

# FALCON FLYER

September 13, 2015

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/floral/lmccubrey@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us>

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Dear Floral Families,

We ended this past week with one of our favorite schoolwide activities – All School Meeting. Held monthly in the gym on Friday afternoons, students and teachers gather together to celebrate our school community as learners, friends, and citizens. It's a time where we highlight our core values, share learning, commit to community service projects, and sing (with a little dancing, too!).

At Friday's All School Meeting, we welcomed new student and staff members in the community and we took a look ahead at some of our school's special traditions. Several fourth grade students shared their favorite traditions, which included the Harvest Hoedown (coming soon!), Floral Goes Green, Field Day, and the Fun Fair (also coming soon). There is much excitement about the year of fun and learning ahead!

We also zoomed in on one of our school's core values at All School Meeting – *We will maximize our learning*. After talking about what it means to maximize something (to increase to the greatest amount possible), we talked with students about how they can make their brains stronger and bigger by giving it a workout, just like they can lift weights to give their muscles a workout. Here are some of the workouts we shared with students so they can be sure they are growing their brains and getting smarter every day:

- **Practice, Practice, Practice-** That's how your brain builds its muscle memory
- **Never Giving Up-** Even when something is hard to learn at first; it gets easier with practice
- **Making Mistakes-** Their brain cells immediately start working to figure out how to do something the right way (scientists say that making mistakes is one of the best ways to give the brain a workout!)
- **Seeking new learning every day:** The more the brain connects new learning to known information, the more the dendrites branch out and neurons start firing signals to each other.

As a staff, we'll continue to promote the importance of a growth mindset with students using the above messages. Your use of these same messages at home will help reinforce the belief that getting smarter is all about effective effort. We've attached a poster that might be a helpful tool with reinforcing these key messages with your child. Thanks for partnering with us!

We're looking forward to a productive full week of school- remember that this Thursday (Sept. 17) is Picture Day!

Lisa & Tiffany

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### **Congratulations to Mr. Lowy!**

At this year's Opening Day meeting for all SPS staff, our very own Mr. David Lowy was the recipient of a Superintendent's Award for extraordinary service to the Shrewsbury Public Schools. Here are a few remarks made by Dr. Sawyer as he presented David with the award:

*[David Lowy] is described as a "culture builder" at his school. In his role as an instructional aide, he demonstrates the core value of respect and is skilled at making personal connections. He models the importance of humor and finding true joy in working with children and colleagues, including frequent pranks on fellow staff members. He lives out the "whatever it takes" attitude when it comes to doing what it needed for the staff, students, and building, and he is always willing to assist with unanticipated needs...he exemplifies the meaning of "grit," as he refuses to let his physical challenges impact his contributions to Floral Street School despite the significant efforts he must make to complete tasks most take for granted.*

We're grateful to Mr. Lowy for his daily contributions to our school's strong culture. Congratulations, David!

### **School Council Members Needed**

There is a need for **three parent representatives and one community representative** to join our School Council. This collaborative advisory board works with the principals and staff representatives to develop and monitor implementation of our school improvement plan. School Council holds monthly meetings, in the early morning, late afternoon or early evening (time will be determined through consensus of the Council). If you would like to volunteer your time, please send an email to Lisa at [lmccubrey@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:lmccubrey@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) as soon as possible and no later than Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. If more than three parents volunteer, the PTO will hold an election for this position through a paper or online ballot.

If you know of a Shrewsbury citizen who does not currently have children attending school at Floral and would be interested in serving as a community representative on the School Council this year, please ask them to be in touch with me at the above email or by calling the school at 508-841-8720.

### **Message for 4th Grade Families**

Did you know that every 4<sup>th</sup> grade student across the country is eligible to get free passes to the National Parks anytime during this school year? For more information about downloading your child's free pass, please visit this link: <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>

### **Floral Fitness Clubs**

We're excited to announce that Floral Fitness Clubs will return this fall! On Wednesdays the clubs will meet to participate in a variety of fun activities including group games, fitness stations, walking, yoga and relay races. Activities will focus on sportsmanship, positivity, perseverance and trying your best. All Floral students are invited to join. The fee for the club is \$25.00 and participants will meet weekly on Wednesday from 3:30-4:30pm beginning October 1st. Transportation is not provided. To sign up, see the attached Flyer. Registration will close on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Young Rembrandts After School Art Class**

