



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

June 7, 2013  
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## June Celebrations

by David Krane, McT Principal

As we wind down the school year and prepare to head into the summer, the weather continues to be supportive with bright sunshine and summer-like temperatures. With the ABRHS graduation ceremonies happening the day this Bulletin is distributed, there are the official pieces of closure and celebration beginning now.

Celebrations are an important part of school, particularly at the end of the year. Children have made such tremendous gains in their learning, both academically and socially. We also celebrate together, as a school and our Memorial Day Concert is one example of this. The Band presentation this year was, as usual, amazing: clear evidence of all of the hard work the children and Mr. Savage had done all year. We celebrated, through music and song, some history and tradition. We did it as a community, with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, with a Fourth Grade presentation and the traditional playing of Taps. Many thanks go out to Jillian Gilfoil for her organization and for her authentic musical choices for this assembly.

There will be celebrations happening in all the classrooms this month as teachers, students, and parents remember the past year

and acknowledge all the parts of that year. But one McCarthy-Towne tradition and celebration that has particular resonance for me is the Sixth Grade ceremony with the Kindergartners. This tradition celebrates the Sixth Graders moving on to the Junior High but with a twist: It involves only the Sixth Graders, the Kindergartners, and this year the other students and faculty. In a revisiting of the ceremony attached to the arrival of the Kindergartners when they received a carnation, in this event the carnation is presented to the Sixth Grader by a Kindergartner. Both ends of these commemorations honor transitions: one transition into McCarthy-Towne and one transition out to another school. It has tremendous meaning for all who participate and it is one that everyone remembers.

Schools, like families, develop traditions that are theirs alone. It is important to acknowledge growth and milestones. So celebrate all that your children are doing in school... honor all that they are achieving because what they are doing now in every arena is so important.

Thanks to everyone for making this school year another remarkable year at McCarthy-Towne!

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## Last and First Day of School

from the office

**The last day of this school year will be Monday, June 24th.** Please note that it is an early release day and all elementary schools will follow the regular Thursday dismissal schedule. Dismissal time for McCarthy-Towne on June 24th will be at 1 PM.

**The first day of school for the 2013–2014 school year will be Tuesday, August 27th.** McCarthy-Towne School 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](http://www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/2013-2014calendar.pdf)

## Mark Your Calendar

### JUNE

**13, Thursday**  
Community Assembly

**24, Monday**  
Last Day of School,  
Early Dismissal (1 PM)  
No PM Kindergarten

### AUGUST

**16, Friday**  
Student class placement  
available online at 3 PM

**23, Friday**  
Class lists available  
online at 3 PM

**27, Tuesday**  
First Day of School, 8:30 AM

**30, Friday**  
NO SCHOOL,  
Labor Day Weekend

### SEPTEMBER

**2, Monday**  
NO SCHOOL, Labor Day

**5, Thursday**  
NO SCHOOL, Rosh Hashanah

**13, Friday**  
School Picture Day

**25, Wednesday**  
Back-to-School Night

**The 2013–2014 school calendar is available for download at:**  
<http://www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/2013-2014calendar.pdf>



## from Kate Murray and Tracey Smith, PTSO co-chairs

Although this is my last official bulletin as PTSO Co-Chair, it is really just a passing of the baton to someone I have truly enjoyed working with this year, Tracey Smith. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tracey for her help in keeping me on task, attending meetings in my absence and for helping to further some of the new initiatives that we rolled out this year (The Howler, new monthly meeting formats—just to name a few). Due to Tracey's steadfast commitment to this school, we will be in extremely good hands next year. And we are both thrilled that Shelly Cole has agreed to work with Tracey, as "junior co-chair" and learn the ropes of the PTSO. Tracey will be an excellent leader so stay tuned...

So, would you like to work with Tracey and Shelly next year? Here are our open positions for the 2013–2014 school year:

**Auction Co-chair:** We already have one FABULOUS Chair (thank you Jen Mabardy!) so you won't be on your own. It's not nearly as scary as it sounds and I can promise you that Jen is a blast to work with.

**General Mills Box Tops:** Perfect for someone who works outside the home. You can sort these from the comfort of your home whenever you have the time. These Box Tops earn the school nearly \$2,000 per year so you can really make a sizable impact with just a few hours of your time.

**International Liasons:** We are looking for two people to Chair the committee for International Night (which occurs, typically, in May). Estimated time commitment is about ten hours, spread over a few months, and can mostly be done from home at your convenience.

