

THE FALCON FLYER

September 20, 2010

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral



Dear Floral Families,

We wrote in this space a couple of weeks ago about the measures of success for our school; last week, the state released 2010 MCAS results. These results reveal continued and significant success for Floral Street students, and we'd like to share a few highlights:

- Floral Street Students achieved our highest performance to date in both English Language Arts and Mathematics based on the formula used by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Following a year when our students were already in the top 10% on the state in 3 of 4 tests and top 16% in the fourth, **we improved in each area.**
- Floral Street School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for all subgroups in 2010. You may know that in the past, some subgroups of students, including special needs and low-income students, did not make adequate yearly progress towards the goal of 100% proficiency in 2010 as set out by the No Child Left Behind Act. **This year, the performance of these students set new highs.**
- The percentage of students scoring in the *Advanced* (grade 4) or *Proficient Plus* (grade 3) category increased on all four tests administered last year, showing that while we focus on meeting proficiency for all students, **we are also doing better each year in meeting the needs of students whose learning is accelerated.**
- Floral Street was one of only 187 schools across the Commonwealth to be named a *Commendation School* by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We earned this designation through two consecutive years of what the Department terms "High Growth" in both ELA and Math.

We are exceptionally proud of these results, but student achievement is never a story of "our work is done." We are also examining the MCAS data to find places where on which we need to focus and strive for **continuous improvement**. This goes for groups of students as well as individuals **and is a core value that will not change. We are as proud of this as we are of our high levels of achievement shown in our MCAS results.**

Parents will always be vital partners in these efforts to continuously improve. We appreciate your support and everything you do to send your students to school prepared and engaged. We look forward to seeing most of you at Curriculum Nights this week, and thank our parents of first-graders for the wonderful night last Thursday.

Todd Curtis
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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. **To date, 328 families have not done so.** 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.
- If you need to complete a CORI for volunteering, staff will be on hand at Curriculum Nights each night to assist you.
- The PTO will be selling brand-new Floral Street apparel at Curriculum Nights this week!

PTO

The Fall Fundraiser with Meadow Farms has officially ended today. Please get your orders and checks in by Wednesday September 22nd. Checks are to be made out to the Floral Street School PTO. We sincerely appreciate your support on this fundraiser.

Ticket sales for *Macy's Shop For a Cause* fundraiser on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at Macy's is still continuing. This unique one-day-only shopping event was created by Macy's 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. Ticket must be purchased by October 11th. 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/department/division.php?fDD=20-17>

Important Fall Dates:

September 20
September 21

Grade 2 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
Grade 3 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)

September 22	Grade 4 Curriculum Night (6:45 – 8:00)
October 8	School Picture Retakes
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