



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

February 6, 2009  
Volume 38, No 6

## McCarthy-Towne, a Community

by Nancy Kolb, McT Interim Principal

McCarthy-Towne is a community in many ways. There is a deep investment to social curriculum and most of the faculty have attended workshops on our common social curriculum, Responsive Classroom.

Community is fostered within the school by all-school assemblies, our cross-grade level activities such as, Reading Buddies, Bus Buddies, field trips and integrated projects, and our 6th grade students working in the CASE classes.

Parents are an integral part of the school. They participate in hiring committees, volunteer in a variety of roles within the school, and fund raise in order to support programs and services at McCarthy-Towne.

An important part of being a community is reaching out to other communities and offering support. At McCarthy-Towne our students are encouraged to participate in community service projects. I would like to share with you some of our activities this year.

- Second grades had a bottle drive and raffle to raise money for their pen pals in Ghana when they learned their pen pals' school needed a roof.
- First graders had a penny sale that raised money for Acton Community Supper. The students contributed trinkets from home to the sale. At school the items were measured, sorted by the inch and sold for a penny an inch. On the day of the sale all three first grade classes met and shopped together with pennies they brought from home.

- The faculty supported Acton Housing Authority families during the December holidays by contributing holiday presents to families.
- Many classes participated in the Spoons Project. Students decorated wooden spoons and then sold their spoons for donations to Project Bread. Our classes raised over \$1,400.
- A fourth grade class collected sweaters for donation to an orphanage in Guatemala. A friend in Guatemala had told them about the need.
- Many classes are making cards, writing riddle books and letters for our troops abroad.
- Our students trick or treated for UNICEF this Halloween and raised over \$950. 00
- Our Kindergarteners will make valentines for Acton Seniors living in assisted living at Robbins Brook.
- Our student council raises money through its snack sales, Movie Night and different fund-raisers. At the end of the year the council donates to three charities. They choose one local charity, one charity within the U.S., and one worldwide charity.
- Students and staff bring in a donation of fifty cents during Read Across America Week to purchase new books for local programs. Two past recipients include The Pediatric Intervention Unit at Emerson Hospital and the Hurricane Katrina schools. There are approximately 70 picture books/cds donated each year.

## Mark Your Calendar

### FEBRUARY

9-13

PDB Lost & Found Fair

11, Wednesday

Community Assembly

5th Gr. Variety Show

PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

PIP 5th Gr. Market Math at Roche Bros., 4:30-7:30 PM

12, Thursday

Snack Sale

13, Friday

BOX TOPS Deadline

Spirit Sale Deadline

16-20

Winter Recess

26, Thursday

Snack Sale

### MARCH

2, Monday

PIP 4th Gr. Star Party at

PDB, 6:30-9 PM

5, Thursday

Snack Sale

11, Wednesday

PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

## by Lynne Densen and Kim Clark, PTSO co-chairs

Wow, can you believe February break is almost here? What a fun January we had with the introduction of our new social "Game Afternoon". It was wonderful seeing the cafeteria filled with families and groups of kids playing lots of fun new games together.

We have a few ongoing fundraisers that will be happening in February. The most popular will be the McT Spirit Wear which has some new items available this year (fleece vests, fleece blankets, new sweatpants, and T-shirts). If you would like to see what an item looks like first hand before you order, all of the McT Spirit Wear is available in the office. The book-gifting program has also started; a list of books still available to gift to our library can be found at [www.mctptso.org/bookgifting](http://www.mctptso.org/bookgifting).

The other ongoing fundraisers include: Box Tops, Amazon.com, Scrip store cards (please note deadline is next Wednesday, February 11th), OneCause (formerly known as School Pop), and additional Innisbrook gift-wrap orders.

We are also preparing for our upcoming auction that will be held on Saturday, March 21st. There are always many ways to help with our biggest fundraiser of the year, including donating an item, help with the planning, selling raffle tickets, helping the day of the event, either before or during the event. Visit [www.mctptso.org/fundraising/auction2009](http://www.mctptso.org/fundraising/auction2009) for more details about the auction, or how you can help.

