

McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

May 3, 2013
Volume 42, No 9

May Flowers

by David Krane, McT Principal

It seems that we are finally experiencing spring. The flowers are showing up, the trees outside the Parker Damon Building are budding and flowering, and there are piles of jackets being left scattered around the playgrounds. This is a sure sign that spring is really upon us. I'd like to thank Patty Lee and Karen Dean for their hard work dressing up the McT side of the Parker Damon Building. Working with some seniors from AB, there was a massive cleanup done and it really looks wonderful. It's great to begin a new season with the exterior looking cared for. It's a very visual reminder of the all the work that families do for our school. Again, a big thanks to everyone.

With this seasonal change comes the conversation around placement for next year. Many of you have communicated with me your feelings and concerns about next year. This is information we will certainly use as we build the new classroom sections for next year. This is a significant process as we construct three balanced sections at each grade level for next year. It is also a process that has started to ensure that every piece of information, academic and social, is considered as we do this work. I'll use this opportunity to welcome Amy-Jo Conant, who will be joining the Fifth Grade Team in the fall. Amy-Jo has been the Long Term Sub in Callie's classroom since Callie went out on leave. Vanessa will be taking some time to be with her family for a while, and we will all miss her very much. Vanessa has been a valued and respected member of the McCarthy-Towne community for many years. Her calm and caring demeanor has set a wonderful tone in her classroom and that tone is also evident in the school at large. Vanessa has certainly had a profound impact on our school, on children and adults alike. We all wish her the very best in her next chapter.

As mentioned before, the weather is changing as we move deeper into spring and some information bears repeating each year. Something the warmer weather affects is the kind of clothing that children wear to school. As it becomes warmer, children wear clothing that is lighter and more comfortable. This is a natural response and completely appropriate. In the past, though, we have noticed that sometimes children choose outfits that are more appropriate to the beach than to school. This is another time when adult guidance is invaluable. A reasonable guideline is for children to wear clothing that allows them to perform all school activities comfortably without drawing undue attention to themselves, and also that the torso is covered.

Some of the apparel that we feel should not be worn to school include:

- Shirts or tops with spaghetti straps
- Shirts or tops that leave the midriff exposed
- Shirts or tops that have very large armholes
- Halter tops
- Very short shorts
- Any clothing that would cause discomfort to the child or others

In order to prevent possible injuries, we are discouraging children from wearing flip-flops to school. They can be unsafe for children running or climbing on the structures on the playground.

Thank you for your help. I appreciate your support and interest in what happens at school and knows that this creates a positive and supportive environment for all children.

We are looking forward to a great finish to what has been a wonderful year!

Mark Your Calendar

MAY

- 3, Friday**
Parker Damon International Night, 6 PM
- 7-8 Tuesday/Wednesday**
MCAS Testing, Gr. 3, 4, 5 & 6
- 8, Wednesday**
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 10, Friday**
6th Grade Photo Day
Box Tops due
- 13-14 Monday/Tuesday**
MCAS Testing, Gr. 5
- 15, Wednesday**
Scrip Orders due, 3:30 PM
- 16, Thursday**
Student Art Show Reception,
Acton Senior Center,
3-4:30 PM
- 23, Thursday**
McT Memorial Day
Band Concert
- 27, Monday**
NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day
- 30, Thursday**
CPAC Performance (K-3rd)
McT Family Field Day
(ice cream social),
5:30-7:30 PM

JUNE

- 3, Monday**
Special Town Meeting:
Regionalization Vote,
ABRHS Auditorium, 7 PM
- 5, Wednesday**
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 24, Monday**
Last Day of School,
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
NO PM Kindergarten



from Kate Murray and Tracey Smith, PTSO co-chairs

So great to be writing this submission looking out at a sunny and warm day! The remaining months of school are a very busy time and we want to make sure that everyone is aware of some important school and town-wide events.

You may be hearing more again about the regionalization proposal between the Acton Public Schools and the Boxborough Public Schools at the K-6 level. When first introduced to our communities, there were significant issues that needed to be resolved before bringing this to a vote at Special Town Meeting coming up in June. **Based on feedback from residents, significant changes have been made to the regionalization agreement that will go to vote at our Special Town Meeting on Monday, June 3, 7 PM at the ABRHS auditorium.** The Regionalization Committee wants to make sure that all residents of Acton and Boxborough are fully informed of the amended proposal. Please try to attend one of the upcoming meetings to hear more:

Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 PM: JT Acton Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee, R.J. Grey Jr High Library

Wednesday, May 8, 7 PM: McCarthy Towne School PTSO, Parker Damon Building

Tuesday May 14, 7:30 PM: League of Women Voters Forum, Acton Town Hall

Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 PM: Gates School PTO, Gates School

Also, please think about volunteering on the PTSO next year! Here are the open positions we have:

- Auction Co-chair
- Fall Fundraiser Chair
- PTSO Co-chair

If you are interested in hearing more details about any of these positions, please contact either Kate Murray (lfdtmurray@verizon.net) or Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmillmedia.com).

