

The Eagle-Dolphin Digest

District 29 Monthly School Newsletter

December 2011



The Eagle-Dolphin Digest will be published on the 1st day of each month. For submissions, please email Marie LaPlante (marietlaplante1@gmail.com) by the 25th to be included in the upcoming month's newsletter.

Would you like your child's artwork featured on the cover of future monthly newsletters? Send their masterpieces to marietlaplante1@gmail.com

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SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29

525 Sunset Ridge Road • Northfield, Illinois • 60093
847 881 9400 • Fax: 847 446 6388 • www.sunsetridge29.net

Cultivating a learning community that engages the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time

December 1, 2011

Dear Sunset Ridge and Middlefork Parents,

It was great seeing many of you at Parent Teacher Conferences last week. I hope you found the conversations with your children's teachers to be informative and productive. Even though official conferences are now over, please do not hesitate to contact us should you ever have a question or concern.

School Improvement Day - Friday, December 16

Our second School Improvement Day will be held on Friday, December 16. Students will attend school for a half day, and lunch will not be available. Students should arrive at their regular time in the morning. The early dismissal times are as follows:

Grades K-2 11:45 a.m.
Grade 3 11:55 a.m.
Grades 4-8 12:00 p.m.

The Northfield Park District has planned some activities for Middlefork students who wish to spend the afternoon with them. Visit the Park District's website at www.northfieldparkdistrict.org for registration information.

The staff will use the School Improvement Day to work on math standards and to discuss "21st century skills." While we already incorporate 21st century skills in our programs, there is more that we can do to prepare our students to be successful global citizens. Critical thinking/problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity/innovation, make up the "4 C's" of 21st century learning. These skills, along with information, media and technology skills support instruction in the traditional core subject areas. These elements are the critical systems necessary to ensure 21st century readiness for every student. Twenty-first century standards, assessments, curriculum, instruction, professional development and learning environments must be aligned to produce a support system that produces 21st century outcomes for today's students.

Thank You for Your Input!

Thank you for taking time to provide us with your thoughts and suggestions in our recent District survey. Bill Foster, President of School Perceptions, will be attending the Board of Education meeting on January 10, 2012, to present the survey report to the Board. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the Sunset Ridge Learning Center. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Sounds of the Season

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming winter programs: the Middlefork Winter Sing on December 8, the Sunset Ridge Band, Orchestra, and Choir Winter Concert on December 13, and the Kindergarten Winter Sing on December 14. These wonderful musical traditions provide students and parents with an opportunity to celebrate the sounds of the season while showcasing our students' musical talent. The Kindergarten program begins at 6:30 p.m. while the other two concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. I hope to see you there!

Winter Break

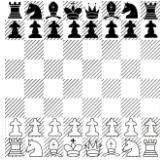
School will be closed for Winter Break from Monday, December 19 through Monday, January 2. Please note that Monday, January 2 is the legal New Year's Day holiday this year. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

The Middlefork and Sunset Ridge office employees are looking forward to spending time with their families over break. Therefore, both school offices will have reduced hours. Please call ahead before stopping by.



Test Message for Blackboard Connect

I love snow, but in small quantities and on the weekends! I hope it won't be necessary to have any "snow days" this year, but we have updated our Blackboard Connect automated phone system in the event we need to cancel school because of severe winter weather conditions. Due to the number of updates recently made to contact numbers, we will be doing a test call on Monday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. to make sure everyone is in the system. Please contact Jamie O'Connor at aconnorj@sunsetridge29.org if you do not receive your message that night.



Middlefork and Sunset Ridge Chess

District 29 and Chess Education Partners will team up for a second term at both Middlefork and Sunset Ridge Schools beginning in January. See the flyers in this month's Eagle/Dolphin Digest for registration and contact information.

As always, please contact your child's teacher, your principal or me if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Vieth, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWS NOTES

THE BEES ARE BUZZIN’: We are excited about our upcoming Spelling and Geography Bees. We have twenty-five students registered for the 7:00 p.m. January 12th Spelling Bee and twelve students who will take center stage for our first annual National Geographic Society Geography Bee. The Geography Bee will take place at 9:00 a.m. on December 16th.

Students have received study packets to use as they prepare to compete. We stress to all participants that the main focus of our “bees” is to build upon their academic interests. For the Spelling Bee, we emphasize learning word origins, word spelling patterns, meaning and application of the words. The Geography Bee covers physical geography as well as political, economic and cultural geography.

