



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

April 3, 2009
Volume 38, No 8

Values Document Complete and Class Placement

by Nancy Kolb, McT Interim Principal

The McT faculty has some exciting news! They have completed the McCarthy-Towne values document! Thank you to everyone for the extra time and energy put in to this important task. We believe that these six traits are key to understanding what makes McCarthy-Towne unique and what makes our school successful. **Please see the attachment at the end of the bulletin.** The values are also on the McT web site. We hope you enjoy reading them!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to help parents understand how classes for the next school year are created. As always, our goal is to make the best possible placements for our students. We believe that the best way to do this is to create heterogeneous and balanced classes. Creating these groupings for each grade level is a complex process. Our entire professional staff spends a great deal of time carefully weighing each student's academic, social and emotional needs as well as more individual issues such as those regarding particular peer relationships, neighborhood situations, or siblings' experiences. The sending and receiving teachers and the special education specialists meet as a team to create three balanced classes. The last part of the process is to assign a teacher to each of the classes that has been created.

Each teacher brings a unique style to his/her classroom, thus ensuring a variety of teaching strategies within the framework of the curriculum and the philosophy of the school. Nevertheless, in recent years a number of parents have chosen to write letters requesting their child be placed or not placed in a specific teacher's room or with or not with particular children. We cannot honor these requests. I will return to you any letter that includes a specific teacher's or student's name.

However, we do pay attention to them insofar as they discuss a child's learning style, needs and interests. As a result, you should be aware that your letters are always shown to the teachers at both the sending and receiving grade levels.

In today's world, it is important that our students learn to relate to many different people. We hope that you will support your child in his/her endeavor to discover how to work well with a broad range of students and teaching styles. This is an important aspect of your child's education.

If you do choose to write me a letter, please so by Friday, April 17.

Mark Your Calendar

APRIL

- **4, Saturday**
Lip-Sync Extravaganza, 4:30-6 PM
- **6, Monday**
Annual Town Meeting, 7 PM
- **8, Wednesday**
Donelan's Receipts due
- **9, Thursday**
Snack Sale
Jr. HS Parent Forum, 7 PM
- **10, Friday**
NO SCHOOL, Good Friday
- **13-17**
Lost & Found Fair
- **14, Tuesday**
Storytime at Willow Books, 5:30-8 PM
Scrip order deadline
- **15, Wednesday**
PTSO Meeting with David Krane, 7 PM
- **16, Thursday**
Snack Sale
- **17, Friday**
Butter Braids Bread and Cookie orders due
- **20-24**
NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess

MAY

- **1, Friday**
Parker Damon International Night, 6:15-8:30 PM
- **3, Sunday**
PDB Grounds Clean-Up, 11 AM-2 PM
- **8, Friday**
Yard Sale Drop-off
- **9, Saturday**
McT Yard Sale, 8 AM-Noon

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE

Come meet our new principal, David Krane, before the next PTSO meeting from 7-7:30 PM on Wednesday, April 15th.

At 7:30 PM the business meeting will then begin, so if you just want to come and meet David, you are welcome to do that. All are invited to stay for the business meeting.

We meet upstairs in the Faculty Lounge.



by Lynne Densen and Kim Clark, PTSO co-chairs

What a fantastic March we have had! We hope everyone had a good time at the auction. As always, it was a great night. It was nice to see our new school principal, David Krane, and his wife enjoying themselves at the auction, as well as our new Superintendent, Stephen Mills, and his finance.

We have many exciting events coming up in April. Our 2nd Annual Lip Sync Extravaganza is on Saturday, April 4th, and again it looks like it's going to be a lot of fun. We will also be introducing a food fundraiser—cookie dough and pastries, for those who are looking for treats for the family. There will also be a shopping event for those who enjoy planting spring annuals and perennials. Details on all of these are in the Bulletin.

If you have a suggestion for a fundraiser or shopping event (we love events where the school raises money without anyone having to buy anything extra, i.e. Scrips, amazon.com, and onecause.com), please feel free to forward them to us (Lynne and Kim).

