

McCall Middle School

Parents' Association Newsletter
October 2005

See



Last General Newsletter

Please Subscribe
Enclosed Flyer

From the Principal
Evander French, Jr

I am pleased to welcome three additional new staff members to McCall Middle School for the 2005-2006 school year: Rachel Aiello will be teaching 7th Grade Physical and Health Education, Katie Hebda will be an 8th Grade Earth Science Teacher on the Silver Team, and Lynn King will serve as an 8th Grade Special Education Instructor. Welcome Rachel, Katie, and Lynn!

In the September Newsletter, I urged your support of our daily, on-time attendance policy. Later in this newsletter, you will find a letter and an information sheet from Middlesex District Attorney, Martha Coakley, and our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. James Marini, that further stresses parents'/guardians' responsibility "to ensure that attendance at school is regular and timely." So far this year, student attendance has been excellent. Let's keep up the good work!

Good News: Thanks to generous donations from the McCall Middle School Parents Association, the John and Mary Murphy Educational Foundation, and a "Healthy Choices" grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, we will be able to offer our students an extensive extracurricular activities program once again this year. At the time of this writing, staff members were applying to advise/direct the following activities: Art Club, Chess Club, Community Service Club, Drama Club, EnKa Fair Marching Band, Homework Club, International Club, Intramurals, Jazz Band, Math Team Grade 7 and 8, Math Team Grade 6, Newspaper, Outdoor Club, Photography Club, Prime Time, Science Olympiad, Boys and Girls Select Chorus, and Student Council. In addition, Cydney Ambrose will serve as advisor to the Yearbook, Cathy Alexander of the Winchester Cooperative Theater will direct the Fall Musical, "Footloose," and the Youth Center under the direction of the Recreation Department will be open on regular days of school until 5:00 p.m. and on early

release days (school dismissed at 11:10 a.m.) until 3:00 p.m. Most of these activities began by the end of September. Students should listen to the morning announcements to find out the days and times of the meetings. In the November Parents Association Newsletter, we will provide you with a list of all of the activities along with the names of the advisors and when and where the activities meet.

Please note the following administrative matters:

- An up-to-date Winchester Public Schools 2005-2006 School Calendar is included later in the newsletter. There is no longer an early release day on Tuesday, March 28 due to additional MCAS Testing.
- A list of this year's McCall Middle School Core Teams is included with this newsletter for your information and convenience.
- Dance dates and dance guidelines are also included for your information. Please be sure to arrive on time to pick up your McCall student at the end of the dance!
- The October Calendar of Events includes designated (*) no homework days due to religious holidays, long weekends, or vacations. Teachers have been asked not to assign homework, tests or quizzes on these dates, nor should special programs including field trips be planned for these dates.

We enjoyed a very successful 7th and 8th Grade Dance on Friday, September 16 in the McCall Gym and Youth Center. My special thanks to a great group of parent/guardian chaperones who were a big help in working with the more than 400 students who came to the dance.

McCall Middle School Dance Guidelines

This year, we will have separate Dances for 6th Graders and for 7th and 8th Graders. The 6th Grade Dances will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. The 7th and 8th Dances will occur from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. Dances will take place on the following Fridays in the McCall Gym and Youth Center: September 16- Grades 7 & 8; October 21- Grade 6; November 4- Grades 7 & 8; December 9- Grade 6; January 20- Grades 7 & 8; February 3- Grade 6; March 3- Grades 7 & 8 ; April 7- Grade 6; May 12- Grades 6 & 7- 7:30-10:00 p.m. The June 19 Grade 8 Celebration Dance is just for McCall 8th Graders. Students may attend McCall Middle School Dances provided that they comply with the following guidelines:

- Students must currently live in Winchester.
- Students must be grade appropriate i.e., 6th Graders may attend 6th Grade events, but can't attend a 7th and 8th Grade event, and, likewise, 7th and 8th Graders may attend 7th and 8th Grade events, but can't attend 6th Grade events. Additionally, younger students (5th Grade and below) and older students (9th Grade and above) may not attend McCall Middle School Dances.
- Non public school students who are eligible to attend McCall Middle School Dances must have their parents/guardians call Mr. French or Mr. Marotta at 781-721-7026 to indicate that their children would like to attend an upcoming event, and the students should introduce themselves to Mr. French or Mr. Marotta when they arrive at the Dance. Non public school parents or guardians are encouraged to volunteer to help chaperone the Dances.
- Students must remain at the Dances for the full time (7:30 - 9:30 p.m.- Grade 6, 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.- Grades 7 and 8) unless a parent or guardian comes into the building to take the student home.
- Students must agree to follow all McCall Middle School rules and regulations.
- Decorations should not be touched or destroyed.
- Only appropriate music will be played.
- Only appropriate dancing will be allowed.

