

THE FALCON FLYER

October 24, 2011

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral

As we approach November, we are coming to the end of our initial discussions as a school about FACTS and CARES, where we take one week to discuss each word in these acronyms. There was some useful feedback in the parent survey that it would be helpful to always include what we use as the definition for each of those words. So without further ado, here is how we talk about last week's word (**responsibility**) and this week's (**empathy**):

Responsibility is doing the right thing and making good choices, *even when no one is watching.*

Empathy is taking the time to try to understand how other people might feel about an experience, event, or action – *especially when it helps you make your own good choices.*

We are so fortunate to have a parent community where people ask questions like this, since it shows how involved and invested everyone is in working together. Thank you!

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Important Notes:

Parent Conferences

Our annual Parent Conference day is one week from tomorrow. This is an important day when we hope you have a valuable conversation with your child's teacher about how the year has begun and what is to come. **Childcare will be provided during school hours (approximately 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) for school-aged children during the time of your conference only.**

When you arrive for your conference, you can check in at the cafeteria, then check back out to pick up your child(ren) after your conference.

Fall Festivals

Most classrooms here at Floral Street have a long tradition of holding a "Fall Festival" to celebrate the first couple of months of school, the change in seasons, and to make some curriculum connections to what this time of year traditionally meant in New England related to the harvest. **In that spirit and in conjunction with the district Wellness Policy**, we ask that if your child's teacher asks you to bring snacks or food for this event, that they be healthy snacks – thank you!

From the Nurse

Please see an attached letter from Ms. Sorenson, our school nurse, with some helpful fall wellness information!

Music and More

Please also see the attached information from Mrs. DeBlois and Mrs. Demarkey-Anderson for exciting information **for our families of fourth-graders!**

UNICEF Fundraiser

Unicef is a worldwide organization devoted to helping underprivileged children around the world. Members of Floral Street's student council are coordinating the collection of coins for this great cause. Floral Street School children have participated in this community service project for many years. Last year we collected almost \$2,000 for Unique! Children can "trick or treat" for Unicef or just collect loose change at home. In the October 24th Monday folder, your child will receive an orange box for coin collecting. Student council representatives will be gathering the boxes from your child's classroom Wednesday November 2nd through Friday November 4th. Thank you to Floral families for your help. We hope to make it another successful year for our Unicef fundraiser!

PTO

BJ's Wholesale Club has teamed up with **Floral Street School** to offer new memberships and renewals at a discounted price. BJ's will also **donate \$5 from every membership directly to Floral Street School**. BJ's is offering two great membership deals: BJ's Inner Circle Membership for \$40, saving \$10 off the annual membership fee or BJ's Rewards Membership for \$70 where you earn 2% payback on BJ's purchases. You will save \$20 off the annual membership fee. Both memberships also offer 3 bonus months for free!! Please see your child's backpack for complete details and application. Kindly send in your completed application along with a check made payable to: *BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc.* by Monday, November 7th. It will take approximately 3-4 weeks to activate your membership. If you need a temporary pass please email me at wolohan5@townisp.com and I will send you a temporary pass that you may download and use until your membership arrives. *Thank you for your support!!*

Emergency Contact Information/Elementary Handbook Sign Off

We still need your help making sure we have accurate contact information for all FSS families – we're getting closer! - please sign off on your information even if you have no changes.

Emergency contact information must be updated/confirmed for all students electronically. Parents may access the *Demographic Update* page to make changes and/or confirm your child's information via the *PowerSchool Parent Portal* on the Shrewsbury Public Schools website under *Quick links*. The link is: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>

The Elementary Handbook can be found on the Floral Street School website at <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/department/index.php?fDD=12-0>. Please read and review with your child.

To make/confirm emergency contact information and acknowledge that your child has read and reviewed the Elementary Handbook:

- Go the SPS website
- Click on *PowerSchool Parent Portal*, and then again at the bottom of the page
- Sign in using your *Username* and *Password* (follow the *Account Creation Directions* if you don't have a *Username* and *Password*)
- Click on *Demographic Change* in the upper right corner
- Update your child's information
- Click the button at the bottom certifying your changes and acknowledging that you and your child have read and discussed the Elementary Handbook

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:

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| November 1 | Parent Conferences (No School) |
| November 2 | Grade 4 Chorus Concerts 6:30pm - <i>Beall, Morgan, Ross</i> 7:30pm – <i>Borraccino, Goulding, Manning</i> |
| November 3 | Grade 4 Chorus Concerts 6:30pm – <i>Largess, Ralys, Spangenberg</i> |
| November 11 | No School – Veterans’ Day |
| November 19 | Floral Family Fun Fair! |
| November 23-25 | No School – Thanksgiving Vacation |
| December 26 – January 2 | No School – December Vacation |

The full district school calendar is available at on our homepage.