



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

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## Rolling Into October

*by David Krane, McT Principal*

Although we will soon be entering into October in a few days, I am writing this on what feels like a glorious summer weekend. The temperatures are high, the sky is a deep blue and cloudless and, out here in the western Massachusetts hill towns, the trees are kind of beginning to turn. It's a funny kind of mix, at once autumn and deep summer. Our ancient apple trees, remnants of a century old orchard, are producing incredible amounts of good fruit, too. This has always been a mystery to us, why some years are great, but others are not. I'll take it, though; the hard work of many years ago still literally bearing fruit, much like schools! The nights are considerably cooler, reminding us that winter is not far off. I am just hoping that our snowfall will be a bit less than last year...

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. Because of the bus passing changes, there is much that is new even to families who have been with us for a while. 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 checkout 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!

## Mark Your Calendar

### OCTOBER

- 3&4, Saturday/Sunday**  
Family Photo Weekend
- 12, Monday**  
NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
- 14, Wednesday**  
McT Back-to-School  
Physical Education Night,  
6:30-7:30 PM, PDB Gym  
PTSO Meeting, 7PM
- 15, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 16, Friday**  
Box Top Collections Due
- 22, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 28, Wednesday**  
School Picture Retake Day
- 29, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)

### NOVEMBER

- 3, Tuesday**  
NO SCHOOL, Professional  
Development Day
- 4-6, Wednesday-Friday**  
Scholastic Book Fair
- 5, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 6, Friday**  
McT Fall Social, 6-8 PM
- 11, Wednesday**  
NO SCHOOL, Veterans Day
- 19, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 25, Wednesday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 26-27, Thursday/Friday**  
NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving

## Flu Clinics for ABRSD Students, Families and Staff!

Acton Nursing Services is offering Flu Clinics for all ABRSD students, families and staff on **October 6, 7 and 8 from 2:45-6 PM** in the Health Office at the High School.

Please bring your health insurance card with you. If you do not have health insurance you will not be turned away. Also, please print and complete the documents found at [www.actonnursingservice.com/documentcenter/view/9](http://www.actonnursingservice.com/documentcenter/view/9). If you have any questions about the clinics, please call Acton Nursing Services at 978-929-6650 or email Heather York, RN ([hyork@acton-ma.gov](mailto:hyork@acton-ma.gov)).



## from Julie Weir and Julie Hobbs, PTSO co-chairs

We are only one month into the school year and our PTSO is fully engaged in planning and preparing for all of the fantastic and fun events for the year. The weather is becoming milder and shortly the trees will begin to change—it is time again for Family Portraits with Shelley Cole, the Scholastic Book Fair, and the Fall Social. But first we must close out the first round of our Fall Fundraisers. Charleston Wrap catalog and The Activities Expo were two great ways to support our school this past month and we hope you had a chance to participate in either or both of them.

Information about our Annual Appeal went home and while this is an ongoing fundraiser **we encourage you to donate soon in order to claim the donation on your 2015 taxes. Remember 100% of the money collected goes directly to our children!** Visit [www.mctpts.org](http://www.mctpts.org) for a running total of the amount earned throughout the year. Thank you to those who have already donated!

**Please note that Family Photo Weekend is this THIS WEEKEND, October 3 and 4.** Contact Shelly Cole immediately if you are looking for a spot ([sd@shelleydrouin.com](mailto:sd@shelleydrouin.com) or 617-529-3629). Two of our most popular events are scheduled for the first week in November—the **Scholastic Book Fair and the Fall Social. The Book Fair rolls into school on Wednesday, November 4th and runs through the Fall Social on Friday, November 6th.** Bring the whole family to the Fall Social for pizza, baked goods, games, and other entertainment (plus you can shop the Book Fair while you catch up with friends).

And finally, **please join us for our next PTSO meeting on Wednesday, October 14 at 7 PM** in the library. Special guest Superintendent Dr. Brand will be on hand to discuss his goals and outlook for this coming year.

### School Picture Retake Day: Wednesday, October 28th

School picture retakes are scheduled for **Wednesday, October 28**. If your child was absent on September 9, they will have their picture taken on October 28. If you are not satisfied with the original picture, send the entire package back to school for a retake.

### Activities Expo Thank you

Thank you to all the families and local business who came out and helped to make our Second Annual Activities Expo a huge success. Between the Raffle, the food and the demos there was a little something for everyone. If you know of a local business who might want to participate or if you would like to volunteer at this event next year please email us at [ActivitiesExpo@mctpts.org](mailto:ActivitiesExpo@mctpts.org).

### Free Admission to National Parks for 4th Graders

The U.S. Department of Interior and National Service has an initiative called *Every Kid in the Park*. The goal is to get every 4th grader into our public lands during the academic year. All 4th graders and their families receive FREE national park admission for one year. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to our amazing national parks. Visit [www.nationalparks.org/look/every-kid-in-a-park](http://www.nationalparks.org/look/every-kid-in-a-park) for more information.

### Box Tops = CA\$H for McT



You certainly saved a lot of Box Tops this summer! I can't wait to include that number along with the Box Tops saved from the classrooms.

