

Welcome to Beal Early Childhood Center

News on the Beal Front: [December 12, 2016](#)

In this issue:

1. A note from the Principal
2. Warming Up Winter
3. Report cards
4. PTO update and upcoming events
5. Kindergarten 2017-2018
6. News from the nurse
7. Upcoming Dates and Events

1. A note from the Principal

This past weekend my wife and I took our children to the Polar Express train experience. We had a wonderful time riding the train, singing songs, and living the story as characters on the journey to the North Pole. The opportunity to bring a story to life and act it out is a concept that is infused throughout the Kindergarten and Grade 1 curricula and happens often in our Kindergarten classrooms. Acting out stories encourages children to work on their oral language skills, requiring them to use appropriate vocabulary and work on their understanding of narrative. These are fundamental pieces when developing comprehension skills. Retelling a story encourages children to work on sequencing and identifying elements of a story. It also helps children develop their own voice, gain confidence, and strengthen their imagination; all qualities that promote a love of reading. As you continue to read with your child, think about ways to bring their stories to life to build on their comprehension skills and make their reading experiences more meaningful.

Sincerely,

Chris Girardi

Phone: (508) 841-8865

Email: cgirardi@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

2. Warming Up Winter

The Beal Community is “Warming Up Winter” by collecting new gloves, mittens, hats and socks for infants, children, teens and adults. Now that the cold weather is approaching, the need for these items has greatly increased. All items will be donated to local charities and school children in need. Please send donations to school with your child by **Friday, December 16th**. Thanks in advance for your donations and continued support!

3. Report cards

Trimester 1 report cards will be coming home with your child next Monday. This information will provide you detailed feedback regarding the specific learning standards in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Habit of Mind, and Motor Development. This information, along with verbal feedback from parent conferences and ongoing communication with your teacher, will assist you in understanding your child’s strengths, challenges, and interests. The goal of the Kindergarten and Grade 1 learning standards and reporting system is to use this information to individualize your child’s learning and prepare them for the academic, social, emotional, and physical expectations of Grade 1 and 2. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the report card. Also, please join [Mrs. Dumphy’s SPS Elementary Coaches’ blog](#), where our terrific Curriculum Coordinator and Coach posts important information about learning at Beal.

4. PTO update

Please join us this Thursday, December 15th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. for our December PTO Meeting. This will be a special joint meeting with Beal School Council to discuss agenda topics related to the Beal Building Project, the Beal Family Dinner, and much, much, more! Childcare will be provided. Please note that there is no PTO Meeting on the originally scheduled date of Tuesday, December 20th. The Beal PTO is actively looking for new members to join our dedicated team. Please read the following letter for more information.

[Beal PTO member letter](#) -**Holiday Cookie Extravaganza**- Beal PTO will be holding a Cookie Extravaganza for Beal staff on Tuesday, December 20th. Please consider donating baked goods, including your recipe, as the PTO will be creating a recipe book of all cookies and pastries! Please use this [Sign Up Genius link](#) to sign up for the Holiday Cookie Extravaganza.

Stem Beginnings- We are excited to offer STEM classes in the new year. The first session will run on Friday afternoons for six weeks. Please see this [STEM flyer](#) for details about the program and how to register.

5. Kindergarten 2017-2018

If you have a child that will be eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall of 2017 (must be 5 years old by August 31, 2017), please send an email to Diane Abbott, our Registrar with your child's information so she can check that your child is on the incoming kindergarten database. Her email address is

dabbott@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us**Information required:** Student First Name Student Last Name Date of Birth Gender Address Phone Number Parent's Name Parent's Email Address Name of preschool child is attending (if applicable) For more information, please visit our website:

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov>. Click on Student Registration/ Click on Kindergarten Information 2017-2018.

6. News From the Nurse

The level of excitement for the approaching holiday break can be felt and heard around the hallways here. Add to that the arrival of some beautiful weather and my Beal School friends couldn't be happier! I hope those of you who are tending to sick children will see a return to good health as we get a chance for some fresh air. *All lost and found items that remain with us as of next Friday will be brought to the thrift shop at St. Anne's Church. Please feel free to come search the bin if you feel your child has lost items at school.* If your child is in need of receiving any prescription medication during school hours, please ask their healthcare provider to write an order for a second bottle of medication that can be left at school for the midday dose. The pharmacist will provide you with a second pharmacy labeled bottle for me to keep. That would apply to eye drops or ointment as well. Please remember that you must hand deliver any medication to school and not send it on the bus with your child

.~Jill Wensky,

Beal Nurse

508-841-8870

7. Important dates

Thursday, December 15th- Joint Beal School Council and PTO Meeting- 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Monday, December 19th- Trimester 1 report cards sent home

Monday, December 26th-Monday, January 2nd- December Vacation- **No school**

Tuesday, January 17th- Beal PTO Meeting- 6:30 p.m. in the Beal gymnasium

Tuesday, February 7th- Early release day

Monday, February 20th-Friday, February 24th- Presidents' Day and February Vacation- **No School**