Those of us in the audience appreciate the extra work students take on whenever they participate in an extracurricular program. Kudos to all our students for doing their best as learners and for taking advantage of extended learning experiences that tap into their interests and strengths.

HOLIDAY CONCERT: Our band, orchestra and choir members are preparing for their December 13th Holiday Concert. There will be an afternoon “dress rehearsal” for our students and staff and a 7:00 p.m. evening program for the community. The students and music directors on stage appreciate the support from the audience in giving their undivided attention to the performance. We ask that parents keep children with them to provide them some extra support in learning audience protocols.

RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY USE: We appreciate working with you and your children to help them become responsible users of technology. The digital age challenges us to have critical conversations about what is appropriate to send into cyberspace. Every item sent leaves a digital record and says something about us as global citizens. We caution students to use all sites respectfully, responsibly and safely. Here are some guiding questions students should use when they send something on-line: *Is what I am sending or receiving embarrassing or hurtful to anyone? Could I share what I am sending or receiving with my family?*

If you are looking for some avenues to help you work with your child on responsible and respectful technology use, please click on this link: <http://www.sunsetridge29.net/entman>. This is the link Charlene Entman from our Tech Department organizes to help parents guide their children in proper use of technology. Mrs. Entman is available to help parents who have technology questions. We planned a fall information meeting and are working to follow up with another meeting later this year.

BICYCLES: Before Thanksgiving break, we brought in five unlocked bicycles that were left on bike racks or along the fence. Two have been claimed, but we have three more that need a home. There are also a couple bicycles locked on the bike racks. If your child is missing his/her bicycle, check out the main foyer area or check the bicycle racks. If they are not claimed soon, we will find homes for them.

SRS NEWS: For more SRS news, please visit: <http://www.sunsetridge29.net/Page/234>



December Notes for Middlefork School

Happenings at Middlefork School

- Last day to drop off Northwest Settlement House gifts is December 1
- 1st - 3rd grade Winter Sing is Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m
- December Birthday Lunch is December 9 at 11:30 a.m. in the Art Room
- 1st and 3rd grades supply lunches for the homeless on December 13
- Kindergarten Winter Sing is Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m
- Play Pods meet again on Thursday, December 15
- Dismissal times are 11:45 (K-2) and 11:55 a.m. (3rd) on Friday, December 16
- The deadline to register for Middlefork Chess - Winter Term is December 20, 2011

Planning Ahead for January

- Classes resume after Winter Break on Tuesday, January 3, 2012
- January Birthday lunch is Friday, January 6.
- ***Second Cup of Coffee (Everyday Math program) changed from January 12 to January 19 at 7:00 p.m.***
- PAJAMA DAY is set for Friday, January 27!

Special Notes:

More information about these events can be found on the Middlefork News page of the District 29 website: www.sunsetridge29.net/middleforknews. Middlefork parents are encouraged to bookmark this site, as well as to subscribe to e-Alerts for the site through the district website. Subscribers receive a brief email notice when important new information is posted to the Middlefork News. To subscribe, sign in to the district website, click on Access Info, Subscriptions, and Middlefork Home.

Chess Time!

We like to think!



Sunset Ridge School and Chess Education Partners
invite you to learn and play
the great game of chess.

When: Tuesdays, January 10 – March 20, 2012, 3:40-4:40pm. 11 Weeks

Where: Sunset Ridge School Library

Beginners and experts are welcome!

- Learn the rules
- Improve your strategy
- Play with your friends
- Professional Instructors
- Play on the School Team

Please call Zack Fishman at 312-927-4290 Marija Mitkova at 312-451-9416 or e-mail chessteachers@aol.com if you have specific questions about the program.

Each participant receives a membership to Chess Education Partners' online chess school. The club/materials fee for this session is \$110. Checks or Credit Card payment option. Space is limited.

Sunset Ridge Chess Registration Form

Student's name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Parent or guardian _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Cell phone numbers for parents and care givers _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

If you are paying with Credit Card fill in the information in the box:

Credit Card Type _____ Credit Card Number _____ Exp.Date _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Security Code _____

Please make your \$110 check payable to "Chess Education Partners". Mail this form and your check to Marija Mitkova (443 E. Lincoln St. Mount Prospect, IL 60056) by 12/20/11.

Note: Chess Education Partners reserves the right to remove any child from the program.

Chess Time!

We like to think!



Middlefork School and Chess Education Partners
invite you to learn and play
the great game of chess.

