



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

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Springing into April

by David Krane, McT Principal

As we look forward to June, school will be ending much later than past years as we have wrestled with winter weather and the consequential snow days. Six this year! In my time as an educator, I've never seen six snow days in one year. We persevere, though, and we are grateful for April beginning the way that it should. Leaving one evening last week, I could hear the peepers calling and this is a sure sign that spring can't be far away.

The McCarthy-Towne Auction took place on a recent weekend and it could not have been more successful, in my view. The dedication of the parent community to the school is nothing short of remarkable and the generosity allows us, as a school, to make many different choices in terms of classroom support. But the Auction evening itself is also fun; it is a celebration of our community and of the students and teachers and staff that make up our school. Thank you to all of the people who worked so hard to make this event the huge success that it always is. Thanks to the PTSO Co-Chairs Kate Murray and Tracey Smith and the Auction Co-Chairs Jen Mabardy and Lauren Richardt, who did an absolutely amazing job their first year out! Thank you, thank you, too, to the many, many people who worked behind the scenes making this work. Bravo to everyone!

Placement conversation will soon be taking place and I thought I'd repeat what was said last year at this time. As always, our goal is to make the best possible placements for our students. We believe that the best way to do this is to create heterogeneous and balanced classes. Creating these groupings

for each grade level is a complex process. Our entire professional staff spends a great deal of time carefully weighing each student's academic, social, and emotional needs as well as more individual issues such as those regarding particular peer relationships, neighborhood situations, or siblings' experiences. The sending and receiving teachers and the special education specialists meet as a team to create three balanced classes. The last part of the process is to assign a teacher to each of the classes that has been created. That is something that I do, late in the summer, after the spate of new families moving in and some current families moving out has ended. It is a numbers game, too, as we seek relative balance in this arena. Each teacher brings a unique style to the classroom, thus ensuring a variety of teaching strategies within the framework of the curriculum and the philosophy of the school. But in recent years a number of parents have chosen to write letters requesting their child be placed or not placed in a specific teacher's room or with or not with particular children. We cannot honor these requests. Families should be also be aware that your letters are always shown to the teachers at both the sending and receiving grade levels. In today's world, it is important that our students learn to relate to many different people. We hope that you will support your child as they discover how to work, and work well, with a broad range of students and teaching styles. We believe that this is an important part of your child's education. If you do choose to write me a letter, please do so by Friday, April 26.

Last and First Day of School

The last day of school will be Monday, June 24. This is an early release day and elementary schools will follow the Thursday dismissal schedule—1 PM dismissal for McT.

Tuesday, August 27 will be the first day of school for 2013-2014. McCarthy-Towne will be on the early elementary school schedule—8:30 AM-2:45 PM (Thursday, 12:15 PM).

The school calendar is available on the APS/AB website:
www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/2013-2014calendar.pdf.

Mark Your Calendar

APRIL

6, Saturday

Lip Sync Extravaganza

9, Tuesday

Auction Memorabilia orders due

11, Thursday

PTSO Meeting, 9:30 AM
Community Assembly

15-19

NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess

24, Wednesday

Scrip Orders due, 3:30 PM

26, Friday

Drop-off for Yard Sale, 4:30-8 PM

27, Saturday

McT PTSO Yard Sale, 8 AM-Noon

MAY

2, Thursday

CPAC Performance (3rd-6th)

3, Friday

Parker Damon International Night, 6 PM

7-8 Tuesday/Wednesday

MCAS Testing, Gr. 3, 4, 5 & 6

8, Wednesday

PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

10, Friday

6th Grade Photo Day

13-14 Monday/Tuesday

MCAS Testing, Gr. 5

23, Thursday

McT Memorial Day Band Concert

27, Monday

NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day

30, Thursday

CPAC Performance (K-3rd)



from Kate Murray and Tracey Smith, PTSO co-chairs

Welcome to springtime at McT! As the crocuses begin to pop and the snow continues to melt, it is the time of year that we resume our “We Are Grateful” reflections. At the top of this list, has to be “We are grateful to be part of such a giving and committed school community”, a thought that comes to us every year after taking part in our school auction. What a truly amazing community building event- thank you to all the organizers, guests, students and volunteers who came together to make it happen.

Looking forward, we are taking the time to make sure that our PTSO “House” is in order- and this means, looking forward to next year! We have a few open positions for next year and would love it if you would consider taking on of these roles for 2013–2014:

- PTSO co-chair
- Directory (2 slots)
- Hospitality
- Fall Fundraiser
- Auction co-chair

And don’t forget to join us for some upcoming events this month. The Lip Sync is this Saturday, April 6th, at 4:30 PM. Our next PTSO Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th. And the very popular McT Yard Sale at the end of the month on April 27th. Enjoy Spring!

Used Clothing Needed!

The winter months have depleted the supply of clothing we have for students who are in need of dry pants, shirts, socks etc. If you have used clothing you will be donating, the health office needs sweatpants or stretchy pants, T-shirts, and socks (various sizes). If your student has borrowed clothing from the health office please remember to return the items for future use.

