

McCall Middle School

Parents' Association Newsletter
September 2005



From the Principal

Evander French, Jr

I extend a warm welcome to all students and parents and guardians to McCall Middle School as we prepare to begin the 2005-2006 school year. Early each month, subscribers will receive this monthly McCall Middle School Parents Association Newsletter. Please take the time to read it carefully as it represents a major effort on the part of the school and your Parents Association to communicate directly with you. As circumstances dictate, we will also be in touch with you by e-mail or telephone and with mid-term progress reports, and there will be formal parent conferences in mid-November and mid-March at all grade levels. Our annual Open House will take place this year on Monday evening, September 19, 2005 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (6:45 p.m. class meetings in Grade 7- Cafeteria, and Grade 8- Auditorium). This event offers an excellent opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers and to learn about the curriculum and the teachers' expectations.

However, effective communication is a two-way process, so if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions don't hesitate to contact us at 781-721-7026. Key contacts are your children's Guidance Counselors, Mrs. Rebecca Jacques-Grade 6, Ms. Shareen Dolan- Grade 7, and Mrs. Melissa Suvak (Gold and Silver Teams) and Mrs. Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant (Platinum Team)- Grade 8. Direct communication is the best way for us to maintain a productive home-school relationship and to have a successful school year.

The first day of school (9/7) will be a half day for all students on the following basis: Grade 6 should report at 7:45 a.m. to the Auditorium in the front of the school for a special assembly. At the conclusion of the assembly, the 6th Graders will receive their homeroom assignments and will be taken to these locations by their homeroom teachers. The students will spend the balance of the morning receiving their class

schedules, getting their locker assignments, meeting with their Core Teachers, and touring the building. At 10:40 a.m., the 6th Graders will be dismissed for the day. Grades 7 and 8 should report to school at 11:30 a.m. 7th Graders should report to the Auditorium and 8th Graders should report to the Cafeteria. 7th and 8th Graders will engage in experiences similar to the 6th Graders. School will be dismissed for the 7th and 8th Graders at 2:15 p.m. Lunch will not be served on this first day of school. Thursday, September 8 and Friday, September 9 will be full days of school for all students. Students should report to their homerooms by 7:45 a.m. on these days. Lunch will be served on 9/8 and 9/9.

Attention Grade 6 Parents and Guardians: The McCall Middle School Parents Association will host a "Welcome To McCall Middle School Coffee" for you on the first day of school (9/7) from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Library. Please check into the Main Office before attending the coffee.

As we begin the new school year, I want to stress the importance of regular, on-time attendance for all of our McCall Middle School students. On page 12 in the Student Handbook, we emphasize, "Students are expected to attend 181 days since vacation periods are built into the year-long calendar. Parents/Guardians are strongly urged not to schedule family vacations or day trips during school days and not to extend the scheduled vacation periods." While we realize that students may be absent from school due to illness, death in the family, approved religious holidays, emergency medical or dental treatment or other serious emergencies, we also realize how important daily student attendance is to student success in school. As the year develops, if you have a special circumstance not covered above, please contact me with a written request well in advance of the intended absence(s) and I will get back to you with my decision. I strongly urge your support of our daily, on-time attendance policy!

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to McCall Middle School: Ralph Marotta, Assistant Principal, Paul Arena, Grade 8 French and Spanish Teacher, Dr. Melissa Boyd, School Psychologist, Peter Brash, 7th Grade Teacher Assistant, Marebeth DiMare, Grade 6 Science Teacher, Pamela DiMatteo, Speech Pathologist, Jared Huber, 6th Grade Teacher Assistant, Susan Malatesta, Guidance Department Secretary, Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant, Grade 8 Guidance Counselor, Frank Row, Grade 6 Math Teacher, Jessica Scholl, Grade 8 Teacher Assistant, and Dr. Edward Shaughnessy, School Psychologist. Returning from a leave of absence will be James Gogolos, Grade 7 Science Teacher. Returning to new positions will be Jessica Bixby, Special Education Instructor, Meghan Callaghan, Special Education Teacher, Susan Marchese, Grade 8 Math and Science Teacher, and Alicemarie Petrucci, Special Education Teacher. Congratulations and welcome one and all!!

Important Traffic Safety Message: I am pleased to report that the Department of Public Works installed a new sidewalk in the back of the building on the field-side of the parking lot. If your McCall student plans to enter or exit the back of the building, he/she should use this sidewalk or the sidewalk on the Unitarian Church side of the parking lot and not walk on the driveway for safety reasons. Please note that the back parking lot is reserved for McCall Middle School Faculty Parking Only from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. during school days. In a large school such as McCall (@ 835 students this year), traffic safety is a major challenge, particularly in light of town fiscal restraints that limit the number of police officers that can be assigned to McCall in the fifteen minutes before and after school. In order to insure the safety of our children, we request that everyone adhere to the following guidelines:

- Drive slowly, carefully, and in a courteous manner.
- Abide by the signage and the restrictions listed on this signage.
- Be aware of the crosswalks in the front and back of the building and be sure to stop for pedestrians waiting to cross the street- there won't always be a police officer available on Main Street in the a.m. and p.m. to help cross the students.

