



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

November 1, 2013
Volume 43, No 3

November Days

by David Krane, McT Principal

At this time last year, we already had a day cancelled because of snowy weather; snow, no less, in October! It marked the second year in a row where we had lost a day because of snow... in October. This year has been markedly different with, generally speaking, beautiful weather and bright, fall colors. I hope that this is the start of a new trend, one without snow days in October.

At our Professional Learning Day, which this year takes place on Tuesday, November 5, one component of the day will be an all-school learning conversation about the instructional Read Aloud. I'd like to talk about one piece of that here and how it is a very powerful tool in building literacy skills with children. All of the teachers, from Kindergarten through grade 6, including CASE teachers and many of the specialists, use this in their classrooms and it is something that can be done at home, too. The Read Aloud in the classroom is a huge part of literacy instruction. It is appropriate across the grade levels and it is useful and enriching in all the content areas. It is also a tool that involves and engages all the students in a classroom as they can work to listen and think about text as it is being read. Asking questions and forming ideas becomes what they do and all children respond to it. Reading with your children, reading to your children and listening to your children read is a big part of bringing the classroom home. Newspapers, cookbooks and even the back of a cereal box are all resources at your fingertips, too. Families who read together send the message that reading is a joyful experience and joyful learning is what school is about.

This school year is a transition year, as both school districts in Acton prepare to welcome Boxboro's elementary school, the Blanchard School, into the fold as all three districts combine into one. Although this process is underway, it does not become official until July 1, 2014. At that point, we will be one unified, K-12 district with six elementary schools. This will be a significant cultural shift for the elementary level, perhaps less so for the secondary schools, but it will still be a major shift. That transition is already underway, as Acton is part of the search for a new Principal at the Blanchard School. Additionally, there will be a new structure for School Committee, new ideas about schedules and bus routes are being discussed, and many other things, too. For this reason, the Education Reports to the School Committee by the Principals have been put on hiatus until next year. I have always enjoyed these evenings, showing off our school to School Committee, and next year they will probably resume. When that happens, it will become a process of making sure that a newly structured School Committee has a very clear understanding of who we are as a school: our vision, our mission, and what are the values that are important to us as a community. I look forward to that opportunity.

Schools teach about the critical elements of being part of a community as well as the important academic elements across the content areas. McCarthy-Towne has always been proud of the way that we make this clear to children and of our successes in both arenas. Thanks to all of you who are part of this wonderful school community and for your support!

Mark Your Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 1, Friday**
McT Fall Social, 6-8 PM
Book Fair Ends
- 5, Tuesday**
NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day
- 11, Monday**
NO SCHOOL. Columbus Day
- 13, Wednesday**
Early Dismissal (12:15 PM)
Scrip Orders Due
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 15, Friday**
Winter Clothing Drive for *Cradles to Crayons* ends
- 27, Wednesday**
Early Dismissal (12:15 PM)
- 28-29, Thurs./Fri.**
NO SCHOOL,
Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

- 23-January 1**
NO SCHOOL, Winter Recess

..... McT Annual Fall Social-TONIGHT!

The Fall Social is tonight, Friday, November 1 from 6-8 PM. There will be lots of fun, games, crafts, face painting, and the annual Book Fair! This is not a drop-off event so please make arrangements to attend with your child. Admission is free for adults and \$5 per child. There will be pizza for sale and complimentary baked goods and refreshments.



from Tracey Smith and Shelley Cole, PTSO Co-chairs

The Book Fair carts have been delivered and are lined up in the hallways ready for volunteers to set up for our annual Book Fair. Many thanks to Susan Lerner and Mimi Kirkman who (along with a large group of volunteers) do a fabulous job every year of bringing this to our school. By the time you read this, your child's class will have visited the fair, but you can still check it out during tonight's Fall Social. The Fall Social is a not-to-be-missed event. Chris Hanlon and Kat Hudson coordinate a huge group of parent volunteers who help make this such a fun event with games, face painting, crafts and the Book Fair. **It runs from 6-8 PM tonight—Friday, November 1st.**

We also hope you'll join us for **our next PTSO meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th at 7 PM** in the Faculty Lounge. A quick reminder that Wednesday, November 13th is also an early dismissal day. School will be dismissed at 12:15 PM that day.

