



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

April 2, 2015
Volume 44, No 8

Springing into April

by David Krane, McT Principal

Difficult as it may be to believe, we have had four snow days this year, the same number as last year. The intensity and timing of the storms this year have been very different, of course, but we are still very fortunate to have not lost more school days. There is still plenty of snow on the ground, though, making for messy hallways and wet children at recess. But the days are warming up, however slowly, and I hear the doves in the morning now, and that's always a positive sign. Even if this winter appears endless, we all know that the arrival of spring is inevitable, even as patience is wearing very thin!

The McCarthy-Towne Auction took place this past 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 PTSSO Co-Chairs Shelly Drouin and Julie Weir, the Auction Co-Chairs Christine Russell and Sam Valente-Phillips, who did an absolutely amazing job! 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 sibling 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 Thursday, April 17, right before the break week.

Please remember, the next time this Bulletin comes out, there will flowers blooming, and the air will be warm and filled with the sound of the peepers! Spring always does arrive, even if it feels unlikely right now...

Mark Your Calendar

APRIL

- 3, Friday**
NO SCHOOL, Good Friday
- 6, Monday**
Acton Town Meeting
7 PM, ABRHS Auditorium
- 9, Thursday**
Lost & Found Fair Ends
- 10, Friday**
Donelan's Receipts Due
- 15, Wednesday**
PTSSO Meeting, 9:30 AM
- 16, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 17, Thursday**
Auction Memories Orders Due
- 20-24**
NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess

MAY

- 1, Friday**
McT Mileage Club Begins
Tag Sale Drop-Off, 5-8 PM
- 2, Saturday**
McT Tag Sale, 8 AM-Noon
- 5, Tuesday**
MCAS: Math (Grades 3-6)
- 7, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 12, Tuesday**
MCAS: Science, Technology
& Engineering (Grade 5)
- 13, Wednesday**
MCAS: Science, Technology
& Engineering (Grade 5)
- 21, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 28, Thursday**
Family Field Day, 5:30 PM



from Shelley Cole and Julie Weir, PTSO co-chairs

Last Saturday night was our biggest fundraiser of the year, and you all thought it was just a fun night out! Thank you to Christine Russell, Samantha Valente-Phillips, scores of volunteers, and their family members for all their hard work in making the auction happen. Thank you to all the families, students and faculty that donated items and came out to bid too. Without you it would have not worked. It was a great success both in fun and money raised. The proceeds will go a long way to supporting our children and school next year.

This month we have something special to look forward to—school vacation week. Along with spending quality family time, why not do some spring cleaning and rid your house of unwanted items? Julie Weir is running the **McT Tag Sale on Saturday May 2nd** and can take all those things off your hands. It's very easy to do, just drop your stuff off on Friday night and she, along with volunteers, will do the rest. As a bonus, the school gets the proceeds. A win-win!

On April 6th town meeting will start at 7 PM. It will most likely go into the 7th too. Acton residents will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed 2015–2016 School Budget, as well as other school and municipal issues. We urge you to review your Town Warrant, and to attend Acton Town Meeting on April 6th and 7th and vote! As a help to parents, the PTOs, the AB school district, and others will be providing free child care. A notice of this is attached to the bulletin, along with information about the school budget.

Our next PTSO meeting will be April 15th at 9:30 AM. We are meeting in the multi-purpose room. All are welcome and encouraged to come.

Auction Sign-ups With Space Remaining

We still have a few spaces remaining for some of the sign-up items offered at the auction last weekend. If you are interested in any of these, contact Tracey Smith (tsmith@abschools.org). Please reference the auction bid booklet for full details on each item or contact Tracey if you no longer have your booklet.

Item #1400 Adult and Child Ceramic Workshop

May 1st and May 15th from 6:30–8:30 PM. Cost is \$60 for one adult and one child.

Item #1401 Ash & Clark's Rockin' Rocket Camp

On an early release Thursday in May or June, TBD. Cost is \$25

Item #1402 Basketball Clinic, ages 7 and younger

April 10th from 8–9 AM in the McCarthy-Towne gymnasium. Cost is \$20

Item #1403 Ladies Night Out

Saturday, June 13th from 5–9 PM. Cost is \$40

Item #1404 Revolution Yoga party

Weekend day in May or June TBD. Cost is \$40

Item #2002 Dude & Dudette Dance Party, grades 1–4

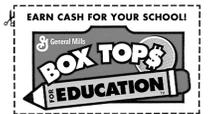
Come dance in the music room with Jillian on Thursday, June 4th from 1–3 PM. Cost is \$20

Item #2053 6th Grade Picnic and Games at NARA

Join Laura, Callie and Tara on Thursday, June 18th from 2–4 PM. Cost is \$40

Box Tops Update

As a result of our February collection, we earned almost \$300 from Box Tops For Education® for a grand total of over \$1,000!



