



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

April 1, 2010
Volume 39, No 8

April Showers!

by David Krane, McT Principal

Usually, as winter comes to a welcome close, we look forward to spring rain as a signal that spring is approaching. Recent rains, however, have not been as benign or as welcome. Greater rainfall than we are used to has saturated the ground and created flood conditions here in Acton and in surrounding communities. I think that we are all ready to have consistent sunny days for recess and for just getting outside to shake out the winter cobwebs.

This bad spate of rainy days can't keep the McT community down, though. Thousands managed to float over to the McCarthy-Towne auction and demonstrate, again, incredible family support for our school. The auction was a huge success! This level of success would not have been possible without all the contributions by families, students and faculty. Thanks to every single family and all the teachers for helping out in all the different ways. A very special thanks goes to Heidi Dalaklis and Jill Defoe for their impressive work as auction organizers. Bravo!

The McCarthy-Towne school community worked last year on articulating the values that make us a strong learning environ-

ment. Prominent among those values is one of trust. And so, in that spirit, I'd 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 the classroom, thus ensuring a variety of teaching strategies within the framework of the curriculum and the philosophy of the school. But in recent years a number of parents have chosen to write letters requesting their child be placed or not

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Mark Your Calendar

APRIL

2, Friday
NO SCHOOL, Good Friday

5, Monday
Annual Town Meeting,
7 PM, ABRHS

7, Wednesday
PIP 3rd Grade Market Math,
Roche Bros. 4:30-7:30 PM
Donelan's and Crosby's
Receipts for Education due
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

8, Thursday
CPAC assembly:
Gary Krinsky

9-16
PDB Lost & Found Fair

10, Saturday
Lip-Sync Extravaganza,
4:30-6 PM

13, Tuesday
SCRIP orders due

14, Wednesday
Community Assembly,
3rd Grade Variety Show

19-23
NO SCHOOL, Spring Recess

27, Tuesday
6th Grade Photo Taken

30, Friday
Yard Sale Drop-off

MAY

1, Saturday
McT Yard Sale, 8 AM-noon

2, Sunday
Spring Clean-Up at PDB,
1-4 PM

7, Friday
PDB International Night,
6-8:30 PM

31, Monday
NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day

Paper Edition of McT Bulletin Returns

During a discussion about communications at the March McT School Council, some members reported that many parents were not reading the McT Bulletin since they began receiving it electronically. School Council member Amy Hedison brought this information to the March PTSO meeting. Most of the parents at the PTSO meeting also stated that they were either not reading the Bulletin, or skimming it on-line and missing many articles.

Since the McT Bulletin is the main publication of the PTSO and school, a motion was made and unanimously approved to return to printing the Bulletin for every family beginning with this issue.

A survey may be distributed later this year to assess the best ways to effectively communicate with our community. We look forward to your input.

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 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 as they discover how to work, and work well, with a broad range of students and teaching styles. We believe that this is an important part of your child's education. If you do choose to write me a letter, please so by Friday, April 16.



by Kim Clark and Tammy Sarnelli, PTSO co-chairs

What a March we had! The auction was absolutely fantastic. Many thanks go out to Heidi Dalaklis and Jill Defoe who did an unbelievable job as co-chairs. Thanks to the whole team who helped pull it all together for a terrific night!

We have exciting events coming up this Spring. **Our 2nd Annual Lip Sync Extravaganza is on Saturday, April 10**, and again it looks like it's going to be a lot of fun for the whole family. Also, remember as you are Spring cleaning that our **Annual Yard Sale is right around the corner on May 1**. The drop-off date for donations is Friday, April 30 from 4-9 PM

Ever think about being part of the PTSO? There are PTSO positions openings for next year; not sure what role to take on? Come join us at a meeting (next meeting is Wednesday, April 7) and find out what we are all about. 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.

