



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

September 3, 2009  
Volume 39, No 1

## Welcome Back!

by David Krane, McT Principal

Welcome to the new school year! For me, the time when a new school year opens is always filled with happy anticipation of learning and friendships yet to come. This year I am even more excited because I have started my first year as principal of the McCarthy-Towne School. I was thinking that I now have the most in common with the kindergarten class and other new members of our community. Everything is new to me—the community, the school, my role, my colleagues, my morning routine, and the list goes on. All of us thank you for your support as we integrate into McT!

Our school embodies what I believe are all the best elements of education. Teachers have a profound respect for children and the diversity of learning styles that children bring to the classroom. They have a genuine desire to constantly examine their practice as educators and to take an active and invested role in the philosophical direction of the school. The family community is dedicated and hugely affectionate and provides enormous emotional and material support. I look forward to being part of the partnership between faculty, staff and family that exists at McCarthy-Towne and makes it the amazing place that it is.

Please join me in welcoming other newcomers to McT. Kelly Reed and Cheryl Beaudoin will be the AM and PM Kindergarten teachers, respectively. Laura Deoras will be in Kari James' second grade classroom as a Long Term Substitute while Kari is on leave until mid-January. It's nice for me to be coming in as part of this terrific group!

Everyone has been wonderful to me throughout the summer. Families have called and sent emails with their welcomes to me, kids have dropped in to say hello and bring beautifully decorated cards. I have thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated all of your support.

Many thanks to the yeoman effort of Nirman, Mike, David, Kathy and the rest of their staff, who worked especially hard these last few weeks to put our school in beautiful order after a busy summer housing a variety of programs.

The office staff has been truly amazing. Astrid, Jean and Robyn have been very generous with their time and wise counsel as I become a part of this community. I have learned about history and habits, about where to park and where to eat. Mostly, though, what has emerged from our conversations has been the great affection and devotion that all three have for this school. In fact, what I've taken away from every conversation with every teacher, parent and child that I've spoken with is the affection for, and absolute belief in, a school that cares about every child here. I look forward to honoring that tradition as I become a part of it.

For the past ten years, I have been a first grade, second grade and grades one and two multi-age teacher at the Vinson-Owen School in Winchester. My youngest daughter, Nina, began in the sixth grade in Winchester and she's now about to enter her senior year at Winchester High School. My oldest daughter, Emma, spent four years at Winchester High School and she will be going into her junior year at Connecticut College this fall. As a teacher and a parent in the Winchester schools, I was an advocate for three groups: families, students and teachers. As McCarthy-Towne principal I see myself in the same role: an advocate for families, students and faculty.

I can't wait to get started! Please feel free to contact me anytime (978-264-3377 or [dkrane@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:dkrane@mail.ab.mec.edu)).

## Mark Your Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

• **4 (Friday) & 7 (Monday)**  
• NO SCHOOL,  
• Labor Day Weekend

• **9, Wednesday**  
• PTO Meeting, 7 PM

• **16, Wednesday**  
• Back-to-School Night,  
• 6:45–8 PM

• **17, Thursday**  
• Gardening Demo  
• outside PDB, 10 AM

• **18, Friday**  
• SCRIP orders due

• **20, Sunday**  
• Family Photo Day,  
• Acton Arboretum,  
• 8:30 AM–3 PM

• **21, Monday**  
• School Picture Day

• **22, Tuesday**  
• Gift Wrap, Flower Bulbs  
• and Jewelry orders due

• **28, Monday**  
• NO SCHOOL, Yom Kippur

### OCTOBER

• **12, Monday**  
• NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day

• **14, Wednesday**  
• PTO Meeting, 7 PM

• **18, Sunday**  
• Fall Clean-Up at PDB,  
• 10 AM–1 PM

• **The 2009–2010 school  
calendar is available  
for download at:**  
• [http://ab.mec.edu/about/  
calendars.shtml](http://ab.mec.edu/about/calendars.shtml)



## by Kim Clark and Tammy Sarnelli, PTSO co-chairs

**Welcome back!** It is another year and we have a lot of fun-packed socials and fundraisers in store for you. As in years past, the PTSO supports many programs at McT that enhances the education of your child(ren) We support additional classroom & reading assistant hours, our Parent Involvement Coordinator and Arts Integration Coordinator. The PTSO also sponsors the Cultural & Performing Arts Committee and provides art supplies for both Sloyd and the Art Integration program. **This year the needed funds total approximately \$102,000.**

### September fundraisers:

- SCRIP store cards, deadline is 9/18
- Family Photo Day, 9/20
- School Picture Day, 9/21
- Giftwrap, flower bulbs, and jewelry, deadline is 9/22.

