



R.F. PETTIGREW panther tracks

A monthly newsletter from the Pettigrew PTO

ISSUE NUMBER: OCTOBER 2020

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CONNECT:



www.rfpettigrew.org



Pettigrew Elementary PTO Parents

From the Principal's Desk: Mr. Kevin Dick



For all of the 12 years that Pettigrew has been open, we have been focusing on our mission statement that states, “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 have worked hard in all three of the areas reflected on the last phrase of this statement, social skills, emotional well-being, and academic progress. Since its inception, Pettigrew has been a Responsive Classroom program, which simply put, is a system of addressing social and emotional areas of student life. One of the essential activities in this program is that students in classrooms around the school, spend time early in the school year, discussing the classroom rules for the year, and committing individually to abide by the agreed upon rules in each homeroom class. The classrooms also select a representative member of their class to attend the school’s delegate assembly, and to bring to this gathering two of the rules suggestions that they would like to suggest for the list of school rules. We bring these delegates together, share the classrooms suggestions for school-wide rules, and then align all these suggestions and agree on around 5 or 6 school rules. In this manner, our school rules are developed each year by a group of students representing the school classrooms, where input was essentially gathered from each student in the classroom.

Another important tenant of Responsive Classroom is to complete a task of goal setting and vision-casting, where each student generates a list of “Hopes and Dreams”. These statement and expectations for the new school year are displayed in the classroom, as well as discussed by the group and continue to be examined and referred to throughout the year, to remind and rejuvenate the students’ focus on growth in the areas that the statements address.

Our school has also addressed the area of social and emotional learning by engaging staff in a voluntary book talk, where nearly the entire staff has read a chapter a month from a book that addresses social and emotional health in our student body and staff components of our community. Last year’s book focused on the trauma that can exist in students’ lives, and how staff members in schools can address these areas of concern in many of our students’ experiences. This year, our staff members that choose to participate are reading the book, “Ridiculously Amazing Schools”. The discussion and learning that our staff engages in during these monthly book talk sessions are meaningful, and will once again allow staff members to discuss and plan areas that we can focus on in school-wide efforts to improve our programming that will focus on student and staff needs and plans to address them.

A recent article in a National Association of Elementary Principals Association has examined how families can work with schools, particularly in the area of the arts and art education, and how those efforts can impact social and emotional learning in our students. It gives some suggestions that families can participate in and have suggestions that incorporate experience in the arts that vary, depending on the development level of the children in the family. This article is reprinted in the following paragraph.

Social and Emotional Learning: Helping Children Understand Self and Others. The Arts build social and emotional skills. Unscripted puppet plays empower children to assume others’ voices and express disparate thoughts in safe ways. Ask them to describe the different points of view and which of the perspectives feel most like their own. Selfies as personal identity narratives -- Hand-drawn selfies reveal more than camera snapshots. Instead of drawing a mirror image of themselves, children should be encouraged to draw selfies that show something special about their personalities and interests. Art sparks Important conversations. Explore public art together. Ask children if the people who are honored in a mural or monument represent your family’s values. Ask them to reimagine statues and sketch new

designs for public art that celebrates what matters most to your family. Use the arts to learn about others. Humans have always used the arts to celebrate their cultural traditions. Help children appreciate the diversity within our country and around the world by exploring others' favorite music, visual art and dance.

We look forward to engaging families and student to develop our "Ridiculously Amazing School". More concepts that are discussed by the staff will be shared in various formats with parents throughout the coming year, so please watch for upcoming updates and summaries of some of these discussions and efforts to improve our community's social and emotional health. It is important that as adults, we endeavor to work in this area of our community, together. The ongoing pandemic has at times made it seem difficult to develop and sustain close relationships. The staff members that have been a part of our book talk discussions and also participating in our staff-wide activities in our staff meetings have already set the stage for a meaningful effort and impact within our school. More information will follow as our school year proceeds.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE:

Per school district policy, while on school property, students in K-5 may not self-administer medication. Students may not transport medications to school. These procedures are in place for the safety of all our students. If a child ingests a medication that is not intended for them, there can be potentially life-threatening adverse reactions. If a student needs to receive a dose of medication, but they forget or lose it, they are not receiving their proper dosing. If a child needs any medication during the day, it must be administered by the nurse. All medications administered at school also need the appropriate forms signed by a physician. If you have any questions related to the administration of medication at school, please contact our school nurse.



welcome

PTO Board - Grade Representatives 2020-2021

- Crysta DeSmet (K)
- Samantha Small (1)
- Stephanie Ruby (1)
- Sarah Mittleider (2)
- Kari Karsky (2)
- Jacki Brown (3)
- Rachel Stahlecker (3)
- Cory Begley (4)
- Heather Peters (4)
- April Grabow (5)

Public Schools Rise to Challenge

By Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent



Though daunting, at times, I am proud and humbled to say, "We are back!"

