

SOUTHGATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

THE GATEPOST






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February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Parents of Incoming Kindergartners 7:00 pm @ SG	2	3	4
5	6 Go Green Assembly Building Council 3pm	7 All District Band/Orch Rehearsal 1:10-3:30 @ SHS	8 Young Writers @Verdoy 9:00 am	9 Grade 4 Recital 9:00 am - cafeteria	10 Pep Rally 2:00 pm SG staff vs. Colonie Police basketball game 7:00 pm @ SHS	11 
	GO GREEN WEEK					
12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 All District Band/Orch Rehearsal 1:10-3:30 @ SHS	14 Valentine Parties 1:30 pm  Valentine's Day	15 6 th Grade Art Gallery Opening 2:00 pm - DARE graduation - café All District Chorus Rehearsal 3:30-5:30 @SHS PTA Planning comm. 6:30 Executive Bd. 7:00	16 Concert for 3 rd Graders 9:05 -10:30 am @ SHS	17	18
19	20 SCHOOL VACATION 	21 SCHOOL VACATION	22 SCHOOL VACATION Ash Wednesday Washington's Birthday	23 SCHOOL VACATION	24 SCHOOL VACATION	25
26	27 All District Band/Orch Rehearsal 3:30-5:30 @ SHS BOE @ SG 7:30 pm	28 PTA After School Enrichment	29			

Principal's Page

Dear Families,

Often times, education comes with “buzz – words” or “education – ese”. Such jargon can be confusing and/or overwhelming. The latest words to be heard are “The Common Core Standards for Learning”. You may have also hear these standards referred to as “the Core”, “the Common Core” or CCLS. Given the significance of these standards and their implications, I thought it important to take a moment to share with you a brief explanation.

The Common Core Standards for Learning are an agreed upon set of learning standards adopted by 48 of the 50 United States. Consistent standards aim to provide appropriate benchmarks for all students, regardless of where they live. The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts in the field of education and the content areas to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare students for college and the workforce.

These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have attained during their K - 12 education careers so as to graduate high school able to succeed in entry - level, credit -bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

The standards:

- Are aligned with college and work expectations;
- Are clear, understandable and consistent;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high - order skills;
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and
- Are evidence - based.

The Common Core Standards for English – Language Arts are divided into reading, writing, listening, and speaking as were the New York State Standards for Learning which previously governed our curriculum. The Common Core Standards for English – Language Arts also however include vocabulary. The Common Core Standards for mathematics provide students with a solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals — which help young students build the foundation to successfully apply more demanding math concepts and procedures, and eventually move into applications. Rigor of study is a key component of both sets of standards.

We will be sharing more with you about the Common Core Standards for Learning in a variety of ways in the coming months including their impact on the upcoming revised New York State Assessments. We look forward to these discussions with you as our partners in education.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dedrick
Principal

SPRING TESTING SCHEDULE

April 17, 18, 19:	Grade 3, 4, 5, 6 ELA
April 25, 26, 27:	Grade 3, 4, 5, 6 NYS MATH
May 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:	Grade 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 IOWA tests
May 31:	Grade 6 District End of Year Science
May 31:	Grade 4 NYS Science
June 4:	Grade 4 NYS Science



- **Students must be present in school unless they are sick.**
- **Please avoid doctor & dentist appointments during testing times.**

We appreciate all of your support and follow through.



Barnes and Noble Bonanza! **Thursday March 1st** **Southgate Family Event**

Portions of ALL SALES from Southgate Supporters (10:00am to 9:00pm) go to Southgate PTA

- Cheesecake Factory Cheesecake sale!
- Use our Southgate code for online shopping and E-books (March 1st-4th)
 - Teacher Story Time ☺
 - Lego Table, Crafts, Face painting
 - Student art work and class work on display
- Homework passes for all students who attend
 - More information to follow!

Please Help Us Help Southgate!

1. Buy a SCRIPS card so you can use it that night
2. Tell EVERYONE you know to stop in
3. Come enjoy a night with family and friends
4. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Small time commitment! If interested, contact Kelly Fahey(kelly@primeaufahey.com) or Stella Albanese (salbanese@ncolonie.org)

KINDERGARTEN 2012-2013 **PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING**

Each year a pre-school screening is conducted for students entering kindergarten. The purpose of the screening is to review each child's language, social and physical development. Each child will meet with a speech therapist, a school psychologist, a school nurse, and a teacher. Following the screening procedure, the psychologist will briefly review the results with parents. The screening for kindergarteners entering Southgate School for the 2012-2013 school year will be held by appointment on the following days:

Thursday, March 8, 2012 and Friday, March 9, 2012

If you were unable to attend the parent meeting on February 1st you may call Southgate School before February 9th to schedule your child's screening appointment.

