



R.F. PETTIGREW

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A monthly newsletter from the Pettigrew PTO

ISSUE NO. October 2019

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www.rfpettigrew.org



Pettigrew Elementary PTO Parents



From the Principal's Desk:

As the month of October is upon us, our Parent Teacher Conferences opportunity will soon be occupying a large part of our focus about school. We look forward to hosting each family to this opportunity to communicate about school activities and inform parents and guardians about the level of performance and engagement that has been observed to this point. Teachers will also be sharing with parents and guardians the latest report about how the student performed on last month's MAP testing, which can lead to some discussions about present levels of success, as well as some goal-setting opportunities for students. This is also a great time for families to express to students their expectations and hopes and dreams for their students in their classrooms this year as it comes to social interactions and social skills, academic achievement and other community-building components that can exist in school, such as citizenship expectations. Teachers will also have an opportunity to share these things with parents and guardians.

These are also great opportunities for parents and guardians to engage their students in discussions about schoolwork and school activities. It might be good for us to consider some suggested conversations starters that can lead to more parent involvement in the educational activities and pursuits of their children. "Let's see what you brought home". Look at completed work to find out what your child is learning and how well he or she is doing. You could comment on his or her math work or social studies project, for instance, saying things like, "You know a lot about this subject" or that activity that they were engaged in. Also, respond to notes from the teacher and sign or return the weekly folder or daily planner if required or expected. "Show me what you have for homework". It's your child's job to do his or her homework, but a parent can play an important role in this expectation. Make sure your child knows what he or she is supposed to do by having them explain the assignment to you. After he or she completes the work, have them glance over it to see that it is complete and that any possible errors could be detected and fixed. "Describe a book you enjoyed today". This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily habit of asking what he or she would like to read, tonight. Encourage his or her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to him or her and letting them read to you. Also, expect them to summarize and retell things that have been read, to give a parent or guardian a chance to determine the comprehension level of their child. "Tell me what you learned that you would like to know more about". Use his or her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If he or she likes geometry, you might hunt for shapes together. If they are fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take them to a library to research the subject or to the zoo to see the live animals.

Some possible after-school, follow-up questions can get elicit deeper discussion than the usual, "How was school, today?" The response to that familiar question can sometimes lead to quick and familiar responses such as "fine" or "great". Instead, try asking some questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

- What was the coolest thing that happened today?
- Pretend you were the teacher. How would you describe the day?
- What made you laugh, today?
- What was the most creative thing you did today?
- How were you kind or helpful today? How was someone kind or helpful to you, today?

Look for fun ways to celebrate progress and find ways to review all of the things that he or she has accomplished. Try finding or decorating a box, and then labeling it, "I did it!". Then, he or she can write down each success, for example, I learned to add fractions, I can play 7 notes on my instrument, I got a 38 on the Pacer test, today. Take these slips of paper and put them in this "accomplishments box". If your child gets discouraged, have him or her take out some of the slips of paper and read them.

All of these are just ideas to help parents and guardians stay engaged in their child's progress at Pettigrew and can have the child become responsible to report what is being studied and accomplished at school, beyond the twice a year conference with teachers that we complete each year. Parent involvement in the education of our children can certainly take the role of attending PTO meetings and signing up to help and participate in important and fun events at school, but it also is the individual activities, follow-up and discussions that parents can have with their children, to engage both the child and the parent in what is happening and being learned and accomplished at school each day. Pettigrew teachers and staff appreciate all the efforts they can share and the contact they can have with the parents and guardians of our Pettigrew students. Research continues to show that this close connection with the classroom teacher and other important staff members at school, leads to higher achievement, deeper interaction with subject material, and ultimately more satisfaction with school activities. Thanks again for all the ways you support education at Pettigrew, and all the positive impact and accomplishments we can share, together, within our school community.





PETTIGREW PTO activities + events



10/7 and 10/8
Book Fair in the Multi-purpose Room

Sign up to volunteer here (and get a free book!):
<https://www.rfpettigrew.org/volunteer>

Thanks to everyone who came to the Pettigrew
Festival + Inflatable Pony Races.

