



McCarthy-Towne Bulletin

September 2, 2010
Volume 40, No 1

September Start

by David Krane, McT Principal

Greetings and welcome to a new school year! I am very much looking forward to the first day of school: greeting old friends and making new ones. As I say every year in September, this is my favorite time of the year because the air is filled with new possibilities. This is a time of year of high expectations and maybe just a little bit of anxiety and apprehension, even for teachers and principals! But that anxiety disappears as soon as the school doors open, the kids rush in and everything becomes familiar again.

We are welcoming three teachers back to the McCarthy-Towne community: Vanessa Bergmann, Heather Matthews and Kari James. Vanessa will be teaching fifth grade and Kari will be back in second grade with Heather Matthews reprising her second grade role from last spring, as well. All three teachers are excited about returning and I am delighted that they are back. They are a continuing part of our school community.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new office staff and to our new Parent Involvement Coordinator, Patti Lee. Astrid Trostorff will be taking on the position of Office Administrator and Maureen Jones will be the Office Assistant. We are working tremendously well together already and I am very excited about this new team.

Matt McDowell will also be joining the Acton Public Schools as an Assistant

Principal. His full time responsibilities will be shared between McCarthy-Towne and Merriam. Matt will be taking on a variety of responsibilities in our school and I am very much looking forward to working with him as the new school year opens. We are fortunate to have him as part of our team.

Our school is in excellent shape to begin the new year. The custodial staff has worked very hard, putting in long hours during one of the hottest summers that I can remember. I can't thank them enough for their care and investment in our school building and our students. Bravo and tremendous thanks to Nirmin, Mike, Dave, Pete and Kathy for all their hard work! Courtney, Dan and Julie, in for the summer, were a big part of that team, too. Thanks to all.

New school years start with change. Here at McCarthy-Towne, you can see that much is different in many ways. We are always the McCarthy-Towne School, though; a school that believes very much in children and children's learning. That will never change. But with the help of all of our families, students, teachers and support staff we can only get stronger.

Let's welcome our new staff, our new students and a new school year. I am looking forward to a wonderful start to a wonderful year!

Mark Your Calendar

SEPTEMBER

3-6

NO SCHOOL,
Labor Day Weekend

9, Thursday

NO SCHOOL,
Rosh Hashanah

15, Wednesday

Back-to-School Night,
6:45-8 PM

20, Monday

School Picture Day

21, Tuesday

Principal's Coffee,
9:30-10:30 AM

22, Wednesday

Scrip Orders Due

PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

24, Friday

Kids' Night Out, 6 PM
(Auction Item)

OCTOBER

11, Monday

NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day

13, Wednesday

PTSO Meeting, 7 PM

27, Wednesday

Early Dismissal (1 PM)
No PM Kindergarten

29, Friday

Fall Social/Scholastic Book
Fair Begins

The 2010-2011 school
calendar is available for
download at:

[http://ab.mec.edu/about/
calendars.shtml](http://ab.mec.edu/about/calendars.shtml)

New Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC)

from Patti Lee

Welcome back to school. I wanted to introduce myself as the new *Parent Involvement Coordinator* to our wonderful McCarthy-Towne community. For those of you whom I don't know, I have a 1st (Anna) and 4th (Julia) grader at McT. I'm looking forward to working with you throughout the year. If you have any questions about volunteering, please don't hesitate to contact me (plee@mail.ab.mec.edu or 978-264-4700 ext. 3703. I'll also be in the office most days so drop by just to say "hi".



from Tammy Sarnelli, PTSO chair

Welcome back to a new school year! As the current PTSO chair, I am excited about this year, although it will be bittersweet for me. My two children are entering 6th grade and will be leaving McCarthy-Towne after 7 fantastic years. How time flies. I remember their kindergarten orientation and wondering then how I could be involved in their school experience. The answer is PTSO! The PTSO is an opportunity to think about ways to assist our great school community. Roles such as helping with the fall social, proofreading the directory, or attending the fun-filled auction, I promise there is a role for everyone. No job too big or too small.