After months of planning, adjusting, and redefining education amid the Coronavirus pandemic, the Sioux Falls School District successfully opened the doors to smiling faces on August 27, 2020 following the March 13, 2020 closure.

Classrooms look a little different where plexiglass and PVC are now as common as desks. Dots and arrows guide the way on our floors, and face coverings that were added to school supply lists have now become a daily item and a fashion statement. While practices and protocols may be different, one thing has not changed.

Public schools continue to rise to the challenge.

The first tax-supported public school opened in Massachusetts in the late 1630s. Though it took the framers of the U.S. Constitution some work to ensure uniformity and access, public schools today largely operate on the same principles on which they were founded.

Horace Mann is often credited for the organization of public schooling. He believed: (1) the public should no longer remain ignorant; (2) that such education should be paid for, controlled, and sustained by an interested public; (3) that this education will be best provided in schools that embrace children from a variety of backgrounds; (4) that this education must be non-sectarian; (5) that this education must be taught by the spirit, methods, and discipline of a free society; and (6) that education should be provided by well-trained, professional teachers.

Those principles hold true today whether students are learning in a traditional classroom or virtually from their home. Time and again, in addition to teaching academics, public schools have added services to solve challenges in America. In recent history, public schools have:

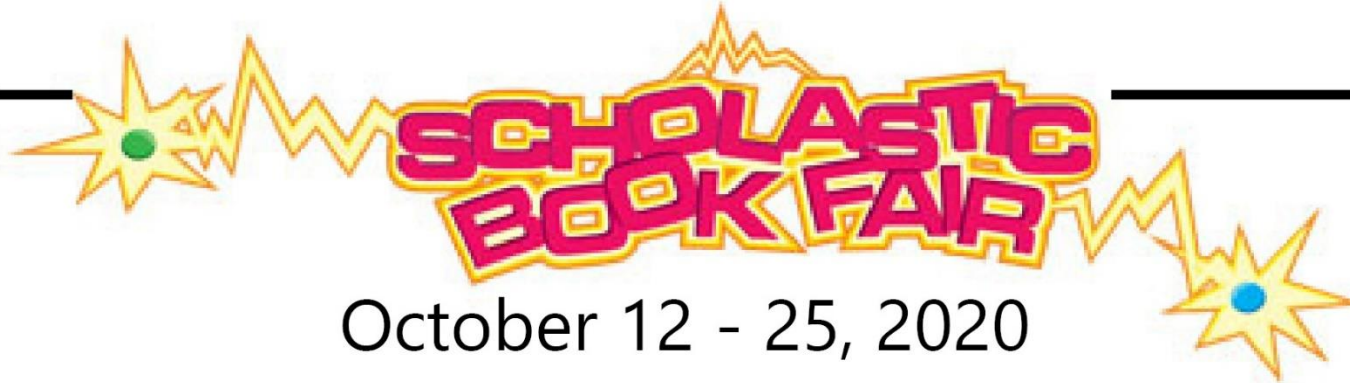
- Answered poverty concerns through nutritional breakfasts/lunches;
- Added vocational training and a detailed focus on science, technology, engineering and math;
- Ensured equitable access to education for all students, no matter their ability;
- Educated students who did not speak English;
- Provided nursing, counseling, and crisis-intervention services to improve social/emotional well-being;
- Established safety protocols for protection from violence;
- Expanded cultural understanding and embraced diversity.

Whenever a societal issue presents itself, public schools rise to the occasion, and never has this been more apparent than our current work to keep education going during the pandemic. Public schools are creative, responsive, and most importantly, inclusive. Any student who comes through our doors is provided with the opportunity to learn.

This is not the first nor the last time public schools will endure hardship and challenges. Thank you for standing with us as we navigate COVID-19 and for supporting our school district in so many ways! We stand ready to serve students and families now and in the days ahead no matter what comes our way.

We are #proudtobesfsd!

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR



October 12 - 25, 2020

ONLINE ONLY

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/rfpettigrewschool1>

Pettigrew is hosting a virtual Scholastic Book Fair for two weeks in October! Attached you will find a book flyer– it is only a sampling of the books available. There are thousands of picture books, easy readers, chapter books, non-fiction, novels, and bargain books. Log on and reward your child with a book! Free shipping is available for all book orders \$25+ and Pettigrew receives 25% in rewards on purchases made during the fair. Digital Teacher Wish Lists will be available for classroom donations (information to follow).



FALL SPIRITWEAR SALE

Online only - starting October 20

Information will be provided by:



Email



Facebook
(Pettigrew
Elementary
PTO Parents)

PTO website
(rfpettigrew.org)



*Items shown are examples of what may be offered -
check the store for actual products!*

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 22, November 19, 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.



Earn 10% back for your school!

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5129 S. Solberg Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
www.skyzone.com/siouxfalls



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TRAMPOLINE PARK