



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

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Rolling Into October

by David Krane, McT Principal

We have slipped kind of quietly into October, almost secretly, as we start the month with a long weekend and a short week. Next week will be even shorter, as we have three school days off and only two school days on... It is a stuttering stop and start feeling to the month and it can be difficult in a school to maintain routines and continuity because of it. But we persevere and the kids actually respond very well, many simply picking up where they left off! It's good to have that kind of resilience and it's something that we need to encourage in school for all of us in our community, adults and children. Small changes and disruptions in our routine and schedules can be maddening, I know, but can also present opportunities for learning, in many different ways.

With all of us so busy at this time of year, becoming used to new routines can be difficult. There is a lot that children are doing after school, much of it different from day-to-day. Preparing your student for a schedule glitch can be helpful. Do your children know what to do if they come from school to an empty house or apartment?

Would they know how to get in? How to contact you? Which neighbors to go to for help? Sometimes—despite parents' best planning—you will not get home in time to meet your children as they come home from school. The doctor's appointment could run longer than expected, the check-out line at the store could be slow, and there could be a traffic jam you can't get around. Please talk to your children about what to do if they are unexpectedly "home alone." If they are prepared, it can be a relatively easy situation to remedy.

I'd like to take a moment to encourage parents to come and speak to me about any concerns or questions, however small, that you might have about our school or really anything at all. I see my role as one of supporting students, teachers, and families as they navigate through the school year and even into the Junior High School! Please consider me a resource, as you would any educator in our school.

Thanks in advance for your continued enthusiastic support as we all look forward to another very successful year for all of the children at McCarthy-Towne!

**"You're off to great places!
Today is your Day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So...Get on your way!"** -Dr. Seuss

A few weeks ago Astrid Trostorff, McT's head Office Administrator, announced her retirement. **Astrid's last day of work at McCarthy-Towne will be Friday, October 21.** She is looking forward to having more time with family and friends, to travel both near and far, and enjoy the many things she loves.

Astrid has kept the McT office afloat for many years, through changes in families, staff and procedures. Thank you Astrid for your years of service to McT and the AB community! We will miss you tremendously!

Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

- 10–12, Mon.–Wed.**
NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day and Yom Kippur
- 18, Tuesday**
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 19, Wednesday**
McT Back-to-School Specials Night, 6–7 PM
- 20, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 21, Friday**
SCRIP Orders Due
- 27, Thursday**
School Picture Retake Day
Early Dismissal (1 PM)

NOVEMBER

- 2, Wednesday**
Scholastic Book Fair Begins
- 3, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 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
- 17, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 23, Wednesday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 24–25, Thursday/Friday**
NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving



from Chris Hanlon and Judy Bourdon, PTSO co-chairs

To begin, thanks to the parents who came out to our first PTSO meeting of the year. I find it especially inspiring to see parents who are new to McCarthy-Towne (whether with kindergartners or older students) venture into the great unknown and come to a meeting of a group they know either little or nothing about. That desire to learn more about and become more involved in your child's school is so important, because what we do as parents really matters to their overall school experience. At the meeting we were able to answer questions about classroom events such as morning meeting, review some of the ways parents can be involved, and discuss our fundraising plans and goals for the year.

On the topic of fundraising, thanks to all who have taken part in either of our two main fall fundraisers, the Charleston Wrap orders and our Annual Appeal. While your chance to buy stylish, two-sided gift wrap has ended (the gift wrap with the birch trees reminded me of a classic McT art project we have hanging in our kitchen!), you can still contribute to the Annual Appeal. See page 3 for more details.

As usual, I have three encouragements for McT parents to consider:

Try to reserve space on your family calendar for the Fall Social, which takes place on November 4th. When students come back to their school in the evening for a night of great games, crafts, and fun, there is a really special energy in the building. This is also a great chance for parents to volunteer, as plenty of help is needed to keep all the excitement going.

Grade level potlucks will be beginning soon. This is another great way to get connected to the school and to other parents at your grade level. Chances are you will get to know families outside of your current sphere, which makes McT that much smaller!

Our next PTSO meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 18th, at 7 PM. Come join us, whether or not you made the first meeting. We will spend some time learning about how our children interact with each other in the classroom and also discuss some of the district-wide issues that impact elementary students. This is also your monthly chance to get an in-person update from our principal (along with a time for any questions you might have!)

If you have any thoughts or questions, please contact either the Senior PTSO Chair, Chris Hanlon (hanlon-christopher@hotmail.com) or the Junior PTSO Chair, Judy Bourdon, (judyandroland@gmail.com).

SCRIP NEWS!



Included in this week's packet of papers is the first SCRIP order form of the school year. You can order shopping cards to hundreds of national businesses such as iTunes, Land's End, Pottery Barn, Hyatt, TJ Maxx, and most any other store and restaurant you can think of. For each card purchased, you receive the full amount and SCRIP pays our school a percentage of your purchase. It's like free money for McT! **The first order is due on Friday, October 21st.**

Box Tops = CA\$H for McT



Based on the number of Box Tops just counted, our McT community did a great job collecting over the summer! Keep sending Box Tops to school with your child. You can also drop-off in the collection box in the McT office or in the box labeled McT Box Tops at Roche Bros. Any suggestions for additional donation spots are welcome.

Did you know Box Tops expire? **As a result, we need to collect your Box Tops by October 21st.** Don't wait until your collection is huge. Send in what you have now! We have include a collection sheet if you would like to fill and send that in. Label the collection with your child's teacher's so we can track rewards for the classroom contest! Stay tuned for information on this years contest reward! Visit www.BoxTops4Education.com for a complete list of participating products and other ways to participate in the Box Tops collection. Please direct any questions about the Box Tops program to Julie Weir (julieannweir@yahoo.com).

