



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

March 1, 2013
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Back into the Groove

by David Krane, McT Principal

I write this as we all get ready to return to school following our Winter Recess. It seems that winter has not, in fact, taken much of a recess as snow is blanketing everything as we launch the next chunk of the school year. What a contrast to last year! Even if March does actually come in like a lion, it couldn't possibly be much fiercer than this winter has already been.

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: MCAS is coming up, our famous McCarthy-Towne Auction is winding up to rock our world, and some of the annual classroom events, unique to individual classrooms are also coming up. One event that I always look forward to is the Collection Museum, coming from Robin's Third Grade classroom each year. It is an eclectic exhibit that gives us all a little peek into each of these Third Graders and what may interest them in a very individual way. As is true of a lot of things at our school, individual teachers may make individual classroom decisions about what to share. For example, many of the classrooms have chosen to share with our school examples of curriculum, art, or song during our Monthly Community Assemblies. Others, like Sixth Grade, may have an all-day to which the whole school is invited, like the Egyptian Fair. Whatever form these take,

they also all have the individual stamp of the classroom, the teacher or teachers, or the Grade Level Team. It is, in the end, about community and about sharing with the community.

In many ways, the Auction works in the same way. It is about the hard work and effort of an entire community towards a common goal and purpose: our school. 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, 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 this month and again in May, this is an important reminder. Teachers work hard to prepare instruction that is sequential. Missing substantial chunks of school time due to family vacations sends the wrong message to students and, it's important to add, to teachers, too. Children deserve to be part of every classroom endeavor and it puts kids at a disadvantage by being deliberately out of school for reasons of vacation. Please try and keep this in mind as you make family plans. Thanks...

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

- 9, Saturday**
Auction, 5:30 PM
- 13, Wednesday**
Scrip Orders Due
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 14, Thursday**
Community Assembly
- 19, Tuesday**
MCAS Testing, Gr. 3, 4, 5, 6
- 20, Wednesday**
MCAS Testing, Gr. 3, 5, 6
- 25, Monday**
MCAS Testing, Gr. 4
- 27, Wednesday**
MCAS Testing, Gr. 4
- 29, Friday**
NO SCHOOL, Good Friday

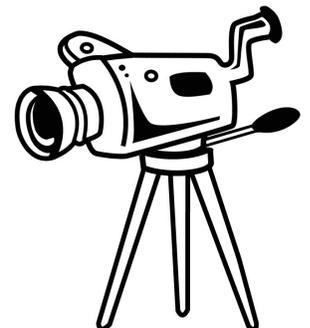
APRIL

- 6, Saturday**
Lip Sync Extravaganza
- 11, Thursday**
PTSO Meeting, 9:30 AM
Community Assembly
- 15-19**
NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess
- 27, Saturday**
McT PTSO Yard Sale

Volunteer Needed to Video the 2013 Lip Sync

Do you have knowledge of taking videos—or just enjoy the hobby of taking video of your family? The 2013 Lip Sync Extravaganza organizers are searching for a dependable volunteer to video the show this year. Equipment will be provided if you do not have your own. As a videographer for the show, you must be available to attend the rehearsal on Thursday, April 4 from 1-3 PM and the show on Saturday, April 6 from 4-6:30 PM. The videographer from past years may be available as a mentor at the rehearsal.

If interested, please contact Deb Verner (debverner@gmail.com or 978-263-6794).





from Kate Murray and Tracey Smith, PTSO co-chairs

With all eyes and energies focused on our upcoming school auction, we want to make sure that parents are also aware of some other very important school events:

First up is the Safety Task Force that has been established to thoroughly review emergency management practices, prevention, preparedness and response. The Acton and Acton-Boxborough Schools are committed to the safety and security of students, faculty, staff and visitors on the Acton-Boxborough campuses. As such, they are requesting input from parents and guardians at three upcoming forums.

- Wednesday, March 6, 9–10 AM at Congregation Beth Elohim, 133 Prospect St., Acton.
- Friday, March 8, 12–1:30 PM at Congregation Beth Elohim, 133 Prospect St., Acton.
- Monday, March 11, 7–8:30 PM at the RJ Grey Library

Also, we invite you to join us at our next PTSO meeting which will be held on **Wednesday, March 13 at 7 PM** in the Parker Damon Faculty Lounge. Immediately following the business portion of the meeting, representatives from the Emerson Hospital Center for Sports Rehabilitation will be joining us to present information on their comprehensive baseline concussion screening program. Concussion injuries are on the rise among young athletes with an estimated 1.6 to 3.8 million sport-related concussions each year in the U.S. In an effort to raise awareness of the effects of concussion and keep your child healthy they have designed a series of three tests; all of them are non-invasive, safe and painless. These tests provide objective data to the child's physician to assist in determining when it is safe to return to normal activities. Nurses from the Rehabilitation Center will be on hand to clearly explain the procedures for these tests and discuss how they are useful.

