



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

June 21, 2013  
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## Congratulations McT Class of 2013!

*by David Krane, McT Principal*

Sixth grade is the end of the McCarthy-Towne journey and the start of the next part of your school adventure. The way that every single one of you has demonstrated leadership and compassion during this past year makes me confident of your continued success as you head into the Junior High. You have been a remarkable part of my time at McT.

The McCarthy-Towne School salutes you and thanks you for all that you have done in your years here. We look forward to hearing about all of your newest adventures when you return for a visit. Good luck!

### **Kate Fitzmaurice's Class**

Annette Aronoff  
Haisam Bashir  
Rory Butler  
Noah Chinitz  
Isaac Dawson  
Fiona Dolan  
Danny Donahue  
Erin Greer  
Isabella Harshbarger  
Sam Jannke  
Emily Kelmar  
David Kwon  
Julia Lee  
Samantha Long  
T.J. Mabardy  
Jack Post  
Mardana Quintana-Rye  
Eric Raguin  
Samir Sankoh  
Clare Simpson  
Eli Stein  
Jonas Wiechmann  
Amie Yang  
Paul Yarin  
Georgia Zarola

### **Laura Martin's Class**

Justin Aguilar  
Pablo Barrios  
Abby Beilman  
Jessie Benn  
Jessica Billings  
Phillip Bogavsky  
Connor Champigny  
Wil Clark  
Tommy Cullen  
Keagan Dignard  
Lucas Escobedo  
Dwight Fairchild  
Grace Fitzgerald  
Ashley Francisco  
Antonio Frigo  
Anthony Lees  
Kristen McCaffrey  
Nico McCarthy  
Rebeka Mendelsohn  
Zach Olden  
Connor Puff  
Ethan Raye  
Alison Rutyna  
Victor Sun  
Lilly Travers  
Natalie Ward

### **Tara Matthews' Class**

Emily Anderson  
Riley Callison  
Laura Cataldo-Holmes  
Daniel Crowley  
Nick Deese  
Ryan Green  
Guinevere Jones  
Harry Kaplan-Earle  
Sebastian Kerr  
Dylan Kim  
Hannah Landry  
Ana Ledeboer-Cid  
Ellen Liu  
Michael Maimone II  
Will Meusel  
Finn Murray  
Leo Narbonne  
Eliza Orcutt  
Emily Palmer  
Jake Puff  
Isabel Silverman  
Guilherme Simoes  
Harsha Siripurapu  
Noah Sweeney  
Malcolm Verrilli  
Nathan Watlington

## Mark Your Calendar

### JUNE

**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

**20, Friday**  
Family Bowling Night at  
Acton Bowladrome

**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](http://www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/2013-2014calendar.pdf)

## June Endings and Beginnings

by David Krane, McT Principal

Schools have to be constantly and simultaneously responding to change and also initiating it. As a school, we face many external forces from a variety of places, like MCAS and the new teacher evaluation system, as well as some that we don't even know about yet. There is also the need to be constantly re-examining what we do and how to make the changes that we believe to be important and necessary, but always in the best interest of teaching and learning. We are always thinking and reflecting about what we are doing and we are always trying to do things a little bit differently when we see the need.

There will be much that is different for next year when the new Kindergarten class walks through the doors. We are adding a new, second section of All Day Kindergarten and so there will only be one section of Half-Day K. Cheryl and Darsi will be teaching the All Day K's and we will be making a new hire for the half-time K teacher. And, as I've written before, we are moving classrooms, many classrooms, for next year. The 100 Level of our school will be home to all three Kindergarten classrooms and all three Sixth Grade classrooms. The 200 Level, the lobby floor, will house the Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade Teams, and the 300 Level, on top, will be First, Second, and Third Grade Team classrooms. We will, with sorrow, be saying goodbye to Vanessa Bergmann, as she and her family take on new adventures. We are bidding farewell to two members of our intrepid office staff, Patty Lee and Maureen Jones, our Parent Involvement Coordinator and Office Support Assistant, respectively. Ashley Ramirez, our Second Grade teacher, will also be leaving, moving back to her native Chicago, and Jodi Phelan, our Technology Assistant,

is changing positions. We will miss all of these people tremendously, their hard work and their dedication to our school. But we will be welcoming Amy-Jo Conant, as she becomes the newest member of the Fifth Grade Team, and Kari James, as she returns to her Second Grade classroom. Joining our School Council next year will be Tracey Estabrook and Laura Kreiger. Thanks to both for agreeing to be part of this important school body. Departing School Council will be Ann Budner and Maureen Jones, as well as Tracey Smith. I can't thank all of these people enough for all their service to our school, including the parents who have volunteered to be part of the hiring committees, Karen Francisco and Chris Hanlon.

