



SOUTHMORELAND PRIMARY CENTER



December 2016

Dear
Parents/Guardians:

The holidays are here again, and as we look back on November, it was a month of thankfulness. We celebrated our veterans on November 9th with a musical performance from our students which was led by Mrs. Whytsell. We met with many of our parents on the 9th and 10th for Parent Conferences. It



is always enjoyable to talk with parents and to share our experiences with them.

In December, we will begin the holiday season with our annual Breakfast with Santa on December 3rd at Southmoreland Elementary School. Sadecky Puppets comes to SPC on December 5th. We are planning our Kindergarten Gingerbread House project for December 15th and 16th *provided there are no snow days in the interim*. We will be caroling during December on Fridays. The Super Scottie Student Awards for November-December (character trait—"caring") is scheduled for December 20th. A one hour early dismissal for students on December 22nd will close out the month. School resumes on January 3rd. Please tune into WLSW (103.9 FM) and WTAE (Channel 4) for details regarding weather delays and cancellations.

Additional sources for weather delays and cancellations are listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Growing and sharing as a school is fundamental to our successes as students, teachers, and a community. Each day is a new day for us to teach, and to learn from, our students. Our mission continues to be high quality learning for all. It is my honor to lead that process.

Respectfully,

Mr. Daniel A. Clara
SPC Principal





December 2016

Math I Spy!

The next time you're on the road or waiting for a meal, give this classic family game a mathematical twist.



Directions:

1. Play this game with your child while riding the bus or driving in the car, waiting at the doctor's office or shopping together in the supermarket. For starters, find something in clear view and choose one attribute for a clue. For example, you might say, "round like a ball" for an orange. Then say, "I spy with my little eye something round like a ball." Invite your child to look around and figure out what it was you spied. Once your child spies the object you've chosen, switch roles and invite your child to 'spy' something for you to look for.
2. As you look, talk about one or two different things you see that don't have the attribute your child has given you. ("Hmm ...That box couldn't be it – it's not shaped like a ball...") until you find the object your child has chosen. As the game continues, increase the attributes to two. For example, "I see something with 4 legs and that is smaller than this car." (A dog.)



Parent Pointers:

--This activity helps your child figure out how to recognize an object's attributes and sort objects into groups with similar attributes – skills related both to math and science. The ability to group by number, shape, or measurement helps develop your child's mathematical thinking. Grouping by color, texture, or hardness will introduce your child to scientific classification

--As an extension, help your child practice organizing objects by similar attributes. In the supermarket, encourage your child to organize the purchases in the cart in some way of his own choosing. Invite your child to tell you the rule for the grouping (maybe "green with leaves" or "boxes") so you can place additional items in the right group. You might make a mistake in placing an object so your child can have fun showing you the "right way" to group things.





Snow Delays and Cancellations



Cancellation or delay of school takes place only during extraordinary circumstances such as extreme weather, equipment failure, or public crisis. The administration is aware of the hardship, which can be caused by an abrupt cancellation; therefore, school will not be canceled unless a significant safety risk exists.

It is important that you share a **plan of action** with your child for such situations. Review this information with the child periodically. This information should include: what the child should do in the event of an unexpected early dismissal, cancellations and other emergencies, where the child should go (for example, neighbor, friend, grandma), if they are to call someone, and also inform the school via the teacher and office. At this point a note could be made on the emergency office card.

Parents should listen to WLSW Scottdale (104 FM); WCVI Connellsville (1340 AM); WPQR Connellsville (99.3 FM); WHJB Greensburg (620 AM - 107.1 FM); KDKA Pittsburgh (1020 AM); 3WS Pittsburgh (94.5 FM); WTAE Pittsburgh (1250 AM); Channel 2 (KDKA-TV), Channel 4 (WTAE-TV), Channel 11 (WPXI-TV), or Scottie (Southmoreland) Channel 39 or on HD 202. **We will also send out SCHOOL MESSENGER notifications for those who are signed up for the service. Please contact your student's office if you need to update your account to receive these messages.**

Notification of scheduled early dismissals will be reported in the Principal's Newsletter and/or monthly calendar.