

The Eagle-Dolphin Digest

District 29 Monthly School Newsletter

January 2012



Artwork by Hannah T., 4th Grade

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

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

January 3, 2012

Dear Middlefork and Sunset Ridge Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy New Year! I hope you and your family had a joyful holiday season and fun-filled winter break!

District Survey Report

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. In addition, I will share the findings at the PTO meeting on February 14, 2012. School Perceptions' report will also be posted on our web page.

January Education Committee Meeting

The Board will hold an Education Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the District's upcoming strategic planning sessions. While the Committee will address logistics for the sessions, it will spend most of the time discussing 21st century skills and global learning, which will be key components in the strategic planning process. You will want to attend this meeting if you are interested in participating in Strategic Planning later this winter and spring.

The Instrumental Music Department will also give a presentation to the Education Committee that evening.

**iCreate, iLearn, iExplore, iCollaborate, iThink Differently
Save the Date! Tech Fair- January 31, 2012**

Come to the District 29 Tech Fair on January 31, 2012! Students from Middlefork and Sunset Ridge will be sharing a variety of classroom activities and projects that were created using technology. The Fair, which will be held in the Sunset Ridge Learning Center, will be an open house format. You can stop by any time between 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 to view the different projects and presentations. All parents and students are invited to attend. See the attached flyer for more information.

It's hard to believe that the school year will be half over on January 20! 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

GEOGRAPHY BEE: Congratulations to Jacqueline Turner, grade 4, for winning our local National Geographic Society Geography Bee on December 16th. Conley Utz, grade 8, was our second place winner. Jacqueline will complete a written exam in January. The National Geographic Society will score the exam. They will notify us if Jacqueline is eligible to compete at the state level in March. The national Bee is held in May in Washington, DC. Top prize is \$25,000.00 college scholarship, \$500.00 cash and a trip to the Galapagos Islands! It is great to study about the world. Students interested in finding out more about the Geography Bee are encouraged to visit the National Geography Bee website.

PRINCIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL: Here are our upcoming January meetings – Grades 7/8 meet on January 5th over lunch/recess in Room 216; grades 4-6 meet after school from 3:20-4:00 p.m. on January 19th in the Learning Center. PAC is open to interested students who want to share ideas about our school. Our theme this year is: ***“What Makes SRS A Place We Want to Be?”***

SPELLING BEE: Our final Spelling Bee study session is scheduled for January 6th from 3:30-4:15 p.m. in the Learning Center. The Bee will be held at 7:00 p.m. on January 12th in the large gym. Special thanks to Mrs. Kyriakopoulos for her help finding us a sponsor. Stormy’s Grille (1735 Orchard Lane, Northfield) provided t-shirts for every participant.

SECOND CUP OF COFFEE: Dr. Stange and I are meeting with parents over a “second cup of coffee” at 8:45 a.m. on January 12, 2012 in the Cafeteria. This is open to all grade levels. The topic is: *Answering Parents’ Questions about Testing – MAP, ISAT, End of Unit, etc.* We will share ways we use all the data we have at our fingertips. Come by if you have questions or want to find out more about testing. The February 16th Second Cup is for 6th grade parents: *“Preparing for 7th and 8th Grades”*.

NEW TRIER MEETINGS: Grade 8 parents are reminded to attend one of the NT Academic Life meetings to find out information about the freshmen year. There is also a meeting open to all parents who want to know more about New Trier. This meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on January 4, 2012 at Gaffney Auditorium (East campus).

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



January Notes for Middlefork School

Happenings at Middlefork School

- January Birthday lunch is Friday, January 6.
- Second Cup of Coffee (Everyday Math program) is 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.

PTO President's Post

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." - Plato



January 2012

Happy New Year! Even though a new calendar year has begun, we are already halfway through the school year. Winter just started, but I am in the midst of registering my son for his last year of preschool and thinking about summer camp for my girls. Where does the time go? We have a limited number of hours each day, so we have to make each moment count. Thanks to the following volunteers who are making every day special in our district:

- Ways and Means chairs **Sue Siegel** and **Andrea Macina**, who facilitated the Ways and Means vote and posted the funding results.
- Holiday Projects chairs **Jill Cunningham** and **Shelley Baird**, who organized the gathering and delivering of gifts for the Northwestern Settlement House.
- All the **room parents**, for planning the holiday parties.
- Winter Writing Campaign chairs **Aimee Keefer** and **Wendy Sawtell**, who are working on the campaign letter and signage.
- Great Books chair **Sue Warshauer**, who is coordinating the teachers and students for the Great Books program.
- Nominating chair **Jennifer Zaban**, who has started the nominating process.
- **Emily Berlinghof**, who is helping coordinate the Lou Malnati's pizza fundraiser for the eighth grade class gift.
- Social Dance chairs **Karen Tragos** and **Patty Mosele**, who planned all the social dances.

