

McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

May 6, 2016
Volume 45, No 9

May Flowers

by David Krane, McT Principal

It seems that we are finally getting closer to experiencing spring. With all of this wet, cold, and raw weather recently, it certainly feels like May is coming in the same way that March did. Even though we did indeed have the same number of snow days as last year, we are still experiencing a protracted cold spell. But our intrepid high school volunteers have spread the mulch and the outside of the building is looking prettied up and that is a great beginning to shaking the doldrums of winter. But 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.

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. We encourage all families to read the Handbook carefully with your student. While we do not have an explicit dress code at our school, we ask that students wear clothing that is tasteful and appropriate for an educational setting

From the McCarthy-Towne Parent Handbook:

Clothing

Students should be dressed appropriately for school and for all weather conditions. The students are outside not only going to and from school, but also during the daily recess. A reasonable guideline is for students wear clothing that allows them to perform all school activities comfortably without drawing undue attention to themselves. Please make sure that all clothing is labeled with student name.

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

- 9, Monday**
Boxborough Town Meeting, 7 PM at Blanchard Memorial School Gym
- 10, Tuesday**
MCAS: Math (Grades 3 & 4)
MCAS: Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 11, Wednesday**
MCAS: Math (Grades 3 & 4)
MCAS: Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5)
- 16, Monday**
MCAS: Math (Grades 5 & 6)
- 17, Tuesday**
MCAS: Math (Grades 5 & 6)
- 19, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 23, Monday**
McT Memorial Day Assembly
Band Concert
- 30, Monday**
NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day

JUNE

- 2, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
Family Field Day, 5:30 PM
- 7, Tuesday**
Spring Choral Concert (4th-6th grade), 6:30 PM
- 8, Wednesday**
Elementary Band Concert, 7 PM at ABRHS
- 16, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 22, Wednesday**
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)

Last Day and First Day of School

The last day of school will be Wednesday, June 22. Dismissal will be at 12:20 PM.

The first day of school for 2016-2017 will be on Wednesday, August 31. McCarthy-Towne will be on the "late elementary" schedule: 9:20 AM to 3:30 PM. Thursday, September 1 will be a full day of school. There will be no school on Friday, September 2 and Monday, September 5 for Labor Day.

The district calendar for 2016-2017 is available for download:
www.abschools.org/district/calendar.



from Julie Weir and Julie Hobbs, PTSO co-chairs

We put behind us another hugely successful McT Auction and give a shout out to all who made it possible! The auction is by far our biggest fundraiser and it is because of this fundraiser that we are able continue so many great events at McT. If you would like to participate in auction planning for next year please contact Tracey Smith.

This month we look forward to our annual Family Field Day scheduled for Thursday, June 2 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Join the McT family community at the end of the school year for pizza, ice cream and games designed to build community and interaction between children and adults. This includes hula hoop games, three legged races, ball games and water games.

The next PTSO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10 at 7 PM in the school library. This will mark the second to last meeting of the school year and we will be voting on next years budget proposal. If you are interested in learning about how much money the PTSO raised this year and how it will be spent next year please stop by and cast your vote! All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Spring 2016 MCAS Dates

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. The schedule is as follows:

Math (Grades 3 and 4)

Tuesday, May 10 and Wednesday, May 11

Math (Grades 5 and 6)

Monday, May 16 and Tuesday, May 17

Science, Technology & Engineering (Grade 5 only)

Tuesday, May 10 and Wednesday, May 11

AFN Kindergarten Social

Do you have a child entering Kindergarten this fall? **Then please join the Acton Family Network on Sunday, June 12 from 3-5 PM** at Goward Playground at the Acton Memorial Library for their Annual Kindergarten Social. This gathering provides a wonderful opportunity for children and their families to meet other families with entering Kindergartners.

They will have popsicles and water for attendees, and color-coded name tags so that you can easily identify children and parents who will be going to the same school as your family! There will also be a bus on site for children to visit in preparation for their first bus ride!

Please RSVP to kindysocial@actonfamily.org. Include your name, school and how many family members will be attending. This is a public event open to all Acton/Boxborough district families, membership to AFN is not required. Spread the word!

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.

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.



Auction Items Still Available

Did you miss the Auction? Were you there and bummed because you forgot to bid on an item? Well, do not fret! We have a number of items leftover. Please contact Carol Chytil (carol.chytil@gmail.com) for a list of items still for sale. The list has also been posted on the McT Facebook page. First come, first served!

FAMILY FIELD DAY!

