Spring Street School looking for greeters

ELLEN KELLY SMITH
INTERIM PRINCIPAL, SPRING STREET SCHOOL

Spring Street School wants a welcoming and safe entrance to the school. The Spring Street School Council is hoping to have a greeter program in the main lobby of the school. The Council has identified the location of the main entrance to the school as a potential security issue. Visitors to the school can access the main entrance without first checking in with the main office, located down a small flight of stairs. If greeters were present, in addition to welcoming the visitors, the purpose of their visit could be determined, and uninvited visitors would not have access to the classrooms.

A front door monitor is located in the secretary and nurse’s areas but consistent observations cannot always occur.

Think Summer Jobs

Each year the Parks & Recreation Department hires Shrewsbury high school and college students to work at one of the summer programs in town. Instructors and camp counselors are needed to teach and assist in a variety of activities, sports, music, and arts and crafts. Also in high demand is the need for lifeguards and swim instructors. Now is the time for students to take lifeguard courses in order to be certified by the summer. A listing of the required courses and applications will be available on the town web site by March 16th. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age by May 1st.

School Committee announces public budget hearings

The Shrewsbury School Committee will hold three public hearings on the 2008-2009 School Department budget. The committee has reserved time in its agenda for the public’s questions and comments at 8:00 p.m. at both of their regularly scheduled meetings in the Selectmen’s Room at Town Hall on Wednesday, February 11 and Wednesday, February 25 (these meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.). On Wednesday, March 25, the entire School Committee meeting will be devoted to a public hearing on the budget; this meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Shrewsbury High School auditorium. These meetings will also be televised live and repeated frequently on Channel 29, Shrewsbury Educational Television.

Housing Starts

August - 4 houses
September - 4 houses
October - 0 house
November - 1 house
December - 2 houses

The total of new housing starts in Shrewsbury this past year was 25 as compared to 245 in 1999 and 269 in 1998.

Science partnership with UMass Medical School

SANDRA MAYRAND
REGIONAL SCIENCE RESOURCE CENTER

The Regional Science Resource Center of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) evolved from an initial partnership in the early 1990’s between Shrewsbury High School and the Worcester Foundation for Biomedical Research called the Science Mentoring Program. Since that time, many Shrewsbury Public School (SPS) administrators and teachers have worked with the Resource Center to systematically bring the best science and mathematics educational opportunities to Shrewsbury students. In the Resource Center laboratory, a UMMS instructor and SPS science teachers provide two hands-on laboratory explorations each year to every 7th grade student. In one workshop, students are taught to coin a Student’s t-test, use the t-distribution curve, and calculate the margin of error. In another workshop, students are introduced to the use of microscopes to inspect the unseen. Since that time, many Shrewsbury Public School (SPS) administrators and teachers have worked with the Resource Center to systematically bring the best science and mathematics educational opportunities to Shrewsbury students. In the Resource Center laboratory, a UMMS instructor and SPS science teachers provide two hands-on laboratory explorations each year to every 7th grade student. In one workshop, students are taught to coin a Student’s t-test, use the t-distribution curve, and calculate the margin of error. In another workshop, students are introduced to the use of microscopes to inspect the unseen.

Additionally, SPS is a founding partner in the Central MA STEM Pipeline Network, directed by the Resource Center and funded by the Pipeline Fund established by the Massachusetts Economic Stimulus Act of 2004. The goal of the STEM Network is to increase student interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields and deepen teachers’ experiences in those subjects. With current funding, students and teachers in Shrewsbury working with other like-minded schools, organizations and institutions of higher education will be introduced to the diverse careers in Massachusetts using STEM subjects. This year, the STEM Network is working with the school district to sponsor and host the second Women in Science conference for middle school girls.

Most importantly, the Regional Science Resource Center/ Shrewsbury Public School partnership grows from a strong, ongoing relationship in which similar goals, ideals, and respect are shared. The students of Shrewsbury are the beneficiaries of this successful collaboration between the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the Shrewsbury Public Schools, which will serve them well in preparing them for a future where understanding science and math will be increasingly important for success.