

**McCall Middle School Parents Association Newsletter**  
**September 2006**

**From the Principal**

**Evander French, Jr.**

Welcome to McCall Middle School as we prepare to begin the 2006-2007 school year. Early each month, you will receive this monthly McCall Middle School Parents Association Newsletter either by e-mail or by regular mail. 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 late October and mid-March at all grade levels. Our annual Open House will take place this year on **Monday evening, September 18, 2006 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, Grade 6- Mrs. Melissa Suvak and Mrs. Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant, Grade 7- Mrs. Rebecca Jacques, Grade 8- Ms. Shareen Dolan. 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 (**9/6**) 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 6<sup>th</sup> Graders will receive their homeroom assignments and will be escorted 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 6<sup>th</sup> Graders will be dismissed for the day. **Grades 7 and 8 should report to school at 11:30 a.m.** **7<sup>th</sup> Graders should report to the Auditorium** and **8<sup>th</sup> Graders should report to the Cafeteria.** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will engage in experiences similar to the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders. School will be dismissed for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders at 2:15 p.m. **Lunch will not be served on this first day of school.** Thursday, September 7 and Friday, September 8 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 9/7 and 9/8.

**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 (**9/6**) 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. In the "Attendance, Absence And Tardiness" section of 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 as to whether or not the days requested are excused absences. I strongly urge your support of our daily, on-time attendance policy!

On May 31 at our McCall Middle School Retirement Party, we honored four retiring staff members who dedicated a combined total of 115 years of service to the Winchester Public Schools, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade English Teacher, Carol Lane, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade French and Spanish Teacher, Gigi Panico, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher, Melanie Perrone, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Teacher, Linda Popp. In the June Newsletter, I paid tribute to Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Panico, and Mrs.

Perrone, but wasn't aware at the time of preparing my newsletter remarks that Mrs. Popp would be retiring as well. Linda began her teaching career at the Washington Elementary School as a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher in 1969, and spent the last twenty-five years of her career at McCall as a Reading Specialist, Director of our Title I Program, and as a 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Special Education Teacher in charge of our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Center. Linda will officially begin her retirement on October 1. I thank her for her many contributions to McCall and to the Winchester Public Schools. She will be sorely missed!

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to McCall Middle School: Rebecca Aaron, Special Needs Instructor, Andria Belanger, Grade 7 Physical Education Teacher, Sara Gollogly, Grade 7 English Teacher, Veronica Lindmark, Grade 8 Spanish Teacher, David Middleton, Grade 7 Math Teacher, Christina Smith, Grade 6-8 Computer Education Teacher, Henry Toulmin, Grade 8 Earth Science Teacher, and Mark Troiano, Special Education Teaching Assistant. Returning to new positions will be Emily Chatfield, Grade 6 English Teacher, Cynthia DeAngelis, Grade 6-8 Middle School Special Education Supervisor (new Special Education administrative position), Lynn King, Grade 8 Special Education Teacher in charge of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Learning Center, Sergey Khanukaev, Grade 6, 7, 8 General Music and Instrumental Music Teacher, and Sandra Neumann, Grade 6, 7, 8 Chorus Teacher. Congratulations and welcome one and all!!

**Important Traffic Safety Message:** If your McCall student plans to enter or exit the back of the building, he/she should use one of the sidewalks that run adjacent to the parking lot and not walk on the driveway for safety reasons. Please note that the front and back parking lots are 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 (@ 875 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 seven 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 875 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 except in emergency circumstances 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](http://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 9/6. 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 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.

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 the 2006-2007 school year. This has been a particularly challenging summer as our building has been heavily used to offer a number of student and staff programs (usually offered in other buildings). 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!

