

# The Eagle-Dolphin Digest

District 29 Monthly School Newsletter

February 2012



The Eagle-Dolphin Digest will be published on the 1st day of each month. For submissions, please email Marie LaPlante ([marietlaplante1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.sunsetridge29.net)

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

February 1, 2012

Dear Middlefork and Sunset Ridge Parents,

Throughout this school year I have shared information with you about our upcoming Strategic Planning process. That process is about to begin, and I'd like to take this opportunity to provide you with more details and explain how the process will unfold.

Strategic Planning will consist of several meetings. Participants representing our stakeholder groups, including parents, staff, community members who do not have children in our schools, and members of our Board of Education, will examine the District's past, present and future from many angles. Over the course of the next five months, the team will address several major topics:

### **Current Status of the District**

This will include a review of our current Strategic Plan, Mission, Beliefs, Themes, Goals, and Outcomes. Status reports will be provided in the areas of Curriculum and Instruction, Facilities, Enrollment, Finance, and Technology. Areas for continued development will be considered.

### **21st Century Skills/Global Learning**

We will explore the topic of 21st Century Skills and global learning. How do we best prepare our students to be successful contributors in a world that is rapidly changing? What skills, attributes, and competencies will they need? How does this impact our current instructional practices, curriculum and programming? What is the role of Common Core Standards? The Strategic Planning Team will tackle this immensely complex topic, analyzing 21st Century Skills and the impact of globalization on our schools and our educational program.

### **2011 District Survey Data**

We will delve deeper into our recent survey data, focusing specifically on lower scoring areas and the themes identified by School Perceptions. The team will analyze areas of concern and consider how we might address them within the context of 21st Century Skills.

### **Strengths and Weaknesses**

Utilizing the knowledge garnered from our synthesis of 21st Century Skills, data from the District Survey, as well as participant's input, we will discuss areas where we excel and areas for growth and development.

### **Opportunities and Threats**

In light of the prioritized areas for potential growth and development, we will consider the resources, conditions, and/or variables that may support goal attainment. We will also identify conditions and/or variables that might threaten or challenge our goals.

### **Development of the New Strategic Plan**

At the culmination of the planning process we will return to the Strategic Plan document. The Team will synthesize information from the previous sessions, possibly revising the District's Mission, Beliefs, and Themes. New goals will be developed by the Planning Team and then disseminated to District Committees, which will be responsible for goal refinement and implementation.

This process, which will require hard work and dedication on the part of all participants, will take place during the months of February, March, April and May. There will be approximately six to eight meetings, all taking place in the evening at Sunset Ridge School. Participants will be asked to attend all meetings, as each session builds on previous discussions. There may be times when participants are asked to review materials on their own between meetings.

The following dates have been selected. Depending on how the process progresses, some of the later dates may be eliminated.

Wednesday, February 15  
Monday, February 27  
Wednesday, March 14  
Monday, April 16  
Monday, April 23  
Monday, April 30  
Monday, May 7- if needed  
Monday, May 14 - if needed

I am currently seeking a small group of parents who are able to commit to this process, prepared to grapple with tough issues, and dedicated to our schools. If you would like to be a member of the Strategic Planning Team, please complete the form on the following page and return it to me or the Middlefork or Sunset Ridge School offices no later than February 8, 2012. Feel free to email me at [viethl@sunsetridge29.org](mailto:viethl@sunsetridge29.org) or call (847/881-9456) if you have any questions. In the event the number of volunteers exceeds what we can accommodate, participants will be selected to ensure balanced representation between Middlefork and Sunset Ridge.

I look forward to sharing this exciting process with you as it evolves!

Sincerely,



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

**Sunset Ridge School District 29  
Strategic Planning Team Application Form**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL/PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADES OF YOUR CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe why you wish to serve on the Strategic Planning Team and what you will be able to contribute to the process.

