

# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

September 3, 2015  
Volume 45, No 1

## 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. Although summer felt a bit short this year because of our late ending, it was still an opportunity to rest and recharge. There is always an amazing energy as we begin the new school year!

We are again welcoming new faculty and staff to McCarthy-Towne this year. Kestrel Dunn has joined the Kindergarten team as our Half-Day teacher, and Justin Kessler and Jillian Short are the new members of the Fifth Grade team and, last but hardly least, Sarah Ricci will be joining Kathryn and Noreen on the Fourth Grade team. All arrivals new to McCarthy-Towne School are extraordinarily qualified and we are delighted to have all becoming part of our school community. Please say hello if you are in their vicinity.

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. For me, Kindergarten Orientation 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 organizational procedures in our continuing effort to save money and staff/faculty time. Our office staff has fit right in to the flow of the school!

Our school looks absolutely marvelous. McT hosted the summer classrooms this year, so there was a lot of work to be done here at McT in a short amount of time for John and his crews. But they persevered and did a wonderful job, opening all of the classrooms in time for teachers to be able to work on them. 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 an excited anticipation about the new year. 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, Friday**  
NO SCHOOL, holiday weekend
- 7, Monday**  
NO SCHOOL, Labor Day
- 9, Wednesday**  
School Picture Day
- 14, Thursday**  
NO SCHOOL, Rosh Hashanah
- 15, Tuesday**  
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 16, Wednesday**  
Back-to-School Night, 6 PM
- 17, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 18, Friday**  
McT Mileage Club Begins
- 23, Wednesday**  
NO SCHOOL, Yom Kippur
- 25, Friday**  
Deadline to submit ads for McT Directory
- 28, Monday**  
Activities EXPO, 6-8 PM

### OCTOBER

- 1, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 3&4, Saturday/Sunday**  
Family Photo Weekend
- 12, Monday**  
NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
- 15, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 22, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)
- 29, Thursday**  
Early Dismissal (12:20 PM)

## Acton Area Activities Expo!

Would you love more information on things for your kids to do after school? Come join us for the **Acton Area Activities Expo!** Businesses focused on music lessons, art and crafting classes, sports programs (and more!) will be on hand with information, schedules, pricing, and registration. Bring the whole family to watch live demonstrations!

**Join us on Monday, September 28th from 6-8 PM** in the Parker Damon Cafetorium! **This event is FREE** and open to all Acton (and surrounding towns) families. If you have any questions, send an email to [activitiesexpo@mctptso.org](mailto:activitiesexpo@mctptso.org).



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

Welcome back, we hope you all had a fantastic summer! If you're new to McT, we would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in our PTSO. Our school is fortunate to have a very active group filled with engaged parents who participate at various levels, caring teachers who communicate classroom activities, and talented students who bring real-time perspective to our proceedings. **Join us at the first PTSO meeting on Tuesday, September 15th at 7 PM in the library.** As a member of the McCarthy-Towne community you are already a member of the PTSO and we look forward to hearing ideas for the coming year. These meetings are where you'll get the latest information from Principal David Krane on all the school happenings, hear about upcoming events, and learn about the different ways you can get involved. This year we will also welcome a couple of special guests. The full 2015-16 meeting schedule is posted on the PTSO website at [www.mctptso.org](http://www.mctptso.org).

In addition to our monthly meetings we have a busy calendar of events and fundraisers this year. Events and their steering committee members can be found at [www.mctptso.org](http://www.mctptso.org). There's even a Google calendar to view and download events, school holidays and more to your personal calendar. Please reference this list to schedule how and what you would like to participate in. Be sure to check out the attached flyer for a more comprehensive list of events and fundraisers and the costs associated.

### Events for 2015-16

**Activities Expo:** Monday, September 28th, 6-8 PM (no cost to attend and open to the public!)

**Back-to-School Night:** Wednesday, September 16th, 6 PM

**Family Photo Days:** Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th

**Scholastic Book Fair:** November 4th-6th (during school hours and during Fall Social)

**Fall Family Social:** Friday, November 6th

**Lip Sync Concert:** Saturday, March 19th

**McCarthy-Towne Auction:** Saturday, April 9th

**McT Yard Sale:** Saturday, April 30th

**Family Field Day:** Thursday, June 2nd

As always there is no obligation to participate but any contribution of time, money, or supplies is greatly appreciated and enhances your students elementary experience. We hope to see you at these events, and please keep an eye out for more ways you can be part of your student's school community! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or ideas involving the PTSO—Julie Weir ([julieannweir@yahoo.com](mailto:julieannweir@yahoo.com)) and Julie Hobbs ([juliemhobbs@gmail.com](mailto:juliemhobbs@gmail.com)). Looking forward to a great year!