- Do not drive in the semi-circular walkway on Main Street in the front of the building as it is for pedestrians and emergency vehicles only.
- Drop off and pick up your child in the back of the building in good weather on Mystic Valley Parkway. Do not enter the parking lot on these days. Encourage your child to use the sidewalks on both sides of the driveway. If you must drive into the back driveway in inclement weather, please drive slowly as this is the main faculty parking lot, the six school buses drop off and pick up students in this lot, and many student walkers and bikers use this route as well. If you choose to enter the driveway in inclement weather, you should not impede the buses in any way, and you should wait until the buses have exited the driveway before you exit.

An important part of our job as parents and middle school educators is helping our students develop the key attribute of responsibility. This is a big challenge, but an important challenge that we face as adults who live/work with middle school children. With the importance of this challenge in mind and the fact that we will have 835 students at McCall Middle School this year, I request that you try to make sure that your McCall student remembers the main items that he/she needs to take to school such as lunch, books, homework, instrument, appointments, etc. We will not be using the PA System to call students to the office this year as this course of action is very disruptive to the learning process. Your support in this regard will be most appreciated. Please note the following important procedures/policies that will be in effect this year at McCall Middle School:

- All visitors must report to the Main Office to sign in and out and to get a Visitor's Badge.
- The Winchester Public Schools supports a free and reduced lunch program. All McCall Middle School students will receive information about this program to take home on the first day of school. An application is included with this information. Additional information is available at the Winchester Public Schools Website:
www.winchester.k12.ma.us

- All of the doors except the main entrance in the front of the building will be locked to the outside at 8:15 a.m.
- If your child needs to be dismissed, he/she should bring a note to the Main Office prior to Homeroom in order to get a dismissal slip. At dismissal time, you must go into the Main Office to get him/her (we will not dismiss students by themselves to walk home, go to the dentist, etc.).
- All 7th Graders must have submitted immunization documentation (in four categories) to the McCall Nurse prior to the first day of school or they will not be admitted on September 7. State law requires these immunizations. Please call 781-721-7026 if you have any questions.
- For their own safety in our large, spacious, building and grounds, students should never be in unsupervised areas.
- Students may use book bags and cell phones in traveling to and from school, but they may not use them during the school day. Students should place their book bags and cell phones in their lockers at the beginning of the school day. Student book bag use around the building presents health and safety concerns, and student cell phone use is an annoyance to the educative process.
- Skate boarding and roller blading should be confined to the Skate Board Park in the back of the building during non-school hours. We have experienced some damage to the new granite walls in the front of the building as a result of “wayward” skate boarding.

Later in this newsletter you will find the McCall Middle School Statement of Purpose which was developed through the New England Association Of Schools & Colleges, Inc. (NEASC) accreditation process. I urge you to read this document carefully as it outlines what we try to accomplish with your children at a critical transitional stage in their lives. We have engaged in this ongoing accreditation process since 1985 because at McCall Middle School we are truly committed to school improvement.

In closing, I want to recognize and thank our school secretaries, Carol McGrath and Diana Deering, and our custodians, Dan Doucette, Steve Cannon, John Lannon, Brendan Minnehan, and Bob Starbile for all their hard work this

Summer in getting the school ready for the start of another school year. We are very fortunate to have such capable, hard working, and dedicated people on our staff at McCall Middle School. My sincere thanks to each of them for all of their efforts! Lastly, I strongly encourage you to get actively involved this year as a member of the McCall Middle School Parents Association, with our School Council, as a field trip or dance chaperone, as a Library volunteer, as a guest speaker, or in other opportunities as they arise. Active parent/guardian involvement is a major factor in successful schools. We look forward to working with you. Enjoy the rest of the Summer!

Important Phone Numbers

McCall Phone Numbers	
Absence	781-721-7044
All Other School Business	781-721-7026

Emergency Procedures

The following procedure will be followed in the event that school must be evacuated/closed due to an emergency:

- a. The students and staff will be directed to the outside of the building to await further instructions
- b. If there is an all clear, the students and staff will be directed to reenter the building. If the emergency continues, the students and staff will be directed to proceed to the Lincoln Elementary School for shelter.
- c. If school is to be dismissed early, the following contacts will be made: The Superintendent, the Police, the Bus Company and key radio stations
- d. If school is to be dismissed early, the Parents Association will be contacted to activate the emergency telephone chain system.

Please make sure that an emergency telephone number is listed on your child’s registration card.

These cards will be brought home on Wednesday, September 7th, and should be returned to your child’s homeroom teacher on Thursday, September 8th.