From the Music Room.....



FOURTH GRADE RECITAL

The fourth grade "Beginner's Music Recital" will be held on Friday, February 9th at 9:00 am in the Southgate cafeteria.

ALL DISTRICT CONCERT

Selected 5th and 6th grade band, orchestra and chorus students will be participating in the North Colonie All-District Concert on Friday, March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at Shaker High School.

CONCERT FOR ALL THIRD GRADERS

The concert for district third graders will be held this year on Thursday, February 16, 2012 at Shaker High School. The children will be bused at 9:05 a.m. from Southgate to Shaker High School and return to Southgate at approximately 10:30 a.m.

The concert marks the beginning of the recruiting process for the elementary instrumental music program. The students will have an opportunity to hear the Shaker High School Symphonic Orchestra perform and become better acquainted with each instrument.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

"A Knight to Remember" went off without a hitch and what a performance it was!

- THANK YOU to all of the teachers, staff, students, and parents who helped to make this wonderful performance such a success.
- A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Mrs. Diana Karl, Miss Dianna Rossi, and Ms. Michelle Vasilakis for their dedication and hard work.

RECESS

Because children need fresh air and physical activity, our goal is to take students outside for recess as regularly as possible.

**If the temperature or wind chill is ABOVE 10° Fahrenheit,
students will go outside for recess.**

**If the temperature or wind chill is 10° Fahrenheit or BELOW,
students will remain inside for recess.**

If it is raining, students remain inside for recess.

**If there is an unusual amount of ice causing conditions to be unsafe,
students will remain inside for recess.**

Please be sure your child has a warm hat, gloves, coat and boots. We are not able to keep students in from recess due to colds. They are better served by getting some fresh air halfway through their day. The recess time is only between 10-15 minutes of actual outside time because of changing time needed. Please encourage your child to bring extra socks as well, in case their feet get wet.



Our Lost and Found is once again full!

If your child is missing a jacket, gloves, a hat, or a lunch box, please have him/her check the Lost and Found in the nurse's office. Every 2 weeks all items remaining in the Lost and Found will be thrown out or donated to charity.

IT IS SO IMPORTANT YOU LABEL ANY AND ALL ITEMS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYS

In the event of severe weather conditions, or other emergencies, announcements of school closings or late openings will be made on the district website between 6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.

Closing information will also be sent directly to your e-mail account and cell phone - by text (if desired) - via the district's School News Notifier (SNN) system. You must sign-up for SNN; visit <https://snn.neric.org/ncolonie> for more information.



School closings are also announced on the following local TV and radio stations: Channel 6, Channel 10, YNN - Channel 9, Channel 13, FOX 23, WGY (810 AM), WFLY (92.3 FM), WYJB (95.5 FM), and WRVE (99.5 FM).

COLONIE YOUTH CENTER AFTER SCHOOL SNOW POLICY

SCHOOL DELAYS - In the event of a school delay, the Before School Program will not operate.

EARLY DISMISSAL - In the event of an early dismissal from school, (*any time before 2:30 pm*), the after school program **WILL NOT OPERATE**. Children who would normally attend the After School Program would be bused home. Please make sure that your child knows the bus number he/she would take home and where their bus stop is located.

SCHOOL CLOSED - Before and After School Programs will not operate.

LIBRARY LESSONS AND RESEARCH

The students are learning many new library and information skills and are being introduced to excellent literature. Most recently, the following topics have been covered:



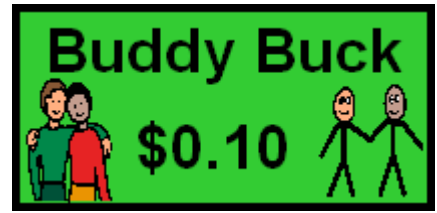
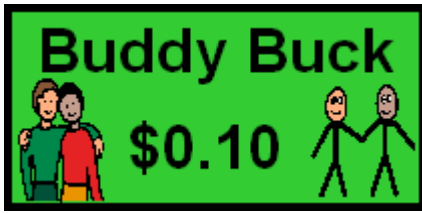
Kindergarten	Beginning reader books; fiction and nonfiction books using an alphabet theme; care and responsibility for books
Grade 1 & 2	Nonfiction vs. fiction books and characteristics of each; care and responsibility for books
Grade 3	Mystery and detective stories; Washington D.C. research (3P)
Grade 4	Internet safety and cyber etiquette; the history and uses of computers
Grade 5	Copyright law and avoiding plagiarism; Research on Peoples of the Western Hemisphere
Grade 6	Research on the nervous system; art history research

The students' work related to their lessons in the library is regularly placed on display in the school. Posters and brochures on Internet safety created by the fourth graders and fifth graders, respectively, will be displayed at the Barnes and Noble Bonanza for all to see.

