CULTIVATING A LEARNING COMMUNITY

The District 29 Mission Statement begins by emphasizing the importance we place on “cultivating a learning community.” Core to that concept is actively partnering with parents and guardians as we develop and implement an educational program “…that engages the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time.”

While there are varying perspectives on when, if, and how a public school should engage students regarding gender identity issues, we could have done a better job “cultivating our learning community” by engaging parents on this topic before surveying students this week about their understanding of gender identity and comfort with talking about it. As the Superintendent of District 29, that responsibility ultimately falls on me, and I want to express my sincere apology for not living up to our mission in this respect.

Please know that we value the trust that you place in us as educators, pledge to learn from this experience, and will move forward with greater transparency and parental collaboration as we navigate this complex topic. As always I welcome your candid feedback, comments, and suggestions.

START YOUR BIDDING!

This year's Wonka Ball mobile auction is live! Even if you cannot attend the event, you can still bid on items right now! Share the link so that friends and family can bid too. Want a baseball lesson from a World Series champion? How about a custom basket from Louis the Child? VIP sports tickets? A personalized experience with your child's teacher? Come take a look, enter your bid, and support your community! http://bidpal.net/wonkaball

You must have a valid cell phone number and credit card on file to bid on items. The silent auction closes at 10:15pm on March 2, 2019. Fixed price items will open at 6:30pm on March 2, 2019. These items include Parent Parties, the Wonka Bar Golden Ticket Raffle, a Heads or Tails Game and many other fun packages. We can't wait to see you tomorrow night at the District 29 PTO Wonka Ball!
ANNUAL FAMILY SERVICE NIGHT
Please join us at the 17th Annual District 29 Family Service Night on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Sunset Ridge School Gymnasium. Continuing the tradition of “Bring Something, Do Something”, this event affords a great opportunity for children, parents, and staff to have a positive impact of several local non-profit organizations. Click on the link below for more information Service Night

MOMO CHALLENGE
As you may have seen in the national news, the “Momo Challenge” is a social media hoax that has popped up again on What’sApp, YouTube, and other social media outlets. It targets children, and encourages self-injurious and high-risk behaviors. See the link for more specifics about Momo. https://2j39y52a62gm1afygb3glxbu-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/MOMO-Online-Safety-Guide-for-Parents-FEB-2019.jpg?fbclid=IwAR17n6iOnlHszMAM8ExWSIhRC LBbNWmJeG-Kxosr96DawcOxgQyA4hq8hOo

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

MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES

THE DEDICATED DOLPHINS are excited to introduce the KIDS HEART CHALLENGE, a new service-learning program from the American Heart Association that will teach your child how to care for his or her heart! The challenge starts on March 4. The Dedicated Dolphins will talk with students about the work the AHA does and challenge their classmates to live healthy lifestyles. They will also sell keychains with heart healthy messages to raise money for AHA research and programs. More information on the keychain sale and how to donate will go home next week.

CODING KIDS REGISTRATION for the spring session goes live (via the website) on March 11 @ 6:00 p.m. Coding for 1st-2nd-3rd graders is first come first served, but priority will be given to students who have not participated in a session this school year. Our spring session begins on April 9.

SPRINGTIME CHESS MEETINGS begin on Friday morning, April 5 @ 7:30 a.m. and run through May 25. Download registration information from the Middlefork News webpage (see link below). New players are ALWAYS welcome to join the great game of chess!

SAVE THESE DATES! Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events; they are not to be missed! More details will be provided through the Friday News as the dates draw nearer:
March 5: Family Service Night
April 8-12, 2019: 3rd grade state testing (make-up testing the w/o 4/15)
April 11: 1st Grade Portfolio Night
April 15-18: 3rd Grade Bike Safety Week
April 25: Volunteer Assembly @ 9:30 a.m.
May 1: 2nd Grade Portfolio Night
May 8: 3rd Grade Portfolio Night
May 23: Spring Sing
May 29: Kindergarten Portfolio Breakfast

**June 7: 3rd grade graduation (9:00 a.m.)**

**SERVICE NIGHT DONATIONS:** We hope to see lots of Middlefork families at next Tuesday night’s Family Service Night in the SRS gym. There’s still time to donate a hygiene item for the New Trier Township Food Pantry. The kits benefit our area’s underserved elderly and disabled population. Kindergarten & 3rd grade=Toothpaste; 1st grade=toothbrush; 2nd grade=bar soap

**LUNCH MENU CHANGE:** The entree for this Monday, 3/4 will be pasta and marinara sauce, NOT stuffed shells!

**NEW TRIER 25th ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL** is fun for kids of all ages! On 3/15 from 5:30-9:00 p.m., the New Trier seniors are hosting one of their biggest fundraisers of the year on the Winnetka Campus. There will be food, games, prizes and raffles, as the entire campus is transformed into a carnival. All of the money raised goes to Habitat for Humanity! To celebrate their 25th year, they’ve added two new activities—Inflatable Bumper Cars and Glow in the Dark Mini-Golf - for a total of 45 booths! There is something for everyone at the carnival and a preschooler will have just as much fun as an eighth grader!