We have many returning parents who have done a tremendous job supporting different PTSO roles over the last several years. I especially want to thank Kim Clark, our outgoing PTSO chair, for the wonderful job she did last year. A big THANK YOU.

However, WE NEED YOU! At this time, the PTSO urgently needs to fill the following two committee positions very soon—the PTSO Junior Chair (works with Senior chair for one year and then assumes role of Senior chair the following year) and Secretary (documents all PTSO meeting minutes/decisions). These positions must be filled quickly. If you are interested, please email Tammy for details (tammy.sarnelli@biogenidec.com).

We also have committee position openings for CPAC, school directory, basketball snack sales, family photo day, and the yard sale. If you have questions about these roles or would like to help, please email Tammy as well.

The first PTSO meeting of 2010–2011 will take place on Wednesday, September 22 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.

Greetings to all!

from Mathew McDowell, Assistant Principal

I am very excited to be joining McCarthy-Towne School as Assistant Principal and wanted to begin by introducing myself. With both the position and me being new this year, I am sure there are many questions people have about each. While much of what my position with the two schools will involve has yet to be developed, I am happy to tell you a bit about myself.

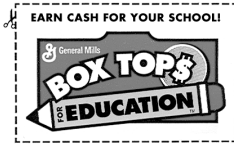
I have just come from 12 years of classroom teaching in Stow, MA as part of the Nashoba Regional School District. I first taught 2nd Grade for five years, and most recently worked as a 5th Grade teacher for the last seven years. I received my B.A. from Hamilton College in NY, M.Ed. from University of Hartford in CT, and CAGS in Education Leadership & Management from Fitchburg State College. Although new to administration, I have been actively involved in curriculum and school based leadership roles for many years within Nashoba Schools. The prospect of coming to Acton and joining the McCarthy-Towne community in the newly created position was, and is, quite appealing as I am able to help shape the position with the skill set I bring and a solid foundation of classroom experience in order to support the quality instruction that is occurring daily in the school. As I have begun to get settled in this summer, I have been impressed and heartened by the warm welcome I have received already and the evidence of student learning and diverse and engaging instruction that takes place here. In the past week especially, the building has begun to get busier as teachers are in setting up rooms, preparing lessons, and generally getting geared up for another successful year.

Personally, I have been a resident of Massachusetts since 1998, having grown up in Philadelphia and later living in Upstate NY and Hartford, CT. I met my wife during community theater in 1999, we were married in 2001, and now have two daughters, ages 3 and 6. My 6 year old begins 1st grade this fall so know that I share and understand many of the parental concerns and questions you have about your child's education and daily life at school. Please know that I am always happy to try and help with your questions and concerns.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know your children and you in the coming weeks as the school year gets underway.

–Matt

Betty Crocker, Cheerios, Bisquick, Pillsbury, Gogurt, Ziploc, Hefty and Avery!



What do all these products have in common? BOX TOPS! It's time to get out the Box Tops you clipped over the summer and remember to keep clipping. **This school year there are two big collections: October 22, 2010 and February 20, 2011.** The class prizes will be much needed playground equipment. Please ask your friends and relatives to clip Box Tops for McCarthy-Towne. This is a very easy way that we all contribute over \$1,000 per year to our school.

It's really simple: Just clip Box Tops off the product package and collect them in an envelope or Ziploc bag. Send them to school with your child or drop-off collections in the large, collection box just inside the main office. Please label the collection with your child's name, grade and teacher. This important information is used to track rewards for the classroom contest! You can also drop them in a blue box labeled "McCarthy-Towne Box Tops" at either Roche Bros or Donelan's supermarkets.

If you have any questions please contact Julie Driscoll (bobina44@comcast.net).

