



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

January 9, 2015  
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## January is Looking Forward

by David Krane, McT Principal

Happy New Year! Although there has been unusually warm weather for this time of the year, it's still clear that is indeed winter out there. And even though the temperatures are considerably more moderate than last year, I am still waiting for the other wintry shoe to drop! At our house though, this is also the time of year when our two girls are around, glad to spend some time catching up and reconnecting. It's good to spend some time inside...!

January is also a time to think about the upcoming year, especially as we begin to get ready to put our school on display. School communities use the past as a reference and as a preparation for what's next. Here at McCarthy-Towne, we are getting ready to present ourselves to the community at large as we prepare for the upcoming Kindergarten evening and the tours. (Our Kindergarten presentation will be the evening of Tuesday, January 20). School choice, a special component of public education here in Acton, compels all of us to stay mindful of our school mission and of our unique way of working with the children and families who choose our school. Preparing for the tours encourages us to reflect on what has worked so well in the past and also to consider the changes we might want to make in the future to support our mission.

Acton has high expectations for all the schools in town. Each of the six elementary schools works very hard and succeeds

in meeting those expectations. Any one of these six schools would be an excellent choice for incoming Kindergarteners and their families. But what we offer here is very different. The integration of the visual arts into the curriculum across the grade levels begins in Kindergarten and becomes a huge part of the student learning process as kids grow through the school. Also, ours is an environment that is about risk-taking, cooperation, and problem solving. These three qualities are what we strive to have children understand about themselves as learners and as members of our larger community. Our school is also a place that seeks to have families assume active roles in the school. This is part of what makes us unique in Acton and, indeed, in public education.

The pride that the faculty and staff and children take in being part of McCarthy-Towne is apparent everywhere one looks. The walls display student work, completed and still in process. Conversations in the classrooms are as lively and engaging as they are in the staff room! Families are an active part of the school through the School Council and a variety of committees. Active, community and committed are words that describe our school. This is the school we proudly invite prospective families and children to be part of as they tour the McCarthy-Towne School.

Here's to a great year ahead!

## Mark Your Calendar

### JANUARY

**9, Friday**  
Lost & Found Fair Begins

**15, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (1 PM)

**16, Friday**  
NO SCHOOL,  
Professional Learning Day

**19, Monday**  
NO SCHOOL,  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**20, Tuesday**  
Priority Kindergarten  
Registration at R.J. Grey  
Junior High School,  
9 AM–Noon and 7–9 PM

**21, Wednesday**  
Priority Kindergarten  
Registration at R.J. Grey  
Junior High School,  
9 AM–Noon

**22, Thursday**  
Lost & Found Fair Ends

**26, Monday**  
McT Winter Band Concert

### FEBRUARY

**5, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (1 PM)

**16–20**  
NO SCHOOL,  
Winter Recess

### 2015–2016 Calendar

The 2015–2016 Acton-Boxborough Regional School District calendar is now available at [www.abschools.org](http://www.abschools.org).



## Box Tops for Education Update

Do you ever wonder if those little Box Tops you clip and send in amount to anything? **YES they do! We just received our first check for this school year and it was for a little more than \$600!** That's absolutely free money for our school! Thank you to all who dutifully clip Box Tops and many thanks to Melissa Morse for coordinating the program and processing all those clippings. Keep 'em coming!



## from Shelley Cole and Julie Weir, PTSO co-chairs

The kids are back to school and normal routines are too. We hope everyone had a great holiday break and are ready to get back in the swing of things.

**In the next few months we are gearing up for two big events—the Lip Sync on March 7th and the McT Auction on March 28th.** Both are great fun. Last year the Lip Sync was extremely popular and everyone had a great time seeing the kids perform. The Auction is our biggest fund raiser for the year. The volunteers have been working hard all school year to make it great. If anyone would like to help out more hands are always welcome.

If your class did not already have a potluck January is a great time for them. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and reconnect with those you already know.

