

Floral Street Elementary School

57 Floral Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

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www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral

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FALCON FLYER

December 6, 2015

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

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Dear Floral Families,

Last week, fourth grade parents received a parent report that described their child's performance on the PARCC testing sessions that were conducted last spring. The reports are packed with information intended to provide parents with one snapshot of their child's performance in math and language arts relative to grade level content and learning outcomes. While these tests are certainly useful in helping both parents and teachers to identify areas of relative strength and needed improvement in student learning and the curriculum itself, it's important to note that they are also new assessments, and they will continue to evolve in the coming years as the state transitions to MCAS 2.0.

Therefore, we are encouraged to consider the PARCC performance data as one of many measures used to monitor student progress as well as our school's progress towards empowering students to be critical thinkers, effective communicators, and strong problem-solvers.

At our School Council meeting in November, parents and teachers on the Council suggested that we share with families a simple visual of our students' performance on the math and ELA (English Language Arts) PARCC assessment relative to the district and state. As a result, we have attached a set of four bar

graphs to this message for parents to see the percentage of students whose performance level was a 4 or 5, which signals a strong grasp of the grade-level material. Overall, the Floral staff and administrators are pleased with these baseline results on this new and rigorous assessment. These results, and certainly many other data points beyond the PARCC, reflect the effort and skill that Floral staff and parents invest to ensure our students are learning and equipped to be successful readers, writers, and problem-solvers. While the state assessment does not drive this work, it serves as a useful tool to help us reach these goals.

For any parents who want to take a closer look at the PARCC results for our school or are interested in learning more about information included in the PARCC parent reports, you are encouraged to click on the link below to bring you to our district's website. Then select "Floral Street School Results" on the left side of the page.

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/curriculum/Spring-2015-State-Test.cfm>

An Important Reminder- This Tuesday, December 8th, is an **early release day** for students and an afternoon of professional development for teachers. . **Floral students will be dismissed at 12:15**, and lunches will not be served. If your child's Tuesday dismissal routine will change due to the early release, it is important that you send in a note to your child's teacher in advance. Otherwise, teachers will direct students to follow their typical Tuesday dismissal routine (i.e. bus, walker, Extended Day, or parent pickup).

Enjoy the week!

~Lisa & Tiffany

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Parent Pick-Up

As the winter weather settles in we wanted to remind you about a few Parent Pick-Up protocols. Please remember to:

- Let your child out of the right side of your car
- Stay inside your car during the drop off process. (Floral Faculty is available to help your students get out of the car as needed.)
- Pull up to the closest available drop off cone. There are four drop-off spots.
- Permit your child to leave the car at one of the four drop-off spots, including the spot furthest from the building entrance. We have four cars unload at a time. The Floral drop-off area is shoveled and salted as necessary for safety precautions.

We appreciate your help in following the guidelines above. Your support helps us to ensure the drop off line is moving smoothly each school day. If you have any questions about parent pick-up or drop-off, please email Tiffany Ostrander at tostrander@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

From the PTO - Fundraiser at *Not Your Average Joe’s* on Tuesday, December 8th

Wondering what to do with your children on our next early release day, Tuesday, December 8th? Support the Floral PTO by eating at Not Your Average Joe’s on Route 9 in Westborough

anytime on Tuesday the 8th and 15% of all dining purchases will go right to the PTO for benefit of all Floral students!

Please bring in the attached certificate, or make sure to inform your server that you are there for the Floral Fundraiser! An easy way to support Floral Street School and make the best of an early release day!! Please contact Hannah Kane at hkanemcpc@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for your support!

From the PTO - Holiday Staff Appreciation Breakfast

The Floral PTO is hosting a Holiday Staff Appreciation Breakfast on **Thursday, December 17th** 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 nleenelson_99@yahoo.com with any questions. Thank you for your help!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48abaf2ca3fc1-holiday2>

Marine Toys for Tots Campaign

The Floral Street School staff is proud to support the Toys for Tots campaign once again this year. The big white boxes are now placed in the main lobby ready to be filled with new, unwrapped toys that will benefit children in our local community. If you are able to provide a toy donation, the collection will take place now through Friday, December 11th. Please contact Floral teacher Debbie Martel at dmartel@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us with any questions. Thank you for your generosity!

From the Shrewsbury Education Foundation – In Your Honor Care Package

SHOW YOUR SPECIAL TEACHER(S) THAT YOU CARE AND THANK THEM with a *Care Package* from the Shrewsbury Education Foundation (SEF) sponsored by Blue Coast Coffee!

Make a \$25.00 donation per *Care Package* by filling out the attached form and mail to the address provided, or online by

visiting www.sefgrants.org. These *Care Packages* contain treats, tissues, personal care items, and a \$5.00 gift card to Blue Coast Coffee. As soon as we receive your donation, we will deliver your *Care Package*. *Don't forget your teacher(s) this Holiday season and show them that you care and than them for all they do.*

First Grade Book Club – It's Not Too Late to Participate!

First grade students at Floral Street School are invited to participate in an after school Book Club to be held after school on **Wednesday, December 16, from 3:30-4:30** at Floral Street School. Please click on the link below for more information and to register your child. The 25 slots will be filled as sign up forms are received. Confirmation will be sent to your email if you child is registered by **December 9th**. Click on this link to get to the sign up form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uqfLJJoyf9H0PE5JyJ_8TCW3S3EQpuhLkFuEQVV3Heg/viewform?usp=send_form

Notes from Previous Falcon Flyers:

From the PTO: Count on Computers Enrichment Program

As we know there are numerous benefits of introducing kids to Computer Science early. While our kids use laptop, iPads & smart phones to play games, watch videos etc, it's important to introduce them to basics of computer science. Once this foundational knowledge is in place then introducing kids to actual programming languages will be the next step. RASA Creations is happy to announce two Computer Workshops for kids grade 1 to 6. After tremendous response to our last year's Computer workshop, we are coming up with two workshops for kids this December vacation. 1. Count on Computers - For grades 1 to 3 / Date - December 28th and 29th,2015 2. Super Scratch - for grades 4 to 7 / Date - December 30th and 31st,2015

To view more details on these workshops, please click here:

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/floral/documents/CountonCom>

putersFlyer1.pdf

From the PTO: Ski Ward

Winter is around the corner, which means Ski Season is almost here! Registration is now open at Ski Ward. A percentage of your fee will be donated to Floral Street School. Use the following link to go to online registration:

<https://www.sportcodestore.com/scr/skiward/>

Happy ski season!

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

December 4	End of Trimester 1
December 8	Early Release Day for Students (dismissal at 12:15pm) / Professional Development Day for Staff
December 17	FSS School Council Meeting / 5:15pm-6:15pm / Media Center
December 18	All School Meeting / Sing-Along
December 21	Trimester 1 Report Cards go Home
December 24-Jan. 1	Holiday Break / No School for Students & Staff
January 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day / No School for Students & Staff
January 19	Chorus Concert (Goulding, Morgan, Manning) / 6:30pm at Floral
January 19	Chorus Concert (Edgren, Ralys, Spangenberg) / 7:30pm at Floral
January 20	Chorus Concert (Leifer, Powell, Ross) / 6:30pm at Floral

January 26

FSS School Council Meeting / 5:15pm

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/>

[PARCC bar graphs.pdf](#)

[Not Your Average Joes_Dec8.pdf](#)

[In Your Honor Holiday Form 2015.docx](#)