

After School Programs: This committee will plan for this year's After School Enrichment Programs for Southgate students. These programs could range from a chess club, dance class, drama class or play group.

Apparel: Southgate emblazoned apparel is offered year-round through our Apparel Committee. Committee members are responsible for taking orders, maintaining inventory and distributing orders when they arrive at Southgate.

Author's Day: A select children's author(s) will visit Southgate and spends 1-3 days at the school. The author(s) meets with each grade and presents his or her work and gives insight into what goes into writing a book.

Banking w/ CapCom FCU: Southgate offers a new banking program in partnership with CapCom FCU, from October through May. Children bank every Tuesday morning in the cafeteria and receive stickers, lollipops and prizes throughout the year while learning the valuable lesson of saving.

Barnes & Noble Family Night: This is a school-wide community fundraising event at Barnes and Noble Bookstore and a portion of the day's sales goes to Southgate. It is a fun night for students, their families, and the Southgate teachers.

Book Fair: Two book fairs are offered yearly; one in the fall and one in the spring. During the week, each child is given time during the school day to come and preview books offered, and with parent's permission, allowed to purchase books. Family members are invited to attend the book fair one evening during the week. Volunteers set up and break down displays and help students with their book selections.

Bulletin Board: This small committee will update the PTA's designated bulletin board in the cafeteria monthly with forms, newsletters, and other pertinent PTA communications.

Childcare—PTA Mtgs: This committee offers free childcare during PTA meetings at Southgate.

Communications: This committee publicizes PTA sponsored Southgate events and committees through the PTA Newsletter, Southgate's website, the district's School News Notifier (SNN), and the bulletin board in the cafeteria. Editing, formatting and coordinating approval of all outgoing PTA documents is part of this committee's work.

Cultural Programs: The Cultural Committee researches and schedules educational and entertaining acts for the school to enjoy. The PTA sponsors two programs, one in the fall and one in the spring. Volunteers research programs, acquire the principal's confirmation and book programs.

DARE Graduation: This is a culminating event for 5th grade students who have participated in the Drug Awareness Resistance Program. Fourth grade room parents set-up and clean up, and the PTA provides refreshments and decorations for the event. The children are presented with a certificate and t-shirt from the DARE officer.

Directory: The PTA puts together a Southgate School Directory each year. This electronic and print version of the directory is a valuable tool containing lists of teachers, staff, PTA events, class lists and the contact information of those Southgate families electing to participate. Families must sign up to have a listing in the Directory.

Family Fun and Fitness: Organizers for this committee offer a night of snow tubing at West Mountain in January, and other various events throughout the year. Arrangements are made at the activity sites, reservations are taken and money is collected.

Field Trips: The PTA sponsors one field trip for each grade. The Field Trip Committee works with the teachers to identify field trips that are of interest to the class, and then plans that trip for the students.

Fundraising: Southgate PTA has two rounds of fundraising—one in the fall and another in the spring. Each fundraiser offers a collection of wonderful products and services to the Southgate community while providing a major source of income for PTA sponsored events. Profits earned are used to provide wonderful enrichment programs for all of our students, including field trips and cultural programs.

Go Green: Go Green is an exciting committee whose goal is to bring further awareness on recycling, reusing and conserving to the Southgate community. The committee will work on green initiatives including reducing Southgate's use of paper and electricity, as well as recycling programs in the school.

Hospitality: The Hospitality Committee provides refreshments for the PTA meetings, and other events as they arise.

Kindergarten Screening: This committee welcomes kindergarteners and their parents during the district's screening process held at Southgate. Volunteers assist families and direct them to the screening area in the gym where information packets, snacks and beverages are provided. Coloring activities, toys and videos are provided for the children while parents confer with school staff.

Kindergarten Social: The PTA invites all kindergarteners and their parents to Southgate before the school year begins to see and explore the school and their new classroom. The children are introduced to their kindergarten teacher who reads them a story, meet other classmates, take a short bus ride and meet Ms. Dedrick, Southgate's Principal.

Lego Club: This fun club of students and their families meet monthly in the cafeteria to make their own Lego creations.

Membership Drive: The PTA runs a Membership Drive beginning in the fall. The committee distributes the membership forms, collects the forms and fee.

Newcomers' Picnic: In late August/early September, the North Colonie School District sponsors a Newcomers' Picnic at Shaker High School. All families with a child entering school in North Colonie for the first time are invited. Southgate has a table at the picnic and welcomes each new family and provides them with information about Southgate.