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***Please return this form to Linda Vieth or either school office by February 8.***



## **Sunset Ridge School Monthly News Notes**

**SPELLING BEE:** Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> grader, Carson Koy, for placing first at our January 12<sup>th</sup> Spelling Bee. Owen Engling, grade 5, placed second. The following students participated in this year's Spelling Bee: Emery Engling, Ella Huber, Maria Kyriakopoulos, Courtney Charchut, Claire Scott, Ayanna Guillen, John Papas Dennerline, Nikelle Gorham, Sasha Rosenberg, Nicole Metropoulos, Isabelle Warga, Elena Karahalios, Griffin Dunne, and Charlie Hines. Carson will compete in a February 8<sup>th</sup> regional competition held at Sears School. Special thanks to our emcee, Mr. Allan Ruter and our judges, Ms. Barbara Hermansen and Ms. Mary Kay Haben. We also share our appreciation with Stormy's Grille (1735 Orchard Lane, Northfield) for providing t-shirts for every participant.

**THE LINCOLNS COME TO SRS:** Abe and Mary Todd Lincoln are visiting Sunset Ridge on February 1<sup>st</sup> in preparation for this month's Presidents' Day. Thank you, PTO, for sponsoring this special assembly.

**STUDENT COUNCIL DANCE:** Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are invited to participate in the February 10<sup>th</sup> Student Council dance. The dance starts at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 9:00 p.m. The disc jockey will have everyone dancing the night away. Students pay \$6.00 at the door with snacks sold throughout the evening.

**VALENTINE'S GREEN CLUB FUNDRAISER:** Our Green Club is working to raise funds to put in a garden at Sunset Ridge. They are selling flower pins for Valentine's Day. There are easy to use order forms available by special boxes positioned around the building (i.e. hall areas, cafeteria, main lobby). Parents, students and staff are invited to fill in a Valentine message form and enclose it with \$2.50 in the provided envelopes. Please do one order per envelope. The Green Club will deliver the special messages and flowers to students and staff on Valentine's Day. Your child can send a special message to a teacher or special friend or parents can send their child a Valentine's flower pin by completing a form. Everyone will want to receive a flower pin on Valentine's Day.

**SECOND CUP OF COFFEE:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents are invited to come by for our 9:00 a.m. "Second Cup" on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria to talk about preparing for junior high. We hope to see you there.

**NEW TRIER MEETING – "ALL ABOUT ELECTIVES":** New Trier is hosting an information meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> about the many elective opportunities offered at New Trier. This meeting is for incoming freshmen and their parents. The meeting will be held at the New Trier west campus – Room C234.



## Sunset Ridge School Monthly News Notes, Con't.

**JAZZ IS COOL:** Our SRS “Jazzin’ Eagles” have been on the road lately performing at area jazz festivals. They will be at New Trier on February 4<sup>th</sup> to participate in the New Trier Jazz Festival under the direction of our instrumental music teachers, Mr. Golden and Mr. Nolan.

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



## **February Notes for Middlefork School**

Please check the Middlefork News page of the district website [www.sunsetridge29.net/middleforknews](http://www.sunsetridge29.net/middleforknews) for a copy of Dr. Greene's most recent parent letter, sent home in backpacks on January 20, 2012. This letter contains information about all of the important events involving Middlefork students and their families between now and the end of the school year. The following February events will happen during the school day and may not be included in Dr. Greene's letter:

February 3, 6: Officer Friendly visits (topic: drugs and poisons)

February 7: Lunches for the Homeless (grade 1 & 3)

February 10: Birthday Lunch

February 13: 1st, 2nd grade progress reports mailed

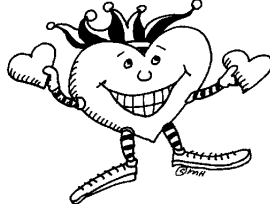
February 16: Middlefork 2nd Cup of Coffee, 9:15 a.m.

February 17: P/T Conferences, 9-3:00 p.m.

