



SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29

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Cultivating a learning community that engages the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time

FRIDAY NEWS November 15, 2019

E-LEARNING DAYS

The Illinois State Board of Education recently disseminated new criteria related to the implementation of “E-Learning Days” (in place of emergency closing days that must be made up at the end of the year) when a school decides to close for inclement weather. The new criteria mandates 5 hours of documented instructional activities for all grade levels, and requires schools to provide access to special education supports and services for students with disabilities. Implementing these new requirements would be a significant barrier to the implementation of E-Learning days. As a result, District 29 **WILL NOT** be implementing E-Learning Days should we encounter inclement weather this year. Emergency closing days will therefore need to be made-up at the end of the year in June. The other New Trier Township schools have also stated that they will not utilize E-Learning Days this school year.

BEST PRACTICES IN SCHOOL SAFETY

At the Education Committee meeting this week, we reviewed the literature regarding best practices in school safety and identified several areas where we believe we can improve as a District. Click here to view a copy of the Power Point presentation that was shared. Items marked with a yellow highlight were areas identified for further analysis.

PARENT CONNECTIONS MEETING

The monthly Parent Connections meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 from 8:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. in the conference room at Sunset Ridge School. We will be discussing Family Service Night and Sunset Ridge Service Leagues. In addition, I will be introducing the topic of student discipline by sharing legal guidance and some of the “best practices literature” on the subject. The discussion of student discipline will continue at the December 2019 meeting as well.

FROM YOUR PTO

A massive thank you to everyone who came out this week and shopped the Middlefork Book Fair! It was a huge success and it would not have been possible without the support of our families! And to all the volunteers, thank you! The fair would not have been possible without you. We also would like to announce who won the prizes! Aaron Piotrowski is the winner of the “Snowflakes”, guessing 550 (543 was the actual). And the winner of the Winter Basket is Soo Moon, who has graciously donated it to Mrs. Leary. Thank you all! And just a reminder, the online store is open until November 20th, you can shop here <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/middleforkprimaryschool>.

Yena Levinson and Joanna Soukoulis

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The following events are sponsored by the Family Action Network. For more information, please visit <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/>

<u>November 19</u> <u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<u>She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story</u> (A Conversation with Megan Twohey) will take place at the Evanston Township High School Auditorium. 1600 Dodge Ave. Evanston, IL. 60201
<u>December 7</u> <u>7:00 p.m.</u>	<u>Raising Unselfies: How to Raise Compassionate, Courageous Kids</u> by Dr. Michele Borba will take place at Glencoe Central School Misner Auditorium. 620 Greenwood Ave. Glencoe, IL. 60022.
<u>December 4</u>	<u>Building Empathy in a Fractured World by Dr. Jamil Zaki will take place at New Trier High School Winnetka Campus. Gaffney Auditorium. 385 Winnetka Ave. Winnetka, IL. 60093</u>

Sincerely,
Edward J. Stange, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES

IT WAS SNOW GREAT! Thank you to everyone who made the first Middlefork-dedicated Book Fair *snow* wonderful! Hats (and mittens!) off to Joanna Soukoulis and Yena Levinson for chairing the successful event and to Kellie Johnson for creating the wintery environment and preparing students for the week. Thank you to all of the families who supported this annual fundraising event, either in person or online and to the teachers who contributed their acting talents. Little did we know when we planned a Book Fair for mid-November that the “Frozen” theme would be so appropriate!

BUILDING A READING CULTURE: In mid-October I included in the Friday News an excerpt from a journal article detailing the importance of helping young children build lifelong reading habits. The following is a link to a blog hosted by the Forest Bluff School in Lake Bluff. I think it’s an excellent post by an educator that offers some advice on just how to do that. It’s entitled *Getting Your Children to Read At Home: Building a Family Culture*. A sentence that resonated with me when I read it was, “Our children are in a precious stage in their lives, and childhood is

when they lay down their patterns for life.” I hope you will check it out!
forestbluffschool.org/blog

SCHOOL PICTURES: After much delay, it appears that all of the school pictures have been delivered. If you would like your child to take another picture, you must return the original picture package on the “Retake Day”, which is November 21 in the morning. If your child was absent on the original Picture Day and you would like a school photo on Retake Day, please contact Mrs. Draka drakam@sunsetridge29.org and we’ll send home another order form with your child.

