

GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

March 22, 2016

<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/coolidge>

Dear Families,

Management consultant Dan Rockwell challenged readers of his blog this week to think humbly about changing our habits. He challenged, “Make a list of everything you do that someone else could do” and suggested that he might deepen his relationships with others by trusting them to take on more responsibilities. At Coolidge we are blessed to have a school community that shares well. As I read this piece, my mind went first to our students. How can we purposefully give them more of a stake in school?

At this time every year, teachers grapple with releasing responsibility to children. Most of the time students happily accept the challenge. Those of you that attended last week’s screening of *Most Likely to Succeed* can attest that students that experience choice and voice in their education learn to use their strengths sooner. It’s not easy to let children take the lead, though. In the classroom, it means making time for students to fail- and to learn from their failures through reflection and revision. At home sharing responsibility may mean living with outcomes that are not quite what you envision as a parent. Giving my children laundry responsibilities, for example, meant accepting that not all of my clothes would survive an initial washing intact. Early on I learned to monitor what I left in the hamper. At this point, though, I trust them with everything. In the interim they’ve learned to read labels for washing instructions.

Please consider encouraging your child to share his or her vision for our school as part of our ‘**Coolidge Way**’ contest. Students and families have suggested a list of qualities we hope our children will exemplify. I am challenging our students to illustrate these words with their artwork, with final drawings due by April 2nd. Please see the form that follows for more information. In the meantime, enjoy contemplating a chore *you’d* give up in exchange for growing your child’s skills.

Sincerely,

Amy

Amy Clouter
aclouter@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.
Principal

Important Upcoming Dates:

**REMEMBER: Tuesday, April 5 is a half day.
Students will be dismissed at 12:15.**

March 25	School Store
April 4	Report Cards issued
April 5	Early Release Day
April 6	PTO mtg. 7pm
April 8	Coolidge Spring Fling Fundraiser (details coming soon)

Link to some details:

<http://schools.shrewsbury.ma.gov/coolidge/calendar/21508/1620809>

April 26, 27, 28	PARCC testing Grade, 3 English Language Arts
May 2, 4, 5	PARCC testing Grade 4, English Language Arts
May 9-12	PARCC testing Grade 3, Math
May 16-19	PARCC testing Grade 4, Math

Name

The Coolidge Way Contest

DUE APRIL 2, 2016

Please use this sheet and your art skills to show the meaning of one of the words below. Circle your word and write it in the blank. Then illustrate the word in the box at the bottom of this page.

