



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

May 2, 2014
Volume 43, No 9

May Flowers

by David Krane, McT Principal

It seems that we are finally experiencing spring. It has felt like an unusually harsh and protracted winter season, with many very cold days. Although our snow days have been fewer than last year, we still have extended the year to June 18. As I've said often enough, New England weather is only predictable in its unpredictability... But the flowers are still showing up, the trees outside our building are again flowering, and spring color is once again gracing our school. It's always a great time of year!

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 our own Matt McDowell as our first full time Assistant Principal at McCarthy-Towne. Matt has been a .5 AP here and a .5 AP at Merriam for the past four years. Matt has done a phenomenal job in the Parker Damon Building at each school and we are very fortunate indeed that he will assume the full-time position here at McT. We are all very much looking forward to next year with Matt here full time. Welcome, Matt!

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 also 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

6-7, Tuesday/Wednesday
MCAS Testing, Gr. 3, 4, and 5

9, Friday
Yard Sale Drop-Off, 4-8 PM
Bottle Drive, 4-6 PM

10, Saturday
McT Yard Sale, 7-11 AM
Bottle Drive, 7-11 AM

12-13, Monday/Tuesday
MCAS Testing, Gr. 5 and 6

14, Wednesday
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

15, Thursday
6th Grade Photo Day
Student Art Show Reception,
Acton Senior Center,
2:30-4 PM

22, Thursday
Scrip Orders Due
McT Memorial Day
Band Concert

Family Field Day,
5:30-7:30 PM

26, Monday
NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day

JUNE

18, Wednesday
Last Day of School,
Early Dismissal (12:15 PM)

Last and First Day of School

The last day of school will be Wednesday, June 18th. This is an early release day and elementary schools will follow the Thursday dismissal schedule, 12:15 PM dismissal for McT.

Wednesday, September 3rd will be the first day of school for 2014-15. McCarthy-Towne will be on the late elementary schedule from 9:15 AM - 3:30 PM (Thursday 1 PM). The school calendar is available on the ABRSD website at:

www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/2014-2015calendar-holidays.pdf



from Tracey Smith and Shelley Cole, PTSO Co-chairs

As crazy as it sounds—seeing as it’s still April as we write this—the end of the year is quickly approaching. However, there are a few events for May that we want to bring to your attention.

McT Yard Sale! Donate to our annual Yard Sale and SHOP the Yard Sale! Donations can be dropped off at school on Friday May 9th, from 4–8 PM. Return the following morning, Saturday, May 10th, to shop the Yard Sale, which runs from 7–11 AM. We always have an amazing variety of items.

Bottle Drive for Merrowvista. Bring your returnable bottles into school during the Yard Sale to donate to the Merrowvista Bottle Drive. Drop off on Friday, May 9th from 4–6 PM and on Saturday from 7–11 AM.

Monthly PTSO Meeting. Join us on **Wednesday, May 14th** in the Faculty Lounge at 7 PM. We’ll be discussing the proposed budget and Steering Committee for next year.

Finally, don’t miss our **Family Field Day on Thursday, May 22nd from 5–7 PM.** Featuring three-legged races, water games, and ice cream sundaes, this is truly an event with something for everyone!

We hope to see you at some of these events! Even as we plan these last few functions, we’re also thinking ahead to next year and looking to fill a few open positions—chief among these being our need for new Auction Chairs. This is a great event to do with a friend and you have a cast of more than fifty other parents working with you. If this is something that you think you might be interested in, talk to Tracey (tracey@gristmillmedia.com) for more information.

April showers bring May flowers... and more ART SHOWS!

Places at the Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough, **April 25 to June 5.** The exhibit will showcase work from AB students in grades K–12 in a variety of media. Five students from McT will represent our school.

Students Make Their Mark at the Acton Senior Center, 50 Audubon Drive, **May 1 to May 29.** The exhibit will showcase work from AB students in grades K–12 in a variety of media. Three students from McT will represent our school. **An artist reception will be on Thursday, May 15, 2:30–4 PM.** All are welcome!

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.

Mathematics (Grades 3 & 4)

Tuesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 7

Mathematics (Grades 5 & 6)

Monday, May 12 and Tuesday, May 13

Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)

Tuesday, May 6 and Wednesday, May 7

Back by Popular Demand— McCarthy-Towne Family Field Day!

Come to the McT Family Field Day on Thursday, May 22

(rain date May 29), 5:30–7:30 PM, outside behind the Parker-Damon Building.



There’ll be lots of fun and exciting games—3 legged races, plunger relays, jump ropes, ring tosses and more! Tie on your sneakers—both kids AND parents—and come join in the fun!

Cost is \$5 per child and adults are FREE! Kid’s admission includes a bowl of yummy Kimball’s ice cream! Pizza will be sold separately, \$10/pizza or \$2/slice. Extra ice cream available for \$2/bowl. All money raised will go to directly to the McT PTSO.

We are looking for volunteers to help make this a wonderful community event! If you have questions or want to volunteer contact Liz (lizsarawalker@gmail.com) or Maya (mayaminkin@gmail.com).

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Auction Success

from Jen Mabardy and Michele Caterina

Ahoy to th' McT Community! This is our last message from th' 2014 Treasure Island Auction! **This year's Auction raised close to \$49,000 and all the proceeds directly benefit our school and our kids!** We want to thank th' community—parents, staff 'n students fer all 'o th' their efforts to make th' Auction such a HUGE success! It was a ruckas event fer all ye pirates involved!