McCall Middle School Statement of Purpose

McCall Middle School exists primarily to instill a love of learning and dedication to serious academic pursuit in each student. The McCall faculty holds itself and its students to high standards. The middle school is a vital part of the town's school system, a system whose aim it is to help its students develop to the fullest extent during their adolescence and grows into independent, responsible, knowledgeable, contributing members of a democratic society. Embracing inclusion enhances the achievement of this goal. The school nurtures the development of individuals who combine self-respect with respect for others and who recognize the value of diversity in our society.

As a middle school, McCall serves a student population in a unique stage of educational development, children in various stages of intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, social and physical development toward maturity.

McCall provides a positive learning environment. McCall is a community of learners, students and teachers alike, in an environment that stimulates joy in learning and encourages the spirit of risk taking and discovery. By their example, the faculty members are models of life-long learning. McCall serves its students in an atmosphere of mutual respect, openness, and accessibility among all the school's constituents: students, teachers, administrators, parents, and townspeople. McCall helps its students develop standards of socially responsible behavior by the example of honest, fair, consistent dealing with individuals of any age. We want our students to see themselves as part of the school, the town, and the wider national and world communities.

To prepare youngsters for a changing world, teachers in all disciplines foster the development of both creative and critical thinking. Content is selected with the intention of increasing the students' power to interpret the world into which they will mature. The program develops the basic skills students will need for life-long learning, with increasing emphasis on the "why" rather than just the "what". The curriculum balances depth with breadth. Teaching methods foster active rather than passive learning, continuously encouraging students to inquire and

learn for themselves. The McCall faculty shares ideas about teaching and learning and continually updates curricula.

The school program is varied in order that students can develop their own talents and interests. In particular, the exploratory program provides students with important opportunities to learn and express themselves in a variety of ways.

All the programs offered by the school aim to help students value their own ideas and talents, while respecting those different from their own. We want our students to learn to use their time and energy effectively and to feel a sense of accomplishment from what they learn in school. In both the content and methods of our program, we foster a joy of learning and a sense of self-worth in all our students.

Expectations for Student Performance

McCall is a community of learners working to better ourselves in many ways. Our goal is to help students:

- develop intellectually and socially.
- think creatively and critically and to solve problems constructively.
- clarify and strengthen your goals and values.
- develop self-discipline, personal responsibility, self-respect, and pride in your work.
- develop your tolerance and respect for others, especially those who are different from you.

Why should these goals be important to you?

Simply put, the more you learn and the more able you are to get along with different people at McCall, the better prepared you will be to:

- further your own education and advancement in high school and thereafter.
- create and take advantage of the many opportunities in your future.
- work successfully on teams and with others in the increasingly diverse workplaces of the economy.
- be an independent, responsible, knowledgeable, and contributing citizen in our society.

To maximize your opportunities to learn and

grow, we believe our school needs to:

- be safe for all students.
- have high expectations for everyone—students, teachers, and staff.
- be challenging and rigorous to enable and stimulate each student to achieve his or her best.
- offer a varied and appropriate curricula for early adolescents, including opportunities for exploratory and hands-on learning.
- provide academic and emotional support for each student, primarily from your teachers, who work to structure and integrate curricula and to monitor your performance and needs.
- be a place for fun and enjoyment as well as learning.

McCall's teachers and staff expect and want to help you grow during your years here in a number of ways academically, ethically, socially and personally.

Academic:

1. Become an independent learner, a critical and cooperative thinker, and a problem solver through challenging and interactive learning experiences.
2. Develop your skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
3. Develop your skill in the understanding and use of mathematics, sciences, information management, and technology.
4. Increase your appreciation for the arts and for the aesthetic dimensions of every discipline.
5. Develop good study skills and produce schoolwork and homework of high quality and on time.
6. Take advantage of opportunities for self-evaluation, reflection, and planning.

Ethical:

1. Develop/strengthen your ethics of honesty, fairness, and trust.
2. Recognize, appreciate, and respect differences in other people and the diversity in the school and the world at large.
3. Develop your sense of responsibility for yourself and others; accountability for your actions; and pride in your skills, accomplishments, and work.
4. Respect the school environment and the

personal and private property, including the work product, of others.

Social/Personal:

1. Develop your skills to work effectively in a group.
2. Learn to deal with challenges and successes as well as frustrations and disappointments.
3. Develop your ability to relate well with many other people, exhibiting self-control, cooperation, good manners, respect, and tolerance for differences.
4. Learn to advance and defend your point of view more effectively.
5. Develop a healthy lifestyle that promotes your physical, emotional, and social and mental well-being.
6. Strengthen your sense of civic responsibility and service to others whom you can help.

General Information for All Grades

What is the earliest time that I can arrive at school?

The school is open every day at 7:00 am. Students arriving before 7:30 am should go directly to the cafeteria and be seated (unless they have made arrangements with a teacher to meet in a particular room). Breakfast items may be purchased. At 7:30 am, students may go to their lockers *and* then report to homeroom. Students should leave their book bags in their lockers during the school day.

What about lunch?

Students may buy or bring lunch beginning the second day of school.

Tell me about the bus.

