January 5 & 6  Impedence Screening
January 17  No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observation
January 18  Spring Semester Begins
January 19  SIP Day – No School MacArthur only
January 25  Board of Education Meeting, 7 PM CT Vivian Library

Welcome back to school! We look forward to hearing about everyone’s winter vacation.

We play outside unless the temperature is below 25 degrees with the wind chill factor. Please continue to send your child with winter apparel. Please label all:

boots  earmuffs  gloves  hat  jacket

Join MacArthur for a winter family fun night! Explore Snowman’s Reindeer Farm on a virtual tour. Enjoy snowman activities and a new winter book to read together. More information will be sent home by your classroom teacher.

The December order for the LOVE of Reading program has finally arrived. The Gruffalo will be sent home to students this week. Thank you again to supporting MacArthur’s book sponsorship program so all children can enjoy books at home with their families.

Macomb School District typically makes decisions regarding weather related delays or closing the morning of school. Sign up at Skylert to receive text and/or email notifications regarding school closings, 2-hour delays, or early dismissals due to weather or other emergencies. If school is delayed 2 hours due to weather, there will be no AM class. PM class will begin at 12:00 PM. If there is an early dismissal, there will be no PM class. AM class will dismiss at 10:30 AM. Please do not call the office to check on school delays so the phone lines are open in case of emergency.

Support your schools by supporting the Macomb Educational Foundation (MEF). For $20, purchase a page of coupons that value $30, a savings of $10 to the consumer. Funds raised provide supplies and resources to be used in the classroom. Coupons are available in the front office or these supporting retailers:

*Hy-Vee  *Brown’s Shoe Fit
*Farm King  *Shoe Sensation
*Jackson Street Market  *No Place Like Home
*Princess Shoppe  *Nostalgia on the Square
As a service for the students, MacArthur is planning an Impedance Screening at the school on January 5th and January 6th. An impedance screening is different from a hearing screening as it measures eardrum/middle ear movement – it does not measure hearing sensitivity. The West Central Illinois Special Education Cooperative audiologist, J.L. McCall, will use a tympanometer to check eardrum movement for normal and abnormal movement. This screening can help detect middle ear problems which cannot always be identified with the usual hearing screening. The impedance procedure involves covering the child’s ear canal with a soft rubber tip – which does not go into the ear. The machine automatically changes the air pressure inside the ear canal causing the eardrum to move in and out. The eardrum check takes about 3 seconds per ear, is totally painless and usually feels funny or “tickles.”

The impedance test is important because poor eardrum movement can cause some degree of hearing loss. Parents of children who have pressure equalization tubes may want to check with their ear specialist before the test is done. The test is also valuable as it will show if a child’s “tubes” are working without having the tube placement. Most middle ear problems occur with young children and are often outgrown by the time the child is 7 or 8. You will be notified of the results (pass/did not pass) of the initial screening. If any middle ear difficulty is identified with your child during this screening, he/she will be routinely rescreened in 4 weeks.

A referral is not usually made with most children after the first screening due to colds and allergy problems which can cause their middle ear movement to fluctuate. If your child participates in a rescreening, you will also be notified of these results. Good hearing is critical to children’s ability to learn and succeed in school. If you have questions or concerns about this screening, please contact the school. If you do not wish for your child to participate in this screening, contact the school.

Reading together with your child helps develop lifelong learners. Tips for reading with your child (adapted from Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards, Preschool – Revised September 2013)

- Run your finger along the words so your child sees you are reading from left to right.
- Encourage your child to “read” a favorite story from memory. Have your child make up a story to go with the pictures.
- Make sure your child sees you reading books, mail, etc. This helps him know that reading is important to you.
- Give your child foam or magnetic letters to hold and touch. Name the letters as your child plays.
- Encourage your child to “read” familiar signs such as STOP.