

GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

December 14, 2015

Dear Families,

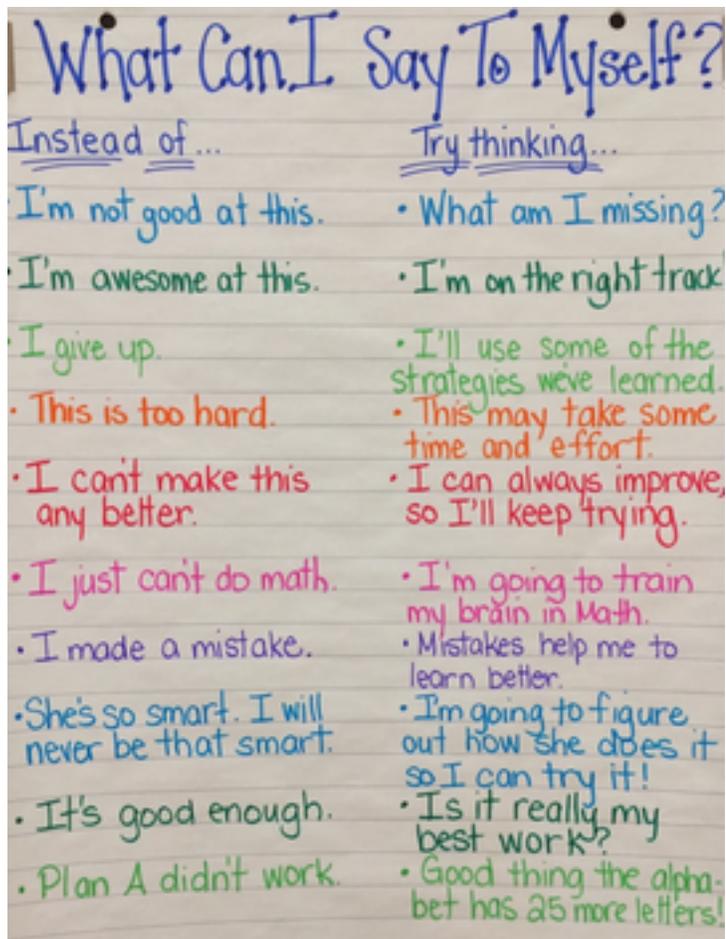
At this time of year our 'to do' lists are long. This can make it hard to demonstrate the right mindset for the season. For all you harried parents out there, here's good news: the most lasting gift you can give is free. With report cards coming home soon, the timing for delivery is perfect, too.

Renowned researcher and Stanford professor Carol Dweck says, ***"If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning."*** In other words, she is urging us adults to adopt a 'growth mindset' or the belief that one's skills and qualities can be developed with meaningful practice and effort.

As parents, it's important that we attend to the messages about skills and abilities that we send our children, lest we suggest that personal skills and qualities are "fixed". If you're curious about your own beliefs, you can test your own mindset here: <http://mindsetonline.com/testyourmindset/step1.php>

Here are some helpful tips for parents:

- Ask, "What did you work hardest at today? Instead of "how was your day?"
- Share what you are learning, so your child knows that adults' skills continue to develop, too.
- Praise effort over accomplishments. Say, "You put a lot of effort into that," instead of "You're so smart!"
- Look for ways to highlight learning from mistakes.
- When your child fails, emphasize what s/he learned.
- Encourage positive "self talk". See the chart below for a helpful example from the Fieldcrest Elementary School in Canada.



I plan to model the idea of growth as I contemplate and share my resolutions with students and staff. I'm interested in your ideas, too. Please don't hesitate to suggest ways we can grow as a school community, either directly via email or on our FaceBook page.

Sincerely,

Amy

Amy Clouter

Principal

aclouter@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Farewell and Good Luck to Mrs. Klinedinst

Coolidge School is sad to say goodbye to Kindergarten aide Mrs. Emily Klinedinst. Last Friday was her last day at Coolidge and we will all miss her! We all wish Mrs. Klinedinst and her family best wishes on their upcoming move and their new adventure.

Pictured at right: Mrs. Pat Broszeit and her Kindergarten Class with Mrs. Emily Klinedinst and Ms. Susan Todisco celebrating at their Tea Party.



Important Upcoming Dates:

- 12/15 Believe Fundraiser Pickup: **12:30-2pm and 3:30-5pm** at Coolidge
- 12/18 School Store
- 12/18 Snowflake Festival
- 12/21 Report Cards are issued
- 12/24-1/1 December Break
- 1/4 Classes Resume
- 1/20 PTO Meeting in Media Center

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO SEE WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DOING:

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

COOLIDGE FYI:

- Congrats to the Food Service Drawing Winners: Ryan Keddy, Abigail Watson, Isabella Nguyen, Helen Qui
 - The PTO raised \$2000.00 from the recent Gingerbread Store. Thanks to the Jolicoeurs and all of their helpers for running the fundraiser!
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Coolidge participated in the Hour of Code

The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Anyone, anywhere can organize an Hour of Code event. One-hour tutorials are available in over 40 languages. No experience needed. Ages 4 to 104. Pictured at right: Principal Amy Clouter with 4th graders (Mrs. Innamorati) experimenting with coding.

Here are links for resources:

<https://hourofcode.com/az/en>

Here is a link to students in Mrs. Innamorati's 4th grade experiment with coding: <https://youtu.be/RWNCDEDwiug>



PTO NEWSFLASH

Email: 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.

1. Believe Fundraiser
2. Direct Donation in honor of someone special
3. Boxtops, Labels for Education, Coke/Kellogg Rewards
4. Six Flags Read to Succeed Program
5. December Vacation Computer Workshops

1. Believe Fundraiser

Believe Catalog ORDER PICKUP is tomorrow Tuesday, December 15th 12:30-2pm and 3:30-5pm.

THANK YOU for your generous support of the PTO through this fundraiser!

To avoid interfering with the proper running of the school, **no orders will be available 2-3:30pm**. If you cannot pick up your order, please make arrangements to have someone pick it up for you.

If you have any questions, please contact Jyotsna at ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

2. 'Tis the Season for Giving: Have you considered making a donation in someone's name as a gift this holiday season? Direct donations to the PTO are always welcome, in any amount. You can send a check in to the school made out to "Coolidge PTO" or donate online here <https://npo.justgive.org/coolidgepto>

In this way all of your donation will go directly towards funding our enrichment programs, academic materials, staff appreciation, community events, and more. You can download and print a card to present the special person you are honoring.

<http://coolidgepto.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/donationcard.jpg>

Frequently employers will match tax-deductible charitable contributions made by their employees. Contact your Human Resources Office for eligibility requirements and to obtain a matching gift form. Many area businesses, such as Fidelity Investments, offer this program, so if you are considering donating to the PTO, please give this opportunity some thought.

3. Please continue to send **Boxtops, Labels for Education, Coke Rewards codes, and Kellogg's Rewards codes** in with your child.

4. **The Six Flags Read to Succeed** program is well under way. If you would like a FREE ticket to Six Flags New England, be sure to log and initial at least 6 hours of your child's reading on the Six Flags Reading Log.

5. 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
