FRIDAY NEWS
January 25, 2019

WINTER WEATHER & SCHOOL CLOSINGS
The decision to close our schools is always made based on our perceived ability to safely get students and staff to and from school, and our perceived ability to operate a safe environment during the day. District 29 is fortunate to not have buses that require students to stand outside in inclement weather. We are also fortunate to have “emergency evacuation shelters” (the churches) across the street from both of our schools, in case of an emergency during the school day.

The forecast for next week shows both a significant snow event expected on Monday, and severe cold temperatures mid week. Should either of these result in the need to close our schools, the closing will be announced via our emergency alert communication system, and posted on both our website as well as the emergency closing center website (www.emergencyclosingcenter.com). Please make sure that we have your accurate contact information to send emergency messages, and that your students are dressed appropriately for the weather.

2019-2020 DISTRICT CALENDAR
At the Board of Education meeting this week, The Board approved the 2019-2020 District Calendar. The highlights of the calendar are: a pre- Labor Day start date, winter and spring breaks that align to New Trier High School, and a switch of the November Parent-Teacher Conference day to October and the October Teacher Institute day to November. The calendar is available for viewing at the bottom of our home page under the “District Calendar” link. https://sunsetridge29.org/parents/d29_calendars

MIDDLEFORK SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE
This week, the Board of Education also approved bids for the summer 2019 renovations to Middlefork School. These include a complete renovation of the library/makerspace area, the addition of new small group breakout instructional spaces (within the existing footprint), the replacement of the old domestic water pipes, new security enhancements, and a variety of aesthetic improvements. All work is expected to be completed for the opening of school in the fall of 2019.

GET YOUR GOLDEN TICKET!
The time has come for you to purchase your ticket to the most anticipated event of the year, District 29's Winter Benefit, WONKA BALL. Parents, community members, teachers and staff will gather to celebrate our district and raise money to benefit our students on Saturday, March 2nd at 6:30pm at Northshore Country Club. Keep an eye out for an invitation next week, but in the meantime, hurry to purchase your tickets online to get early bird pricing! Ticket prices will go up after February 17. [http://bidpal.net/wonkaball](http://bidpal.net/wonkaball)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

| **FEBRUARY 6** | Dr. Robert Zarr, a board-certified pediatrician at Unity Health Care, located in Washington, D.C. and Medical Director of Park Rx America will present “Play Time: How Prescribing Parks Has Changed The Lives of Children.” The workshop will take place on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at Washburne School in Winnetka (515 Hibbard Rd). This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please see [www.theallianceforec.org](http://www.theallianceforec.org) |
| **FEBRUARY 10** & **FEBRUARY 11** | Dr. Lauricella, PhD, Director, Technology and Early Childhood Center and Associate Professor, Erikson Institute will present “Always on the Phone! The Impact of Technology on Families” at St James the Less Church in Northfield. Calling everyone with a phone - from preteens and teens, to parents and grandparents. Come learn about the impact of technology on our families. The same presentation will be offered twice - Sunday, February 10th at 11:30 a.m. and Monday February 11th at 7:00 p.m. |

Sincerely,

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

**MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES**

**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION DRIVE** continues at Middlefork School! Thanks to your contributions and the coordinated efforts of parent volunteers Trish Andrew and Steve Tomlinson, we recently received a check for $160.00! We are working with our students to decide how to put the money to good use. One idea is to create something memorable to be placed in our renovated library or makerspace next school year. Another is to put it toward a service project of the Dedicated Dolphins. So please don’t stop clipping and sending Boxtops in! They adorn hundreds of products, a list of which can be viewed at [https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products](https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products)

**PLAYPODS MET THIS WEEK:** In addition to playing name games as we get to know our newest PlayPod members (our kindergartners), we also had a ball playing Snowflakes or icicles. It’s a game that requires a lot of luck and only a bit of strategy, so the playing field is pretty even
across the grade levels! Ask your child if he or she can remember and play with your family at home. (Adults may know it better as the heads or tails prediction game!)

**HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?** Goooood…. This is a familiar question-answer exchange that many parents and students struggle with at the end of a 6-hour school day. Are you disappointed at not getting something more substantive in response to your question? Try a more specific question or even sentence starter; it’s sometimes easier to glean a glimpse of your child’s day or week when you narrow the focus. For example:
- My favorite part of PlayPods is...
- My Reading Buddy’s name is…
- What do you like best about Science?
- Today during literacy I…
- What is a Math Menu?

**CALLING ALL KINDERGARTNERS** Please spread the word! I know it seems like a long way off, but early prediction of enrollment numbers is crucial to our staffing plans for next year. Thank you!

**PAJAMA DAY** is next Friday, February 1. Students should wear pajamas to school, but they should also be prepared with gym shoes and all outdoor recess gear. Stuffed animals are also permitted, but the stuffed toy should be no larger/longer than the child’s forearm (or distance of hand to elbow).

**BELOW ZERO** temps mean automatic indoor recess days. However, please send students with hats, gloves, and boots anyway, just in case. Also note that in the event of an emergency evacuation (e.g., fire alarm goes off), we are prepared to evacuate to the Northfield Community Church. There is no danger that we would be awaiting first responders outside.

**2/15 PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES** are coming up! Don’t forget to register online at https://www.sunsetridge29.org/parents/february_conference_registration

**MIDDLEFORK NEWS:**
http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school__k-3_

**SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES**

**DISMISSAL:** As a result of the weather forecast for tomorrow through next week, we are implementing an extreme winter weather plan for dismissal.

Students will go directly to their vehicles

The playground and other outdoor spaces are not available
Please be sure your child is dressed for frigid temperatures. Students in shorts, light coats, no hats, etc. are at high risk for frostbite that can happen very quickly.

**LOST AND FOUND:** Our lost and found is full again. Please have your child check it if they are missing something. We will be donating what is left to either Cradles to Crayons or Goodwill on February 15th.

**CLOTHING DONATIONS:** The Families & Children Service League has organized a “Winter Gear” drive. We will be accepting donations from January 22nd until February 14th. All donations will be given to our partnering organization, Cradles to Crayons. The goal of this program this year is to donate coats and winter gear (boots, hats, gloves, scarves) for children in need. The most-needed coat sizes are 3-6 months, 2T, and 4/5-7/8. Please only donate new or barely used items that have no names on them. Donation boxes will be placed near our school office. Kids are in need, and your donation can guarantee a child living in a homeless or low income situation a warm winter.

**CONFERENCE SIGN UP:** Please see your child’s team newsletter for specific instructions on which teachers to sign up for (i.e. all core teachers, advisors only, etc.). Sign up on the [conference page](#) on our website.

**BASKETBALL:** Congratulations to our JV Girls’ and Boys’ Basketball season on a hard fought season. Come cheer on our Varsity Girls as they aim to cap their undefeated season off with a conference championship! They are playing at 4:00 at Sunset Ridge. Student Council will also be selling concessions.

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**#D29CONNECT UPDATES**

We will be sharing updates each week about the different committees of #D29Connect. You can also access information on our website - [click here](#) for a direct link to the #D29Connect page!

**CLICK HERE TO VOTE FOR SERVICE LEAGUES IN THE FOLLETT CHALLENGE!** We entered the Follett Challenge to share the incredible work that our new Service Leagues are doing for our community. Please vote for our video and share with your friends and family! The more votes we get, the more likely we are to win some great prizes for Sunset Ridge.

**UPCOMING AT SRS:**

1/28
Empathy Ambassadors - 7:45 am
Marvel Club - 5th Grade Recess
1/29
Big Books Club - 4th Grade Recess
Giving Club - 4th Grade Recess

1/30
Scribbler Sisters - 5th Grade Recess

1/31
Green Club - 7:30 am
Student Library Advisory Board (SLAB) - 7:45 am

2/1
Student Council - 7:45 am
What’s Up - 6th Grade Recess
Maker Club - 5th Grade Recess
Maker Club - 4th Grade Recess
8th Grade Mid-Winter Party at Wilmette Bowl - 6:00 pm

SUNSET RIDGE NEWS:
http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school__4-8_