

# FALCON FLYER

## October 25, 2015

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/>  
[lmccubrey@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:lmccubrey@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)  
[tostrander@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:tostrander@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

Dear Floral Families,

Parent-Teacher Conference Day is just a little over a week away, and teachers are busy preparing to maximize their time with you to discuss your child's progress thus far and share some of the work your child has been doing that reflects his/her progress and informs new learning goals. This conference time is also a great opportunity for the teacher to learn from you about how homework routines are going as well as what your child shares with you about their successes and challenges at school- be it about academics or social experiences. Teachers appreciate having the opportunity to dialogue with you about your child's progress and experiences at school; please do be in contact with your child's teacher right away if you have not yet set up a time to meet for a conference.

At your scheduled conference, your child's teacher will likely share information about current math performance. There are several different ways in which their math progress is determined, including observations, math journal work, fact quizzes, problem-solving tasks, and chapter tests. The chapter tests look very much like the types of math tests we took when we were all in elementary school- the test includes a series of items all based on the content that pertains to the math chapter that was taught. What's different about the Math in Focus chapter tests, however, is that there are actually some test items on there that assess a student's ability to apply a learned concept or skill to a novel task- in other words, they can apply the learned content to a complex problem that they haven't experienced in classroom instruction. These test items, called *novel* items, help teachers determine if students have gone beyond meeting a standard and are demonstrating a level of understanding that exceeds the expectation. There are typically

just a few novel questions included on a chapter test; the majority of the test consists of two other types of tasks:

**Basic tasks:** These types of items assess basic understanding and foundational skills. It's expected that *all* students will achieve mastery at this level.

**Application tasks:** These types of items assess if the student can apply their learning to word problems and questions that are similar to those they experienced in classroom instruction. The expectation is that *most* students will achieve mastery at this level.

Teacher teams are currently working on ways to communicate with families about the different types of tasks included on your child's math chapter tests so you will have clarity about the purpose and expectations for mastery. Teachers will be talking more about these math chapter tests with you at your scheduled conference.

Have a great week!

~Lisa & Tiffany

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**Staff Recognition**

Congratulations to Floral school psychologist, **Cara Demoga**, for earning her professional status in Shrewsbury. Cara was recognized for her contributions during her first three years in the

district at a ceremony at Cyprian Keyes in Boylston on Monday evening. Cara's skillful support has been a key resource for students, teachers, and administrators. Her leadership in social thinking and kinesthetic strategies for self-regulation has helped to increase the social knowledge and coping skills of all Floral students. We are proud to call Cara our colleague at Floral Street School!

Congratulations also to **Tiffany Ostrander** for completing her third successful year of leadership at Floral Street School in her role as assistant principal. During her time here at Floral, Tiffany has made multiple contributions to the school's strong culture and focus on continuous improvement of student learning. Her skillful instructional leadership serves as a strong support to teaching teams working as professional learning communities to ensure the continuous growth of all students. Tiffany builds trusting relationships with students; Floral students know that Mrs. Ostrander believes in them, cares about them, and is there to support them every step of the way. We are grateful to have Mrs. Ostrander on the Floral team!

**From the Floral Street School 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Council**

The Floral Street Student Council would like to invite you to participate in their UNICEF fundraiser. UNICEF is a world wide organization supporting children in poor countries around the world. We are asking students to collect spare change (US currency) or Trick or Treat for Unicef. Coins that are collected will be used to provide medicine, clean water, and food to these under privileged children. UNICEF collection boxes will be sent home on **October 29<sup>th</sup>**. The collection will run through **November 4<sup>th</sup>** and children can return boxes to bins located in the hallways at Floral. Thank you in advance for your help! ~ The Floral Student Council

**From the PTO - Class Baskets for the Floral Fun Fair**

The PTO is collecting donations for the Class Baskets, which are part of the silent auction at the Fun Fair on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Your child should have received a flyer with their class's theme and suggestions for donations. There are collection boxes in each classroom from now until November 4<sup>th</sup>. If you prefer, you can

also send in a cash or check donation and the PTO will do the shopping for you – please just be sure to include the teacher's name on the envelope if you send in cash or a check. We have some new themes this year as well as old favorites – it's always fun to see the end results at the Fun Fair! Please consider sending in a donation, and if you have any questions please email Kathy Flynn at [kathycflynn@gmail.com](mailto:kathycflynn@gmail.com) .

