

# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

November 4, 2016  
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## Astrid Trostorff

by David Krane, McT Principal

I write this at the end of October, a time of profound change outside my window, as the trees are moving past the colorful stage and into the seasonal preparation for winter as they become dormant. Leaves are falling and swirling around in gusty October winds, and the temperature is falling, too. Signs of change are all around us...

There is change to acknowledge and honor inside our windows, too. Schools are places where there is a tremendous level of commitment by many people, families, faculty, and, of course, students. Our school, being the unique and remarkable place that it is, has, I think, an even higher level of commitment than many places. Because of that it seems even more difficult when someone close to our community leaves us. Astrid Trostorff, our always familiar face in the front office and keeper of our institutional memory has retired. I am delighted for her as she enters this next stage of her life and that of her family, but I will certainly miss her.

Astrid has been the face of the school for me since I arrived eight years ago. Since that day, I have relied on her for her knowledge of school history, for her knowledge of town history, and for her absolute devotion to the McCarthy-Towne School. Ours is a unique school, but also one that has to necessarily make changes as time passes. Astrid's twenty-seven years in so many roles in our school makes her eminently qualified to establish a school context for me, as Principal, as we navigate some of those changes as a school. She has seen so much in that time, too. Astrid's roles at McT have included being a parent for her three children

in our school, substitute teaching here, volunteering in many, many capacities, including as Kindergarten tour leader, and, as I first met her, as Parent Involvement Coordinator. This in-depth knowledge of all of the volunteer functions gave Astrid tremendous insight into the workings of our school. That insight would become tremendously valuable to me as I learned more about the school and all that is important to what has become a shared vision, shared by faculty, families, and students, for teaching and learning.

External forces can always be a challenge for public schools, but remaining true to internal ideals in the face of some of the seismic change that has faced public education in recent years can be even more difficult. Having a resident historian who also happens to have a great affection for the McCarthy-Towne School has made it easier for all of us as we apply what is really the most effective metric for teaching and learning: "Is what we are doing in the best interest of our kids?" This is the conversation that she and I would have on almost a daily basis, and this is the conversation that I will miss the most.

I typically use this forum as a way of delivering news about our school. While this topic is certainly news, what I am really writing is a love letter! The impact that Astrid has had on our school over twenty-seven years is profound and immeasurable. The impact that Astrid has had on me over these past eight years is also profound and immeasurable, and I will miss her greatly.

Thank you, Astrid, for everything that you have done in the service of all of the students at McCarthy-Towne.

## Mark Your Calendar

### NOVEMBER

- 4, Friday**  
McT Fall Social, 6-8 PM  
Scholastic Book Fair Ends
- 8, Tuesday**  
NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day
- 10, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal, 1 PM
- 11, Friday**  
NO SCHOOL, Veterans Day
- 15, Tuesday**  
Scrip Orders Due
- 17, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal, 1 PM
- 17-19, Thurs.-Sat.**  
Pick up Charleston Wrap Orders (see pg. 2 for details)
- 22, Tuesday**  
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 23, Wednesday**  
Early Dismissal, 1 PM
- 24-25, Thursday/Friday**  
NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

- 1, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal, 1 PM
- 15, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal, 1 PM  
Winter Choral Concert, 7 PM  
4th, 5th and 6th Grade Only
- 26-Jan. 2**  
NO SCHOOL, Holiday Break



## from Chris Hanlon and Judy Bourdon, PTSO co-chairs

Parents often receive an education they might not have expected when their child takes on something new; each new sport, dance style, musical instrument, or art form adds new vocabulary to learn and new skills to watch. Our family has recently learned quite a bit from that practically perfect nanny, Mary Poppins, while our daughter takes part in the AB high school production. During the many rehearsals and performances, one exchange between Bert, the chimney sweep, talking to Mr. Banks, the forlorn father of the family, has made me stop and consider:

*You've got to grind, grind, grind  
At that grindstone  
Though child'ood slips like sand through a sieve  
And all too soon they've up and grown  
And then they've flown  
And it's too late for you to give  
Just that spoonful of sugar  
To 'elp the medicine go down*

Bert is encouraging Mr. Banks to take an active part in his children's lives while he can, and that message resonated with me as I watch my junior high son become much more independent and his school experience much less open to parental involvement. I would encourage you to take part in whatever volunteer opportunities that your schedule allows. Field trips, special assemblies, library assistance, nightly reading, and school events (like Friday's Fall Social!) all provide a chance to learn firsthand what your child is experiencing while you help the event or activity run more smoothly. These opportunities further emphasize our theme for the year, that what we do as parents really matters to the education and experience of McT students.