### We also have many on-going fundraisers:

- Shop online at Schoolpop.com
- Register your Target credit card and support McT
- Recycle cell phones, ink cartridges, etc.
- Save and submit General Mills Box Tops
- Save and submit Donelan's and Crosby's grocery receipts

Check out the McT PTSO website—[www.mctptso.org](http://www.mctptso.org) for details about individual fundraisers and socials. Thank you in advance for participating!

## Start Collecting Receipts from Donelan's and Crosby's Supermarkets!



When you buy groceries at Donelan's and Crosby's Supermarkets, you're doing more than just feeding your family. Through the *Register Tapes for Education Program*, all Donelan's and Crosby's Supermarket receipts dated **September 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010** can be turned into free educational equipment for McCarthy-Towne, including art supplies and books.

Last year, McT collected over \$120,000 in receipts which translated into approximately \$1,200 worth of art supplies like craypas, paint brushes, craft blocks and more. These supplies didn't cost McT or the PTSO a cent!

So save your receipts every time you shop at Donelan's or Crosby's Supermarkets! Simply send them in with your child or drop them in the collection box in the McT office. **Receipts dated September 1, 2009–March 31, 2010 are eligible.** (Please note: if you were collecting receipts over the summer, go ahead and throw them out, they are not eligible, sorry.)

If you aren't a regular shopper at Donelan's or Crosby's consider shopping there during the promotional period or ask your friends and neighbors to give you their receipts.

Remember... The more you spend, the more we earn! Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Schaad ([ws.schaad@gmail.com](mailto:ws.schaad@gmail.com)).

## McCarthy-Towne Buddy Family Program

**Would you like to welcome new families to McCarthy-Towne?**

**Do you have tips and tricks to share about our school?**

**Do you have a facility in another language?**

If you answered YES to any of these questions, please consider becoming a McCarthy-Towne Buddy Family. We have many new families joining our school community this month!

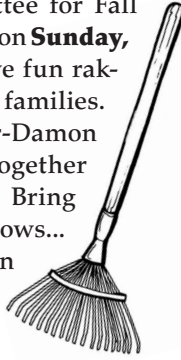
The McT Buddy Family program matches veteran McT families to families with children in grades 1–6 who are new to McT. The buddy family is asked to make an initial phone call to the new family and extend a welcome message. When you are new to town or to the school, there are loads of questions. It's nice to have the name and number of someone who might know the answers!

We are always looking for more buddy families to volunteer to help the new families that arrive at McT at the start of the school year and throughout the year. Providing buddies for families whose first language is not English is especially helpful.

If you are interested in helping out with the buddy family program, or if you would like more information about the program, contact Marie Clougher (978-266-3707 or [mjc-fg@verizon.net](mailto:mjc-fg@verizon.net)). Thank you!

## Mark your Calendar: Fall Garden Clean-Up is October 18th!

Join the Parker Damon Landscape committee for Fall Clean-Up of the gardens at outside the school on **Sunday, October 18 from 10 AM-1 PM**. Come have fun raking and cleaning up the grounds with other families. We need your help to get these Parker-Damon grounds and gardens cleaned up this Fall. Together we can make our grounds look beautiful! Bring your rakes, weeding tools and wheel barrows... The whole family is welcome! Contact Karen Dean ([dkdean83@gmail.com](mailto:dkdean83@gmail.com)) with questions or more information.



## School Directory Information

The McCarthy-Towne School Directory is produced by the PTSO in conjunction with the school. The directory is distributed to each family and staff member to facilitate communication.

The information used in the directory will be taken from the "PowerSchool" emergency information you should have input or updated this summer. Every child enrolled at McCarthy-Towne will be included in the directory - name, address phone number, parent/guardian name(s) and email address - UNLESS you say "NO" on the "School/PTO Permissions" page of PowerSchool by Friday, September 18. Also, make sure all information on PowerSchool is accurate by Sept. 18.

Please contact Astrid Trostorff, Parent Involvement/Community Outreach Coordinator, if you have any questions about the directory (978-264-4700 X3703 or [astrostorff@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:astrostorff@mail.ab.mec.edu)).

## Family Photo Day at Acton Arboretum September 20, 2009

Did you get that family picture this summer? Are your kids shooting up and out right before your very eyes? Do you wish you could stop time for just one day? YOU ARE IN LUCK! **Family Photo Day is going to be happening on Sunday, September 20 and you can be a part of it!**

### Sign up now to make an appointment!

To schedule an appointment, contact Sandy Billings ([sandybillings@verizon.net](mailto:sandybillings@verizon.net)). Please include your name, phone number, who will be in the picture and 3 time slots that would be convenient for you (10 minute slots available).