NEW! Cardboard, Plastic and Aluminum Recycling at McT

McCarthy-Towne and Merriam School communities have been recycling paper through the Abitibi Paper retriever program. Rachel O'Sullivan's 6th grade class has been recycling cardboard, plastic and aluminum cans in their classroom all year and would now like to expand and involve the whole school. To make it a school-wide program, they need to place two recycling bins in each classroom: one for paper; and one for cardboard, plastic and aluminum. Rachel's students would then collect and package the materials once a week (probably Thursdays) to be picked up and taken to the Acton Transfer Station.



In order for this program to be successful, the class will need parent help. If you are interested in helping Rachel's students with this program, here are ways you can help:

- Donate one or two recycling bins (upright square trash cans, 2-3 feet tall) for the classrooms;
- Take the collected materials to the Acton transfer station recycling center on Thursday afternoons

Contact Astrid Trostorff, Parent Involvement/Community Outreach Coordinator, at atrstorff@mail.ab.mec.edu if you are interested in helping with the expanded recycling program at McT.

Scrip Gift Card Program

Thank you to all the families that ordered Scrips in the month of 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 over \$3,500 already ytd.**

Attached to the bulletin is the order form with all the participating vendors. If you need an additional order form (for a family member or friend would like to place an order), they are available on the PTSO website at www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip.

April orders are due early, on Monday, April 12. Orders will be send home before April break. If you have any questions, please contact either Lynne Densen (lynne.densen@verizon.net or 978-266-2952) or Maureen Jones (maureen.jones1@verizon.net or 978-266-2874).



The Yard Sale is Coming!

Yard Sale Drop Off—Friday, April 30th

We need your used household goods, linens, clothing, books, toys, bikes, furniture, baby equipment, gardening tools, sporting equipment and more to sell at our annual yard sale. **You may drop off items in good condition in the cafeteria on Friday, April 30 from 4–9 PM.** Any unsold items will be donated to local charities. **All donations are tax deductible** and tax forms will be available Friday night. If you have any questions, or have a large item to donate, please contact either Brenda Simpson (brendahsimpson@hotmail.com) or Connie Olden (theoldens@comcast.net).

Want to Help?

Volunteers are what make our sale successful. We need help to set up the sale and price items on Friday (any time from 4–10 PM), to work the sale on Saturday (8 AM and on), to help clean up the sale on Saturday (12–2 PM) and to help place flyers around town (ongoing). Even if you can only spare an hour, we can use your help. To volunteer, please contact Lara Maira (laramaira@yahoo.com).

Come Shop the Sale—Saturday May 1st

Need a new bike for spring? Looking for some beach reads? How about a new bat for baseball season? **Come shop the McCarthy-Towne Yard Sale on Saturday May 1st from 8 AM–noon.** You'll find all sizes and seasons of clothing, bikes, strollers, sporting equipment, linens, household goods, furniture, outdoor toys, indoor toys, games, and more. All the items are donated from within our community.



Last year, this event was highly successful, raising close to \$4,000 for the McT PTSO! With your support we can reach this goal again this year. If you have any questions about the sale, please contact either Brenda Simpson (brendahsimpson@hotmail.com) or Connie Olden (theoldens@comcast.net).

Lost & Found Fair

Please stop by the Lost & Found area in April to claim lost items. **This month's fair will take place from April 9–16.** Any unclaimed items, without labels, will be washed and donated to charity. Please come and take a peek and remind your children to check also.

Lip-Sync Extravaganza

Our 3rd Annual Lip-Sync Extravaganza is next weekend on Saturday, April 10 from 4:30–6 PM. It's shaping up to be a fabulous performance with about 20 acts. Come and watch your friends and McT teachers/staff lip sync to their favorite songs.



Admission is \$5 per person. Doors will open at 4:15 PM and performances will start 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 either Lynne Densen (lynne.densen@verizon.net or 978-266-2952) or Karen Anderson (cander67@aol.com or 978-274-2012).