#### **From the Assistant Principal, Ralph Marotta**

Opening day of the new school year is fast approaching. No doubt your child is experiencing both excitement and concern. Throughout the middle school years, other new situations will evoke similar feelings. In my view, our job as parents and teachers is to help our children through these periods in the best possible way by listening to them and hearing what they say, by helping them discern circumstances and understand feelings, and by reassuring and supporting them in planning ways to resolve issues and to move forward. Our faculty is committed to helping your child fully adjust and achieve at the McCall Middle School this school year. By working with you to create a supportive environment both in school and at home, our children will flourish to their greatest potential.

On another note, we wish to thank the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition for underwriting our student handbook this year. The McCall Middle School works in partnership with the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition – a group of local civic, school, health, police and parent

representatives- to support efforts to keep our children healthy and safe. During the school year, you will hear more about the programs and initiatives spearheaded by the WSAC. Please take the time to learn about its important work and the opportunities it provides to protect and support our children.

Speaking of the student handbook, please review this important information with your child. Especially noteworthy at this time are the sections on appropriate school attire and consistent, on-time attendance to school.

Please contact us about any questions or concerns you may have. We want this to be a fulfilling year for every member of the McCall Middle School community. By communicating with us and with your child, you help make this happen. Thank you for giving so much to make the McCall Middle School an outstanding place for all students to learn.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 10:00.

**Literary Lunch**

Again this year, sixth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in the Literary Lunch program. Former librarian, Gerry Driscoll, developed this intergenerational book group twelve years ago. Seven times during the school year sixth grade students and seniors alternate between the Jenks Senior Center and the McCall Library to discuss a particular book over lunch. The program is funded by the Winchester Cooperative Bank.

The first Literary Lunch will be held on October 5<sup>h</sup> at the Jenks Senior Center. Volunteers from Mrs. Daniel's classes will join members of the senior center in reading [The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place](#) by E.L. Konigsburg. The novel is about social action. Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her great-uncles have been building in their backyard for more than forty years.

**From the Co-Presidents, Patty Castro and Martha Sampson**

Welcome to McCall! We would especially like to welcome all parents and guardians that are new to McCall Middle School. We hope you and your child will have a wonderful experience here at McCall.

The McCall Parents' Association is an active organization that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of each student 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.

We encourage all parents and guardians to join us at our monthly Parents' Association meetings. The schedule of meetings for the upcoming year is listed at the end of this message. These meetings provide an opportunity to meet with the principal, assistant principal and other parents to learn first-hand about what is happening at McCall each month. Meetings provide a forum for asking questions, raising issues and concerns, and for making suggestions for new programs and fundraising ideas, among other issues. Our first meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00 PM in the library**. Please join us!

We also would like to invite all 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents and any new parents to join us for coffee on the first morning of school, **Wednesday, September 6th from 7:30 to 8:30 AM** in the McCall Library. This is a great way to meet others in the McCall community and ask some questions concerning the first days of school. Please remember to sign-in at the Main Office before coming to the library.

The September Newsletter is the only newsletter that is sent home to each family. After September, we will be sending hard copies only to families that do not have email addresses. Newsletters are valuable source of information and include news and dates from the

administration and teachers, as well as from the Parents' Association.

The McCall Parents' Association also has a web page that contains a lot of beneficial information, including current and previous newsletters, monthly calendar, town-wide school calendar, Parents' Association Board listing, contact information, meeting dates and much more. (<http://home.comcast.net/~mccallparentassociation/index.html>)

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, Box Top Coordinator, Technology Representative, and Publicity. If you are interested in volunteering please sign up at the Welcome Back Coffee on the first morning of school, or at the first Parents' Association meeting, or by emailing Patty Castro at [apcastro@mac.com](mailto:apcastro@mac.com).

This year, the Parents' Association has set an ambitious goal of raising \$44,000 through a direct appeal. In recent years, parents have shown extraordinary generosity to McCall and their money has gone to support extracurricular activities, intramural sports, enrichment and special programs, the monthly newsletter, teacher support and appreciation, library funding and other valuable programs. Please give as generously as you can as we face another year of tight school budgets.

