

2012 McT Mardi Gras Auction Update

Mark Your Calendar for the McCarthy-Towne Auction on March 24th, 2012
at the Butternut Farm Golf Club in Stow, MA.



What exactly happens at the auction???

Here are the most Frequently Asked Auction Questions....

I've never been to the auction. What is it like?

- The auction starts at 5:30PM. People tend to dress in "dressy, casual" clothes or, optionally, in compliance with the theme. The T-shirt order forms are available on the PTSO Auction website: <http://www.mctptso.org/fundraising/auction2012/>
- Upon arrival, you'll check in with volunteers and receive a paddle number to use for bidding. For the next hour and a half people socialize, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, purchase drinks from the cash bar, and bid on the silent auction items.
- By 7 PM, the silent auction is closed and everyone enjoys dinner with open seating, while raffles are drawn and winners are announced.
- At 8 PM, the live auction begins while dessert and coffee are served. The auction is finished when the last live auction item is purchased.
- Before leaving, you pay for and receive the items that you successfully bid and won. You may pay using cash, check, or credit card.

Why do people make such a big deal about the auction?

- The McCarthy-Towne PTSO, which is composed of all student families as well as teachers and staff, works hard to raise funds to supplement the school budget. The PTSO underwrites the funding of contracted services, such as classroom assistants, Sloyd and Humanities consultants. The Auction is the largest fundraiser that the McCarthy-Towne community sponsors.
- People make such a big deal about the auction because the funds, more than ever, are needed to help provide our children with the best education possible!

How does the silent auction work?

- The majority of the items donated are bid on during the silent auction. The items are displayed on numerous tables and each item has a bid sheet. If you are interested in bidding on a particular item, you write down your paddle number and bid price on the bid sheet.
- Ideally, other people are interested in the same item and then increase the bid price. This process continues until it is announced that the silent auction tables are closing.
- Only one table is closed at a time allowing people to get their final bids in on items that they just can't go home without!
- The great thing about the auction is that it gives people an opportunity to purchase items they normally would (i.e. gift certificates to favorite restaurants and stores, museum memberships, services) and the school benefits financially.

How does the live auction work?

- After dinner, the auctioneer begins the live auction. Items saved for the live auction include all of the wonderful classroom projects made by the children, as well as items which the auction committee believes will generate generous donations.
- The item up for bid is described and displayed and then the auctioneer starts the bidding process with an opening bid.
- To purchase the item at the stated price, you raise your paddle. The auctioneer then raises the bid and hopefully other interested people raise their paddles.
- This process continues until only one person is left bidding and their last bid becomes the final price. Even if you're not bidding on an item, it's fun to watch the bidding process!

If I can't attend the auction, can I still bid on items?

- Yes! You can bid by proxy. Look for instructions in the Auction Booklet that is sent home with your child a week before the auction.
- You can fill out the form which will be on the PTSO Website under the auction tab.

What are the raffle tickets all about?

- The raffle tickets are an additional fundraising effort associated with the auction.
- Each student receives two booklets of tickets and is encouraged but not obligated to sell the tickets. Students can sell more tickets if they choose.
- The school community also sells tickets to the public at Roche Bros., Donelan's supermarkets and the Acton Post Office in February and March.
- Families volunteer to sell tickets for an hour or two.

OK, you've inspired me! What can I do to help?

- We're glad that you asked! We've had a great response from parents who have already filled lots of needed positions.
- We always need more help. Go to PTSO website under the auction tab to find out more and fill out an information form.
- If you have any questions, please call Heidi Dalaklis (978.635.0421) or Jill Defoe. (978.263.4848)

Thank you from the Auction Committee!