



# Central Co-Op News

Volume 3

PO Box 142 • Chelmsford, MA 01824 • 978-256-3033 • www.centralcoop.org

December 2008

## Special Thanks

The Central Co-Op Board of Directors would like to extend special thanks this month to the following people.

**Cindy Bruetsch and Danielle Evans** for all their hard work to make the annual spaghetti dinner such a huge success, especially since they weren't expecting to chair the event when signed on as joint vice presidents of fundraising.

**Rebecca Welch** for prepping and cooking the food at our spaghetti supper, and **Mike Shanahan** for serving as our food service advisor and pitching in with cooking and serving.

**Angela McMaster** for running a fantastic Scholastic Bookfair.

**Kristen Ward** for raking and picking up all the leaves on the playground herself so that our children would have a neat and clean playground to enjoy.

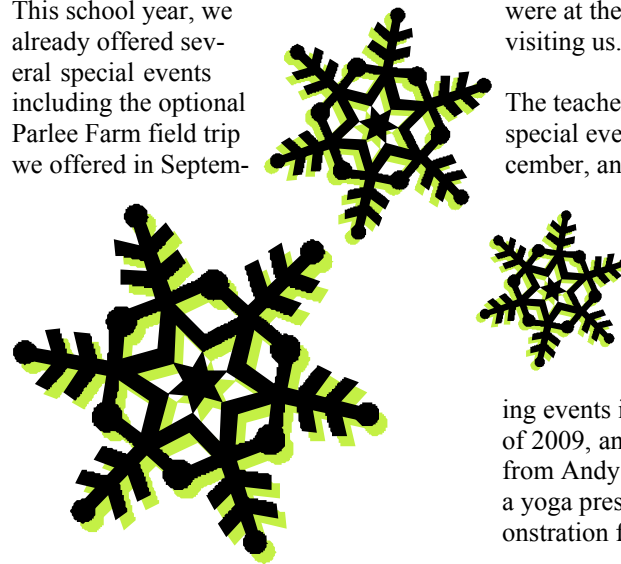
**Our Co-Op families** for your overwhelming response to Maureen Perry's gift program for children in Chelmsford. Not only will the Co-Op be able to cover all the gifts on our list, but we can also buy a grocery store gift certificate for this needy family with any money left over. This program has "feeling good" written all over it. Many thanks to everyone for opening their hearts—and their wallets—this holiday season.

## From the Director

Dear Parents,

The holidays are coming up SO FAST that I cannot believe how quickly the school year is flying by. This month, I would like to talk a bit about our wonderful "special events" program here at the Co-Op. Betsy Hebert is the board member who sets up these events and field trips, and she spends a lot of time making phone calls and checking with staff to be sure that we all are happy with the great enrichment programs offered to the children.

This school year, we already offered several special events including the optional Parlee Farm field trip we offered in Septem-



ber. In September, we also hosted the Traveling Barnyard with Ruth Scruton. Because of its expense, we opted to have the Traveling Barnyard visit only once this year, on a Tuesday/Thursday, with the Mon/Weds/Fri classes to come in on that day during a specific time frame. By doing so, we cut the \$700 cost in half and hoped that we would reach almost the same audience. In early November, we had a visit with Randy Pierce, who talked about being blind, as well as Quinn, his seeing-eye dog. Randy was fabulous, and

so was Quinn. I thought that his visit gave both the children and adults a very realistic idea of what it is like to be blind, and how guide dogs help blind people to lead very normal lives.

In addition, Betsy spent a lot of time and effort setting up a special event with Tuft's Traveling Treasure Trunk Troupe, and we were all very disappointed when they canceled outright in the morning as we were waiting for them to arrive for their performance. I think the adults were even more disappointed than the children were at their abrupt change of heart about visiting us.

The teachers requested that we have no special events during the month of December, and that's been a standing request for years. Staff feel that the month is so busy, we prefer to take a break and try to keep the tone of the school as calm as possible.

We do have a lot of upcoming events in the works for the beginning of 2009, and we look forward to a visit from Andy Rega (Owen's musician dad), a yoga presentation, and a recycling demonstration from the town of Chelmsford.

The fundraising that we do on a regular year goes directly into the field trips and special events line item in the budget. Thank you for your support of our fundraising projects this year. It is appreciated a great deal.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays.

Sincerely,

*Pat Finlay-Hamilton*

## From the Board President

It was wonderful to see so many Co-Op families at our annual Spaghetti Supper. What a fun event. Kudos to our fundraising co-chairs Danielle Evans and Cindy Bruetsch for all their hard work. They have been organizing donations since last summer and all that planning really paid off! Between the supper and a fantastic Scholastic Book Fair run by Angela McMaster, we made roughly \$1,300. Special thanks to all of the parents and grandparents, family and friends who volunteered their time and services, and to the many businesses who contributed food, funds and supplies.

I also want to keep parents informed about the Board's ongoing work on playground improvements. We are reviewing quotes and plans from two different companies to determine the equipment that best suits our site and our students. We are seeking corporate and community support for the playground project and hope to enlist parent volunteers and alumni support as well. If you have experience with playground planning or fundraising, please let us know. Already one of our parents suggested we hold a children's concert in the spring to benefit the playground. Stay tuned for details, as we hope to host children's entertainer Rick Goldin and his puppet friends in March.

### Upcoming Events

#### **February 7**

Annual pancake breakfast - we'll be looking for volunteers to cook and serve, as well as product donations and the loan of several electric griddles.

#### **March 28**

Rick Goldin concert at 10:30 a.m. Tickets will cost \$7 per person, with a \$25 family cap. All proceeds will go toward a new playground structure at the Co-Op. Please join us for a morning of songs, puppets, and fun children's entertainment.

