



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

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McCarthy-Towne Values

by Nancy Kolb, McT Interim Principal

It's November and we are well into the school year. The Kindergarteners now own their place at McT and each grade level has developed its own identity.

I want to share some of the work the faculty has accomplished in preparation for hiring a new principal. During the summer and first weeks of September, I met individually with faculty members to record their thoughts about McCarthy-Towne and the principal search. The staff then committed to three additional faculty meetings and in-school planning time to review and discuss the interview information I had compiled. We are still in the process of refining our work; however, below is a preview of some of the information.

The faculty wanted to describe the values that make McCarthy-Towne unique. Many successful schools share similar traits. We wanted to articulate the values that define McT that may not be part of other successful schools. The faculty identified six values. I have put a short summary below. A more complete version will be available soon on the McT web site.

Trust Evidence of trust is found in the open dialogue during faculty meetings; the expectation that faculty will chair and participate in decision making committees; the parents' trust in the school's ability to allocate funds they raise, and the Central Office support of school choice and school-based decision-making,

Joint Decision-Making At McT there is joint decision-making through group consensus. The principal and the faculty act as a cohesive unit in which each person has one vote, including the principal. Under this model the faculty is responsible for the governance of the school, and the role of principal is that of facilitator. There is a Decision-Making document that outlines these procedures.

Visual Arts Integration The Visual Arts are core to the curriculum. Art is viewed as a form of problem-solving, and a way for students to derive meaning and express their understanding of the curriculum. Art is an active process. Use of high quality materials speaks to the value that McT places on the process of learning through the visual arts.

Process Teachers and students value the process of learning. Works in process are on display throughout the school; teachers and students regularly discuss the ongoing process of learning. Student assessment and evaluation are embedded in the daily activities of the classroom. Teachers use portfolio assessment to demonstrate growth and skill levels. In the process of learning, students work collaboratively to share ideas and strategies.

Innovation The faculty sees this value as the positive side of risk-taking. Students and teachers feel secure and safe to take learning risks. Students are not afraid to voice an opinion and are encouraged to share novel and unorthodox ideas. McT discourages competition through awards, grades and contests within the school in order to create a safe environment for students to set individual goals. Teachers spend time and energy creating an inclusive community which emphasizes cooperation and collaboration.

Community McCarthy-Towne's source of strength is its community of teachers, staff, students and parents. Parents share the school values, support teacher decisions and trust teachers. Parents are welcome in the school and classrooms, and are vital to ongoing programs. McT fosters community through cross-grade level programs and projects. All members of McT, including CASE Collaborative classrooms, are valued and are an integral part of the school.

Mark Your Calendar

NOVEMBER

8, Saturday

Wrapping Paper Pick-up
9 AM – 12, multi-purpose
room (back entrance)

11, Tuesday

NO SCHOOL, Veterans Day

12, Wednesday

Community Assembly
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

13, Thursday

Snack Sale

19, Wednesday

Learning Express
Fundraiser,
9:30 AM–8:00 PM

19–26

PDB Lost & Found Fair

20, Thursday

Snack Sale

26, Wednesday

Early Dismissal, 1 PM
No PM Kindergarten

27-28, Thurs./Fri.

NO SCHOOL,
Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

4, Thursday

Snack Sale

10, Wednesday

PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

11, Thursday

Snack Sale

18, Thursday

Snack Sale

24-Jan. 2

NO SCHOOL,
Winter Recess



by Lynne Densen and Kim Clark, PTSO co-chairs

What a busy October we had. The Fall Family Photo day (rescheduled) was a success, thank you to Sandy Billings and Maryellen DiPalo for organizing and Julie L'Heureux for taking the pictures. The new school directories are out and look great. Thank you to Suzanne Kissane and Lisa Nivision and their committee. We had a wonderful response to the NSTAR bulb orders and made over \$3,000 for our school. Thank you to Maria Ledebuer-Cid for organizing.

The book fair has just ended after 3 full days of class visits and a busy night during the social. Thank you to Susan Lerner and Julie Jannke and their volunteers. The Fall Social was a huge success, with a record turn out with the introduction of the cake walk, as well as some games and crafts and our wonderful DJ, Stefan Durrant. Thank you to Kate Murray and Maryellen DiPalo for organizing and all of their volunteers. Thank you to hospitality for supplying food for the Principal Parent Forum, Fall Social and Professional Day. And THANK YOU to all those who participated in our October fundraisers and socials.