Innovation cannot happen without fundamental change and ours is a school that values innovation and risk-taking. While we look forward to implementing these classroom and personnel changes, we also know that it will probably involve some struggle, but this is how the best learning takes place. We are always reaching for something better for the students at our school and, like them, we might experience some discomfort as we move forward with new ideas and new ways of doing things. That is learning, continual learning.

Before that starts, though, there is summer! Enjoy your time with your children... we'll give them back for two months for all sorts of summer adventures and all the new learning that happens on these adventures that are outside of school.

We look forward to seeing all of you when we start it all up again. Thank you for all that you do for McCarthy-Towne!

### Introducing the NEW Sloyd website!

Would you like to see slide shows of student artwork from all grades? Do you want a descriptive list of many of the great art museums in the area? Have you ever wondered what the word sloyd means?

Stay connected to the arts at McCarthy-Towne by visiting [www.sites.google.com/a/abschools.org/sloyd](http://www.sites.google.com/a/abschools.org/sloyd).

### Save the Date—FAMILY PHOTO DAY!

After a two-year hiatus, we are happy to announce that Family Photo Day will be returning this fall! **The dates are October 5 and 6.** This is a great chance to get some fabulous pictures of your entire family; you won't want to miss it. More info and sign-ups to come in September. (Not to be confused with School Picture Day, which is scheduled for September 13th.)

### Directory Ad Placements

Summer is almost here, but planning for next year has already begun. In the fall, McCarthy-Towne parents will have the unique opportunity to place ads in the McCarthy-Towne 2013-2014 directory. Placing a personal ad with a picture of your child and a short message (e.g., congratulations, happy birthday) is a fun way to memorialize your child's years at McT. Directory advertisement is also a great way to advertise your own home-based business and get your name out to all McT families!

The deadline for ad submissions isn't until September, but it's never too early to start planning. If you would like to place an ad or have questions, please contact Shannon Callison ([callison.shannon@gmail.com](mailto:callison.shannon@gmail.com)).



## from Tracey Smith and Shelley Cole, PTSO co-chairs

As planning begins for next year, I'd like to officially welcome our new PTSO Chair, Shelley Cole. Shelley is the parent of a Kindergartener and a soon-to-be Kindergartener. She is also a fabulous photographer and has graciously signed on to run the McT Family Photo Day next year. Look for more info on this in September. Thanks Shelley—I'm excited to be working with you!

Summer is almost here and we'd like to wish you all a happy and relaxing two months. Before you head to the pool, the beach or wherever else you're headed, we'd like to thank everyone for your part in making this a banner year in terms of fundraising and events. We are fortunate to be part of such an amazing school community. I talk with friends at other schools, both in our town and in other states, and I realize that what we have here at McCarthy-Towne is rarely found elsewhere. Year after year we continue to host a myriad of events—some geared to raising money for our school and others aimed at connecting our community socially (and some both!)—while other schools have had to cancel their events because of a shortage of volunteers. It never ceases to amaze me that even with such busy lives, juggling work, children, and other commitments, our families (and staff) always answer the call to volunteer when needed. This amazing community should not be taken for granted and I thank you all for everything you do to make our school a better place and our community more connected.

I would also like to bid a fond farewell to two people with whom I'll miss working so closely—Kate Murray and Patty Lee. Kate, thank you for showing me the ropes as far back as the 2009 Ice Cream Social and, most recently, the PTSO—it was a fabulous year working with you! And Patty, thank you for your clear and steady support; our Steering Committee is as strong as it is because of your constant attention to matching parents with volunteer positions. I know you'll both still be around the building and helping, but you'll still be missed.

Enjoy the summer. I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall and, in the meantime, feel free to email me with any thoughts or ideas you have for next year ([tracey@gristmillmedia.com](mailto:tracey@gristmillmedia.com)).

## Placement or 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 16 at 3 PM.** Class lists will be available on Friday, August 23.

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.

## Grade K-5: Not at McT Next Year?

*from the office*

Are you moving out of Acton this summer? Is your child going to a different school next year? You should 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.

