



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

March 6, 2009
Volume 38, No 7

March

by Nancy Kolb, McT Interim Principal

March has come in like a lion. Bear with us through the end of snow season and keep sending those warm winter clothes so that our students are comfortable at recess. Let's hope we have some green pastures awaiting us in the near future.

This month I would like to address a few topics. First is to welcome McCarthy-Towne's newly appointed principal, David Krane. He will assume the principal role on July 1. David and I have made a transition plan that includes working closely with me, the faculty, parents and students. He will attend faculty and other school meetings and observe during the school day. Last night he attended our Kindergarten Night and he will be at the auction later this month. On April 15 he will join the PTSO meeting so mark your calendars. Marcia and I will be available to help David as much as needed, both this spring and next school year. I can speak from experience that being the McT principal is the best job ever and David is excited and ready to be here.

I want to formally thank our custodial team at the Parker Damon Building: Nirmin Morris, Head Custodian; Dave Nichols, Lead Custodian; and Mike Fortin, Kathy McKenna and Peter Kelly. This dedicated group of professionals has worked night and day to keep our building clean, warm, functional and welcoming. You know what

a challenge it is to keep your house clean during the winter and spring months, now imagine over 1,300 adults and students living here each day.

On March 19th at 7:30 PM, McT will host the APS School Committee Meeting. Our school report will feature the McCarthy-Towne Values we have articulated this year. We invite you to join us or to watch the presentation broadcast on cable.

During the winter months an ongoing challenge is bus time, and making sure that students arrive at school and leave school safely. Please remember to be watchful and drive carefully when picking up your child on the McT side of the building. Because of the snow we have limited waiting space and the tight quarters mean that cars and children are in close proximity. Another challenge is the waiting area in our lobby. We ask students meeting parents to stand to the side of the lobby by the McT office in order to provide a clear path for our bus lines. When picking up your child please do not linger. More is not the merrier at this time of the day.

I continue to be impressed by our students. They arrive happy, ready to learn and excited about sharing their discoveries. They care deeply about McT and helping our community develop and grow. It is truly a joy to be part of their lives this year.

Mark Your Calendar

MARCH

- **10, Tuesday**
- School Council Meeting, 4 PM, PDB Library
- **11, Wednesday**
- PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- **12, Thursday**
- Snack Sale
- **18, Wednesday**
- Scrip order deadline
- **19, Thursday**
- NO SNACK SALE
- CPAC Assembly - Jazz
- **20, Friday**
- Auction Raffle Tickets due
- **21, Saturday**
- McT Auction! See page 6.
- **26, Thursday**
- Snack Sale
- **31, Tuesday**
- MCAS testing begins
- PIP 3rd Grade Market Math at Roche Bros.

APRIL

- **2, Thursday**
- NO SNACK SALE
- **4, Saturday**
- Lip-Sync Extravaganza, 4:30-6 PM
- **8, Wednesday**
- Donelan's Receipts for Education due to the office
- **10, Friday**
- NO SCHOOL, Good Friday
- **15, Wednesday**
- PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- **20-24**
- NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess

by Lynne Densen and Kim Clark, PTSO co-chairs

Can you believe February has already come and gone? The snow is still falling, but March and spring events are just around the corner.

As always, the McT Spirit Wear sale in February was a great success; many thanks to Kerry Bremer for handling the orders for us again this year.

We have a very exciting few weeks coming up:

- The very popular and fun **McT Auction** is on Saturday, March 21st. All the details on the auction, how to get tickets, additional raffle tickets, and to preview the classroom projects, can be found at www.mctptso.org/auction2009.com. We hope to see you all there—we may even have a surprise guest!
- The 2nd Annual **Lip Sync Extravaganza** is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th.

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

Donelan's Receipts for Education Ends March 31st!



As you shop at Donelan's Supermarkets over the next couple weeks, please remember to save your receipts! Send the receipts in with your child or drop them off at the McT office yourself. They'll be redeemed for free educational equipment including art supplies and books.

Donelan's Supermarkets receipts that are dated September 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 are eligible.

All receipts must be dropped off at the McT office by Wednesday, April 8, 2009. If you've been stockpiling receipts, please send them in as soon as possible!

