



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

August 30, 2012
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September Start

by David Krane, McT Principal

Greetings and welcome to a new school year! This year we did not have to deal with a hurricane to begin our year and Opening Day for staff dawned as a typically beautiful summer day, much like we've experienced for the past two months.

We are again welcoming new faculty and staff to McCarthy-Towne this year. MaryAnn Mehler will be joining Robin Kynoch and Kate Gibalerio on the Third Grade Team, and Jillian Gilfoil will become McT's own Music Teacher. All arrivals new to our McCarthy-Towne School community are extraordinarily qualified and we all look forward to working with them in the year to come. This is the also the first year for the APS to have PE, Music, and Art teachers wholly a part of the respective school's staff. This makes a big difference in the opportunities for really integrating these three content areas into the fabric of the school, as the teachers are no longer tugged between two schools. Now we will be able to have five days working with each teacher and this will make a big difference for the students and for the school. It's an exciting new beginning!

Our intrepid office staff, Astrid Trostorff, Patty Lee, and Maureen Jones again kept our school moving forward during the summer months. Patty did an amazing job

with Kindergarten Orientation and welcoming new families. It is absolutely one of the best days to be part of our school community, watching how excited these kids are to begin school and how equally excited their families are, too.

Our school looks absolutely marvelous. This year we were without our regular summer tenant, the CASE collaborative. As a result, the custodial staff had the chance to do an incredibly deep cleaning of most of the classrooms and so our school is actually cleaner than it has been for a long time. Thanks to John Pacelli and Mike Fortin and all their helpers as well as the second shift custodians, Pete, Dave, and Julie. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

Just as we did last year, we enter our new school year with faculty changes, a schedule change, and a variation on academic specialization for the Sixth Grade. We have a remarkable teaching staff, an amazing support staff, and the enthusiastic support of the families of almost five hundred students.

Let's welcome our new faculty, our new students and a new school year. I am looking forward to a wonderful start to a wonderful year!

Mark Your Calendar

AUGUST

31, Friday
NO SCHOOL, Labor Day
Weekend

SEPTEMBER

3, Monday
NO SCHOOL, Labor Day

5, Wednesday
6th Grade Parents
Information Night, 6 PM

10, Monday
School Picture Day

12, Wednesday
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

17, Monday
NO SCHOOL, Rosh Hashanah

19, Wednesday
Back-to-School Night,
6-7:15 PM

25, Tuesday
Deadline to submit ads for
McT Directory

26, Wednesday
NO SCHOOL, Yom Kippur

OCTOBER

5, Friday
Orders due for Fall Fundraiser

8, Monday
NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day

30, Tuesday
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
No PM Kindergarten

31-November 2
Book Fair

NOVEMBER

2, Friday
McT Fall Social, 6-8 PM

McT Annual Fall Social

Save the Date!

The Fall Social is a night where McCarthy-Towne families come together and have fun. **Join us on Friday, November 2 from 6-8 PM** in the school cafeteria and gymnasium. There is something for everyone to enjoy and the whole family is welcome. Pizza is available and there are complimentary baked goods and light refreshments.

The night offers fun games with prizes, crafts, face painting and time to check out the offerings at McCarthy-Towne's annual book fair.

Volunteers are needed. If you'd like to help out please contact either Kat Hudson (katmudson@comcast.net) or Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com).



from Kate Murray and Tracey Smith, PTSO co-chairs

Welcome back to all of our returning families and all those families new to McCarthy-Towne! We hope you and your family had lots of enjoyable time together and summer fun adventures. As we welcomed the new kindergarten class to our community this past week, we were reminded of the role the PSTO has in our school and its mission to build and strengthen the McCarthy-Towne community. This is our shared goal for this upcoming school year and would like to take this opportunity to outline some of the ways that we will make this happen:

- New, streamlined electronic weekly newsletters that make it easier to find out about school events
- An updated PTSO website with important information at the click of your mouse
- A PTSO Facebook page and Twitter updates to keep everyone in the loop
- PTSO meetings held in the evening and during the day to accommodate a variety of parent schedules
- More special events and workshops focused on parent education and grade-level specific topics
- Easy and fun ways to get involved!

We look forward to an exciting year working with all of you. **We hope to see many of you at our first meeting of the year—Wednesday September 12 at 7 PM** in the faculty lounge. In the meantime (and anytime) please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, or if there is anything that you would like the PTSO to focus on this year—Kate Murray (lfdtmurray@verizon.net) and Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmillmedia.com).

Looking forward to a great year!

School Directory Information

The McCarthy-Towne School Directory is produced by the PTSO in conjunction with the school. The directory is distributed to each family and staff member to facilitate communication.