If you are interested in hearing more details about any of these open positions, please contact Tracey Smith ([tracey@gristmillmedia.com](mailto:tracey@gristmillmedia.com)).

## Notice to 6th Grade Parents/Guardians

Before the sixth grade students' files go to the junior high school, Principal David Krane will go through and purge them of extraneous papers. These papers are destroyed unless parents would like to have them. For some students, there will not be any extraneous papers.

If you would like to have the papers from your child's file, please notify the office in writing by the last day of school, June 24th. The school office will let you know when you can come in to pick up the papers.

## Grade K–5: Not at McT Next Year?

*from the office*

Are you moving out of Acton this summer or is your child going to a different school next year? Please complete a "Release of Records" form as soon as possible. The school office is open for limited hours during the summer, so call ahead to make sure someone will be available, 978-264-3377. Since the Health Office is closed, health records will not be available during the summer.

## Placement for Next Year

*from the office*

Parents/guardians of students in kindergarten through 5th grade will receive a letter at spring parent-teacher conferences with the child's user name and password for access to the on-line emergency card. **You will need this information to access class placement information, which will be posted on Friday, August 17 at 3 PM.** Class lists will be available on Friday, August 24.

Please remember to this information with you on vacation if you plan to check placement away from home. This information CANNOT be given over the phone or email. Please keep this letter in a safe place where you can find it. Your child's user name and password stays the same through high school graduation and you will need to update the emergency card information, medical authorization and permissions page every year until your child graduates from high school. Also remember to update the card any time your address or contact information changes, or if your child's health information changes.

Finally just as a reminder, the information that appears in the McT PTSO School Directory published in the fall comes from the on-line emergency cards, just like they did last year. If there is any information you wish to have excluded, that can be done when you complete your on-line emergency information.

## Last Scrip of the Year!



Don't miss this opportunity to purchase all of those end-of-year thank you gifts for teachers, coaches, bus drivers, etc. AND for all of the graduates in your life. The Scrip Program allows you to purchase gift cards to all of the places that you typically shop, without having to take a trip to the mall to get them! Each Scrip gift card that you purchase earns a rebate for McT, without any extra cost to you. Merchants who contract with Scrip agree to rebate a percentage of each sale back to McCarthy-Towne.

**The June Order Form is attached to the Bulletin. Please complete the form and send in with your child by Wednesday, June 12 at 3:30 PM.** Gift Cards will be sent home on Tuesday, June 18. You can also order online by following the link at [www.mctptso.org/scrip](http://www.mctptso.org/scrip). All information and directions can be found on the PTSSO page or on the back of the order form.

If you have any questions, please contact either Wendy Schaad ([ws.schaad@gmail.com](mailto:ws.schaad@gmail.com)) or Mimi Kirkman ([mimikirkmant@yahoo.com](mailto:mimikirkmant@yahoo.com)). Thanks for your support!



## Frozen Lemonade Squares

from [www.kitchendaily.com](http://www.kitchendaily.com)

Prep Time: 20 mins  
Total Time: 4 hr 20 mins

### Ingredients

- 9 Honey Maid Low Fat Honey Graham Crackers
- 1/3 cup margarine or butter
- 4 cups frozen vanilla yogurt
- 6 oz. frozen lemonade concentrate
- 1/2 cup Cool Whip Lite Whipped Topping

### Directions

1. Mix graham crumbs and margarine; press onto the bottom of a 9-inch square pan.
2. Beat yogurt and concentrate with mixer until well blended; spread over crust.
3. Freeze for 4 hours or until firm. Serve topped with Cool Whip.

Serves 9.

## Thank You

from Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator

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

- Christine Kobelski for observing at the Kindergarten Lottery
- Rebecca MacNeill for helping with the Auction Art Project fundraiser
- Rebecca MacNeill, Ashlee Kim and Mimi Kirkman for photographing students artwork for portfolios;
- Amanda Dindal, Jody Long, Joan McCaffrey and Jen Mabardy for laminating materials for teachers and the PTSSO;
- Tina Watlington, Fiona Starr, Mariah Straayer, Tracey Smith, Christine Kobelski, Shannon Callison, Petra Charisse, Joan McCaffrey, Lisa Petrocchi, Karen Benn and Jen Nelson for being the office volunteers who process dismissal and bus passes, sort all the mail from classrooms and help in a myriad of other ways during the busy mornings at McT;
- Ann-Marie Sweeney, Shannon Callison and the Safe Arrival volunteers who check attendance against the Safe Arrival messages and make sure every student is accounted for.