Finally, we have PTSO positions opening for next year; please visit www.mctptso.org/getinvolved for a complete listing of open positions. And remember, if you are not sure about the date or details of an event, social, or fundraiser, please visit our website at www.mctptso.org; it is frequently updated.

Lip-Sync Extravaganza

Our 2nd Annual Lip-Sync Extravaganza is tomorrow, Saturday, April 4th from 4:30–6 PM. It is shaping up to be a fabulous performance with over 25 acts. Come and watch your friends and McT teachers Lip Sync to their favorite songs.

Admission is \$5 per person. Doors open at 4:15 PM and the performance starts promptly at 4:30 PM. Don't want the show to end? No problem, you can buy a DVD of the Lip Sync at the door for \$10. We will also have bake goods for sale to take home (pies, cakes, platters of cookies, brownies and cupcakes).



If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Densen (lynne.densen@verizon.net or 978-266-2952) or Karen Anderson (cander67@aol.com or 978-274-2012).

Parker Damon International Night 2009

The 3rd annual Parker Damon International Night will be Friday, May 1 from 6:15–8:30 PM. This enormously popular event is a wonderful opportunity to share and learn about many different cultures within our school community. This year's program will again feature performances by McCarthy-Towne and Merriam students, an international potluck dinner, and a few new surprises. We're looking for a few more ideas for our World Craft booths. If you have an international activity you'd be willing to share—henna decorating, tortilla rolling, Chinese calligraphy, etc. please contact Stacy Harris at askquixote@verizon.net.

Thank You, Thank You!

2009 Auction

The PTSO would like to thank everyone who supported our school at the Auction; it was a wonderful, energetic evening. We would also like to thank EVERYONE who donated an item for the auction, was a chair for one of the many committees, or worked on the auction. We could not have done any of it without the whole McT community coming together.

We would also like to offer thanks to two very special people—Carolyn Imperato and Susan Lerner. They took on the huge task of chairing the auction AGAIN, spending countless hours planning, meeting with various committees, following up on the phone, and making many family sacrifices along the way. On behalf of the whole school community, we appreciate all your hard work. Thank you, Carolyn and Susan!

Basketball Sales

Thank you to all the families and students who took time out to help with the basketball sales table this season! It was greatly appreciated.

Spirit Wear Sale

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2009 McT Spirit Wear sale a huge success! We sold 180 items for a total profit of about \$1,000 for the PTSO. Thanks to Robyn, Jean and Astrid for their help by hanging the samples in the office and sharing their enthusiasm for the sale when people inquired. The student council deserves a huge thank you for kicking off our sale at their movie night. Finally, thanks to Lynne Densen for her help with the bookkeeping and financial aspect of the sale. We all love seeing the children and adults wearing their McT clothing. It looks great on everyone!

Spring Yard Sale—May 9th!

The annual McT Yard Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 9 from 8 AM–Noon** in the Parker Damon cafetorium. Your help is needed! Please consider one or more of the following options for a successful sale:



- 1. Donate Items.** They're eligible for a tax deduction. Drop-off donations on Friday, May 8th. Details to come.
- 2. Volunteer 2 hours of your time.** Help is needed before, during and after the sale. Contact Wendy Schaad at ws.schaad@gmail.com to specify the time you are available.
- 3. Shop the Sale!** This 1-day event is a lot of fun and has historically raised over \$2,000 for the McT PTSO. Mark your calendar now!

For more information contact either Brenda Simpson at brendahsimpson@hotmail.com or Tina Vanasse Narbonne at narbonnefamily@yahoo.com.

The Junior High School and What to Expect

The Acton and Boxborough local and regional PTSOs are pleased to announce a program for the parents and guardians of 6th grade students.

