



## 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 22, 2019**

#### **GIVING THANKS**

As we all break to give thanks for our many gifts and blessings, and enjoy time with family and friends, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the students, families, and staff of District 29. While our little corner of the world is far from perfect, and we all have room to grow and improve, I am grateful for the opportunity to lead our amazing group of fanatically committed staff, collaborate with our incredibly supportive families, and participate in the growth and development of our students! I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!

#### **PARENT CONNECTIONS DEBRIEF**

At the Parent Connections meeting this week, we began a discussion the future of Family Service Night in District 29. This evening of service learning for students and families has been an annual tradition since 2002, and is entirely organized and implemented by parents/guardians. The discussion centered around the “need” to continue Service Night, and the “availability” of volunteers to assist with organizing and executing the event moving forward. The PTO will be discussing this topic at their next meeting to gauge interest and support.

At the meeting this week we also began a discussion of discipline in District 29. Ultimately, I will share the input and feedback on this topic gathered from the Parent Connections participants with the District 29 Board of Education, and it will help to guide changes to our discipline policies, procedures, and practices. We started our conversation by sharing parental concerns, and I disseminated some literature on legal parameters and best practices relative to student discipline in public schools. The documents that were shared are posted on the Parent Connections page of our website. At our meeting next month, we will review legal parameters and best practices, as well as District 29 policies, practices, and data regarding discipline. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have thoughts or input on this subject, and are unable to attend our meeting, please contact me and I would be happy to meet with you individually.

#### **ISOLATED SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT OF STUDENTS**

Yesterday morning, ProPublica Illinois, in collaboration with the Chicago Tribune, released a comprehensive article concerning the use of isolated seclusions and physical restraints in Illinois schools. The article contains detailed, firsthand accounts of improper uses of isolated seclusions and physical restraints that occurred throughout public school districts in Illinois. Some of these accounts are, quite frankly, disturbing. I want to assure District 29 families that we do NOT

operate any isolated seclusion rooms in District 29, nor do we engage in the physical restraint of students. If you have any questions on this topic, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

<b>November 25</b>	<b>District 29 Teacher Institute Day - No School for Students</b>
<b>November 26 - November 29</b>	<b>District 29 Thanksgiving Break - Offices Closed &amp; No School for Students</b>
<b>December 7 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b><u>Raising Unselfies: How to Raise Compassionate, Courageous Kids</u></b> by Dr. Michele Borba will take place at Glencoe Central School Misner Auditorium. 620 Greenwood Ave. Glencoe, IL. 60022.
<b>December 4</b>	<b><u>Building Empathy in a Fractured World</u></b> by Dr. Jamil Zaki will take place at New Trier High School Winnetka Campus. Gaffney Auditorium. 385 Winnetka Ave. Winnetka, IL. 60093

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

**MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES**

**ANNUAL TURKEY TROT IS 12/2/19:** Join this post-Thanksgiving tradition that is twelve years running! Don your running/walking shoes and stop by the Middlefork big gym to exercise away those excess Turkey Day calories with your child(ren). It's healthy, fun, *and* fast! (K = 8:55-9:20; 1st grade = 9:30-9:55; 2nd grade = 10:20-10:45; 3rd grade = 10:55-11:25)

**DEDICATED DOLPHINS PROJECT:** The 3rd grade Dedicated Dolphins are partnering with Crayola ColorCycle to recycle used markers. They distributed collection boxes throughout the school and informed all students of the importance of recycling these items. While most of this collection will occur at school, families are still welcome to bring in old markers (of any brand) to be sent to Crayola to be recycled!

**HEALTH OFFICE MESSAGE:** We have had 4 Middlefork students reporting with pneumonia since mid-October. The students were in grades K, 1 and 2 across different classrooms. Pneumonia can be caused by a wide variety of bacteria and viruses in the air we breathe. The influenza virus is one of the more common causes of viral pneumonia so getting your annual flu shot is important! Some of the symptoms of pneumonia in children include a cough which may

produce green or yellow mucus, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue. Preventive measures include eating a healthy diet, getting rest and regular exercise, along with frequent handwashing.

**WE ARE THANKFUL:** We wish a very Happy Thanksgiving to all of our wonderful families, and we thank you for supporting this year's first delivery of lunches to the shelter at the First Baptist Church in Evanston. On Tuesday, November 12, District 29 parent Buggie O'Grady delivered 150+ brown bag lunches on behalf of Middlefork families. See the Middlefork News page to download the remaining schedule for 2019-20.