Parker Damon International Night 2010

The 4th Annual Parker Damon International Night is scheduled for Friday, May 7, 6–8:30 PM. This enormously popular event is a wonderful opportunity to share and learn about different cultures within the McCarthy-Towne and Merriam school communities. This year's program will again feature student performances, an international potluck dinner, and the new and exciting Global Village! The Global Village will represent over 10 countries. The children will get a passport to bring with them as they travel to the various countries. When their passports are filled with stamps they will get a prize!

Parent volunteers are still needed to represent their country of origin or ancestry in the Gloval Village. Share information about the country being represented, display artifacts and/or offer a small game or activity from that country for children to participate in. Examples of activities are henna decorating, tortilla rolling, and Chinese calligraphy. If you are interested in sharing at the Gloval Village or need more information, please contact Stacy Harris (askquixote@verizon.net).

Turn in Your Donelan's and Crosby's Receipts by Wed, April 7th



The receipts for education program has ended. If you have any Donelan's or Crosby's receipts dated **September 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010** please have your child deliver them to the McT office.

All receipts must be submitted by Wednesday, April 7th. Help McCarthy-Towne get free educational equipment and art supplies simply by turning in your receipts! Contact Wendy Schaad (ws.schaad@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Acton Public School Committee Report

from Xuan Kong, Chair

I am pleased to report that the Acton Public School Committee has approved the budget for academic year 2010–2011 and our budget has won unanimous support from the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. The school budget needs your final approval at town meeting. Please come to the annual Town Meeting on Monday, April 5th to vote for our school budget.

The school budget has protected all critical services identified by the Superintendent and School Principals. The budget maintains the staffing level of our schools and continues funding classroom assistant hours (44 hours per week per school). The School Committee recognizes and appreciates the dedication of parent volunteers whose efforts raise more than \$300K each year to fund additional classroom assistant hours and other enrichment programs for our students.

Currently, we have 309 kindergarteners registered for fall 2010. The recommended 16 sections will lead to fewer than 20 students per class even with some late registrations. The School Committee also discussed its early acceptance policy for kindergarten. The administration recommended that the policy be changed to that a child must be 5 years old by September 1st to be eligible for kindergarten registration. Current policy allows parents to apply for early admission if a child will be 5 years old between September 1st and December 31st.

The Superintendent recommended and the School Committee approved the appointment of Mr. Donald Aicardi as Director of Finance for Acton Public Schools and Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools. Mr. Aicardi will bring to our schools his years of experience as the Budget Director and Assistant Business Manager for Worcester Public Schools. Our community has greatly benefitted from Tess Summer's service as Director of Finance for the past ten years. We are thankful for her efforts and wish her a fulfilling retirement.

Our next meeting will be at Conant School on May 20. We look forward to your participation or you may send comments to the school committee at apsc@acton-ma.gov. Please remember to attend town meeting on April 5th.

March/April Lamplighter Available

The March/April edition of the Lamplighter is now available. To download the pdf, please visit the school system website at www.ab.mec.edu/about/publications. The latest edition includes important budget information that will be discussed on voted on at Town Meeting, which begins on Monday April 5 at 7 PM in the ABRHS Auditorium. It also includes updates on events from all the APS and AB Regional Schools.

Thank You, Thank You!

2010 Auction

The PTSO would like to extend their many thanks to the faculty, staff, parents, and community for their tremendous generosity; giving of time, energy, effort, and incredible donations that made our auction an amazing success! There was no way we could have made this event happen without everyone's help! A special nod goes out to this year's new co-chairs who bravely stepped up to this very large plate, Heidi Dalaklis and Jill Defoe.

The McT PTSO is composed of all student families as well as teachers and staff. The profits made from fundraisers we coordinate supplement the school budget. Specifically, the PTSO underwrites the funding of contracted services such as classroom assistants, Sloyd and Humanities consultants. These funds also provide funds for teacher supplies, cultural and enrichment programs, and assistance in covering student activity fees.