Come to the McCarthy-Towne Family Field Day!
Thursday, June 2, 5:30–7:30 PM

Be a part of the McCarthy-Towne community of adults, kids and staff members as we play traditional and silly field games. Cost is \$5/child (includes games and one ice cream). Adults are free! Pizza and extra Kimball's ice cream will also be for sale. All money raised will go directly to the MCT PTSO.

Volunteers are needed to help make this wonderful community event a success! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Liz Walker (lizsarawalker@gmail.com).



Donating a Book to the McCarthy-Towne Library is Easy!

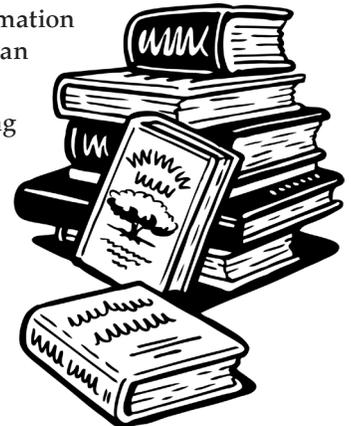
All families are invited to participate in the McCarthy-Towne Gift Book Program! It's easy to give a high quality library book that will provide years of enjoyment for our children. Donating a library book is a meaningful tribute to an individual or a group. You can honor a child's birthday, congratulate a graduating sixth-grader, thank a reading buddy, or remember a favorite teacher (book donations make excellent end-of-year teacher gifts too)! We will place a bookplate in your donated book(s) in recognition of your donation, and will contact you through email for details about the donation inscription.

Our library's "wish list" of books is available on the Amazon website. Here's how to donate:

1. Go to Amazon.com, click on "Wish Lists" and enter "McCarthy Towne" in the search field. A link to the list is also available on the PTSO Book Gifting website—www.mctptso.org/social-community.
2. From Amazon, browse the wish list, make your selection, and purchase the book. It is important to select "This will be a Gift" and enter your name in the "Gift Note" box. Books will be shipped directly to the school library. If you prefer, books from our list can also be purchased from a local bookseller. If you purchase the book somewhere else, please go to the Amazon wish list and click on "Buying this book elsewhere" and enter the required information so the book title will be moved to our purchased list. Books bought locally can be delivered to the library by you or your child.
3. After purchasing the book, you will be contacted by email to get the wording of your donation bookplate.

If you cannot decide on a book title, you are welcome to send in a check (payable to McCarthy-Towne PTSO) and let Donna decide on your book donation. You will be notified through email of the book selection.

Please contact Jen Lewy (jen@zenmarketing.net) with any questions. Thank you for your support of our school library!



Sun Safety for Children

Childhood sunburns can increase your child's risk of developing skin cancer as an adult. Even a suntan can be harmful to children. Tanning is an outward sign of internal skin damage. Research shows that much of the damage to skin is done in the first 18 years of life. Protecting skin and eyes during these early years can reduce the risk of some types of skin cancer by up to 78%. Melanoma is a cancer of younger people and can start as early as adolescence.

Youth and Skin Cancer

- 50% of lifetime exposure to UV light occurs during childhood and adolescence.
- It can take less than 10 minutes for a child's skin to burn.
- Children with severe sunburns are at an increased risk for skin cancer.
- A person born today is twice as likely to develop malignant melanoma compared to someone born only a decade ago and 12 times more likely as someone born 50 years ago.
- Being sun safe is the first step to reduce the chances of getting skin cancer later in life.

Teach Children Sun Safe Habits

Children learn healthy habits best at a young age. Therefore, it is important to begin protecting your children from the beginning and teach them the importance of sun safety. With sun damage accumulating over a person's lifespan, beginning sun safety habits at a young age should be a priority.

- Maximize protection between the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wear sun protective, light colored clothing including long sleeved shirts and pants made of tightly woven fabric.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat that protects head, face, ears and neck. If a baseball cap is worn, make sure to use sunscreen on ears and neck.
- Wear UV-protective sunglasses with 99%-100% UV absorption.
- During peak sun hours (10-4pm) seek shade. Shadow rule-if your shadow is shorter than you, the sun's rays are at their strongest and you should seek shade.
- Encourage children to play in shaded areas, especially during peak sun hours.
- Use a sunscreen of SPF 15+ and apply a generous amount (about a palmful) 30 minutes before going outside.
- Reapply Sunscreen every 90 minutes or after swimming, towel drying or perspiring, even if the label says the product is waterproof. Don't forget the lips and ears-both areas can burn just as easily.
- Strongly discourage the use of tanning beds.

Further information can be found on the following web sites:

www.shadefoundation.org

www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/choose_yourcover/guide.htm