The information used in the directory will be taken from the "PowerSchool" emergency information you should have input or updated this summer. Every child enrolled at McCarthy-Towne will be included in the directory - name, address phone number, parent/guardian name(s) and email address—UNLESS you say "NO" on the "School/PTO Permissions" page of PowerSchool by Friday, September 14. Also, make sure all information on PowerSchool is accurate by September 14.

Please contact Patty Lee, Parent Involvement Coordinator, if you have any questions about the directory (978-264-4700 X3703 or plee@abschools.org).

6th Grade Parent Information Night

On **Wednesday, September 5, 6–7 PM**, the Sixth Grade Team will be sharing the inner workings of the Sixth Grade Rotation with parents in the Cafetorium. This is an opportunity to gain an understanding of the Sixth Grade schedule and how the students will rotate through the three different classrooms and content areas.

Classroom Potlucks

Classroom potluck planning will begin soon! These adult-only socials are a McCarthy-Towne tradition that gives the parents of each classroom a chance to meet outside of school. Each classroom needs a few volunteers to pull together the event. These get-togethers may be traditional potlucks or each classroom can choose anything they'd like to do to get everyone together. Prior potlucks have been at homes, party rooms, and restaurants. Volunteers don't have to host—you can just help coordinate the effort. Please look for the sign-up sheet in your classroom at the McCarthy-Towne Back-to-School Night on September 19 or email Sorrel Sammons (sorrelsammons@hotmail.com) to sign up.

McT Buddy Family Program

Are you an expert at navigating McT? And/or, are you a welcoming and friendly person? Would you be able to reach out to call and welcome a new family to our community, and possibly answer a question or two that you probably asked when you were new to McT? Please consider joining the ranks of the veteran Buddy families. With your perspective, you would be a tremendous asset to the program. The goal of the Buddy Family program is simply to make things easier and more pleasant for families new to McT. Last year the program welcomed more than thirty new families in grades K–6. If you are willing to become a Buddy family for the upcoming school year (2012–13), please contact Patty Lee (plee@abschools.org).

PTSO Open Positions

We have some open PTSO positions for next year. If you are interested, or want to be involved but aren't sure which position is best for you, contact Kate Murray (kmurray@mail.ab.mec.edu) or Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmillmedia.com).

Auction Co-chairs: Oversee the individual committees for the annual McT auction.

CPAC co-chair: (Cultural and Performing Arts Committee): Work with the existing co-chair to organize performances at McCarthy-Towne (3 or 4/year). Meet with CPAC reps from the other elementary schools, and occasionally preview performances at local schools and venues. (Must be available during the school day.)

Family Photo Day: Plan, publicize and work with the photographer to execute the annual Family Photo Day.

Funding Factory: Package and ship used ink cartridges that are collected at school to raise money for the PTSO

Grant Writing: Do you have grant writing experience? The McT staff occasionally needs assistance with this.

School Committee Liaison: Attend several school committee meetings (or watch on local cable) during the year. Write monthly school committee meeting updates for the McT Bulletin.

PTSO Fall Fundraisers: Something for Everyone!

After reviewing the fundraising trends of the past few years, the PTSO has decided on a "streamlined approach" for this fall. There are two options for McT families to participate, and we are hoping you will choose either or both options to help support our children.

One option will be our **Direct Appeal**. We have received feedback from McT parents as well as reports of success at several other district schools about such an option. Families will have the option to donate directly to the PTSO in a simple, straight forward, and tax-deductible manner. The Direct Appeal is indeed direct... 100% of the money families donate will support our school.

The other option for this year's Fall Fundraiser has something for everyone! **Gift wrap, Stonewall Kitchen products, Crabtree and Evelyn gift sets, chocolates, candles and more can be found in the Genevieve's fundraising brochures coming home in backpacks on September 14.** The fundraiser will run until October 5. Sell six items or more and receive a FREE day pass to CoCo Key Water Park in Fitchburg! Items will be delivered approximately three weeks after the close of the sale (pick up location and times: TBA).

As always, the McT PTSO will use the funds raised through either option to help fund classroom assistants, in-school events and supplies for Sloyd and Art Integration. Help out our school by donating directly and/or getting some holiday shopping done now!

Any questions? Contact Chris about the Direct Appeal (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com) and Lara about the Genevieve's fundraiser (laramaira@yahoo.com).

Directory Ad Placements

Once again, the PTSO is offering the placement of personal ads for parents of McCarthy-Towne children in the 2012-13 student directory. You can place a personal ad with a picture of your child (e.g., congratulations, happy birthday) as a fun way to memorialize your child's years at McT. This is also a great opportunity to advertise your own home-based business! Get your name out to all McT families!

