



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

October 5, 2012  
Volume 42, No 2

## Rolling into October

by David Krane, McT Principal

Rolling cooler temperatures mark the beginning of this October and it has also been wet and gray. But the sunshine and the warmth have been around much longer than the gray and the wet and that is always helpful as we begin fall at McCarthy-Towne.

The changes that have happened for the Sixth Grade are but one part of what is different about our schedule from last year. Each of the Sixth Grade teachers will be assuming a specific content teaching role with all of the Sixth Grade students. By focusing so closely on student learning within a particular area, we are looking forward to teachers becoming very familiar with each of the Sixth Grade students and use this information to even more successfully support each one of them. Other schedule changes include moving our McT Community Assembly time and Reading Buddies to Thursdays. This move creates four full, uninterrupted days of academics on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Thursdays will be used for additional work with the specialists in Sloyd, Music, and PE, as well as Assembly and Reading Buddies.

Back-to-School night was also a huge success again this year. Many families came out to see new classrooms, all up and running for learning! I really enjoyed meeting all the new families and greeting returning ones. There was a great feeling in the school as parents moved around to various place. Thanks to all who visited our Special Educators, Sloyd, and Music teachers and their classrooms, too.

Although I have written this to all of you each year at about this time, it is still relevant information and food for thought:

Families in Grade 3 through Grade 6 have recently received last spring's MCAS

results. There is a teacher group in place at McT to do item analysis on the test questions that students did well on as well as the questions that may have represented a challenge for some of our students. This standardized test is another source of information that we can draw on as we seek to continuously improve instruction, but it is not the only one that we can use. Formative assessments within the classroom inform instruction and summative assessments, like the MCAS, can also provide some insights into student learning. MCAS is, however, but one piece of how we look at student learning. At McT, we use multiple measures to look at student learning as a reflection of our practice in the classroom. It's also important to consider the whole child as we look at what constitutes progress in every critical arena, including academic, social, and emotional development. There is much that is valuable about our students that are simply not measured by the MCAS. Children grow differently and at a different pace and that needs to be acknowledged as we look at how they progress in school.

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 a very successful year for all of the children at McCarthy-Towne!

## Mark Your Calendar

### OCTOBER

- 8, Monday**  
NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
- 11, Thursday**  
PTSO Meeting, 9:30 AM
- 13, Saturday**  
West Acton Oktoberfest  
Road Race
- 17, Wednesday**  
Scrip Orders due
- 19, Friday**  
Box Tops due
- 24, Wednesday**  
CPAC Assembly  
(Grades 1-4), Helen Lester
- 30, Tuesday**  
Early Dismissal (1 PM)  
No PM Kindergarten
- 31, Wednesday**  
Book Fair begins

### NOVEMBER

- 1 & 2, Thursday/Friday**  
Book Fair
- 2, Friday**  
McT Fall Social, 6-8 PM
- 6, Tuesday**  
NO SCHOOL, Professional  
Development Day
- 8, Thursday**  
Community Assembly
- 9, Friday**  
Picture Retake Day
- 12, Monday**  
NO SCHOOL, Veterans Day
- 14, Wednesday**  
Early Dismissal (1 PM)  
No PM Kindergarten  
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM



## from Kate Murray and Tracey Smith, PTSO co-chairs

Now that the school year is in full swing we want to make sure you are aware of some important fall happenings that you and your family can take advantage of.

Kat Hudson and Chris Hanlon are busy working hard to bring you a fantastically fun **Fall Social coming up on Friday, November 2, from 6–8 PM**. Bring your whole family down for pizza, baked goods, carnival games and live entertainment all while catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Let us tell all of our new families from our experience: your kids will have a blast at this event and parents will leave feeling like it was a great time for them as well. Tickets are \$5, parents are free. Hope to see you there!

Next, it's time to lace up those sneakers for the **West Acton Oktoberfest Road Race on Saturday, October 13**. Thousands of dollars go back into the community because of this race. You name the local non-profit organization (McT PTSO) and Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce donates \$5 (\$2.50 from Kids Fun Run) of your race fee to that cause. Kids Fun Run starts at 9 AM, 5K Race starts at 10 AM. Visit [www.mwcoc.com](http://www.mwcoc.com) for more information and to register.

And in the never-too-soon-to-book-a-babysitter category: **The Rock and Roll Auction is coming on Saturday, March 9, 2013**. We are thrilled to announce Jennifer Marbardy and Lauren Richardt as our new Auction Chairs! Thanks to both of them for their willingness to take on the challenge of coordinating the auction and planning a great community event. Please join us at our annual Auction Kick-Off meeting taking place next Thursday, October 11 at the home of Tracey Smith. Check the separate flyer for additional details. We still need volunteers for several of our committees so please come and get involved! Food and beverages will be served.