Box Tops 4 Education Count

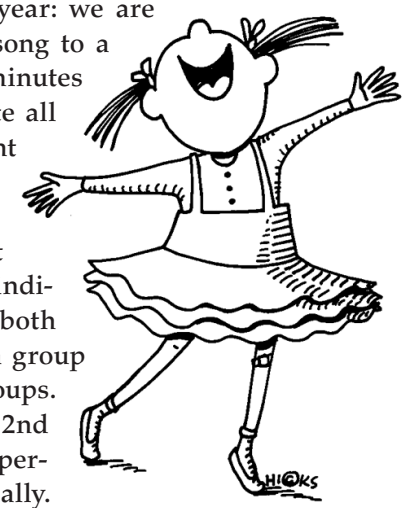
The spring BoxTops4Education counts are in, and for the second semester in a row, Jean Oviatt's class is the winner, with David Rachlin's class in second. Jean's class will be receiving \$25 worth of recess equipment and a set of 16" Double Dutch jump ropes will be added to the office bin for all to share. The total count was 3,750 which will bring in another \$375 for McCarthy-Towne School. In addition to the \$680 we earned from the fall collection, that brings our yearly total to just over \$1,000 for the year. Thanks everyone.

Lip-Sync Extravaganza

Our 2nd Annual Lip-Sync Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th from 4:30-6 PM. This was a huge hit last year with about 13 performances by both McT children and staff. Don't miss out this year! We have had a lot of people already express interest in performing this year.

We will be sending information out in March to sign up for the Lip-Sync Extravaganza but it is not TOO EARLY to start thinking about what song you would like to perform, if you would like to do it individually or in a group, and to start practicing.

A few changes this year: we are going to limit each song to a maximum of 2.5 minutes so as to accommodate all the groups that want to perform. We will also be limiting each group to just one song, although individuals may perform both individually and in a group or in two different groups. Children need to be 2nd grade or higher to perform a song individually.



Any questions, please contact Lynne Densen at lynne.densen@verizon.net, 978.266.2952 or Karen Anderson at cander67@aol.com, 978.274.2012.

Important News for 6th Grade Parents or Guardians

Immunization Requirements

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has the following requirements for all students entering Grade 7 in September 2009:

- **MMR** 2 doses or 2 doses of measles and one dose of mumps and rubella
- **Varicella** A physician-certified history of chicken pox disease or one dose of vaccine for students under 13 years or two doses of vaccine for students over 13 years.
- **Hepatitis B** 3 doses
- **Td/Tdap** One booster dose of Td (tetanus/diphtheria and acellular pertussis) if it has been more than five years since the last dose
- **A copy of an up-to-date physical examination** is also required before entering Grade 7.

Many of the above vaccines may have been administered while your child was in elementary school. Please check with your Healthcare Provider to be certain your child's immunizations are up-to-date and documented in his/her record. Send a copy of the exam and updated information to your elementary school health office and it will be included in your child's health record when transferred to the Junior High School in June. If you do not have the necessary paperwork completed before the end of school, send it to the school nurse at the Junior High by August 28, 2009.

Save the Date! What to Expect in Jr. High

The Acton and Boxborough PTSOs are planning a program for parents and guardians of 6th grade students called "The Junior High School and What to Expect." The program will include a panel of current and former parents from our school who have children attending the junior and/or senior high school. **The McCarthy-Towne parent panel will be on Thursday, April 9 at 7 PM in the R. J. Grey Junior High School library.**

Wanted: Used Clothing

The health office is in need of gently-used children's clothing. Donations of sweatpants/athletic pants in unisex styles are especially needed, along with socks and T-shirts. Thank you!

A Message from the Food Service Department

Did you know you can apply for free or reduced lunch at any time throughout the school year?

If your financial situation has changed and you would like to apply for assistance the link below will bring you to the application.

www.ab.mec.edu/departments/deptspdf/Application

Please fill out the application and return it to your child's school. You only need to fill out one application per family.

If you have any questions regarding the process please contact Kirsten Nelson at 978-264-4700 x3221 or knelson@mail.ab.mec.edu.

PTSO Meeting Schedule

Mark your calendar for the remaining PTSO meetings! We meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the Faculty Lounge (top floor). Everyone is welcome to attend!

March 11 • April 15 • May 13 • June 10

David Krane, our newly hired principal, will be our special guest at the April 15th meeting. **Don't miss this opportunity to meet David!**

Have you Started Spring Cleaning?

Spring is right around the corner. As you start your spring cleaning don't forget to donate your unwanted goods to the McT Annual Yard Sale. Items that can be donated include toys, games, puzzles, books, baby items, music CDs, DVDs & videos, housewares, clothing, sporting goods, bikes and much more. Please make sure all items are in good working condition. And don't forget, all donations are tax deductible!

The sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 8 AM-Noon. For more information contact Brenda Simpson at brendahsimpson@hotmail.com or Tina Vanasse Narbonne at narbonnefamily@yahoo.com.