During this time of transition, with many changes and unknowns, it is not uncommon for both students and parents to experience anxiety. This program will include a panel of current and former parents from your elementary school who have children attending R.J. Grey Jr. High and/or AB Regional High School. This session is designed to reduce parent anxiety by giving you information. Parents will share their experiences of the transition—what worked or didn't work for them and their children. You'll have an opportunity to ask questions and to hear honest answers about your concerns. R.J. Grey counselors will also offer their perspectives.

Panels will be held for different elementary schools on different dates so that groups will be smaller and panels can be representative of those parents whose children are attending those specific elementary schools.

All panels will be held at 7 PM at the Jr. High Library. Please feel free to attend any panel should one date be more convenient. If you have any questions, contact Chris Renzi at 978-266-1296 or chrisrenzi@comcast.net.

Douglas, Gates and Conant Parent Panel
Thursday, April 2nd

**Merriam, McCarthy-Towne and
Blanchard Parent Panel**
Thursday, April 9th

Buy Spring Flowers!

The Bird House Garden Center is generously hosting a fundraiser. Bring this coupon and over 50% will go to McCarthy-Towne PTSO! **Please bring this coupon with you!**

Qty	Variety	Price
_____	Tulips 6" Pot	\$10.99
_____	Daffodils 6" Pot	\$10.99
_____	Hyacinth 6" Pot	\$10.99
_____	Pansies 8" Pot	\$12.99
_____	Pansies 12" Oval	\$12.99
_____	Pansies Market Basket	\$14.99

The Bird House Garden Center

Open every day, 10 AM–5 PM

34 Massachusetts Ave.

(Rte 111 at the Acton/Boxboro town line)

978-263-1628

www.birdhousegardencenter.com

Plants are competitively priced, and can be planted in the ground as perennials.

NOTE: If you wish to donate plants to the PDB Landscape Committee, leave them under the Merriam office window (outside). And thanks!

Please contact Suzi Yarin at ssyarin@verizon.net or 978-263-6383 with any questions.

Quartet of Happiness Performance

The McCarthy-Towne Cultural and Performing Arts Committee welcomed the Quartet of Happiness to McT on March 19th. The quartet of two saxophone players, Kelly Roberge and Rick Stone, drummer Austin McMahan and bassist Kendall Eddy entertained students and faculty by playing games, wearing costumes, and engaging the audience with their antics. The Quartet of Happiness' performances are at times reminiscent of a cross between an improv comedy show and a theater of the bizarre. It's part jazz, part performance art, and all of it the child of insane wit.

If you would like more information about the Quartet of Happiness or if your child would like to give feedback to the group, you can access their website at www.quartetofhappiness.com. The McT CPAC committee would like to thank our PTSO and the David French Music Company for their generous grant, which made this performance possible. If you have any questions about the CPAC committee at McCarthy-Towne, please contact Julie Greenspan at pgreenspan@comcast.net or Francesca Riccardi at fmr08@verizon.net.

NEW! Butter Braids & Cookie Dough

Don't miss McT's first food fundraiser! Butter Braids Breads and Frozen Cookie dough (no peanut products) are available to order. They are fun, fast and easy treats.

You can store them in the freezer until needed and then thaw for the appropriate time before cooking... 10 minutes for cookies and 25 minutes or less for breads and pastry. Use them for any meal of the day and they make a great after school snack too.

Flyer and order forms are attached. **The deadline for orders is Friday, April 17. Pick-up is on Wednesday, May 6** (details to follow). Please contact Jill DeFoe at defoe@verizon.net or (978) 263-4848 with any questions.

Parker-Damon Spring Clean-Up

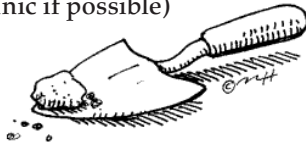
Get out your gardening gear for the Annual Spring Clean-Up of the school grounds. Join the PDB Landscape Committee on **Sunday, May 3 from 11 AM-2 PM**. With your help we can make our school grounds look beautiful! Bring rakes, weeding tools and wheel barrows... The whole family is welcome and we need all the help we can get! The landscaping of the P-D Building grounds is done **ONLY** by volunteers and your help is needed!