Research by 5th and 6th graders is underway using nonfiction and reference books, periodicals, audiovisual resources, and electronic resources, including online databases purchased by the district. I am teaching them how to cite sources using a bibliography. This year, we are including some inquiry-based questions that encourage our students to explore their interests in a topic in addition to the traditional research questions.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about your child's library experience.

Mrs. Parmalee, NBCT
School Library Media Specialist



Buddy Bucks

To encourage, teach and support interaction between all sixth grade students, especially children with special needs, "Buddy Bucks" was created as a reward incentive program. In December, a presentation was made to sixth grade students providing information about this new, volunteer program, "Buddy Bucks".

Buddy Bucks can be earned by displaying friendship skills in the following ways:

- saving a seat at lunch
- playing together at recess
- being a buddy during a special such as music, PE, library, art, field trip
- initiating help when assistance is needed
- greeting peers in the hallway or during classes

Teachers will intermittently hand out Buddy Bucks when they see sixth grade students demonstrating these friendship skills with their peers. Thanks to the generosity of the PTA, the Buddy Bucks can then be cashed in at the school store for a variety of school supplies. Several Buddy Bucks are being awarded on a daily basis. So be a buddy and earn your Buddy Bucks today!

Miss Rossi

SOUTHGATE PHYSICAL EDUCATION PRESS RELEASE

The following students have been selected as Physical Education Students of the Month for the months of November and December. These students have demonstrated, through their actions that they are respectful, responsible and honest.

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

NOVEMBER WINNERS

KINDERGARTEN - Jonah Hymes - KK
FIRST GRADE - Hafsa Khan - 1A
SECOND GRADE - Andrew Alexander - 2M
THIRD GRADE - Sole Carrington - 3P
FOURTH GRADE - Brenna Shilling - 4D
FIFTH GRADE - Moiz Arain - 5T
SIXTH GRADE - Elizabeth Kabalian - 6M

DECEMBER WINNERS

KINDERGARTEN - Max Kelsey - ASC1
FIRST GRADE - Natalie Bennett - 1Di
SECOND GRADE - Stephen Petersen - 2M
THIRD GRADE - Hassan Aboubacar - 3S
FOURTH GRADE - Nicholas Szesnat - 4D
FIFTH GRADE - Priyanka Kumar - 5S
SIXTH GRADE - Steven Benedetto - 6R



VACATION WORK REQUESTS

During the course of the school year, teachers are frequently asked by parents to provide work for students who will miss school because of family vacations. While all of us recognize the constraints of traveling during the official school breaks, our district and the State Education Department discourage parents from taking children out of school for vacations when school is in session. Teachers will always do their best to provide work for students who miss school due to illness. As agreed upon throughout our district, however, teachers will not provide work in advance when a student will be missing school because of a vacation.

We do recommend that students engage in the following "academic" activities while being out of school and on vacation: keeping a daily journal; practicing math facts; preparing for upcoming spelling units; and doing independent reading. Missed schoolwork will be provided upon a student's return to school.

SAVE THE DATE!!! ****

Southgate 6th Grade Garage Sale
Saturday, March 24th



Additional information will be forthcoming.

ATTENTION 6TH GRADE PARENTS

Please check out the Shaker Junior High School web page on northcolonie.org where you can begin to get an overview of what the school is like and to also learn valuable information, specifically the scheduling timeline for the 2012-2013 school year.

REMINDERS:

VISITORS

- Visitors are permitted only in the classrooms/areas that they have identified on the sign-in log. Visitors are not to "drop in" other areas or classrooms.
- Visitors who bring something a student forgot must go the main office. The office staff will deliver items or contact students to retrieve them. There are two exceptions to this.
 - Lunches may be taken directly to Mrs. Akins in the kitchen.
 - Musical instruments may be left on the stage.



ABSENCE/TARDY

It is very important that we are able to account for students. When a child does not come to school and a parent has not called to report the absence, we become concerned about the safety of the child.

Therefore, please call the school at 785-6607 to report your child's absence or tardiness each day they are absent or tardy.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding with our procedures. We are doing our best each day to ensure the safety of your child. As always, please contact us with any concerns.