We look forward to seeing you at the **first Parents' Association meeting on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Patty Castro  
Martha Sampson

[apcastro@mac.com](mailto:apcastro@mac.com)  
[msampson@sampsonlaw.com](mailto:msampson@sampsonlaw.com)

781-756-0098  
781-721-5143

### **McCall Open House Hospitality**

Open House for parents of all McCall Middle School students will be held the evening of Monday, September 18, starting at 7:30 PM. Hospitality will be set-up in the cafeteria, with drinks provided by the McCall Parents' Association. Donations of cookies, brownies, fruit, and light snacks are welcome! Please contact either Lisa Craig at [lisa.t.craig@comcast.net](mailto:lisa.t.craig@comcast.net) or 729-2744, or Anne Lucas at [ducks-in-a-row@comcast.net](mailto:ducks-in-a-row@comcast.net) or 721-6055 if you are interested in contributing. Donations may be dropped off in the cafeteria just before the Open House begins on labeled platters or bowls. Many thanks.

### **McCall Wish List, Kathleen Campbell and Carol Samson**

Welcome back to the 2006/07 school year! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Wish List last year. We achieved our annual goal of raising \$10,000! The McCall staff is extremely grateful for the generous support they have received from McCall parents over the years.

The McCall Wish list is a list of teachers' requests for items needed in the classroom but not included in the school budget and is funded entirely through parent contributions. These items include videos, science kits, workbooks and textbooks for the Core subjects. Last year we were able to purchase 3 additional LCD projectors for classrooms; bringing the total to 8. The Wish List has also funded items for the art department, library, physical education, foreign language, technology, family and consumer science, the guidance office and the learning center.

The McCall budget for Other Expenses and Equipment for this year is \$ 80,877. This includes all money available for all core and specialist classroom supplies as well as new textbooks, library books, office supplies, printing, etc. The total science supply budget for the year is \$ 2000. With a projected enrollment of 875 students, that's \$2.29 per student for the entire year!

An example of current outstanding items on the list are math textbooks, check book simulation kits, set of World Atlases, and foreign language workbooks. These items are outstanding from last year and do not include any requests we expect to receive from teachers this fall.

The Wish List is available online at the Winchester Public Schools website, at

[www.winchester.k12.ma.us](http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us), under McCall School 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 an opportunity to fund any of the items listed.

To donate, simply e-mail either Kathleen Campbell or Carol Samson and tell us what you would like to purchase. Or you can make a donation and direct it to your child's teacher(s), team, library, art, music, language arts, special educations, etc., or the general fund. Please make your tax-deductible donations payable to the McCall School Wish List. You can place your donation in the McCall School Wish List mailbox in the front office or you can mail it to Kathleen Campbell at 60 Salisbury Street.

Please contact us with any questions or comments at [bcsamson@comcast.net](mailto:bcsamson@comcast.net) and [kathleencd@comcast.net](mailto:kathleencd@comcast.net). Thank you.

#### **Attention McCall Middle School Staff and Parent Association Committee Chairs:**

Electronic correspondence is another tool to update our McCall Middle School Community on school events. This is our second year utilizing an electronic communication system for our McCall newsletter and we have decided to incorporate a weekly "announcement" program. This will be used to supplement our monthly newsletter with any changes your committees may encounter. Also, please keep in mind that even though hard copies of the weekly announcements will be left at the Main Office, they will only be emailed to parents with computer access, so your initial correspondence must still appear in our monthly newsletter.

For any changes or updates to McCall Community News please email Linda Eberth at [leberth@comcast.net](mailto:leberth@comcast.net) by Thursday of every week. This will enable a Monday morning release time for your committee's news.

