



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

March 3, 2017  
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## Back into the Groove

by David Krane, McT Principal

I write this as we all get ready to start our first week back from the February break. I am delighted to announce that it certainly seems as though winter took a break last week, as well! With record-breaking temperatures ranging from the high sixties to an unbelievable 73 degrees last Friday; it was indeed a break from winter at the same time as we enjoyed some time off from school.

March is indeed a busy time of the year for schools. While busy can be a relative term in an elementary school, there is much that marks the upcoming month that is different from past busy-ness: our famous McCarthy-Towne Auction is winding up to bring more glitter and glamor into our world and prospective parent tours are winding down as we have one last day to make up the snow day that happened right before the break. Our teachers and our volunteer parent community have worked tirelessly over the past six weeks to share the many unique and wonderful characteristics of our school. Many people are collaborating in a very directed way to share who we are as a school and who we are as a part of the larger community of the ABRSD. In many ways, the Auction works

in the same way. It is about the hard work and effort of an entire community working towards a common goal and purpose: providing our school with additional resources. Students, staff and faculty, and, of course, our parent community all contribute to the success of the Auction. It is a celebration of our spirit and of the dedication of all those who make up our school community. And it's also fun...!

As we have just returned from a school vacation, and even though I mentioned this in last month's Bulletin, I'd like to speak briefly, yet again, about recreational absences when school is in session. I have written about this often this past year, too, but it still bears repeating. With MCAS looming next month and again in May, this is an important reminder. This year we are on a different MCAS schedule where the window for virtually all of the testing will be from the beginning of April all the way to Memorial Day. It will be very hard to make up chunks of tests missed because of this new schedule. Please try and keep this in mind as you make family plans. Thanks...

I'll see you at the Auction on Saturday, March 18 as we disco the night away!

## International Night—Saturday, March 25, 5–7:30 PM

Come celebrate the cultural diversity of our schools and have fun exploring games and activities from around the globe. Each child will get a passport and stamps for the country's booth they visit. It's going to be a fun night. There are many ways to get involved:

- Set up a booth for a country of your choice.
- Come to our Global Village for an International Potluck! Bring a dish to share with us.
- Consider performing!
- Bring your family to International night and have fun!  
(Admission \$5/person or \$15/family).

If you would like to set up a booth, perform, or bring a food item, please contact Dee (deepika@patternreview.com).

## Mark Your Calendar

### MARCH

- 6, Monday**  
AB Star Party, 6–9 PM
- 9, Thursday**  
Scrip Orders Due
- 10, Friday**  
Auction Raffle Ticket Purchases Due
- 16, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal, 1 PM
- 17, Friday**  
Scrip Orders Due
- 18, Saturday**  
McT Auction, 5:30 PM  
Devens Common Center
- 21, Tuesday**  
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 25, Saturday**  
International Night, 5:30 PM

### APRIL

- 3, Monday**  
ELA MCAS, Grades 3, 5 & 6
- 4, Tuesday**  
ELA MCAS, Grades 3, 5 & 6
- 5, Wednesday**  
ELA MCAS, Grades 3 & 5
- 6, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal, 1 PM
- 7, Friday**  
ELA MCAS, Grade 4  
Donelan's Receipts Due
- 8, Saturday**  
Lip Sync Extravaganza, 4 PM
- 10, Monday**  
ELA MCAS, Grade 4
- 12, Wednesday**  
ELA MCAS, Grade 4
- 14, Friday**  
NO SCHOOL, Good Friday
- 17–21**  
NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess



## from Chris Hanlon and Judy Bourdon, PTSO co-chairs

Most of this article is dedicated to the McT Auction, but let's begin with another PTSO happening this month. **At our March 21st PTSO meeting (7 PM in the library)**, we will have not one but two presentations. First, two members of Acton's Finance Committee (McT Parents Margaret Busse and Roland Bourdon) will share their insight about the school budget and other financial matters before the April Town Meeting. Second, the tech savvy triumvirate of Donna Kaufmann, Megan Bowhers, and Peggy Harvey will help us develop a parental perspective on the abundant on-line resources/distractions that our children encounter every day. You won't want to miss information and discussion from such a loaded meeting!

We are weeks out from one of the hallmark events of the McT school year—the Auction. If you are already planning on going to the Auction, feel free to skip down to the Clue and Non-Clue section. If you are unsure of whether or not to come, let me give you four good reasons to buy those tickets and join in the fun:

**Parent Night Out:** It is tons of fun to get to see other McT parents outside of our usual settings.

**A Great Cooperative Effort:** There is so much hard work that goes into making this a great (and profitable). Cheers to everyone who has been working hard for months to make this night happen!

