



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

May 7, 2010
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May Flowers

By David Krane, McT Principal

I think that we have finally emerged from winter and into spring. The sun is rising earlier and the light is remaining much later now. The flowers are all blooming, on the ground and in the trees, courtesy of all the rain we had last month. The air is consistently warmer now and there is that hope, too, in the air about what the next season brings. The birds seem to be loud outside my window, but the reality is that we are simply getting used to their morning greetings all over again. Soon we probably won't notice their song at all.

Spring is change and reawakening and that is certainly true at school. There seems to be so little time left and so much yet to do. The children have shown tremendous growth over the past year, socially and academically, and the talk is now beginning of next year. Teachers are doing a tremendous amount of work at this point, finishing up the curriculum requirements and continually checking in with the children, assessing progress. Placement meetings are starting as teachers begin the process of building the balanced classrooms for next year.

There will be some staffing changes in the classroom for next year. As you may know, Mariann Eden will be retiring and Catherine Suess will not be returning to the classroom next year. The McCarthy-Towne community will very much miss both of these dedicated teachers. There will be some classroom shifting as we absorb these losses.

McT Teachers for 2010-2011

Kindergarten: Janet, Kelly, and Cheryl

First Grade: Nancy, Heather Wilson, and Vin

Second Grade: Jen, Heather Matthews, Kari

Third Grade: Jean, Abby, and Robin

Fourth Grade: David, Callie, Noreen

Fifth Grade: Caitlin, Karen, Vanessa

Sixth Grade: Rachel, Tara, and Kate

Vanessa Bergman returns to McCarthy-Towne after a four-year child rearing leave. We are delighted to have her return! This is a remarkable group of teachers that we have now and going into next year. I have every confidence in every single teacher at each of the grade levels. It is a testament to the incredible abilities of all the teachers here at McT that there can be this kind of movement among and between grade levels without issue.

As mentioned before, the weather is changing as we move deeper into spring. Something the warmer weather affects is the kind of clothing that children wear to school. As it becomes warmer, children wear clothing that is lighter and more comfortable. This is a natural response and completely appropriate. In the past, though, we have noticed that sometimes children choose outfits that are more appropriate to the beach than to school. This is another time when adult guidance is invaluable. A reasonable guideline is for children to wear clothing that allows them to perform all school activities comfortably without drawing undue attention to themselves and also that the torso is covered.

Some of the apparel that we feel should **not** be worn to school include:

- Shirts or tops with spaghetti straps,
- Shirts or tops that leave the midriff exposed,
- Shirts or tops that have very large armholes,
- Halter tops,
- Very short shorts,
- Any clothing that would cause discomfort to the child or others.

Thank you for your help with both of these areas. I appreciate your support and interest in what happens at school and knows that this creates a positive and supportive environment for all children.

We are looking forward to a great finish to what has been a wonderful year!

MAY

7. Friday TONIGHT
PDB International Night
6-8:30 PM PDB Caf

11. Tuesday
McT School Council Mtg.
4:30 PM PDB Lib

11/12 Tues/Wed
MCAS Math tests
Grades 3, 4, 5, 6

12. Wednesday
SCRIP orders due
Community Assembly
PTSO Meeting
7 PM Faculty Room

18/19 Tues/Wed
MCAS STE tests
Grade 5

31. Monday
NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day

JUNE

2. Wednesday
PTSO Meeting
7 PM Faculty Room

4. Friday
June Bulletin Published

8. Tuesday
Last SCRIP order due

9. Wednesday
Community Assembly

10. Thursday
Ice Cream Social
5:30 – 7:30 PM
PDB Playground

17. Thursday
Last Day of School
12:15 PM Dismissal

PTSO News

By Kim Clark, PTSO co-chair

Wow, can you believe there are less than 8 weeks of school left? The year just seems to fly by once April break comes. What a fun April we had! We had over 27 performances at our Lip Sync Extravaganza. It was great to see all the acts up on that stage.

Last Saturday we held our annual Yard Sale. Thank you to all who helped either by donating, working, or shopping!

Tonight (May 7th) is the Annual Parker Damon Building International Night hosted by both McCarthy-Towne and Merriam. We hope you can come and experience all the fun.

Plus in June we have our terrific Ice Cream Social that all the kids and adults look forward to.

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

Next meeting is May 12. The date of the last meeting has been changed to June 2

Parker Damon Building International Night 2010

By Stacy Harris

The 4th annual Parker Damon Building International Night is being held **tonight Friday, May 7th, from 6-8:30pm in the PDB Cafetorium**. 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 (please remember to bring a dish to share) and the new and exciting **Global Village!** The Global Village will have over 10 countries from all over the globe to visit. All of 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! If you have any questions please contact Stacy Harris at askquixote@verizon.net Look forward to seeing you there!