VETERANS WALL: 100+ expressions of gratitude adorn the Veterans Wall of Honor in the Middlefork Lobby. Students have contributed flags for veterans across all branches of the service. The sentiments are heartwarming and precious, so be sure to take a look when you come into the building between now and Thanksgiving week.

WEATHER PREPARATIONS: There’s no turning back now! Winter is officially upon us and we go outside for recess whenever the weather allows. Students should come to school each day prepared to play outside - that means a minimum of warm coat, hat and gloves. When snow is present, snow pants and boots allow students the flexibility to play anywhere on the playground. Students without all of the above named outerwear will be restricted to the blacktop. I am often asked what the “rules” are for going outside and I can say without hesitation that if it’s safe (and not raining), we will go out! Or it’s below zero, we will not. None of our recesses is long, so if for example, the “real feel” temperature is 8 degrees, the sun is shining, and there’s fresh powder, you can be sure we’re going outside! That scenario occurred just this week.

UPCOMING:

Post-Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, Monday morning 12/2
1st, 2nd, 3rd grade Winter Sing Concert, 12/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
Kindergarten Winter Sing on 1/23 @ 6:30 p.m.

MIDDLEFORK NEWS:

http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school_k-3

SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

PICK UP: Beginning at 3:10, we have younger siblings coming to play on the playground. Unfortunately, some of them are throwing snowballs and ice at the classrooms around the courtyard, which is disruptive to instruction. Both Dr. Stange and Dr. Sukenik have had conversations with the students who are throwing. If your child is out playing on the playground, please supervise them and remind them about not distracting the students still in school.

VETERANS’ DAY CONCERT: We missed the deadline for last week’s Friday News but didn’t want to miss an opportunity to thank all of the community members who attended our Veterans’

Day Concert last week. We hope you enjoyed the outstanding performances from our Jr. High ensembles. Thank you for supporting this wonderful Sunset Ridge tradition!

SCHOLASTIC BOWL: Congratulations to our SRS Scholastic Bowl Team who represented Sunset Ridge proudly at their first competition of the year at Loyola.

PICTURE RETAKES: The picture retake day has been rescheduled for December 3rd. If you did not receive your photos or there was an error in your order, please let Mrs. Quesada know at quesadak@sunsetridge29.org.

REPORT CARDS: The trimester ends next week on 11/22. The portal for the upper grades will be closed until report cards are posted. Report cards will be available online on the morning of December 9th. If you have any questions about logging into Powerschool, please contact Oscar Garcia at garciao@sunsetridge29.org.

NEWS FROM THE LC: Check out the latest news from the Sunset Ridge Learning Center: <https://www.smores.com/vfx8t>

AFTERNOON TRAFFIC DONATIONS: This week the 6th grade members of the Transportation Service League were out collecting money to donate to World Bicycle Relief. Although it was a cold day, the students did a great job collecting donations. We will have 7th and 8th grade members of service league out next week to continue collecting donations. Please consider making a donation if you haven't already done so. Your support will deliver *The Power of Bicycles* to individuals and communities in need. Thank you for your support! Here is a link to our fundraising page if you prefer to donate online: <https://give.worldbicyclerelief.org/team/252568>

UPCOMING AT SRS:

11/19

JV/V Girls' Basketball @ CHA - 4:00 pm

JV Boys' Basketball vs. CHA @ SRS - 4:00 pm

6th Grade Boys' Basketball @ Winkelman vs.Field - 4:00 pm

6th Grade Girls' Basketball @ Winkelman vs.Field - 5:00 pm

5th Grade Music Concert - 7:00 pm

11/20

Parent Connections @ SRS Large Conference Room - 8:45 am

JV/V Girls' Basketball @ Wilmette - 4:00 pm

JV Boys' Basketball vs. Wilmette @ SRS - 4:00 pm

SELPAC - 7:00 pm

11/21

6th Grade Girls' Basketball @ Winkelman vs.Field - 4:00 pm

6th Grade Boys' Basketball @ Winkelman vs.Field - 5:00 pm

11/22

End of Trimester 1

11/25 - 11/29 - NO SCHOOL - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

SUNSET RIDGE NEWS:

http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school_4-8