



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

October 1, 2010
Volume 40, No 2

Rolling into October

by David Krane, McT Principal

The weather has been typically fall lately. Cool and even cold mornings have begun to appear but we still have the occasional hot day, reminding us that summer is still not that far behind us. The Harvest Moon made its appearance last week, a big almost-orange presence gently nudging us into fall.

At school, fall is a time to begin looking forward to all that is new. Classroom routines are beginning to take root, initial assessments are almost completed and schedules are finally have all the little kinks worked out. Children are ready to get into the business of school.

Back-to-School night was a great success as families have an opportunity to get a glimpse of the classroom setting where the students will be spending their time. The classrooms are inviting and welcoming places, carefully and deliberately constructed by a remarkable staff of caring educators. There was a positive buzz circulating for the entire evening. It's a great way to start the new school year.

I hope that families had a chance to look into the computer lab and see our brand-new Mac desktops. They are beautiful, powerful and current machines with tremendous capabilities. There are now great opportunities and potential for McCarthy-Towne

students to do some cyber-learning and information gathering on the web unlike any other time in the past at our school. Under the guidance of the classroom teachers and Jodi Phelan, the children will explore the incredible possibilities of this amazing resource.

We are also in the process of building a leveled-text library for targeted instruction. This new resource will support the classroom teachers in literacy instruction as well as the content areas, as students will have more access to more literature at their individual reading level. This permits teachers to more closely individualize literacy instruction for each student. Thanks to Sharon Ryan and all those who have put their energy and their thinking into making this a reality. Ideas can only become reality as the community shapes them and this Book Room is an example of that collaborative effort.

There are lots of wonderful new things happening in our school as we begin to set the pace and pulse of the school year. The transition has been great, the kids are already into the routine and rhythm of the classrooms and all is good in the world. Thanks to this amazing group of educators for working their professional magic. It promises to be a wonderful year ahead.

Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

- 2, Saturday**
Oktoberfest 5K Run/Walk
- 11, Monday**
NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
- 13, Wednesday**
Community Assembly
Scrip orders due
PDB Physical Education Night, 6:30-8 PM
PTSO Meeting, 7 PM
- 17, Sunday**
PDB Fall Clean-up, 1-4 PM
- 21, Thursday**
PDB Fall Clean-up, 2-4 PM
APS School Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM
- 22, Friday**
BOX TOPS due
- 27, Wednesday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
No PM Kindergarten
- 29, Friday**
Fall Social, 6-8 PM
- 29-Nov. 4**
Scholastic Book Fair

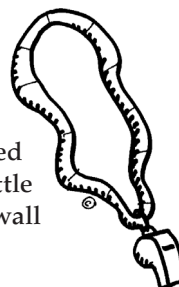
NOVEMBER

- 2, Tuesday**
NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day
- 3, Wednesday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
No PM Kindergarten
- 5, Friday**
Picture Retake Day
- 11, Thursday**
NO SCHOOL, Veterans Day
- 24, Wednesday**
Early Dismissal (1 PM)
No PM Kindergarten
- 25-26, Thurs./Fri.**
NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving

Parker Damon Building Back-to-School Physical Education Night

from David James, Physical Education Teacher
for McCarthy-Towne and Merriam

The back to school physical education night will be held on **Wednesday, October 13 from 6:30-8 PM** in the PDB gym. It is an opportunity to experience a typical day in physical education. Both parents and school aged children from McT and Merriam are invited to participate as much or as little as they want. The activities will include warm ups, parachute, sideways wall climbing, tossing, and catching, and more. Hope to see you there.





from Tammy Sarnelli, PTSO chair

Thank you to all the parents who joined the PTSO discussion at the September 22 meeting. David gave a great presentation regarding MCAS scores and how to review them.

A huge welcome to Carolyn Dee, our new PTSO secretary and Carol Watson, one of our new Yard Sale Chairs. **However, WE STILL NEED YOU!** The PTSO urgently needs to fill the PTSO Junior Chair position (works with Senior chair for one year and then assumes role of Senior chair the following year). This position must be filled quickly for a smooth transition at the end of this year. If you are interested, please email Tammy (tammy.sarnelli@biogenidec.com). We are also still looking for the following PTSO Committee chairs:

- **CPAC (1-2 people):** To work with our outgoing Chair, Francesca
- **Basketball Snack Sales (1 person)**
- **Family Photo Day (2 people)**
- **Yard Sale:** Only need one more Chair to work with Carol

Exciting things are going on during October for the PTSO! Here is a quick snapshot of some PTSO events:

- ➔ The school directory is well underway under the watchful eye of Jennifer Mabardy, Lauren Richardt and Kerstin Mendelsohn. Be on the look-out for the new directory in mid-October.
- ➔ Gift wrap/flower bulb sales are in full swing. Please let Suzi Yarin know if you have any questions.
- ➔ **Fall Social will be held on October 29 from 6–8 PM.** Come join the fun!