Remember to send Box Tops to school with your child or drop-off in the large collection box in the office. **Our next Box Top collection deadline will be Friday, October 16.** Please label the collection with your child's name, grade and teacher. This information is used to track rewards for the classroom contest! Last year, Vin's first grade class and Jen's second grade class won the contests and chose lots of fun school supplies and games for their classrooms. School supplies, games, playground equipment... what will this year's winners choose?

You can also drop off Box Tops in the blue box labeled "McCarthy-Towne Box Tops" at Roche Bros. I just emptied a full container of Box Tops this past weekend. Visit [www.btf.com](http://www.btf.com) for a list of participating products.

Please direct any questions about the Box Top program to Melissa Kaplan Morse ([mkmorse1@msn.com](mailto:mkmorse1@msn.com)).

# ★ ★ ★ BOOK FAIR 2015 ★ ★ ★

**This year's McCarthy-Towne Scholastic Book Fair will be held Wednesday, November 4th and end on Friday November 6th**, 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 (11/4), Thursday (11/5), and Friday (11/6). The Book Fair will also be held Friday night during the Fall Social from 6-8pm. 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!** We need help to set-up the Book Fair on Monday afternoon, November 2, work the Fall Social on Friday evening, November 6th and break down on Monday afternoon, November 9th. We are also looking for volunteers to work 1.5 to 2 hour shifts during school hours Wednesday through Friday. More information about the book fair and your child's class visit schedule will be coming home via backpack in a couple weeks. If you have any other questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the book fair co-chairs Amy Stimac or Julie Weir (BookFair@mctptso.org).



## FALL SOCIAL

**Friday, November 6th from 6-8 PM**

Last year's Fall Social was a HUGE hit! Let's keep the ball rolling this year with more fun! This year's Social will feature games such as "Minute to Win It", Free Throw Shooting Contest, Face Painting, Tattoos, Henna, Crafts, and the very popular "Cake Walk." A new game or two may even sneak in there (Hint: Can anyone eat whipped cream? With no hands?! Don't forget, the annual Book Fair will be taking place in the lobby, too!

There will be plenty of autumn fair on sale and complimentary refreshments. Stay tuned for more information about participating in the McT chili cook-off!

**Adult admission is FREE and only \$5 per child.** This is a great opportunity for students to play with old friends and make new ones and for parents to get to know each other. This is not a drop-off event so please make arrangements to attend with your child(ren) or have them chaperoned.

The night cannot be a success without the support of volunteers like you. Be prepared to hear from Jen Nelson in the weeks to come regarding how you can help!

If you have any general questions, please contact either Bridget Chambera (bmchamberas@hotmail.com) or Jen Nelson (jennifernelso@gmail.com).



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. It 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 visit [www.facebook.com/groups/1404961776417219](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1404961776417219).

### Collect Receipts from Donelan's!



McCarthy-Towne is once again participating in the *Register Tapes for Education* program. Those groceries you buy at Donelan's 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.

Every time you shop at Donelan's, save your receipts! Simply send in receipts with your child or drop them in the collection box in the office. Receipts dated **September 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 are eligible.** Questions can be directed to Sarah Burianek (sarahburianek@msn.com).

## McCarthy-Towne Auction 2016!

Mark your calendars and book your babysitters! **The 2016 McT Auction is April 9th!** Doors will open at 5:30 PM at The Devens Common Center at the Springhill Suites in Devens, MA.

The auction is an amazing event for the school community and raises a lot of money for much needed resources at our school. But, that said, we need your help to make it a success! A volunteer form came home in backpacks recently. If you are interested in helping out with the auction in any way, please contact either Auction Co-Chair—Christine Russell (qofhearts@gmail.com) or Samantha Valente-Phillips (luvbgnamom@gmail.com).

### **The following is a description of what we still need:**

**Business Donations:** There is no cold calling! Businesses are sent a letter and committee members follow up with calls and inperson visits to pick up the generous donations. [Time Commitment: About 510 hours spread from January thru February]

**Parent Donations:** Committee is responsible for collecting the parent donation paperwork [Time Commitment: About five hours spread out from January thru March]

**Book Editor/Data Entry:** This person will be working closely with the committee chairs to manage data entry and book editing. [Time Commitment: Largest time commitment will be February thru March]

**Classroom Projects:** This committee assists with helping the students and teachers create their classroom projects, as well as work to mat and frame the projects. [Time Commitment: About 10 hours spread from January thru March]

**Publicity/Communications:** This person creates posters, flyers, posts to Facebook, puts notices in the Howler and in the Bulletin to promote and create awareness of this event. This person also sends thank you notes to all auction donors. [Time Commitment: About one hour each month October through March, and 5-8 additional hours in March]

**Event Design:** This committee is responsible for decor and menu selection. [Time Commitment: About 10 hours spread out from January thru March]

**Pre-Auction Raffle:** This committee is broken into several subcommittees that manage three different types of raffles (Preauction; 50/50; and Bag)

**Finance:** This person manages all financial aspects of the event. [Time Commitment: About 1015 hours total]

**Room Set-Up:** This committee meets on the morning of the auction to load, deliver and organize all of the donated items. Another section of the committee helps to break down after the event. [Time Commitment: Each about 25 hours on day of auction]

**Back Room:** This committee works the night of the auction to register auction attendees, track auction bid sheets, perform data entry, and close out auction sales.