And finally, don't forget our next **PTSO meeting taking place at 9:30 AM on Thursday, October 11** in the McT Cafeteria.

Hope to see many of you at these exciting events! Happy October!

### Food Service News

Do you have a ParentOnline Account with automatic payment? Your ParentOnline credit card information must be verified each year. If you set up an account last fall, your automatic payment will expire soon. Please check the expiration date of your account and verify/update your credit card information by logging on ParentOnline ([www.parentonline.net](http://www.parentonline.net)). Choose "Automatic Payment" on the left side of the screen. If the "Expires on" date is soon, then you need to verify your credit card information. Click the "red circle with a line through it" at the far right had part of the screen. This will delete your existing automatic payment. Then click the "green plus" and you can then choose the start, end and credit card you want to use for automatic payments. Please update your credit card information for each of your children.

### McT Mileage Club

Over 70 students, parents, and staff logged 85 total miles in the first gathering of the McT Mileage Club. Everyone seemed to enjoy the fitness and fun on a crisp morning.

**The McT Mileage Club is a free program that meets on Fridays from 8:15–9 AM** until November/December (depending on the weather) and then again in the spring. We meet in the back playground and can always use additional parent help. Registration forms are in the office or available from the club moderator, Chris Hanlon ([hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com](mailto:hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com)).

### Fall Social: Save the Date!

**McCarthy-Towne's Annual Fall Social will be held on Friday, November 2 from 6–8 PM at the school.**

The night holds a lot of fun, games with prizes, crafts, tattoos, face painting, and the annual book sale too! It's a great opportunity for children to play with old friends and make new ones and for parents to get to know each other. Admission is free for adults and \$5 per child. There will be pizza for sale and complimentary baked goods and refreshments. This is not a drop-off event so please make arrangements to attend with your child(ren) or have them chaperoned.

Highlights for the evening include an exciting, fast-paced game in the gym called Minute to Win-It. Zumba (or Zumbatomic, as it is called for kids) lessons will be featured in the cafeteria and led by McT's very own Sue Donahue who is a licensed Zumba instructor. Both adults and kids are welcome to join in!

The night cannot be a success without the support of volunteers like you. Help is needed with games, pizza sales, admission tickets, face painting and more. To volunteer, please contact Kat Hudson ([katmudson@comcast.net](mailto:katmudson@comcast.net) or 978-815-9800).

If you have any general questions about the social, please contact either Kat Hudson ([katmudson@comcast.net](mailto:katmudson@comcast.net)) or Chris Hanlon ([hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com](mailto:hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com)).

## McT PTSO Fall Fundraising Campaign

The Direct Appeal Campaign has received the support of 53 of the 365 families at McT as of last week, totaling almost \$7,800. Thanks for those tax-deductible donations, and remember many employers will match donations (several already have). You can also donate online with PayPal by visiting [www.mctptso.org/direct-appeal](http://www.mctptso.org/direct-appeal).

While we are wrapping up this campaign, the PTSO always welcomes financial support... there is no true deadline to help out. Families that have made donations will be receiving a letter of acknowledgement for tax purposes soon. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hanlon ([hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com](mailto:hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com)).

## Genevieve's Fall Fundraiser

Today is the deadline to send in orders for the Genevieve's Fall Fundraiser. Thanks so much to everyone who placed orders. If you forgot to return your order form today, please send it in by Tuesday, October 9 so that we may process it ASAP. Once the items come in, you will be contacted with pick up dates/times and location. Contact Lara ([laramaira@yahoo.com](mailto:laramaira@yahoo.com)) with any questions.

## Classroom Potluck Planning

Thanks to all who signed up to help with the classroom potlucks! Some classes have already picked a date and place for their potlucks, but we still need volunteers in the following classrooms: Darsi's PM kindergarten, Kate's third grade class, and all sixth grade classes. Please contact Sorrel Sammons ([sorrelsammons@hotmail.com](mailto:sorrelsammons@hotmail.com)) if you are able to help coordinate your classroom's event.

## Scrip Gift Card Program



Thank you to all the families who ordered Scrip in the month of September! We are already off to a terrific start, raising almost \$350 for our school. The Scrip program is a great way for your family to help the school raise money, without doing anything additional or different from your usual shopping. Just shop as you normally would, but instead of paying with cash or credit card, pay with your prepaid store cards.