On that note, th' P.T.S.O. be lookin' fer new Co-Chairs to take over fer 2015. Michele 'n Jen be retirin' 'n passin' on th' title 'o McT Auction Co-Chairs—theme fer next year to-be-determined by new Chairs!

Lip Sync

from Margaret Busse, Bridget Matz and Deb Verner

Thank you to all the families who made the 2014 Lip-Sync Extravaganza a wonderful success. We had 50 fantastic performances with over 125 students participating either on stage or behind-the-scenes!

Thank you to all who helped—Maija Barnett, Alan Bunce, Brian and Kathleen Casey, Mariko Chang, Shelley Cole, Elizabeth Crowley, Jill Defoe, Cindy Fanton, Chris Hanlon, Kenwin Huang, Ana Kincaid, Mimi Kirkman, Bibiana Knell, Patty Lee, Linda Lischer, Andrea Mantineo, Carrie Mink, Jen Nelson, Sara Russell, Sorrel Sammons, Michelle Silbert, Brenda Simpson, Fiona Starr, Lisa Thermidor, Natasha Venti and Debbie Walz. We could not have done it without you.

Thanks to the amazing teachers—Jillian Gilfoil, Robin Kynoch, Callie O'Connor, and Bethany Vinal, who came to school on a Saturday to participate in a McT community event! Thanks to Astrid Trostorff and Tracey Smith for providing constant support and guidance.

Thank you to the Hospitality crew, led by Sarah McBride, who provided delicious goodies for the bake sale.

Finally, a special thank you to the following talented McT parents—Laura Poisson, our entertaining MC; Jason Verner, our organized DJ Jazzy J; and Wade Callison, our creative videographer.

Hospitality

from Sarah McBride

Thank you to Jen Pratt, Debbi Walz, Sorrel Sammons, Sharon Metzger, Natasha Venti, Carol Chytil, Ann Iandiorio, Kerry Flatley, Maija Barnett, Lara Maira, Janie Doherty, Bridget Chamberas, Janet Munson and Erika Onken for donating goodies to the Lip Sync Bake Sale!

The Yard Sale is Coming!

We need your used household goods, clothing, books, toys, bikes, furniture, baby equipment, gardening tools, sporting equipment and more to sell at our annual yard sale. **Drop off items in GOOD CONDITION on Friday, May 9 from 4–8 PM.** Unsold items will be donated to local charities. **All donations are tax deductible** and tax forms will be available.

Shop the Sale—Saturday May 10th!

Need a new bike for spring? Looking for some beach reads? How about some new games for the kids? **Come shop the McT Yard Sale on Saturday, May 10th from 7–11 AM.**

Want to Help?

Volunteers are what make our yard sale successful. We need help setting up the sale on Friday evening, working the sale on Saturday morning, and cleaning up after the sale on Saturday afternoon. Even if you can only spare an hour, we can use your help. Please contact Julie Weir (julieannweir@yahoo.com) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

McT Mileage Club Reboots (or re-feets)

The McT Mileage Club is back and we are looking for new and experienced McT Milers to join us! This is a morning exercise program for McT students along with parents who wish to join in the fun. The group is in its second year led by Chris Hanlon, McT parent, and Dave James, McT's P.E. teacher. Using a measured course in the back playground, McT Milers will log laps by running, jogging, walking, skipping, strolling (or some combination of those). They will use a chart to track their mileage and will receive a foot token at certain accumulated distances. This is a free program that operates on a drop-in basis. Come as often as you can, doesn't have to be an "every week" commitment. Here are the other details:

When: Friday mornings, 7:45–8:15 AM, beginning on May 2nd until the end of the school year.

Where: Back playground, Parker Damon Building

What to bring: Shoes comfortable for activity and a great attitude. A bottle of water is a good idea, as is a small snack to have on the walk to the front of school.

How do I get involved: Parents need to complete a form for each child participating in McT Mileage Club. Forms are available in the office and at the meetings. We rely on help from parent volunteers, so if you are available and want to come out and pitch in, you can volunteer as often as you like (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, only when the weather is nice!)

Contact Chris (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com) with any questions about the McT Mileage Club.

Single Sign-On to the PowerSchool Parent Portal

Parents are now able to create their own username and password for the Power School parent portal—<https://absis.ab.mec.edu/public>.

Benefits of Single Sign-On (SSO)

- You will have your own account. Choose your own username and password so it is easier to remember. Also, each parent/guardian may create his or her own account, no more sharing log ins.
- You can connect all your children to your account. Once you create an account you will be able to link your children to it and just click between them rather than logging in separately for each child.
- Account recovery. If you forget your username or password you can click a link to get a recovery email sent to you—no more calling the school!

Visit www.screencast.com/t/Jypjr55rHW4K to view a video explaining how to set up a new account. If you have any questions please contact the office.

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 18th. 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.

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?

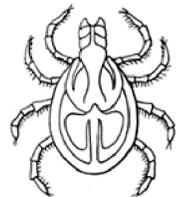
The tick should be carefully removed as soon as possible. The longer an infected tick remains attached to a person or animal, the higher the likelihood of disease transmission. Use fine point tweezers to grip the mouthparts of the tick as close to the skin as possible. The tick should not be squeezed 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)