

## ***Fourth Annual Mrs. Susan Burke Read-athon!***

January 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 from 6:30-10:30p.m.

**Open to all middle school students, high school students and family members of middle school age and older**

Mrs. Burke, a middle school social studies teacher, made her mark through the integrity, dedication, and heartfelt connections she made with students and staff. She left footprints on the hearts of many people as a special teacher, friend, and member of our community.

This reading event is optional for all 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, and family members, with the understanding that students agree to the objectives in this letter. The main purpose of this event is to celebrate the memory of Mrs. Burke through a community night of reading, music, games, and optional giving to others.

Attending this special event will be a fun and rewarding evening to commemorate the life and career of Mrs. Burke.

No fundraising is necessary to participate in this event, however, three canisters will be present in the hallway, on the way into the gym, for TOTALLY OPTIONAL GIVING. The three funds represent activities near to Mrs. Burke's heart and all donations will be made in her name.

The three funds are:

\* The Adaptive Ski Program at the Double H Ranch- [www.doublehranch.org](http://www.doublehranch.org)  
Check payable to Double H Ranch

\*Alex's Lemonade Stand- all funds go fully and directly to research grants for pediatric cancer [www.alexlemonade.org](http://www.alexlemonade.org)

\*The Mrs. Susan Burke Scholarship Fund of the Niskayuna Teacher Association  
Checks payable to Niskayuna Teacher Association

\*Our reading event will begin at 6:45 sharp so please plan to arrive at 6:30 on January 27<sup>th</sup> in the gym.

\*Do not bring valuables of any kind. I-Pods and personal music devices are fine, at the student's own risk and may be used with ear phones for listening to audio books and music while reading only. **CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF.**

\*The 63 hallway and gym are the only parts of the school that will be used for this event. Do not plan to go to lockers or other parts of the school at any time.

**••••During one of the activity breaks, students will be packaging non-perishable food items for local food banks. Donations of items such as hot chocolate packs, hot cereals, granola bars, and much more are very welcome. If you would like to donate, please contact any 63 teacher for more information. Thank you.**

**Schedule and expectations located on next page-**

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### Schedule:

6:45- Welcome and Opening introductions

7:10- Silent Reading Block #1

7:50-Activity Block and snacks

8:20-Silent Reading Block #2

9:00-Activity Block and snacks

9:30-Silent Reading Block #3

10:00-Clean up, pack up

10:15 Closing announcements and activities with parents in gym

10:30 End

### Important Information:

1. Participation is totally optional.
2. The event is for middle and high school students, family members of at least 6<sup>th</sup> grade age and older.
3. Students must attend the entire event.
4. Proper behavior is totally expected. Please attend only if you can agree to this policy. **Silent reading is expected.** Socializing during the reading blocks is not allowed. It is expected that students will not ask to leave the gym during the reading blocks unless it is an emergency.
5. All money raised goes directly to the funds listed on the first page. Giving money is totally optional.
6. Students are not allowed to go to any part of the school except the gym and 63 hallway.
7. Books appropriate to a school setting are to be read, not magazines or comic books.
8. Sleeping bags, pillows, and blankets are suggested for the reading portion.
9. Wear comfortable clothing. Wear sneakers and socks for the activity block. Please remember the school dress code for clothing choices.
10. Parent help is welcome. If parents would like to volunteer, please contact Mr. Pletman at [mpletman@niskyschools.org](mailto:mpletman@niskyschools.org) . Parents do not need to accompany children to this event, but are welcome.
11. Students will be reading for 110 minutes.
12. Door to door solicitation by students is not allowed.
13. **Adults picking up students at the end of the event are asked to be in the gym at 10:00p.m. to help with clean up of students' belongings and to attend the closing. Please park and come in.**

Thank you very much for making your mark by considering attending this special night to honor the memory of Mrs. Susan Burke. You will long remember this amazing evening.

Please direct all questions to "63" team teachers.

Thank you.  
Mr. Pletman

\*\*\*Permission slips will not be accepted after Wednesday, January 25th.

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\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend the "Reading to Celebrate" event on January 27, 2012 from 6:30-10:30 at Van Antwerp School. I agree to follow all rules for the event as listed in this packet.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student  
Signature

I give my permission for my child, named above, to attend the "Reading to Celebrate" event in its entirety. My child understands the expectations and agrees to the rules in this packet.

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent /  
Guardian Signature

Names of those attending the read-athon event:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone numbers where an adult can be reached during the read-athon are

\_\_\_\_\_

The name of the person who will be coming in to the gym at 10:00 to be at the closing event and take my child home at 10:30 is

\_\_\_\_\_

-. The phone number for that person during the event is

\_\_\_\_\_