

January 2012



The Miriam F. McCarthy School PTO Newsletter

# McCarthy Matters

## FABULOUS FAMILY FUN!

The Creative Arts Council of Framingham (the group that brought Epic Brass, Underground Railway Theatre, Celtic Bells, Len Cabral, etc. to McCarthy and all the schools of Framingham in recent years) is hosting a fantastic family event on the Monday of February vacation. Circus Minimus will amaze and amuse all members of the family; kids and adults alike. Circus Minimus is a one-man circus-in-a-suitcase. From the suitcase emerges: lights, tent, band, the head usher Mervin Merkle, the incredible Bumblini Family, the magician to the stars Clyde Zerbini, and much more. However, the most important performers emerge from the audience. Tons of audience participation. Circus Minimus will be performing here in Framingham at Walsh Middle School on Feb. 20th at 10:30am.

Tickets are only \$5 each if purchased in advance at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/216855](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/216855). Tickets will be available at the door that morning, but for \$8 each. So, plan ahead and save some money. 100% of the proceeds from this show will go directly into future Creative Arts assemblies at McCarthy and every elementary school in Framingham. You don't have to go far, or spend a lot of money to see a great show.

Thank you to Framingham Co-operative Bank, The Framingham LCC, Fitts Insurance and Impact Framingham for sponsoring this event with the CAC of Framingham.

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### UPCOMING DATES

#### JANUARY

- 25 Book Swap
- 26 Pasta Dinner 5:30 & 6:30
- 27 Report Cards sent home
- 29 Summer Camp Fair 11am-2pm  
Lincoln Sudbury Regional  
High School

#### FEBRUARY

- 2 *Early Release*, 12:15 dismissal, lunch served
- 8 PTO Meeting, 7pm *Childcare provided*
- 20-24 **No School** *Winter Break*
- 29 Book Swap



## Happy New Year

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and of course, our school vacation. January is always a great opportunity for us to get back to our routines and start the year off fresh. However, to wrap up 2011, it is necessary to look back at some of the events that went on in December.

As always, our own McCarthy students were the stars of this holiday season. I witnessed a number of great performances, writing celebrations, and poetry recitals in the month of December. I even helped myself to some of the wonderful dishes brought in by the students in Mrs. Brockman's B26 and Mrs. Burgwinkle's B28 rooms for their annual Multicultural Feast. Thank you to all the parents who attended these events and/or cooked a family specialty.

One of the highlights of the month took place on December 22, when the whole student body and the entire staff joined forces in the gymnasium for another holiday sing-along. This has become a tradition over the last few years. Once again, it did not disappoint. We were even joined by "Sparkles" who wanted to show her appreciation for all of the great work the students have been doing with the STAR Program.

Of course, throughout the month the spirit of giving was readily apparent at McCarthy. We continued with a wide variety of fundraising and charitable events. Some of our Grade 3 students even got a chance to present our hard earned efforts to the seniors at the Callahan Center. They did a fantastic job!

Thank you so much for all of the gifts and well wishes to the staff, and of course, the wonderful staff appreciation breakfast. It was amazing! We are looking forward to another great year in 2012.

Sincerely,  
Matthew J. Hanlon

## January Events at the Library

### **Main Branch:**

Sundays Book Buddy: **Reading to Dogs** 3-4 pm, January 8, 15, 22 and 29. J Program Room, All ages. Registration required. Improve your reading skills the fun way by reading aloud to friendly dogs Lilah or Poky.

Wednesdays, January 4-February 8

**Storycraft in Portuguese**-5:45-6:30pm, J Program Room, Ages 3-8 years old. Come and participate in our "Story-hour." Folktales, stories and lots of fun. Get acquainted with Brazilian culture.

Saturday, January 21

### **Boys' Book Group**

Come discuss: **Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet** by Graham Salisbury 2-3 pm, J Program Room, Ages 7-9, Pre-registration required. To sign up, call 508-532-5570 x4336 or drop by the Children's Room and pick up a copy of the book.