Save the date! It's not too early to mark your calendars for next year! Life's a Beach—and so is the theme! **The 20th annual McCarthy-Towne Auction will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011!** See you there!

Spirit Wear Sale Success

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 \$930** 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. 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!

Willow Books Storytime Success

from Sharon Ryan, McT Reading Specialist

Thank you to the entire McT community for making the McT Willow Books Storytime a HUGE success! Thanks to your generosity, McT earned \$500 to use toward the *Teachers and Families as Literacy Partners* Program.

Special thanks to Abby, Caitlin, Vin, Carolyn, Janet, Callie, Robin, Julia, Cheryl, Jean, Kelly, and David Krane for generously sharing their time and talent. Sincere thanks to the McT PTSO's Maureen Jones and Lynne Densen for co-ordinating this effort to support our youngest literacy learners as well as Willow Books for hosting this event!

Early Literacy Workshops

Sharon Ryan, McT Reading Specialist, will be hosting two parent workshops. First, parents of McT children transitioning from Kindergarten to Grade 1 in the Fall of 2010 are invited to “Teachers and Families as Literacy Partners”, on **Monday, May 3, from 7–8 PM** in the McCarthy-Towne Library. Sharon will share research-based ideas and engaging activities to maintain the literacy skills your kindergartener has developed throughout the year as well as share some wonderful children’s literature to nurture and develop a love of reading! Each family will receive literacy materials and resources to take home and enjoy with their child!

The second workshop will be held on **Monday, May 24, from 7–8 PM** for parents of McT children entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2010. This workshop will also be held in the McCarthy-Towne Library.

If you have any questions about these workshops, please contact Sharon (sryan@mail.ab.mec.edu).

Student Art Show at Boxborough Library

Congratulations to kindergarteners Jack Hudson, Haylie Geanisis, and Suchir Baradwaj; 1st grader Donovan Cook; and 2nd grader Sarah Connors. Work they created in Sloyd class is included in a K–12 art exhibit entitled “Places” shown at the Sargent Memorial Library in Boxborough from April 1–30. The gallery is open during library hours: Mon and Wed 10 AM–6 PM, Tues and Thurs 10 AM–8 PM, Sat 10 AM–3 PM. Take a look at the great art and support our McT artists!

Upcoming AB PIP Events!

Third Grade Market Math Mania

All AB 3rd graders and parents are invited to join us on **Wednesday, April 7, 4:30–7:30 PM** at Roche Bros of Acton. We’ll have “hands on” grocery math including M&M Math, grocery scanning and estimation, thermometry and more. It takes approximately an hour to enjoy all six stations. Fun, learning, samples and giveaways!

AB PIP’s Solar Cooker Demo

Visit the Acton-Boxborough Farmers Market on **Sunday, May 23, 10–2 PM** to see our solar cooking demo. Solar cooking is tasty and fun—come and sample our cuisine!

May-June Summerskills Workbooks Fundraiser

Help your student keep math and reading skills fresh all summer long! Features engaging and fun critical thinking activities reviewing material your child just completed, so he or she is ready for new skills in September. Look for order forms in April.

Volunteers are always welcome and needed. For more information about these and other events, check out Acton Boxborough PIP’s website at www.actonpip.org.

Make a Difference at the Parker-Damon Spring Clean-Up

Please join us on Sunday, May 2 from 1–4 PM for the Annual Spring Clean-Up of the Merriam and McCarthy-Towne grounds. We need help to get these grounds cleaned up this Spring! Bring your rakes, weeding tools and wheel barrows...

The whole family is welcome.

With your help we can make our school grounds look beautiful!



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

Wish List

If you can’t donate a little time, perhaps donate one of the following to our hard working efforts:

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

Help! Weeds!

PDB Landscaping needs you! Get out 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 Spring Clean-Up (May 2), and May Earth Week. We need help with any or all of the following: weeding; project/plantings planning; Earth Week; and especially for the clean-up day.