Last and First Day of School

from the office

The last day of this school year will be Monday, June 24th. Please note that it is an early release day and all elementary schools will follow the regular Thursday dismissal schedule. Dismissal time for McCarthy-Towne on June 24th will be at 1 PM.

The first day of school for the 2013 - 2014 school year will be Tuesday, August 27th. McCarthy-Towne will be on the early elementary school schedule: 8:30 AM - 2:45 PM (Thursday, 12:15 PM).

The school calendar is available on the APS/AB website: www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/2013-2014calendar.pdf

Notice to 6th Grade Parents/Guardians

Before the sixth grade students' files go to the junior high school, Principal David Krane will go through and purge them of extraneous papers. These papers are destroyed unless parents would like to have them. For some students, there will not be any extraneous papers.

If you would like to have the papers from your child's file, please notify the office in writing by the last day of school, June 24th. The school office will let you know when you can come in to pick up the papers.

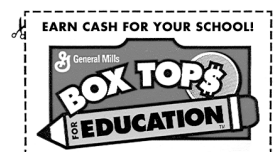
Grade K-5: Not at McT Next Year?

from the office

Are you moving out of Acton this summer or is your child going to a different school next year? Please 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.

Spring Box Top Collection!

Thank you to everyone who sent in box tops this school year. **Box Tops earned over \$1,400 for McT! There will be one last collection before the end of the school year. Please return Box Tops by Friday, May 10.**

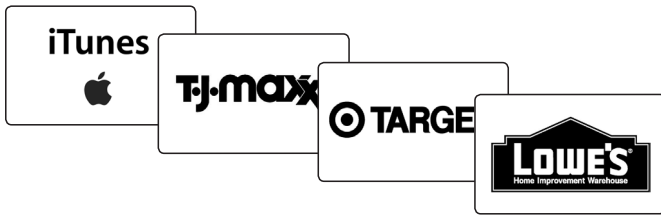


Collect them in an envelope, Ziploc bag or have the kids glue them to the collection sheets. Send them to school with your child or drop-off in the main office. You can also drop them in a blue box labeled "McCarthy-Towne Box Tops" at Roche Bros. You can also earn money for our school when shopping online through Box Tops Marketplace. To learn more visit www.btf.com. If you have any questions please contact Debbie (debfwalz@gmail.com).

Spring Student Art Exhibit

Celebrate creativity this spring by enjoying the Acton Schools K-12 student art show at the Acton Senior Center. **Work by three McT students is included in the show, which will run through May 31. Please join us for a student reception at the senior center on Thursday, May 16, from 3-4:30 PM.** The center is located at 50 Audubon Drive, off High Street in South Acton (978-264-9643).

Try Our SCRIP Card Program!



Congratulations to the winners of the April Scrip Raffle! Linda and Jeff Lischer, regular supporters of the Scrip Program, won a \$50 Gift Card to Roche Bros. for submitting their April Scrip order... we hope you enjoy it! Thanks to all the families who ordered Scrip Cards in April; We have raised almost \$2,500 this year and we need to keep it going!

Did you know that the Scrip Gift Card Program helps fund McT's vital Classroom Assistants, Parent Involvement Coordinator (Patty Lee), and a variety of 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. They're the same gift cards you buy at the store, and many popular merchants participate in our Scrip program including iTunes, Target, Shell, Lowes, CVS, TJMaxx, and many more. For a complete list of participating vendors, please visit www.shopwithscrip.com/.^{*} And, remember, these purchases don't cost you any additional money—the merchants donate a percentage of your purchase back to McT!

The last weeks of school fly by, so why not purchase Scrip Cards now for Graduations, First Communion, or to thank teachers, assistants, bus drivers, coaches, etc.? Order cards now and have them in time for your year end gift-giving. The Scrip order form is attached and can also be found on the PTSO Website. **The next deadline to order is Wednesday, May 15 at 3:30 PM.** Please contact Wendy Schaad (ws.schaad@yahoo.com) or Mimi Kirkman (mimikirkman@yahoo.com) with questions.

^{*}Online enrollment code for McT is AL91AAC31L565. Please ensure that the confirmation screen indicates McT and Wendy as the coordinator

CPAC Upcoming Events and News

Karim Nagi in Arabiqa

On Thursday, May 2, CPAC will welcome Egyptian-American performer, Karim Nagi, to McT. Mr. Nagi will teach students in grades 3-6 about Arab and Muslim culture through a variety of traditional instruments, folk music, and traditional dance. A master percussionist and dancer, Karim uses authentic costumes, maps, Arabic words, lots of audience participation, and humor as he enlightens the students about a captivating world beyond the headlines. A former faculty member of the New England Conservatory of Music, Karim now performs nationwide with the SHARQ Arabic Music Ensemble.