**Our next PTSO meeting is Wednesday at 7 PM.** Every parent is welcome to join us.

### Lip Sync Extravaganza: March 7th

**The Annual Lip Sync Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, March 7th from 4–6 PM.** Sign up forms will be sent home in backpacks and available on the McT Website starting January 30th. Completed forms, music and lyrics are due back to McT Office by February 13th. There is a 45 act limit for the show.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the Annual Lip Sync Extravaganza in recent years, a few changes are in store for the 2015 show:

- The mandatory Rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, March 3rd at 1 PM.
- Songs will be limited to 2 minutes.
- Each student is limited to ONE act.
- The same song may not be performed by multiple acts. Song choices will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

This popular event is open to all McT students. Participants choose a song, determine if they wish to perform individually or with a group, create choreography, and perform their act on stage at McT. Now is the time for your child to think about what song to perform and whether they want to perform individually or in a group. Be creative with song choices and choreography! Introduce your kids to new musical genres: you might find they enjoy music from the 60s, 70s, and 80s, or genres such as Country, Broadway musicals or international hits. PLEASE check out the lyrics before students start practicing to make sure they are family-friendly and elementary school appropriate. Sometimes we think songs are okay, but when we read the lyrics, we realize they are not suitable for young children. Over the past few years, we have said no to a few songs and asked the participants to choose a new song. Lyrics can be found for free at [www.metrolyrics.com](http://www.metrolyrics.com).

Hope to see you at the show!

### Priority Kindergarten Registration

The Acton-Boxborough Regional School District offers Early Kindergarten Registration for “Priority Admission Candidates.” Siblings of students currently enrolled in the ABRSD who will be five years old by September 1, 2015 are given priority registration status. Families who are eligible are urged to register early. Early Registration will be held at the Central Office located in the R.J. Grey Junior High School on:

**Tuesday, January 20, 9 AM–noon and 7–9 PM**

**Wednesday, January 21, 9 AM–Noon**

You must bring a copy of your child’s birth certificate/passport, most recent physical examination and immunization record.

### Professional Learning Day, January 16

Friday, January 16, 2015 is a district-wide Professional Learning Day. There will be no school for students on this day. If there is a snow day that day, the Professional Learning Day will be moved to Tuesday, January 20. Students will then not be at school that Tuesday, either. (Monday, Jan. 19 is a holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day).

### Stink Week is Coming!

**Stink Week is a fundraiser run by the Decibels Foundation, located in Maynard, MA. Stink Week takes place January 25–31.** It helps raise awareness about hearing loss and raise funds that help support the Early Intervention Hearing Loss program at Minute Man Arc. We would like as many McCarthy-Towne students to become Stinkers this January! **Please see the forms attached to this Bulletin for full information about Stink Week and how to become a Stinker and receive your free t-shirt.**

## Stay Healthy this Winter

The CDC recommends reminding children to:

- 1. COVER THEIR NOSE AND MOUTH** with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, and have them throw the tissue away after they use it.
- 2. WASH THEIR HANDS OFTEN WITH SOAP AND WATER**, especially after they cough or sneeze, use the bathroom, and before handling food. If water is not near, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- 3. NOT TOUCH THEIR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH.** Germs often spread this way.

### Important Health Office Reminders:

- Your child should stay home from school if he or she has a fever, vomits or has diarrhea within the past 12 hours, appears lethargic, or has a persistent cough. If your child is sick and goes to school, you place others at risk for getting sick as well.
- Before returning to school after an illness, your child should be fever-free for 24 hours and have enough stamina to manage a full day of school activities including P.E. and recess. If your child is taking an antibiotic, he or she should remain at home for the first 24 hours. Please notify the health office if your child tests positive for strep infection.
- All medications should be brought to the health office by a parent. Do not send in medication in your child's backpack.
- Check your child for lice once a week, and contact the health office if you find lice or nits. The most effective control is careful, repeated inspection of the child's hair and scalp by parents.
- Students need to get plenty of sleep and physical activity, drink water, and eat good food to help them stay healthy in the winter and all year.
- Please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately for outdoor activity; our students will continue to go outside for recess unless it is extremely cold or raining. Coats, hats, mittens, and boots are a must when the weather is cold, and don't forget snow pants when there is snow on the ground. Dressing appropriately for the winter temperatures will keep children not only warm and comfortable, but healthy as well.

## Spoons Project!

Thanks to creative efforts of our students and teachers, as well as our many generous families, we raised more than \$2,500 for Project Bread this year! Thank you to all who contributed!

