



# R.F. PETTIGREW panther tracks

A monthly newsletter from the Pettigrew PTO

ISSUE NUMBER:     **NOVEMBER 2020**

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- From the Principal's Desk
- Spiritwear Sale
- Letters from Superintendent Stavem
- Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19
- Winter Weather Information
- Night at Sky Zone
- K12 Connect – Free Internet Information
- Siouxland Libraries Information

## CONNECT:



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



Pettigrew Elementary PTO Parents

## From the Principal's Desk: Mr. Kevin Dick



On Friday afternoon, we had an early release of school to allow for an in-service training session for our teachers and staff. At Pettigrew, our focus of this training, as well as some upcoming future instructional team meetings and collaborations, will focus on the culture we experience in our Pettigrew community. All communities have a culture that surrounds and permeates it. At Pettigrew, we have always prided ourselves on being open-minded, accepting, and inclusive of the different groups and individuals that make up our community. And yet, some recent experiences at school have pointed out that we need to continue to teach students about the differences they will experience in their school community, as well as in the larger communities around them (city, state, nation).

Being “different” from other classmates can be tough. Most children are taught not to pick on others because of physical traits or characteristics, such as weight, scars, birthmarks, or glasses. But less obvious differences can make children feel equally apart from their classmates. A growing number of children suffer from serious medical problems, particularly asthma and diabetes, but also seizure disorders, life threatening allergies, and childhood cancers, as well as disorders from cognitive disability to hyperactivity. It’s tragic when a child suffering with a disease or condition also is the victim of mocking and is excluded by classmates. Parents can do a lot to help make sure that their children are sensitive toward others, particularly those who may be targeted by classmates as “different.”

- **It’s not catching.**

Children do not like to appear afraid in front of their classmates, but a lot of them are. Being around someone with a serious disease can be scary unless a child understands that things like cancer or epilepsy are not contagious. Tell them that, not only won’t they be harmed by being around the ill child, but they’ll actually be helping that child feel better by being kind and sensitive.

- **Give them the facts.**

Information is power and it is already available. There’s a national organization for almost every disease, condition, or disability. Look up these groups on the internet together with your child and read and discuss the information they provide together with your child. Be sure you are using the correct site with accurate information. Once your child understands these facts, a lot of the mystique about the differences will disappear.

- **Teach them what’s cruel.**

It’s vital to understand that children with serious allergies really are at risk of dying. Classmates can be very insensitive, mocking those children, or complaining that the whole class can’t have peanut butter cookies because of one child. Help your children understand just how tough it would be to have one of those allergies and to literally be in fear for their life.

- **Concentrate on what's inside.**

Help your children choose friends for their personality— what's inside. Encourage them to get to know a whole variety of classmates, including those who might have a disease or disorder. Talk with your children about what's important in a friend—kindness, a sense of fun, and shared interests. Be honest with them about how it makes you feel to see children being excluded and talk to them about how important it is to treat everyone as they would like to be treated.

- **Pity is a burden.**

There's a big difference between being sensitive to someone's differences and feeling pity for them. When you pity someone, you are singling them out and, in a way, excluding them. Instead, help your children simply accept that a child has a disease, a condition, a disability—and then treat them just like they would any other child.

Working together at school and between school and home, this important topic of accepting differences can be addressed effectively and can have a lasting impact on a young child's life for quite some time in the future. This year, with far less contact between school and home due to COVID-19 restrictions, our direct contact and face to face communication is much more limited. However, technology has provided us some other communication tools that we can continue to utilize. As we seek to fulfill our mission every day at Pettigrew, to educate and prepare each student to succeed in a changing world by emphasizing growth in social skills, emotional well-being, and academic progress, the important factors of Social Skills and Emotional Well-Being naturally lend themselves to be an inclusive, caring and accepting community of all those different from ourselves. Together, we can model and teach students the important and proper way to approach these differences they will experience. "Together" is the "catch-phrase" for our district this year and it also applies to the way we can approach this worthwhile task within our community.



