

## **GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL**

*November 16, 2015*

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

Dear Families,

When we think of school, most people think of academics: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Today's educators certainly hold high standards for their students. Increasingly, teachers are just as mindful about the habits that support independent learning. In other words, while we still work on helping children to memorize basic sums, we also consider how to help children organize materials for ongoing practice- and we reflect on how motivated they are to apply their skills independently.

No doubt you've noticed that different children are motivated differently. Some kids like a clean room, and they invest their energy accordingly. Others rely on an allowance or another incentive to complete this 'chore'. So how do we work together to help students to develop skills with non-preferred activities? There are two key components: start with choice: ("Which part of the job is trickiest? Let's aim for 10 minutes...how much of that do you think you can done in that time today?") Then fade support. ("What's your plan for getting this task done? Tell me when you're finished; I can't wait to see it!") If our goal is independence, remember that first attempts will not be perfect. Resist the urge to jump in and fix it, because most children will be happy for you to take back the onerous chore. Instead, encourage your child to reflect on their growth- and make tracking their progress the focus of your conversations.

At this point in school every teacher is engaged in helping your child to tackle meaningful practice through homework- both in Reading and Math. In Music, Art, Health and Physical Education children are working on refining their skills too. If you are not yet familiar with your child's strengths and goals, please reach out to your child's teacher for additional information. Elementary school is a great time for children to begin learning how to learn, and practice is the engine that drives improvement.

Sincerely,

*Amy*

Amy Clouter  
*Principal*



### Important Upcoming Dates:

- 11/18 – Thanksgiving Food Drive (see info below)
- 11/18 - Gr. 3 goes to Plimoth Plantation
- 11/18 - Grade 4 Chorus Concert 6:30-8
- 11/20 - Talent Show 6-8 pm
- 11/25 - 29 Thanksgiving Break
- 11/30 - Gingerbread Store thru 12/4
- 12/2 - PTO mtg 7 pm
- 12/8 - PD Day-Early Release

### **Thanksgiving Food Drive**

Please bring your food items and \$1.00 donations to school by ~ Wednesday, November 18th. Each student is asked to bring in a food item specifically assigned to their class, (item is on the flyer sent home in the Monday folders!) as well as \$1.00 which goes towards the purchase of grocery gift cards for turkeys.

Please do help us out with this worthy cause!

The 4th grade Student Council thanks you for helping us to help others! The food and turkey vouchers will be delivered to St. Anne's Food Pantry on Thursday.

### **Second Annual Clothing Drive a HUGE success!**

The Second Annual Clothing Drive at Coolidge Elementary School was a HUGE success! We gathered over 3000 pounds of clothing and

material for the Epilepsy Foundation, which will donate over \$600.00 for our school programs and projects.

A big thank you to Mrs. Diane Betti, and her husband for storing all 3000 pounds of clothing and material during the drive. And thanks to all Coolidge families for donating their clothing, drapes, tablecloths and linens to help this great cause. See our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CoolidgeElementarySchool/> for photos of the mountain of material.



## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**

If you have not logged into the Parent Portal to sign off on the Student Handbook, please go to the Parent Portal here:

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/it/parentaccess.cfm>

and verify that you have seen the Student

Handbook. Also, while you are there, please update your contact information.

We need to have accurate contact phone numbers and emails in case we need to reach in an emergency. A few parents still haven't signed off on the handbook. You can reach our secretary, Cathy Cairns, at [ccairns@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:ccairns@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) or 508.841.8880. You can email/call her about student absences, dismissals, etc.

**To see what your children are doing at Coolidge School**, please check out our Facebook page, and LIKE us!:

<https://www.facebook.com/CoolidgeElementarySchool>

And our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3fGo0KSKI068gQQuBnaH0g>  
listed under Coolidge

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Dear Coolidge Families,

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Recognizing the importance of this learning, the Shrewsbury Public Schools have incorporated important components of SEL into the district's Strategic Priorities and Goals. To support these priorities and goals, the district has developed a self-assessment tool called the Mental Health Check and Reflect (MHCR) for all Shrewsbury Public School Students. Students will have the opportunity to assess their emotional well being in the moment and identify specific strategies to employ should they want to change how they are feeling.

Four developmentally appropriate Mental Health Check and Reflect surveys were created. Surveys were designed for Early Elementary students (grade K-2), Upper Elementary students (grades 3-4), Middle Level students (grades 5-8) and High School Students (grades 9- 12). These surveys use language and emotional regulation strategies that are taught and practiced throughout our schools. The survey consists of simple questions and will take two to three minutes for students to complete. (The 4 MHCR surveys are attached to this communication.) Students will complete the MHCR in the fall and spring of the 2015/16 school year.

At the building level, our classroom teachers and Ms. Holdren, our school psychologist will review students' survey responses. This review will serve two distinct purposes. The first and foremost purpose is to identify and support students who either identify as being in emotional distress or indicate that they are not able to employ effective strategies when they are in distress. (Parents/Guardians will be notified if their child's survey responses required support from school staff.) Second, at the district levels, the aggregate results will provide a measure of school climate and culture.

These purposes support the District's Priorities related to developing healthy social emotional culture within our schools and ensuring a systematic response to meet the needs of struggling students and the District's Goal of establishing a comprehensive approach to assessing and supporting our students' emotional well being. These surveys will provide an additional way for us to monitor and respond to the Social Emotional Learning needs of all our students!