**MIDDLEFORK NEWS:**
[http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school___k-3](http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school___k-3)

**SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES**

**STAGE CREW:** Musical Stage Crew - Are you interested in being a part of the behind-the-scenes crew for our May Musical? Ever wanted to learn how to help with sound, lights, props, and more? Come to our Stage Crew Interest Meeting on Tuesday, March 19th from 3:45-4:45pm in the Auditorium! Contact Mrs. Baldwin for more information.

**END OF TRIMESTER:** Today is the last day of trimester 2. The student portal will be closed from today through March 11th as we generate report cards. The report cards will be emailed home on March 11th. They are in a different format that will hopefully be a little easier to navigate.

**MAKERFAIRE:** Mark Your Calendars! Sunset Ridge is hosting our Maker Faire on Wednesday April 17th from 5:30-7:30pm! Advertised as the "Greatest show (and tell) on Earth," the Maker Faire is part technology fair, part science fair, part craft fair, and part something totally new. Students will be able to showcase their creations/inventions from either at home or at school, as
well as participate in interactive stations where they will be able to build and create small projects to take home. To enter a student project into the Maker Faire or for more information, students can fill out the form on this website: tinyurl.com/srsmakers

8TH GRADE PARENTS ONLY: If you have not already done so, please complete the feedback form from New Trier in regards to the class registration meetings. Click here for the form.

SERVICE NIGHT: We are excited to welcome all families to Parent Connections Service Night on Tuesday! All of the stations are connected to one of our Service Leagues and will have a positive impact on our partners. Please consider donating:

- Children’s Books for Bernie’s Book Bank
- Personal Hygiene Supplies for the New Trier Township Food Pantry.
  - 4th grade - shampoo
  - 5th grade - conditioner
  - 6th grade - shampoo
  - 7th grade - conditioner
  - 8th grade - bars of soap
- Plastic bags for New Life for Old Bags

One Author, One School! Attention SRS Community: it’s time to get reading! Thanks to our generous Middlefork/Sunset Ridge PTO, coming up on April 10 at 10:00am, the one and only Kwame Alexander will be visiting all of our students (4th-8th grade) to talk about his very popular books *The Crossover* and *Booked!* This exciting author visit has a limited number of seats open to our school community. If you would like to reserve a seat, please fill out this form. Spots are available on a first come, first serve basis. Lauren Gray will communicate with you ASAP to confirm your spot at this visit.

Each 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student will be receiving a copy of either *Booked* or *The Crossover*. All 4th and 5th grade classrooms will be receiving class sets of *The Playbook* and *Surf’s Up*. Additionally, the Northfield Public Library is collaborating with SRS to plan programs to get ready for Mr. Alexander’s visit! We encourage you to ask your child about this author visit and read with them. One Author, One School gives us all the opportunity to connect through books and celebrate storytelling together.

To learn more about Kwame Alexander, visit his website (https://kwamealexander.com/). If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Gray (grayl@sunsetridge29.org).

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!

From our Foundations Committee: Thank you so much for your parental input on our Core Values at conference day. Stay tuned for the announcement of the top 5 values!

**UPCOMING AT SRS:**

**3/4**  
Marvel Club - 5th Grade Recess  
Boys VB CHA@SRS JV:4:00pm

**3/5**  
Big Books Club - 4th Grade Recess  
Giving Club - 4th Grade Recess  
Boys VB SRS@Glencoe JV:4:00pm  
Family Service Night! - 6:15 pm @ SRS

**3/6**  
Scribbler Sisters - 5th Grade Recess  
Script Writing/Acting Club - 4th Grade Recess  
Boys VB Washburne Green@SRS JV:4:00pm

**3/7**  
Green Club - 7:30 am  
Student Library Advisory Board (SLAB) - 7:45 am  
Parent Connections - 8:45 am @ SRS Large Conference Room  
Boys VB SRS@Sears JV:4:00pm  
4th grade Band and Orchestra Concert - 7:00 pm

**3/8**  
Student Council - 7:45 am  
What’s Up Club - 6th Grade Recess  
Maker Club - 5th Grade Recess  
Maker Club - 4th Grade Recess

**SUNSET RIDGE NEWS:**

[http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school__4-8_](http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school__4-8_)