



Dragon News Southgate's monthly parent newsletter

November 2018



Happy
Thanksgiving!

Southgate Elementary
3121 W 19th Ave Kennewick, WA 99337
222-5900 Fax 222-5901
Dr. Bob Smart, Principal

We are on the web!
<http://southgate.ksd.org/>

Dragon Notes

It's a great day at Southgate! As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, and I reflect on our beginning of the school year—I'd like to share a few things on my thankful list:

- Every morning I arrive at Southgate excited for the day! The teachers, parents, students, and staff are fabulous. We get the opportunity to make a difference every day.
- The opportunity to cheer about learning with our students. Their enthusiasm for learning always puts a smile on my face!
- A big thank you to the many parents and volunteers helped make Jog-a-thon, the Reading Night at the Carousel, and our Skating events so positive.
- Our dedicated reading support staff who tirelessly help dragons "crack the code" and learn to read. This is a big deal for us, and we are thankful for all the extra help our dragons receive.
- Our Dragon Support after school program to support our students with reading and mathematics tutoring continues to be very successful; we are thankful for all our staff who work long days for our dragons.
- Our efforts to support our high achieving students by using extensions of learning activities, on-line instruction like MobyMax or Razz Kids, and group projects help all learners be productively engaged at their unique level.
- Every Southgate activity is so positively received and attended by our parents, grandparents, and families. Great morning recently with over 200 grandparents that joined us for goodies!
- At recess I am especially thankful for our dragons that show kindness and fair play. Our students demonstrate the Dragon Way of helping others often.

Please look for our conferences schedule in the backpack express!



We appreciate your help and assistance with:

- Parking and loading/drop off of children. Thank you for walking your son or daughter to the car, exiting and loading children from the curbside, and taking time to be very careful. I also am asking you to not jaywalk across 19th Avenue, as it is so unsafe. I know we're all living busy lives, but we always have time to be safe. See my note about parking across the street.
- Picking up your children after school is released. Picking up children before the end of school disrupts learning in classrooms.
- Attending conferences with your child's teacher.
- Checking your child's backpack each night for homework, reading minutes, and other information sent home. Think of this as an archeological dig for treasure in your son or daughter's backpack.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!
Dr. Robert (Bob) Smart, Principal

Attendance Phone Line

If your child will be absent from school or late to school, please call Southgate's attendance line at 222-5902 by 9:00 a.m. or e-mail us at southgate.attendance@ksd.org to excuse your child's absence. Please leave your child's name, room number, the date of the absence and the rea-



Everyday reminders:

- * Students should not be arriving before 8:25 a.m. to school. We do not have supervision outside before this time.
- * Breakfast begins at 8:10 and student must be in line to eat before 8:25 a.m. to have ample time to make it to class. Students arriving on busses, no matter what time will be able to get breakfast.
- * If you are bringing in birthday treats for your child, we ask that you bring in store bought treats due to other students with food allergies and that you bring them in during your child's lunch or towards the end of the school day.
- * If you have gifts, flowers or balloons delivered for you child, please note that we will hold the items in the office and deliver towards the end of the school day. We suggest that you may want to surprise your child with balloons at home. Students cannot take balloons, etc. on the bus.
- * If students bring electronic devices such as iPods or cell phones to school, they must be kept in their backpacks and not taken out during the school day. Items will be confiscated.
- * Please allow yourself enough time when picking your student up for an appointment. We will not call your student down to the office early, but will go get them for you when you arrive.
- * If you are picking up your child for convenience towards the end of the school day, we appreciate you waiting until school is out to pick up your child.
- * If you will be volunteering or chaperoning in your child's classroom, you must have submitted volunteer paperwork on-line and been cleared.

Brrr.... It's getting cold outside!

With the colder weather, please make sure to dress your child appropriately.

Be sure to label any coats or jackets with your child's name. Check our Lost & Found periodically as it fills up with lost coats, jackets, sweatshirts through the school year. Items not claimed are donated to those in need a few times during the school year.



Check us out on Facebook!

