

SOUTHGATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THE GATEPOST



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March 2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 Gr. 6 Foreign Language presentations Garage Sale parent mtg. 6:30 pm Yearbook mtg. 6:30 pm	3 Bldg Council 3:00 pm PTA parent meeting 6:30 pm	4 Kindergarten Screening- by appt.	5 SG Spirit Day (fitness) Kindergarten Screening- by appt. Family Fitness Fun Night 6-8:30 pm	6
7	8 BOE budget mtg. 7:30 pm @ SHS	9 Yearbook mtg. 6:30 pm SEPTA mtg. 7 pm @ SJHS	10 Parenting Program "Internet Safety" 7-8:30 pm @ FF	11 SG Barnes & Noble Bonanza 10 am - 9pm Colonie Center BOE budget mtg. 7:30 pm @ SHS	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time begins	15 BOE budget mtg. 7:30 pm @ SHS	16 Yearbook mtg. 6:30 pm	17  ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18 Sixth grade musical "Kokonut Island " 7:00 pm	19 Sixth grade musical "Kokonut Island " 7:00 pm	20 PTA roller skating 12:30-4:00 @ Guptills SPRING BEGINS
21	22 Grade 6 SPAC presentation @ SHS 9:40-11:20 am BOE mtg. 7:45 pm-Boght Hills	23 Yearbook mtg. 6:30 pm PTA Lego Club 6-8 pm - cafeteria	24 Scripts gift card pick up 4:30-5:30 Gr 5 LEP Student Fair 7pm @ FF	25 6 th grade garage sale donation drop off (cafeteria) 5-8 pm	26 Sixth grade garage sale donation drop off 9am - 6 pm NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORKSHOP DAY	27 6 TH GRADE GARAGE SALE 9:00-3:00 (early bird 8 am)
28	29 "Flame" cultural program 9-10:30 am	30 Report Cards go home	31	1	2 NO SCHOOL Good Friday	

****REMINDER..... FRIDAY, MARCH 26TH SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED.**

ELECTION WORKERS - The North Colonie School District has a need for district residents to serve as Election Inspectors for the May 18, 2010 Annual Election and Budget Vote. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for relief workers. The rate of pay is \$8.91 per hour. If you are interested, please call 785-8591.



REPORT to PARENTS

Reproduced and adapted from publications by the National Association of Elementary School Principals

Getting Organized

Disorganization is a problem that can, and often times does, plague children. They may forget about homework, lose assignments, leave gym suits and lunches at home, or neglect to tell you about the day's field trip. Left unchecked, childhood disorganization could develop into a lifelong ailment. The key is to start now and help your children develop good organizational skills that will benefit them forever.

Talk with the teacher. Teachers work hard on developing students' organizational skills. Ask your child's teacher what skills he or she teaches in school and what you can do at home to follow up.

Evening efforts pay morning rewards. Chaotic mornings increase the chances of students forgetting lunches, homework, or projects. Get an earlier start by having your children pack their backpacks, pack their lunches, lay out their clothes, and get "must haves" together before they go to bed.

Backpack cleaning. Every day, your child should empty his or her backpack of schoolwork and notes from teachers. This exercise will help remind your child of items he or she may need to give to you.



Homework help. Some students get overwhelmed with large homework assignments. Help your child get organized by developing a step-by-step plan to break the assignment into smaller "bites." Monitor your child's progress and encourage him or her as each step is completed. Also, let the teacher know if your child is overwhelmed, he or she may be able to suggest a solution.

Use a calendar. Give each child his or her own calendar on which they can write project deadlines, school events, lesson and practice times, and upcoming projects. Post it in a prominent place. Together, every day, go through the calendar, noting what's coming up and adding new items.

"To do's" are "must do's." As soon as children are old enough to read and write, a "to do" list should become a part of their school lives. Show them how to make a list of that day's homework assignments and activities – and keep track of everything they've completed as well as those items they still need to finish. Knowing what needs to be done is an important step toward getting organized.

A place for everything and everything in its' place. Make your children responsible for cleaning up and putting away the supplies, toys, or other items that they get out during the day.

Congrats!



Congratulations to sixth grader **Sarah Sternbach** who won the North Colonie District Spelling Bee on February 2nd at Shaker High School. She will go on to participate in the Capital Region Spelling Bee on March 5th at Proctor's Theater.

Southgate Spirit Days Update

Friday, March 5th will be our next Spirit Day. For the month of March, we will be focusing on the trait self - discipline. Self - discipline is demonstrating hard work controlling your actions, words and emotions. It also means giving your best in all situations. We will be holding our second annual Fitness Night on that evening. Please show your school spirit and support for Fitness Night by wearing workout/gym clothes to school on Friday, March 5th.



There have been ongoing safety concerns at the peanut free table in the lunchroom. **We will no longer be allowing any students that bring lunch from home to sit at the peanut free table unless they have a peanut allergy.** If students would like to sit with friends that have an allergy, they will need to buy lunch from the cafeteria.



From the Music Room.....