All students riding the bus must have a bus pass each day. Bus safety rules must be observed. Students should be attentive to traffic when entering or leaving the bus. Students must *remain* seated on the bus and obey the bus driver's instructions. At no time should any student put arms, heads or objects out the bus windows. Violations will result in loss of the bus privileges. Buses will pick up and drop off students in the parking lot behind the school. Routes will be posted in the *Daily Times Chronicle* and *The Winchester Star*. Bus questions should be directed to (781)721-7000.

Who do I call if I will be absent?

The call-in number for absences in all grades is (781)721-7044. Voice mail is available from 4:00pm until 9.00 am each weekday.

What do I do if I am late?

Report directly to the main office and obtain a late pass (if it is after 7:50am).

What happens if I get sick at school?

Once a student has reported to school they cannot be dismissed for illness unless the school nurse has evaluated them.

How can I get my homework if I am out sick?

On your first day of absence, call your "homework buddy" to get your assignments. If you are going to be absent for more than two days, call the school secretary at (781)721-7026 to get information on procedures to be followed for long-term absences.

Is there a McCall Handbook available?

Yes. On the first day of school, each student will receive the McCall Middle School Handbook/School Agenda for 2004-2005. This handbook includes school rules and regulations as well as study tips. It also includes pages for recording nightly and long-term assignments. Students and parents or guardians must review this key document and return the tear out page with the student and parent/guardian signature to the homeroom teacher.

Students are expected to bring this handbook with them to class every day. Replacement handbooks are available at the school store. Parents and guardians should check these handbooks regularly.

Is there a place to store valuables?

Do not bring valuables (money/equipment) to school. If you must, please make sure it is secured in the office.

What if I have a new address? If your address has changed recently, please notify the school secretary at (781)721-7026 as soon as possible.

What if I need to be dismissed?

If a student is being dismissed, parents or guardians must come to the Main Office to pick up their child.

I need an elevator key.

Elevator keys *can* be obtained in the Main Office after paying a refundable \$10 deposit. Allowing unauthorized students to use the elevator may cause a student to lose the right to use the elevator.

From the Assistant Principal

Ralph Marotta

The McCall Middle School has a tradition of excellence. It is a privilege for me to join the McCall administration in supporting our students as they embark on a new school year.

Our learning environment is based on two principles. The first is RESPECT for our selves, for each other, for our school building and surroundings, and for our family and community. The second is RESPONSIBILITY for our conduct, for our academic work, for our own health and safety, and for the welfare of others.

Success is contingent upon the joint efforts of students, faculty, and parents. It is important to engage in communication that builds positive relations within our diverse community and maximizes benefits for each of our young people.

I look forward to our work together and to an outstanding school year for all.

From the Nurse

Joan Wallwork

Welcome Back to School!

A special welcome to all students, parents and guardians new to McCall Middle School; I hope to get to know you as soon as possible. I look forward to working with you and your children. Please let me know if your student has a medical condition which requires any special attention. Please look at the Health Office Policies that are included in the Student Handbook. When filling out the EMERGENCY INFORMATION cards that will be sent home the first days of school, please note any allergy information. If you wish your child to receive any Tylenol for simple headaches or other minor pain, please sign the permission and fill in the dosage included on the card. Please feel free to call me at any time during the day or email me. For **contact info**, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

From the Library

Jane Henchey

Coffee Hour for Library Volunteers

Would you be interested in volunteering for two hours a month in the McCall Library? If so, I hope that you will be able to attend a coffee hour in the McCall Library on Thursday, September 15th from 9:00 to 10:00. If you are interested in being a volunteer, but are unable to attend, please contact Gina Kurban, the Library coordinator.

For **contact info**, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

Literary Lunch

Again this year, sixth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in the Literary Lunches. This is the eleventh year of the intergenerational book group. Seven times during the school year students and seniors gather alternately at the Jenks Senior Center or the McCall library to discuss a particular book over lunch.

The first Literary Lunch will be held on October 6th at the Jenks Senior Center. Volunteers from Mrs. Lane's class will join members of the senior center in reading The Silent Boy by Lois Lowry. The setting for this novel is an early 20th century rural town. Katy, a doctor's daughter, whose curiosity is encouraged, befriends Jacob. Jacob is "the silent boy" who somehow communicates with animals, but makes only humming and clicking sounds when he is with people. In the course of the story, Katy and Jacob develop an unusual and treasured friendship.

Thank You!

Last June the Parent's Association voted to give \$5,000 to the McCall Library. Due to budget restraints, the McCall Library's budget has had to be cut over the last five years from \$10,000 to \$1,000. The extremely generous gift will enable the purchase of the latest fiction, additional periodicals and audio books; update the nonfiction collection to correspond with the school's curriculum; and maintain the membership with the Massachusetts Library Consortium. On behalf of the McCall students and staff I thank you!

Health, Family and Consumer Sciences and Physical Education, (grades 6-8)

Jeannine Lavoie

Hello and welcome back to school! The Health, Physical Education and Family and Consumer Sciences departments have merged together to create a wellness component in the Winchester Public Schools curriculum.

