



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

November 3, 2017
Vol 47, No 3

November Days

by David Krane, McT Principal

This has been one of the most remarkable Octobers that I can remember. While September predictions correctly forecast a warmer month than normal, I don't think anyone expected these temperatures. I read recently that some have dubbed this fall as 'Hotumn', and I can agree! I wonder if Hotumn will become the norm...

I write this as we look forward to our Professional Learning Day, which will occur on Tuesday, November 7, Election Day. There will be many choices available to teachers to choose from, and all of them present a host of practical instructional strategies. Teachers will have ample opportunities to process their learning in the context of their practice. The processing, though, is almost as important as the work that gets done in the actual workshops. This is a time for all of us to reflect on the work that we are doing in the classroom, across the content areas. Literacy is foundational in mathematics, science, and social studies. One of the goals that we are working on is the concept of metacognition, which is getting kids to employ multiple strategies as they read: decoding, thinking about the meaning of the text, using illustration, etc. All of this is in the service of making meaning from the text.

But reading is also a wonderful, joyful activity, one that can bring kids to many places. The title of one workshop is telling: Igniting a Passion for Reading. The presenter, Steven Layne, will also be giving a talk to the general AB community that evening entitled What Parents and Caregivers Can Do to Nurture Lifetime Readers. Joyful, invested readers become that way when families speak about books and reading with excitement and reverence. This is the authentic partnership piece between school and home. We can help you and you can help us create these engaged readers through reading with your children, reading to your children and listening to your children read. Conversation about text is part of what we are teaching, too, so talk with your kids about their books, your books, and the books that you are enjoying together. This is a big part of bringing the classroom home. Newspapers, cookbooks and even the back of a cereal box are all resources at your fingertips, too. Families who read together send the message that reading is a joyful experience and joyful learning is what school is about.

Schools teach about the critical elements of being part of a community as well as the important academic elements across the content areas. Children and their families interacting through text is a part of that community building. McCarthy-Towne has always been proud of the way that we make this clear to children, and of our successes in both arenas. Thanks to all of you who are part of this wonderful school community and for your support!

- David

Mark Your Calendar

Early dismissal every
Thursday 12:20 PM

November

7, Tuesday
No School, Prof. Day

10, Friday
No School, Veterans Day

15, Wednesday
Scrip Orders Due

17, Friday
McT Game Night, 6-8 PM

21, Tuesday
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

22, Wednesday
Early Dismissal, 12:20 PM

23-24, Thurs-Friday
No school, Thanksgiving

Charleston Wrap Pickup:
• **26, Sunday**, 1-3 PM
• **27, Monday**, 8-11 AM
and 4-8 PM
• **28, Tuesday**, 12-2 PM

December

14, Thursday
Winter Choral Concert,
7-8 PM

19, Tuesday
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

25, Monday- Jan. 2,
Tuesday
Winter Recess

PTSO Update

by Judy Bourdon, PTSO chair

The school year has been off to a busy start. The McCarthy-Towne PTSO has had a number of fundraising and family events already, and is busy planning more.

Remember to put the following November events on your calendars:

- **Game Night**, Friday, November 17. Have fun with family and friends, and stock up on fun games for gifts or for playing during the cold weather. More details are in this Bulletin. We are looking for volunteers to help with the various game night tasks. Please contact me if you'd like to help.
- **Monthly PTSO meeting**, Tuesday, November 21 at 7 PM in the Parker Damon Building Library. Come hear members of the Acton Town Finance Committee present their Points of View, and ask questions. Several Finance Committee members are McCarthy Towne parents. Our principal, David Krane, will also give an update.
- **Class Potlucks**. Potlucks for each grade are starting. If you have never attended a Potluck, it's a great way to meet the other parents of children in your child's classroom or grade.

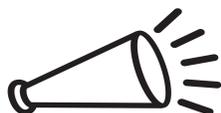
I hope all who could make the Fall Social had a great time. The games, crafts, and treats made for a wonderful night. Thank you to Bibiana Knell who lead the charge in creating this great event. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped with the event. Thank you to Julie Weir and Amy Stimac for coordinating the Book Fair, and to all the parents who helped with and supported the Book Fair.

Thanks to all who have taken part in our Annual Appeal. You can contribute anytime throughout the school year. Thanks to those who have placed the Scrip orders and Fall Catalog orders. Scrip order forms will be coming home each month.

The Auction planning has kicked-off , and more will be coming home on that in the next several months.

Volunteers are always welcome for the McCarthy PTSO.

Visit www.mctptso.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.