"Kokonut Island" rehearsals are underway. Congratulations to all the 6th graders in the cast and crew. The show premieres on **March 18th and 19th** .

Congratulations All District Music Groups

The following students were chosen to perform in the All District Concert on February 26th.

CHORUS

Aliyah Audil
Fidel Cortina
Ashley Davidson
Alyssa Durant
Skyler LaCoss
Ben Matz
Lyndsay Miller
Connor Munro
Hanna Nichols
Emily O'Connor
Pranjali Patel
Veedasol Ryan
Erin Sleurs
Lea Sposito
Kayla Sprague
Andrew Stack
Sarah Sternbach
Emily Teeter
AJ Villajuan
Katie Zhang

BAND

Skyler LaCoss
Sarah Sternbach
Katie Zhang
Hanna Nichols
Ashley Davidson
Lauren Desormeau
Andrew Stack
Matt Holmes
Connor Munro
John Blau
Amy Baumgarten
Dayo Adeoson
Jess Messina
Dale Ellis
Paul Nichols

ORCHESTRA

Mick Keilen
Veedasol Ryan
Lea Sposito
Ben Matz
Alicia Caropreso
Dereck France
Quentin Villanueva
Donovan Jojo
Erin Sleurs
Aliyah Audil
Adam Gravett
Tulsi Patel
Emily Teeter
Patrick Mahoney
Nia Joyner
Jacob LaChapelle
Katrina Manzari



PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The following students have been selected as Physical Education Students of the Month for the month of February. These students have demonstrated that they are respectful, responsible and honest.

As the recipients of this award, these students will receive a Student of the Month T-shirt, and they will have their names announced over the school PA.

We are very proud of these students and their accomplishments, and we look forward to recognizing others throughout the year.

Congratulations to the February Winners:

Kindergarten - **Joshua Matz**

First Grade - **Aidan O'Keefe**

Second Grade - **Grace Papa**

Sixth Grade - **Sarah Sternbach**

Third Grade - **Kayla Brizzell**

Fourth Grade - **Kelsey Wells**

Fifth Grade - **Jonathan Fant**

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE ART ROOM

The following students' art work will be displayed during the month of March at the Empire State Plaza. The artwork that these students created was based on the collection at the Plaza.

Brianna Stein, Lauren Davidson, Faiyaj Khan, Eric Assini, Caroline Kremer, Emily O'Brien, Isabella Sokaris, Zach Palaszynski, Trevor Elmendorf, and Samantha Wilson





GOIN' GREEN AND KEEPING THE LIBRARY BOOKS CLEAN !

If your child is now packing a thermos or re-usable water bottle to support our environmental efforts, please protect the library books from any leaks by placing them in a plastic bag inside the backpack. This can be a recycled plastic bag that stays in the backpack for re-use. The library has extra bags if you need them. Thank you for helping our library books live a long life!

PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING - Each year a pre-school screening is conducted for students entering kindergarten. Screening for kindergarteners entering Southgate School in September 2010 will be held by appointment on
Thursday, March 4, 2010
Friday, March 5, 2010

If you have a child or children who will be entering kindergarten in September 2010, you should have already received information concerning the registration process. If you have not received this information, please call 785-8591 x 3130.



6TH GRADE GARAGE SALE -

Saturday, March 27 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (early birds 8:00 am)

The 6th graders will be collecting donations for the garage sale on Thursday, March 25th from 5 to 8 pm and Friday, March 26th from 9 am-6 pm. Please donate GENTLY USED items such as clothes, toys, shoes, appliances, beds, computers, furniture, bikes- just about anything suitable for re-sale can be donated.

We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing our Southgate families on Saturday, March 27th!!

TRANSPORTATION 2010-2011 - Requests for transportation to/from an "other than home address" for the 2010-2011 school year must be submitted by April 1, 2010 for students who will be in grades 1-6 next year. This form must be submitted every year - previous requests do not carry over into a new year. Transportation request forms are available on line at northcolonie.org/transportation or in the main office at Southgate. Completed forms should be returned directly to the transportation department. *Please call the transportation department directly (785-9486) with any questions.*

CHALLENGER BASEBALL -The fifth year of the North Colonie Challenger Baseball Program for children with special needs ages 5-21 will begin in April. You may register on line at www.ncyba.com or in person on Saturday, March 20th at Shaker High School from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. Please contact Gail Wrieden at 785-7496 or GailWreiden@gmail.com with any questions.

PARENTING PROGRAM

On Wednesday, March 10, 2010 Officer Fuchs of the Colonie Police Department will present a seminar on Internet Safety focusing on current information regarding the Internet and possible dangers children face while online including cyber bullying. Child care will be provided. Please fill out the form and return to your school counselor.

NAME _____ # ADULTS ATTENDING _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

and age of children needing childcare _____

Important dates

March 3: Special PTA Meeting,
Southgate Cafeteria, 6:30 -7:30 pm. Child
Care available--All are welcome!