Remember, if you are not sure about the date or details of an event or fundraiser, please visit our website at [www.mctptso.org](http://www.mctptso.org); it is frequently updated.

### McT School Spirit Wear

There is still time to order the VERY POPULAR McT School Spirit Wear! We have many new items this year: fleece blankets, fleece vests, new T-shirt; well as girl's crew neck shirts, new gray sweatpants and capris, new zip-up hoodies (in addition to pullover hoodies), and the very popular flannel pants.



Want to see what the new items look like? No problem, samples are available in the office.

Most items can be personalized for an additional charge. Order forms went home last week, but additional order forms are available in the office or on-line at [www.mctptso.org/store](http://www.mctptso.org/store). Remember, if you are unsure of a size, it is recommended to order a size larger. Items are not returnable as they have been customized with our school name.

**The deadline to order is Friday, February 13.** Orders will be sent home in early March. Please contact Kerry Bremer at [kbremer@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:kbremer@mail.ab.mec.edu) with any questions.

### Scrip Gift Card Program

Thank you to all the families that ordered Scrips in the month of January. Scrips continue to be a great way to help the school raise money without having to "buy" anything in addition to your usual purchases, so we will continue to offer the program on a monthly basis until the end of the school year. We have raised almost \$3,000 YTD.

Attached is the order form with the participating vendors. If you need an additional form (if a family member or friend would like to place an order), you can get it online at [www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip](http://www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip).

Please note the early deadline for February—**Wednesday, February 11**. Contact Lynne Densen at [lynne.densen@verizon.net](mailto:lynne.densen@verizon.net) or Maureen Jones at [maureen.jones1@verizon.net](mailto:maureen.jones1@verizon.net) with any questions.



## Shop at Donelan's to Show Your Love for Your Family AND Your School

Will you be baking special treats or creating a memorable meal this Valentine's Day? If so, support McT by shopping at Donelan's for the ingredients! The receipts for your groceries can be turned into free educational equipment for McT.

All you have to do is save your receipts and send them in with your child or drop them in the collection box in the McCarthy-Towne office yourself. Please do NOT cut your receipts. In order to submit them, we must have the entire receipt, showing the store name and location, as well as the items purchased.

**Receipts dated September 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 are eligible.**

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Schaad at [ws.schaad@gmail.com](mailto:ws.schaad@gmail.com).

## Cell Phone/Inkjet Cartridge Drive

The Student Council, in collaboration with the PTSO, is running a cell phone and inkjet cartridge drive, until February break. Bring in your inkjet or laser cartridges and old cell phones (we don't need the phone chargers or accessories). **Students will have a pajama day after vacation if we collect 200 or more units.** If you can, have your office and office-mates join in the collection as well!

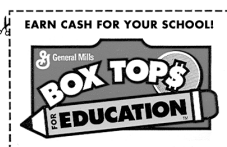
Cartridges and cell phones may be dropped off in the lobby of McT (gray bin by the door or in the student council collection box or outside the school at the Acton library or the water district office).

For more information, please contact Debbie Simon at [dsimon@cambridgefocus.com](mailto:dsimon@cambridgefocus.com) or 617-999-3037.

## Calling All BOX TOPS!

Don't forget to send in every last BoxTop4Education with your child by next **Friday, February 13**. The classroom with the most BoxTops will receive \$25 toward playground equipment for their homeroom, and all other classes will receive new equipment to be shared from the bin in the office.

Thanks for all of your effort. It really does make a difference and adds up to over \$1,000 cash annually for McT programs!



Questions? Please contact Maureen Ryan-Friend or Joanie Davis.

## Tidbits from Tina

*McT School Counselor*

### Keeping Your Child Safe on the Internet

Parents have asked me about internet safety, so here are some suggestions.