Congratulations, to Jen Pratt's 2nd grade class for collecting the most Box Tops! They are enjoying a new game and some classroom supplies!

Keep clipping Box Tops and send them in a Ziploc bag or envelope with your child's name, grade, and teacher's name. Send them to school with your child or drop them off in the large collection box just inside the main office.

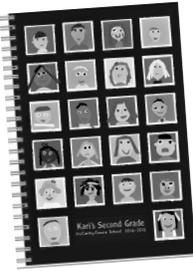
Around town, you and your neighbors can drop Box Tops in the blue box labeled "McCarthy-Towne Box Tops" at Roche Bros. Let me know if any other businesses in town would be willing to collect Box Tops for our school. Or, we can decorate boxes that could be filled at your places of work. Contact Melissa (mkmorse1@msn.com) with any questions about the Box Tops program.

Safe Arrival Reminder

If you are traveling for an extended period over April vacation, please remember to contact the Safe Arrival hotline: 978-264-4098. Even if you have emailed your child's teacher, you still need to call Safe Arrival. The hotline is on 24 hours a day so you can leave a message at any time (and you can leave one message for multiple days – you do not need to call each day.) Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Auction Classroom Artwork Memories

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



Please send in your Auction Memories order form before the break, by Friday, April 17. The Auction Memories order form is also available for download at www.mctptso.org/auction. Contact Rebecca MacNeill (rebeccamacneill@gmail.com) with any questions.

Another Art Show!

McT has been celebrating Youth Art Month this March by participating in several art shows and we have one more currently on exhibit at the Acton Senior Center. *Students Make Their Mark* includes work from K-12 students from the AB Regional School District and will run from March 27–April 30. **Everyone is invited to the student reception on Friday, April 10, 3–4:45 PM.** The Senior Center is located at 50 Audubon Drive in Acton.

Last call for Donelan's Receipts



The Register Tapes for Education program with Donelans Supermarket has ended for this year. If you have any Donelans receipts, dated September 1st, 2014 through March 31st, 2015, please bring them into the McT office by Friday, April 10th. Thank you!

April is School Library Month

A sincere thanks to the families who have generously donated 25 new books this year to the McT Library!

Donating books is easy. This April, in honor of *School Library Month*, the McT Library is focusing on replacing our most-loved books. Your family can help. Simply search "McCarthy-Towne Library" on the Amazon Wish List to make your purchase. Remember to select "This will be a Gift" and enter your name in the "Gift Note" box. Your purchase will be shipped directly to the library. We will then email you for the wording of your donation bookplate.

Remember to use the Amazon School Rewards link on the PTSO website (www.mctptso.org) when placing your order. A percentage of all Amazon purchases made through this link go to McCarthy-Towne.

Questions? Contact Jen Lewy (jen@zenmarketing.net).

The McT Tag Sale is Right Around the Corner!

We need your gently used household goods, clothing, books, toys, bikes, furniture, baby equipment (no cribs), gardening tools, sporting equipment and more!

Drop off items in GOOD and WORKING CONDITION on Friday, May 1st from 5–8 PM. Please remember, if you wouldn't buy it at a yard sale please don't make US throw it away. This year we were unable to secure a donation truck so if you have a charity who might be interested let us know. All donations are tax deductible and forms will be available on Friday!

Want to Help? Volunteers are what make our sale successful. We need help setting up on Friday evening, working the sale on Saturday morning, and cleaning up after the sale on Saturday afternoon. Even if you can only spare an hour, we can use your help. Please contact Julie Weir (julieannweir@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

What to make a little cash yourself? Sell your own tag sale items at our sale. We are offering 10' x 10' spots in the gym for those of you who would like to make a little extra. For \$25 you get the spot, a table and all the customers that come through the doors. Set up time will be Friday from 6–8 PM.

Shop the Sale! Need a new bike for spring? Looking for some good books? How about some new games for the kids? Come shop the McT Yard Sale on Saturday, May 2nd from 8 AM –Noon.

If you have any questions about the sale, would like sell, or would like to volunteer, please contact Julie Weir (julieannweir@yahoo.com).



