

McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

June 5, 2015
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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. 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

10, Wednesday

Lost & Found Fair Begins
Elementary Band Concert,
7 PM at ABRHS

18, Thursday

Early Dismissal (1 PM)

22, Monday

Lost & Found Fair Ends

23, Tuesday

6th Grade Celebration, 6 PM

25, Thursday

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Early Dismissal (1 PM)

AUGUST

20, Thursday

Student class placement
available online at Noon

27, Thursday

Class lists available
online at Noon

SEPTEMBER

2, Wednesday

First Day of School, 8:40 AM

3, Thursday

Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)

4, Friday

NO SCHOOL,
Labor Day Weekend

7, Monday

NO SCHOOL, Labor Day

14, Monday

NO SCHOOL, Rosh Hashanah

16, Wednesday

Back-to-School Night, 6 PM

17, Thursday

Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)

23, Wednesday

NO SCHOOL, Yom Kippur

Last Day of School

The last day of school will be Thursday, June 25. Dismissal will be at 1 PM.

First Day of School

The first day of school for 2015–2016 will be on Wednesday, September 2.

McCarthy-Towne will be on the “early elementary” schedule: 8:40 AM to 2:50 PM.

The Acton-Boxborough district calendar for 2015–2016 is available on the AB Schools website at www.abschools.org/district/calendar.

Bus schedules will be posted on the school district website the week before school starts. Visit www.abschools.org/departments/facilities-transportation/bus-routes.



from Shelley Cole and Julie Weir, PTSO co-chairs

We are nearing the end of the school year and most of the changes for next year's PTSO are in place. I am passing the torch to Julie Weir. I had a great time working with Julie this year and know she will do an amazing job keeping things going and making things better. We also have Julie Hobbs coming on as the Co-Chair of the PTSO. Julie has a soon to be 2nd grader, an incoming Kindergartner and one at home.

We have a few people stepping down from their positions on the PTSO this year and I'd like to thank them for all they have done. Some are graduating, changing positions, moving or retiring.

Chris Hanlon is heading out for an adventure so we are welcoming Julie Maranian as our new treasure.

Carolyn Dee was our secretary for 4 years. Now we have Kerry Lewis coming in to keep track of our meetings.

Nancy Giansante is stepping down from being our faculty representative and from teaching. I hope she enjoys her retirement and continues to make lovely jewelry.

Fiona Starr and Janet Munson have worked tirelessly on the directory for many years. Kate Hoitt will now be taking over.

Christine Kobelski ran our fall fundraiser. This fall Fiona Starr will be running it.

Maya Minkin and Liz Walker have done amazing things with Family Field Day for the past few years. This one was their last one.

Rebecca MacNeill is stepping down from being School Photo Coordinator. Fiona Starr will be stepping up.

Sorrel Sammons will no longer be our potluck coordinator. We are looking for a volunteer to fill this position. It is all email based in the fall.

Julie Weir has coordinated the yard sale for many years. We are looking for 1 or 2 people to run it next year. Julie will have her hands full running the PTSO next school year.

If you would like to help out with any of our open positions please contact, Tracey Smith (tsmith@abschools.org) or drop in to the office to see her.

I'm happy to say with everyone's help we were able to raise enough money to keep the assistant hours, extra library time, arts integrations specialist, reading assistants, and parent involvement coordinator steady for yet another year. Thank you for all your help!

Grade K-5: Not at McT Next Year?

from the office

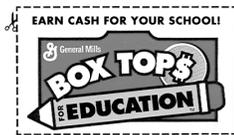
Are you moving out of Acton this summer or is your child going to a different school next year? Please complete a "Release of Records" form as soon as possible. The school office is open for limited hours during the summer, so call ahead to make sure someone will be available, 978-264-3377. Since the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

Last Lost and Found Fair This Year June 10-22

All lost and found items will be on display in the lower level of the Parker Damon Building, starting Wednesday June 10th. **The items will be there until Monday, June 22nd** when we pack up in preparation for the last days of school. Please come in and check for any items that may have gone missing during the last weeks. **All items that remain on June 22nd will be donated to charity.** Please don't miss out on finding your lost items. Contact Petra Charisse (pecharisse@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Have a good summer!

Collect Box Tops Over the Summer!

Just because it's summertime doesn't mean you can't continue your Box Top collection. Keep clipping Box Tops and send them in September 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. all summer long. Contact Melissa (mkmorse1@msn.com) with any questions about the Box Tops program. Thanks for all of your efforts.

Student Placement for September 2015

from the office

The Parent Portal of Power School will open at 12 noon Thursday, August 20. Please sign in using your log in created last year. Your child(ren) will be linked to your Power School account. After you update their emergency and health page, and the permissions page, you will be able to see the name of their teacher for 2015-16. **On Thursday, August 27 at 12 noon, you can sign in to see class lists.**

You are required to review and update the information before every school year. If you have any problems logging on to the PowerSchool web site after August 20 at Noon, please call the McCarthy-Towne office at 978-264-3377.

Join Us on Facebook!

Did you know McT has a Facebook page? Please join us! We hope this will become your "Go To" source for all school information and questions. Feel free to post pictures of artwork and grown-ups, but we are asking that you refrain from posting pictures of children.



Our McT Facebook page is open to all adult members of our community. If you know of a family entering McT this fall, please encourage them to join our page. We have created it as a "closed" group so that people from outside our community will not be able to see or post to the page. You can either search "McCarthy-Towne School" or visit www.facebook.com/groups/1404961776417219 to join.

News from Food Service

Lunch Account Balance

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 an e-mail 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 on line payments at any time through Parent OnLine—www.parentonline.net/Public/Login.aspx

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. Whether you prefer to fill out the application on line or fill in a form and send it into school please visit www.abschools.org/departments/food-services for more information about free or reduced lunches. **The applications for the next school year will be available by August 14th.**

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 6/29/15 to 8/7/15. Breakfast and Lunch will be sold daily from 9–11:30 AM.

Come on down... all students and faculty are welcome! If your child was eligible for free or reduced lunch this school year their eligibility carries through the summer school lunches.

Lunch Prices for the Upcoming School Year

Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools \$2.75 for a lunch. 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¢.

On behalf of the entire Food Service Department we would like to wish you all a fun filled summer!

Sun Safety for Children

Childhood sunburns can increase your child's risk of developing skin cancer as an adult. Even a sun-tan 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)