Open House: Shortly after school starts, Southgate holds an Open House for each grade. Parents are invited to the school to meet their child's teacher and hear an overview of their day at school. The PTA is available at each Open House providing membership information and informing parents of the many ways they can participate in their child's education by volunteering on a PTA committee.

Picture Day: Volunteers assist students and staff on School Picture Day by escorting students from classrooms and supervising them while they wait to be photographed. They may also assist students with their order forms.

Project Night Social: Project Night is held in May on the same day our community votes on the district's school budget. Parents and students are invited to school that evening to vote and to view projects that the students have been working on throughout the year. Ice cream and popsicles are sold at this event as a PTA fundraiser.

PTA Go To Team: "You should have called me!" is a familiar phrase heard AFTER events! This "Go To Team" is a list of Southgate family members who are willing to be "tracked down" when there is work to be done or help at an event with too few volunteers. This would also include helping with communication distribution, assisting at events, running errands for supplies, computer work at home, making phone calls, or distributing fundraising information, etc. Based on the individual's availability at that time, they can decide if they are able to help out or not.

Purple and White Day: This activity-filled day in the spring is a long-time, school-wide Southgate tradition celebrating the school colors. All grades participate on either the white or the purple team and compete in games, races and activities. Pizza provided by the PTA is served with parent-provided treats to the children in their classrooms. The day ends with a slide show in the gym re-capping the day's events.

Rewards and Incentives Programs: General Mill's "Box Tops," Hannaford's "School Dollars" and Price Chopper's "Tools for Schools" are all year-round fundraising efforts. Families can collect GM Box Tops and send them into school. Southgate families can also register at Hannaford and Price Chopper where a percentage of their shopping bills go to the Southgate PTA. This committee handles the administrative end of these fundraisers.

Room Parents: Room parents work with their child's teacher to host four events in the classroom; a Halloween celebration, a Holiday party, Valentine's Day and Purple and White Day. A meeting is held by the PTA in the early fall to allow parents to sign up for this role and to review room parent responsibilities. Occasionally, a teacher may request additional help throughout the year and will have this list of volunteers who agree to be called upon.

School Supply Store: The School Supply Store is open every Wednesday, during lunch, in the cafeteria. School supplies and student favorites, like funky pens and erasers, are available for purchase on the cart along with Southgate t-shirts!

School Tool Boxes: Parents can have "one stop shopping" by purchasing school supplies through the PTA's School Tool Box program. In the spring, for a reasonable fee, parents can have their child's school supply list filled and delivered to their classroom in time for the first day of school in September!

Science Enrichment Day: A full school day promises science exploration with presenters sharing their knowledge to Southgate students. All hands-on activities, experiments and lessons are age appropriate and are geared towards the science curriculum for that grade.

Scrips: Scrips is Southgate's newest fundraiser where parents can purchase gift cards for restaurants, retailers, grocery stores, hotels, gasoline, etc. at face value and Southgate PTA keeps a percentage of that sale. Advertising, selling, ordering and distributing the gift cards are part of this committee's year-long responsibilities.

Sixth Grade Graduation Breakfast: Fifth grade room parents chair this committee whose main responsibility is to plan and prepare a reception for all of the graduating 6th grade students and their invited families and friends.

Soccer: Southgate students can participate in a six-week long, recreational soccer league in the fall and spring. The league meets Saturday mornings at Southgate's fields to play. The children are placed on teams based on their school grade and coaches are always needed! A nominal fee is required to participate.

Southgate Cares: The PTA budgets money to support those in need in the Southgate community, on a confidential basis.

Staff Appreciation: This committee will be responsible for planning events or distributing tokens of appreciation for the staff and teachers of Southgate. The timing of these events is dependent upon the school calendar and staff/teacher availability.

Track Meet Jersey Washing: After the district's fifth grade track meet at Shaker Junior High School in the spring, fifth grade room parents will be asked to wash the jerseys that night and returned to school the next day for the district's sixth grade track meet. Sixth grade room parents will be asked to wash the jerseys to be returned to the physical education department at Southgate.

Turkey Shoot: This fun family event in November is a basketball shooting contest in the Southgate gymnasium where awards are given out for those that score the highest in their class. There is also a raffle of wonderful, themed gift baskets put together from student donations from each grade.

Yearbook: The Yearbook Committee gathers, organizes and arranges pictures for the Southgate Yearbook. Committee members take pictures at Southgate events, take orders for yearbooks and distribute them in June.