Sloyd Needs You

from Heidi Kupferman, Sloyd Teacher

The Sloyd classroom is in need of supplies. Please remember that over 500 noses come through the Sloyd doors every week, so the donation of tissues is greatly appreciated! Sponges are also needed, especially the ones that have one scrubby side.

Also, the Sloyd classroom always welcomes parent volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Heidi (hkupferman@ab.mec.edu) for more information.

Schoolwide Recycling

Last year McT worked to improve the recycling in our school. Many families donated recycling bins, money, and time helping us do that. **Unfortunately, there are still seven classrooms without bins. We are looking for donations to help us get the recycling program started this year with school-wide participation.**



The recycling bins costs \$14.99. Each classroom needs two bins—one for paper and one for cardboard, aluminum, and plastic. You can help by sending a donation to the school office made out to McT PTSO.

We are also looking for parent volunteers to pick-up the cardboard, aluminum, and plastic each Thursday and take it to the Acton Transfer Station.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rachel O'Sullivan (rosullivan@mail.ab.mec.edu). Thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far. It has been a great success!

Directory Ad Placements

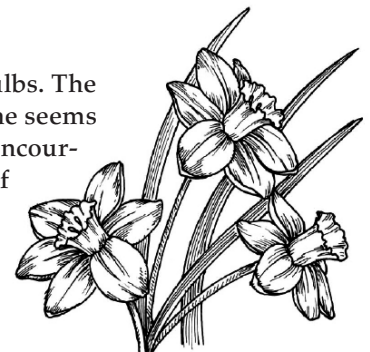
Once again, the PTSO is offering the placement of personal ads for parents of McCarthy-Towne children in the 2010–11 student directory. You can place a personal ad for your child (e.g., congratulations, happy birthday) as a great way to memorialize your child's years at McT. Also, this is a great opportunity to advertise your own home-based business! Get your name out there to all McT families!

Refer to the order form sent home for additional information and pricing. **The deadline for ad submissions is September 24.** To place a personal ad, contact Lauren Richardt (laurenrichardt@yahoo.com or 978-263-3043). For information on business ads, please contact Kerstin Mendelsohn (kerstin4@yahoo.com or 617-283-5210). If you have any questions about directory ads, please contact either Lauren or Kerstin.

Fall Fundraiser

One of our most important fundraisers each year is the fall sale of gift wrap and flower bulbs. The Innisbrook Company provides high-quality products—new ones every year—that everyone seems to love. **Each family will receive a packet during the week of September 20.** We encourage everyone to participate in this important sale, no matter how small or large the size of your purchase. We feel certain you will find something in the catalogs that appeals to you. **Orders are due in early October and will be available for pick-up in early November.**

The funds we raise pay for classroom assistants, cultural presentations, and supplies. Every dollar counts, and is very much appreciated. If you have any questions, contact Suzi Yarin (ssyarin@verizon.net or 978-263-6383).



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

from Betty Johns, McT School Nurse

Fever

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

Cold, Cough, Sore Throat

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

Stomachache, Vomiting, Diarrhea

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

Red Eyes

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

Pain

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

Toothache: Consult your dentist.

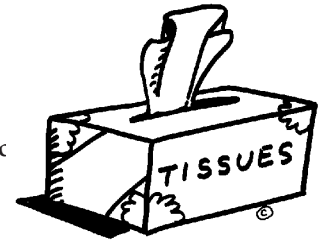
Headache: If headaches are frequent you should consult your doctor. Dehydration, stress, and fatigue can cause a headache.

Rash

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

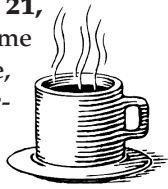
Tips to Stay Healthy

- The best way to prevent the spread of infection is good hand washing.
- Give your child a separate towel and washcloth.
- Change your child's toothbrush after an illness and every 3 months.
- Have your child examined annually by her/his health care provider.
- School age children require at least 8–10 hours of sleep each night.
- A healthy diet is important in creating a healthy student.
- Please call the school nurse, Betty Johns, if you have any questions or concerns (978-264-3374).