Refer to the attached order form for additional information and pricing. **The deadline for ad submissions is September 25.** If you would like to place a personal ad, contact Lauren Richardt (laurenrichardt@yahoo.com or 978-263-3043). For business ads please contact Jennifer Mabardy (jennifermabardy@comcast.net or 978-274-2295).

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):

Joan McCaffrey and Jen Mabardy for coming into the office to help with all the laminating before school opened. Your continued support in the office has helped us tremendously

Our McCarthy-Towne Student Volunteers who came in to help with our New Student Orientation: Rory Butler, Riley Callison, Julia Lee, Rebecka Mendelsohn, Tim DiPalo, Henry Joyce, Emilia Teran and Avery Callison. You extended such a warm welcome to our new students, helping them find their way around school and answering their questions. They will always remember their first experience at McCarthy-Towne as a positive, fun-filled adventure.

Acton/AB Schools E-mails Changing

The Acton/AB school system is transitioning the e-mail system from First Class (i.e., “@mail.ab.mec.edu”) to ABSchools, a Google platform. Currently all staff have an ABSchools account, and all e-mail sent to First Class addresses will be forwarded to ABSchools. However, after January 1, 2013, the transition will be complete and all e-mail will need to be sent to ABSchools. E-mail addresses for all staff will still be first initial plus last name of staff member followed by “@abschools.org”. For instance, Patty Lee’s e-mail address will become plee@abschools.org. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Student Dismissal Cards

Students will be bringing home YELLOW Dismissal Cards the first week of school. Please check your child’s backpack for the Dismissal Card, fill out the appropriate information for each child and return it to school ASAP. The purpose of these cards is to provide the office and teachers with information about where students will be going each day after school on a regular basis. These cards are kept in the office in case questions come up (particularly at dismissal time which is often very hectic) about where a student is supposed to go after school. Please notify the office in writing of any permanent change to these dismissal arrangements, so we can update this information—i.e., fill out a permanent Dismissal Pass or Bus Pas if there are changes.

Parent Volunteer Forms

Updated forms for volunteering at the school (e.g., office, classroom help, library) and with any of our wonderful PTSO activities were sent home the first week of school. Forms are also available on the McT PTSO website at www.mctptso.org. We gladly welcome any and all volunteers for any amount of time you can help out. There is something for everyone. If you have volunteered in the past and want to continue volunteering, don’t forget to send in an updated form as many of our committee chairs have changed. Forms can be sent into the office. If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Patty Lee (978-264-4700 X3703 or plee@abschools.org)

Outdoor Portraits for School Picture Day

School Picture Day is coming up soon on Monday, September 10. We are very excited about our new school photographer—Coffee Pond Photography. Weather permitting, they will be taking outdoor portraits of our kids! Coffee Pond has done outdoor portraits for Merriam, Douglas and Conant Schools. Please check your child’s backpack for the order form.

Help the Sloyd Studio be Green (red, yellow and blue too)

The Sloyd Studio happily accepts and repurposes a variety of items, including: paper egg cartons, newspaper, cardboard, scrap wood, small plastic containers, juice caps, bubble wrap, corks, small electronics, and high-heeled shoes. (Yes, you read correctly, your old shoes will be transformed into sculpture. I hope to collect enough shoes to create a rainforest of tropical birds; the spikier the heel, the better!)

Parent volunteers are an integral part of the Sloyd program. Your help is needed to prepare materials and keep the studio organized. If you are interested and able to commit to a few hours weekly or bi-weekly, please e-mail Heidi (hkupferman@abschools.org).

Important Information for all Parents Regarding Medications

Medication administration is an important issue in schools. Some students require medications at school in order to survive. Others need medications in order to learn. Occasionally, students require antibiotics during the day following a bacterial infection.

The goal of your School Nurse is to administer only those medications that are absolutely necessary during the school day. All other medications should be given at home either before or after school.

State law requires a written order by a licensed prescriber and written parental permission before any medication can be administered to students, including over-the-counter medications. You can obtain forms for this purpose from the School Nurse, on the school website (see “Health & Nursing Services), or from most Health Care Providers. All medication MUST be in the original labeled container and be labeled with the student’s name. The School Nurse will not administer the following: expired medications, medications delivered in unlabeled containers, and medications in inappropriate containers such as zip-loc bags.

For the safety of all students, no medications are to be carried to school by students. The only exception to this rule is for Junior High and High School students who are allowed to carry inhalers or Epi-pens after certain requirements are met.