## Back-to-School Night

**McCarthy-Towne School Back-to-School Night is on Wednesday, September 16th** 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.

## Food Service Website

Visit [www.abschools.org/departments/food-services](http://www.abschools.org/departments/food-services) to find lunch menus, free and reduced lunch applications, prepayment information, as well as a newsletter that gives information for families.

## Directory Ad Placements

Getting ready for your last year at McT? Why not celebrate your child with a directory ad? Memorialize your sixth grader with a picture and a short message in this year's directory.

Want to celebrate a child's birthday or a special occasion? Put in a picture and short message.

Have a business? Get your name in front of school families every time they use the directory!

As McCarthy-Towne parents, you get a discounted rate. **The deadline for ad submissions is Friday, September 25.** If you would like to place an ad in the directory or have any questions about ads, please contact Christi Andersen ([christiandersen@gmail.com](mailto:christiandersen@gmail.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 18. **Also, please make sure that all information on PowerSchool is accurate by September, 18.**

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

## McT Mileage Club Year 4 Has Fun in Store!

The McT Mileage Club is a morning exercise program for McT students along with any parents/siblings who wish to join in the fun. We are beginning our fourth year, continuing to be a great way for students to start their day with hearts pumping, blood flowing, and brains waking!

Using a measured course in the back playground, McT Milers will log laps by running, jogging, walking, skipping, strolling (or some combination thereof). They use a chart to track their mileage and 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, 7:50–8:25 AM, beginning on September 18th** and continuing through Thanksgiving (or as long as the weather allows).

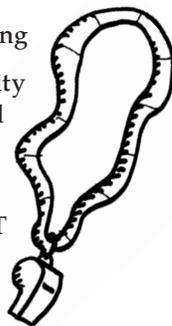
**Where:** Back playground, Parker Damon Building

**What to bring:** Shoes comfortable for activity and a great attitude. A bottle of water is a good idea too.

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

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:** Send an email to Carol Chytil (carol.chytil@gmail.com).



## School Picture Day: Wednesday, September 9

**School Picture Day is next week on Wednesday, September 9.** 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 9:00–10:30 AM or 10:30 AM–12:15 PM. This is your chance to make sure your child's hair is in perfect condition for picture day. Please contact Fiona Starr (fiona.starr@gmail.com) with your time preference.

## Important Information for all Parents Regarding Medications

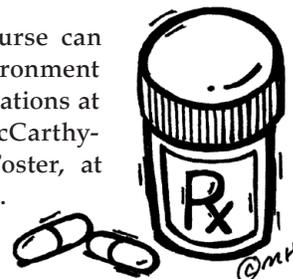
Medication administration is an important issue in schools. Some students require medications at school in order to survive. Others need medications in order to learn. Occasionally, students require antibiotics during the day following a bacterial infection.

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. Feel free to contact the McCarthy-Towne School Nurse, Betty Foster, at 978-264-3374 with any questions.

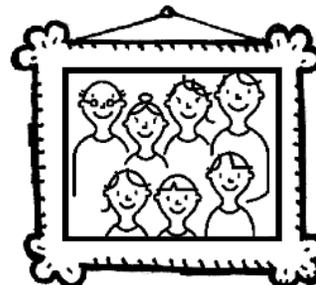


## Family Photo Weekend!

This year we are bringing back McCarthy-Towne's Family Photo Weekend! **On Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th**, Shelley Drouin Photography will photograph you and your family for a McT fundraiser. To view Shelley's work, visit [www.shelleydrouin.com](http://www.shelleydrouin.com) or check out her Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ShelleyDrouinPhotography](http://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. **The sittings will be in 30 minute blocks starting at 8:30 AM and ending at 6 PM.** If it rains 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 please contact Shelley ([sd@shelleydrouin.com](mailto:sd@shelleydrouin.com) or 617-529-3629). The sitting fee will be due the day of the sitting. This popular event was booked up last year so if you like to plan ahead now's the time!



## Attendance at School: Should I Keep My Child Home With This Illness?

### 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 your school nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

★ Please remember, a sick child belongs at home. ★