Safe Arrival Reminder—April Vacation

If you are traveling for an extended period over the April vacation, please remember to contact the Safe Arrival hotline at 978-264-4098 so that we don’t worry about your child(ren). Even if you have e-mailed your child’s teacher, you still need to contact the Safe Arrival hotline. The Safe Arrival hotline is on 24 hours a day so you can leave a message at any time. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

2013 MCAS Schedule

Students in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking MCAS Math tests for this Spring. Please avoid scheduling trips and appointments during the MCAS testing periods. Testing begins at the beginning of the school day, so students should avoid late arrival to school. If they arrive after their class begins the test, they will not be able to take the test that day.

Mathematics (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

Tuesday, May 7th and Wednesday, May 8th

Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)

Monday, May 13th and Tuesday, May 14th

Join Us—Ceramic Workshop with Heidi

Ever feel jealous that your children get to do all the fun art projects? Well, here’s your chance to get in on the action! There are five spots left in the Ceramic Workshop offered at the McT Auction. For just \$40, you can spend two Friday evenings in the Sloyd room, creating your own masterpiece with the help and the guidance of Sloyd teacher, Heidi Kupferman. You could build a vase, shape a bowl, make a relief tile or create a unique sculpture using clay! **The workshop will meet on Friday, May 3 and Friday, May 17 from 7–9 PM.** During the first evening, May 3, you will learn hand-building techniques. The pieces you make will be dried and fired in the kiln before the second session on May 17 when we’ll have a glazing party. Refreshments will also be provided.

If you are interested in joining us, please email Wendy Schaad (ws.schaad@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Emergency Contact Information

Please review the online emergency contact information that you have provided to the school. Visit <https://absis.ab.mec.edu/public/home.html> and use the password assigned to you.

The emergency contact information is critical to the office, teachers, and school nurses. If your child has a medical condition, the nurse needs to be able to contact you. If your child needs to be picked up, it must be done promptly. If you are unable to pick up your child in a reasonable time frame, make sure you have designated a trusted adult who will be able to come. Children may not remain in the health office for extended periods of time for the sake of their own health as well as the health of others. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Lip-Sync Extravaganza—This Saturday!

Our 6th Annual Lip-Sync Extravaganza will be held on **Saturday, April 6 at 4:30 PM in the McT Cafetorium**. This year all grades will be represented in the performances.

Admission to the Lip-Sync is \$5 per person. DVDs of the event can be ordered the night of the show for \$10. We'll also be selling take-home baked goods. This is not a drop-off event, all students must be chaperoned.

If you have questions about the Lip-Sync, contact:
Deb Verner (debverner@gmail.com or 978-263-6794)
Bridget Matz (bmkmatz@yahoo.com or 978-897-3453)
Karen Anderson (canders67@aol.com or 978-274-2012)

Yard Sale this Month!

Please drop-off your gently used donations for the McT/Merriam Yard Sale on Friday, April 26 from 4:30–8 PM in the cafetorium. We also welcome baked goods, juice boxes, water, and wrapped snacks to raise funds for our school.

Then come shop the sale the next day, Saturday, April 27 from 8 AM–Noon. Everything 1/2 price at 11 AM. **Bring Your Friends!** You never know what treasures you will find. Both schools (Merriam and McT) are holding their tag sales on the same day so there will be a lot to choose from.

We need your help to make this sale a success! Volunteers are still needed to help out at the sale and for set up the night before. We would also like help posting signs around town. If you can help please email Julie Weir (julieannweir@yahoo.com) or Laura Welch (laura@penelopejewelry.com). Volunteers can include parents, teachers, staff, or students older than 4th grade. Volunteers will also have first dibs on donated items.



Auction Classroom Artwork Memorabilia

Did you miss out on bidding for your child's classroom artwork at this year's auction? If so, you can order some beautiful products to help you remember those penguins, planets or portraits for years to come! Note cards, notebooks and coffee mugs are available featuring the auction classroom artwork of your choice. Visit www.mctptso.org/auction to see your child's classroom project.

NOTE: There was a pricing error on the order form sent home. The pricing for the note cards is \$15 as listed at the top of the flyer, the pricing at the bottom of the flyer was incorrect. New forms with correct pricing can be downloaded at www.mctptso.org/auction. **Please send in your order for Auction Memorabilia by Tuesday, April 9.**



SCRIP RAFFLE! Win a \$50 Roche Bros. Gift Card!



We are excited to announce the first-ever Scrip Raffle! During the month of April, every Scrip order that is submitted is entered into a raffle to win a \$50 Gift Card to Roche Bros.! And, as a fantastic bonus, every \$100 spent gets you another raffle entry!

Spring has arrived and it's time to start thinking about gifts for Graduations, First Communion, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and all of the end-of-year teacher gifts. So, why not purchase all of these items now, and be entered into the McT Scrip Raffle? Remember, you receive a raffle entry for submitting your order and additional entries for every \$100 you spend! That means that if you purchase \$250 in gift cards, you get 3 raffle entries—1 for your order and 1 for each of the \$100 spent. And, remember, ScripNow orders are included!