Finally, some of you may be receiving an invitation to attend your child's classroom potluck. These evening events are great opportunities to meet other parents outside the school setting and we encourage you to attend if you are able. These gatherings are just one of the many ways that we build a strong community and part of what makes McCarthy-Towne so special.

Enter to Win an iPod® Shuffle PLUS \$500 in Free Groceries!



With the upcoming holiday season, most of us will be spending a lot of time and money at the supermarket, buying ingredients for delicious treats to share with friends and family. With the *Register Tapes for Education* Program at Donelan's, those groceries can now also help our school! For every dollar spent, McCarthy-Towne will earn points redeemable for free educational equipment, like art supplies and books.

Simply send in your receipts in with your child or drop them in the collection box in the office. Please do NOT cut your receipts. We must submit the entire receipt, showing the store name and location, as well as items purchased. **Receipts dated September 1, 2013–March 31, 2014 are eligible.**

Enter to win a \$500 grocery gift certificate PLUS an iPod® Shuffle. **Send the entry form below into school with your receipts by January 15, 2014.** Enter as many times as you like as long as your entry is submitted with a Donelan's receipt and the entry form is not photocopied. If you want to make copies, copy the entry form first and then hand write your information on each form. They will NOT accept entry forms that have been filled out and then photocopied. Please leave the "school code" section of the entry form blank. For complete contest rules, please visit www.registertapesforeducation.com/shoppercontest.



Register Tapes Entry Form

Please enter me for a chance to win a \$500 grocery gift certificate plus an iPod Shuffle®.

Name

School Code

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone Number (____) ____ - ____

Please return to your school by January 15, 2014.

November SCRIP Challenge!



Thank you to everyone who ordered Scrip in October—it really makes a financial difference for the school. Never tried the Scrip Program? Well, HERE IS YOUR CHANCE! Once again, we are challenging YOU, the McT Community (students, parents, teachers, and school staff), to buy Scrip (store cards) this month. The goal is for the school to reach a total of 600 cards for the month of November (we can do it; we have met the challenge the last four years!). So, plan ahead for the holidays and help us meet our goal!

If we, as a community, reach our goal, the teachers have promised the children a school-wide pajama day in December. All the details for this program, with order form, are attached to this bulletin. You can also visit www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip for additional order forms.

The next order deadline is Wednesday, November 13 at 3:30 PM. Cards will be sent home before the Thanksgiving break.

2012–13 McT Directory

By now you should have received the 2013–14 McT Student Directory. The information included in the directory comes from the PowerSchool website and the information you provided when completing your online emergency cards. There is a lot of information in the directory such as the A-B District calendar and McCarthy-Towne school hours (including the timing of lunch periods). As in years past, we rely on advertising revenue to cover the cost of printing the directories which are given to all McCarthy-Towne families and staff free-of-charge. This year, after covering our costs, we received an additional \$1,500 in revenue—all of which goes directly to the McT PTSO! Please be sure to check out all of our loyal and new advertising contributors and mention that you saw them in your school's directory. We would also like to thank the parents who sent in advertisements for their children. These ads are a nice way to recognize your child and celebrate their time at McT—this is especially true for 6th graders who will soon be moving on to the junior high.

Finally, thank you to Shannon Callison and Fiona Starr, who volunteered many hours selling ads and putting the book together, and our proofreaders: Sarah Burianek, Jen Mabardy, Janet Munson, Lauren Richardt, and Denise Scott.

If you have questions about the Directory, please contact the school office. Additional copies are always available in the office for \$4 per copy. Please contact Tracey Smith (tsmith@abschools.org) for additional information.



McT Treasure Island Auction 2014

Shiver me timbers and get out your doubloons! The Treasure Island Auction will take place on Saturday, March 22, 2014. This year we are returning to one of our favorite venues—The Devens Common Center at the Springhill Suites in Devens, Massachusetts.

