UPDATE ON SITUATION AT SUNSET RIDGE

I hope you received the communication that was sent yesterday to our staff and community. If not, please contact me to make sure you are on our email list.

It is critically important to understand that the victims in this situation may receive more specific information from the police than we, the school, are entitled to receive. This can be frustrating to everyone involved as partial pieces of information shared with some but not everyone often generate more questions than answers. That being said, I promise you that everyday I strive to act and lead with integrity, which includes being honest and transparent in my communications and only sharing information that has been appropriately verified. Finally, we are committed to thoroughly understanding what happened, how it happened, and what should be done moving forward. To that end, the police are working on a thorough investigation of the case. The Board’s independent investigator is working to determine what policies and actions/inactions contributed to this situation. And we will work together to determine how to move forward.

I appreciate your patience, support, and your trust as we work through all aspects of the situation.

FROM THE NURSE’S OFFICE

The Illinois Department of Public Health has issued a guidance document regarding the recent outbreak of the Corona Virus. You can read the entire document at (dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus). In the meantime, they are recommending the following practices:

· Avoid non-essential travel to China. CDC has issued a Level 3 Travel Alert.
· Stay informed. Visit CDC, IDPH, WHO websites and listen to the news.
· Practice the 3 C’s:
  – Cover coughs and sneezes with elbow or tissue
  – Clean hands frequently with warm water and soap
  – Contain your germs by staying home when sick

Sincerely,
Edward J. Stange, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
LAST WEEK’S DEDICATED DOLPHINS bookmark sale was a big success! The 2nd grade Dedicated Dolphins created original bookmarks that students “purchased” with non-perishable food item donations. The 3rd grade Dedicated Dolphins helped out by sorting and boxing the donations to be delivered to the Northfield Township Food Pantry, 12 large boxes in all. Thank you to all the students and families that participated!

HEALTH OFFICE NEWS: Middlefork has been experiencing an unusual incidence of illness this past week. We have numerous students reporting coughs and fevers and a few with strep throat, as well as 5 confirmed cases of influenza B in third grade. We also have 2 reports of influenza A (K & 1st) and one case of RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) in kindergarten. Thank you for ensuring your child is fever free for 24 hours before allowing him/her to return to school and for reinforcing the following lessons practiced at school: frequent handwashing; coughing and sneezing into one’s elbow (not one’s hands); follow-up hand washing; and proper disposal of tissues. As Mrs. Mertes has previously communicated, we are paying extra attention to our normal cleaning routines, especially in the third grade classrooms, which currently have had the highest absentee rate. See the CDC website at https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/keyfacts.htm for more information regarding influenza.

PROGRESS REPORT NEWS: Middlefork student progress reports (1st, 2nd, 3rd grades) will now be available to parents electronically via PowerSchool, District 29’s student information system. Each parent should have received a letter in the mail last week that contained your Middlefork child(ren)’s unique identification code(s), as well as instructions for: 1) establishing a new account with PowerSchool; or 2) adding your Middlefork child(ren) to your existing account. If you already have a PowerSchool account for your Sunset Ridge child, it is only necessary to add your Middlefork student(s)’ information to your existing account. Progress reports for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade students will be available for viewing prior to the 2/14 Parent-Teacher Conference day. Kindergarten progress reports will be shared electronically in June 2020. If you did not receive your letter or have any questions, please email Oscar Garcia garciao@sunsetridge29.org.

CALLING ALL INCOMING 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. We had a great turnout for registration, but it would be wonderful to solidify a third section of kindergarten in February. Thank you!

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF REMINDERS:
- 1st & 2nd graders are NOT walking out the door at 3:00 p.m. - more like 3:03, 3:04, or 3:05 p.m.. Learning stops at 3:00 p.m., and then they have to pack up! You are requested NOT to line up in the driveway 5, 10, or 15 minutes prior to 3:00 p.m.!
- To drivers picking up 2nd/3rd graders, it is imperative that cars in the center lane of the driveway, awaiting entry to the 2nd/3rd grade pick-up line, DO NOT sit and wait for an
opening or angle partway into the line. If you can’t enter the line, then park or go around again. Waiting in the center lane prevents the cars behind you from exiting the first grade pick-up line. That in turn holds everything up on Wagner Road.

