



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

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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 the Fourth Grade Chorus, the Fifth and Sixth Grade Chorus, and the traditional playing of Taps. This year, we also heard Fifth Grade students read poetry that honored veterans, too. Many thanks go out to Jillian Gilfoil for her organization and for her authentic musical choices for this assembly. These assemblies continue to be a remarkable part of how we celebrate community, too.

There will be celebrations happening in all the classrooms this month as teachers, stu-

dents, 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 we will again include other students and faculty at a Community Assembly. 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 year another truly incredible year at McCarthy-Towne!

Mark Your Calendar

JUNE

18, Wednesday
Last Day of School,
Early Dismissal (12:15 PM)

AUGUST

21, Thursday
Student class placement
available online at Noon

28, Thursday
Class lists available
online at Noon

SEPTEMBER

3, Wednesday
First Day of School, 9:15 AM

12, Friday
School Picture Day

25, Thursday
NO SCHOOL, Rosh Hashanah

OCTOBER

1, Wednesday
Back-to-School Night

Last and First Day of School

The last day of school will be Wednesday, June 18th. This is an early release day and elementary schools will follow the Thursday dismissal schedule, 12:15 PM dismissal for McT.

Wednesday, September 3rd will be the first day of school for 2014-15. McCarthy-Towne will be on the late elementary schedule from 9:15 AM – 3:30 PM (Thursday 1 PM). The school calendar is available on the ABRSD website at:

www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/2014-2015calendar-holidays.pdf



from Tracey Smith and Shelley Cole, PTSO Co-chairs

It's that time of year when we pass the baton to new members of our community. I am thrilled to be able to pass the torch to Shelley Cole who will be Senior Chair of the PTSO next year. I have truly enjoyed working with her and getting to know her in the process. We are also thrilled to announce that Julie Weir will be coming on as Junior Chair. I have no doubt that the two of them will be fantastic in leading the PTSO next year.

There are certainly a lot of other batons being passed and I'd like to thank the outgoing Chairs, as well as welcome the new:

CPAC is welcoming Pam Hippensteele and Sandra Hinds as new Chairs while saying goodbye and thank you to outgoing Chair Ann Budner, for her many years of arranging enriching performances.

We bid adieu to Kat Hudson and Chris Hanlon who have co-chaired the Fall Social for the past three years. We'll miss their silly costumes, but I know that Bridget Chamberas and Jen Nelson will keep the fun going as they take over next year.

After a decade(!) of chairing the Book Fair, Susan Lerner is moving on. Many thanks for her years of helping children, parents and teachers find special books! Thankfully, Mimi Kirkman is continuing and will be bringing on Julie Weir and Amy Stimac to chair with her.

Our Lost & Found committee is losing Mary Beilman who has returned a closetful of coats and mittens to their owners over the years. Happily, Petra Charisse is continuing as co-Chair of Lost & Found.

Laurie Taylor-Teran will be departing as Chair of Book Gifting. We are happy to welcome Jen Lewy to this new role!

Finally, I'd like to thank Jen Mabardy and Michele Caterina who did such an amazing job chairing the Auction this past year and—with the help of MANY other volunteers—created a memorable and successful night for our school.

Usually at this time of year, we have a large list of open positions for the coming year. Happily, the Auction is our one glaring opening. I think many people view chairing the Auction as an overwhelming task, but the reality is that most committees have returning Chairs and things run like clockwork. We have a large crew of dedicated volunteers and simply need one or two people to oversee everything and be that final voice and ultimate decision maker. If you'd like to lend your hand to our biggest fundraiser of the year or even just find out more about it, find me any time via email (tsmith@abschools.org) or in the office.

Attention Future Lip Synchers!

Although next year's show is many months away, the Lip Sync Extravaganza team wants to give you a heads-up on changes that we have agreed upon for next year's show. We loved the show this past year but we have some ideas for next year that we think will make it an even better, tighter show. The changes include the following:

- Songs will be limited to 2 minutes (instead of 2 ½ minutes).
- Each student is limited to ONE act.
- We will accept 45 acts, no more.
- The same song may not be performed by multiple acts. Song choices will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Finally, mark your calendars! The 2015 Lip Sync will take place on **Saturday, April 11th from 4–6 PM**. We look forward to working with you and your children on producing another amazing show, when that time comes. In the meantime, we wish you a great summer vacation!

McT Mileage Club – One more to go!

The McT Mileage Club has been meeting regularly on Fridays this Spring, with a hearty group of foot-gatherers making tracks around the Parker Damon playgrounds. As of press time, 38 students have come to at least one session (not to mention numerous parent-participants), and collectively they have logged 208.5 miles!

Our final meeting of the school year (and final Mileage Club ever for some dedicated 6th graders!) will be Friday, June 13th, from 7:45–8:15 AM. Come join us for some exercise and fun!