All you need is a little energy, enthusiasm and garden gloves! Send an email to dkdean83@gmail.com and get your name on our email list so you can stay informed. Don’t know anything about gardening? No problem! Amanda Lye and Karen Dean will teach you about 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!

2010 MCAS Schedule

Students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will continue taking MCAS tests in May. Please avoid scheduling trips and appointments on days when your children are scheduled to take MCAS tests.

Tests are administered near the start of the school day, so students should avoid late arrival to school. If a student arrives after their class has begun the day's test, he/she will not be able to take the test that day and will have to take a make-up on another day.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

Mathematics (grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

Tuesday, May 11 and Wednesday, May 12

Science, Technology & Engineering (grade 5)

Tuesday, May 18

Cell Phone Use at McT

from David Krane

I have had many conversations recently with some students about cell phone use. Please be aware that there are very explicit rules around acceptable use here at school. I have included the use policy from our handbook and I hope this clears up any confusion. Thanks in advance for your continued cooperation!



Many students have cell phones and bring them to school so that the cell phone is available to them either before or after school hours. That being said, students may not use cell phones during the school day.

- Cell phones and other mobile devices should not be seen, heard, or viewed during school hours. They must be kept in the student's backpack.
- If a mobile device in any way disrupts or distracts a class, it will be taken away and held for a parent to pick up.

Tidbits from Tina

from Tina Morgan, McT School Counselor

News from Our Second Graders in 2010

The second graders have worked hard this year during "Tina Time". They have learned about win/win solutions, brainstorming, the conflict escalator, the anger thermometer. They each made an Anger Bug who taught them that it's OK to be angry, but not OK to hurt anyone or anything. So what do you do to get rid of your anger? Each second grader came up with two suggestions. Here is what works for them when they need to get rid of their anger in a positive way.

stop and think
count to ten
play games until you feel better
jumping off something
go to my room and wait
play with another friend
listen to my ipod
tell a friend
take big breaths
take quiet time
tell what makes me mad
play a game
play with my cats/dogs
sing a song
use my words
hit the ground
draw a picture of my anger
play a musical instrument
read a book

talk to Mom/Dad
walk away to be alone
eat a popsicle
hit a pillow
write
walk away
ask for help
talk to the person who made you mad
do something else
tell them what you're feeling
write in my "mad book"
have something to eat
watch some TV
run it off or take a walk
go outside
play with my DS
draw
tell the teacher what you are feeling
yell until you're not angry

5th Grade Project to Help Ugandan Students

by Karen Shiebler

The 5th Grade classes at McCarthy-Towne recently participated in a wonderful opportunity for sharing, in which we learned how little effort it takes to change the life of a person in need. We worked through the organization "Connect Africa" whose director is an acquaintance of one of the fifth grade teachers. Connect Africa is located in Uganda, and is a grass roots organization which helps local villagers become self-sufficient. The organization makes micro-loans to local people who have started businesses such as mushroom growing, raising livestock and making and selling rugs, baskets and jewelry.

While Connect Africa does not run a school itself, it provides scholarships for children to attend school in the area. Most of the children who are supported by the Project are AIDS orphans, and most are being raised by grandparents or Aunts/Uncles. In Uganda, no schools are free, and in order to attend, children must have a uniform and shoes. These requirements (clothing and tuition) put school out of reach for many orphans; Connect Africa pays for tuition and clothing for as many students as possible. They also provide housing for some children (through boarding schools or by renting homes) who have no family to care for them.

Lynn Auebach, the director of the Project, came to McCarthy-Towne in November and showed us her web site and photos of the village and schools. She told us about the life of the Ugandan children, including the many hardships that they endure to attend school. She talked about one 7 year old who walked 5 miles each way to get to school, every single day. She talked about how scarce and precious school supplies are for these children. And she told us about how little sacrifice it would take from us, here in the US, to make a huge difference in the lives of these children. The students immediately wanted to help, and talked to Lynn about how to do that. First they thought of asking their parents for money, but we wanted the donation to come from the children themselves. Then they suggested donating shoes, but Lynn pointed out that it is very hard to find good sturdy shoes in the right sizes, since we don't know the kids. They thought, too, about donating books, but that led to a good discussion about language, and the kids realized that books in English would not be helpful to children who speak one of the several languages of Uganda!