Principal's Coffee

Families of new and returning McT students are invited on **Tuesday, September 21, from 9:30–10:30 AM**, to spend some time with our Principal, David Krane, for morning coffee, treats and conversation. So mark your calendars and look for more details to come.



McT Buddy Family Program

Are you an expert at navigating McT? And/or, are you a welcoming and friendly person? Would you be able to reach out to call and welcome a new family to our community, and possibly answer a question or two that you probably asked when you were new to McT? **Please consider joining the ranks of the veteran Buddy families.** With your perspective, you would be a tremendous asset to the program. The goal of the Buddy Family program is simply to make things easier and more pleasant for families new to McT. Last year the program welcomed more than thirty-two new families in grades K–6. If you are willing to become a Buddy family for the upcoming school year (2010–2011), please contact Alissa or Matt Benway (alissabenway@yahoo.com or 617-970-1949).

McT Fall Social

Save the date! The McCarthy Towne Fall Social will be **Friday, October 29, from 6–8 PM** in the lobby, cafeteria, and gym. Come hang out with old friends and meet new ones. Shop the book sale, play carnival games, eat pizza and homemade baked goods, and do crafts and other fun activities.

We need volunteers! If you're interested in volunteering, contact Sarah Auerbach (sbauerbach@gmail.com). For more information about the social, contact Sarah Auerbach or Tracey Smith (tracey@gristmilmedia.com).

The Book Fair is Coming!

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to McCarthy-Towne from **October 29 through November 4, 2010**. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Susan Lerner (sammyabe@aol.com or 978-263-0045).



Important Information for All Parents Regarding Medications

Medication administration is an important issue in schools. Some students require medications at school in order to survive. Others need medications in order to learn. Occasionally, students require antibiotics during the day following a bacterial infection.

The goal of your School Nurse is to administer only those medications that are absolutely necessary during the school day. All other medications should be given at home either before or after school.

State law requires a written order by a licensed prescriber and written parental permission before any medication can be administered to students, including over-the-counter medications. You can obtain forms for this purpose from the School Nurse, or from most Health Care Providers. All medication **MUST** be in the original labeled container and be labeled with the student's name. The School Nurse will not administer the following: expired medications, medications delivered in unlabeled containers, and medications in inappropriate containers such as Ziploc bags.

For the safety of all students, no medications are to be carried to school by students. The only exception to this rule is for Junior High and High School students who are allowed to carry inhalers or Epi-pens after certain requirements are met.

With your help, the School Nurse can provide a safe, supervised environment for students who require medications at school.



Feel free to contact the McT School Nurse, Betty Johns (978-264-3374) with any questions.

Thank You, Thank you!

A big thank you to Shellie Barton and Olena Murzin for coming into the office to help with all the laminating before school opened. Your continued support in the office has helped us tremendously.

Thank you also to our McCarthy-Towne student volunteers who came in to help with our New Student Orientation: Erin Smith, Becky Wolf, Leanna Marden, Michael Gecawicz, Josh Hollenberg, Jose Hercules, Julia Lee and Guinevere Jones. You extended such a warm welcome to our new students, helping them find their way around school and answering their questions. They will always remember their first experience at McCarthy-Towne as a fun-filled adventure.

McCarthy-Towne School – SEPTEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
					NO SCHOOL	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	NO SCHOOL, Labor Day			NO SCHOOL, Rosh Hashanah		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Back-to-School Night, 6:45–8 PM			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	School Picture Day	Principal's Coffee, 9:30–10:30 AM	SCRIP orders due PTSO Meeting, 7 PM		Kids' Night Out (Auction Item), 6 PM	
26	27	28	29	30	OCTOBER 1	OCTOBER 2
					October Bulletin Published	

Upcoming PTSO Meetings

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

September 22 October 13 November 10 December 8