

## GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

February 29, 2016

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/coolidge>

Dear Families,

This morning Ms. Burnap challenged her team to a timely math problem. She said:

- My best friend's father turned 19 today. How can he ONLY be 19?
- How old is he "really"? Remember, it's a Leap Year. What does that mean?

This made us all think about the special nature of a leap year, and the learning that results from periodic wondering. In addition to solving the problem, we discussed various strategies for solving it. Then her third grade colleagues suggested additional problems, like: *My friend's father and his grandson will turn 21 the same year. In how many years will they both turn 21?*

I left the meeting trying to recall the scientific basis for leap years. It's interesting when we learn together! It's not always easy, though. Sometimes children have a hard time finding the courage to ask their questions. Other students find it difficult to get "air time" in class because there is so *much* sharing happening. Check in with your child, and let your child's teacher know how s/he is feeling as a learner. Tomorrow our teaching staff will be learners as we participate in a professional day. Please plan accordingly, and remind your child about the early dismissal.

Finally, we are still looking for feedback on the qualities we hope our students will exhibit as a result of attending school at Coolidge. So far I have heard back from two families, and collected the following words: compassionate, leaders, hardworking, respectful, helpful, and confident. Your voice matters; please join the discussion by emailing your ideas.

Here's to a wonderful week ahead.

Sincerely,

*Amy*

Amy Clouter

[aclouter@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:aclouter@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us).

*Principal*

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## Important Upcoming Dates:

**Tuesday, March 1 is an early release day.**

**Students dismissed at 12:15.**

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| March 1  | EARLY RELEASE DAY <u>Dismissal at 12:15</u><br>Primary Voting at Coolidge |
| March 2  | PTO Meeting, 7 pm in the Media Center                                     |
| March 5  | PTO sponsored "Man in your life dance."                                   |
| March 11 | School Store  |
| March 25 | School Store  |
| April 8  | Coolidge Spring Fling Fundraiser (details coming soon)                    |

Link to some details: <http://schools.shrewsbury.ma.gov/coolidge/calendar/21508/1620809>

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|------------------|--|
| April 26, 27, 28 | PARCC testing Grade, 3 English Language Arts |
| May 2, 4, 5      | PARCC testing Grade 4, English Language Arts |
| May 9-12         | PARCC testing Grade 3, Math                  |
| May 16-19        | PARCC testing Grade 4, Math                  |

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## Coolidge After School Activities Program – Full

All of the Coolidge After School Activities Program (ASAP) classes have been filled.

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### From the School Nurse

Parents: Please **NEVER** send your child to school with hard candy. Recently, a student shared a hard candy with another student and that student was choking on the playground. The student was okay, but it could have been a lot worse.

If you want your child to have a cough drop, please send a note to the nurse with the cough drops and she will administer them at the appropriate time.

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Pictured at right: Students in Mrs. Pacheco's PE class practice balancing.



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## Coolidge PTO Meeting

Members from the town School Committee will attend our PTO meeting on Wednesday March 2nd at 7pm in the Media Center.

Due to rising costs associated with maintaining the same programs and staffing levels that we currently have, coupled with increased special education costs, and limited state aid, there is a projected budget deficit for the 2016-2017 school year. Learn more and get your questions answered by attending this important meeting.

In order for the PTO to continue its essential support of our school, we need new people to come work with us. Anyone interested in being involved with the PTO please join us at this meeting to learn how you can help. We'll explain each of the board positions we need to fill for next year and answer your questions. Everyone is eligible to become a board member, share a position, or shadow someone to learn more. We will also hear updates on our fundraisers and events, the enrichment program plans, and more. Contact us at [ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) if you have any questions or have an item for the agenda.

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## Screening of *Most Likely To Succeed* on March 16

Just before February vacation, Dr. Sawyer sent an invitation to our school community to attend a screening of the film, *Most Likely To Succeed*. This film is being shown at 6:30 on Wednesday, March 16 at Shrewsbury High School. I encourage you to attend this screening and be part of an important discussion about what Shrewsbury might need to do differently to help our students adapt to what the world will demand of them in the future.

The film chronicles an alternative vision of American education implemented at High Tech High in San Diego. There, student work is largely project-based and collaborative, much like today's workplaces, with students focused on solving real life problems by experimenting, failing and trying again.

After the screening, there will be a discussion between the audience and a panel of experts representing business, higher education and our own school district. Again, I encourage you to come to the screening and be part of this important discussion.

For more information about this event, please go to <http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/future/index.cfm>

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## SCHOOL STORE DONATIONS

School Store donations may be dropped off in the box in the lobby. Donations of any new school supplies, water bottles, notebooks, pens, pencils, etc. are welcome.

Pictured at right: fourth grade volunteers and parents run the School Store.



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## PTO NEWSFLASH

**Email:** [ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

**Blog:** <http://coolidgepto.wordpress.com/> The PTO has created a blog as an additional resource for information and notices. Come check it out!

**Facebook Group:** "Calvin Coolidge PTO"

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/coolidgepto/> All parents, guardians, and staff are

welcome to join our group on Facebook. It's a great place to chat with the community or ask a question.

**Direct Donation:** <https://npo.justgive.org/coolidgepto> There are many ways to help support the PTO, a direct donation is just one.

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1. PTO Meeting- Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7PM. School Committee members will be in attendance and there will be discussion around the 2016-2017 budget and open PTO board positions
2. Yankee Candle Fundraiser
3. Boxtops

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**1. Important PTO Meeting:** Members from the **Town School Committee** will attend our PTO meeting on **Wednesday March 2nd** at 7pm in the Media Center. Due to rising costs associated with maintaining the same programs and staffing levels that we currently have, coupled with increased special education costs, and limited state aid, **there is a projected budget deficit for the 2016-2017 school year.** Learn more and get your questions answered by attending this important meeting.

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**2. Yankee Candle Fundraiser: ATTENTION! All orders are due in no later than Monday, March 7th** and we expect the products to be here by mid-April. Friends and family can still place orders online by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/YC-Coolidge>. Remember, all proceeds go to providing enrichment programs like author visits, historical actors, science museum presentations, and so much more! Contact Rachel Reeve ([rachelreeve@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelreeve@yahoo.com)) if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

3. Congratulations to our **February Boxtops winner, Angelina Troio!**

Please continue to send in Boxtops, Labels for Education, Kelloggs Rewards, and Coke Rewards.

*To include news about your committee, fundraiser or PTO event in future newsflashes, please e-mail your submissions to Kristie Biando at [kbiando74@gmail.com](mailto:kbiando74@gmail.com)*