



# McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

June 4, 2010  
Volume 39, No 10

## McCarthy-Towne School Council Report

By David Krane, Principal

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Each year the McCarthy-Towne School Council submits a report to the School Committee describing the work accomplished on the current School Improvement Plan goals. This year's goals and a brief summary of the work are listed here.

#### Goal #1 Math

The new enVisionMATH curriculum was purchased in the spring of 2009 for the use of all grade levels at McCarthy-Towne, Kindergarten through Grade Six. The faculty decided that a comprehensive curriculum that carried the same vocabulary and instructional language from K through Grade Six was a critical consideration in providing continuity. Trainers from the publisher, Scott Foresman, provided two days of intensive instruction in the delivery of the new curriculum in September 2009. Grades K-6 are teaching the units of study from the new curriculum; all the while examining its effectiveness. Some of the monthly Grade Level meetings were used to share questions that were raised as well as to share experiences and professional concerns and questions.

The assessment questions that were posed last year are still being studied: *How does each grade level assess the level of mastery? Do we need to revise the assessment? Other questions have been raised over the course of the past year, as well: Are there some areas of study within the enVision curriculum, at each Grade level, that are not developmentally appropriate?*

#### Goal #2 The Implementation and Practice of McT Values

It was critical to the McCarthy-Towne School community that its values be supported and maintained during the period of administrative transition. To this end, last year, the faculty worked to more clearly articulate important components. Ours is a school where trust, process and community are highly valued and this was communicated clearly during monthly faculty meetings, Advisory Group meetings and at School Council meetings as well as during conversations among faculty and staff. It is a key component of the Kindergarten Tours and of the annual presentation to prospective families. It is also woven into the fabric of the classroom community, where there is "... a deep investment in the social curriculum. Most teachers utilize the Responsive Classroom approach." This was underscored in a fall presentation to the School Committee on the structure and routine of community building.

Arts Integration continues to be an essential and vital piece of what McCarthy-Towne is. The Arts Integration Consultant, Hanna Melnyczuk, continues to work closely with faculty and staff, including our Sloyd teacher, Heidi Kupferman, to merge the visual arts with classroom content areas.

Continued on next page . . .

**June 8:**  
SCRIP Orders due

PTSO Mtg  
7 PM

**June 10:**  
Ice Cream Social  
5:30 – 7:30 PM

**June 11:**  
School Council ballots  
due

**June 14:**  
Lost & Found Fair ends

**June 17:**  
Last Day of School  
12:15 PM dismissal

**August 25:**  
Kindergarten Orientation

**August 31:**  
Schools Open  
9:15 AM

**Sept 3 – 6**  
NO SCHOOL  
Labor Day Weekend

**Sept. 9**  
NO SCHOOL  
Rosh Hashanah

**Sept. 18**  
NO SCHOOL  
Yom Kippur

**Sept. 20**  
School Photo Day

### **Goal #3 Implementation of the Wellness Policy**

A Sub-Committee of the School Council, Nurse Betty Johns, Maureen Jones, Kate Fitzmaurice and Dr. John Rowse was formed and has developed a Wellness Action Plan. This plan was developed in order to maintain a balance of independence for each classroom teacher in regard to celebrations, both personal and those related to the curriculum, and children's safety. It also adheres to the essential tenets of the District's Wellness Policy. The three goals of McCarthy-Towne's Wellness Action Plan are:

- Apply Wellness Policy and Procedures to McCarthy-Towne
- Apply Life Threatening Allergy Policy and Procedures to McCarthy-Towne
- Explore other questions and concerns around Wellness as pertain to McT

### **Goal #4 Explore Ways in which McT can expand its place in the global community**

Budget restraints kept McCarthy-Towne from implementing a World Language program, but we continue to enhance the integration of international families by continued articulation of McCarthy-Towne values of community, trust and process. In a school District which embraces school choice and which has five excellent elementary schools to choose from, we believe that clear expression of these values continues to make McCarthy-Towne an excellent choice. The process of learning is highly valued, an appreciation of many kinds of diversity exists throughout the school and students and parents are considered essential components for the success of our school.