Remember that you can find PTSO information on our website—www.mctptso.org

The next PTSO meeting will take place on **Wednesday October 13 at 7 PM** in the Faculty Room (the room at the top of the stairs). Come and join the discussion. Hope to see you there.

Cooks and Bakers Wanted

This year, Professional Development Day is Tuesday, November 2. During this day, the staff attends a variety of meetings. While they are away, as in past years, we show our gratitude for all their hard work throughout the year by having a nice luncheon awaiting their return.

We are looking for volunteers to provide a luncheon item (hot or cold), appetizers, salads, or desserts. If you don't cook or bake, we will need drinks, paper goods (napkins, plates, cups, and plastic wear), table cloths, clean-up items (paper towels, wipes, sponges, plastic storage containers/baggies), and flowers. We also need help with set-up (11:30 AM– Noon) and clean-up (1–2 PM).

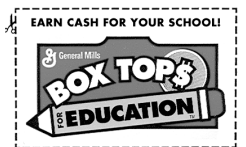
If you are interested in helping, contact Lynne Densen (lynne.densen@verizon.net). Please specify what you intend to bring so we end up with a variety of items for the luncheon.

APS School Committee Meeting

McCarthy-Towne will host the APS School Committee meeting on **Thursday, October 21 at 7:30 PM** in the Library. Everyone is welcome so please come show your support for our schools. For information about the agenda visit <http://ab.mec.edu/about/meetings.shtml>.

Keep Clipping for October 22nd!

The first Box Tops collections is coming up. Please send in all your saved Box Tops to your child's classroom by **Friday, October 22.**



This is a really easy way that we all contribute over \$1,000 per year to our school. Please contact Julie Driscoll (bobina44@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

Class Potlucks

Would you like to get to know other families in your child's class? Do you like to organize events? Do you like to host parties? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then volunteer today to be part a wonderful McCarthy Towne tradition- our Parent Potlucks. As a volunteer from your class you are responsible to find a host family, plan the event, invite other parents, and have fun! The potlucks are a wonderful opportunity to build upon the school community we have here at McT.

If you are interested in hosting or helping to organize one of these events for your child's class, please contact Kate Murray (lfdtmurray@verizon.net).

BOOK FAIR 2010

We are excited to announce this year's McCarthy-Towne Book Fair, being held **Friday, October 29 through Thursday, November 4**, in conjunction with the Fall Social. The Book Fair is great fun for the kids, a nice way to spend a couple of volunteer hours, and a wonderful fundraiser for the school.

Students will visit the Book Fair with their classes at assigned half-hour slots, as determined by their teachers, on Friday (10/29), Monday (11/1), and Wednesday (11/3).. The Book Fair will also be held Friday night during the Fall Social.. Families are encouraged to buy books for their children, as gifts for others, and as gifts to specific classrooms by purchasing books from the Teachers' Wish List. This is a terrific way to help the teachers build their classroom libraries.

Volunteers are warmly welcomed! Parents can choose to volunteer at times when their child/children's class attends the Book Fair. We also will need volunteers to set-up the Book Fair on Thursday, October 28, work the social on the evening of Friday, October 29, and break down the Book Fair on Thursday afternoon, November 4. We have a list of volunteers that Patty has collected, but it is not too late to add your name to the list—the more the merrier! Volunteers will be contacted as soon as teachers sign up so you can be sure to be there when your child's class comes in.

Look for more specific information regarding the Book Fair and your child/children's classroom visit via backpack mail. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Susan Lerner (sammyabe@aol.com or 978-263-0045) or Mimi Kirkman (mimikirkman@yahoo.com or 978-263-9770).

Enter to Win an iPod® Shuffle and \$500 in Free Groceries!



McCarthy-Towne School is once again participating in the *Register Tapes for Education Program*. This incredible program allows us to earn FREE school equipment just by doing our grocery shopping.

Simply save your receipts every time you shop at Donelan's Supermarkets! Then send them in with your child to give to their teacher, or drop them in the collection box in the office. **Receipts dated September 1, 2010–March 31, 2011 are eligible.** In past years, this program has generated over a thousand dollars worth of school supplies that didn't cost our school a penny!

Also, don't forget to fill out the entry form below and send it into school with your receipts by **January 15, 2011** to get a chance to win a \$500 grocery gift certificate plus an iPod Shuffle. Please leave the "school code" section of the entry form blank.