With your help, the School Nurse can provide a safe, supervised environment for students who require medications at school. Please contact the McT School Nurse, Betty Johns, at 978-264-3374 with any questions.

2012–2013 PTSO Steering Committee

Below is the 2012–2013 McT PTSO Steering Committee to be approved at the next PTSO meeting on Wednesday, September 12 at 7 PM.

WE NEED YOU! There are still some open positions for next year. Please see page 3 for more details on the openings. If you are interested in any of the open positions, or if you want to be involved but are not sure which position would best fit you, please contact either Kate Murray (lfdtmurray@verizon.net) or Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmillmedia.com).

Sr. Chair	Kate Murray
Jr. Chair	Tracey Smith
Treasurer	Chris Hanlon
Secretary	Carolyn Dee
Faculty Reps	Nancy Giansante
School Committee Liaison	Position Open
Auction Co-Chairs	2 Positions Open
Book Fair	Mimi Kirkman Susan Lerner
Book Gifting	Laurie Taylor-Teran
Bulletin Editor	Rebecca MacNeill
Bulletin Collator	Kate Hoitt
Buddy Family	Patty Lee
Constant Contact	Bridget Matz
CPAC	Position Open Ann Budner
Directory	Jennifer Mabardy Lauren Richardt
Donelan's Receipts	Kate Hoitt
Fall Fundraiser: Holiday Treats	Lara Maira
Fall Social	Kat Hudson Chris Hanlon
Family Photo Day	2 Positions Open
Funding Factory	Position Open
Game Day Social	Kim McGlothin

General Mills Box Tops	Debbie Walz
Grant Writing	Position Open
Hospitality	Tracey Smith
Ice Cream Social	Maya Minkin Liz Walker
International Liaison	Preeti Bhuvan Priya Venkatraman
Inter-School Council Rep	Bridget Matz
Lip Sync	Deb Verner Karen Anderson Bridget Matz
P.D.B. Lost and Found	Mary Beilman Petra Charisse
P.D.B. Landscape Comm	Karen Dean
P.D.B. Steering Comm. Rep	Bridget Matz
Potlucks	Sorrell Sammons
PTSO Website	Maria Greene
Website Content Manager	Christine Brault
Publicity/Shopping Svc Coord.	Matt Benway
Safe Arrival	Anne-Marie Sweeney
School Photo Coordinator	Rebecca MacNeill
School Spiritwear	Michele Abroff
SCRIP	Wendy Schaad Mimi Kirkman
Yard Sale	Julie Weir Laura Welch

Attendance at School: Should I Keep My Child Home with this Illness?

from Betty Johns, McT School Nurse

Fever

Fevers are generally a sign of illness/infection. Your child should stay home if his/her **TEMPERATURE is 100° F or above**. He/she should not return to school until their temperature has been normal (97–99 F) for at least 24 hours.

Cold, Cough, Sore Throat

Most children can attend school with cold symptoms as long as they do not have a fever. If your child has a **cold with a fever over 100° F**, he/she should be kept at home and your healthcare provider should be consulted. Your child should also **stay home if they have greenish nasal discharge or cough production. A sore throat with a fever, swollen glands, headache, stomachache, or rash may indicate strep**. You should consult your child's doctor for evaluation. If strep is confirmed, your child may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotics, if they feel better.

Stomachache, Vomiting, Diarrhea

A child with **vomiting and/or diarrhea should be kept at home until symptoms have resolved for at least 12 hours**. Your child also needs to be able to eat and drink normally before returning. Consult your doctor if you suspect dehydration.

Red Eyes

Your child should stay home if he/she has red eyes that itch and/or have a crusty discharge. Consult your doctor for evaluation of possible conjunctivitis. Your child may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.

Pain

Earache: Consult your doctor if your child complains of ear pain.

Toothache: Consult your dentist.

Headache: If headaches are frequent you should consult your doctor. Dehydration, stress, and fatigue can cause a headache.

Rash

A rash is usually a sign of a viral illness. It also may be a reaction to medication, plants, or chemicals such as soaps or detergents. If your child has **an unusual rash or it is associated with a fever, contact your doctor**.

Tips to Stay Healthy

- The best way to prevent the spread of infection is good hand washing.
- Give your child a separate towel and washcloth.
- Change your child's toothbrush after an illness and every 3 months.
- Have your child examined annually by her/his health care provider.
- School age children require at least 8–10 hours of sleep each night.
- A healthy diet is important in creating a healthy student.
- Please call the school nurse, Betty Johns, if you have any questions or concerns (978-264-3374).