We encourage all those interested to come and enjoy wholesome evenings of fun! Admissions will be \$7.00

From the Assistant Principal

Ralph Marotta

BE ON TIME!!

This is Rule#1 for successful individuals and excellent schools.

Students who arrive to school On Time benefit from listening to important announcements and from participating in class lessons from the start.

Students who arrive to school On Time are able to prepare for their school day by getting their materials in order and conferring with classmates and teachers.

By being On Time, students develop habits of responsibility and leadership.

By being On Time, students become fully engaged in the teamwork and mission of the school.

I encourage all parents to help develop constructive evening and morning routines to ensure that students arrive to school On Time and confident in their own preparation for each school day.

Students are permitted to report to the McCall Cafeteria any time after 7:00 A.M.

They may go to their lockers at 7:30 A.M. A warning signal sounds at 7:40. All students should be seated in homerooms by 7:45 A.M.

According to McCall policy explained on page 12 of the Student Handbook, students tardy more than three times in any quarter will receive administrative detention and possibly school probation.

Being On Time works for everyone. That's why it's Rule #1.

From the Nurse

Joan Wallwork

Students in grade 7 will have their vision and hearing tested this fall and will also have their height and weight measured. You will be notified if a student fails to pass the screening. I will be happy to test any other student upon the request of a teacher or parent.

If your child has any allergy or asthma symptoms, please make sure they are properly medicated before coming to school so they will be more comfortable. Parents are asked to call me if their children require emergency EpiPen to be kept in school as new guidelines from the Department of Public Health require completion of Emergency forms, including one signed by a physician.

If medications are to be given during school hours, please pick up a permission slip outlining instructions for the medication.

If your family is in need of free or reduced cost medical insurance, the Massachusetts Children's Medical Security Plan is available and applications are available in my office, or call 1-800-909-2677.

If your child has any health concerns, please call me any time. For **contact info**, please go to:
<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

From the Library

Jane Henchey

Classes – During September several classes have come to the library. Mrs. Daniel's, Mrs. Pickering's, and Mrs. Lane's sixth grade classes have received an orientation of the library. Students were given an overview of the library and a book mark that outlines the library program. Seventh grade students from Mrs. Chatfield and Mrs. Migausky have also come to the library to hear book talks and to select books for independent reading. Mrs. Burke's classes are researching famous French and Spanish people. Ms. Ambrose's history classes are scheduled to research explorers.

Literary Lunch – Volunteers from Mrs. Lanes' classes are reading The Silent Boy by Lois Lowry in preparation for the October 6th literary lunch. The students will be walking to the Jenks Center. Students who are participating will receive a permission slip that asks for permission to walk as well as contributions for desserts and parent volunteers.

Mrs. Weir's class will be reading Snow Treasure by Marie McSwigan for November 3rd's Literary Lunch. The story took place in Norway during World War II. Boys and girls risked their lives by slipping by Nazi guards with nine million dollars in gold on their sleds! The students will meet with seniors at the McCall library to discuss this story.

Book Fair – This year the Book Fair will take place from Monday, November 14th through Friday, November 18th. The fair will be open to all students from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on those days.

Thank you! - I wish to thank Gina Kurban and Mary Doherty for their assistance in preparing the automated catalogue system for the school year. Together they spent several hours entering students' names into the database.

Washington Trip – Grade 8

Jack Squeglia

At our Open House on Monday, September 19th, the eighth grade parents voted unanimously to proceed with the annual Grade 8 trip to Washington, DC. The Winchester School Committee is scheduled to discuss this trip at a meeting in the near future. If the WSC approves, the trip is scheduled for Monday, March 20 through Friday, March 24, 2006. All eighth grade students will be given an envelope containing essential information about this trip and deadlines for payments. World Strides Tours will be coordinating all arrangements. Please read the information in the envelope very carefully. The total cost of the trip will be \$664, which includes Trip Cancellation Insurance. All payments should be sent to World Strides. You may contact their office at 1-800-468-5899 or call Jack Squeglia, if you have any questions, concerns, or if you need another registration form. For **contact info**, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

From the Co-Presidents

Margie Ohnigian

Patty Castro

Thank you to all the McCall faculty and staff for the smooth opening of school last month. The building shone (even if the students' faces did not) and the new school year got underway without a hitch.