# R.F. Pettigrew Fall Spiritwear Sale



<https://pettigrew2020.itemorder.com/sale>

Sale runs through Monday, November 9



**Apparel and Accessories for Kids + Adults!**  
Orders will be available for pick-up before Christmas\*



\*Pick-up site TBD; All items are expected to be available before Christmas, though delays due to mail and production because of the global pandemic are beyond our control

## Our Work Amid COVID

By Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent



I recently worked on a document and before sending it, applied a watermark to indicate it was a DRAFT copy. You've probably all seen a document with a watermark at one point or another. You can clearly see the copy, but on every page the watermark serves as some type of reminder.

That's how COVID feels this year. There is an ever-presence about it, yet we recognize other priorities cannot be overlooked.

- Student achievement data must be reviewed to guide instructional decisions.
- Two new schools are opening next fall with construction going on every day.
- Seniors are beginning to make post-graduation plans.
- Decisions about summer program offerings are upon us.
- Winter sports and activities will be starting just around the corner.
- Work on the updated strategic plan begins second semester.

No matter what challenges lie in front of us, each day students, staff, and parents/guardians have an opportunity to get better. How can we incorporate a mindset of continuous improvement into everything we do? John Maxwell says that continuous improvement "comes to the steady people who keep working at getting better." That means hour to hour, day to day, week to week, month to month, and year to year.

As stakeholders help the District envision the next strategic plan, a continuous strategic improvement mindset must be embedded in everything we do. But long before we have that document finalized, we can all be putting this firmly in place now, despite COVID or any other barrier.

- Are more students present and engaged in their learning today than yesterday?
- Did my child read more pages this week than last week?
- Are we, as a family, focused on doing our best today with a goal of being even better tomorrow?

COVID has proven to be a challenge. But, we cannot let it win. As educators and parents, our work never ends – is the "continuous" in continuous improvement. We need to celebrate successes, and when we have the mindset of getting better, every day is an opportunity for celebration – for students, for staff, and for our district.

I am trying to see the gray word in the background less and focus on the real work at hand more. I hope you will, too. Together, we're going to keep moving forward and help our students do the same.

## Challenges Spark Opportunities

By Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent

Every day we are faced with the possibility that every word spoken, and every action taken will be scrutinized through a political lens. While it is the right of every American to choose how they align their values, and with whom, it is also imperative that every citizen respects the rights of their neighbors to the same degree they value their own.



While our nation and the media continue to dissect the news of the day and the actions of those in power, your public schools are a place where we will continue to encourage diversity of thought and unity between people above divisiveness.

This year, we chose the theme of #together to characterize those values. As we face the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, we are stronger when we are #together, encouraging one another, serving each other, and caring for students. As we see the needs of our country and community, we are better when we seek to understand all viewpoints and choose to work #together for the common good.

Every day in our Sioux Falls classrooms, teachers are delivering meaningful lessons in the core content areas, in the arts, and in the subjects that teach students how to analyze and express their own ideas and viewpoints. As we teach the mathematical principles of Pythagorean Theory and the difference between a noun and a verb, we are also developing independent thinkers and the leaders of tomorrow. These lessons help students weigh information from many sources and use critical thinking skills to make important decisions throughout their lives.

As I meet with students across the district, I am continually encouraged and uplifted. They believe in the power of listening to others, understanding and building on the ideas of their peers to make things better, and respecting the value of diversity and the importance of inclusion. I believe if we invest well in these leaders of tomorrow, we have a brilliant future ahead for both Sioux Falls and our country.

These are challenging times, and from challenges come opportunities – in politics, in learning, and in life. Each day is a new opportunity in your public schools, and we are grateful for every moment we spend with your child, supporting them as they grow into a unique individual who will bring their gifts and talents to shape the future.



**Sioux Falls School District**





# 3 Key Steps to Take While Waiting for Your COVID-19 Test Result

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, take these **3 key steps NOW** while waiting for your test results:

## 1 Stay home and monitor your health.

Stay home and monitor your health to help protect your friends, family, and others from possibly getting COVID-19 from you.

### Stay home and away from others:

- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19, such as older adults and people with other medical conditions.
- If you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, stay home and away from others for 14 days after your last contact with that person.
- If you have a fever, cough or other symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and away from others (except to get medical care).