Thank you to all who have already contributed to the Cultural & Performing Arts Committee (CPAC) Fund. We are getting closer to our goal of \$3,500. If you have not contributed yet, there is still time. Forms are available on the PTSO website—www.mctptso.org on the home page under “forms”.

Just a few happenings in November. The pick-up date for Gift Wrap and Flower Bulbs will be this Saturday, the 8th. NSTAR Bulbs will be available for pick-up on November 15. Scrip will be running a challenge to start off the holidays and the Learning Express night has been scheduled (details will be sent through McTNews Yahoo! Group).

Also, as the holidays approach, please remember there are many ways to help our school while you are doing your regular holiday shopping:

- **Buy store cards** for your holiday purchases, or give as gifts through our SCRIP program
- **Buy Amazon products** through our school portal (we get up to 10% of what you purchase). Simply go to our PTSO website, www.mctptso.org and click on the Amazon logo on the right side.
- **Buy through Schoolpop.com**, at many of your regular stores; Land’s End, LL Bean, just to name a few. You can reach the portal through the PTSO website, www.mctptso.org. Each order you place, a percentage goes back to McT.

NSTAR Light bulb Pick-up Date Changed

We want to thank all the families, teachers and staff that participated in the NSTAR fundraiser. It was a successful event raising funds for MCT and helping the environment!

The pick-up date has been changed to Saturday, November 15th from 9 AM-12 noon in the multipurpose room at McT. Please make sure to pick-up your bulbs since they can't be send home with your kids. If you can't make it on Saturday, Nov. 15th, please make arrangements with friends or contact Maria at 978-263-0723 or marilcid@gmail.com to coordinate another time. The school does not have a proper storage area to keep the light bulbs.

Help McT reduce paper by joining our email list

In an effort to reduce paper consumption, as well as the amount of back pack reminders, we are trying to get all families on the McTNews email list. McTNews is a moderated email list for just McT families. We only send out McT School and PTSO events, reminders and request for volunteers. We are almost there, with about 70% of our families on the list. This is a moderated group, so you only receive emails that have been approved by the moderator and fit our guidelines.

If you have not signed up, please do so by going to our website, www.mctptso.org. On the far right enter your email address to sign up for the McT email list (this is a Yahoo! group—but you don't need a Yahoo! ID to sign up). Any questions, please contact Lynne Densen at lynne.densen@verizon.net, the moderator for this email list.

Help McT with Holiday Shopping

Are you planning to shop from home this holiday season? If so, be sure to take advantage of the following sites. Every purchase you make will benefit the McT PTSO without costing you anything extra!

Amazon.com Up to 10% of your purchase price is donated to McT. Amazon has the books, DVDs, CDs and electronic gifts on your holiday list... plus much more! Simply enter the website through the icon on the PTSO website, www.mctptso.org and place your order. It's that simple!

Schoolpop Register online at www.schoolpop.com and select McCarthy-Towne as your beneficiary school. Each time you shop through the Schoolpop site, which offers popular online stores including LL Bean, Land's End, The Gap, Nordstrom, Barnes and Noble, Borders, Dick's Sporting Goods, and dozens more, our school earns a percentage of your purchase. Merchants are being added all the time, so check back frequently to see if your favorites are there!

Target Do you have a Target credit card? If so, register your card at www.target.com so our PTSO can receive a percentage of your Target purchases!

Learning Express Fundraiser Save the date! This year's Learning Express fundraiser will take place on Wednesday, November 19, 2008. Shop at Learning Express in Acton between 9:30 AM and 8:00 PM. Mention McCarthy-Towne at the register, and our school will receive a donation equal to 20% of your purchase! Don't forget to take advantage of their free personalization and free gift wrapping. Special thanks to Learning Express for continuing this fundraiser!



Need a gift? Or birthday gift wrap?

Don't forget you can order from Innisbrook at any time during the year and McT receives 50% of the profit.

Go online at www.innisbrook.com and use the following school code (105125) and place your order. It will come directly to you.

Turn Your Holiday Cooking into Art Supplies for McT!



