

THE FALCON FLYER

September 7, 2010

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral



Dear Floral Families,

I hope that you'll forgive a personal tale this week...As I sat in class at Boston College on Saturday, the nagging feeling that I had water in my ear began to slowly turn into a dull ache and then into a throbbing pain that made it incredibly difficult to concentrate. I was fortunate to get in to see my doctor where I was informed I had...an ear infection. Imagine my surprise when I learned that I had an issue that I have always associated with young children – certainly my own three children have had their own share over the years.

So why am I sharing this with all of you? **It's made me think quite a bit since then about how we sometimes overlook the perspective that children bring, how we as adults can miss it or discount what they are telling us.** No, I'm not talking about my newfound empathy for children who have difficulty paying attention in class, though that is certainly a valuable lesson. I'm thinking more of how my own children have complained when they've had ear infections, how they talked of how uncomfortable it was – *and how I didn't quite believe them.* But on Saturday morning, I suddenly knew how painful it could be and found a new reason to reflect on how carefully we listen to children when they talk to us about their experiences. Why have I been so quick to discount what my children have told me – how willing we are to empathize with our children or our students, whether they are frustrated, happy, or in-between? As educators and as parents, whether it is an earache or an insight about reading, music, or science, we can learn so much from our children, **but first we have to listen to them.** While children don't always have the "big-picture" perspective of adults, we can almost always believe what they tell us **about their experiences**, to know that truth can come from a seven year-old as easily as someone forty-seven.

As always, we appreciate it when you share with us what you are learning from your children about their experiences at Floral Street School. Best wishes for the week ahead – we look forward to seeing parents of first-graders at this Thursday's Curriculum Night.

Todd Curtis
Principal
tcurtis@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Important Notes:

Emergency Information & Elementary Handbook

Our Elementary Handbook is posted on the district's homepage at <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>. We ask that all families review the handbook there, including important information about district and school policies. When you have done so, there is a sign-off form at the same location on the website for you to print and return to school. We appreciate your support and cooperation.

It is very important as well that all families update contact information in our student data system, PowerSchool. Access codes were sent home with report cards on the final day of school

last year; if you no longer have your code, please email Susan Cappucci in our main office at scappucci@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

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

Our Fall Fundraiser continues with Meadow Farms. Please submit your orders and checks to your teachers this week. Checks can be made out to the Floral Street School PTO. Thank-you for your support! Any questions or concerns please contact Kim Lipka at k.lipka@townisp.com.

Floral Street School has decided to participate in Macy's Shop For a Cause fundraiser on **Saturday, October 16, 2010** at Macy's. Macy's created this unique one-day-only shopping event to support local community and school organizations. Shopping passes will sell for \$5.00. Every dollar goes directly to Floral Street School. This shopping pass allows for 20% off regular and sale items. Some exclusions do apply. For every ticket purchased, your name will be entered into a drawing for a Floral Street School apparel item of your choice. Please see your child's folder for the Macy's Shop for a Cause Form. Shopping passes will be sent home in your child's backpack. For questions or concerns, please contact Patti Wolohan at wolohan5@townisp.com. Thank you for your support!

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

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/departments/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