March 11: Barnes & Noble Bonanza,
Barnes & Noble, Colonie Center, 10 am- 9 pm

March 12: Scrips Gift Card orders due

March 20: Guptills Roller Rink, 12:30-4 pm

March 23: Lego Club, Southgate Cafeteria,
6-7 pm

March 24: Scrips Gift Card pick up,
Southgate Lobby, 4-5 pm

March 29: FLAME Music Group performs at
Southgate, 9-10:30 am

March 31: Spring Soccer registration due

**+There is no Movie Night this month
due to scheduling and space conflicts +**

Meet us at the Barnes and Noble Bonanza!

Raffles, Cheesecake Factory
cheesecake sale, arts and crafts, Lego
table, student artwork and
performances, face painting and more...

March 11th

10 am to 9 pm

**Wear Southgate apparel and mention
our school for credit!**

Help wanted

- Help needed for Barnes and Noble Family
Fun Night. Contact Kelly Fahey
kelly@primeaufahey.com or Stella
Albanese salbanese@ncolonie.org to
volunteer.

- The Apparel Committee needs a co-chair.
Mary Beth Nichols can be contacted at
pnichols3@nycap.rr.com for information.
- Want to be involved with the Lego Club?
Email Paul Fahey at
paul.fahey@zone5.com
- Got Legos? Legos needed for Lego Club.
Please contact Paul Fahey at
paul.fahey@zone5.com if you have any
you would like to donate.

Upcoming Cultural Programs

FLAME, a music group from upstate New York
made up of 11 people with developmental and
physical disabilities, including autism, Down's
Syndrome, mental retardation and blindness, is
coming to Southgate School. This performance,
sponsored by the PTA, is meant to inspire our
students and show them that great things can be
achieved in life, even for those with challenges.
This program will be held on March 29, 2010,
from 9 to 10:30 in the Gymnasium.

Fundraising

The Rewards and Incentive Programs
include General Mills Box Tops as well as
Hannaford and Price Chopper School
Rewards Program. The GM Box Top Program
for this school year ends on March 1. Next
month, we will have the results of the GM
program for the 2009-10 school year. The
GM program is very important to Southgate
as the rewards are used to purchase recess
equipment like balls and frisbees. These
items break and wear out over the course of
the year and need replacing. So, please
continue to send in your box tops to be
credited for the next school year.

Letter from the President

The PTA is holding a special meeting on March 3, at 6:30 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to have an open discussion regarding PTA activities, budgets and volunteer opportunities. We find that during the General PTA meetings there often isn't time to brainstorm about upcoming events or discuss how to revise or improve past events. We are asking that a Committee Chair or Co-Chair from each Committee, attend the meeting to address any questions about their event. We will also give each Committee Chair/Co-Chair a package containing the budget for this year, a report of all monies spent or income earned for the year along with other committee documents. If you have an issue you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact me before the meeting, or come and raise it at the meeting.

Hope to see you there!
Lynne Lapham

Go Green

The results of Southgate's "**Waste-Free Snack and Lunch Challenge,**" taken February 8-12, 2010, are in!



Southgate's lunch waste was 644 lbs during the challenge week, compared to 680 lbs of lunch waste from the pre-challenge weigh-in.



Snack waste was 56.5 lbs during the challenge week, compared to 48.7 lbs. during the pre-challenge week. *Valentine's Day Party waste was included in the challenge week collection*



114 Drink pouches were recycled by the kids during the challenge. Compare this number to the weekly average in January of 41 pouches per week.



127 chip bags were recycled during the challenge week. In January, the average was 29 bags a week. We did 4 times better than our January weekly recycling!



Green medal for lowest lunch waste is given to: The 6th graders who have a good appetite and had very little waste!



For snack waste collection, the team used "green" biodegradable, CVS brand bags, or white bags made from 55% or more recycled material. Fabric used on our bulletin board, where waste collections were tracked, was made from recycled plastic bottles.

All in all the kids did a wonderful job in Southgate's recycling efforts. Thank you to all the parents, teachers, staff and students who helped make "The Challenge" a success!

Note of thanks

* **Thank you to all who sent in General Mills Box Tops!** And thank you to **Kara Bonds and Melissa Vatalaro** for chairing this committee!

* The Valentine Day festivities were well received by the children. **Thank you to all of the Room Parents who hosted the parties!**

* Fourth grade room moms **Karen Szary, Kathy Stein, Lisa Pierce and Cathy DeMarco** organized the DARE Graduation celebration for the 5th graders. Thanks for a great job!

* February's Movie Night was a success with **Karen Szary, Barbara Gallagher and Shelly Luks'** help!

* Many thanks go to "The Green Team" for their work during "The Waste Free Challenge." **Karen Szary, Moriah Page, Elena Smith, Melissa Desormeau, Bryan and Susan Sheppeck, Denise Corsaro and Marine de Longeaux** worked at the weigh-in station. Thanks to **Peggy Davidson** for printing all the wonderful recycling posters hung around school. Thank you too **Jodi Brunette, John MacDuff, Danielle Domicolo, all the teachers and lunch staff** for your help and participation.