Ice Cream Social June 10th

By Sarah Auerbach

Get ready for fun, sun (we hope!) and, best of all, ice cream! Join us Thursday June 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 for our annual end-of-the-year Ice Cream Social. The festivities will take place at the back playground of the Parker Damon Building (or inside if it rains). Don't miss out; it is a great way to end the school year. There will be tons of fun activities and crafts, carnival games, face-painting, tattoos and more. And of course, don't forget the pizza and the big, messy Kimball's ice cream sundaes that just can't be beat! Watch the McT News email newsletter in mid-May with more details about how and when to buy tickets!

We need volunteers for this event—for planning, setup, during, and after—so please email Sarah Auerbach at sbauerbach@gmail.com if you're interested in volunteering. You can also contact Tracey Smith at tracey@gristmillmedia.com with any questions.

SCRIP Card Program

There is still time left to get your May orders in – they are due next week - **Wednesday, May 12th**. Once again, we would like to thank all the families that ordered SCRIP in April; we have already raised over \$4,000 for the year. As you can see, this program really does make a financial difference for McT! With the weather finally getting warmer and sports in full swing, it can only mean one thing - the school year is quickly coming to a close. The last month and a half of school just seems to fly by, so don't be left scrambling to thank all the wonderful people in your children's lives: teachers, assistants, bus drivers, bus and reading buddies, coaches, and assistant coaches, just to name a few. Order SCRIP cards in May and have them in plenty of time for your end-of-the-year gift-giving. Don't forget those upcoming birthday parties, weddings, and graduations. Are you not sure what to give your niece for her graduation? How about a gift bag with a Crate and Barrel gift card in it, or maybe a card for Macy's, J.C. Penney, or Bed Bath and Beyond? Have a birthday party coming up?

We have many great gift cards in varying denominations, which makes it easy to buy for everyone! (Please note: Visa Reward cards have been discontinued – federal regulation has made it impossible for non-profits to make any money on these. Amex is set up differently, so the Amex cards will still be offered).

Our last order for the year will be due on Tuesday, June 8th at 10:00am. Please contact Lynne Densen at lynne.densen@verizon.net or 978.266.2952 or Maureen Jones at maureen.jones1@verizon.net or 978.266.2874 with any questions.

Tidbits from Tina

Bullying—Here at McCarthy-Towne??

By Tina Morgan, School Counselor

Yes, it's true. We have occasional bullying at McT, but, more importantly, we are addressing it. Teaching children about teasing/bullying is nothing new. For the past 20+ years I have been going into classes for "Tina Time", when the classroom teacher and I talk to students about making good choices, about put-ups and put-downs, about hurting someone's feelings, about the anger thermometer/anger bugs, about hurtful teasing, about peer pressure, about bystanders and the choices they make. I don't usually talk about bullies, because bullying is simply the extreme of hurtful teasing and it's more important to stop the smaller mean behaviors that are precursors to bullying. I talk a lot about hurtful teasing, about actions/words/gestures that are MEAN. Children understand MEAN.

It's important to note that every mean behavior is not bullying. If I choose to hit my 3rd grade classmate because she took my pencil, that's not bullying. It's not good, and I need to find another way to deal with the problem, but I'm not a bully. If, on the other hand, I take a kindergartener's hat every day on the bus and that younger child is intimidated, that *is* bullying. Bullying comes from an unequal balance of power— older vs younger; popular vs unpopular; big vs small; group vs individual; strong vs weak (physical/mental). At McCarthy-Towne we don't limit ourselves to teaching children about bullying. Rather we teach about a variety of ways people can be hurt and how we can make better decisions so that everyone feels valued/respected—we look for win-win solutions to problems. We talk with students about choices they have when they find themselves in the role of teaser, target or bystander. We read stories, we role play, we brainstorm.

Such teaching also goes on in the classroom every day as teachers help children face the social challenges of the elementary student's world. We believe in the Responsive Classroom approach to classroom learning and teachers put that into practice daily. (More on Responsive Classroom in another Bulletin)

Not surprisingly there are times when a student hasn't mastered the social skills we teach and he/she chooses mean or bullying behaviors. Again, we take the opportunity to **teach**. Sometimes that teaching takes the form of a conversation; sometimes the best learning is done through a logical consequence, an effective technique advocated by Responsive Classroom; sometimes it leads to disciplinary action by the teacher or the principal; sometimes parents are called on to help us teach these life-long skills. Our approach to each situation differs, depending on the people involved and what is best for the child(ren).

In a nutshell, be assured that we are teaching your children how to solve social problems, including teasing and bullying. Sometimes they need help from adults and we will be there with them, as we know you are at home. Together we teach responsible behavior so that our children can be respectful and caring adults.

