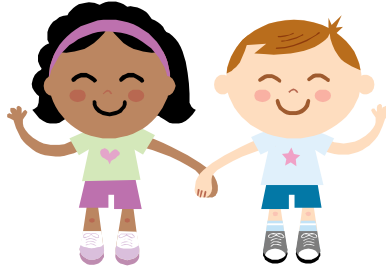
Thursday, March 5 – Prairie West Branch
closing at 2:30 p.m.

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.



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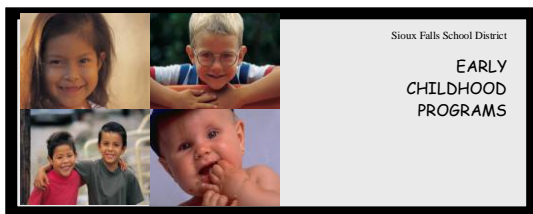
Check out Free Preschool options in the
Sioux Falls School District
367-8488



"FREE Child Screenings"

The Sioux Falls School District is offering developmental screenings for preschool children who reside within the Sioux Falls School District.

Screenings can be completed from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday (schedule could change with seasons). Some evening appointments also are available. Children from birth to age five are eligible for the free service. For information or to schedule a free appointment, call the Early Childhood screening office at 367-8488. **Relay Services for Hearing Impaired: Dial 711 before the desired number.**



FREE DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

For any child who is **three or four years of age** and lives in the Sioux Falls School District.

AREAS SCREENED INCLUDE

Gross Motor Skills
Fine Motor Skills
Communication
Cognition
Hearing
Vision
Height
Weight

A GREAT opportunity if you have any concerns about your child's development!

CONTACT US!

Call **367-8488** for more information and to set up an appointment. **Relay Services for Hearing Impaired: Dial 711, then the desired number.**
Night screens are available.

The screening office is located at
1101 N. Western Avenue.



Call us today!

