

## **GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL**

*March 10, 2014*

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

Dear Families,

Collaboration between teachers is vital to school improvement efforts. Here at Coolidge teachers work in grade level teams to monitor student achievement. As you know, teacher teams have also been discussing effort and its connection to achievement. The results are interesting; students who regularly complete homework, participate in daily reading, and that use their independent time well grow faster. In fact, our comprehension scores can tell us which students gave gained more than expected since the first trimester! We share this effort data with you for two reasons: 1. Trying hard is something every student can do, and 2. The link to effort and achievement is important now- and it will be just as critical later. In fact, when students don't develop the ability to sustain effort by fourth grade we worry enough to schedule special conferences. Please do everything you can to value the work of 'trying hard' at home. By the time your children are in middle school you'll be glad you did.

Aside from working together within the school, we try hard to work across schools, too. This fall, for example, Coolidge teachers and Paton teachers in grades three and four analyzed MCAS results. What's more, Paton School has extended a collaboration opportunity to Coolidge *parents*.

Members of School Committee and the Board of Selectmen will be available to discuss the budget and to field questions about next steps at a community meeting at 7 pm THIS Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> in Paton's Music room. I will be there, and I hope you will, too. If you have yet to tune in for information about how the budget will impact your child's education, please attend. If you have an opinion to express, please join me and share your perspective.

This is a critical time, and there are lots of local opportunities to participate in the process. Whether you are sharing feedback, asking a question or expressing an opinion, your voice is important. Please check out our PTO website for more information. You can also watch it online through the Shrewsbury Media Connection's Online Video Library by clicking this link

[http://home.townisp.com/~spacmac1/SMC\\_Video\\_Player/Video\\_Player.html](http://home.townisp.com/~spacmac1/SMC_Video_Player/Video_Player.html).

*Amy*

Amy Clouter

*Principal*

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>March 14</b>	<b>School Store</b>
March 21	Clay time, 6:30-8:30
<b>March 28</b>	<b>School Store</b>
March 31	Report cards go home

**Please note MCAS dates for third and fourth grade:**

March 18	Gr. 4 long Comp
March 19 & 20	Gr. 3 ELA
March 25 & 26	Gr. 4 ELA
May 6 & 7	Gr. 3 Math
May 13 & 14	Gr. 4 Math

**A Note from the School Nurse**

**Note from the Nurse**

Please make sure that your child is eating breakfast every morning before coming to school. Studies show an increase in both attention skills and knowledge retention when children begin their day with a balanced, nutritious breakfast. Furthermore, children who skip breakfast are at a higher risk for obesity due to overeating later in the day, slower metabolisms and the tendency to choose less healthy food options.

If your child would like to buy breakfast at school, it is offered daily 8:30-9 AM in the cafeteria. There is a choice of 2 cold dishes and 1 hot dish daily with yogurt and fruit. The price is \$1.50, cash or a ticket is accepted.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us keep your children healthy. Call the Nurse's office at 508-841-8887 if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Katie Zimmermann RN

1. FOR ALL PARENTS~Please help our Special Education Department to understand our strengths and needs by reflecting on your family's experiences on this online survey: <http://www.maparentcohort2.com>

The results of the survey will assist us in strengthening our communication and partnership with parents. The survey closes on March 21, 2014.

2. Please remember to practice safe driving habits in our parking lots. Going slow in the pick up and drop off line and taking that "extra look" is really important, especially in

the winter season. Your care for our students and staff is appreciated. **Our neighbors on Florence Street would be most grateful if drivers in our pick up line by 2:30 respect their driveway space especially so that they too can pick up their children and grandchildren in the afternoon.**

3. Join Shrewsbury High's G-Mad (Globally Making a Difference) for our second Kid's Night Out event! On March 15th, from 5-8pm, drop off your kids (K-6th graders) at Shrewsbury High School's gym. There will be games, face painting, watching movies, and more! One child is 20 dollars, two children is 35 dollars, three children is 45 dollars, and four children is 50 dollars. Pizza, drinks, and other snacks will also be available with additional payment. Hope to see you there!"

### **Raising Resilient Children and Teens in the Digital World**

**Event Date - April 3, 2014 7:00PM; Location - Oak Middle School, 45 Oak Street, Shrewsbury, MA**

Technology and children receive a lot of media attention these days: too much screen time, lack of social interaction and cyberbullying. Yet technology will play an integral part in their jobs, their relationships, and in every aspect of their lives. Social media and technology are tools that can be used to raise responsible, healthy children. The question is how can we prepare our children and teens for the challenges of tomorrow while teaching them responsible use of technology today?

In this session, Dr. Bob Brooks will describe the outlook and skills that parents can nurture in their children and teens to increase self-discipline, responsibility, caring, and resilience. Then Rich Brooks (Bob's son), an expert in social media who has two daughters, the oldest of whom is in middle school, will address the ways in which (a) schools can use social media to teach students responsibilities and skills that are associated with resilience, and (b) parents can establish reasonable limits on screen time without stifling creativity, learning or impeding of homework. Rich will also highlight some practical tactics parents and teachers can use to monitor and manage online activity.

### **Biographical Information:**

Dr. Bob Brooks is on the faculty of Harvard Medical School and received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Clark University. He has lectured nationally and internationally and written extensively about the themes of resilience, motivation, parenting, family relationships, positive school and work climates, and balancing our personal and professional lives. He is the author or co-author of 15 books including *Raising Resilient Children*; *Raising a Self-Disciplined Child*; and *The Power of Resilience: Achieving Balance, Confidence, and Personal Strength in Your Life*. Additional information about Bob may be found on his website ([www.drrobertbrooks.com](http://www.drrobertbrooks.com)).

Rich Brooks is founder and president of flyte new media (<http://www.flyte.biz>), a web design and marketing firm in Portland, Maine. He is a nationally recognized speaker on entrepreneurship, Internet marketing, and social media. His expertise in these areas are reflected in numerous activities including: He presents and blogs (<http://www.flyteblog.com>) on web marketing topics such as social media, search engine optimization, email marketing, blogs, and building websites that sell. He is currently an Expert Blogger at [FastCompany.com](http://FastCompany.com) and a regular contributor at [SocialMediaExaminer.com](http://SocialMediaExaminer.com). He is a founder of The Agents of Change Digital Marketing Conference (<http://www.agentsofchangecon.com/>), an annual conference on search, social & mobile marketing. He runs The Marketing Agents Podcast (<http://www.themarketingagents.com/itunes>), where he interviews marketing experts from around the world on search, social & mobile marketing. He is the “tech guru” on WCSH Channel 6’s evening news show, 207, and teaches web marketing and social media courses for entrepreneurs at the University of Southern Maine's Center for Continuing Education. In addition, Rich serves as a consultant to a high school social media club in the Portland, Maine area.

**Contact Information: Ann Jones, Principal, Oak Middle School, 508-841-1210 - [ajones@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:ajones@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)**

## 2014 Parade

Even though cold, snowy weather is still here, enthusiasm is warming up for the 2014 *Spirit of Shrewsbury Parade*! Last year's parade participants are already asking for the 2014 parade registration form. They are jumping on the bandwagon to be sure they don't forget to fill the form out.

Attached is the 2014 parade registration form. Please forward the form to people who haven't been in the parade, but would like to be a part of the growing marchers/floats/vans, etc.

Hope you'll join us on September 28. Catch the Spirit!

Sue Falzoi & Paul Anastasi