

## **GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL**

*December 9, 2013*

[www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge)

Dear Families,

I hope you arrived safely at your destination this morning, and that the trip home goes well for all of us, too. This morning's weather- and the anticipation of snow - colored the imaginations of students and staff alike. It's still a hot topic in the cafeteria!

Dealing with a snow day is a tricky endeavor for parents, particularly when your children attend school some distance away from work. At the same time, I can't help but smile at the way the idea of a "free day" sparks hearts and minds. Apparently, it inspires authors, too. Google the term 'snow day' and 40 titles of children's books pop right up. This may be a "go to" resource for you at home when you want to channel that anticipatory energy. The long list is also a reminder that there can be many wonderful compositions on one topic; perhaps you'll inspire your child to add to the collection. We'd appreciate the effort!

Writing is an area where Shrewsbury has invested a lot of time and energy in the past few years. Report cards go home today. When you open the envelope, be sure to look under the English Language Arts standards for information about how your child is doing in two areas: topic development and conventions. At every grade students are working on writing 'with focus, organization and detail'. Given how much we look to students' writing for evidence of their understanding, investing in writing practice is time well spent. As always, if you have additional questions about how your child is doing (in Writing or in any other area) please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

*Amy*

Amy Clouter

*Principal*

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**December 9**

December 20

**12/23 – January 1 2014**

January 2, 2014

**January 20**

January 24

**February 12**

February 17-21

**Report Cards go home**

Snowflake Festival

**No School – December break**

Return to school

**MLK, Jr. Day- No school**

PTO's Parent's Night Out

**Young Audience's *Abraham Lincoln* visits**

Winter Break

## **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](http://alumni.stanford.edu/get/page/magazine/article/?article_id=32124)

2. Please use this link to access helpful reminders in the event that we do have to contend with delays, cancellations and the like: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1219351513410.htm>

### **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) <<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](mailto:info@shrewsbury-edfoundation.org)