

GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

November 26, 2013

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge

Dear Families,

What I want to do this morning is to send a simple message of gratitude. I send all sorts of communications--and they're seldom simple. The thing is, this week my charge is especially complex, because I need to signal thankfulness and concern at the same time.

Firstly, I want to begin with the most important part: gratitude. I want to send a public thank you to the people who helped to make the Coolidge Shopping Spectacular so successful. The hard work of PTO Chair Melissa Pratt and her numerous organizers involved countless hours of preparation. No doubt those of you who attended noticed how busy all our volunteers were on the evening of the event as well. The Coolidge Shopping Spectacular is a huge undertaking and every parent involved worked incredibly hard. As I drafted this message last week I was sincerely hoping I could stop at this point and describe how our PTO puts the funds they raise to good use. Unfortunately, in the aftermath of the event our volunteers discovered a problem. I hope by bringing your attention to what happened that the community can help to resolve it.

At the end of the night on Friday November 15, all money in the cash boxes was tallied and double-checked by multiple people. The cash totaled \$747.40. On Saturday when the total raffle ticket sales were tallied the PTO was unable to account for around \$450 that should have been brought in that evening. On top of this two winners prizes appear to have "walked off" between calling of the winners and handing out prizes. Initially we were all hoping that a volunteer put money aside for safe keeping when the cash box got full. Unfortunately, having spoken to everyone involved that's not what happened. Accordingly, during the PTO meeting the following Tuesday we discussed the issue at length and decided to reach out to the entire community.

Obviously, going forward we're going to put additional security measures in place, especially at events where we raise considerable amounts of cash. In the meantime, if anyone can think of any information at all that would be helpful please contact Melissa Pratt or myself.

I'm sorry that this has happened, particularly because so many people worked so very hard to raise the missing funds. It's frustrating to think that anyone who attended would steal from a school. In the end, it's my sincere hope that by confronting the loss we can move forward together.

Sincerely,

Amy

Amy Clouter

Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO SCHOOL TOMORROW.

November 27, 28, 29	No school; Thanksgiving break
December 2 – 6	Gingerbread Shop
December 9	Report Cards go home
December 20	Snowflake Festival
12/23 – January 1 2014	No School – December break
January 2, 2014	Return to school

News from the Nurse: November is National Diabetes Awareness Month.

Nearly 26 million children and adults in America have Type 1 Diabetes.

As a school community member, I am dedicated to the well being of our students and staff and wanted to share with you the warning signs/symptoms of diabetes. Behavior(s) a child may be exhibiting at home or school that could indicate undiagnosed diabetes:

- Frequent trips to the bathroom (especially in close sequence)
- Unquenchable thirst
- Irritability
- Unusually tired
- Weight loss; thin appearing

Many of these symptoms can be related to illnesses that are not associated with diabetes, including the flu. There should be NO FEVER with Diabetes. This is a critical factor in differentiating between the flu. Also urinating at night or wetting the bed is an important sign to watch and follow up on. Only a healthcare professional can provide appropriated diagnostic tests and treatments.

For more information about Diabetes, log on to:

www.diabetes.org

www.jdrf.org

www.joslin.org

www.JBWfund.org

Thank you,
Katie Zimmermann

FYI

1. As you know, “effort” is a topic Coolidge teachers have been raising with students in our classrooms. We define effort as “trying hard” and we emphasize its importance because unlike skill, trying hard is something every child can control. We are also stressing effort because research suggests it plays a vital part in future success. Here is a clip we showed children in grades K-2 about what “trying hard” looks like in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJrDzF3wNFc>. During ASM, we counted the number of tries together. We were surprised by how much the squirrel star persevered!

Adult learners can click this link to learn more about effort:

http://alumni.stanford.edu/get/page/magazine/article/?article_id=32124

2. Parents (and even extended family!) are welcome to visit with our students during lunch. Please do not bring younger siblings out to recess, though- if your child is not yet in Kindergarten, s/he should not be on our playground with the older children.

3. Holiday Teacher/Staff Gift Option – An Apple for the Teacher!

For those who are looking for a meaningful gift this holiday season, we have a simple, creative initiative to recognize and thank our amazing Teachers and Support Staff **and** contribute to future grants and programs that will benefit our children.

Shrewsbury Education Foundation (SEF) works to stimulate, strengthen and support the creation and implementation of innovative educational programs and enrichment activities that benefit students of Shrewsbury Public Schools.

At a time when our schools are experiencing significant budget cuts and program eliminations, SEF is committed to raising funds that go directly to our teachers in the form of Grants and Enrichment Programs.

In addition to class gifts, please consider asking families to donate \$1-\$5 per child toward the purchase of an “In Your Honor” Apple. This glass apple, with the “In Your Honor” inscription and year will be awarded to Teachers and Support Staff, along with a written acknowledgement of the class name or individual donor. If someone is looking to purchase one on their own, the actual price of the apple is \$15. The remaining proceeds will go **directly** to the Teacher/Support Staffs’ school to be utilized for grants and enrichment programs. This recognition initiative is truly “planting the seeds” for future innovative, and stimulating enrichment programs.

Please complete the form below and return a check payable to the SEF to the school office. Or, go to www.shrewsbury-edfoundation.org <<http://www.shrewsbury-edfoundation.org/>> and click on the “In Your Honor” tab to order and pay via Pay Pal.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Darline at info@shrewsbury-edfoundation.org