Photographer Julie L'Heureux (McT mom!) will be taking photos at Acton Arboretum from 8:30 AM-3 PM. Sittings are scheduled every 10 minutes and cost \$40 per photo group/sitting (whole family, kids, kids and dog, etc). The best part is, \$35 of the \$40 sitting fee goes directly to McCarthy-Towne! The sitting fee includes one 8 x 10 photo. To see some examples of Julie's work, visit her website at [www.sunlightphotography.net](http://www.sunlightphotography.net).

Send \$40 payment (checks made payable to McT PTSO) to Sandy Billings, 33 Mohegan Rd, Acton MA 01270.

## No Bus Passes on #3 and #10

Please note that buses #3 and #10 are full this year, so they will NOT be accepting bus passes. If your children are having friends over, they will need to make other arrangements for transportation. If you have questions, call the transportation office (978-264-4700 X3228).

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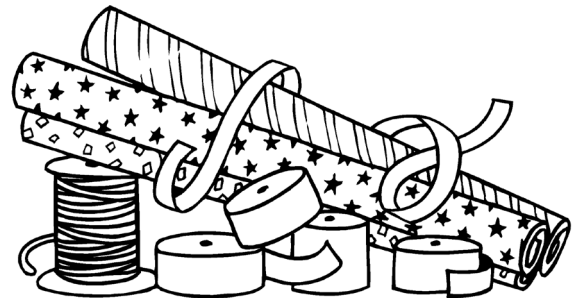
## Gift Wrap, Flower Bulbs and Jewelry

This year, as in past years, we are selling gift wrap, flower bulbs for fall planting, and jewelry. Each family will receive a catalog sent home with the youngest child. This sale has been very successful in past years, and we hope it will be again this year! All families, especially new ones, are encouraged to participate.

This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and we'd really appreciate your support. The money we raise goes mainly to pay for classroom assistants' time.

Some things to know:

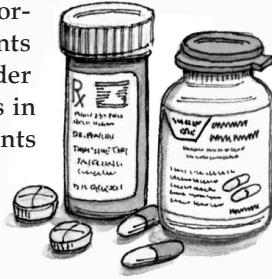
- New this year: online ordering (for gift wrap only)! See your packet for details
- All gift wrap is printed on recycled paper with water-based inks
- Bulbs will arrive in time for fall planting (late October)
- New this year: bulbs will be sent directly to your home!
- **McT PTSO receives up to 50% of purchase price!**



**The order deadline is Tuesday, September 22.** If you have any questions about this fundraiser, please contact Suzi Yarin (978-263-6383 or [ssyarin@verizon.net](mailto:ssyarin@verizon.net)).

## 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 antibiotics 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.

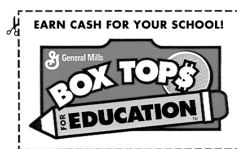
State law requires a written order by a licensed prescriber and written parental permission before any medication can be administered to students, including over-the-counter medications. You can obtain forms for this purpose from the School Nurse, or from most Health Care Providers. All medication **MUST** 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 contact the McT School Nurse, Betty Johns, (978-264-3374) with any questions.

## Betty Crocker, Cheerios, Bisquick, Pillsbury, Gogurt, Ziploc, Hefty!



It's time to get out all of the those Box Tops you clipped over the summer and remember to keep on clipping.

This year we have two big collections: **October 31, 2009 and March 1, 2010**. The class prizes will go for much needed playground equipment. Please ask your grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles and any other willing party to clip Box Tops for McCarthy-Towne. This is a really easy way that we all contribute over \$1,000 per year to our school. Questions? Please contact chair Julie Driscoll ([bobina44@comcast.net](mailto:bobina44@comcast.net)).

## Tidbits from Tina

*from Tina Morgan, McT School Counselor*

For the 2009–2010 school year many of my “Tidbits” will revolve around the theme of Friendship. Our children often struggle with the social aspect of their lives. Hopefully some of my “tidbits” will offer insight into this important piece of child development. Enjoy them!

### On Friendship—Tidbit for September:

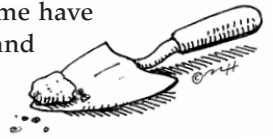
*“The only way to have a friend is to be one.”*  
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Children need to be reminded of this, especially as they begin a new school year. Your child will find him/herself in a classroom with a different set of peers than last year and he/she may be excited, slightly disappointed or quite upset. As adults we need to let our children experience the disappointment, if that's how they feel, and then help them rise to the challenge of making new social connections. It's not easy, but it is an opportunity for them to learn skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

Let me know if your child is having trouble connecting with classmates and we can work together to be sure this year is a successful one!

## PDB Landscaping Needs You!

Grab your gardening gloves and come have some outdoor fun with Merriam and McCarthy-Towne parents; working on the gardens, plants and beds around the Parker-Damon Building.



Join us for weeding days (most Thursdays at 10 AM weather permitting), or for the Fall Clean-Up (October 18), Spring Clean-up (May), and May Earth Week.