Lost and Found Fair: NOW until Thursday, April 9th

All lost and found items are on display in the lower level of the Parker Damon Building (in front of the multi-purpose room). The items will be there until Thursday, April 9th. So please come in and check for any items that may have gone missing during the last weeks. We have many mittens, hats, jackets, snow pants and lunch boxes. All items that remain after the fair will be donated to charity. If you have any questions please contact, Petra Charisse (pecharisse@gmail.com).

McT Mileage Club Back in Action... Maybe by May Day?

For those of you familiar with the McT Mileage Club, **we plan to resume our workouts on May Day, May 1st** (assuming by then we will be able to see some ground out there.) An email will be coming soon with important reminders and details. For those who have no idea what the McT Mileage Club is... read on!

The McT Mileage Club is a morning exercise program for McT students along with parents who wish to join in the fun. The group is heading into its sixth session (Fall and Spring for the third year!) and is led by Chris Hanlon, McT parent, and Dave James, McT's P.E. teacher. Using a measured course in the back playground, McT Milers will log laps by running, jogging, walking, skipping, strolling (or some combination of those). They will use a chart to track their mileage and will receive an honorary foot token at certain accumulated distances. McT Mileage Club is a free program that operates on a drop-in basis. Come as often as you can, but there does not have to be an "every week" commitment. Here are the details:

When: Friday mornings, 8:30–9:05 AM, beginning on May 1st until the end of the school year.

Where: Back playground, Parker Damon Building

What to bring: Shoes comfortable for activity and a great attitude. A bottle of water is a good idea, as is a small snack to have on the walk to the front of school.

How do I get involved: Parents need to complete a form for each child participating in McT Mileage Club. Forms are available in the office and at the Mileage Club meetings. We rely on help from parent volunteers, so if you are available and want to come out and pitch in, you can volunteer as often as you like (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, only when the weather is nice!)

Who to contact with questions or to volunteer: Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com). Send an email and we can add you to our contact list.

2015 MCAS Dates

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be taking MCAS tests in May. Please avoid scheduling trips and appointments during the MCAS testing periods. Testing begins at the beginning of the school day. 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 and will have to take that day's test on a make-up day.

Math (Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6)

May 5 and 6

Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)

May 12 and 13

Lip Sync Thank You!

from Margaret Busse, Bridget Matz and Deb Verner

Thank you to all the families who made the 2015 Lip Sync Extravaganza a wonderful success. We had 37 fantastic performances with 114 students participating either on stage or behind-the-scenes!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped the dress rehearsal and show run so smoothly: Maija Barnett, Martha Brandt, Sarah Burianek, Jessie Busiek, Maura Callahan, Chris Hanlon, Kate Hoitt, Kate Imhoff, Shelly Jaros, Christine Kobelski, Lisa Lapinski, Susie Maxwell, Sarah McBride, Gary Poisson, Christine Russell, Michelle Silbert, Kelly Simon, Lisa Thermidor, and Natasha Venti. We could not have done it without you.

Thanks to the talented and creative teachers, Bethany Vinal Ahern, Amy Jo Conant, Callie O'Connor, Jillian Gilfoil, Carolyn Imperato, and Robin Kynoch who came to school on a Saturday to participate in a McT community event! Thanks to Astrid Trostorff, Carol Chytil and Tracey Smith for providing constant support and guidance.

Thank you to the Callison family for donating all the DVDs that will be created of the show.

Thank You to the Hospitality crew, led by Sarah McBride, who provided delicious goodies for the bake sale.

Finally, a special thank you to the following talented McT parents: Laura Poisson, our entertaining MC; Jason Verner, our organized DJ Jazzy J; Wade Callison, our creative videographer.

See you in 2016! Rock On!

Final 007 Auction Update

From Christine Russell and Samantha Valente-Phillips

We would like to offer our deepest gratitude to the amazing team who helped make this auction so incredible. Each and every volunteer is appreciated beyond words and we could not have pulled it off without you all. We have had innumerable reports from Auction attendees that they had an amazing time. Without this McCarthy-Towne community and its commitment to our school and our kids the Auction would not have been the amazing success that it turned out to be.

We're so glad you came out, participated, and most importantly, bid! Every dollar we earned will be put to good use in making our school the incredible place for learning that it is. Lastly, the continued and tireless support of our teachers and staff, we did this with you, we did this for you, and we truly, deeply appreciate each and every one of you. You impact our kids every single day, and we are so happy to be able to give something back to show our great appreciation.