February 24: August 1/2 Birthday Lunch, 2nd grade King Arthur Festival Day

## PTO President's Post

*"Where there is love there is life." – Mahatma Gandhi*



February 2012

Love is in the air in February (as is plenty of snow)! Soon, my kids will be busy working on their Valentine cards and eating lots of candy. I want to recognize those who have generously shown their love for our district by dedicating their time to the PTO:

- Winter Writing Campaign chairs **Aimee Keefer** and **Wendy Sawtell**, who sent the campaign letter and posted the signage.
- Great Books chair **Sue Warshauer**, who coordinated the teachers and students for the Great Books program.
- Nominating chair **Jennifer Zaban**, and the **Nominating Committee**, who are putting together the slate for the 2012-2013 PTO Board.
- Programs chair **Kim Stricker**, for planning the Abe and Mary Lincoln presentation at Sunset Ridge.
- Conference Meals chairs **Kiki Knight**, **Jennifer Kyriakopoulos**, **Abra Berkley**, and **Jayme Marino**, who are bringing meals to the staff during conferences.
- Assistant Treasurer **Joe McInerney**, for working to sign up more people for eScrip, and running the second Wellness Committee meeting of the school year.
- **Emily Berlinghof**, who is helping coordinate the Lou Malnati's pizza fundraiser for the eighth grade class gift.

**Did you know?**

**The Winter Campaign letter was sent to all District 29 families in the middle of January. We need your help to continue to provide the best programs and activities for students, teachers, and parents. Please help us reach our goal of 100% district participation and \$25,000. Thanks in advance for your gift!**

The PTO is sponsoring a **PTO logo contest**, open to all Sunset Ridge students. Entries are due to Ms. Horne by March 1<sup>st</sup>. See flyer on page 12 for details.

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](mailto: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](mailto:marietlaplante1@gmail.com).

**Save the date!**

**February PTO Meeting:** Come to the next PTO meeting on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. in the Northfield Park District Community Center! Dr. Linda Vieth will present the results of the District survey, and the administrators, school board, and PTO committee members will update you on everything there is to know.

**PTO Opportunities**

**Nominating:** The nominating process has begun! Contact Jennifer Zaban at [zabans@comcast.net](mailto:zabans@comcast.net) and let her know what PTO positions you are interested in for the 2012-2013 school year.

Respectfully,

Erin Charchut, PTO President

**Questions about the PTO? Interested in volunteering? E-mail Erin at: [erincharchut@hotmail.com](mailto:erincharchut@hotmail.com).**



## February Calendar



- Wed. 2/1** 8:45 a.m. - Parent Character Education Committee Meeting –  
Dr. Stange’s Office  
School Improvement Day:  
--K-2 dismissal at 11:45 a.m. *\*Please Note: K-2 students with 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Grade siblings will be dismissed at 11:55 a.m.*  
--3<sup>rd</sup> Grade dismissal at 11:55 a.m.  
--SRS student dismissal at 12:00 p.m.
- Thurs. 2/2** 7:00 p.m. – Grade 8 Parent Meeting – “All About Electives” –  
New Trier West (C234)
- Tues. 2/7** 7:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting
- Wed. 2/8** 12:35 p.m. – 4/5 Birthdays – SRS Art Room
- Fri. 2/10** 11:30 a.m. – MF Birthday Lunch – MF Art Room  
7:00-9:00 p.m. – Grades 6/7/8 Student Council Dance –  
SRS Large Gym
- Tues. 2/14** 12:30 p.m. – PTO Meeting Northfield Park District  
Community Center
- Thurs. 2/16** 9:00 a.m. – Grade 6 Second Cup of Coffee – “Preparing for  
Jr. High”  
9:15 a.m. – MF Second Cup of Coffee Meeting – Intro. to  
ISAT Discussion
- Fri. 2/17** Parent/Teacher Conferences – NO SCHOOL
- Mon. 2/20** President’s Day – NO SCHOOL
- Tues. 2/21** 8:45 a.m. – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Graduation Picture Retake Day  
7:00 p.m. – Finance/Facilities Committee Meeting – SRS LC
- Thurs. 2/23** 6:30 p.m. – Middlefork Family Service Night
- Fri. 2/24** 11:30 a.m. – MF Birthday Lunch (August Half Birthday  
Celebration) – MF Art Room
- Wed. 2/29** 6:30 p.m. – Kindergarten Family Math Night

## Design a Logo for the PTO!

The PTO needs your help! We need a logo for use on our website, stationery, signs – basically, anywhere we use our name!