For more information, please contact Amanda Lye (amandalye1@yahoo.com or 978-635-9879) or Karen Dean (dkdean83@gmail.com or 978-274-2084).

Wish List

If you cannot donate a little time—perhaps donate one of these to our hard working efforts:

- A small child's wagon, for moving hoses back and forth to gardens
- 40 lb. bag of compost (organic if possible)
- Small tools you no longer need, but that are in good condition



Scrip Gift Card Program

Thank you to all the families that ordered Scrips in March. 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 \$3,100 YTD.

Attached is the order form with participating vendors. If you need an form (for a family member or friend), they are available online at www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip.

Orders this month are due on April 14th and will be in before April break. Contact either Lynne Densen (lynne.densen@verizon.net or 978-266-2952) or Maureen Jones (maureen.jones1@verizon.net or 978-266-2874) with any questions.

Tidbits from Tina

McT School Counselor

These economic times are taking a toll on a growing number of families. There are state and local programs that can help. If you or someone you know is in need, please use or pass along this information. Also, if you are confused about resources or have general questions, the Town of Acton has a Community Services Coordinator. You can reach Laura Ducharme at 978-264-9653 or email her at lducharme@acton-ma.gov.

The Town of Acton has community services that include:

Acton Food Pantry, 978-897-9881 (Wed 10-7)

Child Care Search, 978-897-6400

WIC On Wheels (Parks at Stop & Shop in Acton 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of Month)

Community Supper, 978-897-9881 (Wed 5-6:30 Acton Congregational Church)

Household Goods Recycling, 978-635-1739

Free/Reduced school lunch, 978-264-4700 x3221

Council on Aging (residents over 60), 978-264-9643

Support for issues such as legal, heating, housing, counseling, domestic violence, substance abuse, health insurance, advocacy and more, 978-264-9653

Additional Resources:

WIC at 1-800-942-1007. For families with children under 5 yrs: free healthy food, medical services and more.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps) at 1-800-645-8333. Must meet income guidelines.

Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), 978-446-2400. Transitional Cash Assistance for families meeting income guidelines.

Employment/Training Resources in Marlboro, 508-786-0928

- Career Guidance
- Job Referral/Postings/Resume Development
- Internet Access
- Skills Assessment/Workshops/Computer Learning Lab

Help can make a difference!

Last and First Day of School

With four weather-related school closings this year, **the last day of school is THURSDAY, JUNE 25.**

The first day of school after summer vacation will be TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1. This is before Labor Day, and a different day of the week than usual. Also note that there will be no school on Friday, September 4 and Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day weekend.

A pdf of the 2009–2010 school calendar is available for download on the school system website at ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/schcalendar10.pdf.

Willow Books Hosts Storytime with McCarthy-Towne Teachers

Please join us on Tuesday, April 14 from 5:30–8 PM at Willow Books for a fun night of story telling by our very own McT teachers. Vin, Janet, Abby, Caitlin, Callie, Kari, Sharon, and our new principal, David, are just a few who will be reading that evening.

Willow Books is hosting this wonderful event to benefit our youngest literacy learners (this is NOT a PTSSO fundraiser). Willow Books will be donating 15% of all purchases made during this event directly to Sharon's *Teachers and Families as Literacy Partners* Program.

Sharon Ryan, our Reading Specialist, will be providing two literacy seminars this spring for parents (see article below). This exciting evening hosted by Willow Books will help to fund these literacy seminars and the fun materials for the parents to take home. Thank you in advance for helping our youngest literacy learners.

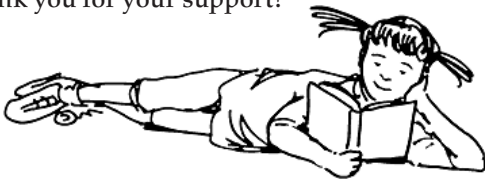
Teachers and Families as Literacy Partners

Sharon Ryan, McT Reading Specialist, will be hosting two parent evening seminars designed to provide enjoyable summer literacy ideas and activities for our youngest literacy learners. These seminars will provide parents with resources and skills to use over the summer to nurture literacy in their children.