Remember you can order the scrip/store cards on-line, no longer wondering if your child handed the form in on time. You can also set up a PrestoPay account through our vendor and have the money taken right out of your account—completely by-passing your child in the ordering process. And, a number of regular vendors offer the ability to reload cards on-line. Directions on how to order on-line, a list of re-loadable cards, monthly specials, and additional order forms can be found on the McT PTSO website at [www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip](http://www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip).

The Scrip order form is attached and can also be found on the McT PTSO website. **The next deadline to order is Wednesday, October 17.** Please contact Wendy Schaad ([ws.schaad@gmail.com](mailto:ws.schaad@gmail.com) or 978-266-1670) or Mimi Kirkman ([mimikirkman@yahoo.com](mailto:mimikirkman@yahoo.com) or 978-263-9770) with questions. The next two deadlines will be November 14 and December 14.

## ★ BOOK FAIR 2012 ★

We are excited to announce this year's McCarthy-Towne Book Fair, being held Wednesday, **October 31st through Friday, November 2nd**, 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 (10/31), Thursday (11/1), and Friday (11/2). The Book Fair will also be held Friday night during the Fall Social. Families are encouraged to buy books for their children, as gifts for others, and as gifts to specific 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! We need help to set-up the Book Fair on Tuesday morning, October 30th, work the Fall Social on the evening of Friday, November 2nd, and break down on Monday afternoon, November 5th. Parents can also volunteer at times when their child/children's class attends the Book Fair (you will be contacted as soon as teachers sign up, so you can be sure to be there when your child's class comes in). We have a list of volunteers that Patty has collected, but it is not too late to add your name to the list - the more the merrier!

More specific information regarding the Book Fair, and your child/children's classroom visit, will be coming home via backpack mail. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact either Susan Lerner ([sammyabe@aol.com](mailto:sammyabe@aol.com), 978-263-0045) or Mimi Kirkman ([mimikirkman@yahoo.com](mailto:mimikirkman@yahoo.com), 978-263-9770)

## Box Tops!

### An easy way to earn CA\$H for McT

The collection of Box Tops for Education is a very easy way we raise money each year for our school. Just clip Box Tops off the product package (don't be afraid to go through the cabinets of your parents, siblings or friends) and collect them in an envelope, Ziploc bag or have the kids glue them to the collection sheet that was sent home in backpacks. Send them to school with your child or drop-off in the large collection box in the office.

**The next Box Top collection deadline will be Friday, October 19.** Please label the collection with your child's name, grade and teacher. This information is used to track rewards for the classroom contest! You can also drop them in the blue box labeled "McCarthy-Towne Box Tops" at Roche Bros. or Donelan's supermarkets. Visit [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) for a list of participating products.

Also, consider shopping online at your favorite stores through the Box Tops Marketplace®. Up to 20% of your purchase will be donated to McT, at no additional cost to you. Plus, you'll get exclusive Box Tops deals and discounts! Visit [www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace](http://www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace).

If you have any questions about the Box Top program, please contact Debbie ([debfwalz@gmail.com](mailto:debfwalz@gmail.com)).

## Thank You

*from Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator*

Thank you to all the people who volunteer and help make McCarthy-Towne School such a special place for children, including (but not limited to):

- Shannon Callison, Petra Charisse, Christine Kobelski, Maria Ledebuer, Joan McCaffrey, Jen Nelson, Tracey Smith, Mariah Straayer and Tina Watlington for helping us keep things organized and running smoothly in the office the first month of school.
- Rebecca MacNeill, Kerstin Mendelsohn, Bridget Matz, Lara Maira, Jill DeFoe and Tracey Smith for organizing all those smiling faces and making School Picture Day such a wonderful experience for all the kids.

## School Picture Retakes

**School picture retakes are scheduled for Friday, November 9.** If your child was absent on September 10, they will have their picture taken on November 9. If you are not satisfied with the original picture, send the entire package back to school on November 9.

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



Remember to save your receipts from Donelan's Supermarkets! The *Register Tapes for Education Program* allows us to earn FREE school equipment just by grocery shopping. Send receipts in with your child or drop them at the McT 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, 2012–March 31, 2013 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 31, 2013.** 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](http://www.registertapesforeducation.com/shoppercontest). If you have any questions about the program, contact Kate Hoitt ([kjhoitt@verizon.net](mailto:kjhoitt@verizon.net)).



### 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, 2013.



# **LOOKOUT FOR LICE!**

## **A Guide for Prevention and Treatment of Head Lice**

*from Betty Johns, McT School Nurse*

### **WHAT ARE HEAD LICE?**

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny, wingless, elongated insects that are tan to grayish-white, but may take on a reddish-brown color after feeding on their host. They are about the size of a small sesame seed, and their six legs have claws for grasping hair. They cannot fly nor can they jump. Head lice, which have a life span of about 30 days on a host, are parasites that feed on human blood. The lice bites cause itching, which is often the first sign of infestation.

