



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

March 7, 2014  
Volume 43, No 7

## Back into the Groove

by David Krane, McT Principal

There are still mountains of snow in the circle as the kids return from recess, boots and snowshoes are the required uniforms for play outside, and the smaller piles of snow are grey, turning black. I think that we are all ready for this stuff to go away... although one positive sign is the different birdcalls that we are beginning to hear outside of our house. In spite of winter hanging on like this, the birds are still beginning to make their way back to New England from their break in tropical climes. Perhaps spring isn't so far away, after all.

March, on the edge of spring, is about hope and change. The seven upcoming weeks between now and April's Spring Recess will be filled with more exploration and discovery as the children and the teachers move into the second half of the year. The weather in January and February caused a fitful series of stops and starts and so we can now look forward to some continuity and sustained focus. There are certain events that always mark the springtime at McCarthy-Towne and we always anticipate their arrival, especially the auction. The auction is one amazing example of our McCarthy-Towne community. While the event is only one evening, the hard work behind the scenes begins almost a year before. Recently, in the classrooms, the kids have been working on their contributions and the pride in their effort is apparent. (It's also fun and fun is certainly an important feature of this annual event!) As we

move into our pirate theme, I'm still thinking about last year's rockin' good time and I know that this year will also be incredible. This will be my sixth auction and I've always been amazed how each year, the level of anticipation and excitement just grows and grows, finally culminating in an absolutely perfect event. It is always something to look forward to...

As I walk around and visit the rooms, I get to see the art that the children have been working on, in all the various stages of unfolding and the excitement of its creation. Teachers enjoy this part of the process, too, and it is all an illustration of the joy that we all believe is essential to school and to learning. A particularly fun part is the museum status that our school office assumes as parent volunteers finish the mounting and the framing. The finished work then gets proudly displayed for staff, parents, and visitors alike as they pass through the office.

In many ways, the auction 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...!

See you at the auction!

## Mark Your Calendar

### MARCH

- 9, Sunday**  
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12, Wednesday**  
Early Literacy Fundraiser at Willow Books, 6-8 PM
- 15, Friday**  
Lip-Sync Sign-Up Forms Due
- 18, Tuesday**  
MCAS Testing, Gr. 4, 5, and 6
- 19, Wednesday**  
MCAS Testing, Gr. 5 and 6  
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 20, Thursday**  
Scrip Orders Due
- 22, Saturday**  
McT Auction, 5:30 PM
- 24, Monday**  
MCAS Testing, Gr. 3 and 4
- 25, Tuesday**  
MCAS Testing, Gr. 3 and 4

### APRIL

- 5, Saturday**  
Lip-Sync Extravaganza, 4:30-6:15 PM
- 10, Thursday**  
PTSO Meeting, 9 AM
- 11, Friday**  
Family Game Night
- 17, Thursday**  
Scrip Orders Due
- 18, Friday**  
NO SCHOOL, Good Friday
- 21-25**  
NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess

## Story Time at Willow Books with McT Teachers and Staff

**Come to Willow Books in Acton on Wednesday, March 12 from 6-8 PM and enjoy stories read by many of your favorite teachers and staff.** Times for each reader will be sent out via the McT Howler.

This is a terrific and fun event that directly benefits our youngest literacy learners (this is NOT a PTSO fundraiser). **Willow Books will generously donate 15% of all sales during this Story Time event directly to Sharon Ryan's "Teachers and Families as Literacy Partners" seminars for support materials.**

Please contact Sharon Ryan (sryan@abschools.org) with any questions about the Willow Books event or the literacy seminars.



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

March is often thought of as a “quiet” month. It doesn’t have any vacation days, the weather is generally pretty dreary, and except for some green on the 17th, it doesn’t have even have a holiday to liven things up. Around school, however, March is event-packed!

Next week gets the ball rolling with our always-popular, Willow Books Night. **Bring your kids down to Willow Books on Wednesday, March 12th from 6-8 PM** to hear many of their teachers reading their favorite stories. In between stories, pick up some of your favorite books. Willow Books donates a portion of the night’s proceeds to help fund Early Literacy initiatives at our school.

