THANK YOU PTO!
On behalf of all District 29 staff, I want to send a BIG THANK YOU to the PTO for the dinner provided during Parent-Teacher conference! We know this is a lot of work for parents on a night when scheduling is tough to begin with. The meals were outstanding and very appreciated!

SNOW DAY
Closing school is always a multifaceted and difficult decision for superintendents. We typically prefer to make the decision the night before a closing to allow parents sufficient time to make supervision plans. This Monday, the New Trier Township group spoke throughout Sunday night and early Monday morning about the weather and finally decided to close at 4 a.m. Monday morning. Whenever our schools close, you will receive notification through our emergency contact (i.e., phone, email, text) system. We also post the closing on our District 29 homepage, and at http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com/complete.html.

Due to the closing on Monday, the 2018-2019 school year will be extended a minimum of 1 day (new last day is Thursday, June 6, 2019). Additional days may be added if future closings are required this year. Eighth-grade graduation will not be impacted by school closings, and remains scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

PTO HOLIDAY GIFTS PROJECT: NORTHWESTERN SETTLEMENT HOUSE
For many years, Middlefork and Sunset Ridge families have participated in a holiday gift project to benefit the Northwestern University Settlement House. This provides our children with the opportunity to help 25 less fortunate families by providing holiday gifts. This is a voluntary project, but we hope to encourage all of our students to participate. As in past years, each classroom will sponsor a specific family.

For grades K-4, each student has been assigned a family member in a letter that went home last week. A reasonable amount of money to spend is $20-$25. Please keep in mind that most gift recipients will have more than one student buying for them so we strongly suggest coordinating with classmates to avoid gift duplication. Each K-3 student should bring their wrapped gifts and/or gift cards to their classroom by Monday, December 10th.

Students in 5th-8th grades will be taking a field trip to shop for their families. 7th and 8th grades will shop on Thursday, December 6th. 5th and 6th grades will shop on Friday, December 7th.
Please send your 5th-8th grade student(s) to school with $20-$25 by Monday, December 3rd to give to their advisor/homeroom teacher to hold.

FEEDBACK REQUEST: PTO TEACHER GIFTS GRANT PROGRAM
As part of the PTO Teacher Gifts Grant Program, the PTO Teacher Gifts Grant Committee (formerly Ways and Means) collects funding requests made by teachers, staff, parents or students that fall outside of the line item PTO or school budget, but also provide additional opportunities for D29 students. Because of your generous donations and participation in PTO fundraising efforts, the PTO is able to grant $15,000 to the PTO Teacher Gifts program this year. The proposals are now available on the PTO website at http://district29pto.org/pto-teacher-gifts/ for your review. Please send your feedback to Erica Marinello at president_elect@district29pto.org by Monday, December 3rd.

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

MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES

THANKS FOR TROTTING! Even with rescheduling due to the snow day, we had a great turnout for the 12th Annual Post-Thanksgiving Turkey Trot on Tuesday. Thank you, parents, grandparents, sitters, siblings, and friends, for exercising with us!

NEW IN THE MIDDLEFORK LUNCHROOM: Starting next week, students who do not purchase the plate lunch will have the option of purchasing the standard 4 oz. fruit cup as an a la carte item, similar to the way they purchase milk or water.

REGISTER FOR WINTER CHESS: See the Middlefork News page for more information and to download registration paperwork for the next session. New players are always welcome!

1st-3rd GRADE CODING KIDS REGISTRATION: Registration for the Winter Session of 1st-3rd Grade Coding Kids classes will go live on Monday evening, December 10, at 6:00 p.m. Note that registration is limited and fills up quickly. Priority will be given to students who have not yet participated in a coding class. A waiting list (for Spring) will also be formed. Coding Kids Registration

KINDERGARTEN CODING KIDS: The last class for Session 1 of Kindergarten Coding Kids is Tuesday, December 11. Session 2 will meet at 1:50 pm Tuesdays, 1/8-2/19/19. Session 2 is currently full, but there are still openings in the kindergarten sessions 3 and 4. If your kindergartner is interested, contact Mrs. Johnson at johnsonk@sunsetridge29.org.
HOUR OF CODE WEEK BEGINS 12-3-18: Parents are invited to catch a glimpse of students’ coding activities during Computer Science Education Week (12/3-12/7). Come participate in one of our coding classes next 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.