Saturday, January 28

**Book Bingo** 3-4PM, J Craft Room, Kindergarten and up. Prizes, laughs, and best of all, books! Join us for our ever-popular Book Bingo and learn about many of the books the library has to offer.

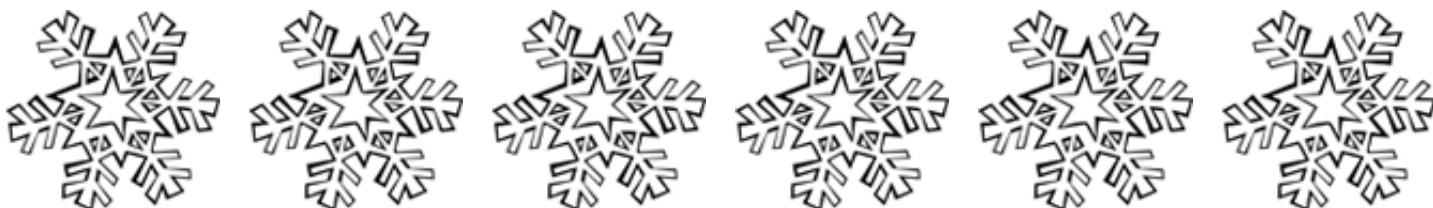
### **McAuliffe Branch:**

Saturday, January 21

**Drop-In Winter Craft** 10 am-12 noon. Warm up while you join us for a winter craft and browse our selection of seasonal books.

### **Book Sale**

The Friends of the Framingham Library will host their monthly used book sale on Saturday, January 21. Please stop by the main branch (49 Lexington Street) between 10am - 3pm and check out their HUGE selection of bargain books. There are books in every genre: fiction, nonfiction, cooking, mysteries, foreign languages, etc., as well as lots of children's books suitable for infants up to teens. Stop by the Bag Room and fill a paper grocery bag for just \$5! Purchases made at the sale support the many programs offered by the library.



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## Summer Camp Fair

## Taste of Italy at McCarthy

On Sunday, January 29, from 11am -2 pm, come to the free 10th Annual Summer Camp Fair at Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School (390 Lincoln Road, Sudbury, MA). There will be 80+ camps offering information on day, overnight and travel programs for students in grades K-12. Parents and students can meet and speak with representatives from these camps offering unique programs including travel, community service, arts, sports, academic enrichment and traditional camp options. For Additional information, visit [www.sudburycampfair.org](http://www.sudburycampfair.org)

Grab your forks and don your bibs and get ready for the annual McCarthy Pasta Dinner Night, to be held January 26th 5:30-7:30pm ( 2 seating times-5:30 and 6:30). A scrumptious meal of pasta, bread and butter, salad and dessert will be on the menu. It is a fun filled family event sure to please even the pickiest taste buds. If anyone wishes to volunteer their time, either by making baked goods for dessert or helping out with the set up and running of this event, please contact Martha Turner at [gregnmartha@verizon.net](mailto:gregnmartha@verizon.net). Hope to see you there!

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### McCarthy PTO Monthly Meeting Minutes      Wednesday, January 11, 2012

**Welcome:** Barbie Convery and Jessica Hanna welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7 pm..

**Treasurer's Report:** Any receipts handed in by the teachers will be put into individual files for easy access. The Angry Ham's fundraiser was a great success.

**Principal's Review:** Mr. Hanlon introduced Rachel Carlson, McCarthy's new library assistant. She is looking for volunteers to help in the library. Mr. Hanlon also thanked Christine Doyle, Nancy Serkez and Joeleen Morenzetti for their work in keeping the library up and running. At present, McCarthy has 601 students with the possible increase in numbers with an influx of new Kindergarten students in September 2012. The school committee is talking about free full-time kindergarten. The Kindergarten Expo is scheduled for April 24. McCarthy School tours will happen on May 1 at 9am and 6:30pm. Mr. Hanlon is looking for parent volunteers who could tour the school with the incoming kindergarten parents. He highlighted various activities going on in the classrooms Assessments are ongoing for the winter session. Kindergarten and first grade teachers are piloting the daily 5 reading program. The third graders held a debate which highlighted the steps required to make a bill into a law. Mr. Hanlon acted as President. 5th grade students are starting their pupil speciality projects which helps develop their study and research skills. Mr. Parr will once again be offering the HAAM ( Hilarious Acting At McCarthy) program. It is an after school drama program for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Mr. Hanlon hoped that the sound system might be fixed by the production date sometime in March. Teachers are continuing to infuse technology into their lessons. Mrs Crandell and the 5th grade students are very farmilliar with various computer programs and Mr. Neshe continues to be a great help as the school's technology specialist.