The health component will be taught in a coeducational class setting. Substance abuse prevention will be addressed in the Botvin Life Skills Curriculum (grades 6-8). The health curriculum will also include a unit on growth and development. This unit will also explore the physical, emotional and social changes that occur during puberty. Also discussed in grades 6-8 are the origin, symptoms, transmission and prevention of AIDS. **Parents/Guardians who do not want their child to participate in the human growth and development unit should contact me at 781-721-7126.**

The Family and Consumer Sciences component in grade 6 helps students learn strategies necessary for building healthy relationships with others. Included in those strategies are effective communication techniques, anger management and positive methods of dealing with harassment. In grades 7-8 students learn the principles of nutrition, the relationship between eating habits and good health and food preparation. Grade 8 students develop fabric construction techniques and then apply them in a community service project.

The Physical Education component at McCall helps students develop an appreciation of the importance of integrating exercise throughout their lives. Areas included are field hockey, fitness testing, basketball, New Games and Project Adventure initiatives, volleyball, weight training fundamentals, lacrosse, track and field.

Please contact Jeannine Lavoie, Director of Health, Family and Consumer Sciences and Physical Education at 781-731-7026 if you have any questions or concerns.

From the Co-Presidents

Margie Ohnigian and Patty Castro

Welcome back to McCall, and for new 6th grade parents, an especially warm welcome! We are looking forward to a stimulating and fun year for all our students, parents and faculty.

The McCall Parents' Association is an active organization that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of each child's and parent's experience here at McCall. Our goals include creating a strong sense of community for families, facilitating communication among families, administration, and teachers, encouraging and coordinating volunteer opportunities for parents, and providing funding for a variety of school programs through an annual direct appeal.

Community – We encourage all parents to join us at our monthly Parents' Association meetings. The schedule of meetings for the upcoming year is listed below. These meetings provide an interesting opportunity to meet with the principal, assistant principal and other parents to learn more first-hand about what is taking place at McCall each month. Meetings provide a forum for asking questions and raising issues and concerns, and for making suggestions for new programs and fundraising ideas, among other issues. Following some business meetings there will be speakers on topics of interest to parents. Our first meeting will take place on Tuesday evening, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!

We also wish to invite all 6th grade parents to join us for coffee on the first morning of school, Wednesday, September 7th from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the McCall Library. This is a great way to reconnect with friends after the summer, meet some new people, and ask some questions about the first days of school.

Communication – In the past our newsletters have been mailed to each McCall family around the first of each month. Newsletters are valuable sources of information about a wide range of topics, and include news from the administration and from teachers as well as from the Parents' Association. Sending our newsletter electronically (by email) will save an extraordinary amount of money in postage and printing costs allowing us to use our financial

resources to benefit our McCall students directly in these times of tight budgets. Therefore this year we are introducing an electronic newsletter. **Please note that whether you intend to receive the newsletter by email (which we strongly encourage) or by regular mail, after October the newsletter will not come automatically. You must subscribe.** Please refer to the **“Subscribe to the Newsletter Now” flyer included later in this newsletter for specific instructions or access the flyer using this link to the McCall Parents Association Website.** (<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>)

In addition to the monthly newsletter, the Parent Association maintains an **e-mail list for parents** so that we can fill you in on upcoming events and important issues affecting McCall *between monthly newsletters*. We maintain privacy by sending emails as blind cc's so that email addresses are not visible to the whole community. Email addresses are carried over from one year to the next, so we have the current list of participating 7th and 8th grade parents. We also collected email addresses from incoming 6th grade parents at the orientation session last April. ***If you had an eighth grader last year who has graduated and now have an incoming 6th grader, we have not kept your email address.*** If you are not on our list or if your email address has changed since last spring, please take a second now to send an email to Patty Shepard at mccallparentassociation@comcast.net to have your address added. Parents frequently comment on the value of this communication tool, and we urge you to participate! As of November, this list will be completely independent of the newsletter email list.

Volunteer Opportunities – There are many ways to get involved at McCall. We need parent chaperones at the Activity Nights, library volunteers, school store volunteers, and more. In addition, there are still some vacancies on the Parents' Association Board for the upcoming year, including Secretary, Newsletter, Publicity and 6th grade Chaperone Coordinator. You can sign up by contacting the appropriate board chairperson listed later in this newsletter, or by signing up at the Welcome Back Coffee on the first morning of school, or at the McCall Open House on Monday, September 19th or by contacting Margie Ohnigian. For **contact info**, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

Direct Appeal – This year, the Parents’ Association has set an ambitious goal of raising \$40,000 through a direct appeal to parents. In recent years parents have demonstrated extraordinary generosity to McCall and their money has gone to support extracurricular activities, intramural sports, enrichment and special programs, equipment, the monthly newsletter, and teacher support and appreciation. Please give as generously as you can as we face another year of tight school budgets. You will find a direct appeal form to the right or you can access it by using this link to the McCall Parents’ Association Website.