## McCarthy-Towne 007 Auction Update

**If you haven't done so yet... Mark your calendars! The McCarthy-Towne Auction is March 28th!** We have some exciting new donations this year, including fantastic camps!



Here is a sneak peek at some of the great camps you will see at the auction:

- Camp Cody in Freedom, NH (One two-week session)
- Camp Walt Whitman in Piermont, NH (One week of Pioneer Camp for boys or girls)
- Fleur de Lis Camp in Fitzwilliam, NH (Big & Little Weekend)
- Camp Nashoba Day in Littleton, MA (One two-week session of day camp)
- Marcus Lewis Day Camp in Westford, MA (One week of Junior Discovery or Teen Exploration Camp)
- Camp Sewataro in Sudbury, MA

Last month's question stumped you all. So we are giving you another chance to win an auction drink ticket!

**This month's auction question:** Which weapon in the James Bond universe is constructed from a lighter, a fountain pen, a cufflink, and a cigarette case? Be the first person to email Christine Russell (qofhearts@gmail.com) with the correct answer! Good Luck!

We still need help! If you are interested in helping out with the McT Auction in any way, please contact either of the Auction Co-Chairs—Christine Russell (qofhearts@gmail.com) or Samantha Valente-Phillips (luvbgnamom@gmail.com).

## Join us on Facebook

If you haven't already, please consider joining the McT Facebook page. Facebook, more than any other source, enables us to inform our community of late-breaking news and issue timely reminders. It's also a great place to share news and pictures of school events. Anyone is free to post news, pictures and questions. We just ask that you refrain from posting identifiable pictures of children. Our Facebook page is open to all adult members of our community. It is a "closed" group which means that people from outside our community are unable to see or post to our page. To join: search "McCarthy-Towne School" or visit [www.facebook.com/groups/1404961776417219/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1404961776417219/)

## Lost & Found Fair Friday, January 9–22

We will have our next Lost & Found Fair from **January 9–22**. Please stop by the Fair located at the bottom of the stairs on the first floor of the Parker Damon building (in front of the multi purpose room). All lost items will be displayed on tables and hangers so they are easy to find. Any items not claimed at the fair will be donated to charity.

All year, the lost and found team goes through lost items on a weekly basis and will return all labeled items to their owners. The easiest way to get back any lost items is by marking your child belongings with at least LAST NAMES! In a building with over 1,000 students you can imagine that first names or initials don't help track down the owner of a lunchbox. **So please take a minute, grab a pen and label items that could get detached from your kids.** If you have any questions please contact, Petra Charisse (pecharisse@gmail.com).

## 2015 MCAS Schedule

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be taking MCAS tests 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.

### English Language Arts Composition (Grade 4)

Tuesday, March 24

### English Language Arts Comprehension (Grades 5 & 6)

March 24 and 25

### English Language Arts Comprehension (Grades 3 & 4)

March 30 & 31

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

May 5 and 6

### Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)

May 12 and 13

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## Enter to Win an iPod® Shuffle PLUS \$500 in Free Groceries!



For every dollar spent at Donelan's, McCarthy-Towne will earn points redeemable for free educational equipment, like art supplies and books. So save your receipts send them in with your child or drop them in the collection box in the office. **Receipts dated September 1, 2014–March 31, 2015 are eligible.**

Enter to win a \$500 grocery gift certificate PLUS an iPod Shuffle by filling out the entry form below and sending it into school with your receipts by **January 15, 2015**. You can enter as many times as you like as long as your entry is submitted with a Donelan's receipt and the entry form is not photocopied. If you want to make copies, copy the entry form first and then hand write your information on each form. They will NOT accept entry forms that have been filled out and then photocopied. Please leave the "school code" section of the entry form blank.

For complete contest rules, please visit [www.registertapesforeducation.com/shoppercontest](http://www.registertapesforeducation.com/shoppercontest). If you have any questions about the program, contact Sarah Burianek (sarahburianek@msn.com).



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### Register Tapes Entry Form

Please enter me for a chance to win a \$500 grocery gift certificate plus an iPod Shuffle®.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

School Code

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to your school by January 15, 2015.