Thank you, Linda Eberth Electronic Correspondence

#### **McCall School Store Volunteer Information, Opening Hours**

The McCall School Store is a great resource for students and parents to purchase school supplies including calculators, atlas, and language dictionaries. The school store is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:15 to 12:45 in the school cafeteria. This year the school store will open Thursday September 7th, the first FULL day of school. On Friday September 8th the store will open early at 9:15am for parents. At this time parents can sign up to volunteer, get acquainted with the set-up, and/or buy supplies. The store will remain open for the students from 10:15 to 12:45. Information and volunteer sign-up sheets for parents interested in working at the school store will be available at the the parent coffee on September 7th, and at the school store on September 8th from 9:15 to 10:15. Sign up is also available by email to

[mccallstore@comcast.net](mailto:mccallstore@comcast.net) by Friday September 22. Please provide name, telephone number, email address, child's grade, preferred days (M,W,F) or flexible. Also please indicate if you prefer a specific partner, and if you are available to be put on a list of emergency back-ups. **Please be sure to sign up again even if you have volunteered in the past.** This keeps our list current. Typically the commitment is 2-4 times per year depending upon the number of volunteers. A schedule will be emailed by the end of September. Please contact [mccallstore@comcast.net](mailto:mccallstore@comcast.net) with any additional questions.

**WFEE Update:** Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Winchester residents The Promise Fund was able to donate \$410,000 to the school system to meet core needs for the upcoming year. The initial town budget for this school year fell \$800,000 short of needs outlined by Superintendent Jim Marini. Thanks to the \$410,000 in private money, plus an increase of \$170,000 in state aid, savings realized in the new teacher contract and an additional \$100,000 in town funds, the budget gap has been met. The \$800,000 maintains high school and middle school staffing, keeps class sizes lower at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level, restores minimal elementary library instruction and adds minimal ready support staff at the early elementary levels.

The Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence will continue to support our town's schools through its teacher grants program and, when needed, The Promise Fund. While the recent increase in state aid is encouraging, it is still not enough. When adjusted for inflation, this year's additional state contribution still amounts to \$100,000 **less** than the town received in 2002. Coupled with years of rising school enrollment and a tight local budget, Winchester schools continue to face a difficult future. For information on how you can help, please check the WFEE website, [www.wfee.org](http://www.wfee.org), for updates.

## McCALL MUSIC NOTES, SABRINA QUINTANA, K-12 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

*Introducing... Sandra LaBarge-Neumann*, McCall's new chorus teacher. Mrs. Neumann has spent all of her adult life as a performer, teacher and church musician. She holds a BA in Voice from the University of Albany, a Kodály Music Teaching Certificate and a Master of Music in conducting from the University of Massachusetts. After graduate voice study at New England Conservatory, she sang for 13 seasons as a member of the Handel and Haydn Society Professional Chorus under the direction of both Thomas Dunn and Christopher Hogwood. Besides her role as chorister, she has soloed with the Nashua and Manchester Choral Societies and the New Hampshire Philharmonic. After teaching in Boston Public Schools (for the Kodály Center of America), and moving to New Hampshire, Mrs. Neumann taught music for St. Christopher School in Nashua and Pinkerton Academy in Derry. She currently maintains a small private voice studio in Nashua, and serves (until January 1<sup>st</sup>) as Music Director of Nashua's Unitarian Universalist Church, planning music, directing two choirs (Adult and Treble) and playing organ/piano for services. Mrs. Neumann believes that singing and making music together can profoundly heal and unite humanity. She is delighted to be on the McCall Middle School staff in Winchester.

*Introducing... Dr. Sergey Khanukaev*. Mrs. Costello has decided to take a leave of absence this year so that she can stay home with her baby. We are very fortunate that Dr. Khanukaev is going to return to McCall for another year. He will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band, 7<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra, and 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade general music classes. Dr. Khanukaev's extensive professional conducting career includes serving as the orchestral conductor of the Israel "Classica" Orchestra, the Raanana "Symphonette" Orchestra, and the Israel Camerata String Orchestra Ramat-Sasharon. He has served as a guest conductor and principal conductor for opera and ballet companies in Moscow, throughout Europe, and in Israel. He has received merit awards as an outstanding conductor. He also offers to the students of McCall his expansive education with an honors BA and double major in piano and music theory, an MA & PhD in music theory, an MA with honors in symphonic and operatic conducting from St. Petersburg Conservatory in Moscow, and finally a soon to be completed Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Orchestral Conducting from Boston University. Dr. Khanukaev found that he loves teaching the students at McCall Middle School and he is thrilled at the invitation to return for one more year.

