

GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

September 16, 2013

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge

Dear Families,

Coolidge teachers, aides and specialists work hard to ensure that our students behave in ways that are consistent with our core value of respect. At the same time, we know that sometimes students need our support in order to behave well “even when no one is looking”. Generally we’re able to use our Support Card to follow up on incidents at school and to communicate any outcomes of these conversations with everyone involved. You can find an example of this form on our web site.

As you know, schools throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are also tasked with the important job of investigating accusations of bullying, including those made anonymously. At the elementary level, it can be tricky to tease out the difference between temporary conflicts and long-term patterns of behavior. Fortunately, every staff member has been trained so that no student goes without help once a student signals. Providing that help is complex, because it must be immediate. It’s also likely to involve many other students. For example, it’s not unusual for a single person to have 10-15 conversations in order to make a final determination. Of course, when issues of bullying are suspected or confirmed, I communicate directly with all the parents of students who may be involved. However, it was pointed out to me today that it would also be helpful for parents to be informed in cases when their child is simply asked about whether they’ve observed bullying. Accordingly, we’ve created a new letter to alert parents when we’ve spoken with their child about a bullying incident. An example of this letter will be on our web page later today.

I am hopeful that this new form will trigger conversations at home, so that all our students are encouraged to talk about and to share concerns. I am also confident that with more adults involved, any worrisome situations that may be “out there” will come to light.

Thanks to the thoughtful mom who made this suggestion!

Sincerely,

Amy

Amy Clouter, *Principal*

Important Dates

September 18

Picture Day

September 26

Curriculum Night for parents of students in K, Gr. 1 & Gr. 2

October 2

Get Fit Family Adventure 4:30-6

October 11

School Store

October 14

No School; Columbus Day

October 15
October 25

PTO Meeting, 7 pm in the Media Center
School Store
Movie Night

FYI

1. Coolidge School's next "Get Fit Family Adventure" is coming! It will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd, 2013 from 4:30 – 6:00. Its focus is a very important one, as it is an initiative that is being spread for kids and adults everywhere. It's not just here in Shrewsbury as parents and kids have seen posters for this at gymnastics places, doctor's offices, gyms, dance studios, and other public places. This program is called the **5-2-1-0 Every Day!** The purpose is to promote healthy behaviors for kids and adults each and every day.

This is what it stands for:

5- servings of fruits and vegetables every day

2- hours or less of screen time per day

1- hour or more of active time (exercise)

0- sugary drinks

We will have lots of fun games and activities for family members to enjoy. Please drop in anytime between 4:30 and 6:00 and enjoy the festivities!

2. Parents, please remember to send in your Handbook sign off slips- the handbook can be found online, and the sign off button is easily accessed via PowerSchool.
3. Thankfully we're experiencing cooler temperatures outside. Please know that we will have recess outdoors whenever possible. Send your child to school with raingear when appropriate and/or an outer layer for chilly days, please!