Leaders

Respectful

Loyal

Creative

Compassionate

Hardworking

Open Minded

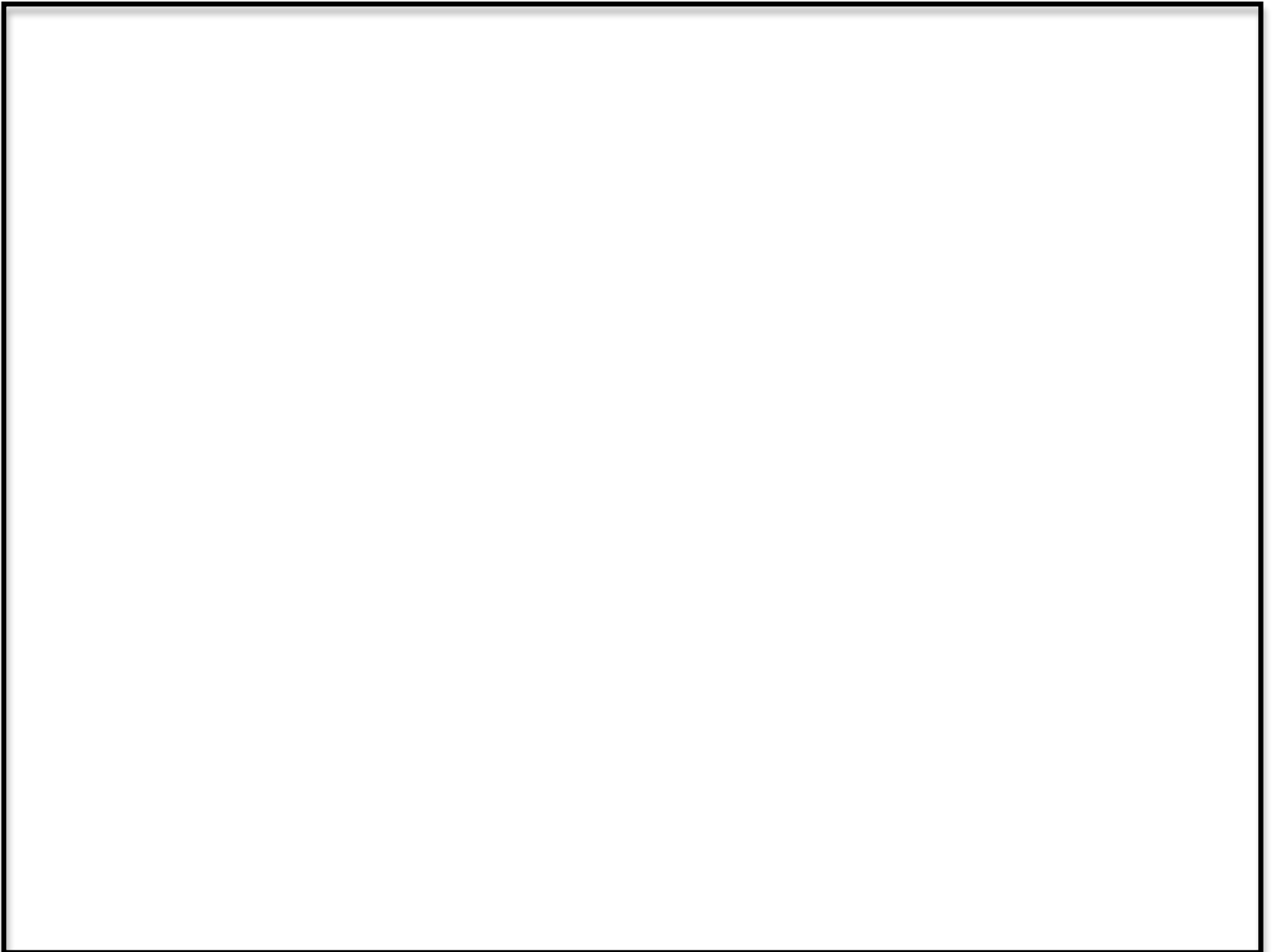
Determined

Helpful

Confident

Honest

Optimistic



From the Nurse's Office: Physical Exams!

If your child is new to Shrewsbury or to Coolidge School we require a physical exam done during the current year or within 30 days after entry. If you have any questions check with the nurses office to see if a new physical is due. We ask parents then to provide a copy of the physical exam every 3 or 4 years.

4th grade parents please make appointments for a new physical exam for your child if one has not been done last year. They will need it before moving on to Sherwood Middle School.

If you are without insurance, St. Ann's Free Medical Clinic will perform a physical exam at no charge. They will also assist in applying to MA. Health, to obtain medical coverage. Their hours are every Tuesday 6-8PM at the Father Smith Center behind St. Ann's Church on Rt. 9 in Shrewsbury.

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Easter Bunny Breakfast

Photos from the Easter Bunny PTO fundraiser.

Check out the videos of our talented students



presenting at the All School Meeting from March 18:
<https://www.facebook.com/CoolidgeElementarySchool/>

PTO NEWSFLASH

Email: ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Blog: <http://coolidgepto.wordpress.com/> The PTO has created a blog as an additional resource for information and notices. Come check it out!

Facebook Group: "Calvin Coolidge PTO"

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/coolidgepto/> All parents, guardians, and staff are welcome to join our group on Facebook. It's a great place to chat with the community or ask a question.

Direct Donation: <https://npo.justgive.org/coolidgepto> There are many ways to help support the PTO, a direct donation is just one.

1. Yankee Candle Fundraiser- Order Pickup
2. Spring Fling
3. Reading Incentive Program
4. Labels for Education
5. Join the PTO Board

1. Yankee Candle ORDER PICKUP will be on April 8th at 4:30-7pm. Mark your calendars! If you cannot pick up your order, please make arrangements to have someone pick it up on your behalf. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel at rachelreeve@yahoo.com.

2. SPRING FLING

On Friday, April 8th, Coolidge will be holding it's Annual Spring Fling Ice Cream Social event. The PTO will be putting together baskets to raffle off during this event. Each classroom has been assigned a theme for their baskets. We are asking each student to bring in an item that fits the theme, or \$5, and we will shop for you. We ask that all items be sent into your classroom by Monday, March 28th, so that we'll have time to assemble the baskets.

Last year we had amazing baskets at this event that helped us to raise money for our school. We thank you for your support, without

you we could not continue our efforts!!!

3. Reading Incentive Program - Our February drawing winner was Michael Hill, a fourth grader in Miss Rice's class. Michael received a \$5 gift card to Barnes & Noble and a cool bookmark. Everyone who sends in their reading sheets is entered into our monthly drawings. You too could be our next months winner, so keep passing in those sheets. Remember you need 10 to receive your medal at our ceremony in June, and even if you have passed in 10 sheets already, keep on reading and sending them in. Your progress is recorded on the chart in your classroom with all your classmates.

Keeping up with our Solar System theme - Do you know what planet is known as the blue planet? It is also the farthest planet from the sun, and can get as cold as -353 degrees Fahrenheit. Brrrrr - That's cold! (And we think our winters are cold!!) Well the answer is the planet Neptune. Keep on reading!

4. Labels for Education - I have been notified that this will be the last year that the Labels for Education program will be running. There have not been enough schools taking part in it, so they will be ending at the end of the school year. I would like to have everyone send in as many labels as you can find (there is a list of qualifying products on their website). I am hoping to be able to send in a large amount to be used to purchase some gym equipment or anything that the school needs. I have been sending them in all year and have sent in some bonus certificates too. Hopefully we can end the year with a large grand total before the program is over. Thank you for all you have already sent in.

5. Join the PTO Board: We are looking for new members to join the Coolidge PTO Board next year. If you can spare a few hours of your time you are the perfect candidate. **Everyone is eligible to become a member, share a position, or shadow someone to learn more!** Just email ptocoolidge@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us to let us know which position interests you. Elections will be held at our PTO Meeting on April 6th at 7pm in the Media Center. Read about all of the positions here:

<https://coolidgepto.wordpress.com/2016/03/06/join-the-board/>

To include news about your committee, fundraiser or PTO event in future newsflashes, please e-mail your submissions to Kristie Biando at kbiando74@gmail.com