As we look forward to the next school year of 2010-2011, the School Council, with the McCarthy-Towne faculty, has developed the following goals:

#### **Goal #1:**

Explore ways in which McT can celebrate its unique qualities in a school-choice community. We will:

- Ensure that McT's values are supported and remain the foundation of the school's programs;
- Enhance and continue communication of McT values and strengths to the school community, including families and students, the APS District, the Administration, and to the greater Acton community.

#### **Goal#2:**

Focus on advancing the mathematical concepts and skills of the students at McT. The faculty will:

- Continue to implement the effective use of the Scott Foresman curriculum materials;
- Reshape grade level discussions and study to refine and increase the understanding of the level of student concept/skill mastery and how these are assessed.

#### **Goal #3:**

Incorporate and integrate the District's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy into McCarthy-Towne's current policy regarding behavior. We will:

- Continue to take a pro-active, educational approach to creating a positive social environment that fosters respect and compassion for all;
- Make every effort to have the faculty and staff trained and/or re-trained in the methods and philosophies of the Responsive Classroom social curriculum;
- Engage the entire McCarthy-Towne community (staff, students and families) in the implementation of the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy.

The School Council thanks the two outgoing members, Carolyn Imperato and Amy Hedison, for their wisdom, insight and humor during the past year. Their clear dedication and affection for our school was a large part of what made this Council so successful.

## **PTSO News**

**By Kim Clark, co-chair**

What a terrific year this has been! As of today, the McCarthy-Towne PTSO has raised over \$93,000 during this school year and we are not done yet; we still have a couple fundraisers that are not closed. Thanks to all the parents who organized, volunteered or attended an event, and to the teachers who have gone beyond the call of duty (performing at the LipSync, helping at our annual auction, helping at the upcoming Ice Cream Social) and to everyone for supporting our school.

We are very fortunate to have some of our PTSO chairs returning next year. However, we have some very important positions still open: The Junior co-chair, directory co-chair, secretary and more. Former chairs will still be at school and will be available to help train you. Attendance at PTSO meetings IS NOT mandatory, but is a great way to get involved. Information on the open positions can be found on our website. We will be voting on the nominations at the June 8th PTSO meeting.

### **FINAL PTSO MEETING RESCHEDULED**

Due to budget and staff meetings, the last PTSO meeting will be held on TUES JUNE 8 at 7pm in the Parker Damon Building Faculty Room, room 300 at the top of the stairs. Please join us as we vote in next year's PTSO Board and final budget for next year. If you have any questions, please contact co-chairs Kim Clark or Tammy Sarnelli.

## **PTSO Open Positions 2010-2011**

By Laurie Taylor-Teran

There are still some open PTSO positions for next 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](mailto: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.

**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.

**Family Photo Day** Organize the annual Family Photo Day.

**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** (2 positions): Plan, publicize, and execute the annual yard sale in the spring with help from parent volunteers.

### **McCarthy-Towne School Council Reps**

Three parents have volunteered to run for a two-year term as parent representatives to the McCarthy-Towne School Council. Please see their personal statements and the ballot at the back of this Bulletin. You can vote for two candidates.

Thank you to parents Frank McCammon, Peter Rutten and Tracey Smith for stepping forward as candidates.

Ballots must be returned to the McCarthy-Towne office by Friday, June 11.

### **Tidbits from Tina (McT School Counselor)**

*On Friendship—Tidbit for June: "True happiness consists not in the multitude of friends, but in the worth and choice." --Ben Jonson*

Our children, and their parents, sometimes value quantity over quality. I occasionally hear from worried parents that their child has only been invited to one or two birthday parties during the year. We so easily get caught up in measuring the success of our children by the number of birthday or play-date invitations that they receive. It would be better if we could instill in our children an appreciation of the quality of a friendship rather than how many friends we can claim. Note the recent obsession of many folks on Facebook, listing hundreds of "friends". Now, really. . .

### **Thank You Bakers**

By Lynne Densen, Hospitality chair

Thank you to everyone that either baked or brought something for an event this past year: Kindergarten Information Night, School Committee Meeting, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Fall Social, Game Day, Lip Sync, and Yard Sale. We really do appreciate it!!

