

# THE FALCON FLYER

December 20, 2010

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



Dear Floral Street School Families,

By Thursday, we'll have finished 76 of our 180 school days this year and had our last school day of 2010 – it's hard to believe! Your students have accomplished a great deal in that time, growing as readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, and musicians. Your teachers have worked hard to support, grow, and nurture every child, and to learn each and every day about how to practice their craft even better. We are honored to continue to serve such a special school community.

Our upcoming break will allow all of us an opportunity to refresh and re-charge and make our learning in January and beyond all the more valuable. We spoke to the students at All-School Meeting last week about their one "homework" assignment during the vacation – **to read!** Please help your child maintain his or her momentum in reading during this break and, of course, enjoy the time!

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## Important Notes:

### **Winter Weather & Clothing**

We wrote a couple of weeks ago about our protocol for recess during the winter, but it bears repeating. We have outdoor recess during the winter **whenever possible** – the fresh air and exercise are great for our students, and they both help to focus on important work once the recess period is over. Generally speaking, we will hold outdoor recess whenever the air and wind-chill temperature are 20° or warmer, including when there may be light precipitation.

### **Holiday Gifts**

We recognize that some parents have a tradition of giving gifts to their children's teacher(s) during this time of year. If you are planning to do so – **and please understand that it is by no means expected or required** – we would like to remind you of certain limitations on these gifts. Last year, state law that governs ethics and public employees was clarified and strengthened, with an emphasis on public employees not accepting gifts that have a value of \$50 or more. **This also applies to gifts purchased by a group of parents for an individual teacher**, something room parents have facilitated in the past. While we know all gifts are an expression of support and thoughtful generosity, we ask for your assistance in helping us to comply with this law and not putting teachers or other staff members in the awkward position of having to decline or return a gift.

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

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

### **Important Dates**

December 13	Trimester 1 Report Cards issued
December 14	School Council (7:30am)
December 24 - January 2	No School – December Vacation
January 17	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 21-25	No School – Presidents’ Day & Winter Vacation

The full district school calendar is available at:

[http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1276871197\\_585906.pdf](http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1276871197_585906.pdf)