



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

September 6, 2013
Volume 43, No 1

September Start

by David Krane, McT Principal

Greetings and welcome to a new school year! We have had beautiful weather for our first week together and we are all beginning to get back into the swing of things. I have always enjoyed this kind of an early start because, one would think, it would be helpful at the end of the year in the event of multiple snow days. Last year, of course, proved that wrong as we experienced six snow days, pushing the year all the way to June 24. We persevere; though, and always hope for the best!

We are again welcoming new faculty and staff to McCarthy-Towne this year. Amy-Jo Conant will be joining the Fifth Grade Team, and Nancy Wurtz is the new Half-Day Kindergarten teacher. Nancy will be joined by our new Kindergarten assistant, Margie Williamson. All arrivals new to our McCarthy-Towne School community are extraordinarily qualified and we are delighted to have all of them as part of our school community.

Our intrepid office staff, including Office Administrator Astrid Trostorff, Tracy Smith, Parent Involvement Coordinator, and Carol Chytil, our new Office Assistant for things financial, have kept our school moving forward during the summer months. Tracy 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. Carol did an equally impressive job, working on school orders and getting a feel for the new position. Our office staff has fit right in to the flow of the school!

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!

School Picture Day: Friday, September 13

School Picture Day is coming up next week on Friday, September 13. Weather permitting, school pictures will be taken outdoors. Please check your child's backpack for the order form from Coffee Pond and send it back as soon as possible.

A few volunteers are needed to help make picture day run smoothly. Crowd control is essential since the kids will be outside of the building. The picture taking process happens very fast and only a couple classrooms will be coming for pictures at a time. Volunteers are needed from 8:45-11 AM and 11 AM-12:30 PM. Please consider helping! This is your chance to make sure your child's hair is in perfect condition for picture day. Please contact Rebecca MacNeill (rebeccamacneill@gmail.com) with your time preference.

Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 11, Wednesday**
PTSO Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 13, Friday**
School Picture Day
- 20, Friday**
McT Mileage Club Begins, 7:45-8:15 AM
Scrip Orders Due
Family Bowling Night at Acton Bowladrome, 6-10 PM
- 23, Monday**
Deadline to submit ads for McT Directory
- 25, Wednesday**
Back-to-School Night, 6 PM

OCTOBER

- 5&6, Saturday/Sunday**
Family Photo Weekend
- 14, Monday**
NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
- 29, Tuesday**
Early Dismissal (12:15 PM)
- 30, Wednesday**
Book Fair Begins

NOVEMBER

- 1, Friday**
McT Fall Social, 6-8 PM

The 2013-2014 school calendar is available for download at:
<http://www.ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/2013-2014calendar.pdf>



from Tracey Smith and Shelley Cole, PTSO co-chairs

Welcome back to all of our returning families and WELCOME to all our new families! We hope you had a fabulous and relaxing summer.

If you're new to the school, one of the things you'll soon discover is that we are fortunate to have a very active PTSO, filled with amazing parents who help the school in many different ways. To kick off another year, I'd like to invite you all to join us at the first PTSO meeting of the year. Whether you're a long-time McT parent or brand new to the school, you are already a part of the PTSO and we'd love to have you join us each month. **Our first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30 PM** in the Faculty Lounge. (For those of you new to the school, the Faculty Lounge is located on the second floor of the building, directly above the Library.) These meetings are where you'll get the latest information from David on all the happenings around school and in the classrooms, hear about upcoming events from various committee chair people, and learn about the different ways you can get involved. The full 2013-14 schedule is posted on the PTSO website at www.mctptso.org.

We have a busy calendar of events this year; the partial list includes:

- Family Photo Days: October 5th and 6th
- Book Fair: October 30th–November 1st
- Fall Family Social: November 1st
- McCarthy-Towne Auction: March 22nd!
- LipSync Show: April 5th
- McT Yard Sale: May 3rd
- Family Field Day: End of May

We hope to see you all these event! We also hope you'll contact us if you have any questions, concerns or ideas involving the PTSO: Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmillmedia.com) and Shelley Cole (sd@shelleydrouin.com).

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 20. **Also, please make sure that all information on PowerSchool is accurate by September, 20.**

Please contact Tracey Smith, *Parent Involvement Coordinator*, if you have any questions about the directory (978-264-4700 X3703 or tsmith@abschools.org).

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 this school year, please contact Tracey Smith (tsmith@abschools.org).

Back-to-School Night

McCarthy-Towne School Back-to-School Night is on Wednesday, September 25 beginning at 6 PM. (A specific schedule will be going home in backpacks and in the McT Howler the week before.)

Back-to-School Night is for adults only, so add it to your calendar and get your babysitter now.

McT Annual Fall Social

Save the Date!