**Bargains:** Each year we win an item/service we weren't planning on, merely because it wasn't getting attention from the crowd. You don't have to spend much (or anything) to enjoy the fun night.

**Support the school:** More than two-thirds of our annual budget (which supports the students and staff of McT) comes from the bidding parents make that night. Which is why everyone starts cheering when those two 6th grade parents are in a bidding war for their last chance at class art.

**Clues and Non-Clues:** Some of you may have read that there is a "Guess the Costume" contest to try and figure out what my wife Michelle and I will wear on March 18th. As a reward for reading my article, here is a clue... our outfits are both tied in to the history of Studio 54 as well as Michelle's professional background. I also wanted to share some Non-Clues. If you were thinking about submitting any of these guesses, you might want to keep thinking—Members of ABBA, Steve Dahl & Gary Meier, and Mick Jagger & Jerry Hall (I don't have the lips to pull that one off!).

If you have any thoughts or questions about McT PTSO happenings, please contact either Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com) or Judy Bourdon (judyandroland@gmail.com).

### Donelan's Receipts Due Soon!

McCarthy-Towne is participating in the *Register Tapes for Education* program. The groceries you buy at Donelan's help our school! For every dollar spent, McCarthy-Towne earns points redeemable for FREE educational equipment, like art supplies and books. The deadline to send in receipts is fast approaching. Receipts dated **September 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 are eligible**. Don't delay, send in your receipts with your child or drop them in the collection box in the McT office **by Friday, April 7th**. Thank you!

### Kindergarten Registration

Incoming Kindergarten Registration Siblings of current McCarthy-Towne students who are entering kindergarten in the fall of 2017 can be registered online until March 7th. You do not need to attend in-person registration on March 14th and 15th. For more information about the new on-line registration process, please visit [www.abschools.org/home/kindergarten-registration](http://www.abschools.org/home/kindergarten-registration).

### The McT Tag Sale is Back!

**Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 6 for our school-wide Tag Sale!** We'll be collecting donations of gently used clothing, toys, household items, and more for this important school fundraiser.

Willing to help with the event itself? Please contact Becky Barnett (becky@highrock.org or 617-710-8729).

### News From the Art Studio

Did you know March is National Youth Art Month? Every year, the AB Art Department participates and organizes several art exhibits around town and beyond to celebrate the arts in our schools. **The next student art show will be at the Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough, 427 Mass. Ave., from March 1–April 4. There will be an artist reception on Thursday, March 9, 4–5 PM**, and all are welcome. Artwork by students from all the AB schools will be represented in this show, including 3 from McT.



## Auction News!

The event is almost here! Just two more weeks before our annual school auction! Order your tickets now so you don't miss this fantastic night out and support our school! You can order online at [www.mct.schoolauction.net/auction2017/](http://www.mct.schoolauction.net/auction2017/) or you can use the order form found in this week's backpack papers. Here's the essential info you need:

**When:** Saturday March 18th at 5:30 PM

**Where:** Devens Common Center in Devens, MA (a short, 20-minute drive from Acton)

**The full Auction catalog will be coming home next Friday in backpacks.** We have more than 250 items on which you can bid! Grab a highlighter—there's sure to be a ton of stuff you'll want to mark for bidding!

Because last month's contest winner cannot be determined until the evening of the auction, you still have a chance to submit an entry. Here's the question—Who (or how) will Chris and Michelle come dressed as this year? Two of our most enthusiastic attendees are our PTSO Chair, Chris Hanlon, and his wife Michelle. While you can dress however you like for the auction—Chris and Michelle always choose to coordinate with the theme. Last year for the Roaring 20s theme they came dressed in turn-of-the-century swimsuits. For the James Bond theme, they were Bond villains Baron Samedi and Solitaire. No one (aside from Chris and Michelle) knows what they'll be wearing on auction night. Submit your best guess to Tracey ([tracey@gristmillmedia.com](mailto:tracey@gristmillmedia.com)) by Friday, March 17th. You can guess a specific person (i.e. Mick Jagger) or make a guess about what type of clothing they'll be wearing. The winner (if there IS one) will be announced just prior to the start of the Live Auction.

## Auction Raffle Update!

As we gear up for another amazing Auction, we have some fabulous raffle prizes to win this year!