Southgate Elementary and
Southgate Parent-Teacher Group

Pants and shirts size 4-7 for both boys and girls are needed in our health room for students needing a change of clothes. If you have any new or used pants to donate, please bring them to the Southgate office. Thank You!



November Conferences!



First trimester ended on November 2nd and our goal is for each teacher to meet with each parent/guardian at conferences.

Conference Schedule:

- Friday, November 16: Early release at 11:27 a.m. Conferences held 12:20-3:20 p.m.
- Monday, November 19: No School. Conferences held 12:20-7:50 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 20: Early release at 11:27 a.m. Conferences held 12:20-

Children need to stay home if vomiting or having diarrhea. The child may return to school 24 hours after symptoms have cleared.



Temperature over 100.0 should stay at home until temperature is normal for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications (ex. Tylenol, Advil).

Parent-Teacher conferences

are just around the corner. Southgate is looking forward to being able to meet with our parents and talk about our amazing students. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you plan your important conference time.

Before the conference:

- Ask your child how she feels about school.
- Ask your child if there is anything that he wants you to talk about with his teacher.
- Tell your child that you and the teacher are meeting to help her.
- Make a list of topics that you want to talk about with the teacher.

Prepare a list of questions such as:

1. What are my child's strongest and weakest subjects?
2. Does my child hand homework in on time?
3. Does my child participate in class?
4. Does my child seem happy at school?
5. What can I do at home to help?



During the conference:

- Relax and be yourself.
- Ask the most important questions first.
- If your child receives special services such as English classes, ask about your child's progress in those classes.
- Ask for explanations of anything you don't understand
- Ask your child's teacher for ways that you can help your child at home.



After the conference:

- Talk about the conference with your child.
- Talk about the positive points, and be direct about problems.
- Tell your child about any plans you and the teacher created.
- Keep in touch with the teacher during the school year.

Please let us know if you have any questions about our November schedule or your specific conference time.

Attendance Treasure Chest

Every Friday, students who have been present for the whole week are put into a drawing. One student per classroom is chosen to come to the office and spin the Attendance Wheel of Wow! On the wheel they might win a homework pass, a cookie or a doughnut, Dragon Dough or something from the treasure chest. Treasure chest items can be candy, stickers, small toys, etc. If you would like to donate items for the treasure chest, please bring them to the Southgate office. Our Attendance Wheel of Wow is a fun way to reward students for being at school each day. Attendance matters!



Coats for Kids

Southgate is collecting new or gently used coats for the KNDU Coats for Kids program until December 7th. The donation barrel is in the front entry way near the office. Thank you for your support in keeping kids warm this winter!



2018 Southgate Calendar

November

- 9 Early Release at 11:27 a.m. for Report Card Prep
 Veteran's Day Assembly 9:00 a.m.
 End of 1st Trimester



- 12 No School—Veteran's Day
 16 Early Release at 11:27 a.m. for Conferences
 Southgate Chuck E Cheese Night

- 19 No School for Conferences
 20 Early Release at 11:27 a.m. for Conferences

- 20 Early Release at 11:27 a.m. for Thanksgiving Break



- 22-23 No School for Thanksgiving

December

- 13 3rd Grade Musical Performance 6:00 p.m.
 14 3rd Grade Musical Assembly 9:00 a.m.
 19 Early Release for Winter Break 11:27 a.m.
 December 20—January 2
 No School—Winter Break

Picking up students during the school day or late after school

- If picking your child up during recess time, please send a note to your child's teacher asking them to send your child to the office to wait for you rather than going out to recess. If you have not sent in a note, we ask that you wait until recess is over for us to get your child.
- Occasionally parents need to pick their child up from school for medical appointments before school is out and we are happy to help. However, we are receiving some requests to have children come to the office between 3:00 and 3:17 pm to be picked up for convenience. This can be disruptive to the classroom as we are still in school. We also have limited staff in the afternoon to go get children from classrooms. We appreciate you waiting until school is out to pick up your child.
- If picking your child up after 3:00 p.m. or 2:45 on Wednesday, we may ask you to wait until school is dismissed.
- If you pick your child up from school late, we ask that you come into the building to sign them out. Children will not be