### Monitor your health:

- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19. Remember, symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to COVID-19 and can include:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Tiredness
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea



## 2 Think about the people you have recently been around.

If you are diagnosed with COVID-19, a public health worker may call you to check on your health, discuss who you have been around, and ask where you spent time while you may have been able to spread COVID-19 to others. While you wait for your COVID-19 test result, think about everyone you have been around recently. This will be important information to give health workers if your test is positive.

**Complete the information on the back of this page to help you remember everyone you have been around.**

## 3 Answer the phone call from the health department.

If a public health worker calls you, answer the call to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in your community.

- Discussions with health department staff are **confidential**. This means that your personal and medical information will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know, like your health care provider.
- Your name will not be shared with those you came in contact with. The health department will only notify people you were in close contact with (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) that they might have been exposed to COVID-19.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# Think About The People You Have Recently Been Around

If you test positive and are diagnosed with COVID-19, someone from the health department may call to check-in on your health, discuss who you have been around, and ask where you spent time while you may have been able to spread COVID-19 to others. This form can help you think about people you have recently been around so you will be ready if a public health worker calls you.

## Things to think about. Have you:

- Gone to work or school?
- Gotten together with others (eaten out at a restaurant, gone out for drinks, exercised with others or gone to a gym, had friends or family over to your house, volunteered, gone to a party, pool, or park)?
- Gone to a store in person (e.g., grocery store, mall)?
- Gone to in-person appointments (e.g., salon, barber, doctor's or dentist's office)?
- Ridden in a car with others (e.g., Uber or Lyft) or took public transportation?
- Been inside a church, synagogue, mosque or other places of worship?



## Who lives with you?

**Who have you been around (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) in the last 10 days? (You may have more people to list than the space provided. If so, write on the front of this sheet or a separate piece of paper.)**

Name	Phone Number	Date you last saw them	Where you last saw them
------	--------------	------------------------	-------------------------

## What have you done in the last 10 days with other people?

Activity	Location	Date
----------	----------	------





---

# WINTER WEATHER INFORMATION!

---

## **School Related Cancellations and Postponements**

It is important to be prepared for the winter storms and extreme cold that every South Dakota winter brings. Please read the following information so you are aware of the procedures for school related cancellations and postponements.

District leaders rely on experts from the National Weather Service and city/county officials when we make decisions on school cancellations, late starts or early dismissals.

### **Cancelling School/Late Start**

When a severe storm hits the area, or is forecast, we start contacting local officials as early as 3:00 a.m. We communicate with our Operational Services Department, the Weather Bureau, the City Street Department, Sioux Falls Transit, and our transportation contractors. It is our goal to decide whether or not to cancel school by 5 a.m. to allow time for parking lots and sidewalks to be cleared, food services to prepare meals and the bus company to begin operations. In the event that school needs to be cancelled or delayed, families will be alerted via a ParentLink phone call. These calls will generally be sent between the hours of 6 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. to accommodate families whose children are picked up by buses at 6:45 a.m. Announcements are also made on the District's website, Sioux Falls School District social media sites (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SiouxFallsSchoolDistrict/> and Twitter: [twitter.com/SFSchools](https://twitter.com/SFSchools)) the SFSD app, and over the local radio and television stations.

Because the public schools have a limited rural area, it is often possible for Sioux Falls to have school when nearby towns may not.

## Early Dismissal

Storms occasionally move in during the day, making it necessary to assess whether or not to dismiss school early. We choose early dismissal only under the most extreme circumstances. In most cases, it is safer for students to remain at school due to the need for transportation and proper supervision. In the rare instances when schools are dismissed early, families will receive a ParentLink phone call and the information will appear on the District's website at [www.sf.k12.sd.us](http://www.sf.k12.sd.us), and our Sioux Falls School District social media sites (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SiouxFallsSchoolDistrict/> and Twitter: [twitter.com/SFSchools](https://twitter.com/SFSchools)). Announcements are also made over the local radio and television stations.