#### **April 4**

Annual yard sale

It's a busy season; look for Lunch Bunch signups on the bulletin board if you need a few extra hours to run your errands. And don't forget that Wednesday, December 10 is Co-Op fundraising day at Papa Gino's. You'll find the flyer with details on the last page of this newsletter. Join Co-Op families and eat in, or carry out (but delivery doesn't count) and Co-Op gets a percentage of the purchase price. Enjoy the season.

*Holly Prees, President*

## Fundraising Update

Thank you to all our parents for your help with the Spaghetti Supper held on November 13. It was a wonderful night! We raised \$985, and Angela McMasters' hard work at the Scholastic Book Fair that week yielded another \$300. Thank you, Angela! These proceeds will go directly to the spring field trip and other events.

The Tracey Hamilton Holiday Wishes fundraiser was also very successful, and yielded over \$1300. Our most recent fundraiser, The Toy Shop of Westford sale day on November 18, resulted in an additional \$63 for the Co-Op. Our thanks to Nina Balan for this idea!

Our 2009 fundraisers will be here before you know it! First, we are excited for Square 1 Art in January. All the children will have a chance to create a masterpiece (non-Co-Op siblings included). More details to follow.

We've also got the annual pancake breakfast coming in February, the Butterbraided bread and dessert fundraiser in March, and our annual yard sale on April 4. Special thanks to Amber Moody and MaryEllen Robert for co-chairing the pancake breakfast, and to Deb Gere and Mary Rosenthol for co-chairing the yard sale.

We are always in need of volunteers for all of our events. If you'd like a chance to meet other Co-Op parents and have some fun, please talk to our event co-chairs; I'm sure they would welcome the help!

We wish everyone at the Co-Op a happy and healthy holiday season.

*Cindy Bruetsch and Danielle Evans  
Vice Presidents of Fundraising*

## CENTRAL CO-OP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009

### President

Holly Prees,  
[President@centralcoop.org](mailto:President@centralcoop.org)

### Vice President, Scheduling

Kristen Ward,  
[Scheduling@centralcoop.org](mailto:Scheduling@centralcoop.org)

### Vice Presidents, Fundraising

Cindy Bruetsch,  
[Fundraising@centralcoop.org](mailto:Fundraising@centralcoop.org)

Danielle Evans,  
[Fundraising@centralcoop.org](mailto:Fundraising@centralcoop.org)

### Treasurer

Leigh Ann Sciacca,  
[Treasurer@centralcoop.org](mailto:Treasurer@centralcoop.org)

### Secretary

Mary Ellen Robert,  
[Secretary@centralcoop.org](mailto:Secretary@centralcoop.org)

### Field Trips/Special Events

Betsy Hebert,  
[Tripsandevents@centralcoop.org](mailto:Tripsandevents@centralcoop.org)

### Repairs and Maintenance

Gary Ward,  
[Scheduling@centralcoop.org](mailto:Scheduling@centralcoop.org)

### Computers/Website

Deb Dorsey,  
[Website@centralcoop.org](mailto:Website@centralcoop.org)

### Newsletter

Mary Rosenthol,  
[publicity@centralcoop.org](mailto:publicity@centralcoop.org)

### Newsletter

Deb Gere,  
[Newsletter@centralcoop.org](mailto:Newsletter@centralcoop.org)

### NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Interested in placing an ad? You can purchase ad space to help promote your home business or service.

#### Co-Op Member Rates

Business Card size: \$5/month  
3 ½ X 5 in: \$10/month  
½ Page: \$15/month

#### Non-Member Rates:

Business Card size: \$10/month  
3 ½ X 5 in: \$15/month  
½ Page: \$20/month

All copy must be submitted to Deb Gere at [newsletter@centralcoop.org](mailto:newsletter@centralcoop.org) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication in the following month's edition.

# Thank You for Making Our Spaghetti Supper a Success!

The Annual Central Co-Op Nursery School Spaghetti Supper was held on Thursday, November 13, 2008.

The success of the Spaghetti Supper was made possible by the generosity of many volunteers who helped with various activities such as picking up donations, set-up, cooking, serving, and clean-up. The Co-Op Board would like to thank all of the local businesses and parents of Co-Op students who made generous donations. Donations were received from the following local businesses:

Barilla USA  
Trader Joe's  
Starbucks Coffee  
Panera Bread  
Stop-n-Shop Supermarket  
Market Basket Supermarket  
Coca-Cola  
Feeney the Florist  
Ken's Foods  
Welch Foods  
Hannaford Supermarket  
Walmart  
Costco  
Applebee's Restaurant  
Chili's Grill & Bar  
Bertucci's Restaurant  
Lowell Fruit Company (The Stagnone Family)  
The Boston Globe

The Co-Op would like to extend special thanks to two special volunteers: Rebecca Welch for being our resident chef and spending many hours prepping and cooking in the kitchen, and Mike Shanahan, who worked in the kitchen as the food service advisor to make sure all ran safely and smoothly and who graciously rolled up his sleeves to pitch in with cooking and serving. Also, thank you to Emily Duchesne of Silver Palate Restaurant for her assistance in purchasing food.

Thank you again to everyone that helped out this year!!!



# Papa Gino's Community Fundraiser to benefit

Central Co-Op Nursery School

We will earn 20% of the sales made by our families and friends during this time. Be sure to submit your certificate when ordering.

Carry-out counts too!

**When:** December 10<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Time** 4:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** 29 Chelmsford Street (Rt. 110)  
Chelmsford

**Phone** 978-256-6999



- Any guest bringing in one of your flyers may not redeem coupons with their order.
- Papa Gino's will donate 20% of the total pre-tax sales from all the guests that come in with the flyer during your fundraiser.
- This is valid for all dine-in and carry-out orders. (Sorry, not valid on delivery orders).