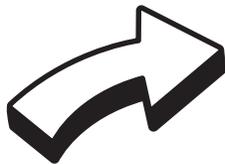
### Here are a few important dates and details coming up:

**Our next PTSO meeting is November 22nd at 7 PM** in the library. We will be taking a look at our 2016-17 fundraisers as well as discussing potential changes at the district level.

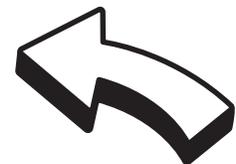
**There is still time to contribute to the PTSO Annual Appeal.** As of this week, 27 McT families have donated a total of \$3,525. To achieve our Annual Appeal goal for this school year, we almost need to double that amount. Remember that this fundraiser (like all our others) contributes to additional teacher aide hours, the parent involvement coordinator, the art integration specialist, and cultural and performing arts assemblies. If you haven't already, please consider supporting our students and their school through the Annual Appeal. Any amount is a welcome contribution!

**Potluck season is under way...** try to take part in the get together for your class or grade!

If you have any thoughts or questions, please contact either Chris Hanlon ([hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com](mailto:hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com)) or Judy Bourdon, ([judyandroland@gmail.com](mailto:judyandroland@gmail.com)).



## Pick Up for Charleston Wrap Orders



**Orders can be picked up at  
98 Windsor Ave in Acton during these times:**

Thursday, November 17, 8:30-11 AM

Friday, November 18, 8-11 AM and 4-8 PM

Saturday, November 19, 1-3 PM

All orders are in the garage and the door will be open ONLY during these times listed above. Orders will be sorted by grade and teacher. Each order will be in a box with your teacher's name and your child's name. It's important that you double check that you have collected the correct order before leaving.

If you have any questions or need to schedule an alternative pick-up time, please contact Fiona ([fiona.starr@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.starr@gmail.com) or 781-530-7759). Thank you!

## Thank YOU!

From Astrid Trostorff

My heartfelt thanks to all the children, families and staff who made my final days working at McCarthy-Towne very special. Since I announced my retirement in early September I have received expressions of appreciation and affection from all corners of the McCarthy-Towne community.

My first connection to McT was in early 1989 when Robyn Winick, then the Parent Involvement Coordinator, took me on a tour as my husband, Harvey, and I began the process of choosing a school for our eldest child, Owen. McT was our top choice, but after the lottery, he was 10th on the waiting list. The day before Kindergarten Orientation I got the call to tell us he had moved to the top of the list and there was a spot for him if we wanted it. We did, and have never looked back. Thus began my family's deep connection to this school. My other children, Grant and Martha, followed and we were active, involved parents through 2005. Along the way, I was hired by McT's second principal, Marcia FitzGerald, to sort through and archive the papers of McT's first principal, Parker Damon, then as McT's coordinator for all things related to moving into the Parker Damon Building, then Parent Involvement Coordinator, and finally by David Krane as the Office Administrator. Along the way, I have learned so much from my fellow parents, colleagues, and especially the children of McCarthy-Towne. I always tried to remember something Parker Damon would say whenever faced with choices to be made at the school: What is best for children?

Thank you again for a wonderful send-off. Among all the notes and presents I received, the most cherished will be two binders filled with messages to me from the students. They wrote to thank me for a time I helped them, made them feel safe, or made them feel happy (especially when announcing dismissal!) Among the many, many warm, funny, artistic, appreciative pages, there is one I want to share with you from a fourth grade student, who drew a picture of me driving a locomotive named "Astrid Express." She wrote, "I wish you could stay but enough is enough. I hope you have fun while you are gone. We will miss you." I plan to have fun, but I will miss all of you.