This Month's Healthy Recipe from: Eating Well Magazine.....

Southwestern Omelet Wrap

Folding a flat omelet in a whole-wheat wrapper makes a high-protein breakfast that is tote-able and fun.

Ingredients

- 1 large egg
- 1 large egg white
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce, Freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon chopped scallions
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro, or parsley (optional)
- 2 tablespoons prepared black bean dip
- 1 9-inch whole-wheat wrap
- 1 teaspoon canola oil
- 2 tablespoons grated pepper Jack or Cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon prepared green or red salsa, (optional)

Preparation

1. Set oven rack 6 inches from the heat source; preheat broiler. Stir eggs, hot sauce and pepper briskly with a fork in a medium bowl. Stir in scallions and cilantro (or parsley), if using.
2. If black bean dip is cold, warm it in the microwave on High for 10 to 20 seconds. Place wrap between paper towels and warm in the microwave on High for about 10 seconds. Spread bean dip over the wrap, leaving a 1-inch border all around.
3. Brush oil over a 10-inch nonstick skillet; heat over medium heat. Add the egg mixture and cook, lifting the edges with a heat-resistant rubber spatula so uncooked egg will flow underneath, until the bottom is light golden, 20 to 30 seconds. Place the skillet under the broiler and broil just until the top is set, 20 to 30 seconds. Immediately slide the omelet onto the wrap. Sprinkle with cheese. Fold the edges over the omelet on two sides, then roll the wrap up and around the omelet. Serve immediately, with salsa, if desired.

PTSO Open Positions

By Laurie Taylor-Teran, Nominations chair

The PTSO is looking for people to fill the following positions for the 2010-2011 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.

Junior Chair: (2 year commitment) Learn the co-chair job by shadowing the senior co-chair for a year and assisting as needed. Move on to senior co-chair the following year.

Secretary: Attend PTSO meetings and record minutes for the meetings.

Buddy Family: Coordinate volunteers to welcome new families to McCarthy Towne.

CPAC (Cultural and Performing Arts Committee): Help the existing co-chair reserve or contract performances at McCarthy Towne (3 or 4/year). Meet with CPAC representatives from the other elementary schools, and occasionally preview performances at other area schools and venues. Apply for grant funding of performances through the Acton Boxborough Cultural Council. (Must be available during the school day.)

Directory Co-Chair: Work with the current Directory Chair to coordinate volunteers who will proofread the McT School Directory, and organize volunteers who will solicit area businesses for ads. All work done in September/October.

International Liaison: Serve as a liaison to the international community. Plan and execute International Night with Merriam School.

Inter-School Council Representative (2 positions): Attend periodic Inter-School Council meetings with the Acton Superintendent of Schools, along with Inter-School Representatives from the other four elementary schools, the JHS and HS. Provide input about a variety of issues and report back to McT community as needed.

Nominations: Working with the PTSO Executive Committee, develop a list of open Committee positions in May and solicit interest from the McCarthy-Towne parent community, using email, Bulletin articles and listings in McTNews.

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

Donelan's Receipts Collect: Donelan's receipts to raise money for art supplies.

Family Photo Day: Organize the annual Family Photo Day.

Funding Factory: Organize the toner and cell phone recycling program.

Basketball Sale Coordinator (1 or 2 positions): Coordinate volunteers who shop for snack sales and/or sell drinks and snacks at Community Education basketball games and other events on Saturday mornings in the Parker Damon Building. Great for second- and third-grade parents involved in basketball.

Yard Sale: Plan, publicize, and execute the annual yard sale in the spring with help from parent volunteers.

May MCAS Schedule

Students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be 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.

Mathematics (grades 3, 4, 5 6)

Tuesday May 11 and Wednesday May 12

Science, Technology and Engineering (grade 5)

Tuesday May 18 and Wednesday May 19

Last and First Day of School

The last day of this school year will be Thursday, June 17. Dismissal time for McCarthy-Towne will be 12:15 PM.

The first day of school for the 2010 – 2011 school year will be Tuesday, August 31.

McCarthy-Towne will be on the late elementary school schedule: 9:15 AM – 3:30 PM (Thursday, 1 PM).

The school calendar is available on the APS/AB website at: <http://ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/schcalendar11.pdf>

Notice to 6th Grade Parents

from the office

Before the sixth grade students' files go to the junior high school, Principal David Krane will go through and purge them of extraneous papers. These papers are destroyed unless parents would like to have them. For some students, there will not be any extraneous papers.

If you would like to have the papers from your child's file, please notify the office in writing by the last day of school, June 17. The school office will let you know when you can come in to pick up the papers.

Important Information for Parents of Incoming 7th grade students!