And FINALLY—let's all get ready to rock Stow Acres at our auction! Coming up on Saturday March 9, it's barely one week away! Our organizers have been working tirelessly to make this the best auction yet with tons of amazing items to bid on, great food, and—of course—lots of fun planned for the evening. It promises to be a great time that you won't want to miss! Hope to see you at all of these important events!

Immunization Requirements: Important Notice to 6th Grade Parents/Guardians

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has the following requirements for all students entering Grade 7 in September 2013:

- MMR** 2 doses
- Varicella** A physician-certified history of chicken pox disease or 2 doses of varicella vaccine
- Hepatitis B** 3 doses
- Tdap** A single dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria and acellular Pertussis (Tdap) 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 health care provider to be certain your child's immunizations are up-to-date and documented. 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 by August 23, 2013.

2013 MCAS Schedule

The District has set the schedule for the MCAS English Language Arts and Math tests for this Spring. Please see the schedule below for when students in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking MCAS test. 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.

English Language Arts Reading Comprehension (Grades 3, 5, 6)

Tuesday, March 19th and Wednesday, March 20th

English Language Arts Composition (Grade 4)

Tuesday, March 19

(Make-Up Date: Thursday, March 28)

English Language Arts Reading Comprehension (Grade 4)

Monday, March 25th and Wednesday, March 27th

Mathematics (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

Tuesday, May 7th and Wednesday, May 8th

Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)

Monday, May 13th and Tuesday, May 14th

Lip-Sync Extravaganza

Our 6th Annual Lip-Sync Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 from 4:30–6:15 PM. This fun McT fundraiser has been a huge hit in the past with 25 performances by both McT students and staff. Don't miss out this year! We have had a lot of people already express interest in performing this year, and we have to limit how many performances we can take.

The sign up sheets are due back by Friday, March 15. Please read all the rules and regulations that are attached to the form. In particular, lyrics **MUST** be submitted with the sign up sheet. We will review all the lyrics to make sure they are family-friendly.

Children **MUST** attend the rehearsal on Thursday, April 4 immediately after school.

A parent contact with email for each individual act or group must be written on the form so we can contact you with specific information on the Lip Sync.

Each song must be limited to a maximum of 2½ minutes so as to accommodate all the groups that want to perform. We will also be limiting each group to just one song, although individuals may perform both individually and in a group or in two different groups. Children need to be 2nd grade or higher to perform a song individually.

The full list of Lip Sync guidelines can be found at www.mctptso.org/fundraising/lip-sync. Have any questions? Please contact Deb Verner (debverner@gmail.com or 978-263-6794), Bridget Matz (bmkmatz@yahoo.com or 978-897-3453) or Karen Anderson (canders67@aol.com or 978-274-2012).



Bus Passing—One Time Events

Transportation is asking that parents contact them prior to arranging any events that will have a large number of students bus passing (e.g., Girl Scout or Boy Scout meetings, birthday parties, etc.). Several buses are close to capacity and the addition of students bus passing can put them over the limit. If you do have an upcoming event, please contact Janice in Transportation at 978-264-3328 to make sure the bus can accommodate additional students. Thank you for your cooperation.

Willow Books Storytime Success

from Sharon Ryan, McT Reading Specialist

Thank you to the entire McT community for making the McT Willow Books Storytime a HUGE success! With your support, we raised \$459.73 toward McT early literacy initiatives!

Special thanks to Cheryl Beaudoin, Darsi Tedesco, Ashley Ramirez, Mary Ann Mehler, Jen Pratt, Kate Gibalerio, Robin Kynoch, Heather Matthews, and David Krane for generously sharing their time and talent. Sincere thanks to the McT PTSO's Patty Lee and Julie Agapite for coordinating this effort to support our youngest literacy learners as well as Willow Books for hosting this event!

