



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

March 6, 2015
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Back into the Groove

by David Krane, McT Principal

I write this as we all get ready to start our second week back from the February break. It seems that winter has not, in fact, taken much of a break as snow continues to fall and pile up and to clog the streets. What a way to begin the next chunk of the school 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 bring more intrigue into our world, and some of the annual classroom events, unique to individual classrooms are also coming up. Among the events that I always look forward to each year is the Collection Museum, coming from Robin's Third Grade classroom. 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. 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 at large.

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: providing our school with additional resources for 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...

I'll spy you at the Auction on Saturday, March 28!

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

- 7, Saturday**
Lip Sync Extravaganza, 4-6 PM
- 11, Wednesday**
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 19, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 20, Friday**
International Night, 6-8 PM
- 24, Tuesday**
MCAS: English Language Arts Composition (Grade 4)
MCAS: English Language Arts Comprehension (Grades 5 & 6)
- 25, Wednesday**
MCAS: English Language Arts Comprehension (Grades 5 & 6)
- 28, Saturday**
McT Auction, 5:30 PM
SpringHill Suites, Devens
- 30, Monday**
MCAS: English Language Arts Comprehension (Grades 3 & 4)
- 31, Tuesday**
MCAS: English Language Arts Comprehension (Grades 3 & 4)

APRIL

- 2, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 3, Friday**
NO SCHOOL, Good Friday
- 16, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 20-24**
NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess

International Night: Friday, March 20th

Celebrate the Cultural Diversity of our schools! **Come together for an International Potluck in the Parker Damon Cafetorium on Friday, March 20th from 6-8 PM.** Share a dish and wear traditional clothing from your country or ancestry of origin. Get a Passport and visit our Global Village in the Gymnasium! Enjoy student performances! All Families of Merriam and McCarthy-Towne are encouraged to participate and attend! Any student or family wishing to create a booth for the Global Village, share a dance, song, story, or other cultural entertainment should fill out and return the Sign-Up sheet. Cost is \$3 per person/\$10 per family to cover custodial/kitchen use fees. Please contact Amy Yadav (amyadav@gmail.com) for the sing-up sheet or for more information.



from Shelley Cole and Julie Weir, PTSO co-chairs

We're happy to say that February is behind us and a thaw is ahead (hopefully). We all love something to look forward to and at McT we have 2 great events to look forward to this month. **On Friday, March 7th our hugely popular Lip Sync concert will begin at 4 PM.** Over 100 students from across the grades will be performing. **Then, on March 28th at 5:30 PM (only 3 weeks away!)**

the McT Auction will be held at the Devens Common Center. This ever popular and biggest fundraiser of the year earned the school almost \$50K last year! This year's theme is 007 and the auction committees are planning cool decor, fun games and, of course, great auction items to make this another successful event! Come to mingle with friends, meet new people in our McT community and bring home some great items for the family while helping to support our school. This is our largest and most popular fundraiser and greatly helps support our school.

If you are not able to attend the auction but would still like to support the school we are always accepting donations to the annual appeal. All donations are tax deductible. I heard from a few parents that they were not sure if they gave already to the annual appeal. If you did, you would have received a letter in January for your tax records.

We are still looking for volunteers who are interested in heading our fall gift wrap fundraiser and our spring tag sale. If you are interested or would like more information about these positions, please contact either Shelley Cole (sd@shelleydrouin.com), Julie Weir (julieannweir@yahoo.com), or Tracey Smith (tsmith@abschools.org).

Finally, as always please join us for our next PTSO meeting on Wednesday the 11th at 7 PM in the faculty lounge. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join us.

2015 MCAS Starts this Month!

Students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be taking MCAS tests starting this month. Please avoid scheduling trips and appointments during the MCAS testing periods. Testing begins at the beginning of the school day. 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 and will have to take that day's test on a make-up day.

English Language Arts Composition (Grade 4)

Tuesday, March 24

English Language Arts Comprehension (Grades 5 & 6)

March 24 and 25

English Language Arts Comprehension (Grades 3 & 4)

March 30 & 31

Math (Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6)

May 5 and 6

Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)

May 12 and 13

Celebrate Youth Art Month!

Did you know that March is Youth Art Month? This national celebration began in 1961 to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to support quality art programs in public schools. McCarthy-Towne will be celebrating YAM this year by including student work in several statewide art exhibits. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the work and support our students.

THE ART SHOWS ARE:

State Transportation Building in Boston, intersection of Stuart St. and Charles St., Boston—Exhibit will be on display weekdays, 9 AM–5 PM, March 9th–April 24th, (closed Patriots Day, Monday, April 20th), admission is free.

Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester—Exhibit will be on display February 24th–March 30th in the Higgins Education Wing of the Worcester Art Museum, Wednesday–Friday, Sunday: 11 AM–5 PM; Saturday: 10 AM–5 PM; and the 3rd Thursday of every month: 11 AM–8 PM. Admission to this exhibit is free.