- To parents with caregivers picking up your children, it is imperative that you share these instructions (and those on the website) with anyone driving your child(ren).
- If everyone follows the instructions, 150 students safely exit the building and get picked up/met in about 10 minutes! THANK YOU!

PJ DAY WAS A HIT! Many thanks to the D29 PTO for a terrific “fractured fairy tales” assembly with the Great Lakes Theater Company, to our Reading Buddies for sharing their books, and finally to Mr. Rojas for making a tasty breakfast menu for lunch. There really is some truth to the adage, “Life is better in pajamas!”

FROM THE LEARNING CENTER: Click here to read Mrs. Johnson's Learning Center news!

SPANISH CLUB STATUS: Registration is still open for the 2nd & 3rd grade after school Spanish Clubs. Spanish Club Registration Link. ¡Fantástico!

ALP CONFERENCES: If you would like to schedule a conference with ALP teachers, Mrs. Brouilette and/or Dr. Pauls, please contact them directly (brouilettem@sunsetridge29.org, paulsb@sunsetridge29.org) to set up a 2/14 conference time. (a.m. = Middlefork, p.m. = Sunset Ridge).

COMING UP:
- 2/10 Officer Friendly Visit (Household Drugs & Poisons)
- 2/13; 2nd Cup of Coffee w/Dr. Greene 6:30 p.m.
- 2/14 Parent-Teacher Conferences Register online here before 2/12
- 2/20 Kindergarten Family Math Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 2/21 February Birthday Lunch
- 2/28 August ½ Birthday Lunch

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

SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

CONFERENCES: Click here for instructions on how to make an appointment for a February 14th parent-teacher conference. Registration is open and will end on February 12th at 8:00pm.
If you would like to schedule a separate meeting with any student services teacher, including Mrs. Furman (4th), Mrs. Bauer (5th), Mrs. Rasso (6th), Ms. Koliopoulos (7th), Mrs. Schur (8th), Mrs. Allen (Psychologist), Mrs. Dorsey (Behavior Interventionist), Mrs. Hope (Psychology Intern) or Mrs. Pengiel (Speech- Language Pathologist), please contact that teacher directly to set up a time.

If you would like to schedule a conference with ALP teachers, Mrs. Brouilette and/or Dr. Pauls, please contact them directly (brouilettem@sunsetridge29.org, paulsb@sunsetridge29.org) to set up a conference time. On February 14th, they will be at Middlefork School for morning conferences from 8:00am - 11:00am, and at Sunset Ridge School for afternoon conferences from 12:15pm - 2:30pm.

**HEALTH OFFICE NEWS**: It's that time of year again when colds and coughs are all around us! We also had strep throat reported in Grade 4 and Grade 6. It is helpful when a student is called in absent if parents report "Influenza A or B" if confirmed. Currently, there are confirmed cases of Influenza A in Grade 4 and Grade 5. Often a voicemail is left that the student is "sick"-that makes tracking illness trends difficult. Thank you for your cooperation-your's in health - Linda

**CONGRATULATIONS!**: One of our fifth grade teachers, Mrs. Gonzalez, gave birth to a baby girl this week. Isabel Lorraine Gonzalez, 6lbs 8oz, 18 3/4". The whole family is doing well!

**CONGRATULATIONS PART 2**: CONGRATULATIONS to the SRS Robotics Teams for attending their first competition this past weekend! Their problem-solving, collaboration, and perseverance made SRS proud. Special shout-out to Heroes of the Hexagon for winning the Spirit Award and to Team Team for winning 2nd place Teamwork Alliance! An extra congrats to the following teams that qualified for the Illinois State VEX IQ Championships: Team Team, Majestic Hedgehogs, and Team [Insert Name Here]! Way to go, Eagles!

**CONGRATULATIONS PART 3**: Our Geography Bee champion Caleb Sim, runner up Logan Pick, and all of our Geography Bee participants!

**UPCOMING AT SRS:**

2/10
Boys’ Volleyball vs. CHA @ SRS - 4:00 pm

2/11
PTO Meeting - 9:00 am
Education Committee Meeting - 5:30 pm
Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 pm

2/14
NO SCHOOL
Student-Led Parent-Teacher Conferences - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

2/17
NO SCHOOL

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