**From the PTO: Coin Drive Winners!**

**Thank you** to all of the Floral students that participated in the PTO-sponsored Coin Drive by donating their coins to go towards the new Shrewsbury Public Library! This past week we brought in over \$1300 at Floral Street School, and \$6800 across the district in all participating elementary and middle schools! Thank you for your generosity! We have some raffle winners at Floral Street School. They are:

- Daniel Dros, grade 2 – SkyZone jump passes (2 one-hour passes);
- Tanay Gali, grade 1 – Jump Nation passes (3 play passes);
- Andrew Milani, grade 3 – Tatnuck Bookstore \$25 gift card;
- Grant Plourde, grade 3 – box of one dozen Wicked Good Cookies.

**From the PTO: Renew your BJ's Membership while Supporting Floral Street School**

Please see the attachment below to learn more about the benefits to renewing your BJ's membership between now and October 30<sup>th</sup>. Benefits include:

Get \$10 off our \$50\*\* Annual Membership

FREE Additional 3 Months of Membership

FREE Second Membership Card

*PLUS*, BJ's will donate \$5 of your Membership fee to Floral Street School

Any questions contact Jennifer Basgaard 508-842-4968 or [jbasaard@gmail.com](mailto:jbasaard@gmail.com)

## **Help Wanted at St. Mary's School**

Do you enjoy working with children?

Do you love the outdoors?

If so, please consider applying for the crossing guard position at St. Mary's School!

### **Job Details:**

- Position to begin on Nov. 2nd
- Mondays-Fridays when school is in session
- Greet students and families as they walk to school
- Morning Hours – 7:30-9:00am
- Afternoon Hours – 2:00-3:30pm

Interested applicants are asked to contact Jessica Johnson, Human Resources Representative, at [jjohnson@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:jjohnson@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) or by phone at 508-841-8402.

## **Notes from Previous Falcon Flyers:**

### **Vision & Hearing Screening**

The health office will be doing vision and hearing screenings over the next two weeks (10/19-10/23 and 10/26-10/30). If your child wears glasses, please make sure they bring them to school during these weeks. You will only get a letter from the nurse if your child does not pass the screening.

Thanks so much for your help!

### **Updates from the PTO:**

## **Volunteers Needed for the Floral Family Fun Fair!**

The Fun Fair is our largest event of the year and its' success is largely dependent on the generous help of our Floral families. Volunteers are needed Friday night for set up and throughout the day on Saturday, starting with set up in the morning, all the way until clean up in the afternoon. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to help make this event a day of great fun for our school community. Volunteer with a friend or with your Floral Street student. We welcome student volunteers age 10+ in the Game area. Students age 8-10 are welcome to volunteer in the Game area with a parent.

To sign up, please go to

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dabaf2ba6f94-2015>

We also welcome donations to our food and raffle tables. To sign up, go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dabaf2ba6f94-20151>

### **Andy's Attic Clothing Donations Needed**

During the month of October, the Community Service Learning Advisory Board at Shrewsbury High School is sponsoring a collection of winter clothing for Andy's Attic: gloves/mittens, hats, scarves, jackets and boots for all age children and the elementary and middle schools are partnering to help collect donations. *There is an extra high need for elementary age boys and girls clothes.* Andy's Attic is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides new and gently used clothing to disadvantaged high school teens and their families and was created in memory of Andy Reese, a member of the SHS Class of 2007. You can check out the great things they do at [www.andysattic.org](http://www.andysattic.org).

Donations can be dropped off now in the lobby at Floral Street School – you will find a blue bin for donations that will be there through Friday, October 30th. You can also drop off at Shrewsbury High School, Attn: Dawn Vigliatura. Arrangements can be made for pick-ups as well. At Floral, please email Hannah Kane at [hkanemcpc@gmail.com](mailto:hkanemcpc@gmail.com) or email Dawn @ [dvigliatura@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:dvigliatura@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us). On behalf of Andy's Attic, Thank you!

**The Elementary Lunch Menu and Directions for purchasing pre-paid lunch tickets** can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/foodsvc/elementarylunchmenu.cfm>

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

\*New dates added this week appear in bold print

October 28	Grade 2 Field Trip to Old Sturbridge Village/ Caforio, Martel, Young classes
October 30	Harvest Celebration at Floral Street School
November 3	Parent-Teacher Conference Day / No School for Students

November 6	School Meeting / Grades 3 & 4
November 11	Veteran's Day / No School
November 12	Wingmaster's Program at Floral / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Classes
November 13	School Meeting / Grades 1 & 2
November 14	FLORAL FAMILY FUN FAIR
November 25-27	Thanksgiving Break / No School

**Important Contact Information:**

Office	(508) 841-8720
Nurses, Phone	(508) 841-8729
Nurses, FAX	(508) 841-1545
Extended Day	(508) 841-8743
AA Transportation	(508) 753-6322 (Please call the school first with bus-related issues)

The full district school calendar is available on the district homepage at: [http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/BJs Application \(2\).doc](http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/BJs%20Application%20(2).doc)