A big thanks to the parent volunteer group for McT Mileage Club, without which this program wouldn't work, especially regulars Rob Bukowski, Carol Chytil, John and Elizabeth Crowley, Mariah Straayer, and a big thanks to PE teacher Dave James for all his extra early morning fitness coordination this year!

Questions or suggestions? Please contact Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com).

Fall placement, Class Lists and PowerSchool Parent Portal

Elementary school student's teachers for fall 2014 will be posted on the Power School Parent Portal beginning on Thursday, August 21 at 12 noon. Class lists will be available on Thursday, August 28 at 12 noon. You will need to update and confirm your child's contact information, medical information, and school permissions before you can see their teacher's name.

Parents must now create their own username and password for a Single Sign-on to the Power School Parent Portal. (<https://absis.ab.mec.edu/public>). **You should set up the parent Single Sign-On before the Parent Portal closes for the summer on July 1.**

Benefits of Single Sign-On (SSO):

- You will have your own account. You get to choose your own username and password so it is easier to remember. Also, each parent/guardian may create his or her own account, no more sharing log ins.
- You will be able to connect all your children to your account. Once you create an account you will be able to link your children to it and just click between them rather than logging in separately for each child.
- Account recovery is built in. If you forget your username or password you can click a link to get a recovery email sent to you--no more calling the school!

You can view a short video (www.screencast.com/t/Jypjr55rHW4K) showing how to set up a new account. If you have any questions please contact your school office.

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 18th. 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.

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 occurs 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 and www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/choose_yourcover/guide.htm for more details.

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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Final Days of Hallway Art Displays!

Student artwork in the hallway galleries will soon disappear as the end of school draws near. Please enjoy the following works before it's too late:

- Kindergarten butterflies, 1st floor
- Grade 1 painted kimonos, 1st floor
- Grade 2 wooden houses, 1st floor
- Grade 3 owls perched in the tree outside of the office
- Grade 4 branch weavings, entrance foyer and 1st floor
- Grade 4 watercolor landscapes, 1st floor
- Grade 5 wooden jigsaw puzzles, 1st floor glass display case

The Cultural and Performing Arts Committee End of Year Wrap-up

The Cultural and Performing Arts Committee (CPAC) had a wonderful year planning the assemblies/workshops for our students. We had three great performers:

Jeff Davis, Story teller. His Massachusetts show was presented to grades 3–5 to tie in with the social studies curriculum in those grades. The students had a great time learning about nose flutes, singing sea shanties and listening to stories about colonial Massachusetts.

Li Liu, Chinese acrobat. Ms Liu's performance was presented to the entire school. The students (and staff!) found her very engaging and interactive and were wowed by her skills.

Ian Gendreau, African drumming. Trying something new, we hosted Ian in a workshop format. He met individually with the 2nd grade classes and each student had the opportunity to play a variety of authentic African drums. This workshop tied in perfectly with their just completed unit on Ghana.

We would like to say special Thanks to Ann Budner for her many years of service with CPAC. CPAC Co-Chairs for next year will be Pam Hippensteele and Sandra Hinds. We would also like to thank the generous McT parents who made our programs possible.

Hospitality

Thank you to Debbie Walz, Bridget Chamberas, Janet Munson, Christine Kobelski, Janie Doherty, Maija Barnett and Natasha Venti for your help with the Yard Sale Bake Sale.

Thank you also to Christine Kobelski, Sorrel Sammons, Cura Pfefferkorn, Bridget Chamberas and Jen Pratt for providing the beverages for Family Field Day.

From the Office

Thank you to all members of our community who volunteer in 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):

Thank you to Rob Mendelsohn for once again donating his time and expertise to teach our very popular Scratch Enrichment class.

Kim Hurwitz and Shelley Cole for observing the Kindergarten Lottery.

Rebecca MacNeill for overseeing the Auction Art Project orders.

Mary LoPreste, Mimi Kirkman and Rebecca MacNeill for photographing students artwork for portfolios.

Pam Hippensteele, Kim Beers, Jody Long and Jen Mabardy for laminating materials for teachers and students.

Karen Benn, Petra Charisse, Fiona Starr, Mariah Straayer, Pam Hippensteele, Shannon Callison, Bridget Chamberas, Christine Kobelski, Jen Nelson, Lisa Petrocchi, and Kate Hoitt for being the office volunteers who process dismissal and bus passes, sort all the mail from classrooms, and help in a number of other ways during the busy mornings at McT.

Shannon Callison and the Safe Arrival volunteers who check attendance against the Safe Arrival messages and make sure that every student is accounted for.

Collect Box Tops Over the Summer!

Just because it's summertime doesn't mean you can't continue your Box Top collection. Keep the collection sheet handy and attach Box Tops as you find them. Scan the list of everyday items that you may not realize have Box Tops! **We have collected over \$1,000 this school year for McT** and want to keep the Box Tops coming.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Kaplan Morse (mkmorse1@msn.com). If you fill in one collection sheet and need another, email Melissa for a new collection sheet. Email anytime over the summer or during the school year. Keep on clipping and thanks for all of your efforts!