Scrip allows families to raise money for McCarthy-Towne by using gift cards, or Scrip, to pay for everyday purchases. They're the same gift cards that you buy at the store, and many popular merchants participate in the program including iTunes, The Gap, Shell, Lowes, CVS, Whole Foods, and many, more. For a complete list of vendors, visit www.shopwithscrip.com.*

The Scrip order form is attached and can also be found on the PTO Website. **The next deadline to order is Wednesday, April 24 at 3:30 PM.** Please contact Wendy Schaad (ws.schaad@yahoo.com) or Mimi Kirkman (mimikirkman@yahoo.com) with questions.

*Online enrollment code for McT is AL91AAC31L565. Please ensure that the confirmation screen indicates McT and Wendy as the coordinator.

Early Literacy Workshops

Sharon Ryan, McT Reading Specialist, will be hosting two *Early Literacy* evening seminars this spring. These seminars will provide parents with resources and skills to use over the summer to nurture literacy in our youngest learners.

Monday, May 6, 6:30–7:30 PM Designed for parents of current Kindergarten students transitioning to first grade in Fall 2013

Monday, May 20, 6:30–7:30 PM Designed for parents of incoming Kindergarten students in Fall 2013

If you have any questions about these seminars, please contact Sharon Ryan (sryan@abschools.org).

Thank You

By Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator

Thank you to all the members of our community who volunteer in many ways. There have been many recent projects and tasks where volunteers came forward to help our school, including (but not limited to):

- Julie Agapite for helping organize the Willow Books Fundraiser for our Reading Program.
- Christine Kobelski and Karen Francisco for supervising the voting table on McT Read Across America Day.
- Sarah McBride and Jill DeFoe for helping tally all those receipts for the Donelan's program.
- Rena Barbieri, Janet Munson and Wendy Schaad for your help with labeling the Auction Books, inserting the proxy bid sheet and getting them home to families in time for the Auction.

The Owls Have Landed!

Be sure to stop by the old oak tree, growing from the walls of the sloyd hallway gallery, to see the parliament of wooden owls perched on its outstretched branches. Third grade students used coping saws, files, sandpaper, paint and nails to create a multitude of unique owls.

Also on display:

- Ceramic relief portraits in the 1st floor glass cases (grades 5 & 6)
- Wooden winged creatures flying by the ceiling outside the multi-purpose room (grade 4)
- Newspaper towers in the library (grade 6)
- Castle paintings outside the sloyd classroom (K)

Merrowvista 2013 News

The 4th grade Merrowvista Fundraising Group would like to thank all of our Saturday morning basketball snack sales helpers. Special thanks to Ginny Galletta for stocking the table, setting up and breaking down every week, and for coordinating all of the volunteers. We raised over \$400 to help defray the costs of next year's field trip!

Our next event is a Bottle Drive at McT scheduled for Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27th (to coincide with the Yard Sale). Please save your returnable bottles! Volunteers are needed to help handle collections on these days; this is a great opportunity to get your kids involved! If you or your child is interested in helping, contact Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmillmedia.com).

Finally, don't forget to attend the Merrowvista Information Night! It is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30th at 7 PM. The fifth grade teachers will be giving an overview of the trip and answering all of your questions about this great program.

Message from Food Service

Please Note: Our e-mail for lunch on-line has changed. Our new address is lunchonline@abschools.org.

The end of the school year is coming. If you have a balance in your child's lunch account it will roll over to the next school year. Balances follow your child until they graduate. If you have a graduating student, we ask students to try to spend down their lunch accounts. If there is a balance at the end of finals we will contact you to either transfer the balance to a sibling, donate the balance to a family in need, or request a refund.

Do you have a Parent On-line Account with an Automatic Payment? Your parent on-line credit card information must be verified once a year. If you set up an account this time last year, your automatic payment will expire shortly. Please log onto Parent On-Line and choose "Automatic Payment" on the left side of the screen. If the "Expires on" date is soon, please verify your credit card information. Click the "red circle with a line through it" at the far right hand part of the screen. This will delete your existing automatic payment. Next click the "green plus" and you can then choose the credit card you want to use for automatic payments.

You will need to update your credit card information for each of your children.

FFF Ends, McT Mileage Club starting soon

FFF (Fun Fitness Friday), was a program that met on Friday mornings this winter under the guidance of Dave James. A big thanks to Dave along with parent volunteers Rob Bukowski, Carol Chytil, Elizabeth Crowley, Jill Defoe, Mariah Straayer, and Cathy Yu.

Weather permitting, **we plan on beginning Friday, April 26th**. We meet behind the school from 8:15-9 AM. A staff member or parent will walk students around to the front of school when McT Mileage Club is over. The group involves students, parents, and faculty exercising by walking, jogging, or running laps in the playground areas behind the school. The Club is open to all grades, and parents are welcome to join in the exercise.

After each session, students track their mileage on a chart and receive foot tokens after achieving certain mileage goals. Over 90 students attended at least one McT Mileage session in the fall. The program is completely open to new participants and is a drop-in format (you don't need to come every week.)

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com). You can also e-mail Chris to be added to the e-mail list, which is important for updates and weather cancellations. Parent volunteers are needed to help on Friday mornings (it is a rotating schedule and you aren't committing to every week), so please let Chris know if you are available.