Thank You

by 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):

- Shannon Callison, Mimi Kirkman, Susan Lerner, Bridget Matz, Lena Saetre-Grant, Tracey Smith, Mariah Straayer and Sarita Suri for being school tour guides for prospective kindergarten parents;
- Tracey Smith and the Hospitality Committee for providing food, drinks and desserts for McT's Parent Information Night for prospective kindergarten parents;
- Student Council members Fiona Hurwitz, Alex Olden, Ben Verner, Liliana Zavalos, Derek Chang, Tim DiPalo, Olive Jaros, Jackson Lippa, Mila Rushkin, Annette Aronoff, Abby Beilman, Connor Champigny, Danny Donahue, Michael Maimone and Noah Sweeney for their insightful presentations to prospective kindergarten parents during McT's Kindergarten Information Night;
- Mimi Kirkman, Susan Lerner, Kate Murray, Tracey Smith, Mariah Straayer and Sarita Suri for also helping answer questions of prospective kindergarten parents during our Kindergarten Information Night;
- Carol Chytil, Christine Kobelski and Karen Francisco for their incredible service to the Reading Program;
- Christine Kobelski, Lauren Richardt and Tina Watlington for responding to a Pinch Hitter request and organizing the auction raffle tickets, stuffing and labeling envelopes;

Did you know that March is Youth Art Month?

Youth Art Month is an annual observance to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs. Celebrate the arts by coming to these events:

Art Exhibit at the Worcester Art Museum, March 1–28, showcasing artwork by K–12 students from over 35 cities and towns in Central Mass. Five students will represent McT with a variety of works created in sloyd class. The Youth reception is this Sunday, March 3, 3–5PM. Hope to see you there!

1st Annual Parker Damon Building Art Show on Thursday, March 21, from 9:30 AM–Noon, in the multi-purpose room. A collaborative event showcasing a variety of artwork from Merriam and McCarthy-Towne students.

The Acton Memorial Library is pleased to announce their March Art exhibit, *Teachers Make Their Mark*, by the art faculty of the Acton Public and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools. *Teachers Make Their Mark* will be on display at the Acton Memorial Library, March 2–28, 2013. Please join us for an opening reception on March 7 from 2:30–4 PM.

The 22nd Annual McCarthy Towne Auction is March 9th at Stow Acres Country Club in Stow. The Auction Committee would like you to note that **this is a different location from last year!**

Auction Booklets

Please be on the lookout in your child's backpack. These booklets will be coming home next week and contain lists and descriptions of the incredible donations to our auction this year!

Can't make it? We're sad that you'll be missing out on all the fun. There is a proxy bid form included in the booklet that still allows you to bid on items you want without being in attendance.

Raffle Tickets—It's time to turn 'em in!

We extended the turn-in date to Monday March 4th! Didn't sell them all? That's okay, we still want 'em! Please return any of your unsold tickets to school in their original envelopes.

Classroom Projects

The Art projects are almost finished! Check out this year's priceless works on the McT PTSO Auction website to see pictures of your child's class project, or better yet, stop by the office to see them in person!

ROCK ON...

Don't forget to check out our special Thursday editions of the Auction Howler News for the latest and greatest information about our auction.

Scrip Gift Card Program

Did you know the Scrip Gift Card Program helps fund McT's vital Classroom Assistants, Parent Involvement Coordinator (Patty Lee), and many other fantastic programs here at McCarthy-Towne? In order to continue as one of the largest contributors to these necessary causes, we need your help in supporting the Scrip Program by purchasing gift cards each month. Fortunately, this is a program that allows you to purchase store cards for all of the items you need and use; you simply support the school by making your regular purchases!

Starting to think about filling Easter baskets soon? Or, thinking about your Passover menu? The Scrip program can help with your holiday needs! Both Roche Bros. and Donelan's participate in our program, and, what kid wouldn't love an iTunes, Game Stop or Target Gift Card in their Easter basket? You can also take care of your wardrobe woes by purchasing cards to most major retailers.

The March order form is attached. You can find an expanded list of merchants on the Scrip website. Visit www.shopwithscrip.com and click "create account". Enter enrollment code AL91AAC31L565. When you hit "Join" make sure it shows McT and Wendy Schaad as coordinator. Once you place an order, print out the confirmation and send it to school with a check, or sign up for presto pay and they will take the funds out of your account for just a 15¢ transaction fee per order.

Orders are due on Wednesday, March 13 at 3:30pm. Additional forms and more information can be found on the PTSO website—www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip. Questions? Contact Wendy Schaad (ws.schaad@gmail.com) or Mimi Kirkman (mimikirkman@yahoo.com).