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

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, 332 Highland Avenue, Winchester or drop it off at McCall’s main office. Thanks!

Name of Student _____

Grade _____

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

Parent/Guardian Name _____

We look forward to seeing you at the first Parents’ Association meeting on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00pm, in the McCall Library. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact one of us if we can be of any help in getting the school year off to a good start or answer any questions you may have.

Parents’ Association Meetings for 2005-2006	
Tues, Sept 13- 7pm	Tues, Feb 14-9am
Tues, Oct 11 – 9am	Tues, Mar 14-7pm
Tues, Nov 8- 7pm	Tues, Apr 11-9am
Tues, Dec 13-9am	Tues, May 9-7pm
Tues, Jan 10-7pm	Tues, June 13-9am

Margie Ohnigian and Patty Castro . For **contact info**, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>


clip and return

MCCALL MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK SPECIAL !

The time is **NOW** to reserve your **2005-2006 McCall Middle School Yearbook!** This is the book your child will treasure today, and in the years to come. Hardcover bound, it contains **64** professionally published pages of all the McCall students. Order your Yearbook **BEFORE** the **December 2005** deadline and pay only **\$30.00!** Books sold **AFTER** the deadline will be **\$45.00.**

Please provide the following information and leave your check for **\$30.00** payable to **McCall Yearbook** in the yearbook folder in the front office. **Yearbooks will also be sold at the Open House by the front door.**

Name of Student _____ Grade _____



McCall Wish List

Carol Samson and Kathleen Campbell

Welcome back to the 2005/06 school year! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the wish list at the end of last year. We made our \$10,000 matching gift challenge, which has enabled us to fund many items from the wish list, including 5 LCD projectors, purchased in conjunction with a generous donation from the PTA. Other items recently purchased include Spanish and French workbooks for 7th grade, English grammar books, dictionaries, and thesauruses for 8th grade, 200 checkbook simulation kits for 8th grade Math, a subscription to Time magazine for Kids for 6th grade Social Studies and a marine biologist for a day.

For those of you not familiar with the Wish List, it is a list of teachers' requests for items they need to enhance the learning experience for our children. These items are not included in the school budget and many are basic materials needed to sustain the high level of learning we expect in the classrooms. The McCall budget for Other Expenses & Equipment has been reduced by 19% from last year and by 55% over the past four years, due to budget cuts. This includes all money available for core and specialist classroom supplies as well as textbooks, library books, office supplies, printing, etc. For example, the total budget for library books is \$1,000 this year, and it was \$10,000 four years ago. The total science supply budget for this year is \$2000, which amounts to \$2.40 per student for the **entire** year! It is difficult to perform science experiments with such limited funds. Similar shortages exist in the other subject areas.

The wish list is available on the Winchester Public Schools website, at <http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us> under McCall Middle School and Wish List. To view the open items, select 'views' in the top right corner and choose 'by grade, open items first'. The wish list offers families the opportunity to provide any of the items listed. There are several ways to contribute:

- 1) A family purchases an item from the list and delivers it to the teacher.

- 2) A family donates to the McCall School Wish List, specifies which item to purchase and the teacher orders it.
- 3) A family donates to the McCall School Wish List, specifying which grade or team they wish to support and we notify the teacher/team.
- 4) A family contributes to the general fund and we use it in conjunction with other donations to purchase an item from the list.

The McCall staff is extremely grateful for the generous support they have received from parents over the past few years. **Please make your tax-deductible donation made payable to the McCall School Wish List. The wish list has a mailbox in the school office, or you can send you donation directly to Kathleen Campbell.** Please contact us with any questions or comments. For **contact info**, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

Refreshments for the Open House

Lisa Craig and Anne Lucas

If you are able to contribute a snack for the McCall open house, please call or e-mail Lisa Craig or Anne Lucas. For **contact info**, please go to: <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

The Parents' Association supplies the drinks. The open house is Monday September 19 from 7:30 -9:30 (6:45 pm class meeting in Grades 7 and 8 to discuss class trips). Just drop off your contribution in the cafeteria on the way in. Please label dishes or use disposable trays. Thanks for your help.

McCall School Store Information and Opening Hours

Rachel Phillips

The McCall School Store is a great resource for students and parents to purchase school items, and is located in the School Cafeteria.

This year, the school store will open Thursday, September 8th, the first FULL day of school, and Friday, September 9th, from 10:15am-12:45pm. In addition, the store will open early on September 9th for parents only, from 9-10:15 am, to shop for school supplies. The Store Stocks

calculators, atlases, and many other school supplies.

The School Store will generally be open throughout the school year every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during school lunches, from 10:15-12:45pm. There will be volunteer sign-up sheets for parents who are interested in working at the store, on September 9th at the store, and at the parent coffee. You can also sign up by contacting Rachael Phillips. For **contact info**, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

Please provide your name, phone number and email, and indicate if you have preferred days (M,W, or F). If you wish to be scheduled with someone specific, please indicate this as well.