### *McCall Jazz Band Auditions*

Thursday, Sept. 28th in the McCall band room after school at 2:30 p.m.  
Prepare a popular selection to perform

Auditioning students may use a CD or cassette for accompaniment  
Sight reading will also be part of the audition

-Ms. Miller, Jazz Band Director

**Winchester Youth Center (WYC), Rebecca Levine**  
**458R Main Street, Winchester MA 01890, 781-721-0906, ww.winyc.com**

**Mission: 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-** Calling all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders: Come to Discover, the WYC's middle school youth group, on Wednesday nights at 7:30-8:30 beginning September 20<sup>th</sup>! Discover is a great opportunity to make new friends, participate in programs, activities, and discussion groups on topics that are important to you, and have fun on a school night. All members will be given a participation contract to review and sign with their parents. This group is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Little Brothers & Sisters** - This is a select group for 8th 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 Wednesday nights from 7:00-7:30. Anyone who is interested in this program should come to Discover on Wednesday evenings beginning September 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ABS** - If you are an eighth grader who is confident, responsible, outgoing, and caring then we want you for 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 on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be a training for all 2006/2007 ABS members on Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**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.

**From Trash to Treasure** - Come to the WYC on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30 beginning September 19<sup>th</sup> to create your own Trash Art! Open your minds and train your eyes to see beauty in the things that we discard everyday. Some items may be re-decorated to serve a new purpose or spiffed up to be re-used. Other items may be used to build something for an entirely different use or as an art piece. Create art, have fun, and help to preserve our environment; all in a few afternoons! Five sessions for \$50, contact the WYC for more information.

**Beginners Watercolor** - The WYC will be offering a watercolor painting class for middle school students on Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 beginning September 21<sup>st</sup>. Learn how to make hard and soft edges to get the look you want in a painting. Understand how water-based paints work and how to create colors through translucent layering. Learn how to control watercolor paint to create landscapes, designs, postcards and more! Five sessions for \$50, 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.

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Activity Night** - Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> will be the night of this year's first McCall 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 McCallfront door by the Auditorium.

**WINCHESTER COUNCIL ON YOUTH** - The Council on Youth (COY) 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. COY annually sponsors the Youth Town Meeting and the Youth Service Awards Ceremony and annually recognizes Winchester High School graduating seniors with the Harrison Chadwick Youth Service Award Scholarships. COY is currently searching for two 7<sup>th</sup> graders and two 8<sup>th</sup> grader to serve on the Council and represent their peers. Applications are available at the WYC and in the McCall main office.

**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 11 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)

### **From the Winchester Public Library, Molly WIELLETTE**

**The old library hours have been reinstated!** This means that the library will be open from 9:30am - 9pm, Monday thru Thursday, 9:30am - 5:30pm Friday and Saturday. Our first open Saturday after the summer will be Saturday, 9 September. **Reminders:** 1. Students must bring their library cards with them in order to use the internet and in order to take books out of the library. The circulation desk is becoming increasingly vigilant about the requirement that we all have our library cards on hand. This is particularly important for McCall students who have no photo IDs, either from school or from a driver's license. 2. We look forward to seeing the students again and we can supply scrap paper, occasional pieces of scotch tape, rulers and calculators but we are not a stationery store. 3. Our homework center is available from 2:30 to 5:30 for small group study. 4. We also now provide some games for subdued play in the center. 5. We also supply a few select reference materials such as dictionaries, thesauri and atlases.