### **First Day of School**

School re-opens on Tuesday, August 31.

McT will be on the "late" elementary schedule:  
9:15 AM– 3:30 PM (1 PM on Thursday.)

For the complete school calendar, go to the school system website:

<http://ab.mec.edu/about/aboutpdf/schcalendar11.pdf>

### **Last Lost & Found Fair of the School Year Now through June 14**

By Shelley Jaros

The Parker Damon Building Lost and Found Fair is now located on tables and racks outside multi-purpose room (at the bottom of the main staircase). There are many, many items at the school waiting to find their way home. Please urge your children to stop by and check out the fair! Families can look for missing items any time the school building is open (school days from 7 AM until 9 PM). All items left after Monday June 14 will be cleaned and donated to charity.

### **Report from the Acton Public School Committee**

By John Petersen, Chair

As we come to the end of another school year, we have an entire community to thank for their efforts to support our students and their education. We thank our dedicated teachers and staff, our parents, our many volunteers and, in particular, our PTO leaders. Without the effort of the whole group, our schools would never have achieved the success we have enjoyed. Without your ongoing efforts, we cannot continue our tradition of educational excellence.

I personally would like to thank Xuan Kong for his service as Chair of the Acton Public School Committee this past year and his commitment to serve on the school committee for the next three years.

On behalf of the SC, we also appreciate the energy, enthusiasm and leadership Dr. Chris Price has provided to the Conant School over the past three years. We look forward to the new perspectives and ideas of Damian Sugrue who will be the Principal at Conant School this fall.

Recognizing the challenges of the managing our large elementary schools – there are about 500 students in each of our five elementary schools – the school committee has supported Dr. Mills efforts to provide assistant principals on an interim basis this Spring. Dr. Mills has re-organized staff so that, in the fall, Priscilla Kotyk will be an Assistant Principal shared between Conant and Gates and we will have an Assistant Principal for Merriam and McCarthy-Towne (to be hired). Dr. Whitbeck will continue to lead Douglas School without an Assistant Principal.

The School Committee relies on your input to guide our decisions. We look forward to your involvement and support next year.

## Ice Cream Social

By Tracey Smith and Sarah Auerbach

You won't want to miss this super-fun get together for the whole family! 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, the Pocket Lady, face-painting, tattoos and more. And of course, don't forget the pizza (\$2/slice!) and the big, messy Kimball's ice cream sundaes that just can't be beat!

Ticket prices are \$2.50 for an ice cream sundae and \$6 for unlimited games/activities and a sundae. If you haven't pre-ordered tickets using the form we sent home, you can still buy tickets at the door!

We still need volunteers, so please email Jennifer Mabardy at [mailto:Jennifermabardy@comcast.net] Jennifermabardy@comcast.net if you're interested in volunteering. You can also contact Tracey Smith at [mailto:tracey@gristmillmedia.com] tracey@gristmillmedia.com or Sarah Auerbach at [mailto:sbauerbach@gmail.com] sbauerbach@gmail.com with any questions.

## Popcorn tasting Results

By Karen Shiebler's 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

Karen's fifth grade classroom was lucky enough to enjoy the Popcorn Challenge, thanks to the generosity of Alex L'Heureux and her family and to office staffers Jean Onorato, Robyn Winick and Astrid Trostorff. Our class went into the cafeteria and enjoyed five different types of Butter Lite Popcorn. The catch was that we didn't know what brand we were tasting! We rated each sample, which were lettered A,B,C,D and E. We rated them from 1 poin ("Yuck") to 5 ("Eat the Whole Bowl"). We found that some of us loved one brand that others strongly disliked. It was fun and interesting to hear the different comments and opinions!

Here are our results, based on the refined tastes of 26 kids and two adults:

- Our favorite was Pop Secret. We thought it was the most buttery.
- Next we chose Food Club Brand, which was also very tasty.
- Our third choice was Orville Redenbacher, and fourth was Jolly Time. Our least favorite butter light popcorn was Newman's own. Only a few of us like this one, and some of us thought it tasted like seafood!