Pick Up for Charleston Wrap Orders



Orders can be picked up at 49 Taylor Rd in Acton during these times:

Sunday, November 26, 1-3 PM

Monday, November 27, 8-11 AM and 4-8 PM

Tuesday, November 28, 12-2 PM

All orders are in the barn. The door will be open ONLY during the times listed above. Orders will be sorted by grade and teacher. Each order will be in a box with your teacher's name and your child's name. It's important that you double check that you have the correct order before leaving.

If you have any questions or need to schedule an alternative pick-up time, contact Susie at susmaxwell715@yahoo.com or 978-274-2603. Thank you!

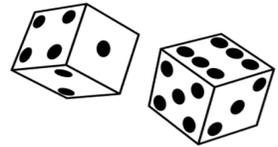
Come Join McT Families at Game Night

Play, Learn, Laugh, and HAVE FUN with family and McT friends.

When: Friday, November 17

Time: 6 – 8 PM

Where: McT Cafeteria



Games are provided by Gamewright for the night. New games will be available for purchase. 50% of the proceeds from the sales will go to McT PTSO. It's a great time to purchase games for the holidays or birthdays. Games are for all ages!

Pizza will be for sale for those who have an appetite from game playing.

Become a Game Guru! We are looking for volunteers to borrow games from the school in advance of the game night to become Game Gurus. If interested in volunteering or would like further information, contact Judy Bourdon at judyandroland@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at Game Night!

November Scrip Challenge!



Thank you to everyone who ordered Scrip in October. It really does make a financial difference. Never tried the Scrip Program? Well, here is your chance!

We are challenging YOU, the McT Community (students, parents, teachers, and school staff) to buy Scrip this month. The goal is to reach a total of **600 store gift cards** for the month of November. We can do it. We have met this challenge before! If we reach our goal, the teachers have promised the children a **school-wide Pajama Day**, on Friday, December 22.

So plan ahead for the holidays and help us meet our goal! Keep a lookout for program details and order form in your child's backpack. The next order deadline is **Wednesday, November 15th at 2:50 PM**. Cards will be sent home before the Thanksgiving break. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Hippensteele at phippensteele@gmail.com.

Lunch is 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. (You can also pre-order lunches through the end of the calendar year). We offer turkey and cheese sandwich or a bagel and cream cheese along with fruit, veggie and milk. Families eligible for free/reduced meals 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.



Food Service Open Positions

Are you looking for a part-time position? The Food Service Department is currently looking for a Food Service Worker at Gates.

Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. from 9:30 am-2:00 pm.

We also have Food Service Substitute positions available.

Apply online: <https://www.applitrack.com/abrsd/onlineapp/>

Join the McT Mileage Club

You can still join the McT Mileage Club, the morning exercise program for McT students. Parents and siblings can join in the fun, too. Using a measured course in the back playground, McT Milers log laps by running, jogging, walking, skipping, or strolling. McT Mileage Club is a free program that operates on a drop-in basis.

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

Where: Back playground, Parker Damon Building

What to bring: Shoes comfortable for activity, a 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.

Contact Chris Hanlon with questions or to sign up at hanlonchristopher@hotmail.com.

TICK FACTS

What are ticks?

Ticks are bugs that feed on the blood of mammals, birds, and reptiles. **Deer ticks** and **dog ticks** are found throughout Massachusetts and may spread different disease-causing germs when they bite. Ticks are generally found in grassy, brushy, or wooded areas. Ticks do not fly or jump. They attach to animals or people that come into direct contact with them.



How can I protect my family from tick bites?

- The single most important thing you can do is check yourself for ticks once a day. Favorite places ticks like to go on the body include areas between the toes, back of the knees, groin, armpits, neck, along the hairline, and behind the ears. Remember to check your children and pets, too. Remove any attached tick as soon as possible.
- Use repellents that contain DEET on exposed skin and those that contain permethrin on clothing. Be sure to read product labels to ensure safe and proper usage.
- Stick to main pathways and the center of trails when hiking.
- Wear long-sleeved, light colored shirts and long pants tucked into socks. This will keep ticks away from your skin and make it easier to spot a tick on your clothing.

What should I do if I find a tick on myself or my child?

The tick should be carefully removed as soon as possible. The longer an infected tick remains attached to a person or animal, the higher the likelihood of disease transmission. Use fine point tweezers to grip the mouthparts of the tick as close to the skin as possible. The tick should not be squeezed or twisted, but pulled straight outward with steady, gentle pressure. You should not apply kerosene, petroleum jelly, nail polish, or a hot match tip to remove the tick; these measures are not effective and may result in injury. Notify your health care provider if you have been bitten by a deer tick, or if you develop a rash or other flu-like symptoms following a tick bite.

Further information: www.mass.gov/dph and www.cdc.gov