May 6, 7-8 PM Designed for parents of students transitioning from Kindergarten to grade 1 in the fall.

May 20, 7-8 PM will be designed especially for parents of our incoming kindergarten students.

If you have any questions contact Sharon at sryan@mail.ab.mec.edu. Thank you for your support!



Turn in Your Donelan's Receipts by Wed, April 8th



The receipts for education program has ended. If you have any Donelan's receipts dated September 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009 please have your child deliver them to the McT office. All receipts must be submitted by Wednesday, April 8th. Help McCarthy-Towne get free educational equipment and art supplies simply by turning in your receipts!

Support McCarthy-Towne for FREE

Did you know you can help support McCarthy-Towne without spending any more money than you usually do for your family? Check out these three easy ways to help our school—with each of these, you only pay what you normally would—the company donates a percentage to McT. There is no surcharge passed on to you, but our school can really reap some benefits!

1. Buy scrip cards for your favorite stores

Do you go to Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts every week for coffee? Buy a scrip card for either (or both) of those shops and stop fumbling in your wallet for change! Do you shop at Roche Bros. or Stop & Shop? Buy a card and use it there, too. How about TJ Maxx? Use a card and help McT when you find your bargains!

2. Shop Through OneCause

Do you buy clothes for your family online? Here's an easy way to give to McT twice! Log onto OneCause (formerly School Pop) at www.onecause.com, sign up and designate McCarthy-Towne as your school to donate to. Then click on LL Bean, for example. When you check out, use your Scrip card to help pay for your purchase. McT gets a percentage from the card, AND it gets a percentage from OneCause. You've just made 2 donations to McT! You can also access OneCause through the McT PTSSO site.

Some of the stores on OneCause are Ebay, ProFlowers, Nordstrom, Oriental Trading, Target, Piperlime, The Children's Place—there are literally hundreds of places you can shop online and help our school.

Here's a partial list of places that have both Scrip cards and are on OneCause: Staples, Kmart, LL Bean, Lands End, Gap, Home Depot, J Crew, JC Penney, Kohl's, Limited Too,—again, lots of places that you can shop to help McCarthy-Towne twice.

3. Shop Amazon.com

We get up to 10% of what you purchase. Simply go to the McT PTSSO website (www.mctptso.org) and click on the Amazon logo. Again, you can use a Scrip card from McT when you check out for a double donation.

Happy shopping and thanks for helping McT for free!

It's Tick Season—Here's What You Need to Know

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.

Deer ticks: Both nymph (young) and adult deer ticks will bite humans. The highest risk of being bitten by a deer tick occurs throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons. However, adult deer ticks can also be out searching for a host any time winter temperatures are above freezing. Deer tick nymphs are the size of a poppy seed and deer tick adults are the size of a sesame seed.

Dog ticks: In general, only the adult dog tick will bite humans. The highest risk of being bitten by a dog tick occurs during the spring and summer seasons. Adult dog ticks are about the size of a watermelon seed.

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

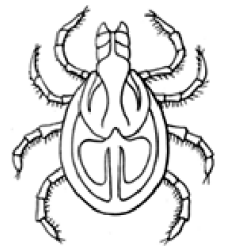
The tick should be carefully removed as soon as possible. The longer an infected tick remains attached to a person or animal, the higher the likelihood of disease transmission. Use fine point tweezers to grip the mouthparts of the tick as close to the skin as possible. The tick should not be squeezed 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.

How can I protect my family from tick bites?

The 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 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.
- Talk to your veterinarian about the best ways to protect your pets from ticks.
- There is currently no human vaccine available to protect against Lyme disease or any other tick-borne disease found in Massachusetts.



Further detailed information can be found online at www.mass.gov/dph and www.cdc.gov.