Thanks once again to Alex and her family and to the Office Staff at McT for this very fun auction donation.

## McT Scrip Program Reminder

By Lynne Densen and Maureen Jones

There is still time to get your Scrip order in for our last order of the year. The **deadline is Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> (10:00am)**. The Scrip store cards should be in backpacks by Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, plenty of time for teacher gifts, coaches gifts, or for summer fun. Please note – in order to get orders back in time **WE CAN NOT ACCEPT LATE ORDERS**, so please send in your order early or order on-line. Order forms and directions to order on-line can be found at [www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip](http://www.mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip).

### Specials for the Month of June

Applebee's is offering 10% instead of normal 8%

Home Depot is offering 6% instead of normal 4%

JC Penney is offering 6% instead of 5%

LL Bean is offering 17% instead of normal 15%

Lowe's is offering 5% instead of normal 4%

TGI Friday's is offering 10% instead of normal 9%

**(NEW)** just in time for summer:

**Six Flags Theme Parks** are offering Six Flags universal tickets for \$30 (8% coming to McT). These tickets are redeemable for single one-day admissions at any Six Flags Theme Park and may be used for both adults and children. In addition to the money our school makes, you might also save even more on your admission price. While normal ticket prices range from \$30 (children's price) to \$50+, your \$30 universal ticket is good for one admission at **any Six Flags property**. That means you could save \$20 (or more) on your next Six Flags admission!

Please contact Lynne Densen at [lynne.densen@verizon.net](mailto:lynne.densen@verizon.net) or 978-266-2952 or Maureen Jones at [Maureen.jones1@verizon.net](mailto:Maureen.jones1@verizon.net) or 978-266-2874 if you have any questions about Scrip.

## General Mills BoxTops for Education

By Julie Driscoll

The 2009-2010 school year collection for Box Tops was successful – we raised **\$1109.50!!!** Thank you so much for taking the time to clip and collect. As you can see, those little 10¢ Box Tops really do add up and are worth it!!! The next collection will be in the Fall.

Please continue to save your General Mills Box Tops all summer.

**Where to find them:** Box Tops can be found on many General Mills, Betty Crocker, Juicy Juice, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Old el Paso, Ziploc, Kleenex, Hefty, Saran, Viva, Huggies, Scott, Cottonelle and Kotex products.

## The McCarthy-Towne Buddy Family Program

By Marie Clougher, Buddy Family Co-ordinator



Thanks to everyone involved in the program this year!

Thank you to the veteran McT families who welcomed more than 35 new families to the McT community this school year. We hope that the families joining McT during the 2009-2010 year have felt welcomed, and that they are comfortable within our school. Many new friendships have been formed this year!

If you are interested in becoming a Buddy Family volunteer, or have any questions about the program, please contact Marie Clougher at [mjc-fg@verizon.net](mailto:mjc-fg@verizon.net) or 978-266-3707.

We look forward to welcoming new families to McT in the fall of 2010. We'd love to have additional veteran family volunteers, including anyone new this year who would like to be involved from "the other side" next year.

**Thanks again. Have a wonderful summer!**

## Thank you

By Astrid Trostorff, Parent Involvement/Community Outreach Co-ordinator

Thank you to all the members of the McCarthy-Towne community who volunteer and support the school in so many ways, including (but not limited to):

- Julie L'Heureux, Nancy Tighe, Allison Hammer and Lesley Murray for photographing students artwork for portfolios;
- Kerry Bremer for suggesting and running the FunPass fund raising program;
- Susanne Conley, Olena Murzin, Joan McCaffrey and Shellie Barton for laminating materials for teachers and the PTSO;
- Amy Traywick, Nicole Lippa, Tracey Smith, Kerstin Mendelsohn, Tina Watlington, Gail Gecawicz, Kathleen Surdan, Joan McCaffrey and Scott Blaufuss for being the office volunteers who process dismissal and bus passes, sort attendance and other mail from classrooms, do lunch counts and help in a myriad of other ways during the busy mornings at McT;
- Ann-Marie Sweeney and the Safe Arrival volunteers who check attendance against the Safe Arrival messages, and make sure every student is accounted for.