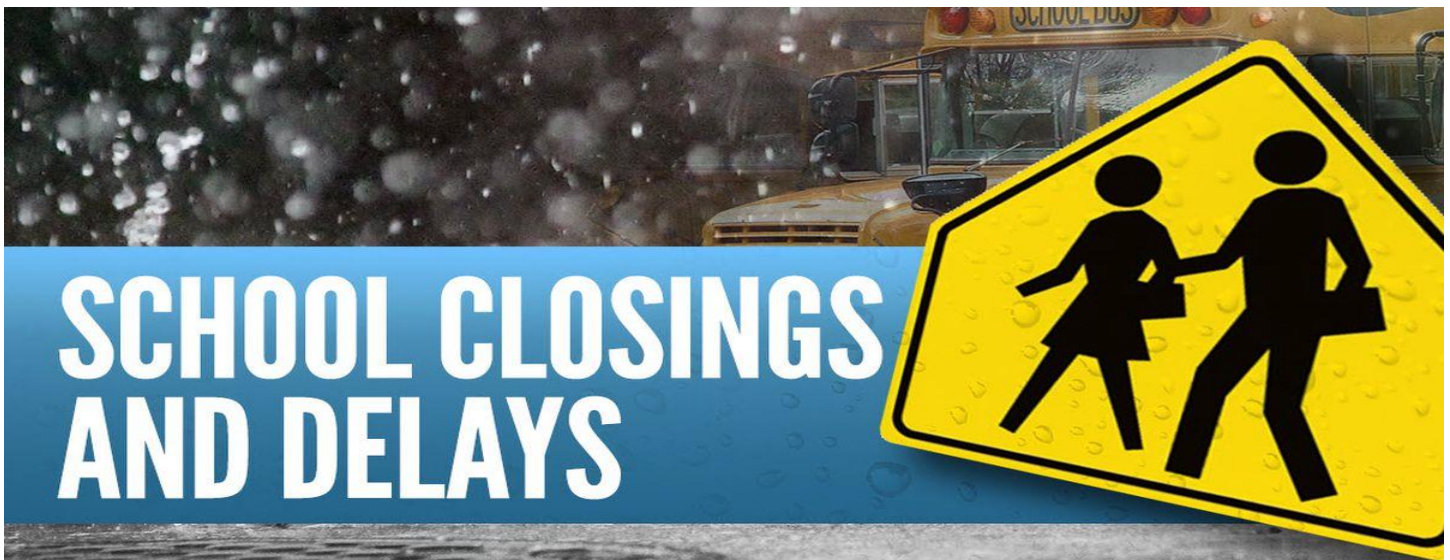
Notifications refer to dismissal "one hour early" or "two hours early" because of the number of different building schedules. In addition to noting the early dismissal, announcements about evening activities are normally included.

It is very important that every family has a plan for early dismissal. Be sure your student knows where to go in case no one is at home. Parents/Guardians are urged to talk with their student about his/her safety during winter weather emergencies.

## Be Safe This Winter

The school system offers these suggestions concerning cold weather and emergency situations:

1. Listen for a ParentLink phone call regarding school closings, late starts, or early dismissals. Check the District's website at [www.sf.k12.sd.us](http://www.sf.k12.sd.us) for updated information. Follow us on our Sioux Falls School District social media sites (Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SiouxFallsSchoolDistrict/> and Twitter: [twitter.com/SFSchools](https://twitter.com/SFSchools)) for updated information. Announcements will also be made on local radio and television stations. (Please avoid calling schools or the Instructional Planning Center. Phone lines are needed for emergency communications.)
2. Make sure students are properly dressed for predicted weather conditions so they are prepared for walking or waiting for a bus in the cold or for being delayed on a bus in a weather-related situation.
3. Students should not arrive at school until the scheduled time for outdoor staff supervision or the breakfast program begins.
4. Develop a plan and inform your student about where your student will go if school is dismissed early.
5. School officials will use their best judgment about school closings, late starts, or early dismissals, but please remember that a parent has the right to keep children home or to pick them up from school early if they feel weather conditions require this action.





# 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:

**November 19th**, December 17, January 21,  
February 18, March 18,  
April 15 and May 20

**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**



Because of COVID-19, South Dakota's K-12 schools are using distance learning on a regular basis. Some students do not have access to their schoolwork at home because of a lack of internet connectivity. The K-12 Connect program provides free internet service to eligible K-12 students in their homes for the 2020-21 school year.