#### **Topics Discussed**

*Dream Dinner Fundraiser:* A fundraiser with Dream Dinners is scheduled for Feb. 9. The cost is \$25, \$15 of which goes back to McCarthy

*Playground Committee:* The committee will get together to prioritize playground upkeep and improvements. Framingham High School has donated 5 mesh bags to store play balls. If interested in signing up for the committee, please contact Tonya Wheeler-MacIver at [toneew@yahoo.com](mailto:toneew@yahoo.com) or Jill Stubbs at [Jillestubbs@aim.com](mailto:Jillestubbs@aim.com)

*Teacher's Report:* The teachers would like to thank the PTO for the lovely lunch that was provided before the holiday break.. Mrs Schult is trying to gather a data base of books on tape and was looking for volunteers to read books and be recorded. The teachers are looking for a grant co-ordinator to keep them informed as to deadlines and requirements for the various grants that are available. Sue Petroni offered to be the co-ordinator.

*Pasta Dinner:* McCarthy's annual Pasta Dinner is scheduled for Thursday January 26. If anyone is available to volunteer one hour to set up or serve during the dinner it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Martha Turner at [gregnmartha@verizon.net](mailto:gregnmartha@verizon.net) if you have any questions or wish to volunteer



## A Kid's Snowy Expectation

Yipee, Yahoo!  
Hip Hip Hooray!!  
There's snow on the ground  
Let's go out and play

It's late this year  
Falling softly through the night  
Such a joy to behold  
So pristine and white

Out of bed I stumble  
But it's not very cool  
When my Mum reminds me  
I'm off to school.

Through the doors I go  
My lessons begin  
I gaze out the window  
Such a sight brings a grin

Next up is Math  
Then Art comes and goes  
Social Studies and Science  
How the day flows

It's 2:15 at last  
The bell finally rings  
I make for my locker  
Grab all my things

Head out the door  
Big smile on my face  
What fun will be had  
In this Winterland place

But low and behold  
'bout to raise a great cheer  
That wonderful snow  
Has all disappeared!

A poem inspired by my son's disappointment as Winter's first snowfall came and went in less than a day.

## McCARTHY'S GOT TALENT

Calling all McCarthy 5th graders!! Take your singing voices out of the shower. Wow us with your dance moves or serenade us with a soothing sonnet. Whatever your talent may be, we would love to see it. If you are interested in participating in the fifth grade talent show please look for a sign up sheet in the Friday Folders. Come join in the fun, have a few laughs and make some memories that will last a lifetime!

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### Food for FUNdraiser at Dream Dinners

February 9th at 7:00 PM

Dream Dinners provides everything you need to assemble delicious dinners for your family to have in your freezer and serve in the weeks ahead. They help families eat together more often, and now they help us raise dollars for our fundraiser.

Please join us...

Cost: \$25.00 –includes one 6 serving entrée.

Experience: Plan on spending about 30 minutes in our store where you can taste samples from the current menu, hear more about Dream Dinners and assemble your 6 serving dinner....just the way your family likes it!

Fundraiser: Dream Dinners will donate \$15 to McCarthy Elementary School for every person that has purchased a meal. Invite your friends and family! Join us for a fun evening and take home a healthy meal!

Dream Dinners is located at 847 Edgell Road Framingham, MA. Please RSVP before February 1st by returning the bottom portion of the invitation (in the Friday Folders) and a check for \$25.00 made out to Dream Dinners to the PTO mailbox in the main office.

If you have questions contact Barbie Convery at 508-875-8488 or Dream Dinners at 508-877-3336