First—no internet access in a child's bedroom! Parents need to be aware of what their child is doing on the internet and they can't do that if the computer is out of their sight! Next you'll need to agree on family rules and post them by the computer. Setting up some rules is important, although the conversation you'll have to establish your rules is even more valuable.

Here are some possible rules.

1. I will not give out personal information (such as my address, telephone number, parents' work addresses, name of my school) without my parent's permission.
2. I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information or receive a message that makes me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get such a message.
3. I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without checking with my parents. If my parents agree to such a meeting, Mom or Dad will come with me.
4. I will never send my picture to someone I don't know without first checking with my parents.
5. I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate sites for me to visit. I will abide by those rules.
6. I will not give out my internet password to anyone (even my best friends) except for my parents. (Parents need to know service providers and passwords so we can keep children safe. Talk with your children so that you can find a balance between their privacy and your job to keep them safe.)
7. I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts others or is against the law.

## Selected Facts about Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

*Summarized by APS/AB School Nurses*

**Description:** Staph are bacteria commonly carried on the skin or in the nose of healthy people. About 25-30% of the US population carries staph on their bodies at any time. MRSA is a rare type of staph that is resistant to some antibiotics. Severe infections with MRSA are rare and are more commonly seen in health care setting, not schools.

**Transmission:** Staph, including MRSA are spread by direct skin-to-skin contact. It can also be spread by contact with items that have been touched or used by people with staph such as sharing towels, razors, and athletic equipment. Most people who have staph or MRSA on their skin do not have infections or illness. Staph infections including MRSA start when staph enter a cut or break in the skin.

**Symptoms:** Minor staph infections may cause ordinary boils, pimples and rashes, such as impetigo. Severe staph infections are uncommon in healthy children. A sign of more serious infection could include high fever, headache, fatigue, heat and pain around a wound. The symptoms of MRSA are the same as other staph infections.

**Treatment:** See your doctor if the infection is large, painful, swollen, red and does not heal by itself. Your doctor will determine if you need antibiotics. Students with a MRSA infection can attend school as long as the wound is covered and they are receiving proper treatment.

**Reducing Risk:** Practicing good hygiene is the best way to prevent getting and spreading MRSA infections. Keep hands clean by washing them frequently with soap and warm water. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer gel when soap and water are not available. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.

For more information about MRSA, visit the MDPH website at [www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)

## Lost & Found Fair

The third Parker Damon Building Lost & Found Fair of the school year will be Monday, February 9 through Friday, February 13. 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.)

## IEP Seminar

Did you ever wonder what all the pages of your child's IEP plan actually mean? Yes, most of us are familiar with the parts surrounding the objectives and goals for our child, but what about the rest of the document? If you have a desire to truly understand all the information on your child's Individual Education Plan so you have the knowledge to give input to every aspect of the plan, **please join us on March 3 at 7:30 PM at the R.J Grey Library.** This open ended seminar will be lead by Mary Emmons who is the Acton-Boxborough Special Education Coordinator for both the Junior High and High School. She will walk us through all the paper work and explain what each part is there for as well as help answer any questions people might have regarding this document.

In addition to hosting this meeting, **ABPCC (Acton Boxborough Support Group for Parents of Children with Challenges) will also have our monthly morning meeting at 9:30 AM on March 20th at ABRHS in room 131 east.** We will discuss this topic in addition to our general open session. For further information on our group, contact Francesca Ricciardi at [fmr08@verizon.net](mailto:fmr08@verizon.net) or Lynn Armstrong at [lynn.armstrong2@verizon.net](mailto:lynn.armstrong2@verizon.net).

## Help Wanted

Weekly on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:55 AM. Assist Sloyd teacher during 2nd Gr. Sloyd class time. Will train. No Experience necessary. If interested, contact Heidi at: [hkupferman@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:hkupferman@mail.ab.mec.edu).

# Come Aboard—Auction Update

McCarthy-Towne’s 18th Annual Goods and Services Auction is taking place on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Devens Common Center, Devens, MA at 5:30 PM. We are excited to be at this new and beautiful location again. The theme of the Auction is “Come Sail Away”. The M-CATS band, consisting of members of our own McT parent community, will be performing during the Silent Auction ([www.mcatsband.org](http://www.mcatsband.org)).