**Eligible households must meet all the following requirements:**

- Must have at least one student currently enrolled in an accredited South Dakota K-12 school; and
- Must meet the income eligibility guidelines for the free and reduced school lunch program; and
- Must not have internet services in the home as of July 1, 2020

**Enrollment:** Eligible households should receive a letter indicating eligibility and identifying the appropriate telecommunications company to call in order to access free internet service through this program. Letters were mailed Oct. 26.

**Enrollment closes Nov. 20, 2020.** To enroll, families should call the telecommunications company noted in their letter to set up service. That company will install the necessary equipment on a first-come, firstserve basis. Installation will occur as time and available equipment allow. Eligible students who live in more than one home will be provided connectivity at their primary residence.

**Internet service will be provided through June 30, 2021.** After that time, the household must return equipment to the internet provider or continue services at the household's expense.

If someone does not receive a letter, but believes their household is eligible, they can call (605) 773- 3248 or email [k12connect@state.sd.us](mailto:k12connect@state.sd.us).

**Other options:** Households that do not qualify for the K-12 Connect program may qualify for the [Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline program](#). Lifeline provides eligible subscribers a discount on monthly telephone service, broadband internet service, or bundled packages purchased from participating wireline or wireless providers. Households may apply by visiting <https://nationalverifier.servicenow.com/lifeline>.

If a household meets the K-12 Connect eligibility requirements outlined above, but there is no internet availability in the area, the household may be able to access a hot spot through this program. Call (605) 773-3248 to inquire.

---

*K-12 Connect is a partnership of the South Dakota Governor's Office, Bureau of Information and Telecommunications, Department of Education, and participating telecommunications companies.*

*Find more information at [K12connect.sd.gov](https://K12connect.sd.gov).*

# A LIBRARY CARD

## Your Passport to Adventure

WANT TO EXPLORE FARAWAY PLACES?  
UNCOVER INTERESTING FACTS?  
MEET FASCINATING PEOPLE?

**ALL YOU NEED IS A LIBRARY CARD!**

### HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR A LIBRARY CARD:

1. **Visit any library branch with your grown-up\*  
(Your grown-up= your parent or guardian).**

*\*Your grown up will need to bring their photo ID with their current address.  
If photo ID does not include current address, also bring a piece of mail  
that shows name and address.*

2. **Find the friendly library staff and tell them you'd like a  
library card\*\*. They will get you signed up.**

*\*\*A library card is free of charge to anyone living in the city of Sioux Falls  
or Minnehaha County.*

3. **Congratulations! Welcome to the start of your library  
adventures.**



## Adventure Awaits

**EXPLORE THESE  
EXCITING ITEMS  
YOUR NEW  
LIBRARY CARD...**

Books

Movies

Learning Tablets

Board Games

Magazines

Graphic Novels

Digital apps

Bookflix and other databases

Fun Programs and Events

*We are glad to  
have you*  
**ABOARD!**



# SIOUXLAND LIBRARIES

## **Baltic Branch**

213 St. Olaf Ave.  
Baltic, SD 57003  
605-529-5415

## **Brandon Community Library**

305 S. Splitrock Blvd.  
Brandon, SD 57005  
605-582-2390

## **Caille Branch**

4100 S Carnegie Cir  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
605-367-8144

## **Colton Branch**

402 S. Dakota Ave.  
Colton, SD 57018  
605-446-3519

## **Crooks Branch**

900 N. West Ave.  
Crooks, SD 57020  
605-367-6384

## **Downtown Library**

200 N. Dakota Ave.  
PO Box 7403  
Sioux Falls, SD 57117  
605-367-8720

## **Garretson Branch**

649 Main Ave.  
Garretson, SD 57030  
605-594-6619

## **Hartford Branch**

119 N Main Ave Suite A  
Hartford, SD 57033  
(inside Hartford Senior Center)  
605-367-6380

## **Humboldt Branch**

201 S. Main St.  
Humboldt, SD 57035  
605-363-3361

## **Oak View Branch**

3700 E. 3rd St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
605-367-8060

## **Prairie West Branch**

7630 W. 26th St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106  
605-978-6899



*Pettigrew Families, your  
nearest library branch is  
Prairie West*

## **Ronning Branch**

3100 E. 49th St.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103  
605-367-8140

## **Valley Springs Branch**

401 Broadway Ave.  
Valley Springs, SD  
57068  
605-757-6264