



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

October 6, 2017
Vol 47, No 2

Rolling into October

by David Krane, MCT Principal

I am writing this at the beginning of October, a pretty day with seasonal temperatures. It's a relief to have cooler temperatures; it's a respite from last week's unseasonably hot weather, and it really is time for fall!

Children are doing so much after school, and becoming used to new routines can be difficult. It helps to prepare your student for a schedule glitch. Do your children know what to do if they come home from school to an empty house or apartment? Would they know how to get in and 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, or 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.

Elementary school is about learning and processing, both academically and socially. There are often very difficult social waters at school to navigate for many kids for very different reasons. For the past few years, I have been concerned about the Lip Sync event and all of these different reasons come to mind. For some kids, this event can be socially isolating. Children can feel excluded. There are some practical considerations, too, as some families have limited transportation choices for after school social events. For many of our kids, school is often the only interaction some kids will have with their classmates. There simply isn't the opportunity for play dates or practice for an event like Lip Sync for some families. We pride ourselves on being an inclusive school community, and we cannot monitor every social need or every academic need for our children. We can, however, make sure that we are making an effort to include all of our students in all of our school events. After discussions with a variety of people within the faculty, I believe that it is in the best interest of all of the students at McCarthy-Towne to quietly discontinue the Lip Sync as a PTSO fundraising event. Thanks in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

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 move 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!

- David

Mark Your Calendar

Early dismissal every
Thursday 12:20 PM

October

9, Monday
No School, Indigenous Peoples' Day

10, Tuesday
Related Arts Night, 6-7 PM

13, Friday
Box Top Collection Due

17, Tuesday
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

18-20, Wed-Friday
Book Fair

20, Friday
McT Fall Social 6-8 PM
Scrip Orders Due

November

3, Friday
School Picture Retakes

7, Tuesday
No School, Prof. Day

10, Friday
No School, Veterans Day

21, Tuesday
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

22, Wednesday
Early Dismissal, 12:20 PM

23-24, Thurs-Friday
No school, Thanksgiving

PTSO Update

by Judy Bourdon, PTSO chair

I can't believe that September is over. It went by so fast. A number of PTSO items have gone home in backpacks. Here are a few in case you missed them:

- A calendar with future McT Events and PTSO Events and Meetings
- Annual Appeal Letter
- Fall Fundraiser Catalog
- Volunteer Forms for the PTSO and the Auction

We had our first PTSO meeting in September. Thanks to those who attended. We had a great chance to hear updates from our principal David Krane, ask questions about the school, learn about upcoming PTSO events and programs, and meet others involved in the McCarthy-Towne Community.

Our next monthly meeting is **Oct. 17th at 7 PM** in the Library of the Parker Damon Building. Look for more details on the meeting in the Howler.

On the topic of fundraising, thanks to all who have taken part in our Annual Appeal. You can contribute anytime throughout the school year. Thanks to all who are placing orders with the Fall Fundraiser Catalog, and who placed Scrip Card orders in September.

The PTSO is busy preparing for the meetings, events, and activities in the year ahead. Check the Bulletin and the weekly Howler for updates.

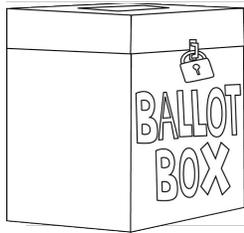
Remember to put the following October events on your calendars:

- Book Fair (Oct. 18-20th) is a great time for the kids to stock up on reading material for the cold weather to come.
- Fall Social (Oct. 20th 6-8 PM) is a fun and wonderful night for both kids and parents with games, crafts, and treats.
- Other upcoming events include the Grade Level Potlucks and the Auction kick-off.

Visit www.mctpto.org to get an overview of our plans for the year, as well as specific events on our calendar. If you have any thoughts or questions about PTSO happenings, please contact the PTSO chair, Judy Bourdon, at judyandroland@gmail.com.



Don't Forget to Vote!



Don't miss the ballot for School Council candidates sent home with this Bulletin. Please vote for one candidate and return the completed ballot to school by **Friday, Oct. 13th**.

Student Absences

If your child will be late to or absent from school, remember to call the McCarthy-Towne **Safe Arrival** line at (978)264-4098 any time, day or night. Leave a message with your child's name, their teacher's name, the date of the absence or late arrival, and the reason. Classroom attendance and Safe Arrival notifications are checked every

morning, and families will be contacted about any unaccounted absences.

McT Related Arts Night

You and your children are invited to the McT Related Arts Night on **Tuesday, Oct. 10th from 6-7 PM**. You'll have the opportunity to learn what your children are doing in Physical Education, Visual Arts, and Music.

You'll be able to participate in activities, so wear sneakers and clothes you can move in.