CHECK OUT THE MIDDLEFORK MUSIC WEBSITE: Students are encouraged to access Mrs. Rosen’s music webpage to listen to and/or practice their songs for the upcoming winter concerts. http://sunsetridge29.ss18.sharpschool.com/cms/one.aspx?portalId=570623&pageId=1207342

REMINDERS: **Mrs. Johnson's November Reading Challenge is coming to an end. Please be sure to turn in your forms by this Monday to claim your rewards!**  
**Necessary winter gear for recess play: Snow pants, jacket, waterproof gloves, boots, hat.**  
**12/21 early dismissal day for students: 11:40 (K); 11:45 (1st-2nd); 11:55 (3rd).**  
**Winter concerts: 12/19 @ 7:00 (1st-3rd) and 1/17 @ 6:30 (kinder).**  
**Birthday lunches this month: June ½ B-day on 12/7 and December B-day on 12/14.**  
**Northwestern Settlement House gift deadline: 12/10.**

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

SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

DISMISSAL: We love having our Middlefork siblings over at Sunset Ridge at dismissal! Please remember that parents are responsible for supervision. With this winter weather, we’ve had several instances of younger siblings throwing snow and ice, which is obviously dangerous and unacceptable. Please help us keep our dismissal time safe for everyone.

SRS GREEN CLUB: 
Holiday Lights Recycling 
Do you have any holiday lights that don’t work or that you don’t use anymore? The Village of Northfield, Go Green Northfield, and the Northfield Park District in partnership with Elgin Recycling are sponsoring a holiday lights recycling program. It will run from November 26 - January 31. Mini-lights, Italian lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights and extensions cords can be recycled through this program. Bins are set up outside the Northfield Community Center, Village of Northfield and in the vestibule at Sunset Ridge School. If you have any questions, contact Pilar Westfall at westfallp@sunsetridge29.org.

HOUR OF CODE: We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning how technology works. Only 35% of all high schools teach computer science.
That’s why our entire school is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (December 3-9). More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code. Our Hour of Code is making a statement that Sunset Ridge is ready to teach these foundational 21st-century skills.

All students will have an opportunity to participate in Hour of Code next week in the Learning Center! Ask your child about Hour of Code, and look for our displays in the Learning Center windows next week as our students practice binary code together by creating Post-It note pixel art.

See http://hourofcode.com/us for details, and help spread the word.

2ND CUP: Join Dr. Sukenik on Monday, December 3rd at 9:00 am in the SRS large conference room for a 2nd Cup. The topic is an overview and update of the Sunset Ridge SEL program, D29Connect. This includes Service Leagues, Foundations (school-wide behavior), Community Education, Social Justice, and Colleague to Colleague.

MOVIE NIGHT: Student Council is hosting a Winter Movie Night on December 14th from 4:00-6:00. The event is $5 and open to all 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. They will be showing Home Alone and providing pizza. Concessions will be sold separately. A free concession will be given to any student who brings in a winter hat to donate! Hope to see many 4th, 5th, and 6th graders there.

**#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!

We will welcome Andy Duran of LEAD to help us gain some insight into the vaping epidemic and how we can help our children navigate these challenging times. He will be at the Sunset Ridge auditorium at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 6th. This evening is open to the entire District 29 community. Please join us for this important evening.

**UPCOMING AT SRS:**

12/3
2nd Cup with Dr. Sukenik - SEL/D29Connect - 9:00 am in SRS Large Conference Room

12/4
6th Grade Basketball vs. OLPH - 4:00 pm

12/5
JV/Varsity Girls Basketball vs. Washburne - 4:00 pm
JV Boys Basketball @ Washburne - 4:00 pm

12/6
Northwest Settlement House shopping - 7th and 8th grade
Parent Connections - 8:45 am in SRS Large Conference Room
JV/Varsity Girls Basketball @ CHA - 4:00 pm
Varsity Boys Basketball vs. CHA - 4:00 pm
Andy Duran - Vaping Presentation - 7:00 pm at the Sunset Ridge Auditorium

12/7
Northwest Settlement House shopping - 5th and 6th grade

SUNSET RIDGE NEWS WEBPAGE