FRIDAY NEWS
December 20, 2019

WINTER BREAK HOURS
Our schools are closed from 12/23/2019-1/05/2020. While there may be some administrators and office staff present in our schools over the break, this is also a time when many of them take days off. If you need something at one of our schools over the break, please phone first to ensure that someone is in the building when you arrive. If you have an urgent need over the break, feel free to email me personally at stangee@sunsetridge29.org and I can try to address your issue.

SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY
The Illinois State Board of Education mandates that each public school in the state to annually participate in a school climate survey, known as the “Illinois 5Essentials.” The survey provides school and district leaders feedback about school improvement efforts, and the data are published on each school’s annual report card. All staff members, students in grades 4-12, and parents/guardians are invited to participate. Students will complete the survey in school after the winter break. Parents/guardians can complete the survey any time before February 14, 2020 by visiting https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/.

PARENT CONNECTIONS DISCIPLINE DISCUSSION
At our December meeting we reviewed several legal parameters relative to enacting discipline in public schools, and began a discussion of “Best Practices” literature on the subject. If you were unable to attend that meeting, a copy of the presentation is available from the Parent Connections link on our website.

At the January 22, 2020 meeting, participants will be given the opportunity to share their feedback on our current discipline policies and practices, and provide input on how the District can improve. All of this information will be shared with the Education Committee and the District 29 Board of Education at their February meeting.

This is a meaningful opportunity for parents and guardians to share their input regarding this important topic. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you have thoughts or input on this subject, and are unable to attend our meetings, please contact me and I would be happy to meet with you individually.

Sincerely,
Edward J. Stange, Ph.D.
CALLING ALL NEW KINDERGARTNERS! Parents of District 29 resident children who will be five years old by September 1, 2020, may register them for 2020-21 kindergarten on January 22, 2020 from 2-4:00 and 6-7:00 p.m. in the Middlefork Lobby. The registration process begins with residency verification. This is true for ALL families, including those with students presently registered in District 29 schools. Additionally, parents or guardians of each prospective kindergarten student must provide the child's official birth certificate (WE will make and retain a copy). Specific directions for the residency verification and subsequent registration can be found under the Parent tab on the District 29 website. Early enrollment figures are critical to staffing plans for the upcoming school year, so we appreciate everyone spreading the word and registering in January!

PLEASE NOTE that District 29 also has procedures in place to assess a student's readiness for advanced placement to kindergarten and/or first grade. If your child does not meet the state's birth date cut-off, and you feel he or she is ready for entrance to kindergarten or first grade, please contact Dr. Greene to learn about the application process and timetable.

NEW YEAR WISHES: On behalf of all of us at Middlefork School, thank you for entrusting your wonderful children to us everyday and for being such supportive partners in their education. We are thankful to come to work everyday and be in the company of 200 sweet, smart, spirited Dolphins!

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS is a reading program offered annually by the PTO to 2nd and 3rd graders. Registration ends today, but we still have a few spots open at each grade. This is a wonderful opportunity for students who enjoy reading and talking about literature to spend a lunch and recess period together once a week during the winter months. If you would like to register your 2nd or 3rd grader or you have questions about the program, please contact Dr. Greene <greenem@sunsetridge29.org> or Patricia Gainsberg <triciagainsberg@icloud.com> before January 7.

WINTER PROGRESS REPORTS: At the beginning of January, you will receive instructions for establishing a PowerSchool account/login. Then, when progress reports are ready, you will be able to view, and if you wish, download/print the document. Grades 1-3 progress reports are paperless as of February 2020! Kindergarten joins forces in May 2020.

WINTER BREAK & OFFICE HOURS: Classes are not in session during the weeks of 12/23 and 12/30. The Middlefork Office will be open December 30-31 and January 3 from 8:00-3:00 p.m. In the event of something urgent, please contact the SRS office or email Dr. Greene @ greenem@sunsetridge29.org.
**KINDERGARTEN WINTER SING** is Thursday, 1/23/20 @ 6:30 p.m. Here is a link to the concert music should your child want to practice over the break: https://www.sunsetridge29.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=570623&pageId=26081909

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

### SUNSET RIDGE HEADLINES

**BRAVO:** Congratulations to all of our choir, band, and orchestra participants on a lovely holiday concert this past week. Thank you to all of the friends and family who attended and supported our music programs!

**INTERESTING ARTICLE:** WE found this article to be interesting and helpful in talking about the importance of being successful AND kind. Take a few moments to read it and discuss with your kids:

**NEWS FROM THE LC:** Happy Holidays from the Sunset Ridge Learning Center!
https://www.smore.com/rhp91

**FROM PE:** Check out this interesting TED Talk from our PE department:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azuBmRnRYpo

**WINTER BREAK & OFFICE HOURS:** There are no classes from December 23rd - January 3rd. The Sunset Ridge office will be open intermittently throughout the break so please call before stopping by. In the event of something urgent, please contact the Middlefork office or email Dr. Sukenik at sukeniki@sunsetridge29.org.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS:** As we head into winter break, I want to thank all of our families for partnering with us to help nurture and support your children each and every day. We all feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of this community and lucky to be entrusted with your most precious and valuable humans!

**UPCOMING AT SRS:**
1/6
6th Grade Basketball vs. Hillel Torah @ SRS

1/8
Girls’ Basketball vs. Wilmette @ SRS
Boys’ Basketball @ Wilmette
6th Grade Basketball @ Roundout
1/9
Girls’ Basketball vs. Sears @ SRS
Boys’ Basketball @ Sears

1/10
School-wide Spelling Bee @ 2:00

SUNSET RIDGE NEWS:
http://sunsetridge29.org/schools/sunset_ridge_school_4-8