NEW STATE-MANDATED ASSESSMENTS
After 4-years of implementation, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has officially abandoned the mandated annual state assessment, known as PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). Beginning this year, all students in grades 3 through 8 are now required to participate in the new Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). Compared to the PARCC assessments, the IAR is reported to contain fewer tests and require less time to complete. District 29 will be administering the IAR testing beginning the week after spring break.

According to ISBE, schools with less than 95% participation in state assessments are ineligible to receive the “Exemplary” designation on the published school report card and schools with any student group that has a participation rate below 95% for three consecutive years will be required to develop and implement a Workplan for School Improvement.

WONKA BALL RESULTS
To all of the parents, teachers, administrators and donors that contributed to the District 29 PTO benefit, the PTO would like to sincerely thank you for your incredible support and generosity. We are overwhelmingly thrilled to share that the Wonka Ball raised more than $70,000 for our district. Your generous donations will allow the PTO to continue improving our children’s educational experience, building relationships between students, fostering relationships within our community, and supporting our amazing staff at both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge. In addition, the PTO will be able to continue the PTO Gifts grant program, as well as make a $25,000 donation to the Middlefork Capital Improvement initiative. We are so grateful!

NEW TRIER WINTER CARNIVAL
New Trier High School’s Senior Class invites local residents, friends, alumni, and children of all ages for a 25-year celebration of its annual Winter Carnival. On Friday, March 15 from 5:30 to 9 p.m., the entire Winnetka Campus, 385 Winnetka Avenue, will be transformed into a carnival ground with activities, prizes, food, and more to celebrate the milestone event. All Township families are encouraged to bring kids to this mega-carnival event!

Sincerely,
Edward J. Stange, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
**MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES**

**5 MPH IS THE SPEED LIMIT** in the Middlefork driveway! Please be cognizant of that as you drive through the center lane. Yes, our plan is for cars to load up and exit efficiently, but doing so SAFELY is always the primary goal. I know 5 MPH can seem interminable, but it’s only a matter of seconds before you are back on Wagner Road, and our children are worth the wait!

**CODING KIDS:** There are still a few seats left in the Wednesday and Thursday morning Coding Kids classes. Contact Mrs. Johnson or access the registration link [here](http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school___k-3) to register your child.

**TUNE UP 3rd GRADE BICYCLES!** The 3rd grade rite of passage - Bike Safety Week - is about a month away (kickoff Friday, April 12), so Spring Break is a great time to pull out your family’s bicycles, check them for size, and/or tune them up, and ensure your child has a proper fitting bike helmet. Also note that students may participate in the Bike Safety unit with scooters as well.

**3/22 EARLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES** include staggered dismissals and use of the entire length of the driveway. Please note that students will be dismissed with the eldest child in their family at the later dismissal time. For example, a 1st grader with a 3rd grade sibling will wait inside until the 11:55 a.m. dismissal time. Please do not go through the line multiple times to pick up children at different grades. In fact, drivers entering the driveway early will be asked to exit and return at the designated time. Thanks for relaying these instructions to the caregiver picking up your child(ren) - it helps get a lot of cars safely through the driveway in 20 minutes!

(Kindergarten dismissal = 11:40; 1st-2nd grades = 11:45; 3rd grade = 11:55)

**NOTE:** K-2nd grade students leaving with 3rd graders will wait inside until 11:55 a.m.

**THE VOTES ARE IN!** Students in kindergarten through second grade have been busy reading the Monarch Book Award nominees over the past few months. This week they voted for their favorites, which will be combined with votes across the state of Illinois to award one picture book title the coveted Monarch Award, the only Illinois book award voted for by k-3 students. The majority of Middlefork Dolphins voted for *Coyote Moon* to win the Monarch Award this year, with *Claymates* following closely behind. Stay tuned for the third graders’ choice for the Bluestem Award. We’ll post the official, statewide recipients of both awards in April.

**LOOSE PARTS RECESS:** Tuesday of this week we were finally able to pull out all of the “loose parts” again and students had a ball at recess. With Spring and Spring cleaning just around the corner, please keep us in mind before you trash “big” items like tarps, clean buckets, heavy duty rope, etc...basically things to build and create with. We’re limited for space, so we may not be able to accept all offers - but it’s worth a try. Thank you!

**MIDDLEFORK NEWS:**
http://www.sunsetridge29.org/schools/middlefork_school___k-3
SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

AFTER SCHOOL: Just a reminder that students CANNOT be inside the school without staff supervision after 4:00 pm. All children should be picked up by 4:00 unless they are in an extracurricular activity. In addition, Middlefork parents, please supervise your child if they are playing on the playground. We have had an increase in unsafe behaviors outside at between 3:15 and 3:30.

BRAVO to our Junior High Band, Orchestra and Choir on an outstanding performance last night. They demonstrated fabulous musicianship and their hard work has certainly paid off!

SPRING BREAK SPIRIT WEEK
MONDAY - NCAA March Madness Day - Support your favorite team
TUESDAY - VACATION Day
WEDNESDAY - SPRING TRAINING Day - Support your favorite baseball team
THURSDAY - PAJAMA Day
FRIDAY - SRS SPIRITWEAR

ONE AUTHOR, ONE SCHOOL: This week, all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders received a copy of either Booked or The Crossover by Kwame Alexander. All 4th and 5th graders received class sets of Kwame Alexander’s books Surf’s Up, Out of Wonder, and The Playbook. Thank you, PTO, for generously supplying us with books for our upcoming author visit! Please encourage your children to read Kwame Alexander’s books in preparation for his visit on April 10! We also encourage you to read these books with your student(s)! If you can join us for his visit on April 10 at 10am, please fill out this form to reserve a seat. We’re also partnering with the Northfield Public Library to get ready for this special event! On April 3, join us at the public library as we watch and discuss Kwame Alexander’s TED Talk “The Power of Yes.” To sign up, click here.

CONGRATULATIONS! Our Robotics teams both performed fantastically at the state competition. The Chicago Hubs qualified in not just one, but two categories to attend the World Championship in Louisville next month.

BOYS’ JV VOLLEYBALL Congratulations to our Boys’ JV Volleyball team completed a season of growth and learning. We can’t wait to see what they bring to their Varsity season!

IAR TESTING: Testing is happening after spring break. In preparation, please make sure your child has headphones and pencils. Headphones are required for us to administer the test. Thank you for your attention to this.

SAVE THE DATE: Please join us for the 2nd annual Nora Night celebration, on Monday, May 6th at 6:15pm. We will be celebrating the amazing friendships we’ve made with our Nora friends. The night will include a video montage of our friendships as well as games, activities and a fun photo booth! We hope to see you all there.
**UPCOMING AT SRS:**

*These are the upcoming events at Sunset Ridge. At times, clubs may be canceled due to staff obligations. If they are canceled, teachers will inform the students involved.*

3/18
**March Madness Day**
Marvel Club - 5th Grade Recess

3/19
**Spring Vacation Day**
Big Books Club - 4th Grade Recess
Giving Club - 4th Grade Recess

3/20
**Spring Training Day**
Scribbler Sisters - 5th Grade Recess
Script Writing/Acting Club - 4th Grade Recess
D&D Tabletop Gaming Club - 8th Grade Recess

3/21
**Pajama Day**
Green Club - 7:30 am
Maker Fair Open Design Studio - 7:45 am

3/22
**SRS Spirit Wear Day**
Student Council - 7:45 am
Early Release at 12:00 pm

**SUNSET RIDGE NEWS:**

[http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school__4-8_](http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school__4-8_)
R.S.V.P.

bit.ly/NTParentEngage