

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 spend 1-3 days at the school. The author(s) meets with students, presents his or her work, and gives insight into what goes into writing a book.

Banking with CAP COM FCU: Southgate offers a banking program in partnership with CAP COM Federal Credit Union from October through May. Students bank every Tuesday morning in the cafeteria and receive stickers and prizes throughout the year while learning the valuable lesson of saving.

Barnes & Noble Family Night: This is a school-wide community event at Barnes and Noble Bookstore! 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 monthly with forms, newsletters and other pertinent PTA communications.

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 Committee: The Cultural Committee researches and schedules educational and entertaining programs for the school to enjoy. Volunteers research programs, acquire the principal's approval and book programs.

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

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

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.

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.

Kindergarten Screening: This committee welcomes new 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: All kindergarteners and their parents are invited 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. The PTA sponsors a social component of this program.

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 and 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/children 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 the educational program. 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. PTA sign up tables are in the lobby.

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

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, 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 for lunch with parent-provided treats to the children in their classrooms as snacks. The day ends with a slide show in the gym for the students re-capping the day's events.

Rewards and Incentives: General Mill's "Box Tops," Price Chopper's "Tools for Schools," Hannaford's "School Dollars" and Target's "Take Charge of Education" are all year-round fundraising efforts. Families can collect GM Box Tops and send them into school. Southgate families can also register at Price Chopper, Hannaford and Target 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. Sign up is held by the PTA in early Fall to allow parents to volunteer 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 other 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!

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 curriculum for that grade.

Sixth Grade Graduation: 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.

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

Staff Appreciation Luncheon: This annual event celebrating our Southgate teachers and staff usually occurs in the spring. Decorations and food are purchased by the PTA and complemented by monetary and food donations provided by parents. This committee is responsible for choosing a theme, planning the event, purchasing all items and setting up and cleaning up after the event in coordination with the principal.

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.

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