### Here are the details:

**Contest is open to all Sunset Ridge students.**

**Size:** 4" square (We want to keep it small because we'll probably have to scale it down for use).

**Wording:** On the logo, it should have the words PTO, Middlefork, and Sunset Ridge **OR** just PTO and District 29. PTO should be the largest word. The logo can also include pictures.

**Color:** Black and white. Designers should use a black Sharpie or another marker for a strong black color.

**DUE DATE: Entries due to Ms. Horne by March 1<sup>st</sup>.** The winning design will be chosen by the Executive Board of the PTO and will be announced in mid-March.

### **A little bit of background about the PTO:**

The PTO - Parent Teacher Organization - is a group of hands-on volunteers working to enhance the educational environment of Middlefork and Sunset Ridge and to create closer relationships between the parents, teachers, administrators, and school board of District 29 so that they may cooperate effectively in the educational development of the student.

**You may enter as many logo designs as you wish! Thanks for your participation!**



## **PTO School Fundraiser!**

The Winter Fundraising Campaign is underway. With your help, we will continue to provide the very best programs and activities for District 29 students.

Please know any amount will be greatly appreciated and will help to reach our goals of \$25,000 and 100% district participation.

Middlefork School

# Kindergarten Math Night

February 29, 2012

6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

(Games begin promptly at 6:30! 😊)



**Share an evening of mathematical fun with your child!**

Engage in everyday math games and activities that develop basic skills,  
as well as problem solving and mathematical reasoning.

\*\*\*\*\*

***Please return this slip to your child's teacher by Friday, February 24.***

Yes, we are happy to attend Kindergarten Math Night.

Child:

Parent(s):

Teacher (circle):

DEKIN

GOLOMB

(We're sorry , but siblings are not invited to this event.)



## **February Events at the Northfield Park District**

### **Abracadabra- it's Magic!**

Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>

4:00-4:55 PM

\$19 per participant

The Magic Team of Gary Kantor will teach you tricks to amaze your friends and family! All materials are provided and each child will receive a magic kit.



### **Daddy/Daughter Valentine's Day Ball at Sunset Ridge Country Club**

Friday, February 10th

6:30-8:30 PM

Ages 4 years - 4th grade

\$80 per couple/ \$30 each additional daughter

Please join us at our new location for the event of the season! Dads and daughters will share an evening of dinner, dancing and most importantly memories!

### **Pre-registration is required for this event. Register at the Northfield Community Center**

Girls put on your pretty dress and spend the evening with your favorite guy- Dad! First you will enjoy a sit down meal with Dad and then spend the night dancing with him and your friends.

Dad's will enjoy a house salad and chicken alfredo, while daughters dine on chicken fingers and fruit cup. Dessert will be provided as well.

All girls will receive a goodie bag.



## Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District

Visit us at [www.winnetkalibrary.org](http://www.winnetkalibrary.org) for more  
information.

### **Valentine's Day Craft**

2:00 PM · Saturday, February 04, 2012 · Northfield Branch · Kid  
Make a gift for someone special.

### **Lego Mania Club**

6:30 PM · Thursday, February 16, 2012 · Winnetka Library Lloyd Room · Grades 2+  
A club for brick builders. We create cool stuff in an hour. Registration required.

### **Bubble Wonder**

10:30 AM · Saturday, February 18, 2012 · Winnetka Library Youth Services Department · Family, Kid  
Square bubbles, round bubbles, bubbles inside bubbles...the ever popular Geoff Akins, the Bubble Guy, returns for a rollicking, bubble-filled morning.

### **Laura Ingalls Wilder Day**

3:00 PM · Saturday, February 18, 2012 · Winnetka Library Lloyd Room · Grades 2+  
Participate in crafts and activities that Laura would have enjoyed when she was your age. Registration required.

### **Girls Rule! Book Club**

2:00 PM · Sunday, February 19, 2012 · Northfield Branch · Grades 3-6  
The book club just for girls will discuss "Schooled" by Gordon Korman with Melissa Morgan.  
Registration recommended.