(Summarized by the APS/ABRHS Nurses, 4/2008)

PTSO Open Positions

The PTSO is looking for people to fill several positions for the 2009-2010 school year. If you are interested in any of these positions, or if you want to be involved but are not sure which position would be the best fit for you, please contact Laurie Taylor-Teran at ltteran@yahoo.com.

Auction Chairs (2 positions): Oversee the Auction Committee Chairs for the annual McT Auction.

Backpack Flyer Coordinator (1 or 2 positions): Coordinate weekly backpack flyers so they go out on a timely basis and minimize paper use. Involves sending out and collecting emails from each event chair, combining emails when necessary, and coping flyers as needed.

Basketball Sale Coordinator (1 or 2 positions): Coordinate the sale of snacks at basketball games at the Parker Damon Building every other week during basketball season (approximately 5 Saturdays). Others will help purchase and sell snacks.

Buddy Family Co-Chair: Work with the Buddy Family Chair to welcome new families to McT.

Bulletin Collator: Supervise students from 4th, 5th or 6th grade to collate, staple, and distribute the Bulletin to classroom teachers.

Donelan's Receipts Co-Chair: Work with the current Chair to collect Donelan's receipts to raise money for school art supplies.

Family Photo Day Co-Chair: Work with the current Chair to set up the Family Photo Day in the fall.

Parker Damon Building Lost & Found: Work with Merriam Lost & Found chair to organize the building's lost and found items.

McT Second Graders Raise Roof in Ghana, Africa

by Jen Pratt

The second graders have a lot to be proud of! This year they established a relationship with a school in Ghana, Africa. Back in September we were contacted by Andrea Bergart, a former McT student, who was spending time in Ghana on a Fulbright Scholarship. Andrea remembered studying Ghana way back in the second grade, and really enjoyed her opportunity to explore many different countries and cultures at McT. Andrea was hoping to start a pen pal relationship with some of the children from McT.

What started out as an incredible opportunity to pair our students with children half way around the world as pen pals, grew into something much more rewarding! In correspondence between myself and Andrea, and letters from the children, we quickly learned that our Ghanaian pen pals had started new construction on their school and had run out of money before the building was finished.

The second grade teachers thought this would be a great way to empower our students to reach out and help others in need. The children were very excited about starting a fundraiser to help their pen pals. It was decided that the children could contribute some money to this cause by partaking in bottle redemption with their families. One child alone contributed over \$23 worth of recycling!

The majority of the money however came from raffle sales that the children, along with parents, volunteered to sell outside local grocery stores. The Jannke Family generously donated two front row tickets to a Bruins game and a Legends Gift Certificate for dinner inside the TD Banknorth Garden. The Bruins also donated a signed stick for the raffle winner. The Loria Family, a former McT family, were the winners of these prizes. Paul Jannke spearheaded the fundraiser and coordinated volunteers to sell tickets. Thanks to Paul and all his efforts!

Our goal was to raise \$1,500 which would cover our pen pal's costs for construction. The children exceeded this goal with only three days of selling and close to \$2,000 in sales. Since forwarding the money over to our Ghanaian pen pals, we have received many thank you letters, pictures, and video clips of how appreciative our friends in Ghana are. They immediately put the money to work. They purchased roofing materials within days of receiving the money, and started on construction just in time for the rainy season.

It is truly amazing what big things such little people can do! We are so proud of their work!

Placement for Next Year

from the office

Parents/guardians of students in grades K–5 will be receiving a letter at spring parent-teacher conferences with the child's user name and password for access to the on-line emergency card. You will need this information to access class placement information, which will be posted on Friday afternoon, August 21.

Please keep this letter in a safe place where you can find it. Your child's user name and password stays the same through high school graduation and you will need to update the emergency card information and medical authorization every year until your they graduate.

Also remember to update the card any time your address or contact information changes, or if your child's health information changes.