Sargent Memorial Library, 427 Mass Ave., Boxborough—Exhibit will be on display February 28–April 13, admission is free.

007 Auction Update

The McCarthy- Towne 007 Auction is right around the corner on March 28th... just a few short weeks away! Visit www.mct.schoolauction.net/auction2015 and check out our auction website. You can purchase your tickets now to this great event! Ticket order forms will also be going home in backpacks this Friday.

Tired of all the snow? The auction committee has the perfect getaways for you!

- 4 one day Disney Park Hopper tickets
- Weekend at the Cape

There are many more items coming so keep an eye out for the printed auction booklet. We will be sending it home in backpacks the week of the auction.



Raffle News

Again this year we have some fabulous raffle prizes:

- 1st prize:** Apple iPad Mini
- 2nd prize:** Samsung 4GB Chromebook 2
- 3rd prize:** Bose wireless speakers

Raffle envelopes went home in backpacks Friday, February 27th and are due back to the office by Friday, March 20th.

Trivia Question

Last month's trivia question stumped you again... Who can answer the last 007 Trivia question? What was Goldfinger's first name? Be the first person to email Christine Russell at qofhearts@gmail.com with the correct answer! Good Luck!

We need your help! If you are interested in helping out with the auction in any way, please contact either Auction Co-Chair—Christine Russell (qofhearts@gmail.com) or Samantha Valente-Phillips (luvbgnamom@gmail.com).

Summer Camp Scholarships

The Doli Atamian Campership program provides scholarships to summer camp programs for children in Acton and Boxborough based on family income. The application process is simple, and each child can receive up to \$250 towards a summer camp program of their family's choice.

For more information about the Campership scholarship, go to <http://www.doliatamiancampership.com/> or speak to Astrid in the McCarthy-Towne school office.

Kindergarten Registration for Fall 2015

Parents/guardians of children entering kindergarten next fall (must be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2015) who were not pre-registered in January should be registered next Tuesday, March 11 (9 AM - 12 noon and 7 PM to 9 PM) or Wednesday, March 12 (9 AM to 12 noon) at the Central Office in the Junior High School. Registration forms can be downloaded at <http://www.abschools.org/home/kin-dergarten-registration>.

“Sell your own” Tag sale! Saturday, May 2nd

This year, in addition to the standard Tag sale format, we will be offering “sell your own” tag sale spaces in the gym. You price, display and sell your items and we bring you the buyers! For \$25 you get a 10' x 10' space for your items AND you get to keep 100% of the proceeds! This opportunity will be open to the public so please spread the word but priority registration is currently open to McT family and friends only.

Set up will be on the evening of Friday, May 1st. Any unsold items you may have can be donated at the end of the sale if you choose. Please contact Julie Weir (julieannweir@yahoo.com) with any questions or if you would like to reserve your spot. Spaces are limited!



The 8th Annual McCarthy-Towne Lip Sync Extravaganza

Don't miss the excitement! Come to one of the most highly anticipated McT community events! Over 100 students will be performing the hottest songs from yesterday and today! All grades are represented, and teachers will be performing, too!

When: Saturday, March 7, 4-6 PM

Where: McCarthy-Towne Cafeteria

Cost: Admission to the Lip-Sync is \$5 per person.



DVDs of the event can be ordered the night of the show for \$10. There will also be take home baked goods for sale for \$5-\$10.

This is not a drop-off event. All students must be chaperoned. If you have questions about this event, contact:

Deb Verner (debverner@gmail.com or 978-263-6794)
Bridget Matz (bmkmatz@yahoo.com or 978-897-3453),
Margaret Busse (bussehome@comcast.net or 978-274-2620)

Family Field Day: May 28th!

Join us on Thursday, May 28th at 5:30 PM for the annual McCarthy-Towne Family Field Day!

Be a part of the McCarthy-Towne community of adults, kids and staff members as we play traditional and silly field games. Everyone is invited and we hope to make this the best attended field day yet!

There will be pizza and Kimball's ice cream for sale at the event.

The event's success depends on volunteers to run games and serve food. We need your help to make this community event super fun! If you would like to volunteer or if you have questions about Family Field Day, please contact either Maya Minkin (mayaminkin@gmail.com) or Liz Walker (lizsarawalker@gmail.com).

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 2015:

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 28, 2015.

Time to Renew Your CORI

All CORIs in the Acton-Boxborough system will expire this June. You can submit a new CORI application starting now. This new CORI will be valid through June 2018 in all the Acton-Boxborough schools.

A CORI application is attached to this Bulletin. Please complete it and bring it to any school office with a photo ID (driver's license, passport).

McCarthy-Towne is on Facebook!

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. 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 to join.