Find your cruise wear and get ready to hang out on the Promenade Deck! Enjoy appetizers, drinks and dinner while socializing with friends—both old and new—and faculty! Bid on lower cost items (many are valued under \$30) and maybe go home with a bargain! Consider bidding on higher priced items such as parties and specialty meals with other families. Enjoy the amazing classroom projects! Be a part of the bidding or watch the live auction process as a spectator!

The Auction is our largest fund raiser. In the past, these funds have supplemented the Acton Public Schools budget to support contracted services such as classroom, reading, and library assistants. With our town facing significant financial challenges, budget cuts that directly affect our children will occur. McCarthy-Towne will have to maintain its excellent school program with less funding.

## There are 3 key ways that you can help:

### 1. Donate to the auction

We’ve already received some great donations, but more are needed. **The deadline for parent donations is Friday, February, 27.** Please consider donating an item, whether small or large, simple or elaborate. The variety is what makes it fun, and creative items often draw intense bidding. Need ideas? See the “Donations” page on the website ([www.mctptso.org](http://www.mctptso.org)) for examples. Submit your donation form ASAP!

### 2. Attend the Auction

Participation in the Auction is fun and exciting. There will be items at the Auction for everyone, whether it’s a gift certificate to a restaurant or favorite shop, a chance to try a fun activity like learning to knit, bead, or speak a new language or a fun family outing like attending a play, sporting event or museum. There are “big” ticket items such as vacation get-aways as well. Watch the website to see the latest donations!

The PTSO does not make any money from the ticket purchases; they only cover the cost of the hotel meal. You should only reserve a ticket if you are going to attend. If you would like to make a cash donation, write a check made out to the MCT PTSO (Memo: Auction), complete the donation form and send it to the office. This money is used to purchase raffle items or special live auction items (such as a gift certificate to a restaurant or hotel to complete an overnight package).

Look for the ticket reservation form in back pack mail on Friday, February 6th. The deadline for ticket reservations is Wednesday, March 18th.

### 3. Help your child sell raffle tickets.

Raffle tickets will be going home to students the week of February 9th. Every student will be getting two books of tickets. Students are encouraged but not obligated to sell raffle tickets. Volunteer an hour of your time selling raffle tickets on March weekends at local venues. It’s easy and fun. If want to volunteer, please contact Tammy Sarnelli at 978-266-1422.

See the Auction website ([www.mctptso.org](http://www.mctptso.org)) for donation and ticket forms and to stay tuned for the latest information!

Last but not least, we still need some folks to help with the Parent Donations and Business Donations Committee. Questions? Call either Carolyn Imperato at 978-264-9982 or Susan Lerner at 978-263-0049.

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## 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

**Mathematics for grades 3, 4, 5, 6:**  
May 12, May 13

**English Language Arts Composition for grade 4:**  
March 31

**Science & Technology/Engineering for grade 5:**  
May 18, May 19

**English Language Arts Reading for grade 4:**  
April 1, April 2, April 3

**Social Studies for grade 5:**  
May 21, May 22

# McCarthy-Towne School – FEBRUARY 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8	9 PDB Lost & Found Fair (through Feb. 13)	10	11 Community Assembly 5th Gr. Variety Show PTSO Meeting, 7 PM PIP 5th Gr. Market Math at Roche Bros., 4:30-7:30 PM	12 Snack Sale	13 Box Tops Deadline Spirit Sale Deadline	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL Winter Recess	17	18	19	20 ↑	21
22	23	24	25	26 Snack Sale	27	28
MARCH 1	MARCH 2 PIP 4th Gr. Star Party at PDB, 6:30-9 PM	MARCH 3	MARCH 4	MARCH 5 Snack Sale	MARCH 6 March McT Bulletin in Backpacks	MARCH 7