Open House was well attended. We would like to thank Anne Lucas and Lisa Craig for organizing and setting up the refreshments in the cafeteria. In addition, thank you to all those parents who contributed goodies for the night.

Direct Appeal

Each year the McCall Parents Association funds its budget through a Direct Appeal to the parents. We don't charge dues, nor do we sell wrapping paper or candy, so we do ask all McCall families for a one-time contribution in any amount that families can afford. This year our budget is \$41,000. As in the past few years, due to Town budgetary constraints, we are attempting to meet funding gaps as they occur. For example, last year and this year, we have been asked to contribute substantially (over 50%) for extracurricular activities and intramurals. McCall has been able to maintain an array of after-school activities for the students, and more than half of the students participate. The Parents Association feels that after-school activities are an important part of the children's experience here at McCall, and hopes to be able to continue to offer the financial support needed to keep the program operating at its current level.

In addition to extracurricular clubs and intramurals, the Parents Association pays for a variety of enrichment activities at the school, offers some professional development to teachers, produces this monthly newsletter, and buys the books for the literary lunches with the Jenks Center, to name a few items.

If you did not make your donation at the Open House, please consider making your contribution as early in the school year as possible, to help us with our planning for the year. Thank you!

Electronic Newsletter

In November we will be offering a electronic newsletter to every family. Patty Shepard has been working very hard through the summer and fall to create a user-friendly newsletter that allows parents the opportunity to view, read, store and/or print the newsletter in an easy and efficient manner. In addition, this electronic version saves the Parents Association a large amount of money. The paper newsletter cost over \$5,500.00 last year. The cost of the electronic version is \$250.00 per year. This substantial savings can be used to fund our extracurricular program, which did not receive any school funding. If we do not have your e-mail, please send it to Patty Shepard at mccallparentassociation@comcast.net. If you must continue to receive a hard copy, please let Kate Ebbott know. For **contact info**, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

Volunteer Information

There are ample volunteer opportunities throughout the school year at McCall. The library and school store use large numbers of volunteers, and chaperones for the school Activity Nights are highly prized. Contact Margie or Patty at the numbers or addresses below.

Monthly Meetings : Next Meeting- October 12th at 9AM in the McCall Library

We continue to plan our monthly meetings, and will be arranging for guests to speak on various topics throughout the year. Watch the newsletter or check out the emails to find out what's planned for upcoming meetings. Please join us, and bring your suggestions and comments!

Margie Ohnigian Patty Castro

For **contact info**, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

Open House Thank You

Lisa Craig and Anne Lucas

We were delighted with the many wonderful goodies donated by parents for the Open House on September 19. Thank you to: Wendy Badger, Lynn Bailey, Jackie Burchard, Teresa Bustin, Johanna Chilingirian, Sue Clickstein, Caren Connelly, Louise Connelly, Carol Cook, Kate Ebbott, Anne Emmerich, Karen Erikson, Cindy Hale, Rhonda Hodges, Jennifer Li, Leigh Lucey, Elizabeth Mahoney, BJ Mirabile, Susan Nardone, Karen Nipps, Arlene O'Donnell, Cathy Pywell, Brenda Rice, Nicole Salemme, Martha Sampson, Betsy Sands, Loren Schipani, Anne Sharp, Virginia Valdez, Betsy Wall, Diane Wheeler, and Wan Zheng. Thank you also to anyone we may have inadvertently overlooked. Many hands make light work, and we very much appreciated your contributions! If you are missing a serving platter or bowl, please contact either Lisa Craig or Anne Lucas. . For **contact info**, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

BoxTops for Education

McCall participates in the General Mills BoxTops for Education program. This is an easy way for us to earn money for the school -- so far we have earned about \$450 -- Simply cut out the box tops from the products that you buy and deliver them to the Main Office, and we will do the rest. Every little bit helps!

