



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

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September Start

by David Krane, McT Principal

Greetings and welcome to a new school year! It has been an amazing summer in terms of the consistently beautiful weather that we have had and it was a very nice extra week before the beginning of the new year. This is the first start after Labor Day since I began at McCarthy-Towne and the additional couple of days at the end of August were very welcome, indeed.

We are again welcoming new faculty and staff to McCarthy-Towne this year. Lindsey Howe will be joining Karen Shiebler and Amy-Jo Conant on the Fifth Grade Team, and Kathryn O'Hara will be joining David Rachlin and Noreen Cohen on the Fourth Grade Team. Callie O'Connor will become part of the Sixth Grade Team, since Kate Peretz' departure to become an Assistant Principal in Franklin. All arrivals new to McCarthy-Towne School 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, Tracey Smith, Parent Involvement Coordinator, and Carol Chytil, our 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 all of our 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 putting new procedures in place as a result of regionalization. Our office staff has fit right in to the flow of the school!

We are also welcoming our new Superintendent, Glenn Brand, as he begins his tenure. I anticipate seeing a lot of Glenn around our school, so stop and say hello if you see him!

Our school looks absolutely marvelous. This year we were again 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

SEPTEMBER

- 4, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 12, Friday**
School Picture Day
- 17, Wednesday**
PTSO Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 18, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 19, Friday**
McT Mileage Club Begins, 8:20-9:05 AM
- 22, Monday**
Activities EXPO, 6-8 PM
- 25, Thursday**
NO SCHOOL, Rosh Hashanah
- 26, Friday**
Deadline to submit ads for McT Directory

OCTOBER

- 1, Wednesday**
Back-to-School Night, 6 PM
- 2, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 4&5, Saturday/Sunday**
Family Photo Weekend
- 13, Monday**
NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
- 16, Thursday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 22, Wednesday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
- 28, Tuesday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)

NEW!! Acton Area Activities Expo!

Would you love more information on things for your kids to do after school? Come join us for the first ever **Acton Area Activities Expo!** Vendors representing music lessons, art and crafting classes, sports programs (and more!) will be on hand to chat with you and give you information on class schedules, pricing, and how to register. We are also excited about that a couple of our vendors will be demonstrating their activities!

Join us on Monday, September 22nd from 6-8 PM in the Parker Damon Cafetorium! **This event is FREE** and open to all Acton (and surrounding towns) families.



from Shelley Cole and Julie Weir, PTSO co-chairs

Welcome back to all of our returning families and WELCOME to all our new families! We hope you all had a great summer. If you're new to McT, one of the things you'll discover is that we are fortunate to have a very active PTSO, filled with engaged parents who help the school in many different ways, caring teachers who communicate with the wider community, and talented students who bring real-time perspective to our proceedings. To kick off another year, join us at the first PTSO meeting. You are already a member of the PTSO and we look forward to hearing your ideas for the coming year. **Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30 PM in the Faculty Lounge** (located on the second floor of the building, directly above the Library). These meetings are where you'll get the latest information from David Krane 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 2014–15 schedule is posted on the PTSO website at www.mctptso.org. We have a busy calendar of events this year; the partial list includes:

- **Our first ever Activities Expo:** September 22nd, 6–8 PM
- **Back-to-school Night:** October 1st, 6 PM
- **Family Photo Days:** October 4th and 5th
- **Book Fair:** November 5th–7th
- **Fall Family Social:** November 7th
- **McCarthy-Towne Auction:** March 28th!
- **McT Yard Sale:** April 2nd

We hope to see you all at these events, and please keep an eye out for more ways you can be part of our student's school community! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or ideas involving the PTSO: Shelley Cole (sd@shelleydrouin.com) and Julie Weir (julieannweir@yahoo.com).

McT Mileage Club

The McT Mileage Club is a free morning exercise program for McT students/parents/siblings. Again, it will be led by Chris Hanlon and Dave James. Using a measured course, McT Milers will log laps by running, jogging, walking, skipping, strolling (or some combination thereof). 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 more details:

When? Friday mornings, 8:20–9:05 AM, starting Sept. 19th and going until the weather is no longer enjoyable.

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 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 Mileage Club sessions. The form will also be sent to families on the McT Mileage Club e-mail group.

Contact Chris (hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com) with questions about the program or to volunteer.

Box Tops for CA\$H for McT

Box Tops is an easy way for families to contribute to their child's education. Just by purchasing Box Tops products, clipping the coupons and sending them into school, we earn cash that can be used to buy anything we need.

Send them to school with your child or drop-off in the office. **The next Box Tops collection deadline is Friday, October 17.** 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, David's fourth grade class won both contests and chose lots of fun school supplies for their classroom.

You can also drop off Box Tops in the blue box labeled "McCarthy-Towne Box Tops" at Roche Bros. For a list of participating products, visit www.btfe.com. If you have questions about the Box Top program, please contact Melissa Kaplan Morse (mkmorse1@msn.com).

Back-to-School Night

McCarthy-Towne School Back-to-School Night is on Wednesday, October 1 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.

Family Photo Weekend!