Are you moving within Acton? Remember to update your online Emergency Information before July 3. The portal will be closed after July 3. If your address changes after that date, please contact the office to let us know and then update when the portal opens on August 16.

## CPAC Update

Tanglewood Marionettes came back to perform *The Fairy Circus* for grades K-3 on Thursday, May 30. This was our last performance of the year. CPAC sincerely thanks the generous McT parents who make our programs possible!

**New CPAC Chair(s) Needed!** We are still looking for 1-2 parent volunteers who would like to chair CPAC next year. Volunteers should be available during the school day to attend artist showcases and our school performances, but it's not a big time commitment—really! If you are interested in the performing arts and might like to help the school in this important way, please contact Ann Budner ([a\\_budner@yahoo.com](mailto:a_budner@yahoo.com)).

## August Playground Playdates

To welcome new families to the school, the PTSO will be hosting a series of playdates in August at the McCarthy-Towne playground. If you are interested in attending any of these, either to meet new families or to help answer questions from new families, please email Carol Chytil (carol.chytil@gmail.com) for more information.

## Scrip Thank You!

Thank you to all the families who ordered Scrips in June, as well as all the families who ordered Scrips on a monthly basis. It really does make a financial difference for McT! **We earned just over \$2,600 this year with the Scrip Program.** We appreciate your participation and look forward to your support again in the fall. Also, a warm welcome to Christine Russell who will be the Scrip Coordinator next year.

## Merrowvista 2013 News

Thank you to the amazing parents who helped at the Basketball Snack Sale table this past winter—Debbie Aiello, Sarah Burianek, Michele Caterina, Carol Chytil, Susanne Conley, Suzie Day, Carolyn Dee, Ginny Galletta, Jordan Galletta, Julia Hanna, Susie Maxwell, Madhavi Neelagiri, Kristin Parlman, Lisa Petrocchi, Lena Saetre-Grant, Harold Salant, Judy Salant, Wendy Schaad, Brenda Simpson, and Laura Welch. Also thanks to Kate Hoitt and Fiona Starr for helping with the Bottle Drive in April. **These two events raised over \$700 to help defray the expenses for the October field trip!**

Finally, please save the date for our last fundraiser—**Family Bowling Night at Acton Bowladrome on Friday, September 20.** We will sell tickets in early September. If you have a business, consider purchasing ad space for this event. Ads will run on all the Bowladrome monitors for 30 days and the Merrowvista Fund gets to keep 100% of the proceeds from ad sales! Email Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmillmedia.com) for more details.

## 2013–2014 McT PTSO Steering Committee

**There are still some open positions for next year. WE NEED YOU!** If you are interested in any of the open positions, or if you want to be involved but are not sure which position would best fit you, please contact Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmillmedia.com).

Sr. Chair	Tracey Smith
Jr. Chair	Shelley Cole
Treasurer	Chris Hanlon
Secretary	Carolyn Dee
Faculty Rep	Nancy Giansante
School Committee Liaison	<b>Position Open</b>
Auction Co-chairs	Jen Mabardy <b>Position Open</b>
Book Fair	Mimi Kirkman Susan Lerner
Book Gifting	Laurie Taylor-Teran
Bulletin Editor	Rebecca MacNeill
Bulletin Collator	Kate Hoitt
Buddy Family	<b>Position Open</b>
CPAC	Ann Budner Position Open
Directory	Fiona Starr Shannon Callison
Donelan's Receipts	Kate Hoitt
Fall Fundraiser	Christine Kobelski
Fall Social	Chris Hanlon Kat Hudson
Family Field Day	Maya Minkin Liz Walker
Family Photo Day	Shelley Cole

Funding Factory	<b>Position Open</b>
Game Day Social	On Hold
General Mills Box Tops	Melissa Morse
Grant Writing	<b>Position Open</b>
Hospitality	Sarah McBride
International Night	<b>Position Open</b> <b>Position Open</b>
Inter-School Council Rep	Bridget Matz
Lip Sync	Deb Verner Bridget Matz
P.D.B. Lost & Found	Mary Beilman Petra Charisse
P.D.B. Landscape Committee	Karen Dean
P.D.B. Steering Committee Rep	Bridget Matz
Potlucks	Sorrel Sammons
PTSO Website	Maria Greene
PTSO Website Content and Google Calendar	Christine Brault
Safe Arrival	Shannon Callison
School Photo Coordinator	Rebecca MacNeill
SCRIP	Christine Russell
Spiritwear	Michele Abroff
Yard Sale	Julie Weir