Lost & Found Fair

The Parker Damon Building Lost & Found Fair will be Monday April 13 through Friday April 17. 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.)

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.

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

McCarthy-Towne School – APRIL 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	6 Annual Town Meeting, 7 PM at ABRHS Auditorium	7 2nd Night Town Meeting	8 Donelan's Receipts for Education due to the office	9 Snack Sale Jr. High What to Expect Parent Forum, 7 PM at R.J. Grey Library	10 NO SCHOOL Good Friday	11
12 EASTER	13 3rd Night Town Meeting	14 Storytime at Willow Books with McT Teachers, 5:30–8 PM Scrip Orders Due	15 Meet David Krane, 7–7:30 PM PTSO Meeting, 7:30 PM	16 Snack Sale	17 Butter Braid and Cookie Orders Due	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL Spring Recess	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	MAY 1 Parker Damon International Night, 6:15–8:30 PM May McT Bulletin in Backpacks	MAY 2

McCarthy-Towne Values

TRUST

- Teachers are trusted to manage their classrooms and programs:
They determine daily routines and plan the content as appropriate. Expectations exist that teachers will be creative and explore new ideas and approaches, and move in new directions. Through this process mistakes are expected as part of the process of teaching and learning.
- Teachers use their own experience and knowledge base to evaluate curriculum (state and district) goals. Teachers may decide to teach outside those goals.
- Teachers invest time and effort in lesson planning. They are not required to submit lesson plans on a regular basis. Instead, they submit a yearly curriculum map.
- Trust and cooperation exists through an open dialogue during faculty meetings.
- A cooperative work environment exists for both teachers and students alike. Students are expected to participate in cooperative learning groups. Teachers share curriculum and ideas on a regular basis. Staff are expected to assume leadership through chairing and participating in committees
- Students are trusted to take an active role in their own education and in building a healthy classroom community.
- McCarthy-Towne has a deep investment in the social curriculum; most teachers utilize the Responsive Classroom approach. Students participate in creating classroom rules and consequences. Support staff is actively involved in reinforcing these rules and expectations.
- Students frequently engage in cooperative learning. They are encouraged to take on a variety of roles within these groups, which helps to foster trust among peers.
- An appreciation of diversity exists throughout the school. All students, parents/guardians and staff are valued as important members of the McCarthy-Towne community.
- The Central Office supports McCarthy-Towne's decision making process and school autonomy. There is understanding that school choice is essential. Parents who desire McCarthy-Towne's values choose the school.
- The parent community share McCarthy-Towne core values. They work hard to financially support school goals and trust faculty decision making on how to allocate resources.
- Parents are often invited into classrooms to assist with lessons or activities. Parents are included in hiring committees for teachers and administration.

PROCESS

- The process of learning is highly valued and works in progress are on display in classrooms and throughout the school.
- Teachers differentiate instruction to support individual student goals, strengths, needs, and learning styles.
- Teachers document student growth and progress. Assessment is embedded into the daily activities of the classroom. This information is shared with parents during conferences using portfolios, rubrics, and formal assessments.
- Students are active in decision-making concerning their own learning. With the support of teachers, they develop goals in order to self-evaluate, and reflect on the learning process.
- Students are actively involved in creating rules and consequences in their classroom.
- Students work collaboratively to share ideas and learning strategies.
- Teachers work collaboratively, both within and across grade levels, to share ideas and strategies. This communication is encouraged through the availability of bi-weekly Collaboration and Planning time (CAP) and monthly grade level meetings.
- Teachers choose materials and methods of instruction at grade levels in order to promote diversity and creativity in teaching.

DECISION MAKING

- The faculty is responsible for the governance of the school. The school was founded on this principle.
- The principal and faculty act as a cohesive unit in which each person has one vote, including the principal.
- The principal acts as a liaison to the district administrators. The principal is an advocate for McCarthy-Towne within the community and school districts.
- The principal trusts teachers to make decisions about adopting new curriculum. Teachers accept the responsibility to evaluate curriculum material and to determine the adoption of new curriculum.
- The faculty decides how to use their allocated budgets and have choice in the materials they use.
- The faculty decides the allocation of funds raised by the PTSO.
- It is expected that all teachers will take leadership positions within the school.
- Teachers are encouraged to enrich curriculum by exploring their areas of interest.