For complete contest rules, visit www.registertapesforeducation.com/shoppercontest. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Lippan (lippannicole2008@comcast.net).



Please enter me for a chance to win a \$500 grocery gift certificate plus an iPod Shuffle.

Name _____ School Code _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Thank You, Thank you!

Thank you to the following parents and families for their generous donations to our community:

The Crawley Family for donating several basketballs for playground use.

Frank McCammon for tennis balls for cafeteria chairs.

Gail Gecawicz, Nicole Lippa, Joan McCaffrey, Kerstin Mendelsohn, Tracey Smith and Tina Watlington for helping us keep things organized and running smoothly in the office the first few weeks of school.

Tina Watlington and Lauren Richardt for stacking, sorting, separating and delivering the Fall Fundraiser materials to all the classrooms.

Lynne Densen for organizing all those smiling faces and making School Picture Day such a wonderful experience for all the kids.

Ana Kerr, Amanda Dindal, Sorrel Sammons and Jean Bradley for your invaluable assistance in helping Sharon

Family Fall Clean-Up is Here! Get out your Gloves, Rakes and Tarps!

Got a leaf eater, an extra bag of compost, a spare mum? Got 20 minutes? (or more?) Come on over and help with the **Fall Clean-Up of the Parker Damon Grounds on Sunday, October 17 from 1-4 PM.**

Can't make it on a Sunday? **Come join us for the second Clean-Up day—Thursday, October 21 from 2-4 PM!**

Have fun raking and cleaning up the grounds with other families. We need your help! Do your part this year and help us weed! We're getting lonely out there! Let's make this place look great!

Bring your rakes, weeding tools, wheel barrows, friends and neighbors... everyone is welcome! There are other opportunities to help out! We meet to work on the gardens on specific scheduled days.

No experience is needed, just enthusiasm and garden gloves! Contact Karen Dean (dkdean83@gmail.com or 978-274-2084) with any questions.

Ryan get the reading program off to a great start.

School Picture Retakes

School picture retakes are scheduled for Friday, November 5. If your child was absent on September 20, they will have their picture taken on November 5. If you are not satisfied with the original picture, send the entire package back to school on November 5 and have your child give it to the photographers to get a retake.

Tidbits from Tina

from Tina Morgan, McT School Counselor

"I'll do that when my kids are older. . ."

A new law went into effect last week in Massachusetts making it illegal to text while driving. This really isn't, or shouldn't be, anything new. Being distracted while driving has always been a "no-no" in the law books, but now we are focusing on our cell phones.

The cell phone is a relatively new technology, especially for those of us who were born before 19??, but even the older generation has become comfortable with Facebook, blogs, cyberspace, texting. My 2 year old granddaughter, Anna, easily plays with her mother's iPod, scrolling from page to page, touching the "app" that she wants. Her pretend cell phone automatically goes to her ear, as she imitates the adults around her; and I have no doubt that the texting motion is not far behind. She watches what we do, and she mimics our every move or word. (My son-in-law and I quickly rephrased an "Oh my..." comment to "Oh my goodness" when we heard that not-so-polite phrase come out of her two year old mouth. Oops!)

Our children are watching us and, "our actions speak louder than our words." You may think that you can have a conversation with your child when he/she gets a driver's license, to let him/her know that it's dangerous to use your cell phone when you drive. But, what has your child seen you do for the 15 years before he/she gets that permit? We need to model for our children and have our actions match our words. Our children are watching and they are learning—even things we would prefer that they do not learn from us. What are you teaching your children about using the cell phone while driving?

MCAS Dates for Spring 2011

Students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be taking MCAS tests in the spring of 2011. Please avoid scheduling trips and appointments during the MCAS testing periods.

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

Week of March 21

ELA Composition (grade 4)

Tuesday, March 22

Make-up date—Thursday, March 31

Mathematics (grades 3, 4, 5, 6)

Week of May 9

Science, Technology & Engineering (grade 5)

Week of May 16

McT Fall Social and Cake Walk

You've heard the talk, now walk the (cake) walk! **The McT Fall Social will be on Friday, October 29, from 6–8 PM** in the cafeteria and gym. Come hang out with old friends and meet new ones. This year, back by popular demand, we'll be doin' the Cake Walk. The Cake Walk is like musical chairs without the chairs and with cakes as prizes. Bring a cake (homemade or store-bought) to participate (one cake per child who wants to play). You must bring a cake to participate (if this is a hardship because of time or money constraints, please email Kate Murray at lfdtmurray@verizon.net and a cake will be provided for you). Everyone who plays goes home with a cake. It's a great game for kids of all ages. Meanwhile, families can shop the Book Fair, play carnival games, eat pizza and homemade baked goods, and do crafts and other fun activities.