When: Fridays, January 13 – March 23, 2012, 7:30-8:30 a.m. (10 Weeks)

Where: Middlefork Small Gym

Beginners and experts are welcome!

- Learn the rules
- Improve your strategy
- Play with your friends
- Professional Instructors
- Play on the School Team

Questions? Contact Zack Fishman (312-927-4290) or Marija Mitkova (312-451-9416)
or e-mail chessteachers@aol.com

Each participant receives a membership to Chess Education Partners' online chess school.
Club/materials fee: \$100 (Check or Credit Card). Space is limited.

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Student's name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Parent or guardian _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Cell phone numbers for parents and care givers _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

If you are paying with Credit Card fill in the information in the box:

Credit Card Type _____ Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Security Code _____

Make \$100 check payable to "Chess Education Partners".

Mail form and check to Marija Mitkova (443 E. Lincoln St., Mount Prospect, IL 60056)

Registration Deadline: 12/20/11.

Note: Chess Education Partners reserves the right to remove any child from the program.

PTO President's Post

*"To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own."
– Anne Morrow Lindbergh*



December 2011

Dear Parents, Teachers, Administrators, and Staff,

It is hard to believe December is upon us! We are all so busy readying ourselves for the holidays and working to create a feeling of warmth inside when it is so cold outside. In this season of giving, I want to recognize those who have generously given their time to the PTO:

- Book Fair chairs **Amy** and **Jim Thompson**, who ran the Book Fair for the second year in a row.
- Author Visit coordinator **Debbie Papas**, who made the authors feel welcomed and kept them informed during their visit.
- Winter Clothing Drive/Book Drive chair **Marcia Osher**, who coordinated the book drive for Bernie's Book Bank.
- Clothing chairs **Buggie O'Grady** and **Kate Rekett**, who sold clothing at the Book Fair.
- **Stacey Baker** and **Julie Ponder**, who coordinated the Ice Cream Social at the Book Fair.
- Treasurer **Lynn Hawley** and Assistant Treasurer **Joe McInerney**, who helped the cashiers at the Book Fair.
- Ways and Means chairs **Sue Siegel** and **Andrea Macina**, who helped run a productive and positive Ways and Means portion of our general PTO meeting in November.

- **Jeanne Welch**, who helped organize the Middlefork/Sunset Ridge Night at Hackney's.
- Winter Writing Campaign chairs **Aimee Keefer** and **Wendy Sawtell**, who are working on the campaign letter.
- Conference Meals chairs **Kiki Knight**, **Jennifer Kyriakopoulos**, **Abra Berkley**, and **Jayme Marino**, who brought meals to the staff during conferences.
- Holiday Projects chairs **Jill Cunningham** and **Shelley Baird**, who are organizing the gathering and delivering of gifts for the Northwestern Settlement House.
- Great Books chair **Sue Warshauer**, who is coordinating the teachers and students for the Great Books program.
- Social Dance chairs **Karen Tragos** and **Patty Mosele**, who have planned all the social dances.

Did you know?

You can help our PTO raise money by registering your Dominick's card with the **eScrip** program. Sign up today! Having problems switching your registration to our school? Contact Joe McInerney, Assistant Treasurer, at joe@buyersadvantage1.com.

Donate your used **ink cartridges** to our schools, and the PTO makes \$1 for every cartridge! Drop boxes are located in the Sunset Ridge Learning Center and the Middlefork hallway.

Your **child's artwork** could be on the cover of an upcoming monthly newsletter! Send all submissions to Marie LaPlante at: marietlaplante1@gmail.com.

Save the date!

December PTO Meeting: Come to the next PTO meeting on Tuesday, December 13th, at 12:30 p.m. in the Northfield Park District Community Center, and vote to help prioritize the Ways and Means proposals! As always, our school administrators, school board, and PTO members will provide up-to-the-minute school news.

PTO Opportunities

3rd Grade Junior Great Books Teacher Needed: Contact Sue Warshauer at warshauer1@comcast.net if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.

Special Announcement

Congratulations to the winners of the Book Fair's pirate chest raffle: Kate Zieziula and Maria Kyriakopoulos each won a gift certificate, and Talia Thomas won a Sony EReader! Special thanks to HH Installations for donating the Sony EReader!

Respectfully,

Erin Charchut, PTO President

Questions about the PTO? Interested in volunteering? E-mail Erin at: erincharchut@hotmail.com.

