PARENT CONNECTIONS RECAP
This week at the Parent Connections meeting, we explored opportunities for parents to give input in decision making in the District. We discussed existing opportunities for input in staffing/hiring decisions, curriculum & instruction, and finances. Participants offered their suggestions for areas where parents might like to have greater input and mechanisms for collecting parent input. The agendas and minutes from all Parent Connections meetings re posted on the D29 website at https://sunsetridge29.org/parents/parent_connections

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.

Students in 5th-8th grades shopped for their families yesterday and today. For grades K-4, each student has been assigned a family member in a letter that went home. 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.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS
Beginning in January, the PTO will bring the Junior Great Books reading program to students in 2nd and 3rd grade. The literature selected by the Junior Great Books organization challenges students, sparks their ideas, and promotes thoughtful discussion. The program is offered to students during their lunch periods. Additional details and registration information, due December 19, were sent home in students’ backpacks this week. Contact Margie Huber huber650@comcast.net with any questions.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

The Education Committee is a subsection of the Board of Education that is charged with oversight of the District’s curriculum and instructional practices. The next Education Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Legacy Room at Sunset Ridge School. The topic for this meeting will be an update on Strategic Plan goals related to K-3 Social Studies, the Museum of Science and Industry partnership, D29 Connect SEL activities at Sunset Ridge, K-3 SEL work, 4-8 Computer Science, and Special Education. All are welcome to attend and participation is encouraged. Education Committee meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are available on the website at https://sunsetridge29.org/board_of_education/board_meetings/18-19_agendas

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

MIDDLEFORK HEADLINES

DEDICATED DOLPHINS are selling a Winter Fun book filled with over 50 coloring pages and puzzles made by the 2nd and 3rd grade members. Order forms went home in backpacks today (12/7). The suggested donation is $1/book, and all proceeds will benefit victims of the California wildfires. Books will be sent home the week of December 17.

LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS are being donated by first and third grade families this Tuesday, 12/11. Please note that the lunches will be picked up for delivery by 9:15 a.m. this week. Thank you for your continued support of this long-standing service to the shelter at the Second Baptist Church in Evanston.

HOUR OF CODE NEWS: Thank you to all of the parents that joined us for coding classes this week. It was great sharing what our coders have been learning and exploring! During Hour of Code Week, all Middlefork students were busy programming. Kindergartners worked as programmers, robots, and debuggers using maps to code each other. First graders worked in pairs to write algorithms for each other to dance. Second grade students collaboratively "broke out" of a loop by solving different coding puzzles. Third graders used Scratch to program animals to dance to popular music. During Makerspace, students coded BB-8 and Sphero robots, wrote color codes for Ozobots, and participated in a digital “breakout” box.

NEWS FROM THE LEARNING CENTER: Congratulations to all of the students who completed Mrs. Johnson’s November Reading Challenge! A whopping 57 students participated, reading a grand total of 880 books! Way to go, Dolphins! Look for another challenge to come home around February.

CODING CLASSES:

**Registration for the Winter Session of 1st-3rd Grade Coding Kids classes goes live on Monday
evening, December 10, at 6:00 p.m. Once the class is filled, a waiting list (for Spring) will be formed. Coding Kids Registration
**Session 2 of Kindergarten Coding Kids meets at 1:50 pm Tuesdays, 1/8-2/19/19. While Session
2 is currently full, there are still openings in the kindergarten sessions 3 and 4. If your
kindergartner is interested, contact Mrs. Johnson at johnsonk@sunsetridge29.org.

STUDENTS SOLVING SIMPLE PROBLEMS (INDEPENDENTLY): Even responsible,
easygoing, kind, and self-regulated students are going to find themselves in simple conflicts with
peers, whether that involves choosing between options, struggling with sharing, or deciding a
course of action. That’s why we teach students a three-step approach to solving simple, common
issues - so that students can start filling their problem-solving toolkits with effective strategies.
Our continuum of conflict resolution strategies starts with a good old-fashioned game of
“rock-paper-scissors”. It’s simple and quick! Next is “Compromise,” which we characterize as
both sides meeting in the middle. And finally, there’s “Choose Kind!” which includes doing what
the other person wants because it’s ALSO a good idea. This is a popular choice among third
graders on the recess playground, who have finally figured out that arguing over boundaries,
goals, etc. is wasting precious play time! We hope you will encourage your children to employ
one these strategies at home the next time they come to you with a simply remedied conflict.

REMINDERS:
**Register for Winter Chess via the Middlefork News page. New players are always welcome!
**12/21 early dismissal day for students: 11:40 (K); 11:45 (1st-2nd); 11:55 (3rd).
**Students now 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.
**December Birthday Lunch is 12/14.
**Northwestern Settlement House gift deadline is 12/10.
**Practice Winter Sing songs @ http://sunsetridge29.ss18.sharpschool.com/cms/one.aspx?portalId=570623&pageId=1207342

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

SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

VAPING PRESENTATION: Thank you to parents who came out last night to attend the
informative vaping presentation. We are working to get a recording of the presentation out to the
community shortly.

SRS GREEN CLUB:
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:** Thank you to everyone for participating in an amazing Hour of Code week! We’ve been celebrating coding and computer science in every grade, and we’ve had a blast creating our Post-It pixel art in the Learning Center windows. Be sure to check out our “SRS CODES” design in the windows looking out to Willow Road. Keep coding, SRS! If you’d like to keep coding at home, visit [https://code.org/](https://code.org/) for more activities!

**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.

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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](https://code.org/) for a direct link to the #D29Connect page!

The Colleague to Colleague Committee continues to work and build rapport with our colleagues. As the holidays are approaching the staff will participate in theme days that were set by our Student Council. We look forward to having some fun and excitement with our students throughout this week. After the holidays we will be assisting Miss Golub and her Empathy Ambassadors Team to assist with Random Act of Kindness Week which will take place in February. We will also be planning and developing activities for our Wellness Month for our Colleagues with Mrs. Curry for the month of February. Our committee also would like to wish all of you the healthiest and a happiest holiday season! Enjoy time with your families.

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### UPCOMING AT SRS:

#### 12/10
- Marvel Club - 5th grade recess
- Girls Basketball @ Glencoe - 4:00 pm
- Boys JV Basketball vs. Glencoe - 4:00 pm

#### 12/11
- PTO Meeting @ Northfield Park District - 9:00 am
- 6th Grade Boys Basketball vs. Field - 4:00 pm
- 6th Grade Girls Basketball vs. Field - 5:00 pm
- Education Committee Meeting - 6:00 pm
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/12</td>
<td>Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>12/12</td>
<td>Girls Basketball vs. Sears - 4:00 pm</td>
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<td>Boys Varsity Basketball @ Sears - 4:00 pm</td>
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<td>12/13</td>
<td>Girls Basketball vs. Marie Murphy - 4:00 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Boys Junior Varsity Basketball @ Marie Murphy - 4:00 pm</td>
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<td>5th Grade Band and Orchestra Concert - 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>12/14</td>
<td>Student Council Meeting - 7:45 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Student Council 4th, 5th, and 6th grade Movie Night - 4:00 - 6:00 pm</td>
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