- House and Grounds chairs **Margie Huber** and **Sarah Wilson**, who planted the winter greenery.

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!

January PTO Meeting: Come to the next PTO meeting on Tuesday, January 10th, at 12:30 p.m. in the Northfield Park District Community Center! Special guest speaker Robin Metzler, MSW, Junior High Outreach Worker and Clinician from Haven Youth and Family Services, will introduce herself and talk about all that she has been doing at SRS! As always, the administration, school board, and PTO committee members will provide up to the minute school news.

PTO Opportunities

Nominating: The nominating process has begun! Contact Jennifer Zaban, Nominating Chair, at zabans@comcast.net and let her know what PTO positions you are interested in for the 2012-13 school year.

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 2011

We are pleased to announce that the following proposals, submitted to Ways and Means and voted on by the PTO members present at the December 13, 2011 meeting or via absentee ballots received prior to the meeting on that date, won approval for funding:

SRS Cafeteria Tables (Full Package)	\$4,300.00
10 iPads with Apps for 4 th /5 th Grade	\$5,500.00
Teambuilding Facilitator for 6 th /7 th /8 th Grade	\$4,000.00
Communities/Dolphin Play Pod Supplies	\$750.00
Author Visit, Author Skype	\$450.00
Middlefork Sound System	\$2,500.00
Girls' Volleyball Uniforms	\$1,600.00
1 Tuba and 1 French Horn	\$3,750.00
2 Basses, 1 Viola, 1 Instrument Rack	<u>\$2,952.00</u>
Total cost of approved proposals	\$25,802.00

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Siegel and Andrea Macina



January Calendar



- Tues. 1/3** School Resumes
- Wed. 1/4** 8:45 a.m. – Parent Character Education Committee Meeting –
Dr. Stange’s Office
12:35 p.m. – 4/5 Birthdays – Art Room
7:00 p.m. – Parent Information Meeting – New Trier
Gaffney Auditorium (All grades invited)
- Thurs. 1/5** 11:46 a.m. – Grades 7/8 Principal Advisory Council – Rm. 26
- Fri. 1/6** Mid-Quarter Grade Check
11:30 a.m. – MF Birthday Lunch – MF Art Room
3:30-4:15 p.m. – Spelling Bee Study Session – SRS Learning
Center
- Mon. 1/9** 7:00 p.m. – New Trier Academic Life Meeting –
Grade 8 Parents – Northfield Campus
- Tues. 1/10** 12:30 p.m. – PTO Meeting – Northfield Park District
Community Center
6:50 p.m. – Special Board Meeting – SRS Learning Center
7:00 p.m. – Regular Board Meeting – SRS Learning Center
- Thurs. 1/12** 8:45 a.m. – SRS 2nd Cup of Coffee Meeting – SRS Cafeteria –
“An Overview of Testing”
7:00 p.m. – Spelling Bee – SRS Large Gym
- Mon. 1/16** Martin Luther King Day – NO SCHOOL
- Wed. 1/18** 2:00 p.m. – 2012/2013 Kindergarten Registration
6:00 p.m. – 2012/2013 Kindergarten Registration
- Thurs. 1/19** 3:20-4:00 p.m. – Grades 4-6 Principal Advisory Council –
SRS Learning Center
7:00 p.m. – MF 2nd Cup of Coffee Meeting –
“Everyday Math Discussion”



January Calendar, con't.



- Fri. 1/20** End of Second Quarter
11:30 a.m. – MF Birthday Lunch (July Half Birthday Celebration) – MF Art Room
- Mon. 1/23** 7:00 p.m. – Grade 8 Parent Meeting – “Graduation Updates” – SRS Learning Center
- Tues. 1/24** 1:00-1:45 p.m. – New Trier Vocal Program – SRS
Junior High Choir Rehearsal and Performance:
12:00-2:00 p.m. - Rehearsal for the New Trier Choir Festival at NTHS (East campus) Gaffney Auditorium
7:30 p.m. - New Trier Choir Festival Performance at NTHS (East campus) Gaffney Auditorium
7:00 p.m. – Education Committee Meeting
- Thurs. 1/26** 8:45 a.m. – 8th Grade Yearbook Graduation Picture Day
- Fri. 1/27** MF Pajama Day
- Tues. 1/31** 6:30-7:30 p.m. – Tech Fair - SRS

Please support the SRS Class of 2012!

The 8th grade students will be calling SRS families and friends to ask for their help in raising money towards the class gift and service projects. Lou Malnati's Pizzas can be purchased either for your own friends and families, or to be sent directly to the Northfield food pantry to help feed those in need.

Sales start January 17 and will run through February. Thank you for your support!



TECHNOL OLOGY

i Create **i Learn**

i Explore

i Collaborate

i Think Differently

*Teachers and students in
Grades K-8 will share technology
integration learning activities*

When? January 31, 2012 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Where? Sunset Ridge School

Who is invited? Students, parents, administrators
and the D29 community