SRS-MF PTO
Ways and Means Absentee Ballot Fall 2011

The following proposals for funding were approved at the November 8, 2011 PTO meeting for submission to a vote by all PTO members. Balloting will take place at the PTO meeting on December 13, 2011 to prioritize the proposals in the event that sufficient funds are not available to support them all. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may submit an absentee ballot. **IN ORDER FOR ANY BALLOT TO BE COUNTED, YOU MUST SIGN AND PRINT YOUR NAME AT THE BOTTOM AND PRIORITIZE EACH ITEM ON THE BALLOT.** Give your completed ballot to the secretary at either school before 12:00pm on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. Submit only one ballot per family. Information regarding the proposals is available in the PTO box at each school. Please contact Sue Siegel (847) 446-0449 or Andrea Macina (847) 386-6786 with any questions. Thank you for participating in the Ways and Means process!

Rank the following proposals in order from 1 to 16, with 1 being the highest funding priority and 16 being the lowest funding priority. ****New this year, CHOOSE ONLY ONE OPTION for each proposal offering several options, and rank it as you like. In other words, rank either 1a, 1b OR 1c, not all 3 of them.** (Same for 14 and 15). Remember, **you must rank all proposals** for your ballot to count, and **your total count should be 16.**

<u>Fall 2011 Proposals</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Priority</u>
1a. <u>SRS Cafeteria Tables (Full Package)</u>	<u>\$4300</u>	
1b. <u>SRS Cafeteria Tables (4 Table/Benches)</u>	<u>\$2550</u>	
1c. <u>SRS Cafeteria Table (1 Round Table)</u>	<u>\$1750</u>	
2. <u>African/Caribbean Percussion Set</u>	<u>\$3000</u>	
3. <u>PAWS Service Project Bus</u>	<u>\$250</u>	
4. <u>10 iPads with Apps for 4th/5th Grade</u>	<u>\$5500</u>	
5. <u>Teambuilding Facilitator for 6th/7th/8th Grade</u>	<u>\$4000</u>	
6. <u>Communities/Dolphin Play Pod Supplies</u>	<u>\$750</u>	
7. <u>Author Visit, Author Skype</u>	<u>\$450</u>	
8. <u>SRS School Garden Supplies</u>	<u>\$1953</u>	
9. <u>Global Education Consultant</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	
10. <u>Middlefork Sound System</u>	<u>\$2500</u>	
11. <u>Kindergarten Trike Shed Project</u>	<u>\$4850</u>	
12. <u>Refurbish Middlefork Lobby Bench</u>	<u>\$1071</u>	
13. <u>Girls' Volleyball Uniforms</u>	<u>\$1600</u>	
14a. <u>1 Tuba and 1 French Horn</u>	<u>\$3750</u>	
14b. <u>1 French Horn</u>	<u>\$1830</u>	
14c. <u>1 Tuba</u>	<u>\$1920</u>	
15a. <u>2 Basses, 1 Viola, 1 Instrument Rack</u>	<u>\$2952</u>	
15b. <u>2 Basses</u>	<u>\$1969</u>	

15c. <u>1 Instrument Rack</u>	<u>\$710</u>
15d. <u>1 Viola</u>	<u>\$273</u>
16. <u>On-Line Art Academy Subscription</u>	<u>\$799</u>

Print Name _____ **Signature** _____



December Calendar

- Friday 12/2** 7:00 p.m. – 6th Grade Social Dance – SRS Large Gym
- Tuesday 12/6** 7:00 p.m. – Regular School Board Meeting – SRS LC
6:30 p.m. -- Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting
- Wednesday 12/7** 8:45 a.m. – Parent Character Education Meeting – Dr. Stange’s Office
- Thursday 12/8** 7:00 p.m. – MF Winter Sing, Grades 1-3
- Friday 12/9** 11:30 a.m. – MF Birthday Lunch – MF Art Room
- Tuesday 12/13** Middlefork Lunches for the Homeless – Grades 1 and 3
12:30 p.m. – PTO Meeting – Northfield Park District Community Center
2:15 p.m. -- SRS Holiday Music Concert - SRS Large Gym
7:00 p.m. – SRS Holiday Music Concert – SRS Large Gym
- Wednesday 12/14** 12:45 p.m. -- 4/5 Birthdays
6:30 p.m. – Kindergarten Winter Sing
- Friday 12/16** 9:00 a.m. – SRS Geography Bee
School Improvement Day – Dismissal Times for Students as follows:
Grades K-2 11:45 a.m.
Grade 3 11:55 a.m.
Grades 4-8 12:00 p.m.
- Mon. 12/19/11
thru Mon. 1/2/12** Winter Break – No School
- Tuesday 1/3** School Resumes