**On Saturday, March 22nd, I hope to hang out with many of you at our annual Auction**, being held at the Devens Common Center. Jen Mabardy and Michele Caterina started planning this event LAST school year and along the way have amassed an awe-inspiring number of volunteers to help! It’s incredible to see the quantity and variety of donations, so many of them having been donated by McT parents AND kids! It’s humbling to see the generosity of our families. After so much hard work, it’s finally almost time for all of us to kick back and have a swashbucklin’ good time! Check back ye child’s backpack for the ticket order form or just head on over to our Auction website and buy them online at [www.mct.schoolauction.net/mctauction2014](http://www.mct.schoolauction.net/mctauction2014).

After a fun night for parents at our Auction, the PTSO is sponsoring an exciting event for the kids! **On March 27th there will be an all-school assembly featuring Li Liu, a Chinese acrobat**. I’m sure her show will elicit many ooohs and ahhs from the kids, so be sure to ask them all about it that evening.

And in between all of this I hope you’ll find time to join us for our monthly **PTSO meeting on Wednesday, March 19th at 7 PM** in the Faculty Lounge.

### 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 2014:

- 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 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 by August 22, 2014.

### March is Youth Art Month!

Youth Art Month is a national celebration that emphasizes the value of art education for all children and encourages support for the quality art programs in Massachusetts’ schools. Art students, grades K through 12, from across Massachusetts will display their creative works at the State Transportation Building in Boston (10 Park Plaza) from March 10 through April 25. Five students from McCarthy-Towne School will be representing Acton with work they created in Visual Arts (aka Sloyd) class this year. **The exhibit will be on display and free to the public weekdays 9-5, with a special family celebration on Sunday, March 23, from 12-4 PM.** Be sure to stop by and support our students!

### Save the Date!

**McCarthy-Towne Family Field Day**  
**Thursday, May 22 (rain date May 29) at 5:30 PM**

Join us for ice cream, pizza, and field day games!  
More details to come soon. Have questions?  
Please contact Liz ([lizsarawalker@gmail.com](mailto:lizsarawalker@gmail.com))  
or Maya ([mayaminkin@gmail.com](mailto:mayaminkin@gmail.com)).



## Auction Update

**The McCarthy- Towne auction is March 22nd... just a couple weeks away!** Check out our auction website today—[www.mct.schoolauction.net/mctauction2014](http://www.mct.schoolauction.net/mctauction2014) and buy your tickets now to this great event! You can also log on to check out all of the fantastic items that are available to bid on. The donations are still coming in so new things are being added daily! Keep an eye out for the printed auction booklet. We will be sending it home in backpacks the week of the auction.

We again have some fabulous raffle prizes to win this year! We have secured the latest “Tech” gadgets to ramp up the excitement:

**1st prize:** xBox One

**2nd prize:** Apple iPad Mini with Retina Display

**3rd prize:** Beats Solo Headphones

Raffle envelopes went home in backpacks Friday, February 28th and are due back to the office by Friday, March 14th.

We also have one more “public” sale of raffle tickets. If you would like to help sell tickets for an hour or two at Roche Bros on Saturday, March 8th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., please sign up at the following link <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845ABAB2EA5F49-auction> or contact Patty Lee directly ([lapidlee@verizon.net](mailto:lapidlee@verizon.net)).

As always, if you have any questions or would like to help with the auction in any way, please contact our auction co-chairs: Jen Mabardy ([jennifermabardy@comcast.net](mailto:jennifermabardy@comcast.net)) or Michele Caterina ([michele-caterina1@gmail.com](mailto:michele-caterina1@gmail.com)).

### 2014 MCAS Schedule

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.

