

## Welcome to Beal Early Childhood Center

January 15, 2016

### News on the Beal Front:

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#### 1. A note from the Principal

I am sending my weekly email out prior to the weekend as we observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday. Please note the information below about our PTO Meeting on Tuesday evening, where we will be joined by School committee members Sandy Fryc and Erin Canzano. Please join us as we discuss and field questions about education in Shrewsbury, the 2016-2017 school budget, and field questions around Dr. Sawyer's message to School Committee on January 6th informing us that the Massachusetts School Building Authority staff will be making a recommendation to their Board to take Shrewsbury's "statement of interest" for a Beal building project to the next phase. We anticipate hearing the Board's decision soon. We hope you can join us!

The week of January 18th-22nd is 'No Name Calling Week', which is celebrating its 12th anniversary and is observed by many schools nationally and internationally. 'No Name Calling Week' was inspired by the the novel "The Misfits" by James Howe, which details the lives of four 7th Grade students who are teased for various reasons. These students decided to create a political party called the No Name Party, and eventually ran for student council using the platform of no name calling. I'll spare the ending in case you're interested in reading the book... We know all too well that name calling exists at all levels of schooling, and can affect students in many ways. It is our shared responsibility to educate our children about the power that words can have, and celebrate those

students who use them to show kindness and friendship. I feel this is something that the Beal community does very well. Teachers use platforms such as Morning Meeting to discuss related topics and Ms. Drobinski, the School Psychologist, teaches lessons through her social curriculum that allows students to express their feelings appropriately.

Sincerely,

Chris Girardi

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## 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 Erin Canzano will be joining us to discuss and field questions about education in Shrewsbury. Child care will be provided.

## 3. Early Release Day on Tuesday, February 2nd

There are five early release days built into the 2015-2016 school calendar. These days allow for professional development opportunities for staff to grow in their profession and the district to provide training towards our District and School Improvement Plan Goals. The next early release day is Tuesday, February 2nd. Information about the early release schedule is listed below:-

Tuesday, December 8th- Early release-

Tuesday, February 2nd- Early release-

Tuesday, March 1st- Early release-

Tuesday, April 5th-Early release-

Tuesday, May 3rd- Early Release

### Early Release days at Beal affect the following programs:-

Full day Kindergarten and Grade 1- 12:30 p.m. dismissal (There will be a three hour difference in transportation times. Please allow extra time for differences in midday traffic patterns.) Lunch is not served on early release days.-

1/2 day a.m. Kindergarten- no change in dismissal-

1/2 day p.m. Kindergarten- **no school-**

Beal Extended Day- open for operations beginning at 12:30 p.m. \*\*Only students scheduled for that day of the week may attend the After School program.

#### 4. 100th day of school canned food drive

Beal classrooms are supporting the Worcester County Food Bank by conducting a canned food drive. You can help our neighbors in need this winter by making a donation of one or more of the following non-perishable food items: canned tuna, chicken, salmon, soup, stews, chili, beans, canned pasta, canned vegetables, canned fruit, and grocery store gift certificates. No glass please! The goal is for each class to raise 100 cans of food by Wednesday, February 10th, which is the 100th day of school barring any snow days!!!

#### 5. 2016-2017 Kindergarten lottery information

For those of you who requested to have their child entered into the lottery for full day kindergarten in 2016-2017, you can find the results of the lottery on our website: [www.schools.shrewsbury.ma.gov](http://www.schools.shrewsbury.ma.gov). Look under the Quick Links box for the 2015-2016 Kindergarten Information. Then: Click on Current News for Kindergarten Lottery Results 2016-2017. There you will find the results for each lottery drawing by district. Your child's name will be listed with the order number your child was selected in your district's lottery. As of now, we do not know the number of full day kindergarten sections that we will be able to offer. As we continue to work on the budget, we are confident that by the beginning of February we will have more information for you as to how many students we will be able to initially assign to full day kindergarten. Once the decision is made on the number of full day classes sections, you will receive a letter in the mail with your child's session assignment (full day, morning session or afternoon session) as well as the school assignment and their number on your district's wait list if they did not get full day placement. This mailing will also direct you to our website where you will find information regarding the registration process and dates for registration as well as information regarding parent orientation, summer program, screening and much more. Information regarding the Extended Learning (Extended School) Program can be found our website or by contacting Karen Isaacson at [kisaacson@shrewsbury.12.ma.us](mailto:kisaacson@shrewsbury.12.ma.us)

6. Beal Media Center news The Beal Media Center is asking for ongoing 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

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**

Wednesday, February 10th- 100th day of school

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!

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