Please reach out to me or to Ms. Holdren if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**Amy**

*Copies of the 2 Elementary surveys and Pertinent excerpts from the SPS District Priorities and Goals are enclosed.*

## **SPS Strategic Priorities: 2012 – 2016**

### **Promote Health & Wellbeing**

- Reinforce respectful, positive school cultures in order to empower members to act with kindness, empathy, and compassion.
- Ensure a systematic response to students who are struggling with social, emotional, and/or mental health issues.

#### **Five-Year Goals**

- 90% of students, parents, and educators will agree that their schools' social and emotional cultures are healthy.
- Develop a comprehensive approach to support students experiencing significant social, emotional, and/or mental health issues.

## **2013-2015 Shrewsbury Public Schools District Goals**

### **Promote Health and Wellness**

#### *Professional Practice Goals:*

3.1. Starting in the spring of 2014, all psychologists, counselors, and other related service providers will participate in data collection procedures (TBD) targeted at students' self assessment of their social and emotional well being on a bi-monthly basis with 50% of their students.

#### *Student Outcome Goals:*

3.3. Based on a targeted cohort of students across all grade levels, students will create self directed goals related to social emotional well being as measured by a pre and post assessment. 80% of these students will self report that they have met their goal on the post assessment.

#### *2013-2014 Action Plan:*

Action	Supports/Resources	Timeline or Frequency
Establish a committee to develop student self assessments and data collection procedures		Summer 2013
Pilot student self assessments at elementary, middle, and high school levels		Fall 2013
Implement student self assessments at elementary, middle, and high school levels		Winter - Spring 2014

How are you feeling today?

Circle the face that shows how you feel:



My thermometer is at: 1-2-3-4-5

5		This could make me lose control!
4		My feeling is getting too big and I may not make a good choice.
3		I'm really not O.K. I need to do something.
2		This may make me feel uncomfortable.
1		I'm O.K. I can handle this.

Write Your Number Here

Remember:

- When you get to a 3 or higher:
  - Take a break
  - Tell an adult
  - Take a deep breath
- Teachers are here to help!

**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. Coolidge 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Variety Show
2. Square 1 Art
3. Reading Incentive Program
4. Six Flags Read to Succeed
5. Clothing Drive for Epilepsy
6. Coolidge Candy Drive
7. Boxtops and Kelloggs Rewards
8. Gingerbread Shop
9. December Vacation Computer Workshops

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**1. Coolidge Variety Show**-We have a great lineup of amazing talent for the variety show this year! Come to Coolidge for a nice night out with the family, and cheer on your friends. The show is THIS Friday from 6p-8p. Tickets are \$5pp with a \$20 family max. Snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. We hope to see you there!

**2. Square 1 Art - Where it starts with your child's art!**

Square 1 Art is a wonderful fundraiser that celebrates your child's artwork along with benefiting our school!

Your child's FREE STICKERS with custom catalog should have already come home.

All online and paper orders should be received no later than November 16th.

Products will be delivered to the school and distributed before winter break.

If you have any questions regarding Square 1 Art please contact Melissa Pratt at [mpratt@townisp.com](mailto:mpratt@townisp.com).

**3. Our Reading Incentive Program** is "soaring through space" with

all our readers. Remember, we are hoping all our students pass in their 10 needed sheets by the end of the school year to earn themselves a medal. Our Reading Incentive winner for the month of October was Maya Pascoal, a kindergarten student in Mrs. Broszeits' class. She earned a \$5 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble and a very cool bookmark. Keep on reading Maya! Did you all know that Pluto is not the ninth planet in the solar system? Pluto is a Dwarf Planet which means it is too small to be a real planet, but too big to be a satellite. Just a fun fact about our galaxy!

4. Don't forget to log your reading time on the **Six Flags Read to Succeed** reading log to earn your FREE ticket to Six Flags New England.

5. Our second annual **Clothing Drive for the Epilepsy Foundation** was a fantastic success. We more than doubled our last years totals. Coolidge School families and friends donated a total of 3036 pounds of clothing and textiles. We earned \$607.00 for our school PTO. Thank you all for your participation in this very worthwhile cause.

6. **The Coolidge Candy Drive** ended this Friday, November 13th. We brought in 121.9 lbs of candy to supplement the St. Anne's Thanksgiving Outreach baskets. Thank you all for your awesome efforts. Because of your wonderful generosity, we have made Thanksgiving a little sweeter for local families in need this Thanksgiving.

7. As always, please continue to send in your **Boxtops and Kelloggs Rewards**.

8. This season's **Gingerbread Shop** will be opening on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details on this fun opportunity.

9. **Computer Workshops:**

As we know there are numerous benefits of introducing kids to Computer Science early. While our kids use laptop, ipads & smart phones to play games, watch vides etc, it's important to introduce them to basics of computer science. Once this foundational knowledge is in place then introducing kids to actual programming languages will be the next step.

RASA Creations is happy to announce two Computer Workshops for kids grade 1 to 6. After tremendous response to our last year's Computer workshops, we are coming up with two workshops for kids this December vacation.

**1. Count on Computers - For grades 1 to 3**

Date - December 28th and 29th,2015

**2. Super Scratch - for grades 4 to 7**

Date - December 30th and 31st,2015

Please see the flyer for more details on these workshops.

<https://coolidgepto.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/cocnsuperscratch.pdf>

**10% of Enrollment fees go to School PTO**

*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)*

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