### ***Parent to Parent presents:***

**Balanced for Success: Foundations for Excellence in Sport and Life.** Dr. Adam Naylor, sport psychology coach and coordinator of the BU Athletic Enhancement Center will discuss about how to make sport a lifelong adventure. His talk is geared toward parents and coaches of athletes of all ages involved in a sport or multiple sports. Dr. Naylor outlines the developmentally appropriate goals for children at the various stages of their involvement in sports and will address issues such as preventing burnout, improving communication and trust, and maximizing performance. Dr. Naylor will provide tips on how to talk with your child so that the focus is on effort and attitude, trusting that winning and losing are both important parts of athletic development. He also addresses ways to maintain a perspective that leads to enjoyment, commitment, and excellence on and off of the playing field. Join us for an interactive discussion. **Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 7:30 PM at Winchester High School. For more information about our programs, visit [www.parenttoparentwinchester.org](http://www.parenttoparentwinchester.org) .**

### **September Special Education PAC Coffee**

Join us for our first PAC Coffee of the year, the PAC holds informal, monthly coffees for parents and guardians of children on 504 plans, IEP's or just beginning the IEP process. 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 Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 9:30-11:30am, at the home of, Carolyn Hintlian, 25 Calumet Road. Questions? Call 781-729-3264, or contact [winspedpac@comcast.net](mailto:winspedpac@comcast.net).

### **Auditions for Winchester Cooperative Theatre**

Do you love to sing, act, dance? Then come and audition for the Winchester Cooperative Theatre's Fall show! The show this year will be *Once Upon A Mattress*. It is a fun show with humorous and entertaining songs, and amusing characters. All interested students in **6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade** are invited to audition for this show. Please come prepared to perform a *monologue* from memory (no poems, please). Auditions will take place at McCall Middle School Auditorium on **Monday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:30 p.m.** Come on either day at 3:00.

Performances of this show will take place November 17, 18 and 19. 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 at 781-729-0224.

## Important Phone Numbers

### McCall Phone Numbers

Absence	781-721-7044
All Other School Business	781-721-7026

## Important Websites

### McCall School

<http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us/HomePage/McCall2000/website/index/index.html>

### McCall School Parents' Association

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

## 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 6th, and should be returned to your child's homeroom teacher on Thursday, September 7th.***

## **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.

## 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.

**McCall Middle School Calendar of Events  
2006-2007**

- Wednesday, September 6- 1<sup>st</sup> day of school for students- Grade 6- 7:45 a.m.-10:40 a.m., Grades 7 and 8- 11:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 12- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, September 18- McCall Open House
- Tuesday, October 10- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, October 25, Thursday, October 26, Friday, October 27- Parent Conferences
- Tuesday, November 14- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Tuesday, December 12- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, December 13- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Instrumental Concert
- Tuesday, January 9- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Thursday, January 11- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Choral Concert
- Tuesday, February 13- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, March 5- 8:00 a.m.- Grade 8 WHS Orientation- Tom Gwin
- Monday, March 5- 7:30 p.m.- Grade 8 Parents & Guardians WHS Orientation- WHS Auditorium
- Tuesday, March 13- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, March 14, Thursday, March 15, Friday, March 16- Parent Conferences
- Monday, March 26 through Friday, March 30- proposed 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington, D.C. Trip
- Tuesday, April 10- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27- proposed 7<sup>th</sup> Grade New York Trip
- Monday, May 7- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.- Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Tuesday, May 8- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, June 4- 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.- Moving Up Day- Grades 5-8
- Tuesday, June 5- 7:30 p.m.- McCall Choral Concert
- Thursday, June 7- 7:30 p.m.- McCall Instrumental Concert
- Tuesday, June 12- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, June 18- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Canobie Lake Trip
- Tuesday, June 19- 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation and Celebration Dance

