

# Floral Street Elementary School

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

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## FALCON FLYER

January 31, 2016

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Dear Floral Families,

This Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, students will have an early release day with dismissal starting at 12:15pm (and no lunches served). While students enjoy some extra free time for fun that afternoon, their teachers will be collaborating with other classroom teachers across the district who teach at their same grade level. The focus of their collaboration will be on math problem-solving...so that means teachers will be having some fun that afternoon, too!

One of the most important outcomes of Tuesday's professional development is that teachers will establish clear and consistent student learning outcomes and expectations that align with the rigor of the math standards. Teams of teachers will work together to bring clarity to questions such as *What does proficient problem-solving look like by the end of first grade, second grade, etc?* and *What are the teaching practices that support students with developing the knowledge and skills they need to be proficient problem-solvers?* All teams of teachers have been working closely with the Elementary Curriculum Coordinators to bring clarity to these questions and to develop a set of clearly defined expectations for problem-solving at each grade level...starting right from

kindergarten.

Here is the “boiled down” set of common criteria all teachers use to support students with their growth as problem-solvers:

**Accuracy:** Did the student solve the problem correctly?

**Strategy:** Did the student solve the problem using an appropriate strategy that matches how he/she got the answer?

**Model:** Did the student use a drawing, diagram, chart, or equation that represents the problem?

**Explanation:** When asked to identify a math error, did the student provide a clear explanation of the error?

When supporting your child at home with their math homework, you can use similar questions to check in and support your child’s progress in math problem-solving. What pictures or equations does he/she use to represent the problem? What strategy is used to solve the problem? Is he/she getting the right answer? Can he/she find errors and clearly explain them?

As you can imagine, students do a lot of talking during math class...they know that their thinking is just as important as their answers!

Have a wonderful week ahead.

~Lisa & Tiffany

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### **From the PTO - Holiday Staff Appreciation Breakfast**

The Floral PTO is hosting a Valentine Staff Appreciation event on Thursday, February 11th in the Floral media center. We need help to make this event a success and show the staff how much we appreciate them!

Please sign up for one or more items at the link below. Contact Nancy Nelson at [nleelson\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:nleelson_99@yahoo.com) with any questions. Thank you for your help!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48abaf2ca3fc1-sweet2>

### **Coordinators Needed: Floral Street School Olympic Field Days**

This year Floral Street School will be celebrating its fifth Olympics. Our celebration will include a school-wide parade and Opening Ceremony on **Friday June 3rd**, followed by Olympic Field Day games and competitions for each grade level the following week. To make these events possible, we need 2-3 parents who are willing to act as Olympic Field Day volunteer coordinators. Coordinators will assign parent volunteers to events, work with the Susan and Lynda in the office to check CORI status with the school, and assist with volunteer

preparations on field days. If you are interested please contact Amy Smith, Floral Street School Physical Education Teacher, at [asmith@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:asmith@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) or 508-841-8720 X4939.

### **From the FSS Student Council: Hat Day for the American Heart Association**

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number 1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths every year. The staff at Floral Street School will be supporting the association's Go Red For Women by participating in our own version of National Wear Red Day® on **Wednesday, February 10th**. Staff will donate \$5 to wear their jeans and red on that day. All donations collected will help fund research conducted by the association.

The FSS Student Council will also be helping to raise funds for the American Heart Association. We will be asking students to participate in Crazy Hat Day on **Wednesday, February 10th**. In order to wear a hat (crazy or normal!) in school for the entire day on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, students can bring a \$1 donation into school that day. Students are encouraged to earn that dollar donation by doing a chore at home. Our Student Council motto is "We run on helpfulness!"