With the upcoming holiday season, most of us will be spending a lot of time and money at the supermarket, buying the ingredients for delicious treats to share with our friends and family. With the Register Tapes for Education Program at Donelan's Supermarkets, those groceries can now also help our school! For every dollar spent, McCarthy-Towne will earn points redeemable for free educational equipment, including art supplies and books.

So every time you shop at **Donelan's Supermarkets**, save your receipts! Simply send in your receipts in with your child or drop them in the collection box in the office. **Receipts dated September 1, 2008–March 31, 2009 are eligible.**

Even if you aren't a regular shopper at Donelan's consider either shopping there during the promotional period or asking your friends and neighbors to give you their Donelan's receipts.

Thank you for your support! Questions can be directed to Wendy Schaad at ws.schaad@gmail.com.

Remember... The more you spend, the more we earn!

McCarthy-Towne Buddy Family Program

Thank you to the veteran McT families who welcomed more than 35 new families to the McT community this fall. We hope that all of the new families are feeling comfortable and involved with the school community as the 2008–2009 year progresses, and that many new friendships have been formed.

If you are interested in becoming a Buddy Family volunteer, or have any questions about the program, please contact Marie Clougher at mjc-fg@verizon.net or 978-266-3707.

Thank you to our Bakers

Thanks to all those who prepared food for the Principal Parent Forum, Fall Social and Professional Day.

All the goodies at the Fall Social were gone by the end of the evening, and very much appreciated by both kids and adults alike. Also, thank you to all those that made extra cakes for the cake walk, it was nice to have enough cakes for everyone to participate in the walk.

The Professional Day luncheon was wonderful. There was such a great variety of food and the teachers and staff were delighted to be treated to all of this food. Thanks to everyone that brought something and to those who helped set up and clean up.

MCAS Dates for Spring 2009

Note the MCAS test dates for the 2008–2009 school year. If you have children who are students in grades 3, 4, 5 and/or 6, please avoid scheduling appointments or travel during MCAS test periods.

English Language Arts Reading for grades 3, 5, 6:

March 31, April 1, April 2

English Language Arts Composition for grade 4:

March 31

English Language Arts Reading for grade 4:

April 1, April 2, April 3

Mathematics for grades 3, 4, 5, 6:

May 12, May 13

Science & Technology/Engineering for grade 5:

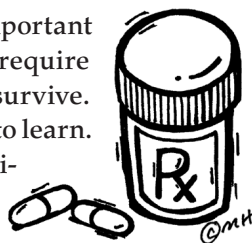
May 18, May 19

Social Studies for grade 5:

May 21, May 22

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 anti-biotics 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, 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 call the McT School Nurse, Betty Johns, at 978-264-3374 with any questions.

International Night 2009

The planning for the 3rd annual Parker Damon International Night is about to get underway! We are calling on parents interested in getting involved to come to an informational meeting on Thursday, November 13th at 7:30 PM. We will brainstorm ideas, as well as talk about the different opportunities for volunteers. Although International Night is not until May 1, 2009 we want to get a head start on the planning! Please RSVP to greshmasingh@gmail.com and you will be sent directions to the meeting. Contact Stacy Harris with any questions—askquixote@verizon.net or (978) 263-6095. Look forward to seeing you there!

Bountiful Box Tops!

The McCarthy-Towne community collected over 6,800 Box Tops last month! That means \$680+ for the McT PTSO. Thank you, one and all. Congratulations to Jean Oviatt's class for collecting the most—723. They were closely followed by Karen Shiebler's class—650, Nancy Giasante's class—576 and Catherine Seuss's class—575. Jean's class will be receiving \$25 toward playground equipment. All other classes will share \$25 toward shared playground equipment to be kept in the shared office bin. Great work everyone—thanks!

Our spring deadline is February 28, 2009, so remember Clip, Clip, Clip, Save, Save, Save. Contact Maureen Ryan-Friend or Joanie Davis with questions.

Reminder

Teachers work hard to schedule all the fall parent conferences. Please honor your scheduled conference time. If a last minute emergency arises please call the office or your child's teacher directly.