And a special thank you all the parents and guardians whose children move on to other schools next year. You have supported the school, the teachers and staff, and your children as students in countless ways that help make McCarthy-Towne School the special community it is.

McCarthy-Towne School Council  
Parent Representative Candidates  
September 2010 – June 2012

*CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS*

**FRANK McCAMMON**

I am nominating myself, Frank McCammon for a parent representative slot on the McCarthy-Towne School Council. I am a proud father of four children. Garrison, my oldest graduated in 2008 and will attend high school in the fall. Evelyn, Ashley and Donovan will all be walking the halls in the fall of 2010! My wife Carolyn and I chose McCarthy-Towne in 2001 soon after we had moved to Acton. I was excited then by our choice and each and every year I am proud of the school and the attention given to each of my children's education.

As a tennis professional and a McCarthy-Towne parent my biggest roles in the school have been supplying tennis balls for the cafeteria chairs, fundraising at auction time and getting the kids dressed and on the bus with lunches. I always look forward to the band concerts, lip syncs, field trips and variety shows, all of which remind me of all the rich tradition at McCarthy Towne. Some of my most precious gifts have come from countless hours in Sloyd.

All of my children are having such a positive learning experience at McCarthy-Towne and, as a parent, I would like to be on the school council to assure all students are provided the opportunity to have the same experiences. Each of my children feel very safe at school and cannot wait until tomorrow comes to get on the bus for more learning and getting smarter than their parents!

**PETER RUTTEN**

I, Peter Rutten, am nominating myself as a parent representative for the McCarthy-Towne School Council. Currently, I have a sixth grader and a third grader at McCarthy-Towne, both of whom started in Kindergarten, meaning that I have 11 combined years' worth of first-hand experience with the school. My children are of different gender and age, plus they relate differently to the school, which has provided my wife and me with a wealth of very different experiences over the years. We've witnessed the good, the bad, and (rarely) the ugly. Overall, however, I believe that McCarthy-Towne offers a unique, high-standard learning experience to our kids, one that all children in this country should be so lucky to receive. I would like to contribute to the school in this role by offering three very specific perspectives:

- As a Dutch-born permanent resident in the US I have extensive experience with a highly standardized school system in the Netherlands and can provide cultural frameworks for perspectives on McCarty-Towne's approach and environment.
- As a Director Business Insight at a successful Innovation Consulting Firm in Boston, I have excellent abilities to reframe, reformulate challenges in ways that open them up to resolution.
- As a father with a son and daughter far progressed through the school, I have developed a well-informed perspective on gender issues that I believe might benefit from some additional focus

A little background: I was born in Delft, Holland (the town of the Delft's Blauw ceramics) and lived in Holland and Germany until 1992 when I moved to New York and later San Francisco. I studied Psychology, Philosophy, Political Science, and Journalism at the Vrije Universiteit and the Universiteit van Amsterdam. My first career path was in media, including co-founding WIRED magazine and launching three innovative book publishing ventures in Holland and the US. After several years' of exposure to the entrepreneurial environment in Silicon Valley, I switched to business and innovation consulting. I've been with my current employer, GEN3 Partners, for six years now and provide all front-end and back-end business and market analysis to the company's large-scale innovation projects. My wife, Karen Nazor, is a high school teacher English at Leominster High School, hence education is dinner table conversation in our house.

Thank you for your consideration!

### **TRACEY SMITH**

I am the parent of a current first grader and a soon-to-be kindergartner. I have been active in the McCarthy-Towne community for the past two years through a variety of activities: volunteering in the classroom, the library and the office; helping with the hospitality committee and the auction; and co-chairing the three school socials. I enjoy helping wherever needed and am interested in continuing this trend by lending another ear and another voice to the school council.

McCarthy-Towne School Council  
Parent Representatives  
September 2010 – June 2012

**VOTE FOR 2**

\_\_\_\_\_ FRANK McCAMMON

\_\_\_\_\_ PETER RUTTEN

\_\_\_\_\_ TRACEY SMITH

**RETURN BALLOT TO McT SCHOOL OFFICE BY FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2010**