McCarthy-Towne's Annual Fall Social will be held on Friday, November 1 from 6-8 PM at the school. The night offers games with prizes to be won, crafts, tattoos and face painting. It's a great opportunity for kids to play with old and new friends and for parents to get to know each other. The annual book sale will also be taking place in the lobby.

Admission is free for adults and only \$5 per child. Pizza will be for sale with complimentary baked goods and refreshments. This is not a drop-off event so make arrangements to attend with your child(ren) or have them chaperoned.

Volunteers are needed to help make the night a success. Help with games, pizza sales, admission tickets, face painting and more. Please contact Kat Hudson (katmhudson@comcast.net or 978-815-9800) if you are interested in volunteering.

If you have general questions, please contact either Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com) or Kat Hudson (katmhudson@comcast.net).

McT 2014 Auction!

First and foremost, the Auction team is THRILLED to announce that Michele Caterina has come aboard to help plan the 2014 McT Auction. We couldn't be happier to have her as our new Auction Co-Chair!

The date is on our calendar... you need to put it on yours! The pertinent details you need to know now are as follows:

WHAT: The 2014 McCarthy-Towne School Auction

WHEN: Saturday, March 22, 2014, doors open at 5:30 PM

WHERE: Devens Common Center at the Springhill Suites by Marriott in Devens, MA

There will be many more details to follow in the coming months. If you want IN on the auction planning, please contact either Auction Co-Chair—Jennifer Mabardy (jennifermabardy@comcast.net) or Michele Caterina (michelecaterina1@gmail.com). We still have a couple of chair positions available! We will be hosting a 2014 Auction kick-off party in the month of September, please contact us if you have interest in learning more! We are always looking for more hands, ideas and energy to join the amazing team we already have in place!

Directory Ad Placements

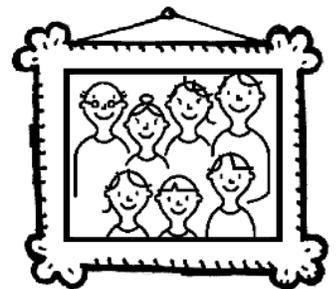
McCarthy-Towne parents have the unique opportunity to place ads in the McCarthy-Towne 2013-2014 directory. Placing a personal ad with a picture of your child and a short message (e.g., congratulations, happy birthday) is a fun way to memorialize your child's years at McT. Directory advertisement is also a great way to advertise your own home-based business and get your name out to all McT families! **The deadline for ad submissions is September 23.** If you would like to place an ad or have questions about ads, please contact Shannon Callison (callison.shannon@gmail.com).

Family Photo Weekend is Back!

McCarthy-Towne's Family Photo Weekend is back and it's coming up soon! **On Saturday October 5th and Sunday October 6th**, Shelley Drouin Photography will be photographing you and your family for a McT fundraiser. You can view samples of Shelley's work on her website (www.shelleydrouin.com) or on her Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ShelleyDrouinPhotography).

Shelley will be photographing in her yard and on her neighbor's property. There will be plenty of beautiful backgrounds including multiple barns and a tree swing. These images will be great on your living room wall or on a holiday card. Sittings will be in 30 minute blocks starting at 8:30 AM and ending at 6 PM. If there is rain she will set up a canopy to still get the wonderful backgrounds.

The sitting fee is \$50. The best part is \$40 goes to McT! These funds will go far to help out our kids. To schedule a sitting or if you have questions, please contact Shelley (sd@shelleydrouin.com or 617-529-3629). The sitting fee will be due the day of the sitting.



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 last week.

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 Tracey Smith (tsmith@abschools.org).

Merrowvista News

As part of the fundraising efforts for the upcoming 5th grade field trip to Merrowvista, there will be a **Family Bowling night at the Acton Bowladrome on Friday, September 20th from 6-10 PM.** For one price you will get two hours of bowling, shoe rental, appetizers and soft drinks. It's sure to be a fun night and we hope to see you there!

If you haven't seen it already, look through the rest of the "backpack" papers for the ticket order form. This is a fundraiser for the 5th grade class, but all McT families are invited to purchase tickets and join the fun!

Looking for Parent Potluck Volunteers

The kids definitely get their fair share of parties with their class, but as parents, we really only get one—the Parent Potluck! These typically adult-only socials are a McCarthy-Towne tradition that gives the parents of each classroom a chance to get together outside of school. It's a time to meet parents of your child's classmates, reconnect after a long summer apart, or just an excuse to have a night out with some good food. These events can be as simple or elaborate as you choose, but each classroom needs a few volunteers to pull together the event details, such as picking a venue, inviting the class, and figuring out refreshments. Sign-up sheets will be posted at Back-to-School Night on September 25, but if you are available to volunteer for your child's class, please email Sorrel Sammons (sorrelsammons@hotmail.com) to sign up.