We need help with any or all of the following: weeding; project/plantings planning; Earth Week; one or both of the clean up days. All you need is a little energy, enthusiasm & garden gloves!

Don't know anything about gardening? No problem! Join Amanda Lye (Merriam), and Karen Dean (McT) on **Thursday, September 17 at 10 AM** in front of the Parker-Damon Building. You will learn different techniques used in gardening, planting, and put them into practice here on the Parker-Damon Grounds. Get a little practice for your own gardens! There will be a handout to take home to help you plan your own garden ideas.

The clean-up and landscaping of the Parker-Damon Building grounds is done only by volunteers and we need you! Contact Karen Dean ([dkdean83@gmail.com](mailto:dkdean83@gmail.com)) with any questions.

## MCAS Dates for Spring 2010

Students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking MCAS tests in the spring of 2010. Please avoid scheduling trips and appointments during the MCAS testing periods.

### English Language Arts (grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

Week of March 22–26

### Mathematics (grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

Week of May 10–14

### Science, Technology & Engineering (grade 5)

Week of May 17–21

## Directory Ad Placements

Once again the PTSO is offering the placement of business and/or personal ads for parents of McCarthy-Towne children. If you have a personal business you would like to advertise (e.g., sewing, consulting) or would like to place a personal ad for your child (e.g., happy birthday, congratulations), you can place it in the directory. It's a great way to memorialize your child's years at McT.

Refer to the order form sent home for additional information. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Kissane (978-263-2563) or Lisa Nivison (978-461-0721).

## Attendance at School: Should I Keep My Child Home with this Illness?

*from Betty Johns, McT School Nurse*

### Fever

Fevers are generally a sign of illness/infection. Your child should stay home if his/her **TEMPERATURE is 100° F or above**. He/she should not return to school until their temperature has been normal (97–99 F) for at least 24 hours.

### Cold, Cough, Sore Throat

Most children can attend school with cold symptoms as long as they do not have a fever. If your child has a **cold with a fever over 100° F**, he/she should be kept at home and your healthcare provider should be consulted. Your child should also **stay home if they have greenish nasal discharge or cough production. A sore throat with a fever, swollen glands, headache, stomachache, or rash may indicate strep**. You should consult your child's doctor for evaluation. If strep is confirmed, your child may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotics, if they feel better.

### Stomachache, Vomiting, Diarrhea

A child with **vomiting and/or diarrhea should be kept at home until symptoms have resolved for at least 12 hours**. Your child also needs to be able to eat and drink normally before returning. Consult your doctor if you suspect dehydration.

### Red Eyes

**Your child should stay home if he/she has red eyes that itch and/or have a crusty discharge**. Consult your doctor for evaluation of possible conjunctivitis. Your child may return to school after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.

### Pain

**Earache:** Consult your doctor if your child complains of ear pain.

**Toothache:** Consult your dentist.

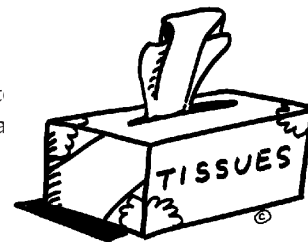
**Headache:** If headaches are frequent you should consult your doctor. Dehydration, stress, and fatigue can cause a headache.

### Rash

A rash is usually a sign of a viral illness. It also may be a reaction to medication, plants, or chemicals such as soaps or detergents. If your child has **an unusual rash or it is associated with a fever, contact your doctor**.

### Tips to Stay Healthy

- The best way to prevent the spread of infection is good hand washing.
- Give your child a separate towel and washcloth.
- Change your child's toothbrush after an illness and every 3 months.
- Have your child examined annually by her/his health care provider.
- School age children require at least 8–10 hours of sleep each night.
- A healthy diet is important in creating a healthy student.
- Please call your school nurse if you have any questions or concerns.



**Please remember, a sick child belongs at home!**

# McCarthy-Towne School – SEPTEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6	7 NO SCHOOL Labor Day	8	9 PTSO Meeting, 7 PM	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Back-to-School Night, 6:45–8 PM	17 Gardening Demo outside PDB, 10 AM	18 SCRIP orders due	19
20 Family Photo Day, Acton Arboretum 8:30 AM–3 PM	21 School Picture Day	22 Gift Wrap, Flower Bulbs and Jewelry orders due	23	24	25	26
27	28 NO SCHOOL Yom Kippur	29	30	OCTOBER 1	OCTOBER 2 October McT Bulletin is published	OCTOBER 3

## Upcoming PTSO Meetings

Mark your calendar now! PTSO meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the Faculty Lounge (top floor). Everyone is welcome to attend!

**September 9th    October 14th    November 18th    December 9th**