We hope you had a wonderful time!!



The next PTO meeting will be November 4, 2019.

Join us as Sanford fit representatives show parents and teachers the new Sanford fit website and share some of the free resources available to families. There will be a kids activity!!

Coupon Book Fundraiser

Just a few more days to sell. Return proceeds or unsold coupon books to school by **Wednesday, October 9.**

Contact April with questions:
april_grabow@yahoo.com or 605-881-7306



R. F. Pettigrew Activity Schedule

| October 2019 | | |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| Date | Time | Activity |
| Oct. 1-Oct. 31 | Window | Naglieri Gifted Testing for grade 2 |
| Mon. Oct 7 | All Day | NO SCHOOL – Staff In-Service (District) |
| Mon. Oct 7 | 12:00PM -7:30 PM | Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences & Scholastic Book Fair |
| Tues. Oct. 8 | 3:30-7:30 PM | Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences & Scholastic Book Fair |
| Wed. Oct, 16 | All Day | LifeTouch Retake Day |
| Thurs. Oct. 17 | 3:00–8:00 PM | Pettigrew Night at SkyZone |
| Wed. Oct. 23 | All Day | End of Quarter 1 |
| Thurs. Oct. 31 | 1:55-2:55 PM | Halloween Classroom Parties (alternative activities provided) |
| | | |
| | | |

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Vaping: Facts and Concerns

By Dr. Brian Maher, Superintendent



Fads and fashions always have a way of adding new words to the English language. But there is a new word showing up in headlines that doctors are calling a public health crisis.

Vaping, or the use of e-cigarette devices to inhale a flavored liquid, has quickly become popular with teens and pre-teens. Originally marketed as a safer alternative to smoking traditional tobacco, new reports of severe respiratory illnesses, and even death, are prompting organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics to issue warnings.

While the work of the Sioux Falls School District primarily focuses on delivering an academic education, we are deeply committed to helping our students and their families develop safe and healthy habits that allow them to live long, productive lives. That's why the District acted quickly to put together a townhall meeting last month. Our health partners at Avera provided the medical research and information while our school staff provided the reality of use of vaping products by Sioux Falls teens. It was a powerful and educational event. We encourage you to view it on KLRN-TV: Your Sioux Falls Classroom Connection or by accessing it through the Sioux Falls School District's social media channels, including YouTube.

The use of tobacco products is illegal for teens, but we all know that does not stop them. There are discipline consequences if students are caught with these products on school property. While that does deter some young users, fear of discipline certainly doesn't stop all of them. What matters most in prevention efforts? Researchers tell us it is a clear, no-use message delivered by parents, teachers, and other caring adults.

Your public schools will continue delivering a clear no-use message with posters, discussions between school nurses, counselors and teens, and through the health curriculum. We encourage parents, community leaders, and anyone willing to join us in these efforts.

While we are learning more each day about the health risks of e-cigarettes and vaping, there is still so much more we do not know. Please discuss the facts about this alarming trend with your student. Use information from reputable sources and rely on your family's medical provider if you or your teen needs help to quit the habit. Together we can prevent a child we all care about from becoming one of the statistics.



Sioux Falls School District



Sioux Empire

Smiles

A Free
One Day
Children's
Dental Clinic



A Free One Day Children's Dental Clinic

Saturday, October 5, 2019

Children's Dental Center

3813 S Kiwanis Circle, Sioux Falls

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(Dress warm, you might have to wait outside)

This clinic is for children through 18 years of age who need dental care or who may not have seen a dentist in several years.





DONATE WHILE YOU DINE

Visit the Culver's Restaurant (Louise Ave location next to Home Depot) on Tuesday, October 15th & Wednesday, October 16th, 2019 between 5:00pm and 8:00pm and they will donate 10% of **Dine-In sales to the Pettigrew Elementary PTO.**

Enjoy a delicious meal, help a local Sioux Falls school, and feel good all over.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



PETTIGREW PANTHERS

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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:

October 17, November 21, 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.



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www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls



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