Thank You!

from Tracey Smith, Parent Involvement Coordinator

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who make life in the office and around the school so much easier and fun including (but not limited to):

Jen Mabardy and Jody Long for coming into school before it even started to plow through the piles of laminating. Your willingness to come in helped tremendously!

The student volunteers who came in at the end of summer to help with our New Student Orientation: Hana Chytil, Marc Ford, Madison Mabardy, Kelsey Maira, Riley Smith, and Emilia Teran. You extended such a warm welcome to all the new students and were very informative as you guided them around the school on the scavenger hunt. You were instrumental in helping make their first experience at McT a fun-filled and happy day.

And finally, to our core group of Office Volunteers who are pitching in extra hours during September to help get our year off to a great start: Karen Benn, Shannon Callison, Petra Charisse, Christine Kobelski, Jennifer Nelson, Lisa Petrocchi, Fiona Starr, and Mariah Straayer.

Important Information for all Parents Regarding Medications

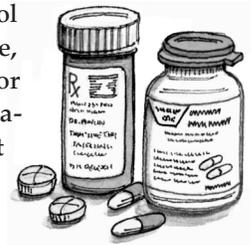
Medication administration is an important issue in schools. Some students require medications at school in order to survive. Others need medications in order to learn. Occasionally, students require antibiotics during the day following a bacterial infection.

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.



Put your Shopping Dollars to Work by Purchasing Scrip Gift Cards Today!



Welcome back to another fantastic school year! As one of McCarthy-Towne's most profitable fundraisers, we will once again be running the Scrip Gift Card Program on a monthly basis (we typically make \$4,000-\$5,000 a year with this program). Fortunately, this is a fundraiser that doesn't require you to sell anything; you simply support the school by making your regular household purchases! And, family, friends and relatives can also participate to support McCarthy-Towne. Here's what it's all about:

What is Scrip?

Scrip is just another term for gift cards. Scrip fundraising is a program that allows families to raise money for McCarthy-Towne by using gift cards, or Scrip, to pay for everyday purchases. They're the same gift cards that you buy at the store, and many popular merchants participate in our Scrip program including iTunes, Amazon, CVS, Roche Bros., and many, many others.

How does it work?

It's simple. Scrip participating merchants agree to sell gift cards to our organization at a bulk rate discount. McT families, like yours, buy the gift cards for full face value, redeem them for full face value, and our school keeps the vendor contribution as revenue. Scrip is exciting because everybody wins:

- The merchant gets cash up front and repeat business...
- You get a powerful fundraising alternative that involves no selling...
- Our school gets a regular source of revenue.

How can I order?

It's easy to order; simply fill out the attached order form with payment and send it in with your child (his/her teacher will send it to the office) or you can order the cards online. You can even re-load many cards yourself online. You can find directions on how to order and/or set up an online account (and pay online) on the back of the Scrip order form and on the McT PTSO website—www.mctptso.org/fundraising/Scrip. **The September order deadline is Friday, September 20th by 2:30 PM.** Typically, your store cards will be in your hands one week after the deadline.

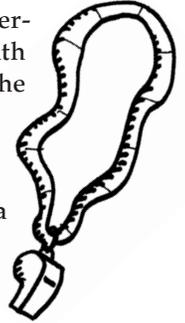
If you have questions about the Scrip program, please contact Christine Russell (QofHearts@gmail.com).

From the Food Service Department

The Food Service Department will be in the lobby during the McT Back-to-School Night (Wednesday, September 25 at 6 PM) to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to stop by. We will have copies of the lunch menus, free and reduced lunch applications, a suggestion box, information on payment (either on-line or by way of check or cash), and most importantly... food samples! Please be sure to visit our table and say hello.

McT Mileage Club

The McT Mileage Club is a morning exercise program for McT students along with any parents who wish to join in the fun. The group is heading into its second year and is led by Chris Hanlon, parent of Clark (4th grade) and Josie (2nd grade), and Dave James, McT's P.E. teacher. Using a measured course in the back playground, McT Milers will log laps by running, jogging, walking, skipping, strolling (or some combination of those). They will also use a chart to track their mileage and will receive a foot token at certain accumulated distances. McT Mileage Club is a free program that operates on a drop-in basis. Come as often as you can, but there does not have to be an "every week" commitment. Here are the other details:



When: Friday mornings, 7:45–8:15 AM, **beginning on September 20th** and going until the weather is no longer enjoyable. **There will be a special opening day on Thursday, September 12th.** (This has been moved due to Picture Day on Friday.)

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, as is a small snack to have on the walk to the front of school.

How to get involved: Parents need to complete a form for each child participating in McT Mileage Club. Those 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 to contact with questions or to volunteer: Chris Hanlon (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com).

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).