Eventually, we decided to collect money ourselves, and the children brought in coins that they got in change, or that were simply found around their houses. A few emptied piggy banks or "coin jars". Every week we rolled the coins and kept a running total (good math lessons!). Eventually (after approximately 10 weeks) we saved 250 dollars, which we sent to Connect Africa. This money will provide a year of schooling for Martha, a ten year old girl who is being raised by her grandfather. He is also raising 10 other children who are his grandchildren or grand nieces and nephews.

We also collected approximately 50 used backpacks, which the kids filled with paper, pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, crayons, markers, glue sticks. We put a short note inside each backpack, telling something about our school and our interests. Lynn put all of the packs into the back of her truck, and brought them all with her when she returned to Uganda in January.

The students in Uganda sent thank-you notes and photos with their new backpacks. Most moving to us was that they repeatedly told Lynn that they could not understand or believe that people so far away, who had never met them, could care about them. Martha sent us a copy of her most recent report card, and a thoughtful "Thank-you" letter in which she promised to "never let us down".

Through this experience, we have learned that it doesn't take a lot of sacrifice for us to change someone's life. We learned that we can take action in our lives that will change the world, if only in a very small way. We talked about Martha, and how she might grow up to be the scientist who discovers a new source of energy or a writer, or the President of Uganda! And many of us were pretty surprised and thoughtful when we realized that to some people, attending school is the greatest gift they could ever have, and they are willing to go through huge struggles to make sure that they can get an education!!

The three 5th grade teachers who participated in this project are Karen Shiebler, Kate Fitzmaurice and Caitlin Walsh.

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?

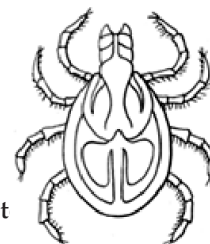
The tick should be carefully removed as soon as possible. The longer an infected tick remains attached to a person or animal, the higher the likelihood of disease transmission. Use fine point tweezers to grip the mouthparts of the tick as close to the skin as possible. The tick should not be squeezed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

“No Child Left Behind” Report Cards Available

The Acton Public Schools have posted the district's and individual schools' NCLB Report Cards. Here is a link to a letter from Susan Horn, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction: <http://ab.mec.edu/curriculum/reportcards/NCLBReportCardLetter2009-10.pdf>

Here is a link to the NCLB Report Card for the Acton Public Schools:

<http://ab.mec.edu/curriculum/reportcards/APSNCLB2009-10.pdf>

Here is a link to the NCLB Report Card for the McCarthy-Towne School:

<http://ab.mec.edu/curriculum/reportcards/McTNCLB2009-10.pdf>

If you would like a printed copy of any of these documents, please contact the McCarthy-Towne School office at 978-264-3377.

McCarthy-Towne School – APRIL 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
					NO SCHOOL, Good Friday	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Annual Town Meeting, 7 PM, ABRHS		Donelan's and Crosby's Receipts for Education due to the office PTSO Meeting, 7 PM	CPAC assembly: Gary Krinsky	PDB Lost & Found Fair Begins (through April 16)	Lip-Sync Extravaganza, 4:30-6 PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		SCRIP orders due	Community Assembly, 3rd Grade Variety Show		PDB Lost & Found Fair Ends	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	NO SCHOOL Spring Recess					
25	26	27	28	29	30	MAY 1
		6th Grade Photo Taken			Yard Sale Drop-off, 4-9 PM	McT Yard Sale, 8 AM-Noon

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!

April 7th May 12th June 9th