## McCarthy-Towne Auction 2017!

Mark your calendars for the biggest night of the year! The McCarthy-Towne Auction will be held at The Devens Common Center at Springhill Suites on Saturday, March 18th. This adults-only event is a great way to enjoy a night out, connect with friends, and support our school.

The theme for this year's auction has not yet been revealed. We'll be posting clues in the Bulletin, the Howler and on Facebook until someone guesses correctly. Your first clue is: This popular New York destination opened its doors in 1977 and closed in 1980. Email your guesses to [tracey@gristmillmedia.com](mailto:tracey@gristmillmedia.com) The first person to correctly guess the theme will win a free drink ticket for use at the auction.

We Need You! If you are interested in helping out with the auction in any way please contact one of our Auction Chairs:

Tracey Smith ([tracey@gristmillmedia.com](mailto:tracey@gristmillmedia.com))  
Cura Pfefferkorn ([cmpfeff@comcast.net](mailto:cmpfeff@comcast.net))  
Alyssa Robinson ([lyssar@yahoo.com](mailto:lyssar@yahoo.com))

We have many areas where you can help. We are especially interested in finding volunteers who want to help with class projects, decorating, and online donation requests.



## FALL SOCIAL

**McCarthy-Towne's Annual Fall Social will be held this Friday, November 4th from 6-8 pm at the school.** The night holds a lot of fun with a gym full of games with prizes to be won, crafts, tattoos, GIANT "ALL SPORTS" Inflatable and so much more. In addition, we'll have the Chili Cook-Off and popular Cake Walk.

### Questions?

Contact Bibiana Knell ([bibianaknell@gmail.com](mailto:bibianaknell@gmail.com))

**Oh! And remember, this is not a drop-off event. Admission is \$5/Person.**

## Donate a Book to the McCarthy-Towne Library for the Holidays or Anytime!

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, thank a reading buddy, or remember a favorite teacher. (Book donations make excellent holiday gifts too!) We will place a bookplate in your donated book(s) and will contact you through email for details about the donation inscription.

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

- 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 (<http://mctptso.org/social-community/#>).
- 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 your local bookseller. If you purchase the book from a retailer other than Amazon, please go to the Amazon wish list, 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.
- 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.

Contact Jen Lewy ([jen@zenmarketing.net](mailto:jen@zenmarketing.net)) with any questions. Thank you for your support of our school library!



## Family Photo Weekend Success!

There was a great turn out for this year's family photo weekend. Thank you to the 11 families that helped raise \$440 for the McT PTOS. It's great to see some of you year to year and to meet new families too!

## November Scrip Challenge!

Thank you to everyone who ordered in October, it really makes a financial difference. Never tried the Scrip Program? Well, here is your chance! **We are challenging YOU, the McT Community (students, parents, teachers, and school staff) to buy Scrip (store cards) this month. The goal is to reach a total of 600 cards for the month of November** (we can do it; we have met this challenge before). If we, as a community reach our goal, the teachers have promised the children a school-wide pajama day, on Friday, December 23rd. So plan ahead for the holidays and help us meet our goal!

Keep a look out for program details and order form in your child's backpack! **The next order deadline is Tuesday, November 15th at 3:30 PM.** Cards will be sent home before the Thanksgiving break.

If you have any questions about the Scrip Program, contact Pamela Hippensteele ([phippensteele@gmail.com](mailto:phippensteele@gmail.com)).

## Lip Sync Chair Needed Next Year—2018!

*from the 2017 Lip Sync Team*

Do you love the Lip Sync? Do you want to see the show continue in 2018? If you love music and working with fun, enthusiastic kids, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! A Parent Volunteer is needed to plan and run the 2018 Lip Sync Extravaganza. The 2017 Lip Sync Team is starting to plan the event for next Spring, and we welcome anyone interested in learning more to shadow and help this year. If you are interested in learning more about this awesome community and musical event, contact Deb Verner ([debverner@gmail.com](mailto:debverner@gmail.com)). Rock On!

## Join us on Facebook!

Did you know 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 adult members of our community.



Our Facebook page is a "closed" group so that people from outside our community will not be able to see or post to the page. To join, search "McCarthy-Towne School" or use the link found on the main page of the PTSO website ([www.mctptso.org](http://www.mctptso.org)).