Lost & Found Fair

The first Parker Damon Building Lost & Found Fair of the school year will be Wednesday, November 19 through Wednesday, November 26. All items in the Lost & Found with legible names on them (preferable first and last names) will be brought to the school office and a note sent to the student. Items without identifying names will be displayed in the hallway outside the multi-purpose room at the bottom of the main staircase. Any items not claimed by the end of the fair will be laundered and donated to charity.

Please remind your children to check the Lost & Found Fair for items they may have lost. Families are also welcome to check the fair anytime the building is open. (When school is in session, please remember to sign in the school office before going to the fair.)

REMEMBER: If you label any items a child might leave someplace at school (jackets, coats, hats, mittens/gloves, lunch boxes, boots, slippers), they are likely get back to them. Last names are essential; first names and/or phones numbers are helpful.

Thank you to PDB Lost & Found chairs, Amanda Dindal (McT) and Yvonne Benelli (Merriam) and their committee members, for sorting through the found items every week, and for organizing the fair.

Book Fair Update

from Susan Lerner and Julie Jannke

The McT/Scholastic Book Fair was a great success again this year! We give a huge thank you to the many volunteers who made it all happen and the McT families, teachers and students who bought so many books. We made a cash profit of \$2,095 for McT.

Once again, our McT families made the teacher WISH LIST program a priority. All teachers, specialists and the library received books as a result of your generosity. These lists were supplemented by the \$100 of books we pull from the shelves as part of our arrangement with Scholastic.

Many thanks to Nancy Kolb, Jean Onorato, Robyn Winick, and Astrid Trostorff for all their help and to all the teachers for bringing their classes to the book fair. Thank you to the following volunteers who helped so much: Cathy Griffin, Laurel Doggett, Ebit Speers, Melissa Grigsby, Mimi Kirkman, Pauline Thorpe, Eleanne Roosenberg, Suzi Yarin, Tina Watlington, Amanda Dindal, Connie Olden, Kelley McCarthy, Paula Freni, Tracey Smith, Marie Clougher, Bridget Matz, Kim Nolan, Kathleen Surdan, Kim Meusel, Janis Raguin, Maria Crowley, and Susan Miller.

Tidbits from Tina

McT School Counselor

A personal journey that you may be able to learn from:

When I became a parent I gained a new identity—Kelly’s Mom. Later, other titles became mine—soccer mom, band mom, lacrosse mom... I didn’t really choose any of these titles. They came to me because of the choices my children made. I loved it! I was wonderful being involved in their lives, even if it meant racing across the state to find the last oranges in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts so that the team had the snack they needed for the soccer half-time break. (For many of those E-level soccer players, that was the highlight of the game!)

More recently I have found myself with a new label, one that has brought with it significant anxiety. I am an Army mom. This is the most powerful label I have ever had. It brings with it enormous pride, and incredible anxiety—at the same time! My son made a choice that carries with it life and death consequences, intense responsibility, incredible challenges; and he has done it for all the right reasons. Is it a comfortable choice for me? NO! Has it been the right choice for him (and our country)? ABSOLUTELY! The bottom line—this is his life and he needs to do what fits for him. It’s not about what is easy for his parents; or what is familiar to us. So often I see families encouraging/expecting their children to follow the same paths as their parents. It’s only natural. What has worked for us, and what is familiar to us—we understand those decisions. If our children make similar choices, it validates us; it feels good. There are times, however, when our children decide to take a different path, one that isn’t comfortable for us. Hang in there when they do. In some ways we’re really just along for the ride and our job is not to mold, but to embrace our children. They don’t always make it easy!!

And so, my wish for you—may your children choose the paths that are best for them and may you accept those choices with grace, dignity, and a smile.

— Tina Morgan, School Counselor and
Parent of Wayne Morgan, Captain, US Army

McCarthy-Towne School – NOVEMBER 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9	10	11 NO SCHOOL Veterans Day	12 Community Assembly PTSO Meeting, PDB Faculty Room 7 PM	13 Snack Sale	14	15
16	17	18	19 PDB Lost & Found Fair (through Nov. 26) Learning Express Fundraiser, 9:30 AM–8:00 PM	20 Snack Sale	21	22
23	24	25	26 Early Dismissal, No PM Kindergarten	27 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Recess	28 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Recess	29
30	DECEMBER 1	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 3	DECEMBER 4	DECEMBER 5	DECEMBER 6
				Snack Sale	December McT Bulletin in backpacks	