**NORTHWESTERN SETTLEMENT HOUSE:** We were delighted to welcome back a representative from the Northwestern Settlement House today; Allison Marino met with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders this morning to explain the year-round work they do to support immigrant families in the West Town neighborhood of Chicago. The presentation helped our students understand their own families' contributions to the annual Adopt-A-Family PTO project, a D29 tradition for 25+ years. Information went home in backpacks today; thank you for keeping this annual giving event alive!

**HOURLY OF CODE WEEK 2019:** Once again parents are invited to catch a glimpse of students' coding activities during Computer Science Education Week (12/3-12/9). Please participate in one of our coding classes that week: K meets on Tue. 12/4 @ 1:50 p.m. 1st-3rd graders meet on Tues. 12/4 @ 3:00 *AND* and Wed/Thur. @ 7:45 a.m.

**LEARNING CENTER NEWS:** We were bustling with excitement this month! Check out Mrs. Johnson's newsletter here: <https://www.smores.com/kyphs>

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE:** As we embark on this season of gratitude, I am thankful for the blessings in my life, and one of those is of course, *our* students. It is my pleasure and privilege to serve the children and families of our wonderful D29 community, and I wish each and every one of you a very healthy, happy Thanksgiving holiday!

**MIDDLEFORK NEWS:**

[http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork\\_school\\_k-3](http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school_k-3)

## SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

**THANK YOU, MR. KIRWAN:** Our PE teaching assistant, Liam Kirwan, accepted a teaching job at another school. He will be finishing out the Boys' Basketball season as their head coach. He's been a great asset to our program and will be sorely missed. Best of luck to Mr. Kirwan!

**HEALTH OFFICE NEWS:** There has been a confirmed case of Influenza B in Grade 6. For further info: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/keyfacts.htm>. Our attendance in general has been good- just the usual colds/coughs for this time of year. Enjoy the Thanksgiving break!

**NORTHWEST SETTLEMENT HOUSE**: Our school district has a special connection with the Northwestern Settlement House program. This social service agency provides a host of outreach and educational programs to families. Each year we provide holiday gifts to families associated with this program. Grades K-4 children bring in gifts for families. Students in grades 5-8 go out and shop for their assigned families. This year, 7th/8th grade is shopping on Thursday, December 5th. The 5th and 6th graders will be shopping on Friday, December 6th. We ask families of 5-8th graders to consider a donation amount to help make the holidays brighter for our partner families. We suggest a donation of \$20-\$25, but any amount will help us provide funds to shop for families. We also ask for donations of wrapping paper and/or boxes. Cash donations can be given to homeroom and advisory teachers. All of the gifts will be delivered to the Northwestern Settlement House by our PTO and Student Council students on Friday, December 13th.

**THANKFUL**: I often tell my friends and family how incredibly fortunate I am to be part of this amazing Sunset Ridge family. The students, staff, and families form a uniquely special community that I am so lucky to call home. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for your support of our mission to help nurture remarkable and thoughtful young adults. I hope you enjoy the Thanksgiving week together with friends and family!

**UPCOMING AT SRS:**

**12/3**

Picture Retakes @ SRS  
Girls' Basketball @ Sears  
Boys' Basketball vs. Sears @ SRS  
6th Grade Basketball @ OLPH

**12/4**

7th Grade Field Trip

**12/5**

7th and 8th Grade Northwest Settlement House Shopping  
Girls' Basketball vs. Marie Murphy @ SRS  
Boys' Basketball vs. Marie Murphy  
6th Grade Basketball @ Hillel Torah

**12/6**

5th and 6th Grade Northwest Settlement House Shopping

**12/10**

PTO Meeting - 9:00 am @ SRS  
Girls' Basketball vs. Washburne @SRS  
Boys' Basketball @ Washburne  
Education Committee Meeting - 6:00 pm - Legacy Room  
Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 pm - Legacy Room

**12/11**

Girls' Basketball @ Washburne

Boys' Basketball vs. Washburne @SRS

**12/12**

6th Grade Basketball vs. Rondout @SRS

**SUNSET RIDGE NEWS:**

[http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset\\_ridge\\_school\\_4-8](http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school_4-8)