



Unprecedented Donations In An Unprecedented Year

On June 9th, when our schools were facing a staggering multi-million-dollar deficit, we asked for help to fund the greatest needs in our district. An incredible 496 people answered our plea and donated \$110,138 to help our schools. ***Thank you to each and every donor for this awe-inspiring generosity.***



Included in those 496 people were several Shrewsbury students who ran yard sales, baked sweet treats through their non-profit [Shrewsbury Smart Cookies](#) and created [beautiful jewelry](#). We are so very grateful and humbled by their support and the variety of ways people gave back to our schools, including an anonymous donor who matched new donations up to \$10,000.

Schools re-opened less than one month ago and every day we see examples of how incredibly challenging it is to operate schools during a pandemic. Operating schools without enough funding leaves nothing for "extras". But the Colonial Fund was established for exactly this purpose - to provide funding for incredibly important work that our school district could not otherwise afford. In the coming weeks, we will know more about how your precious Colonial Fund dollars will be spent and we will share with you the impact of your generosity on our schools.

Please visit the [Colonial Fund website](#) for a full list of the donors who helped us raise this unprecedented \$110,138 for our schools. ***We can't thank you all enough!***

Help Managing Everyday Stress & College Admissions *Colonial Fund Speakers Can Offer Guidance*

When schools closed last March, it was necessary to cancel the last two speakers in the Colonial Fund [speaker series](#), Lynn Lyons and Richard Weissbourd. Both noted speakers were going to address different topics related to helping our children manage stress and anxiety in their lives.

While we still cannot bring their expertise to you live, we have found ways for you to still benefit from their experience and insights on this very important topic. Check out these links to their ongoing work.



flusterclux is a podcast series hosted by Lynn Lyons and Robin Hutson, that offers "*authentic, compassionate straight talk for parents to connect, reflect, and feel prepared to support their family's mental health with the stresses of our new normal.*"

Click [here](#) to learn more and browse all 16 podcasts from season 1 or catch up on the first three podcasts from season 2. Topics include "Why Rigidity Is The Bellwether of Anxiety in Children", "Hope After a Teen Depression & Anxiety Diagnosis"



Mr. Weissbourd was scheduled to speak in Shrewsbury on the topic of "Taming Admissions Anxiety" with the goal of helping students (and parents) turn down the pressure on the college admissions process.

Here are links to interviews Mr. Weissbourd gave on the topic, first in an article published by the [Harvard Graduate School of Education](#) and then by [Lawyer's Update](#). Mr. Weissbourd offers 8 steps to "do the admissions process right".

Mr. Weissbourd's advice is

and "How Family Laughter & Silliness Are Our Most Powerful Tonics".

Ms. Lyons' website provides links to her videos, blog and books that could also be helpful resources for parents. You can find it all at www.lynnlyons.com.

guided by his ongoing work with the Making Caring Common Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Read their latest report, [Turning the Tide II: How Parents and High Schools Can Cultivate Ethical Character and Reduce Distress in The College Admissions Process](#).



Please Tell Us How We Can Do Better

Thanks to you, our donors, the Colonial Fund has successfully supported Shrewsbury Public Schools for over six years now. As we start our

7th year, we'd like to hear from you about what we can do better to support you. You should have received an email with a link to a brief survey. If you haven't already done so, **please take 3 minutes** to answer some short questions. We greatly appreciate your help.

TAKE SURVEY

**Thank you for your support of the
Shrewsbury Public Schools Colonial Fund**

DONATE NOW

Michelle Biscotti & Kathleen Keohane
Coordinators of Development and Volunteer Activities, Shrewsbury Public Schools
100 Maple Ave, Shrewsbury MA 01545
development@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

508-841-8470

<https://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/future/>