And a special thank you to all the parents and guardians whose children move onto other schools next year, especially Tina Watlington, Joan McCaffrey and Ann-Marie Sweeney who are "graduating" out of McCarthy-Towne. You have supported the school, the teachers and staff, and your children as students in countless ways that help make McCarthy-Towne School the special community it is.

Finally, I want to thank all the parents who have answered my many calls over the last three years to volunteer in every which way at the school and at all the PTSSO sponsored events. It has been wonderful working with everyone in the McT Community and I have truly enjoyed my time here at school and with your children. I look forward to continuing to contribute to our school and community in new and different ways.

## Food Service Department News

Please note if you have a positive balance in your child's lunch account the money will roll over to the next school year. If you receive a call stating your child's account is in the negative we appreciate your prompt attention to this. Families that would like to add money to their account during the summer for the start of the next school year can enter online payments at any time through Parent on line. Information is located at [www.ab.mec.edu/departments/food/food.shtml](http://www.ab.mec.edu/departments/food/food.shtml).

If you would prefer to send in a check, the elementary link is [www.ab.mec.edu/departments/food/pdf/lunchform-elementary.pdf](http://www.ab.mec.edu/departments/food/pdf/lunchform-elementary.pdf). The AB link is [www.ab.mec.edu/departments/food/pdf/lunchform-regional.pdf](http://www.ab.mec.edu/departments/food/pdf/lunchform-regional.pdf).

### Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

The Food Service Department offers an online application for free or reduced lunches. This will help families expedite the application process. Printed forms are still available. If you prefer not to use on-line application go visit [www.ab.mec.edu/departments/food/foodapplication.shtm](http://www.ab.mec.edu/departments/food/foodapplication.shtm) and print an application, complete, and send to your student's school.

### Summer School Lunches!

We are pleased to once again offer breakfast and lunch at the High School during summer school.

The AB Café will be open from June 25–August 2. Both breakfast and lunch will be sold daily from 9–11:30 AM. Come on down!

### Lunch Prices for the upcoming school year

Acton-Boxborough \$2.50–\$3.50 for a lunch, (tiered pricing). This includes main entrée, choice of fruit, vegetable and 8 ounce milk. If you would like to only purchase an 8 ounce milk the price is 50¢.

Acton Public Schools \$2.75 for a lunch. This includes the main entrée, choice of fruit, vegetable and 8 ounce milk. If you would like to only purchase an 8 ounce milk the price is 50¢.

## Sun Safety for Children

Childhood sunburns can increase your child's risk of developing skin cancer as an adult. Even a suntan can be harmful. Tanning is an outward sign of internal skin damage. Research shows that much of the damage to skin is done in the first 18 years of life. Protecting skin and eyes during early years can reduce the risk of some types of skin cancer by up to 78%. Melanoma is a cancer of younger people and can start as early as adolescence.

### Youth and Skin Cancer

- 50% of lifetime exposure to UV light occur during childhood and adolescence.
- It can take less than 10 minutes for a child's skin to burn.
- Children with severe sunburns are at an increased risk for skin cancer.
- A person born today is twice as likely to develop malignant melanoma compared to someone born only a decade ago and 12 times more likely as someone born 50 years ago.
- Being sun safe is the first step to reduce the chances of getting skin cancer later in life.



### Teach Children Sun Safe Habits

Children learn healthy habits at a young age. Therefore, it is important to begin protecting children from the beginning and teach them sun safety. With sun damage accumulating over a person's lifespan, beginning sun safety habits at a young age should be a priority.

- Maximize protection between the hours of 10 AM to 4 PM
- Wear sun protective, light colored clothing including long sleeved shirts and pants made of tightly woven fabric.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat that protects head, face, ears and neck. If a baseball cap is worn, make sure to use sunscreen on ears and neck.
- Wear UV-protective sunglasses with 99–100% UV absorption.
- During peak sun hours (10 AM–4 PM) seek shade.
- Encourage children to play in shaded areas, especially during peak sun hours.
- Use a sunscreen of SPF 15+ and apply a generous amount (about a palm full) 30 minutes before going outside.
- Reapply Sunscreen every 90 minutes or after swimming, towel drying or perspiring, even if the product is waterproof. Don't forget the lips and ears-both areas can burn just as easily.
- Strongly discourage the use of tanning beds.

Visit [www.shadefoundation.org](http://www.shadefoundation.org) and [www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/choose\\_yourcover/guide.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/choose_yourcover/guide.htm) for more details.

(Summarized by the APS/ABRHS Nurses, 5/2008)