Tickets to the social are \$5 per child (parents are free). Pizza is \$2/slice. No drop-offs, please; this is a family event! Volunteers are needed to sell tickets and pizza, run crafts and games, help with the cake walk and just generally keep things running smoothly. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sarah Auerbach (sbauerbach@gmail.com). For more information about the social, contact Sarah Auerbach or Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmilmedia.com).

Oktoberfest is Tomorrow!

On **October 2, 2010**, come run or walk for McT in the Oktoberfest 5K! Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce will donate \$5 to McCarthy-Towne School for every registration. Register on-line and enter McCarthy-Towne School in the space provided when you sign up. There are also copies of the registration forms in the McT office. Pre-registration is \$15! Event day registration is \$20. First 300 registrants get a T-shirt!

This annual event starts at 10 AM. New this year is a Fun Run starting at 9 AM. The race starts at Gates School on Spruce Street and continues through the village of West Acton. MWCoC donates to many affiliated charities, so here is a chance to raise money for McT. Sign up today! Please contact Kate Murry (lfdtmurray@verizon.net) with any questions.

Food Service Department News

Don't miss our "Guess the weight of the pumpkin" contest in the cafeteria. During the week of October 25–29 students will receive an entry ticket each time they purchase lunch. The winner will receive the decorated pumpkin and will take it home on October 29. Good luck!

During the entire month of October we are pleased to offer apples fresh from Carlson Orchards. And on October 26 the popular "Deli Day" menu returns. There will be a choice of turkey or ham as well as a vegetarian sub offering. This menu will include a sample of fresh apple cider and a low fat apple cake for dessert.

Gift Wrap/Candy/Flower Bulb Sale Ends on October 8th

We sincerely hope that you will consider ordering at least ONE item from one of the catalogs to support our school. Our funding of classroom assistants depends on the PTSO fundraising! If each family orders only ONE item (\$7.00), it will increase our "participation rate" and thus our percentage of profit! Plus, you may be an "Instant Winner" of an iPad, iTouch or Wii (we've had several past Instant Winners at McT).

To order, go to www.innisbrook.com and click on "Parents-EZ-Enter Orders Here." (Family and friends can also order and pay with a credit card; orders will be shipped to their home.) Our school number is 105125. After placing your order, print out a receipt and submit it with a check to the school office. All checks (for both Innisbrook and Flower Power) should be made payable to McT PTSO and delivered to the office **before October 8**.

Delivery will be on Saturday, November 6 or 13, well before the Thanksgiving break. If you have any questions, please contact Suzi Yarin (ssyarin@verizon.net). Thank you so much for your support!

Scrip Gift Card Program

Thank you to all the families who ordered Scrips in September. **We are off to a terrific start this year, raising over \$450 for our school.** The Scrip program is a great way for your family to help the school raise money, without doing anything additional or different from your usual shopping. Just shop as you normally would on a regular basis, but instead of paying with cash or credit card at checkout, pay with your store cards.

Remember you can also order scrip/store cards on-line. You can also set-up a PrestoPay account through our vendor and have the money taken right out of your account—completely by-passing your child in the ordering process. Visit <http://mctptso.org/fundraising/scrip> for directions on on-line ordering and additional order forms.

Scrip order forms went home today and are **due back by Wednesday, October 13**. Please contact Lynne Densen (lynne.densen@verizon.net or 978.266.2952) or Maureen Jones (maureen.jones1@verizon.net or 978.266.2874) with any questions. The November Scrip deadline will be November 17 and the December Scrip deadline will be December 13.



McCarthy-Towne School – OCTOBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 West Acton Oktoberfest 5K Run/Walk
3	4	5	6	7	8 Innisbrook and Bulb orders due	9
10	11 NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day	12	13 Scrip orders due PDB P.E. Night, 6:30–8 PM PTSO Meeting, 7 PM	14	15	16
17 Fall Clean-up at PDB, 1–4 PM	18	19	20	21 Fall Clean-up at PDB, 2–4 PM APS School Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM	22 BOX TOPS due	23
24	25	26	27 Early Dismissal (1 PM) No PM Kindergarten	28	29 Scholastic Book Fair Begins (thru Nov. 4) Fall Social, 6–8 PM	30
31	November 1	November 2 NO SCHOOL, Professional Development Day	November 3 Early Dismissal (1 PM) No PM Kindergarten	November 4 Scholastic Book Fair Ends	November 5 Picture Retake Day	November 6

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!

October 13 November 10 December 8