We look forward to seeing you and your children!

- Heidi, Jillian, and Peter

Box Tops = CA\$H for McT

We have started the year off with a bang for box tops. Thank you to all who have already donated, and keep collecting!

Did you know Box Tops expire? As a result, we need to collect your Box Tops by **Friday, Oct. 13th**. So, don't wait until your collection is huge. Send in what you have now!

Even after the deadline, keep sending Box Tops to school with your child. You can also drop them off in the collection box in the McT office or in the box labeled McT Box Tops at Roche Bros. We will have 2 more collection deadlines this year.



We are sending home a collection sheet if you would like to fill and send that in. Label the collection with your child's name and teacher so we can track rewards for the classroom contest! This year the classroom to collect the most box tops by the end of the year will get a spring pizza party!

Visit www.BoxTops4Education.com for a complete list of participating products and other ways to participate in the Box Tops collection. Please direct any questions about the Box Tops program to Julie Weir at julieweir2@gmail.com.

Scrip Orders

Thank you to all the families that ordered in September. It was great to see new McT families participating in the Scrip program. Your support truly makes a financial difference for our school.

Included in this week's packet of papers is October's Scrip order form. You can order shopping cards to hundreds of national businesses such as iTunes, Land's End, Pottery Barn, TJ Maxx, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks and most any other store and restaurant you can think of. For each card purchased, you receive the full amount and Scrip pays our school a percentage of your purchase. **It's like free money for McT!**

Start your Holiday shopping with Scrip. **Orders are due Friday, Oct. 20th by 2:50pm**. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Hippensteele at phippensteele@gmail.com.

School Picture Retakes

School picture retakes are **Friday, Nov. 3rd**. If you are not satisfied with your child's original picture or if your child was absent on Sept. 19th, they will have their picture taken on Nov. 3rd. Please send the entire original picture package back to school for the retake.

McT Book Fair

The Book Fair will run **Wednesday, Oct. 18th** through the Fall Social on **Friday, Oct. 20th**. This year we are excited to be working with **Porter Square Books!** So be on the lookout for a great selection of new and favorite books.

The Book Fair is great fun for the kids, and a wonderful fundraiser for the school. Students will visit the Book Fair with their classes at assigned half-hour slots. The Book Fair will also be open Friday night during the Fall Social. Families are encouraged to buy books for their children, as gifts for others, and as gifts for specific classroom by purchasing books from the Teachers' Wish List posted during the Book Fair. This is a terrific way to help teachers build their classroom libraries! Volunteers are warmly welcomed.

More information about the Book Fair and your child's class visit schedule will come home in next week's Friday folder. Be on the lookout for those flyers! If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please email the Book Fair co-chairs Amy Stimac or Julie Weir at BookFair@mctptso.org.

Lunch is Now Available on Thursdays

by Kirsten Nelson, Director of Food Services

Food Services is excited to offer lunch to students at Extended Day on Thursdays.

Pre-Order lunches for your child by Sunday night prior to Thursday 1/2 day. (You can also pre-order lunches through the end of the calendar year). We are offering either turkey and cheese sandwich or a bagel and cream cheese along with fruit, veggie and milk. Families eligible for free/reduced meals will continue to receive that benefit for Thursday lunches. For paid families, lunch is \$2.75. Cash is not accepted and the cost of lunch will be deducted from your child's lunch account. **All students must pre-order their lunch.**

Sign up at www.abschools.org. On the main page of the website, under the Quick Links section, choose **Early Release Lunch Program**. Email questions to extendedlunch@abschools.org.

McT Fall Social Information



BUBBLE GUM CHALLENGE

McCarthy-Towne School
Fall Social

The schedule is as follows:

6:15-6:30.....Grades K-1

6:30-6:45.....Grades 2-3

Break

7:15-7:30.....Grades 4-6

7:30-7:45.....Older Students and Adults

** Bubble gum will be provided!

Volunteer – We Need Your Help!

The McT Fall Social can't be a success without the support of volunteers. We need volunteers for the following time slots on Oct. 20:

4-6 PM: Help organize and set up games in the gym. Help organize the cafeteria (set up tables, the cake walk game, and crafts).

6-8 PM: Sell pizza. Run a carnival game.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bibiana Knell at bibianaknell@gmail.com.

THANK YOU!

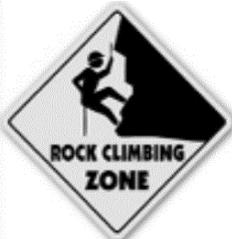
***YES! This is eligible for community volunteer time! ***



Fall Social Cake Walk

How do I participate in the McT Cake Walk at the Fall Social?