International Night 2009

The planning of this year's 3rd annual Parker Damon International Night is underway! **This popular event is scheduled for Friday, May 1st.**

We are calling on all parents interested in getting involved to come to an informational meeting on Monday, March 16th from 7–8:30 PM. The meeting will be at 6 Rose Court. We will brainstorm ideas for this year's event, as well as talk about the many different opportunities for volunteers. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to greshmasingh@gmail.com. If you can not make the meeting and would still like to be involved, please let us know. Please contact Stacy Harris at askquixote@verizon.net or 978-263-6095 if you have any questions. Look forward to seeing you there!

Thank You

by Astrid Trostorff,

Parent Involvement/ Community Outreach Coordinator

Thank you to all the members of the McCarthy-Towne community who volunteer in so many ways to make our community so wonderful for children. Some of the volunteers include:

- Frank McCammon for a case of empty tennis ball cans used for art glue
- Nicole Lippa, Marie Clougher and Suzanne Kissane for supervising Student Council Snack Sales
- Patty Lee, Marie Clougher, Mimi Kirkman, Susan Lerner, Lena Saetre-Grant, and Amy Miles for being school tour guides and assisting on Parent Information Night for prospective kindergarten parents
- Student Council members for assisting on Parent Information Night for prospective kindergarten parents
- Lynne Densen and the Hospitality Committee for providing snacks and beverages for Parent Information Night for prospective kindergarten parents
- Janet Merrigan, Callie Soderland and Jean Oviatt and the Student Council for planning and hosting Movie Night

Tidbits from Tina

McT School Counselor

I have a pet-peeve, trophies! Don't get me wrong, I love being recognized for an achievement, whether it be a trophy, a medal, or a raise. Unfortunately trophies seem to be given out these days without any regard to whether they are earned or not. I remember when my youngest child, Wayne, was so very sad because he didn't have any trophies like his older siblings.

In order to cheer him up, my father gave him a bowling trophy he had earned many years ago. Wayne was delighted, for a moment. Soon, however, the trophy was pushed to the back of his bookshelf. Even as a 5 year old, Wayne knew there was no accomplishment there, not for him. It had no personal meaning, no value.

Over the past few years I have heard well-meaning parents talk of "giving" their child's team trophies. They expressed the desire to build their child's self-esteem, of making the team members feel good, especially since their team had lost so many games during the season. And so, intending to protect their children from feeling the pain of losing, they were rewarding them with trophies. Here's my problem—trophies are not "given", they are "earned". Their value comes in the hard work, the perseverance, the talent, and, yes, the luck that is involved in having a winning season. "Getting" a trophy does not build self-esteem; "earning" a trophy does. It's true that there is pain involved in losing, and none of us want our children to experience pain. However, if they don't experience loss, they will never appreciate winning. If I "get" a trophy when my team does not do well, how meaningful is that trophy that I truly earn?

Moving away from the world of sports, I can generalize my message. It's okay for children to fail, to make mistakes, and it will make them sad/disappointed/angry. We should not protect them from those feelings. Our job as parents is to teach them to pick themselves up when things don't go well, to learn from their mistakes, to improve and to move on. If we protect them from failure/losing, they will never appreciate and enjoy their successes. Nor will they develop empathy for others. So, let's console our children when they lose, celebrate with them when they win, and know that they need to do both to become empathic, responsible and happy adults.

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

Dismissal Time at McCarthy-Towne

from the office

Dismissal time in the Parker Damon Building is a very busy time. Students often come to the office at dismissal time unsure of where they should be going. The office staff asks your cooperation to help keep it a safe time for all our students.

- If you plan to pick up your child at the end of the day, remember to send in a dismissal form. (Forms are available on the web-site and in the office.) Kindergarten students must always be signed out in the office. Children in grades 1–6 can be met in the lobby or the outside pick-up area. Remember to discuss the meeting place with your child.
- Students without a dismissal form will be sent on their usual bus.
- If you unexpectedly need to pick up your child, please come to the office at least 10 minutes before dismissal to sign them out. Tell the office staff your child is being picked up so the student can be called to meet you in the lobby at dismissal time. DO NOT telephone the office near dismissal time with last minute changes as we are often too busy to answer the phone and don't check voice mail until after buses have left.
- The lobby is a very busy place at dismissal with adults meeting students, and teachers leading students to buses. When you are in the lobby at dismissal time, please remember to stand with your children near the chairs so the pathway to the door is clear.