☆☆☆ BOOK FAIR 2016 ☆☆☆

This year's McCarthy-Towne Scholastic Book Fair will be begin on Wednesday, November 2nd and end on Friday November 4th, in conjunction with the Fall Social. The Book Fair is great fun for the kids, a nice way to spend a couple of volunteer hours, and a wonderful fundraiser for the school. Students will visit the Book Fair with their classes at assigned half-hour slots, as determined by their teachers on Wednesday (11/2), Thursday (11/3), and Friday (11/4). The Book Fair will also be open Friday night during the Fall Social from 6–8 PM.

Families are encouraged to buy books for their children, as gifts for others and as gifts for specific teachers/classrooms by purchasing books from the Teachers' Wish List. This is a terrific way to help the teachers build their classroom libraries!

Volunteers are warmly welcomed! Help is needed to set-up the Book Fair on Monday afternoon, October 31, or work the Fall Social on Friday evening, November 4th. We are also looking for volunteers to work 1.5–2 hour shifts during school hours Wednesday through Friday.

More information about the Book Fair and your child's class visit schedule will come home via Friday folders soon. Be on the lookout for those flyers! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the Book Fair co-chairs Amy Stimac or Julie Weir at BookFair@mctptso.org.

..... PTSO Fall Fundraiser Update: Annual Appeal

We wanted to give an update on our early fundraising progress for the 2016–2017 school year. About a month ago, you received information about our Annual Appeal campaign, which runs side by side with the recently completed Charleston Wrap orders. These are two ways to help support McT students and staff, and together they constitute our second biggest fundraising effort after the auction.

So far we have received donations from 26 of the over 350 families at McCarthy Towne, and their generous donations have totaled \$3,475. We deeply appreciate the support from these families for their tax-deductible donations, and want to remind parents that many employers will match such donations.

What does your donation support? These donations, along with other fundraising efforts this year, will directly serve our students by funding additional teaching assistant hours, our Art Integration Specialist, our Parent Involvement Coordinator, and school-wide cultural and performing arts presentations, just to name a few. **We hope donations will continue to come in, as we are currently a long way from our goal.** While we would like to wrap up this campaign in the next two weeks, the PTSO always welcomes your financial support... there is no true deadline to help out.

Remember three things... this fundraiser is completely optional, any size of donation will help to support our students, and an Annual Appeal donation is tax deductible. If you can't find your first one, donation forms are available in the office or via e-mail from PTSO Chair Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com). You can also make your donation on the McT PTSO website at www.mctptso.org/annual-appeal. Thanks again for your support!

McT Mileage Club Update!

The McT Mileage Club is off to a great start! In our first week, 56 students tallied 82 miles on our course around the back playgrounds. We have every grade, Kindergarten through 6th, represented, and have been lucky enough to be joined regularly by several staff members, including our new PE teacher Tom, Nurse Betty, and Assistant Principal Matt! Thanks to our great squad of parent volunteers who make things run smoothly every week!



McT Mileage Club is a free program that operates on a drop-in basis—don't worry if you haven't come to a session yet this year, you can join any time! Come as often as you can, there does not have to be an "every week" commitment. Special events coming up this month include Hula Hoop Day and the Great Pumpkin Challenge. Here are the details for anyone wanting to join us.

When: Friday mornings, 8:30–9:05 AM, and continuing through Thanksgiving (or as long as the weather allows).

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 too or 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 Mileage Club 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!)

Who should you contact with questions or to volunteer or to be added to the email group: Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com).

Email to McT Office

When contacting the school office about bus passes, dismissal passes, or any changes to your child's schedule, please send the email to mctoffice@abschools.org. All three office personnel get the email sent to that address, and one will respond when it is read.

School Picture Retake Day: Thursday, October 27th

School picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, October 27. If your child was absent on September 14, they will have their picture taken on October 27. If you are not satisfied with the original picture, send the entire package back to school for a retake.

Head Lice Information

It's important to take steps at home to help prevent your child from becoming infested with head lice. Any time children come together, particularly at the start of the school year or following any social grouping like Girl/Cub Scouts, Brownies, Little League, dance groups, or sleepovers, detected head lice cases commonly increase. Recent studies show that head lice are seldom spread in the school setting.

Direct, physical, head-to-head contact is the usual method of transmission. Lice do not jump or fly. They survive only for a short time away from the human head and have difficulty crawling or clinging to smooth surfaces. Check your child's head weekly for lice and/or nits (eggs). Mature lice, which are no bigger than a sesame seed, avoid light and are hard to see. Lice eggs or "nits" are usually found close to the scalp—usually within one quarter inch, and may be easier to spot behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. They appear as tiny whitish ovals that are "glued" to the hair shaft. They cannot easily be flicked away as dandruff can. Head lice do not transmit disease and are not a serious medical condition. They cannot survive on your pets.

If you find head lice on your child, please notify the school and treat him/her with lice shampoo following package instructions. A second treatment may be required in seven to ten days. Continue to examine the child and all family members for three weeks and treat only if live lice or if nits are found one quarter inch or less from the scalp.

Check Regularly—Treat Quickly Help Keep Head Lice Off Your Child

- Check your child's head weekly for signs of head lice.
- Teach your child not to share or trade personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, and barrettes.
- Contain long hair in braids or ponytails, especially in younger children.
- Teach children to avoid head-to-head contact.

For more information regarding head lice or its treatment, please feel free to contact the school nurse (Betty Foster, 978-264-3374) or your local health department. And be sure to read the attached "Head Lice Myths and Facts" page in this bulletin. Thank you for your help and support.