*FAN, **The Family Awareness Network**, is a volunteer organization run by parents, for parents. We help parents build confidence in their unique parenting style and help them make connections with their children, other parents, the schools and the community. We do this by sponsoring an array of useful educational programs and workshops, nurturing the development of small, supportive parent networks and serving as a helpful resource on specific parenting issues.*

## **Upcoming FAN events**

**Wednesday, February 8, 7:00p.m. at Gaffney Auditorium**-Roger Weissberg, Ph.D. will speak on "Educating the Whole Student: Integrating Academic, Social and Emotional Learning". A panel discussion with Tim Hayes, Catherine Wang and Ryan Mollet will follow. In partnership with ECGC, Glencoe D35 and Erika's Lighthouse. ***(see next page for more information)***

**Thursday, March 1 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.(site TBD)**- Ross Greene, Ph.D. will speaking about his collaborative problem solving approach with children and teens, as outlined in his book "The Explosive Child." In partnership with North Shore Academy.

**Monday, March 12 at 7:00 at Church of the Holy Comforter in Kenilworth** - Martin Marty, Ph.D. will be speaking on his book, "Mystery of the Child." In partnership with Church of the Holy Comforter.

On Jan 20, 2012, at 4:58 PM, Marie LaPlante wrote:

**Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 at Central School in Glencoe** - the movie "Finding Kai" will be shown.



Family Awareness Network (FAN), New Trier ECGC Parent Committee, Glencoe D35 and Erika's Lighthouse proudly present:

# Educating the Whole Student: Integrating Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

**Roger Weissberg, Ph.D.**

NoVo Foundation Endowed Chair in Social and Emotional Learning, UIC  
President and CEO, Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)

After Dr. Weissberg's presentation, he will be joined by a panel that includes:

**Tim Hayes**, NTHS Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

**Catherine Wang**, Glencoe D35 Director of Curriculum

**Ryan Mollet**, Central School (D35) Principal

**Wednesday, February 8**

**7:00 PM**

**New Trier High School**

**Gaffney Auditorium**

**385 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka**

**INFO: [FAN-NTTS.ORG](http://FAN-NTTS.ORG)**



**FAN's 2011-12 SPONSORS:**



**ALLIANCE  
SPECIAL EVENTS**





**2012**  
Fun for the whole family!

**KICK-OFF EVENT:  
CHINESE ACROBATS!**

**Sunday, March 4th at 3:30 p.m.**

Washburne School Gym (5th St. entrance)  
515 Hibbard Rd., Winnetka

This event generously underwritten by:

Tickets are **€7** in advance; **€9** at the door.  
Children under 1 are free!

**FABULOUS FRIDAY FUN EVENT!**

American Eagle Productions presents:  
**The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe**

**Friday, March 9th at 4:00 p.m.**

Washburne School Little Theater  
515 Hibbard Rd., Winnetka

This event generously underwritten by:




Tickets:  
**€7** in advance;  
**€9** at the door.  
Children under 1 are free!

This show is age appropriate for preschool and elementary school children.

I would like to purchase general admission tickets for the following ScreenBreak shows:

Chinese Acrobats on Sunday, March 4 at 3:30 p.m. in the Washburne School Gym.  
(\$7.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ tickets) Chinese Acrobats ticket total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* on Friday, March 9 at 4:00 p.m. in the Washburne Little Theater.  
(\$7.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ tickets) *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* ticket total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Keep up the good work! Here's my tax-deductible ScreenBreak donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Age(s) of kid(s) attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Order online at: [www.TheAllianceForEC.org](http://www.TheAllianceForEC.org).  
Or send order and check (payable to The Alliance for Early Childhood) to:  
Julie Zimmerman, 1556 Tower Rd., Winnetka, IL 60093.

Advance purchase tickets will be available for pick-up at the will call table located at each event.  
Advance ticket order deadline is 5 p.m. the day before each event.  
Questions? Call Julie Zimmerman at 847-386-6286.

\* Provide your email address to receive periodic emails from The Alliance for Early Childhood regarding upcoming events.