Please note, even if you have volunteered in the past, please be sure to sign up again. This keeps our list current. Typically the commitment is approximately 2-4 times per school year, but this will depend on the number of volunteers.

A full October-January schedule will be distributed as soon as possible. If you volunteered in the past and are available to fill slots during the first week of school and throughout September, please let me know as soon as possible.

Please sign up or contact me by Friday, September 23rd if you would like to volunteer this year.

McCall Mathematics Competitions

Kip Bryan

There are a number of mathematics competitions available to McCall students through the year. Top scoring students are usually announced by Mr. French when the scores are known after each competition. Upcoming events are listed at <http://www.imlem.org/sch/winchester/>, where you can also subscribe to a mailing list.

Math League – This is the main focus of the McCall Math Team's weekly meetings. There are five competitions per year against other schools in Eastern Massachusetts. Ten McCall students compete as Regulars with several individual tests and a Team Round. Ten additional students compete as Alternates, taking the same tests. Last year, McCall earned first place in our division, with four students earning top-10 scores. See www.imlem.org.

AMC-8 – School competition is November 15. This is a national program for middle-school students. Last year, we had 32 students participate, and 6 students made the "Honor Roll."

MathCounts – This is a national math enrichment, coaching, and competition program. There are practices and a McCall school-wide competition in January, a Boston-area competition on February 4, and a state-wide competition on March 4. McCall has advanced to the state competition for several years, earning 4th place in 2005, with two individuals in the top 10. See www.mathcounts.org.

AMC-10 – School competition is February 15. This is a national program intended for 9th and 10th graders, but last year McCall had 10 students participate, 4 of whom were awarded "Young Student Certificate of Achievement" and one of whom advanced to the AIME – American Invitational Math Exam – for the top 1% nationwide.

7th-vs-8th Grade Competition -- McCall competition in the spring.

The math team meets weekly through the year, with 7th / 8th grades on one day and 6th grade on another. While competitions are open to all students, regular attendance gives the best scores. See www.imlem.org/sch/winchester.

Can you do it?

1. What is the value of the following expression:

$$100 - 99 + 98 - 97 + 96 - \dots + 4 - 3 + 2 - 1?$$

2. What is the smallest prime number greater than 75?

3. An angle's supplement is three times its complement. What is the angle? (Supplements add to 180, complements add to 90.)

4. Three years from now, Martha will be two and a half times as old as she was 6 years ago. How old is she now?

(Answers elsewhere in this issue.)

WINCHESTER YOUTH CENTER (WYC)

Rebecca Levine

The WYC is the hub of service-learning and youth development programs for middle and high school students in our town. The WYC is committed to providing young people opportunities to be positive role models and contributing members of their community through healthy social and experiential activities. The WYC is conveniently located on the backside of McCall Middle School adjacent to Manchester Field and the Skate Park.

Discover

The WYC's middle school Youth Group provides 8th graders with the opportunity to make new friends, participate in programs, activities, and discussion groups on topics that are important to them, and have fun on Wednesday nights. Members are provided with opportunities to learn how to make informed decisions and positive choices. The group will meet every Wednesday evening in the WYC from 7:30-8:30 pm beginning September 14. All members will be given a participation contract to review and sign with their parents. It is open to all 8th graders.

Little Brothers & Sisters

This is a select group for eighth graders who attend Discover, want to participate in community service, and aspire to become Peer Leaders. Our Little Brothers & Sisters will be selected this fall by the 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 such as Halloween Window Painting, the Books for South Africa project, Breakfast with Santa, and Town Day Road Races; learn what it means to be a Peer Leader; participate in fun activities with their Big Brothers & Sisters; and attend weekly meetings on Wednesdays from 7:00-7:30. Anyone who is interested in this program should come to Discover on Wednesday evenings beginning September 14th.

ABS

If you are an eighth 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.

WYC 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. The Drop-in Center will open for the school year on Monday, September 12 and welcomes all McCall Middle School students. Please note: there is no phone for student use at the Drop-in Center.

If your child plans to spend time at the Drop-in Center this year please read and complete the following contract and have him/her turn it in upon his/her first visit.

DROP-IN CENTER CONTRACT

The WYC's after school drop-in center provides students with a cool space of their own where they can relax after school, hang out with friends, and participate in positive and healthy activities in a safe and supervised environment. Students are not required to check-in or out but they are held accountable for their actions.

The WYC staff requires that all students who choose to attend the drop-in center comply with the following guidelines to ensure a safe and fun experience for all.

- Students must treat all WYC staff and other students with respect:
Swearing, name-calling, and any physical abuse will not be tolerated
- Students must behave in an orderly and appropriate fashion:
Pushing, fighting, wrestling, and any other disruptions that create an unsafe and/or uncomfortable environment will not be tolerated

- Students must not take anything that does not belong to them:
Stealing from the WYC and/or other students will not be tolerated
- Students must take care of all WYC equipment and property
- Students must clean-up after themselves and throw all trash in barrels and/or recycling bins inside and outside the WYC
- If asked to leave, students must do so promptly: including the hallway, bathrooms, and outside surrounding property

I have read and agree to comply with all of the above guidelines:

Student's Name (Printed) Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Phone number(s)

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.