Family Photo Weekend is coming soon! **On Saturday, October 4th or Sunday, October 5th**, Shelley Drouin Photography will be available to photograph you and your family for a McT fundraiser. To check out Shelley's work visit www.shelleydrouin.com or on Facebook at 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 beautiful on your living room wall or Holiday card. The sittings will be in 30 minute blocks between 8:30 AM and 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! **To schedule a sitting contact Shelley (617-529-3629 or sd@shelleydrouin.com)**. The sitting fee will be due the day of the sitting. This fundraiser booked up quick last year so if you like to plan ahead now's the time!

Directory Ad Placements

McCarthy-Towne parents have the unique opportunity to place ads in the McCarthy-Towne 2014–2015 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 26**. If you would like to place an ad or have any questions about ads, please contact Fiona Starr (fiona.starr@gmail.com).

School Council Nominations

The McCarthy-Towne School Council is seeking nominations to fill two parent representative slots to the council. These are two-year term positions.

Visit www.mct.abschools.org/school-council for the description of the McCarthy-Towne School Council.

A nomination sheet with more information is attached to the back of this Bulletin. **Please submit any nominations to the school office by Monday, September 15**.

Food Service News

Visit www.abschools.org/departments/food-services to view the Food Service Welcome Letter where you will find all kinds of information pertaining to free and reduced lunch applications, lunch prepayment system, and students lunch IDs.

The September menu is available on the Food Service website at www.abschools.org/departments/food-services/lunch-menus.

News from the Art Studio

Did you know that McT Visual Arts has a website?

Visit www.mct.abschools.org and find a link under the Community heading "Classroom Webpages". Keep up to date on the latest art happenings, as well as student art exhibits, district art events and museum shows.

Would you like to volunteer in the art studio? We love having family members as part of our creative team, especially if you're able to commit to a regular weekly or bi-weekly schedule. Please contact Heidi (hkupferman@abschool.org) if you're interested.

Creative collectors wanted! McT art students are quite imaginative when it comes to transforming "trash" into artistic treasures. Please donate items such as: plastic caps, paper egg cartons, yogurt containers, small bits of hardware, cardboard tubes, corks, etc.

School Picture Day: Friday, September 12

School Picture Day is Friday, September 12. Weather permitting, pictures will be taken outdoors. Check your child's backpack for the Coffee Pond order form and send it back as soon as possible.

Sibling Discount! Coffee Pond offers a discount for families with three or more students. This applies to all siblings that attend schools that use Coffee Pond. See the order form for details.

Volunteers are needed to help make picture day run smoothly! Help is needed from 9:30–11 AM or 11 AM–12:45 PM. 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.

School Directory Information

The McCarthy-Towne School Directory is produced by the PTO 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).

Head Lice Myths and Facts

Myth: It is easy to get lice.

Fact: Lice are spread by head-to-head contact and are much harder to get than a cold, the flu, ear infections, pink eye, strep throat or impetigo.

Myth: Avoiding lice is important, as they are dirty and spread disease.

Fact: Lice do not spread any known disease, nor are they impacted by hygiene.

Myth: Head lice are very sturdy creatures and can survive many days off a human head in furniture, linens, or clothing.

Fact: Head lice need a blood meal every few hours in addition to the warmth and humidity of the human scalp to survive. When off the human body, in optimal conditions, they cannot survive for more than 24–36 hours.

Myth: Nits (lice eggs) can fall off a person's head, hatch, and cause another person to get lice.

Fact: Nits are glued to the hair shaft by a cement-like substance and are very hard to remove. When a nymph is hatched, it must quickly have the warmth and food source of a head to survive.

Myth: Cutting a person's hair will prevent head lice infestations.

Fact: The length of a person's hair does not prevent head lice infestations.

Myth: You can get head lice from sitting at a desk next to someone who is infested with head lice.

Fact: Head lice are spread through direct head-to-head contact. The lice do not hop, jump, or fly, so sitting near someone with head lice does not increase the risk of getting the lice.

Myth: Lice are commonly spread throughout schools.

Fact: Transmissions in schools are rare. It is more common to get head lice from family members, overnight guests, and playmates who spend a lot of time together.

Myth: Lice are commonly spread through hats, helmets, or headphones.

Fact: Although the spreading of lice through hats, helmets, or headphones is possible, it is rare. It is more common for transmission to occur from pillows, hairbrushes, or bedding. Transmission primarily occurs through head-to-head contact.

Myth: Schools and child-care facilities should screen all children for head lice, so everyone can be treated and the spread of head lice will be prevented.

Fact: Having regularly scheduled mass screenings does not reduce the incidence of head lice.

Myth: "No-nit" policies reduce the risk of head lice in schools and child-care facilities.

Fact: Research shows "no-nit" policies do not decrease the number of cases of head lice. They do increase the risk of incorrect diagnosis of head lice, the number of days children are out of school, and negative social stigma associated with head lice. They also may hinder academic performance.

Myth: You can get lice from your dog or other pets.

Fact: Head lice are specific to humans. You can get human lice only from other humans. You cannot give your pets lice.

Definitions

Infestation: having multiple insects present and reproducing, in this case, on a human head

Lice: more than one louse

Louse: small insect that lives on the scalp (singular)

Nits: eggs, dead or alive, of a louse

Parasite: an organism that lives off another, i.e. lice surviving on the blood of humans

Pediculosis: having an infestation of lice You can get lice from your dog or other pets.