Tanglewood Marionettes – Back by Popular Demand!

Tanglewood Marionettes came to McCarthy-Towne in February to perform *Perseus and Medusa* for the upper grades. The show was a huge hit with teachers and students alike. We have invited them back to perform *The Fairy Circus* for grades K-3 on Thursday, May 30. The show begins with a puppetry demonstration. The students will learn about various forms of puppets, from the simple glove puppet to the sophisticated marionette. Then it's on with the show featuring beautifully handcrafted marionettes. The puppets will dance, play instruments, juggle, and fly through the air, all to the best-loved music of favorite composers!

We coordinated with Blanchard School to bring this show to both our schools on the same day, which reduced our fee. This will be our last performance of the year. CPAC sincerely thanks the generous McT parents who make our programs possible!

CPAC Chair(s) Needed

We are 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 Patty Lee or Ann Budner.

2013 MCAS Schedule

Students in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking MCAS Math tests for 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.

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

An Evening with Dr. Yong Zhao

The Acton Public Schools and the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District, along with the Acton Chinese Language School, welcomes Dr. Yong Zhao on July 23rd at 7 PM to the High School auditorium. Please join our school administration and staff as we hear Dr. Zhao's presentation on the complexities of today's American education system and where it stands within global education. An internationally known scholar, author and speaker, Dr. Zhao has become one of the most compelling voices in education today with an emphasis on developing students to be creative, resourceful thinkers with an entrepreneurial spirit. He argues that our country's current focus on standardized learning and testing is counterproductive to developing the skills, strategies, levels of engagement, and attitudes students will need for our ever-changing world. Currently a Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education at the College of Education at the University of Oregon, Dr. Zhao is also a full professor in the Department of Educational Measurement, Policy and Leadership and a fellow of the International Academy of Education. Author of "World Class Learners: Educating Creative and Entrepreneurial Students" and "Catching Up or Leading the Way: American Education in the Age of Globalization." Dr. Zhao's books are available online at Amazon. These books will also be available at the Acton Memorial Library for the public to borrow. We also have copies in the Office that parents can borrow.

Dr. Zhao will share his research and perspectives on developing the skills and strategies necessary for students to be successful in meeting the demands of a global society. If you plan on joining us, please let us know so that we can better accommodate the general public. Admission is free and seating is first come, first served. However, overflow spaces will be made available based on these attendance predictions. Visit www.ab.mec.edu and click on the "General Admission" link under "News and Events."

It's Tick Season—Here's What You Need to Know

What are ticks?

Ticks are bugs that feed on the blood of mammals, birds, and reptiles. Deer ticks and dog ticks are found throughout Massachusetts and may spread different disease-causing germs when they bite. Ticks are generally found in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. Ticks do not fly or jump. They attach to animals or people that come into direct contact with them.

Deer ticks: Both nymph (young) and adult deer ticks will bite humans. The highest risk of being bitten by a deer tick occurs throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. However, adult deer ticks can also be out searching for a host any time winter temperatures are above freezing. Deer tick nymphs are the size of a poppy seed and deer tick adults are the size of a sesame seed.

Dog ticks: In general, only the adult dog tick will bite humans. The highest risk of being bitten by a dog tick occurs during the spring and summer seasons. Adult dog ticks are about the size of a watermelon seed.

What should I do if I find a tick on myself or my child?

The tick should be carefully removed as soon as possible. The longer an infected tick remains attached to a person or animal, the higher the likelihood of disease transmission. Use fine point tweezers to grip the mouthparts of the tick as close to the skin as possible. The tick should not be squeezed or twisted, but pulled straight outward with steady, gentle pressure. You should not apply kerosene, petroleum jelly, nail polish, or a hot match tip to remove the tick; these measures are not effective and may result in injury. Notify your health care provider if

you have been bitten by a deer tick, or if you develop a rash or other flu-like symptoms following a tick bite.

How can I protect my family from tick bites?

The most important thing you can do is check yourself for ticks once a day. Favorite places ticks like to go on the body include areas between the toes, back of the knees, groin, armpits, neck, along the hairline, and behind the ears. Remember to check children and pets, too.

- Remove any attached tick as soon as possible.
- Use repellents that contain DEET on exposed skin and those that contain permethrin on clothing. Be sure to read product labels to ensure safe and proper usage.
- Stick to main pathways and the center of trails when hiking.
- Wear long-sleeved, light colored shirts and long pants tucked into socks. This will keep ticks away from your skin and make it easier to spot a tick on your clothing.
- Talk to your veterinarian about the best ways to protect your pets from ticks.
- There is currently no human vaccine available to protect against Lyme disease or any other tick-borne disease found in Massachusetts.



Further detailed information can be found online at www.mass.gov/dph and www.cdc.gov.

(Summarized by the APS/ABRHS Nurses, 4/2008)