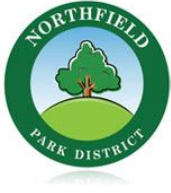


School Directory Updates

Directory updates will be posted every month in the Monthly School Newsletter. If you have any changes to your directory information, please send them to Betsy Kochvar at bkochvar@comcast.net or Julie Ponder at ponder.julie@yahoo.com

Directory Corrections:

Becky Miller's corrected email address: becky6868@gmail.com.



December Events at the Northfield Park District

NEW! Holiday Winter Fest

Saturday, December 10th

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Ages: 8 and under

FREE

Join us at the Northfield Community Center for games, bounce house, sugar cookie decorating, holiday craft making, and visit with Santa! Don't forget your camera for pictures! We'll also have a special place where you can write a letter to Santa and place it in his mailbox! Concessions will be available for purchase.

Gingerbread House Contest

The Gingerbread house contest will be part of the Holiday Winter Fest. Attendees of the fest will vote for their favorites. Check out our website www.northfieldparkdistrict.org for house making guidelines.

Letters to Santa

Write your letter to Santa! Santa will be accepting letters from Nov. 26th until December 17 at the Northfield Community Center. He will write back and let you know he received your requests. Please make sure your return address is printed clearly. Santa will be busy making toys and checking his list twice, and will not be able to answer any letters after Dec. 17th. You can also send your letter to 401 Wagner Road Northfield, IL 60093. We will forward letters to Santa once we receive them.

Winter Break Fun

Holiday Cookers and Crafters

Monday, December 19th

Time: 9:00 AM to noon

Ages: K-3rd grades

Fee: \$30

We'll spend the morning at the Northfield Community Center making delicious treats and holiday crafts to gift to your family and friends.

Take off! LEGO Airplane and Airports Pre-Engineering Workshop and Lunch

Friday, December 30th

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Ages: K-2nd grades

Fee: \$45

In teams using Lego building systems you will build an airport and airplane. Then get to spend some time flying and landing the plane you've created! For more information on Play-Well Teknologies visit www.play-well.org. Provided lunch will be from Jimmy John's.

Hoops for Health Little Ballers Holiday Clinic

Week 1: M-W 12/19-12/21

Week 2: W-F 12/28-12/30

Time: 1:00-2:00 PM

Ages: K-4th grade

Fee: \$40/week or \$70/ both weeks

For more information please visit our website at www.northfieldparkdistrict.org

Holiday Open Gym Hours

K-4th 12/19-12/23 M-F 9:00 AM to noon

K-4th 12/26-12/30 M-F 9:00 AM to noon

5th-8th 12/19-12/23 M-F 2:00-4:00 PM

5th-8th 12/26-12/30 M-F 2:00-4:00 PM

For more information on any of these programs please contact Lara Piner at [847-446-4428](tel:847-446-4428) or lpiner@northfieldparks.org.



The Alliance for Early Childhood Invites you to join the fun!

DRAWING CONTEST

"Change Your Routine - Turn Off Your Screens"

Senior Division (2nd - 8th grade):

The winning drawing will be featured on the ScreenBreak poster.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place drawings will be featured inside the ScreenBreak Guide.

10 honorable mentions will be listed in the ScreenBreak Guide.

All entries will be displayed at the Winnetka Public Library during ScreenBreak.

Winners will receive FREE admission, and be honored, at the ScreenBreak Kick Off Event.

Junior Division (Preschool - 1st grade):

The winning drawing will be featured on the back of the ScreenBreak Guide.

5 honorable mentions will be listed in the ScreenBreak Guide.

Join the fun at the **ScreenBreak Drawing Contest Entry Workshop!**
Winnetka Public Library
January 14, 2012, 2 - 4 pm

All participants will receive a ribbon.

Drawing Contest Rules

- Submit drawing on white 8 1/2 x 11 paper.
- Black marker or black felt tip pen only (for clear copying).
- One entry form per drawing. Additional forms may be found at www.theallianceforec.org.
- **Deadline is 12 noon on Monday, January 23, 2012.**
- Mail or deliver entries to: The Alliance for Early Childhood, 1235 Oak St., Winnetka, IL 60093
OR The Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak St., Winnetka, IL 60093

Questions? Email Cristin Duffy at cristinkduffy@gmail.com.

