

FALCON FLYER

October 11, 2015

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/>

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Dear Floral Families,

All of us are familiar with one purpose of student assessments or tests- they help to determine a grade for a report card or a level of achievement and growth, such as with MCAS or PARCC. This information is certainly helpful data for parents and teachers to have, but the most important role that assessments play has nothing to do with grading and everything to do with planning next steps in teaching to support students with continuous learning. Using tests to inform teaching rather than to summarize learning is what formative assessment is all about, and **formative assessment** was the common thread throughout this past Friday's professional development day at Floral Street School. Here's a peek into the professional learning your child's teacher engaged in on Friday:

Morning: Classroom and special education teachers from across the district met in grade level teams to analyze their students' first writing assessments of the year. Analyzing student work together in teams helps to develop clarity about the grade level learning goals in writing and what proficient writing looks like at each grade level. This process helps all teachers with having consistent expectations and goals to ensure that all students are held to the same writing standards, no matter which school or classroom they are in. This morning session also provided grade level teams with time to analyze student work through the lens of planning. Teachers poured over student writing to determine what students already learned and what they were ready to learn next. Using assessments to plan next steps with teaching, be it with the whole class or with a small group, is what makes formative assessment such a powerful way to impact student

learning. You'll have an opportunity to see your child's first writing assessment and hear about his/her writing goals for this year when you meet with your child's teacher at Parent Conference Day on November 3rd.

Afternoon: Floral classroom teachers started their afternoon session with professional reading, reflection, and discussion related to best practices in using formative assessments. We then zoomed in on math assessments in the Math in Focus program. Teachers analyzed these assessments to determine which standards were being targeted within each math chapter. They worked in teams to develop a tool to use this year when reviewing student work together and identifying action steps they'll take to intervene when students have not yet met proficiency with a standard. This tool will also serve as a place for teams to anchor effective practices for teaching the content in each math chapter. It will become a valuable resource for the teachers to access this year and in future years.

As a follow up to both professional development sessions, Floral teachers will continue to meet in teams on a weekly basis to review student data for the purpose of taking action with teaching. Gone are the days of, "I taught it, so they should have learned it." Rather, your child's teacher and his/her grade level teams are asking,

"What do we expect all of our students to know and be able to do?"

"How will we take action with our teaching to support students who didn't yet meet those expectations?"

"With students who have reached the learning goal, what are they ready to learn next?"

The Floral staff and administrators are grateful to have the support of families and the community with prioritizing professional development time for faculty throughout the school year. It is one of the most effective ways to support all faculty with continuous improvement of teaching practice...which translates into continuous improvement of learning for all of our students. A win-win!

~Lisa & Tiffany

In this Issue:

- SHS Cheer Clinic- October 12th
- Coins for Construction: PTO-sponsored fundraiser for the new Shrewsbury Public Library
- Notes from Previous Falcon Flyers
 - o Donate a Book Program
- Important Dates & Contact Info

SHS Cheer Team Clinic- October 12th

This clinic is sponsored by the Shrewsbury High School Cheerleaders. It will take place on Monday, October 12, 2015, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm at Shrewsbury High School, 64 Holden Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. Please see the attached flier for more information.-For boys & girls in grades K-8-Cheers, Dance, Tumbling, Jumps & Stunts-Performance at the end of the clinic. Cost is \$25.00 per child before 10/12/15 and \$30.00 per child at the door

Coins for Construction: PTO-sponsored fundraiser for the new Shrewsbury Public Library

Parents and Students: Start saving your coins! The PTOs of Shrewsbury's public and private elementary and middle schools want to play a part in the next chapter of our new library! A Coin Drive will be held at Floral Street School the week of October 19th. Coin drop-off will be in the school lobby from 8:30 to 9am on Monday 10/19, Tuesday 10/20 and Wednesday 10/21. Students that bring in a coin donation in a ziploc bag will be entered into a raffle. Prizes will include two (2) one-hour jump passes to SkyZone, cookies from Wicked Good Cookies and a Tatnuck bookstore \$25 gift certificate. Stay tuned for more information coming home in the backpacks soon. If this town-wide initiative reaches its goal, an area in the new Shrewsbury Public Library will be named for the children and families

of Shrewsbury. The new library will open in the early Fall of 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Powers (lisarthomas@aol.com).

Please click on this link for more information:
<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/documents/CoinDriveSchoolFlyer.pdf>

Notes from Previous Falcon Flyers:

Donate-A-Book Program

The Floral Street School Media Center needs your support!

Great children's books are published every year, but due to limited funds, the Media Center is not able to purchase many of them. By donating \$15, you will make current titles available and replace books that are in poor condition. Simply fill out the Donate-A-Book form, enclose either cash or a check (payable to Floral Donate-A-Book), and return it to school in your child's backpack. Your child will be invited by the Media Specialist to choose a book from the display case outside of the Media Center. An inscription label stating your name and a personalized message from you will then be added to the book. Your child will be the first to borrow the newly donated book.

Please click on this link to access the form:
http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/floral/pto/documents/Donate-a-Book_093015.pdf

Consider donating to mark a special event, to thank a teacher or staff person, or in honor/memory of a loved one. This is an excellent way to support our curriculum and get students excited about reading. Help us reach our goal of 160 new books for the 2015-2016 school year! If you have any questions, please be in contact with PTO member Katie Treiber at katietreiber@yahoo.com.

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

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| October 15 | PTO Hosts Staff Appreciation Breakfast |
| October 15 | Informational Evening hosted by the English Language Education Department / 6:30pm |
| October 16 | Grades 1 & 2 School Meeting |
| October 16 | Grade 2 Field Trip to Old Sturbridge Village / Avery, Poppalardo, Richard, and Ward classes |
| October 20 | School Picture Orders Due in to the Office |
| October 20 | Grade 4 Field Trip to Harvard Museum / Edgren, Ralys, Morgan, Ross Classes |
| October 21 | School Picture Re-Take Day |
| October 22 | Grade 4 Field Trip to Harvard Museum / Goulding, Manning, Powell, Leifer, and Spangenberg Classes |
| October 23 | Grade 2 Field Trip to Old Sturbridge Village/ Bradt & Hogan classes |
| October 28 | Grade 2 Field Trip to Old Sturbridge Village/ Caforio, Martel, Young classes |
| 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 / 2nd Grade Classes |
| November 13 | School Meeting / Grades 1 & 2 |