- McCarthy-Towne has a Decision-Making document in which the faculty describes the process and scope of decision-making at McT. This is a living document that has been shaped and amended through the years.

INNOVATION

- Teachers feel safe and have the trust and support of each other and the administration (at the school and district level) to try new ideas. This empowers them to explore new ideas and approaches, and move in new directions.
- Teachers use their own experience with children to evaluate state and district benchmarks. They may make a decision to teach outside those parameters.
- Teachers value educating students about differences and diversities of abilities. As an example, many teachers have been trained in the Responsive Classroom model.
- Faculty and staff are encouraged and expected to contribute. They participate in discussion and decision-making at faculty meetings. They chair and serve on committees.
- Classroom teachers collaborate with special educators and support staff. They welcome specialists into their classrooms for support and help.
- Questions are encouraged from teachers and students as part of the learning process.
- Students are taught the skills to articulate their thoughts and feelings, both with peers and adults. For example, fourth graders have a Friends Forever program with the school counselor.
- Students are encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions, and are taught to support each other's differing viewpoints.
- Teachers spend time creating an inclusive community within their classroom, which emphasizes cooperation and collaboration.
- McCarthy-Towne discourages competition through awards, grades and contests within the school in order to create a safe environment for children to set personal goals.
- Students are trusted with leadership positions within the school. For example, the Student Council assists with the all-school monthly assemblies and is trusted to lead Kindergarten Night and New Student tours.

ART: Visual Art Integration

- Visual arts are a fundamental part of the curriculum. They are integrated into curriculum studies and are a driving force behind all areas of the daily curriculum.
- Visual arts are an active process. Projects change to support the curriculum and students, using a variety of media.
- Teachers and students value the process of art. Artwork in progress is displayed, shared, and discussed.

- Art is viewed and regarded as a form of problem solving.
- The process of art is used as a way for students to express their understanding of the curriculum.
- The faculty is committed to supporting expenditure for the Art Integration Consultant.
- Students use artist quality materials.

COMMUNITY

- McCarthy-Towne is a community of teachers, staff, students, and parents; all components of these relationships are essential for success.
- A deep investment in social curriculum exists. Most of the faculty has attended Responsive Classroom week-long workshops.
- CASE teachers, staff, students and parents are equal members of the McCarthy-Towne community. The CASE classrooms have been an integral part of McCarthy-Towne for over three decades. CASE teachers are part of faculty meetings and participate in all decision making.
- Respect within the McCarthy-Towne community is not based on position or title but how people treat one another. Respecting a person's choice on how to be addressed is an example of how respect is shown.
- Classrooms are not located by grade level but are mixed-grade groupings. This helps to develop a spirit of community across grade levels.
- Community is fostered within the school. Examples are monthly all-school assemblies, cross-grade level Reading Buddies, cross-grade level projects and field trips. 6th grade students work in the CASE classes and are paired with kindergartners to help them at dismissal time.
- Money raised by various school/student activities is used for community projects.
- The Student Council promotes many all-school projects such as the Project Bread Spoons project, the annual coat drive and other community service projects.
- Student input and participation are encouraged through the student council.
- Teachers and parents are part of hiring committees.
- Parents share the core values of the school.
- Parents have a wide variety of roles within the school and McCarthy-Towne values all parental efforts. Parents volunteer in many capacities in the office, classrooms, library and Sloyd (3 dimensional art program). Through the PTSO (Parent, Teacher, Student Organization) parents fund raise, participate in the New Family Buddies Program, host the International Pot Luck dinner and provide translation for international families.
- Parents value art integration and fund raise to support it.
- Parents raise money for the school and trust the faculty to decide on use of the money.