Also, if you like to shop on-line, you can help earn additional money for McCall by enrolling in the BoxTops for Education Booster Club. You can do this at ***boxtops4education.com***. Designate McCall Middle School as the school you want to benefit, and then do your on-line shopping through the BoxTops Marketplace, and McCall will receive a commission for each purchase. There are more than 200 participating vendors, including L.L. Bean, Office Depot, flowers.com, Target, Barnes and Noble, Orbitz.... and on and on! If you have any questions or would like to help, please e-mail Joan Atlas. . For **contact info**, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

**CONSENT FORM FOR INCLUSION IN THE 6TH GRADE PHONE BOOK
MCCALL MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2005-2006 SCHOOL YEAR**

The McCall Parents' Association publishes a 6th grade phone book which includes the students' names and academic teams, the parents' names, the addresses, and the home telephone numbers of students whose parents have provided consent for them to be included. The phone books will be distributed to all 6th grade students in their homerooms in November. For those parents who wish to participate but who **did not** turn their forms in yet, please send this completed form to your child's homeroom teacher or to the main office where there will be an envelope. You can also mail this form to Meg White. **The deadline to be included in the 6th Grade Phone Book is October 15th.** If you have any questions, please contact Meg White. . For **contact info**, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

Name of Student _____

Address _____

First and Last Name(s) of Parents _____

Telephone Number at Home _____

Please circle your child's academic team: All Stars A Team Champions

Signature of Parent/Guardian giving consent _____

Winchester Youth Center (WYC)

Rebecca Levine

Discover

The WYC's middle school Youth Group is for 8th graders who are interested in hanging out with friends, making new friends, and doing something fun and interesting on a weeknight. Each week we engage in discussions and activities on important topics providing our participants the basis for making informed decisions and positive choices. This month the group will meet on Wednesday evenings, October 5 & 19, from 7:30-8:30pm.

Little Brothers & Sisters

The WYC Little Sisters & Brothers are 8th graders who attend Discover, want to get involved in community service, and aspire to become Peer Leaders in high school. Our Little Brothers & Sisters will be selected this month by the WYC Peer Leaders who will serve as their mentors for the remainder of the school year. The Little Sisters & Brothers will volunteer in the Drop-in Center after school; participate in numerous community service projects including **Halloween Window Painting**, Breakfast with Santa, and Town Day Road Races; and attend weekly meetings on Wednesdays from 7:00-7:30.

ABS

If you are an 8th grader who is confident, responsible, outgoing, and caring then we want you for the Anti-Bullying Squad! At last year's Youth Town Meeting, McCall students expressed concern over the issue of bullying during and after school. In an effort to deal with this ongoing problem, members of the Winchester Council on Youth worked with Mr. French and the WYC to select and train eighth graders to serve on the Anti-Bullying Squad (ABS). The ABS volunteer in small groups after school from 2:15-2:45 to help prevent and diffuse bullying activity and to encourage their peers to "Think Twice, Be Nice". Anyone interested in joining the ABS should talk to Rebecca at the WYC.

Community Service

This month the WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters will be collecting pledges for the **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk** on October 16, please contact the WYC if you would like to make a donation.

Halloween for the Hungry:

On October 31 the Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters will be "trick-or-treating" for non-perishable food items for families served by the Woburn Council of Social Concern.

If you're interested in doing something good for our community, stop by the WYC and find out how you can get involved.

Drop-in Center

The WYC has a drop-in center that is open every day after school from 2:15-5:00pm and 11:15-3:00pm on early release days. All middle schoolers are welcome in the Drop-in Center and are encouraged to come in and take advantage of all the cool things the WYC has to offer. Everyone is required to treat others with respect, be accountable for their own belongings, take care of the equipment, and clean up after themselves. **If your child spends time at the Drop-in Center s/he must turn in a signed Drop-in Center Contract.**

The Drop-in Center will be **closed on October 4, 10, and 13.**

WYC Tutoring Program

The WYC offers a tutoring program for middle school Math, Science, Foreign Languages, English, and Social Studies. The Peer Leaders provide one-on-one tutoring in the Homework Room at the WYC. All sessions are from 3:00-4:30pm, five session coupon books are available for \$100. Please contact the WYC for more information.

6th grade Activity Night

Friday, October 21 will be the date of this year's first 6th grade Activity Night. The WYC co-sponsors monthly activity nights for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with the McCall Middle School Parent/Faculty Association and Student Council. Participants are welcome to hang out, play games, or watch a movie in the Drop-in Center and listen to the DJ spin records for the dance in the gym. Admission is \$7 at the door, all students must enter through the McCall front door by the Auditorium

WINCHESTER COUNCIL ON YOUTH

The Council on Youth is an official Town committee that acts as an advocacy group for our youth population and works to meet the needs expressed by Winchester teens. The Council's membership consists of both youths and adults who are invested in supporting, advocating for, and fulfilling the needs of young people. The Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30pm in the Winchester Youth Center.

