



Dragon News Southgate's monthly parent newsletter

January 2019

Dragon Notes

Happy New Year!



Southgate Elementary
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Dr. Bob Smart, Principal

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

Welcome to 2019, and it is going to be a dragonrific year! Thanks for being an active and engaged parent in your child's education. We appreciate you!

A great website is the Children's Reading Foundation at read20minutes.org. You'll find lots of resources and parent-proven tips to encourage reading. I've written about how important reading is for continued excellence in children's academics. We ask that our Dragons read 20 minutes per day, and a big thank you for helping your son or daughter set aside time for reading. Your efforts have translated in BIG numbers in minutes read already for this year!

Kindness is a big deal at Southgate! Thank you for your help in our coats for kids drive (Southgate donated 163 winter coats!), and our annual food drive in December which helped others. You and your family's generosity can make a big difference for many in our community. Over the last two months we've been working with our students around ideas of community and compassion for others and these events are a wonderful way for students to make a meaningful difference for others. You and your child's efforts have helped to provide warm coats and food during the cold months.

Safety is a powerful predictor of student success. Ensuring a great and safe beginning to our day is very important—that's why you see my team and me out there helping and greeting dragons. Here's how you can help...please pull as far forward as possible to drop off your child. This keeps our traffic moving, and be sure to have your son or daughter exit the car on the sidewalk side. Our parking lot is small, but with all of us working together we can have a safe and efficient process. Thank you for respecting our neighbors' (Kadlec, Davita, and Tri-Cities Credit Union) parking lots.

January is a great time to help your child with their organizational skills. Setting up a special place each evening to "dig through the backpack" can lead to some important conversations. Please continue to monitor the assignments and note home. Recognizing your child's performance on assignments and projects is a super way to demonstrate that school is important.

My absolute best wishes for a successful, kind, and wonderful—wow—2019!

Dr. Smart

Brrr... It's 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, hats and gloves through the school year. Items not claimed are donated to those in need a few times during the school year.



Quote

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echos are endless."

~ Mother Teresa



If you wake up to snow or ice....

Information about any school closures or delays caused by bad weather can be obtained by visiting the school district's web page at www.ksd.org or by listening to your favorite media outlet, including television and radio.

In the event of a two hour delay, busses will pick students up two hours from their normal pick up time. No breakfast is served on late start days.



Transfer requests for the 2019- 2020 school year are due by January 31, 2019. **Out of district transfers must be completed each year.** In district transfers only need to be completed once unless the conditions of the transfer change. Example—change of address, no longer going to daycare in Southgate boundary. Both out of district and in-district transfer forms are available in the Southgate office.

Hello and Happy New Year!

With 2019 here, it is naturally a great time to think about resolutions and goals for the New Year. At Southgate, we are continually thinking about having pride and setting goals to do our very best. At our fun first trimester awards assembly, we rewarded students from each classroom for consistent attendance and three other classroom awards: Shows Respect, Solves Problems and Makes Good Decisions. These three awards directly fit with our Southgate core values and are something we will all continue to work on to be the best we can be. The students will be reminded of these three important qualities in our classrooms and cafeteria, as well as on the playground or on the bus. Please join us by also reinforcing these at home. Southgate Dragons show Pride! This means we show respect, solve problems, and make good decisions to help make Southgate a nurturing and safe environment for learning.

Here's to a fantastic 2019!!
Mrs. Hanson, Assistant 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 reason for the absence. Thank You!



Message for Southgate Student
in Room # _____

Name _____

Date _____ Time _____

Messages to Students

Parents it is best to talk with your child the morning before school about changing plans of how they will go home from school. However, we know this is not always possible as situations arise.

We ask that if you need to get a message to your child that you contact the office by 1:50 p.m. We are not always able to get a message to your child immediately and will deliver messages as we can. Getting messages to us earlier in the day allows us more time to make sure your child receives your message.

On Wednesdays, please call in your message for your student by noon.

Thank you for your help with this issue!

Tips for Preventing Colds and Flu

- **Get a flu shot** each year to prevent the flu.
- **Wash your hands often** with soap and warm water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Cover your nose and mouth** with a tissue when you sneeze, cough, or blow your nose. Quickly throw away used tissues, then wash your hands.
- If you don't have a tissue, **cough or sneeze into your sleeve/ elbow** – not into your hands.
- **Regularly clean** surfaces in your home that are touched often, like light switches, doorknobs, faucets, and appliance handles.
- **Don't share** food, utensils, beverages, towels, lipstick, toys, cigarettes, or anything else that might become contaminated with germs.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs can spread by touching them.
- **Avoid close contact with sick people.** Most germs are spread when a sick person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- **Stay at home** if you have a cough or fever.
- **Wear a mask** in a medical office if asked.
- **Always follow your doctor's instructions** and take your medicine as prescribed.



Cold Weather Recess Guidelines

Children can be especially susceptible to the dangers associated with inclement weather. Their youthful enthusiasm often takes over when common sense and safety should prevail. Even if they are cold, wet, or exhausted, they often are not conscious of the potential impact these conditions pose. Southgate staff wants to be sensitive to the dangers inclement weather can pose to our children and establish guidelines regarding outside recess.

Cold temperature and wind chill guidelines are as follows (temperatures include wind chill factor):

- 10 degrees F. above zero or lower – indoor recess
- 10-20 degrees – shortened recess, 10-15 minutes
- Above 20 degrees – normal time
- Below 50 degrees, children should bring a coat out for recess (coats may be left near their classroom doors if they choose not to wear them).

We will use these guidelines and bring students into the gym in the morning to wait for school to start rather than waiting in their lines outside.

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).

School Messenger

Kennewick School Districts allows parent to choose how they want to receive school alerts by text, phone and email for school emergencies, delays/closures, school news, attendance, and low-balance meal accounts. If you need your PowerSchool login or password, please contact your school office.

- Log into your PowerSchool for Parents account.
- Select QUICK LINKS
- Select MAIN PORTAL PAGE
- Select SCHOOL MESSENGER
- Select PREFERENCES from the menu icon in the upper left corner.
- Under MY MESSAGE PREFERENCES edit how you want to be contacted.



PowerSchool Questions? help@ksd.org

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 allowed to wait outside for you after a certain time and will be waiting for you in the office.

Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

2019 Southgate Calendar



January



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| 9 | PTG Papa John's Pizza Day |
| 10 | 6:30-8:30 pm PTG Rollarena Skate Night |
| 21 | No School—Martin Luther King Jr Day |
| 29 | ATP Math Night 5:30—7:00 p.m. |