Young Rembrandts is excited to be returning to Floral Street School this year for our after school drawing classes. The fall season is one of the most colorful times of the year in Young Rembrandts, and we'll capture all of those colors and more in our fabulous drawings. Our rainbow giraffe seemingly captures the entire spectrum of colors in a very stylized graphic. A fun drawing of worms and apples will teach our students how to properly color with colored pencils. These are just some examples of the wide array of drawings we'll be creating this fall. Our classes are always upbeat and positive – come join the fun! Class will again be on Tuesdays this year and we have all new lessons. The first six week session will run October 6 - November 10th. Tuition is \$72 and is available online or by returning registration form and payment to the school office (see attachment). Online registration is available now at [www.youngrembrandts.com/swboston-centralma](http://www.youngrembrandts.com/swboston-centralma) We have a new

online registration system: you will need to set up a family account on our website with your email address. Contact Young Rembrandts directly with any questions: (508)393-8033. We can't wait to get started! This class is sponsored by the Floral Street School PTO and a portion of the tuition goes directly to the PTO to support school programming.

### **Floral PTO Update**

Thank you to all parents who either attended the first meeting of the year on Friday or reached out to a current board member to express interest in playing a role on the PTO this year. There was a strong turnout at the first meeting, and everyone is excited about collaborating to organize the many PTO projects and events scheduled for the year. It's never too late to join in on the fun- please reach out to PTO president Hannah Kane at [hkanemcpc@gmail.com](mailto:hkanemcpc@gmail.com) if you were unable to attend the first meeting and are interested in getting involved. Information about the next meeting date will be coming soon.

### **PTO Fall Fundraiser – Starts Monday**

The start of the school year is here with our first Fall Fundraiser. This week your children will be bringing home a fundraising packet from the Jeannine Fundraising Company. Each year the PTO hand selects a company to showcase to help raise funds which will help our school in many ways through out the school year. PLEASE know that we realize this fundraiser may not be of interest to some and yet in years past has been an interest to many. If you would like to purchase something from the catalog or would like to help your child ask friends/family for support please do. The benefits of this fundraiser are important to all of our Floral children as the profit from these sales will help go towards some of the many extras not offered by the school district. As always we thank our Floral families for your kindness and support. Any questions on this fundraiser can be directed to Kim Lipka. [k.lipka@townisp.com](mailto:k.lipka@townisp.com)

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

#### **Updating Demographics in PowerSchool**

Please be sure that you have updated your demographic information, as well as home & cell phone numbers and email addresses online on the PowerSchool Parent Portal. To log in to your Parent Portal account, go to <https://ps.shrewsbury.k12.ma.us/public/>. You will also be prompted to read the Elementary Student Handbook and acknowledge that you have read and understand the information in the handbook.

#### **Curriculum Nights**

At the bottom of this notice are dates for our upcoming Curriculum Nights. These are an important opportunity to strengthen our home-school connection. We hope to see you there, and want to make three important notes now:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Families: Curriculum Nights begin at **6:30 pm in the cafeteria** so that principals can provide a brief but broad overview of the curriculum and school-wide practices, allowing teachers to provide more detail in individual presentations in classrooms immediately following the principals' presentation.
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Families: Curriculum Nights begin at **6:30pm. First grade parents will go directly to their child's classroom** for teacher presentations and will meet afterwards with principals for a brief presentation in the cafeteria. **Second grade parents will gather in the cafeteria at 6:30pm** for a presentation from the principals and will then travel to their children's classrooms for teacher presentations.
- This evening is intended for parents. Please make every effort not to bring students or siblings to the Curriculum Nights.

**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

September 17	School Picture Day
September 29	Grade 4 Curriculum Night (6:30 – 7:45)
September 30	Grade 3 Curriculum Night (6:30 – 7:45)
October 1	Grade 1 & Grade 2 Curriculum Night (6:30 – 7:45)
<b>October 2</b>	<b>Grades 3 &amp; 4 School Meeting</b>
<b>October 9</b>	<b>Professional Development Day for Staff / NO SCHOOL for Students</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>Columbus Day / NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>October 16</b>	<b>Grades 1 &amp; 2 School Meeting</b>

### **Most Frequently Used Numbers:**

Office	(508) 841-8720
Nurses, Phone	(508) 841-8729
Nurses, FAX	(508) 841-1545
Extended Day	(508) 841-8743

The full district school calendar is available on the district homepage at: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>