Please attach this entry form to your drawing. **Deadline is 12 noon on Monday, January 23, 2012.**
Mail or delivery your drawing to: The Alliance for Early Childhood, 1235 Oak St., Winnetka, IL 60093
OR The Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak St., Winnetka, IL 60093

Name: _____ M F

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Town: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

HELP SUPPORT

18th Annual Event
March 4 - March 10, 2012



"Change Your Routine - Turn Off Your Screens"

Attend alternative community-based activities.



Enjoy family-based activities at home.



Make a financial contribution.



Please send donations to: The Alliance for Early Childhood
1235 Oak Street
Winnetka, IL 60093

*Notes: All donations received prior to January 13, 2012 will be listed in The ScreenBreak Guide.
The Alliance for Early Childhood (www.theallianceforec.org) is a 501(c)(3) organization.*

Please list your name as you'd like it to appear in The Guide (for example: "The Smith Family" or "Mary, Tom and Jason Smith").


Name: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____


Child(ren)'s School(s): _____

Amount enclosed: \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other\$ _____

**Any donation amount is greatly appreciated.
Make checks payable to: The Alliance for Early Childhood. Thank You!**



RAISING CREATIVE & COMPASSIONATE KIDS IN TODAY'S PRESSURE-FILLED WORLD



Featuring

Dr. Nancy Carlsson-Paige

Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Ed. D., is Professor Emerita at Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, where she taught teachers for more than 30 years and was a founder of the University's Center for Peaceable Schools. Nancy has written and spoken extensively about the impact of violence, especially in the media, on children's lives and social development and how children learn the skills for caring relationships and positive conflict resolution. She is the author and co-author of five books and has written numerous articles. Her most recent book is *Taking Back Childhood*.

Friday, January 27

9:30-11 am

at the Sacred Heart Parish Center


corner of Gage and Burr Streets, Winnetka

No fee—no reservations necessary


(but donations gratefully accepted)



Proudly sponsored by
The Alliance for Early Childhood
www.theallianceforec.org
847-441-9001



Today's cultural pressures on children—media saturation, materialism, test-driven schools, and the fast pace of life—threaten to undermine some of the basic building blocks of healthy child development. But we, as parents and adults who care for children, can navigate these difficult waters when we understand what it is children need and how we can best help them in these rapidly changing times. Learn hand-on advice on how to create a safe, open, and imaginative environment for children and how you can take back childhood for your children.



Junior Great Books 2011

November 29, 2011

Dear Parent:

Does your child enjoy reading and discussing literature? If so, the Junior Great Books program offers a stimulating yet relaxed environment for your child to explore outstanding literature.

In Junior Great Books, students read stories and share their ideas and opinions about them in a small discussion group. The literature has been especially chosen to challenge children, spark their ideas, and promote thoughtful discussion. Discussions are lead by parent volunteers trained by the Great Books Shared Inquiry method. Shared Inquiry discussion makes it possible for all children to contribute with confidence and learn from one another.

Students in the Junior Great Books program will meet once a week during their lunch/recess period for 8 consecutive weeks. Sessions begin the week of January 23rd. This is an *optional* program designed for children in grades 2-5 who enjoy reading and discussing literature. In order to ensure a rewarding experience for each child, we strongly encourage parents to enroll students who choose to participate in the program.

If your child is interested in being a part of this program, please return the attached registration form and payment by December 12th.

Before the program begins, a schedule will be sent home with your child. Books will be handed out and expectations will be reviewed with participants at the first meeting.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the program. We look forward to making your child's experience in the Junior Great Books program a happy and enriching one.

Sincerely,

Sue Warshauer
Junior Great Books Coordinator
(847) 446-0838
warshauer1@comcast.net

Junior Great Books 2011

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, my child would like to participate in Junior Great Books this year.

Sessions begin the week of January 24th. (Specific day and time information to follow.)

To cover the cost of the anthology and folder my check made out to *MF/SRS PTO* for \$25 is attached.

Registration form and check must be received by **December 12th**.

My child **has** **has not** (circle one) previously participated in Junior Great Books.

Name of child: _____

Grade: _____ Classroom teacher: _____

Parent of guardian name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Home phone: _____

Work phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

* Please send check payable to *MF/SRS PTO* and registration form to the address below.

Sue Warshauer
330 Shadowood Lane
Northfield, IL 60093