

# McCord Mustang Newsletter

December 2018

Happy winter McCord Families and Friends,

Great things happen when we work together! There have been several parent engagement events hosted at McCord School during the previous months. Your outpour of support has been greatly appreciated! Recognizing the importance of building collaborative relationships with parents and stakeholders, I humbly encourage you to read this very informative newsletter. The teachers have filled the pages with details to keep you up-to-date about classroom instruction and to offer a glimpse to what is in store during the month of December.

Our charitable works will continue. This month we are hosting a school-wide Food Drive. The Food Drive will run from November 26, 2018 through December 17, 2018. Your donations of non-perishable food item will be greatly appreciated. All donated items will be given to our neighborhood food pantry. Children may bring items to school, but we will graciously accept items that are dropped-off in the main office by parents and friends. Additionally, guests may bring items when attending Family Reading Night or Family Craft Night.

This year's Family Reading Night is an event that can't be missed! Mark your calendars! Our theme is "Rocking Into Reading!" The event will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. When I say "rocking", I mean "rocking!" First, we have a special guest, whose name I can't share. I would be spoiling the surprise. Plus, there are loads of fun-filled learning activities. The kids will have the opportunity to brush-up on some well needed reading skills, make an embellished guitar, create a rap song, design a cool bookmark, and play some awesome games! If those activities are not enough to spark interest, we are having a gigantic book raffle and ROOTBEER FLOATS! Like I said, we will be "ROCKING!" Mark your calendars, December 6, 2018; 5:30-7:00 p.m. I hope to see you there!

While you are marking important events on your calendar, be sure to mark Thursday, December 13, 2018 and join us for our monthly PFC meeting from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30p.m. Likewise, circle Friday, December 14, 2018. On Friday, December 14, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., McCord's PFC will sponsor a Holiday Craft Night! There is nothing like family fun on Friday! There will be numerous crafts and lots of fun! Plan to spend some quality time with your McCord family!



There are many events planned throughout the district during the month of December. Please review our monthly calendar and visit the district's webpage for further details. Please follow us on Twitter: Frances B. McCord School @ swalkerhood and McCord's PFC @ mccordpfc.

Yours in education,  
Dr. Sharon Walker-Hood

From the Primary Teachers: "Tis the Season to Be Jolly"

It is so hard to believe the holiday season is almost here! November was very busy with celebrating Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. Then we had parent teacher conferences, Muffins with Moms, and our very first snow day of the year. It was all so much fun! As we anticipate the excitement of the holidays, we will still plan to continue our studies. Kindergarten classes are beginning to read! Please continue to reinforce popcorn words, ask comprehension questions about their stories, practice sounding out words, and read the Wonders book bag daily. In math the students are beginning to write equations for addition problems and they are also learning teen numbers. First graders will begin our third reading module and learn new vocabulary for our new reading books. Please continue to support your children by practicing our new vocabulary. We are always working on comprehension skills. We hope to be able to give written responses to questions about the stories we read and discuss. In math we are currently working on subtraction and solving word problems. We will start a geometry unit upon completion of the subtraction unit. We will work hard and then really enjoy our winter break. The Instructional Class is working really hard in reading and math! Please continue to read at home and ask questions while you read. We just started uploading our independent work to our ClassDoJo Portfolios, so check it out! We cannot wait to do our snowman unit this month to make all of our learning relate to snowmen. Our second graders will be learning to add 2-digit numbers using a variety of strategies. Reading lessons will focus on finding the main idea and key details. Our exciting science lessons will continue with engineering activities that show changes that can and cannot be undone. We wish happy and healthy New Year!

Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Horan, Mrs. Burt, Mrs. Vlna, Mrs. Novak, Mrs. Kalousek, Ms. Comella, and Mrs. Munoz



Intermediate Newsletter

The intermediate teachers cannot believe how fast November has flown by. It will be the New Year before we know it! As the weather gets colder, please make sure that your child has appropriate school uniform clothes. Hoodies are not allowed in school. If you are unsure about the dress code, it can be found in the district handbook.

December is a busy month here at McCord School. The 5th and 6th graders are looking forward to their field trip to the Chicago Wolves Game on December 18th. MAP testing will also be taking place, so please make sure your students are well-rested and have eaten a nutritious breakfast on their testing days. Students have many opportunities this month to earn Mustang Money and make purchases at the school store. It is a nice way to get rewarded for a job well-done.