#### English Language Arts Reading Comprehension

**Grades 3 and 4:** March 24 and 25

**Grades 5 and 6:** March 18 and 19

#### English Language Arts Composition (Grade 4)

March 18

#### Mathematics (Grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

May 6 and 7

#### Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)

May 12 and 13

### Important Notes for 6th Grade Celebration

Do you have a 6th grader? **Please note that the date for the celebration has changed. Due to snow days, the new date for the celebration is Tuesday, June 17th.**

Please check your email for an upcoming notice about joining a Yahoo mail group. This group will be used as the primary means of communicating information about the event so it is important that all 6th grade parents join.

### Thank You, Thank You!

#### Auction Raffle

The Auction Raffle Committee would like to thank Cura Pfefferkorn, Pam Hippensteele and Jody Long for cutting and stuffing Auction Raffle tickets and envelopes.

#### Auction Classroom Projects

Thank you to Ann Budner, Amanda Dindal, Karen Dean, Chris Hanlon, Holly Lem, Shelly Jaros, Liz Dorsey, Vicki Michaelidis, and Pauline Thorpe for helping to assemble and frame the auction classroom projects.

## 2014 Lip-Sync Extravaganza

The 7th Annual Lip-Sync Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, April 5th from 4:30–6:15 PM at the Parker Damon Cafeteria. Students choose a song either with friends or individually, create choreography to the music, and lip-sync to their favorite song. This fun McT Fundraiser has been a huge hit in the past with fantastic performances by both McT students and staff!

The Sign-up sheets are due by Friday, March 14th. Space is limited.

- Please read all the rules and regulations that are attached to the form.
- Lyrics and music MUST to be submitted with the Sign-up sheet. We will review all the lyrics to make sure they are family-friendly.
- Attendance at the Dress Rehearsal after school on Thursday, April 3rd is mandatory.
- A Parent Contact for each individual act or group must be written on the form so we can contact you via e-mail 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. Students must be 2nd grade or higher to perform a song individually.

The full list of guidelines and sign-up form can be found on the PTSO website—[www.mcptso.org/fundraising/lip-sync](http://www.mcptso.org/fundraising/lip-sync). Any questions, please contact Deb Verner ([debverner@gmail.com](mailto:debverner@gmail.com) or 978.263.6794), Bridget Matz ([bmkmatz@yahoo.com](mailto:bmkmatz@yahoo.com) or 978.897.3453), or Margaret Busse ([bussehome@comcast.net](mailto:bussehome@comcast.net) or 978.274.2620).

## Family Game Night

Parents from this year's 4th grade class have already started working on some great events to help fund NEXT year's field trip to Merrowvista. Many thanks to Kathleen Casey and Dani Feng who are organizing the first two events.

The first is sure to be loads of fun for the entire family. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 11th when they will be hosting a Family Game Night for kids in all grades and their families. Also, start saving your returnable bottles to bring them to the Bottle Drive on May 9th and 10th (coinciding with our Yard Sale). Stay tuned for more details as these events get closer.

## McCarthy-Towne is on Facebook!

We hope this will become your "Go To" source for all school information and questions. Feel free to post



Join us on  
**Facebook**

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. 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 search "McCarthy-Towne School" or visit [www.facebook.com/groups/1404961776417219](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1404961776417219) to join.



## Healthy Chocolate Chip Cookies

Many healthy chocolate chip cookies aren't really as healthy as they seem. They may have less fat, but they often have more sugar. This chocolate chip cookie recipe is different. It is full of heart-healthy oats, bran flakes and nuts.

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup butter or trans fat-free margarine, softened
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup firmly-packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup bran flakes
- 1/2 cup semisweet or dark chocolate chips

### Preparation:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper or spray with nonstick cooking spray.

Stir together the flour, baking soda and baking powder in a medium bowl. Set aside. In a separate large bowl, beat the butter until creamy with an electric mixer. Beat in the sugars. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract. Add the flour mixture until well combined then stir in the oats, bran flakes and chocolate chips.

Drop by teaspoonsful onto prepared cookie sheet approximately 1" apart. Bake 12 to 14 minutes.

Cook on wire racks. Serve warm or store in a tightly-covered container for up to a week.