We are lucky to have so many great people who work hard to make this event a success. But, we still need YOU! Volunteer forms to join the Auction team will be coming home in your child's backpack this week. There are many different ways for you to get involved. If soliciting business donations isn't your thing... how about event design, set up or class projects? There's something for everyone!

Why is the auction so important? The auction is our biggest fundraiser of the year! It is also a chance for everyone in the McCarthy-Towne community to get together to have some fun while we raise funds to supplement the school budget. With these funds, the PTSO is able to provide things like classroom assistants, Sloyd and humanities consultants for our children.

More details about this amazing event will be coming. But, if you have any questions or would like to help, please contact our auction co-chairs: Jen Mabardy (jennifermabardy@comcast.net) or Michele Caterina (michelecaterina1@gmail.com).

Winter Clothing Drive • Cradles to Crayons



The McCarthy-Towne Student Council is sponsoring a "Winter Clothing Drive" for *Cradles to Crayons* (C2C) of Massachusetts. **The two week collection of donated items will begin at school on Monday, November 4th and continue through Friday, November 15th.**

Cradles to Crayons is a Massachusetts charitable organization that provides basic essentials to low-income and homeless children age 0–13 throughout Massachusetts. More than ever before, communities like ours, have a vital role to play in helping children in low-income families stay safe and warm during the cold winter months. With your help, *Cradles to Crayons* can equip them with the everyday essentials they need to thrive in the coming year.

The following gently used items are desirable donations for this organization: clothing (size 0–Adult S,M,L), winter coats, jackets, sweaters, winter boots and shoes (infant sizes 0–13 and Youth/Adult sizes 1–10), gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves. All of the items should be clean, serviceable, and complete such that a child receiving the item would feel valued. C2C also appreciates new items in the original packaging such as: underwear, socks, and pajamas and is always in need of boys pants. For more information on this organization, please visit their web site at www.cradlestocrayons.org.

So please gear up for winter by clearing out your closets and identifying those items that you and your children can donate! Also, a special thank you to Viking Moving Services of Acton (www.vikingmovers.com) who has generously agreed to transport all donated clothing items to C2C's Giving Factory in Brighton.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the members of our community who do so much to help our school in so many ways, including (but not limited to);

Lena Saetre-Grant for ordering, sorting and distributing the McT T-shirt orders.

Christine Kobelski, Julie Maranian, Cura Pfefferkorn and Lauren Richardt for stapling and sorting all the book fair flyers, and for also labeling and sorting all the McT directories for delivery to the classrooms.

Sloyd Website Updated!

If you want to learn more about the Sloyd program, view amazing student art, and stay informed about art at McT and beyond, go to: <https://sites.google.com/a/abschools.org/sloyd/>

Reuse, Repurpose and Redesign!

Help Heidi, Jillian and our students continue McT's new tradition of making musical instruments in Sloyd class. Collect and donate cigar boxes for guitars and metal bottle caps for rhythm sticks. We need lots, so keep on the lookout!



Healthy Pumpkin Bread

from Eating Well Magazine

Active Time: 15 minutes

Total Time: 3 hours (includes cooling time)

Ingredients

2 ½ cups all-purpose flour

2 cups whole-wheat flour

1 tablespoon baking powder

2 teaspoons baking soda

2 teaspoons salt

2 large eggs

2 large egg whites

2 cups packed light brown sugar

3 cups canned unseasoned pumpkin puree

½ cup canola oil

Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat two 9" x 5" loaf pans with cooking spray. Stir flour, whole-wheat flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large bowl. Whisk eggs, egg whites, brown sugar, pumpkin and oil in separate large bowl. Add the pumpkin mixture to the dry ingredients and mix until just combined. Scrape the batter into the prepared pans and smooth the tops.

Bake the loaves until the tops are golden brown and a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean, 50–60 minutes. Cool in the pans for 10 minutes. Turn the loaves out onto a wire rack to cool completely. Makes 2 loaves, 12 slices each.

Nutrition

Per serving: 210 calories; 5g fat (1g sat, 3g mono); 16mg cholesterol; 38g carbohydrates; 18g added sugars; 4g protein; 2g fiber; 377mg sodium; 125mg potassium.