

Welcome to Beal Early Childhood Center

January 11, 2015

News on the Beal Front:

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1. A note from the Principal

Happy Monday as winter seems to be finally settling in! I hope your children (and yourselves) have shaken off the vacation fog and are getting back into your routines. The stretch between December and February Vacations is probably my favorite stretch of the year with the transition from playoff football to spring training, enjoying outdoor activities with my family, and watching the Weather Channel for pending snow storms. At school, I love this time of year as the 'magic' of learning becomes apparent with students making great strides in reading, writing, and math. Connected with this academic growth is the social and emotional development that blossoms in the second half of the year as students hone their confidence, independence, and comfort within their environments, allowing each of them to thrive as a unique member of their learning community. The days are short and cold, but full of growth! In celebration of the New England Patriots beginning their playoff run this weekend, all Beal students are invited to dress in their Patriots or favorite team apparel (or team colors) this Friday, January 15th.

Sincerely,

Chris Girardi

Phone: (508) 841-8865

Email: cgirardi@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Twitter: @Chrisgirardi1

2. PTO Meeting on Tuesday, January 19th There is a PTO Meeting on Tuesday, January 19th in the Beal gymnasium beginning at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for a fun-filled agenda including planning for the Beal Family Dinner in March. Also, School Committee members Sandy Fryc and John Samia will be joining us to discuss and field questions about education in Shrewsbury. Please save the date!

3. Beal School Council

Beal School Council will meet this Thursday, January 14th from 3:45-4:30 p.m. in Room #3. The agenda will be dedicated to looking at our school based goal of engaging and challenging all learners, including integrating technology to create high impact learning environments. If you are interested in joining us, please email me prior to the meeting.

4. Outdoor recess at Beal

As a reminder, our students go outdoors for recess when the temperature is 20 degrees and above (including wind chill). Please be sure your child has appropriate cold weather gear including hats and gloves. Please refer to classroom communications about scheduled outdoor activities that might include snow pants, boots, etc.

5. News from the nurse As many of you have found out the difficult way, we are deep into the season of increased illness. For some reason, these six weeks between the first of the year and the beginning of February break is a time when I see a sharp increase in the number of children ill with the ever "popular" stomach bug. More so than respiratory ailments, the stomach bug seems to be far more contagious and will travel through a classroom at lightening speed, infecting adults as well as children. As a reminder, if your child is ill with diarrhea or vomiting the night before a school day, it is essential that you keep them home from school until they are free of these symptoms, are eating normally and of course, are well rested. Although I am thrilled that the majority of our students want to be here every day, the decision as to whether a child is ready to return to school should be made by an adult and not a child. Thanks so much for your participation in keeping our school community as healthy as possible.

~Jill Wensky

Beal Nurse

508-841-8870

6. Beal Media Center news

The Beal Media Center is asking for donations of used craft supplies, manipulatives, and other various materials to contribute to an upcoming project. If you would like to donate, or simply clean out the clutter following the holiday season, please follow the link to access the suggested supply list attached below. [Beal Makerspace Donations](#)

7. Upcoming dates and events

Thursday, January 14th- Beal School Council- 3:45-4:30 p.m.

Monday, January 18th- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day- **No School**

Tuesday, January 19th-PTO Meeting- 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the gym

Tuesday, February 2nd- [Early release day](#)

Monday, February 15th- Friday, February 19th- **No School**- Presidents' Day and February Break

Tuesday, March 1st- [Early release day](#)

Thursday, March 24th- Beal Family Dinner at Shrewsbury High School

Thursday, March 31st- Parent Forum for incoming Kindergarten families- 6:30 p.m. in the Beal gym

Tuesday, April 5th- [Early release day](#)

Monday, April 18th- Friday, April 22nd- **No School**- Patriots' Day and April Vacation

Please contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Have a great week!