1. Bakers must bake or buy a dessert (cake, pie, cookies, or brownies) **FOR EACH PARTICIPANT.**
2. To keep those with food allergies safe, you must include a recipe card with your dessert. The recipe card should have the name of the baker, title of the dessert, and recipe.
3. Use plates/containers you can give away.
4. There will be TWO Cake Walk shifts, at 6:45 and 7:15. Check in at the Cake Walk Check-In Table when you arrive to receive your Cake Walk ticket and learn the time of your shift. The earlier you arrive, the more likely you are to get the 6:45 shift!
5. Have FUN baking!



This year we will have the **ROCK CLIMBING WALL** available, thanks to Peter's generosity.

Let your child(ren) climb the wall while you enjoy some time with parents.

Please wear sneakers if you want to participate.

Family Photo Weekends

Sessions are still available for the McT Family Photo Fundraiser! You can book a 30-minute session with either Shelley Drouin or Alex Mojica. The sitting fee is \$50, and due the day of the session. **\$40 goes to McT!** Prints and digital images are extra.

Sessions with Shelley

Saturday Oct. 21, 8:30 AM – 3 PM

Shelley photographs in her yard and on her neighbor's property. There are plenty of beautiful backgrounds including multiple barns and a tree swing. If there is rain, she sets up a canopy to still get the wonderful backgrounds.

To schedule a sitting, contact Shelley at sd@shelleydrouin.com or (617)529-3629. View her work at www.shelleydrouin.com, or visit her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ShelleyDrouinPhotography>.

Sessions with Alex

Saturday Oct. 14, 8:30 – 10:30 AM, 2:30– 4:30 PM
Saturday Oct. 28, 8:30 – 10:30 AM, 4 PM – 4:30 PM

Alex photographs in the Acton Arboretum. She'll reschedule on a different weekend for rain.

To schedule a sitting, contact Alex at alexmojica2003@yahoo.com or (617)774-7844. View her work at www.alexandrajamesphotography.com, or visit her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Alexandra-Mojica-Photography-1772450762996420/>.

McT Mileage Club Never Too Late to Get Moving!

We've had almost thirty McT students coming to exercise on Friday mornings, with all grades represented. Come and join them!

The McT Mileage Club is a morning exercise program for McT students along with any parents/siblings who wish to join in the fun. This is 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 log laps by running, jogging, walking, skipping, or strolling. 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; there's not an "every week" commitment.

When: Friday mornings, **7:40 – 8:05 AM**, continuing as long as the weather is bearable (We are aiming to make it to Thanksgiving this year.)

Where: Back playground, Parker Damon Building

What to bring: Shoes comfortable for activity, a light jacket or long-sleeve shirt, a bottle of water, and a great attitude.

How do I get involved: Complete a form for each child participating in McT Mileage Club. Forms are available in the office and at the Mileage Club sessions.

Volunteers needed! We rely on help from parent volunteers. You can volunteer as often as you like (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, only when the weather is nice, etc.).

The program is run by Chris Hanlon. Contact Chris with questions, to volunteer, or to be added to the email group, at hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com.



News from the Art Studio

September has been a busy and creative time as all the grades settle comfortably into the rhythm of the studio and find their creative selves.

Several grades started off the year working collaboratively to create art. Fifth and sixth grade students each designed a paper quilt square that was then pieced together into a giant quilt. Students explored the art principles of unity and variety when making their patterns. Thank you to Michele Abroff for volunteering to share her quilts and creative process with the kids. Come check out the finished quilt on display outside the art room!

Students in third and fourth grade worked in pairs to create paintings celebrating "hands". Hands are our most important tool when art making, especially when working in unison with the heart and head. Hands also represent fundamental ideas such as: friendship, caring, joy, working together and love. These paintings are also on display outside the art room and office. Come visit and enjoy!

On Sunday, Sept. 24, the AB elementary art teachers held a community art event at Old Frog Pond Farm and Studio in Harvard, MA. Over 150 people from all six AB elementary schools enjoyed a guided tour of the 40 sculptures sited throughout the arm and woods, and then worked collaboratively printing, weaving and creating kinetic mobiles with the AB art teachers. If you missed the event, the outdoor sculptures may be viewed until Oct. 8. Check out the Old Frog Pond Farm and Studio website for more info, at oldfrogpondfarm.com.

Attendance at School

Should I keep my child home?

Fever

Fevers are generally a sign of illness/infection. Your child should stay home if their temperature is 100 F or above. They should not return to school until their temperature has been normal (97 - 99 F) for at least 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication.

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, they 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 a child has scarlet fever, strep throat, or any strep infection, he/she may return to school 24 hours after antibiotics have started, 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 they have 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, fatigue, and stress 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.

Lice

The school nurse must be notified of any lice cases. We require that students be excluded from school if head lice are found, and the child should report to the Health Office upon reentry.