A female louse lays 100 or more eggs (“nits”), which hatch in 7-10 days. Nits are oval or teardrop shaped, and may be colored yellowish-brown, white, or silver. They are quite tiny, about the size of the period at the end of this sentence. Lice attach nits at an angle to the side of a hair shaft with a water-proof, cement-like substance; therefore, nits cannot be washed or brushed out of hair like dandruff or other debris.

### **HOW ARE HEAD LICE SPREAD?**

Head lice are most often spread through close contact with an infested person or by sharing personal items such as hats, clothing, combs and hair accessories. Not surprisingly, head lice can be spread in schools among play-mates. Because head lice can survive for 24-48 hours off of a human host, they also can travel through coats and hats that are hung or piled together. Also, head lice can remain undetected on upholstered furniture, stuffed toys, pillows, and bed linens.

### **HOW DO I CHECK FOR HEAD LICE?**

Because head lice move so quickly, they are difficult to see, so the diagnosis of infestation is usually made on the basis of finding nits. Nits are barely visible to the naked eye. It can be especially difficult to see nits in light-colored hair. It may be helpful to use a magnifying glass to search for them. It is also essential to use a bright source of light, with natural sunlight being optimal. Comb carefully through the hair, looking for nits. Pay close attention to the back of the head, nape of the neck, and behind the ears. Nits are most commonly clustered in these areas, but examine the entire scalp. In rare, severe cases, nits may be found in eyebrows and eye-lashes. Nits are usually found close to the scalp, about 1/4” to 1/2” away, but they can be found at any distance along the hair shaft, attached securely.

### **CAN HEAD LICE CAUSE INFECTIONS?**

In general, head lice do not pose a human health risk. In some severe cases, excessive scratching can cause infections in children. These infections can cause swelling of lymph glands around the head, especially behind the ears and on the neck.

### **TREATMENT**

- Treatment must be directed toward the infested person AND his/her personal articles.
- ALL family members must be checked and, if found to be infested, also treated. Males, as well as females, can be infested. Hair length does not matter (other than for ease of nit removal).
- The environment must be decontaminated.
- Rechecks are essential to control infestation and reduce the possibility of reoccurrence.

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## **WHAT DO I DO WHEN I FIND LICE OR NITS?**

- STAY CALM!
- Contact your child's health care provider for their treatment recommendations.
- Following the recommended treatment method, remove remaining nits with a fine-tooth comb designed for nit removal. Continue to check for and remove nits DAILY for the next two weeks.
- Wash all clothing, bed linens, and other washable articles that have been in contact with the infested person using water that is at least 130° F. Use the hot dryer cycle.
- Non-washable items can be left in a sealed plastic bag for two to three weeks.
- Soak combs and brushes in hot water for 10 minutes.
- Report all cases of head lice to the school nurse. You should also notify the parents of your child's close playmates. Don't be embarrassed; head lice are NOT a sign of uncleanliness.

## **PREVENTION**

- Warn your child not to leave clothing items in piles at school or at after-school activities.
- Instruct your child not to share clothing, hairbrushes, etc. with friends.
- Tie back or braid long hair.
- Check your child's hair and scalp WEEKLY throughout the school year. This may take up to 30-45 minutes, but it will become routine. It is much easier to treat a mild infestation than when lice have been living on your child's head for weeks!
- Check your child's hair when you receive a lice notification from his/her classroom, then return the notice to school.

## **WHAT CAN I DO TO AVOID REINFESTATION?**

- Recheck for reinfestation 7-10 days after the initial treatment, and treat again if necessary.
- Recheck all family members whether they were infested or not during the next 2-3 weeks.
- Remember to treat the home environment. Vacuum rugs and upholstered furniture, mattresses and car seats as needed to remove loose hairs and nits. Clean clothing, bed linens as outlined under treatment. Be sure to clean combs and brushes.

## **HEAD LICE PROCEDURE OF THE ACTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOLS**

Like many school systems, the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Schools have a "No-Nit" procedure recommending that students have no nits in their hair in order to attend school. This increases the likelihood that the child is truly rid of the infestation.

## **IMPORTANT!**

**It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to report all cases of head lice infestation and reinfestation to their child's school nurse immediately.**

Only then can steps be taken to prevent increased transmission within the school environment. These steps include:

- Notification of parents/guardians of the presence of lice in the classroom.
- Individual head checks.
- Classroom decontamination following environmentally sound procedures.

## **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

Your school nurse or personal health care provider can give you more resources about head lice. There are helpful web sites, videos, articles and books that they can recommend and/or lend to you.