By Regional PTSO co-chairs Julie McKinley & Chris Renzi

Coming to 7th Grade Welcome Forum (Transition Night)

Please mark your calendars for the Coming to 7th Grade Welcome Forum for parents and students on June 7th at 7pm at the Junior High. This is a special event where incoming 7th grade students and their parents can learn about the junior high. Students will have all their questions answered in a panel discussion with current 7th grade students. In addition, parents will participate in a panel discussion with Principal Craig Hardimon and meet some of the RJG faculty. Parents will meet in the gym and students will meet in the auditorium. This is a wonderful and informative night for parents and students and all are encouraged to attend. Please contact the Junior High at 978 264-4700 x3300 with any questions. Thanks!

Junior High Chatter

Please sign up for the **Junior High Chatter** for information on all of the important upcoming dates and events. Information is emailed weekly on Sunday mornings. Please go to: www.abrptso.ab.mec.edu/getinvolved.htm and sign up for the news you'll need for the Class of 2016!

Recycling at McT

Rachel O'Sullivan's 6th grade class has begun the expanded recycling program for the McT school. Thank you to the families that have signed up to transport the recyclables to the town transfer station, and to the families that have donated recycling bins for classrooms to collect plastic, glass, cans and cardboard to be recycled. So far, eleven out of the 23 McT classrooms have recycling containers. If you would like to donate a container for recycling you can either purchase it (Home Logic 30 quart wastebasket with touch lid in white, available at K-Mart, \$14.99), or send a check (made out to McT PTSO) to cover the cost of purchasing a container.

If you have any questions, contact Linda Schymik (lschymik@comcast.net) or Astrid Trostorff (atrstorff@mail.ab.mec.edu).

Lip Sync Thank You

by Lynne Densen and Karen Anderson

Thank you to everyone who made the Lip Sync Extravaganza a wonderful success. We had 28 great performances, with both students and teachers groups. We also had over 250 people in the audience. It just keeps getting bigger and more fun each year!

Thank you also to all the bakers and to all the volunteers who worked the event. We could not have done it without you. And a BIG thank you to Tony Dolan and his crew for taping the show and burning it to DVD.

Garry Krinsky Performs at McCarthy-Towne

By Julie Greenspan, C/PAC co-chair

If your child came home last month talking about levers, simple machines, fulcrums or that a man balanced a tall ladder on his chin, that is because they saw Garry Krinsky's *Toying with Science* performance. Garry uses circus skills, mime, original music and audience involvement to investigate basic scientific information. He performed for the whole school and kept all grade levels entertained with his antics.

The *Toying with Science* performance was sponsored by the Cultural and Performing Arts Committee (C/PAC) which receives funds from PTSO Users' Fees paid by McT families each fall. If you have any questions about the C/PAC or are interested in serving on the committee next year, please contact Julie Greenspan at pgreenspan@comcast.net or Francesca Ricciardi at fmr08@verizon.net

Over \$129,000 in Donelan's Receipts Collected

By Wendy Schaad

Thank you to the many McCarthy-Towne Families who collected and sent in their Donelan's Receipts. A total of just over \$129,000 worth of receipts were collected this year! Through the *Receipts for Education* program, McCarthy-Towne will redeem those receipts for free educational equipment and art supplies valued at approximately \$1,300. Your support makes a big difference!

Placement for Next Year

From the office

Parents/guardians of students in kindergarten through 5th grade 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 20.

Since user names and passwords cannot be given over the phone or email, please remember to take them with you on vacation if you plan to check placement away from home.

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, medical authorization and permissions page every year until your child graduates from high school.

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

Attention all auction centerpiece winners!

By Tracey Smith

Time to claim your Lowell Spinner tickets! The Spinners tickets are in. If you are one of the winners of the auction centerpieces, we have your actual game tickets for you.

Please send your vouchers (those ticket-looking-things that were in the centerpiece) into school with your child. Along with the vouchers, attach a piece of paper with your name, and the name of the child you want to bring home the tickets (as well as that child's teacher, so we can easily send these to the correct room).

Please do not forget to include a name, as I have no record of to whom these tickets belong other than the vouchers you received as part of the auction centerpiece. If you have any questions, email [:tracey@gristmillmedia.com](mailto:tracey@gristmillmedia.com).

**YOU ONLY HAVE UNTIL JUNE 10TH
TO CLAIM YOUR TICKETS.**

Thank You

By Astrid Trostorff, Parent Involvement Coordinator

Thank you to all the people who volunteer and help make McCarthy-Towne School such a special place for children, including (but not limited to):

- Maureen Jones and Susan Lerner for being observers at the Kindergarten lottery
- Sorrell Sammons and Maureen Jones for trimming lamination for a Reading Program project
- Patty Sullivan for binding materials for a Reading Program project