Youth Art Month 2009 at the Worcester Art Museum

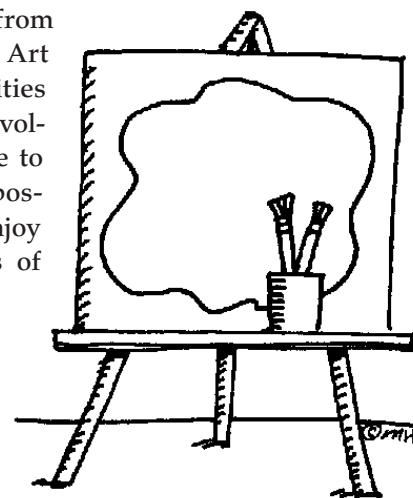
Congratulations to Emilia Teran, Alison Rutyna, Juhwan Jung, Oliver Kehm, and Ailish Tighe. Heidi has chosen their artwork to be displayed at the Worcester Art Museum during the month of March. This multimedia exhibit is sponsored by the Massachusetts Art Education Association as part of Youth Art Month, a national celebration to emphasize the value of art education for all children and to encourage support for the quality art programs in Massachusetts' schools.

Youth Art Month will be celebrated with a **Youth Reception on Sunday, March 8**, for the young exhibitors, grades kindergarten through grade eight, and their families. The reception will be from 1–4 PM at the Worcester Art Museum.

The Youth Art Month Exhibit will be on display through the month of March, from March 1–31.

Admission is free in the Higgins Education wing of the Worcester Art Museum, which will be open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 6 PM

and on Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM. Art teachers from 35 cities and towns have volunteered their time to make this event possible. Join us to enjoy the diverse talents of our children.



McCarthy-Towne Auction

Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Devens Common Center in Devens, MA

The McT Auction is almost here! Get ready to enjoy a fun Saturday evening on March 21, 2009 at the Devens Common Center in Devens, MA. This is a beautiful and close location. Catch up with old friends, meet new friends, listen to the MCATS, and bid on great items. Doors open at 5:30 PM!

Put on your favorite "cruise wear" (Love Boat, perhaps or tacky tourist). To make it easy, just order a special edition Auction McT T-shirts. Order forms will be going home on Friday, March 6th!

McCarthy-Towne's new principal, David Krane, will be joining us for this fun evening!

The auction is a great time and it's our biggest fundraiser! We are so fortunate to have a community of dedicated parents, faculty and staff who help make this auction a truly great event. Not only does our community donate unique and creative items, there are many folks who give the gift of time in making this event so successful. Thanks to everyone for your continued support!

The Auction Committee is finalizing the Auction booklet, which will be distributed via backpack on Monday, March 16th. Directions to the auction will be included in the Auction Booklet. Be sure to review the wide variety of great items avail-

able for bidding. If you can't wait, preview the item descriptions and photos of the Classroom Projects in the near future on the Auction website, (www.mctptso.org/fundraising/auction2009/). If you cannot attend, you can submit bids on items by completing the proxy form included in the booklet and sending back to the McT office.

Remember that ticket reservations can be made until Wednesday, March 18. Those of you who sent your reservations in by February 13th will be entered in a chance to win the Early Bird Prize: McCarthy-Towne Spirit Wear Blanket!

Raffle tickets were distributed last week and should be returned no later than Friday, March 20th. Please return promptly to have a chance to win **great prizes including a Nintendo Wii, a 4G iPod Nano, or Boston Celtics Tickets!**

Can you spare an hour of your time to sell raffle tickets? To reserve a spot, contact Tammy Sarnelli at tammy.sarnelli@biogenidec.com or 978-266-1422. Times are available for March 7 and 8 as well as March 14 and 15. This is a great opportunity to get the whole family involved in raising money for our school and it only requires an hour of your time!

Questions? Call Carolyn Imperato (978-264-9982) or Susan Lerner (978-263-0049).

Scrip Gift Card Program

Thank you to all the families who ordered Scrips in the month of February. Scrips continues 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 Scrip 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 all of the participating vendors. If you need an additional form (if a family member or friend would like to place an order), you can also get an order form online at www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip.

The next orders are due on Wednesday, March 18th. If you have any questions please contact Lynne Densen at lynne.densen@verizon.net or 978-266-2952 or Maureen Jones at maureen.jones1@verizon.net or 978-266-2874.



McCarthy-Towne School – MARCH 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8	9	10 School Council Meeting, 4 PM, PDB Library	11 PTSO Meeting, 7 PM	12 Snack Sale	13	14
15	16	17	18 Scrip Orders due	19 CPAC Asembly School Committee Meeting @ McT, 7:30 PM	20 Auction Raffle Tickets due	21 McT Auction!
22	23	24	25	26 Snack Sale	27	28
29	30	31 MCAS testing begins PIP 3rd Grade Market Math at Roche Bros	APRIL 1	APRIL 2	APRIL 3 April McT Bulletin in Backpacks	APRIL 4 Lip-Sync Extravaganza, 4:30–6 PM