Academically, students are engaging in a variety of science activities that implement the Next Generation Science Standards as well as developing and expanding their reading skills. December is a wonderful time of year to get comfy and cozy and enjoy a great book. We would like to remind students to continue working towards their AR goals. With winter break soon upon us, we would like to offer some ideas to help reinforce the math concepts that are being taught in school. Students can apply so many of these skills to real-life situations. It is a great idea to include your child when adding up costs of grocery bills or gratuity at a restaurant. Decide and discuss what kinds of math skills are needed while cooking, wrapping presents, or building a snow fort and don't forget that you can never practice basic facts too much. There are a variety of great math websites and apps for students to use while at home over break.

Mrs. Augustyn, Mrs. Barker, Nicole Ciciora, Mrs. Paulikaitis, Ms. Perozzi, Ms. Schmidt, Mrs. Weigus



P.E: Ms. Swan

Physical Education: Students will be completing our soccer unit, developing skills needed for modified soccer games. Grades 4-6 played zone and lane soccer to promote passing and teamwork. Grades K-3 also worked on fundamental skills during various soccer dominated activities. Basketball skills and lead-up games will be in December.

Literacy: Mrs. Arvetis

The weather outside is FRIGHTFUL, but LITERACY is so delightful! Try warming up with a good book and cup of hot chocolate. In Literacy this month, we will continue our analysis of story elements (characters, settings, plots, and themes) in all the grades. If you have access to a computer at home, please encourage your child to practice their keyboarding skills. You can find free lessons and games on my website; from the district home page ([bsd111.org](http://bsd111.org)), click on Schools, McCord, Teacher Websites, Arvetis. There is a keyboarding page on the left with activities for all grade levels. Thanks for encouraging your child to read every day. Enjoy your winter holidays!



Music: Mrs. Swanson's Music Notes



Classes are learning about the various holidays that are celebrated in the winter months including Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Christmas and Eid (which sometimes occurs during the winter months). Through music, we are learning about the customs and traditions of these celebrations. We are singing holiday songs and playing some of our favorites on the bell sets. I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season

Social work: Mrs. Cummins-December is a wonderful time to talk to students about empathy, a skill that helps them build a sense of security and stronger relationships with other children and educators which better prepares them for learning. While kindness involves acts of goodwill, smiles, and positive words, empathy is about really listening, relating to one another, putting yourself in someone else's shoes, and doing something to help that person. If you observe someone in distress (real life, on TV, or in a book), talk with your child about how that person must feel and what could be done to help. **Pointing out empathetic everyday moments (as well as missed opportunities) to your student can strengthen their empathy skill set.**



ELL: Can you believe it is already the end of the year? During the months of December and January, our students' will be taking two school wide tests: Map and Access. Map is administered to all students and will show academic growth in the area of reading, language arts and math. Access is a language proficiency test administered only to students that qualify for the ELL (English Language Learner) program. It will be administered on the computer in four parts: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The test will provide information about the strengths and needs of our students. Additionally, the results determine whether students have met the criteria to exit. Preparation for these tests takes place every day while learning in class and doing homework so there is no need for special review at home. Please make sure that your child has a restful night and a good breakfast during the testing window.

Thank you for all you do!

Ms. Kropornicka, Mrs. Leon and Miss Doleh

Don't forget...



We have our Food Drive taking place until December 17th.  
Please send non-perishable items to school with your students.  
Hooves Up to our fabulous McCord Families!  
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

McCord PFC  
Dates to Remember:

-PFC Meeting-  
Date: Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 6:30-7:30p.m.

-Holiday Craft Night-  
Date: Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

-Holiday Surprise Shop-  
Date: Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
Time: School day hours

More information to follow!



### Student of the Month



Angelina Garcia

Mason Ortega

Dominik Dlugopolski

Olivia Wadolowski

Liam Martinez

Veronika Dlugopolski

Ayoob Hegaz

Maya Szlembarski

Vianette Angulo

Lio Naranjo

Desalee Garcia

Stasiu Szlembarski

Logan Hurtado

Liz Madrigal