

THE FALCON FLYER

September 7, 2010

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral



Dear Floral Families,

We hope everyone enjoyed this beautiful long weekend, which was a perfect bookend to a beautiful first week of school. There is something quite magical about the beginning of a new school year, as weeks and months of preparation meet the spontaneous joy that comes from students and teachers interacting and the anticipation of the year to come.

We want to thank you again for your support of this successful opening. Our students come to us excited about learning and about being in school – this is a significant foundation of any success that we enjoy as a school community. We also want to thank you, our parents, for your work in getting to know and following our various school routines, from dismissal procedures to medication orders. A school as large as we are especially relies upon these routines to help us maintain a safe and orderly environment for all our students, and we deeply appreciate your support.

Like you, we are excited about what we believe will be a successful year to come. The foundations of this success, along with the support from families we just described, are already clear in our early work. We are looking forward to the public release of MCAS data next week and to sharing some academic achievements at our upcoming curriculum nights – and to building upon these achievements to gain even better results. We also look at early indicators of successes in other areas, such as

the evidence of a learning environment found in a teacher's handshake for each student in her new class;
the fourth grade students who nervously, yet proudly, speak to their 800 peers and teachers for morning announcements on the first day of school;
those same 800 people working together to have a successful All-School Meeting on our first Friday of the year (no small feat!)
the experienced Floral Street students who use their empathy to guide friends new to the school through their first days;
the groups of teachers who have already met (building upon their summer work) to refine their teaching models and skills in search of ever-better results for students;
the second-grade class quietly buried in books for "read to self" on the second day of the school year

The examples go on and could fill pages, and each one happened many times at Floral Street over the last week. It is an exciting and humbling experience to stand back and watch this happen, and we are so excited to share this school community with all of you. Thank you, parents, for each part that you do in helping to prepare all our students for the greatest success in the coming year!

As always, we appreciate it when you share your successes, and your challenges if you are finding them, with us. Best wishes for a great second week of school and the year ahead.

Todd Curtis
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Lisa McCubrey
Assistant Principal
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Important Notes:

School Council

School Council is an important group made up of Floral Street School parents, teachers and administrators, and a community representative. The School Council is an advisory group to the principal, and is responsible for producing the School Improvement Plan each school year. For the 2010-2011 school year, we have one parent vacancy to fill. If you would be interested, please let Todd Curtis know by the end of this week.

Curriculum Nights

At the bottom of this notice you will find the dates for our upcoming Curriculum Nights. These are an important opportunity to strengthen our home-school connection. We hope to see you there, and want to make two important notes now:

- Our Curriculum Nights begin **at 6:45 pm** so that administrators can provide a brief but broad curriculum overview, allowing teachers to provide more detail in individual presentations. This is an initiative of our School Council, designed to support parents in their understanding of Floral Street School.
- Please make every effort not to bring students or siblings to the Curriculum Nights.

PTO

Welcome back! The Floral Street School PTO is excited to kick off the Meadow Farms Fall Fundraiser, *Celebrate the Season*. This fund raising event supports many of the enrichment programs provided to our children throughout the school year. With your help and support we can make this our most successful fundraiser yet. Please look for the Meadow Farms information packet in your child's backpack this week.

Any questions or concerns please contact Kim Lipka at k.lipka@townisp.com.

Paper Falcon Flyers

This will be the **only** paper copy of the Falcon Flyer sent home this year – all further editions will be available by the list serv and posted on the website. **If you do not have internet access, please let your child's teacher know so that we can continue to provide a paper copy.**

All parent email addresses in our records are automatically added to the list-serv. If for some reason you are not receiving messages, please let us know in the main office.

The Elementary Lunch Menu can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/department/division.php?fDD=20-17>

Important Fall Dates:

September 17	School Picture Day
September 16	Grade 1 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 20	Grade 2 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 21	Grade 3 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
September 22	Grade 4 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
October 11	No School – Columbus Day
November 2	Parent Conferences/State Election (No School)
November 11	No School – Veterans' Day
November 24-26	No School – Thanksgiving Vacation

The full district school calendar is available at:
http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1276871197_585906.pdf