Community Service

The WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters will be collecting books for South Africa and non-perishable food items for families served by the Woburn Council of Social Concern. Bring your donations to the WYC. If you're interested in doing something good for your community, stop by the WYC and find out how you can get involved.

7th & 8th grade Activity Night

This year's first McCall Activity Night for 7th and 8th graders will be Friday, September 16th, from 7:30-10:00 pm. 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 Tuesday of each month from 6:30-7:30pm in the Winchester Youth Center.

The Council on Youth annually sponsors the Youth Town Meeting and the Youth Service Awards Ceremony. The Council also annually recognizes Winchester High School graduating seniors who have distinguished themselves through their service to youth with the Harrison Chadwick Youth Service Award Scholarships.

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.

Community News

Winchester Public Library
Molly Wiellette, Young Adult Librarian

The Winchester Library staff is looking forward to working with the students and teachers of the McCall School community during the upcoming year. Below are a few reminders for all regarding library behavior and use.

- Food and drink are not allowed in our building. Fill up your empty stomachs before you get here.

- Please bring the supplies you will need for your assignments with you. Have available lined paper, graph paper, markers, colored pencils and index cards. We can provide rulers, scissors, scotch tape, and staplers.
- To use our internet resources you will need YOUR library card. If you plan to print, photocopy or call home, you need money for the machines. The cost is as follows: 15 cents per page to print, 15 cents per page to photocopy, 50 cents for the telephone. Cell phones are not to be used in the library.

Parents, please note:

The Library closes promptly at 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. If your children study here, for their comfort and ours, please pick them up **before** the 5 p.m closing.

Once again the Library has set aside the main Meeting Room as a homework center from 2:30 to 5, Monday through Friday. This is a public space, open to anyone in the community. Therefore, please be considerate of others and use quiet voices. If you need to talk together in a large group or with loud voices, go outside. Roller blades, skateboards and physical activity also belong outdoors. Thank you very much!

Let's all work together for another year of useful interaction between the Library and the McCall School community. It's been quiet around here this summer; we look forward to seeing you after Labor Day.

September SpedPAC Coffee

Tuesday, September 20th 9:30-11:30 am

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. The September coffee will be held on Tuesday, September 20th, 9:30-11:30am, at the home of Carolyn Hintlian., For **contact info**,

please go to:
<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html> Questions? Call or email Carolyn.

Special Education PAC General Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, 2005 at 7-9pm

McCall Middle School Library

The Winchester Special Education Parents Advisory Council will hold a 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). Please come and join the discussion. Questions? Call or email Carolyn Hintlian, or Eve Coffey. For **contact info**, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

Auditions for Winchester Cooperative Theatre

The Fall Cooperative Theatre show this year will be *Footloose*. This is a fun, lively show that will certainly be fun to perform. An abridged version was done during the summer program a couple of years ago, but this will be the longer version.

All interested students in **6th, 7th and 8th grade** are invited to audition for this show. Please come prepared to perform a *monologue* from memory (not a poem), bring a picture of yourself and a stamped, self-addressed, business size envelope.

Auditions will take place at McCall Middle School Auditorium on **Monday Sept. 19th and 20th from 3:00-5:30 p.m.** Performances of this show will take place November 18,19, 20.

The Winchester Cooperative Theater for Children is a non-profit organization established to provide students with the opportunity to learn the various aspects of theater. Each student is given instruction in music, dance and acting. Tuition is charged, but scholarships are available. For more information call Cathy Alexander. For **contact info**, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

Informational Meeting Regarding Reconsidering Open Campus at Winchester High

With an increase in enrollment and a decrease in staffing and funding, several concerned parents believe it is time to reconsider open campus at Winchester High. We have done some research and are looking for your input. An informational meeting is being planned for September. If interested please email for more details.

For **contact info**, please go to:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>

Can you do it? – Answers

1. 50 (do it in pairs)
2. 79
3. 45 degrees
4. 12 years old

Come to Math Team for many more interesting problems.

Parents' Association Meeting Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 pm, McCall Library

Many thanks to Kate Ebbott for developing the regular newsletter, from which Patty Shepard creates and maintains the new online newsletter, with tech support from her sons and Martha Stone-Martin. Your comments, questions and suggestions are welcome at: mccallparentassociation@comcast.net.

Please submit your articles for the October newsletter by 10:00 am on Monday, September 19. It is preferred that you email your articles to Kate Ebbott. (For Kate Ebbott's email address please go to <http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>) 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.

Submission deadlines for the year are as follows:

<u>Deadline date (by 10:00 a.m.)</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>
Monday 9/19	October
Monday 10/17	November
Monday 11/14	December
Monday 12/12	January
Tuesday 1/17	February
Monday 2/13	March
Monday 3/20	April
Monday 4/10	May
Monday 5/15	June