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

#### **Parent Drop-Off Procedure – WINTER**

With winter in full swing, there tends to be an increase in the number of families that drive their children to school. We want to provide these reminders to families as we work together to

ensure the safety of all students and the efficiency of the drop-off procedure here at Floral:

- Please pull your car up to the closest available drop-off spot so four cars are able to unload children at a time. There are cones placed along the drop-off path to help parents know where to pull up. If you are pulling up to the very first cone, please make sure to pull all the way up to the message board that is placed outside. Pulling up far enough allows enough space for three additional cars to park and unload at the other three cones.
- Please remain in the car while your child exits the car. If your child needs any assistance, the staff member on duty will be available to help.
- Whenever possible, students should exit from the car door that faces the school building so they do not have to cross in front of a car.
- While waiting in the parent drop-off line, please be aware of the residents' driveways in the neighborhood and do not block those driveways. Our Floral neighbors should be able to easily exit and enter their driveways during this busy time of day.
- Please make every effort to arrive well before 9:00. Students need time to walk to their classrooms, unpack their bags, and get organized for their day of learning. The school day starts promptly at 9:00 each day, which means students should be arriving well before 9:00 to have enough time to unpack and get organized. Students may be dropped off as of 8:30am. If students arrive by 8:45-8:50, they will have sufficient time to unpack and get ready for their day.

**From the PTO - Skyzone "Fun"raiser on Early Release Day, Tuesday, February 2nd 3pm-8pm**

The Floral PTO is hosting a jump day fundraiser next Tuesday, February 2nd from 3pm-8pm. 25% of the revenue raised that day will be donated to the PTO. Please see the flyer coming home in backpacks and join us for some fun – and bring your friends! For

questions please contact PTO President Hannah Kane at [hkanemcpc@gmail.com](mailto:hkanemcpc@gmail.com)

**From the PTO - Next PTO General Meeting- Monday, February 29th at 7pm**

Please join us at 7pm on Monday, February 29th for our next General PTO Meeting. We will be joined by School Committee members Erin Canzano and Jon Wensky who will share information about our schools, including information about the 2015-2016 school year, our strategic priorities and the FY17 budget. We will also introduce the newly elected PTO leadership for the 2016-2017 school year and give a brief overview of programs, events and fundraisers that will be held in the Spring. The meeting will be held in the media center and we are working on childcare and will have more information in a future list-serv. Please contact PTO President Hannah Kane with any questions at [hkanemcpc@gmail.com](mailto:hkanemcpc@gmail.com).

**ASAP Programs- Family Feedback, Please**

The After School Activities Program is seeking your feedback on what types of enrichment opportunities you would like to see offered after school at Floral. Help us continue to expand our offerings by taking this brief survey. We appreciate your input!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FloralASAP>

**First Grade After School Book Club – February**

The Shrewsbury Public Library is offering an after school book club for first graders at Floral Street School on **February 8th from 3:30-4:30pm** in the Floral Media Center. This month, students will hear the story *Young Cam Jansen and the Pizza Shop*

*Mystery.* They will participate in an activity related to the book, and have a bottle of water, mozzarella string cheese stick and apple slices for a snack. To sign up to participate, visit this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XcUK6UNcSR71Tzj25zLfg9P\\_wXAp5UsyRIV\\_a-vmsxE/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XcUK6UNcSR71Tzj25zLfg9P_wXAp5UsyRIV_a-vmsxE/viewform?usp=send_form)

## **Letter to Families of Incoming Kindergarten Students**

If you have a child enrolling in kindergarten this coming fall, please read the attached letter (see below) from Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing for the Shrewsbury Public Schools.

## **From the PTO – Computer Workshops Offered this February Vacation**

RASA Creations is happy to announce another series of Computer Workshops this February Vacation.

### **1. Count on Computers ( Grades 1 to 3)**

Date - February 15th and 16th 2016

Time - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Fees - \$150 (Sibling discount \$20)

### **2. Super Scratch ( Grades 4 to 6)**

Date - February 17th and 18th 2016

Time - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Fees - \$100

For Registrations - sarita.deshpande@rasacreations.com OR 508  
845 2575

www.rasacreations.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](http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/foodsvc/elementarylunchmenu.cfm)

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

**\*New dates added this week appear in bold print**

February 2	Early Release Day for Students (dismissal begins at 12:15pm) / Professional Development for Staff in the PM
February 5	School Meeting / Grades 3 & 4 (All School Read- <i>What Does it Mean to be Kind?</i> By Rana DiOrio)
February 6	Third Grade Families Invited to Visit Worcester Art Museum w/ Mr. Wilson / 10:00am/ FREE!
<b>February 8</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade After School Book Club / Media Center</b>