The Council on Youth is currently searching for two 7th graders and one 8th grader to serve on the Council and represent their peers. Applications are available at the WYC and in the McCall main office.

McCall Parents' Association Direct Appeal

The goal of the Parents' Association Direct Appeal is to raise \$40,000 through the contributions of 100% of McCall families. Please mail your check payable to the McCall Parents' Association with this form to Debe Holland, Assistant Treasurer or drop it off at McCall's main office. For contact info, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

Thanks!

Name of Student _____

Grade _____

Contribution \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$125 ___ Other ___

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Community News

Special Education PAC General Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, 2005
7-9pm McCall Middle School Library

PAC kick-off meeting to review plans for the 2005-2006 school year and discuss items of interest. Please come support the PAC in its efforts to drive important issues that concern your child(ren). Questions? Call , or email Carolyn Hintlian, or Eve Coffey. For contact info, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

October Special Education PAC Coffee

Monday, October 17, 2005
9:30-11:30

The PAC holds informal, monthly coffees for parents and guardians of children on IEPs or 504 plans. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other parents and share knowledge, advice and concerns. The Winchester Special Education Procedures Manual and other reference materials are available. There's no need to RSVP, just drop in. Questions? Call or email Linda Yew.

For contact info, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf>

***Parent to Parent Presents* Family Matters: Real-Life Parenting of Children and Teens in Challenging Times**

Nationally renowned author and clinical and organizational psychologist, Dr Rob Evans will speak to parents of children of all ages in a straightforward, common-sense way about raising children to be productive members of society in the face of current cultural challenges. Dr Evans will use wit and humor, while avoiding clichés and jargon, to help parents recognize their strengths, rethink their responsibilities,

and concentrate on parenting strategies they can actually apply. He'll address topics of self-esteem, values, character and healthy growth. He is the author of *Family Matters: How Schools Can Cope with the Crisis in Childrearing* and his talks also speak to school adjustment and strengthening the relationship between home and school. **Please join us on Thursday, October 27th at 7:30 in the McCall auditorium.** Enka Society has generously offered to defray costs of this program.

Parent Conversations

The McCall Middle School in Partnership with the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition invites you to Parent Conversations, the first Monday of Every Month November through May. Conversations held in the McCall School Library 7:00 p.m. - 8:30p.m.

Kids and Risky Behavior - How are kids using technology to bully?? At what age is my child most likely to try illegal substances? What are the warning signs that a child may engage in risky behavior??

These are just some issues that could come up...want someone to talk with?? Phyllis Greenspan, clinical counselor of McCall Middle School as well as members of the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition. Drop in; enjoy a cup of coffee and some good conversation.

WINCHESTER BOYS YOUTH LACROSSE
SPRING 2006 REGISTRATION OPEN

BY MAIL (10/19 DEADLINE)

or at
Winchester High School Cafeteria
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Wednesday, October 19th

Offering:

MBYLL U-13 and U-15 Boys Travel Teams
(5th/6th and 7th/8th Grades)
In-Town U-11 Teams
(2nd and 3rd Grades)
U-9 Instructional Clinic
(1st and 2nd Grades)

For details please go to our web site
www.winchesterlax.org

Author Event at Book Ends

On October 8th, at 1:00 p.m. Book Ends is hosting Kathleen Benner Duble, author of a new book entitled The Sacrifice. The book is about the Salem witch trials. The story and its characters are so vivid, it is as if you are there, but glad you aren't. While Ms. Duble began researching the story, she found that her family had once lived on the land in Andover on which she was living and that two of her ancestors had been involved with the witch trials. We invite interested middle school students to join us to hear Ms. Duble's fascinating story.

**Parents' Association Meeting Tuesday,
October 11, 9:00 A.M. McCall Library**

November Newsletter Deadline: Please submit your articles for the November newsletter by **10:00 am on Monday, October 17**. It is preferred that you email your articles to Kate Ebbott. For contact info, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/OctoberContactInfo.pdf> If you cannot email them, please submit hard copy into the Newsletter mailbox in the McCall office or mail to McCall Newsletter, 458 Main Street, Winchester, MA. Thank you.