

GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

May 12, 2014

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge

Dear Families,

Thanks to Eagle Scout candidate Mike O'Connell and the Boy Scouts for their outstanding work updating the front entry garden. They've worked really hard over the past two Saturdays to clear the area, to make and install planting boxes, to prune shrubs, to plant bulbs and to mulch the area along the front walkway. Thanks too to our PTO for supporting a small allocation for new plants. As you'll soon note, their service project made a BIG impact.

Did you know that in the past two years Coolidge has benefitted from *three* such community service projects, including the painting of the entire cafeteria? In recent years Shrewsbury has been increasingly hard pressed to find resources for Town projects. Volunteers like these have played an increasingly important role in keeping our school facility clean and attractive.

I encourage you to continue to stay engaged in the budget process by attending the public budget hearing being held by School Committee this evening, May 12, at 7:00 pm in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall, 100 Maple Avenue. The School Committee invites public comment on the revised budget recommendations, including the potential cuts, and will consider this public feedback prior to voting on a formal budget recommendation to Town Meeting. Please consider attending the hearing to share your feedback, or you can do so by sending an email to schoolcommittee@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us. The most recent budget documents can be found at <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/138143855736.htm>

Sincerely,

Amy

Amy Clouter

Principal

Updated superintendent's budget recommendation:

On Wednesday evening, Dr. Sawyer presented an updated budget recommendation to the School Committee that includes possible reductions that may need to be made next year. The presentation also included commentary

from Mr. Todd Bazydlo, SHS Principal, regarding the high school's challenging situation. This information, as well as the video of the School Committee meeting, can be found under the FY15 Budget link [here](#) or on the School Department website at <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov>.

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 12	TODAY Early Release Day: students dismissed at 12:15, no lunch
May 13, 14	Grade 4 Math MCAS
May 13	PTO Meeting, 7 pm in the Media Center
May 16	School Store
May 26	Memorial Day, no school
May 28	SELCO visits Grade 4
	Teacher Appreciation luncheon
June 13	Field Day / Technology Walk-A-Thon

Please note: We are *still* coordinating times for completion date and medal ceremonies with other schools. Thanks for understanding!

A Note From the Nurse

This week, please consider joining millions of people across the country and participate in Screen Free Week also known as TV Turnoff Week. Screen Free Week encourages opportunities that promote active living, reduce sedentary behaviors and motivate kids, families, and adults. It helps to assist families to lower the use of TV/Screen Time and live more active and healthy lives. Why should you try it? Studies show that by reducing television, videos, electronic games and recreational use of the computers is a leading way to reduce obesity, increase literacy and standardized test scores and dramatically curtail acts of violence and bullying.

Some interesting facts:

*The average child watches 3 hours of TV per day (2 hours of quality programming is the maximum).

*Youth spend more time in front of the TV, video and computer than they spend on anything else besides sleeping. Moreover, children exposed to television on a daily basis show significant drops in their creativity, problem solving ability and reading levels.

*50% of American households have three or more TV sets!

*Studies show watching 10 or more hours of TV a week negatively impacts children's social performance. Children who watch violence on TV are more likely to display aggressive behavior.

Here are a few tips:

1. Keep TV off during meals.
2. Instead of settling into a TV routine, exercise as a family.
3. Designate certain days of the week as TV free days, and hide the remote
4. Have a family game night, read, or pull out puzzles.

Good Luck!

Katie Zimmermann RN

FYI

1. As you know, one of the tasks teachers tackle in May has to do with class placement. Accordingly, we invite interested parents and families to participate in the process by sharing their insights and describing their child's needs. Parent input is an important factor we consider in building class lists. At the same time, making plans for next year will be complicated, because the number of classes we will have at Coolidge depends on the outcome of the budget situation. We have a lot of uncertainty going into the scheduling as well as placement process, and parents should know that this makes what is already a complex process even harder. If you would like to fill out a placement form you can find it attached and/or on our website. That said, please do not feel that you must fill out a form- or assume that filling out the form means that all your requests will be honored. The form is merely a way for us to consider new information and to make decisions with home insights in mind.
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**