**1st Prize:** Xbox Minecraft Bundle  
(includes Xbox One S 500GB Console and  
full game downloads of Minecraft for Xbox One)

**2nd Prize:** Amazon Echo

**3rd Prize:** Fitbit Alta

Ticket envelopes came home in backpacks last month. **Please return ticket stubs and money and any unused tickets to the McCarthy-Towne office by Friday, March 10.**

### The raffle Committee Needs You this Weekend!

Raffle tickets will be sold outside of both Roche Bros. and Donelan's. Selling tickets is a fun activity to do with your children (shoppers have a hard time saying no to cute kids!). If you can help out, even for an hour or two, it would be greatly appreciated. We will be selling on the following dates:

→ **Roche Bros.**  
Saturday, March 4th from 10 AM–2 PM

→ **Donelan's**  
Sunday, March 5th from 10 AM–2 PM.

Please contact Judy ([judyandroland@gmail.com](mailto:judyandroland@gmail.com)) to assist with the raffle ticket selling. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our school!

## Scrip Update

We will continue to offer the Scrip program on a monthly basis until the end of the school year. **So far we have raised over \$900 ytd!** Thank you for your support.

Do you see the Scrip Order Form come home every month and say, "nah"! Please reconsider, the Scrip program is truly an easy and way to help pay for our assistant hours without having to spend any additional money. If you buy a CVS or Starbucks card to use when you shop there, you get the full value (not spent anything more than you normally would) and that merchant gives a percentage to McT. Yes, stores we spend money at are helping fund OUR teaching assistants!

Thinking about filling Easter baskets soon? Or, your Passover menu? Scrips can help with your holiday needs! Shaw's, Stop & Shop, and Whole Foods participate in our program, and, what kid wouldn't love an iTunes, GameStop or Target Gift Card in their Easter basket?

The March order form is attached. **Orders are due on Friday, March 17 at 3:30 PM.** Your Scrip cards will be sent home on or before Friday, March 24th. You can also find an expanded list of merchants online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and click "Get Started", then "Join your Existing Program". Enter enrollment code AL91AAC31L565. Create a username/password, fill in your information and start shopping! Once you place an order, print out the confirmation and send it to school with a check made out to McT PTSO. Questions? Contact Pam Hippensteele ([phippensteele@gmail.com](mailto:phippensteele@gmail.com)).

## Save the Date for McT Family Field Day!

**Join us on Thursday, June 1st from 5:30–7:30 PM for the annual McCarthy-Towne Family Field Day.** Be a part of the McT community of adults, kids and staff members as we play traditional and silly field games. There will be pizza and Kimball's ice cream for sale at the event.

Contact Liz Walker ([lizsarawalker@gmail.com](mailto:lizsarawalker@gmail.com)) or Maya Minkin ([mayaminkin@gmail.com](mailto:mayaminkin@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## AB Star Party for 4th and 5th Graders

AB 4th and 5th graders and their adult chaperones (no siblings please) are cordially invited to the 15th annual Star Party, featuring indoor astronomy activities as well as outdoor star viewing with powerful telescopes. **This free event will take place on Monday, March 6 from 6–9 PM** at the Parker Damon Building.

The Star Party is sponsored by The Amateur Telescope Makers of Boston (ATMoB) and AB PIP STEM (Parent Involvement Project). Visit [www.actonpip.org/starparty](http://www.actonpip.org/starparty) for more information.

## Spring 2017 MCAS Dates

**\*Please Note 4th Gr. Change Below\***

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. The schedule is as follows:

### English Language Arts Comprehension

**Grades 3 & 5:** April 3, 4, and 5

**Grade 6:** April 3 and 4

**Grade 4:** April 7, 10, and 12 (Computer-based testing)

\*Dates changed slightly due to Passover observance

### Math

**Grades 3, 5, 6:** May 16 and 17

**Grade 4:** May 9 and 10 (Computer-based testing)

### Science, Technology & Engineering

**Grade 5 Only:** May 22nd and 23rd

## Immunization Requirements: Important Notice to Parent/Guardians of 6th Graders

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has the following requirements for all students entering Grade 7 in September 2017:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>MMR</b>         | 2 doses  |
| <b>Varicella</b>   | A physician-certified history of chicken pox disease or 2 doses of varicella vaccine |
| <b>Hepatitis B</b> | 3 doses  |
| <b>Tdap</b>        | A single dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria and acellular Pertussis vaccine                 |

**A copy of an up-to-date physical examination** will also be required for all students before entering Grade 7.

Many of the above vaccines may have been administered while your child was in elementary school. Please check with your HealthCare Provider to be certain that your child's immunizations are up-to-date and documented in his/her record. Send a copy of the exam and updated information record to your elementary school health office and the information will be included in your child's health record when it is transferred to the Junior High School in June. If you do not have the necessary paperwork completed before the end of school, send it to the school nurse at the Junior High School (16 Charter Road) by August 31, 2017.