**Dance Dates (All Fridays)**

- September 29 – Grade 7 & 8
- October 20 – Grade 6
- November 3 – Grade 7 & 8
- December 1 – Grade 6
- January 5 – Grade 7 & 8
- February 2 – Grade 6
- March 2 – Grade 7 & 8
- April 27 – Grade 6
- May 11 – Grade 6 & 7

## McCall Parents' Association Board 2006-2007

Co-Presidents	Patty Castro Martha Sampson	756-0098 721-5143	<a href="mailto:apcastro@mac.com">apcastro@mac.com</a> <a href="mailto:msampson@sampsonlaw.com">msampson@sampsonlaw.com</a>
Secretaries	Mary Doherty <i>One or Two Openings</i>	721-7887	<a href="mailto:olsen_Philip@hotmail.com">olsen_Philip@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Joan Wyrwicz	729-3774	<a href="mailto:wyrfam@aol.com">wyrfam@aol.com</a>
Direct Appeal	Debe Holland	729-3917	<a href="mailto:debe.Holland@comcast.net">debe.Holland@comcast.net</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Patty Shepard	729-9762	<a href="mailto:pattyshepard@comcast.net">pattyshepard@comcast.net</a>
Box Tops	<i>One or Two Openings</i>		
Building & Grounds	Evelyn Giller	756-1903	<a href="mailto:Gillerre@comcast.net">Gillerre@comcast.net</a>
Enrichment	Caren Connelly	756-0019	<a href="mailto:caren_Connelly@verizon.net">caren_Connelly@verizon.net</a>
Gifts	Cheryl Lauretano	729-8709	<a href="mailto:tennis4@comcast.net">tennis4@comcast.net</a>
Library/Book Fair	Gina Kurban Mary Doherty	721-7690 721-7887	<a href="mailto:ginakurban@comcast.net">ginakurban@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:olsen_Philip@hotmail.com">olsen_Philip@hotmail.com</a>
Newsletter E-Newsletter	Patty Shepard Linda Eberth	729-9762 729-0794	<a href="mailto:pattyshepard@comcast.net">pattyshepard@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:leberth@comcast.net">leberth@comcast.net</a>
Open House	Lisa Craig Anne Lucas	729-2744 721-6055	<a href="mailto:david.craig1@comcast.net">david.craig1@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:ducks-in-a-row@comcast.net">ducks-in-a-row@comcast.net</a>
Parent-to- Parent	Tracy Troiano	729-4334	<a href="mailto:Tracytroiano@aol.com">Tracytroiano@aol.com</a>
Policies	<i>One Opening</i>		
School Store	Carol Breen	729-2824	<a href="mailto:cabreen@comcast.net">cabreen@comcast.net</a>
Special Ed	Eve Coffey Patty Shepard	721-1669 729-9762	<a href="mailto:ejcoff@comcast.net">ejcoff@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:pattyshepard@comcast.net">pattyshepard@comcast.net</a>
Teacher Lunch	Martha Werler Margen Kelsey	729-6517 729-7259	<a href="mailto:werler@comcast.net">werler@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:margenk@comcast.net">margenk@comcast.net</a>
Technology	<i>One or Two Openings</i>		
8th Grade	Diane Brewster Margie Ohnigian	729-6296 721-4847	<a href="mailto:dgbrewster@comcast.net">dgbrewster@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:ohnigian@comcast.net">ohnigian@comcast.net</a>
Coordinators of Activity Night Chaperones			
6th Grade	Cindy Hale	721-2458	<a href="mailto:cindy@otwadv.com">cindy@otwadv.com</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Lynn Bailey	729-6136	<a href="mailto:lynn.bailey@comcast.net">lynn.bailey@comcast.net</a>
8th Grade	Katie Edwards	721-5535	
	<a href="mailto:Katie.Edwards@verizonbusiness.com">Katie.Edwards@verizonbusiness.com</a>		
6th Grade Phone Book	<i>One Opening</i>		

## McCall Parents' Association Direct Appeal

This year, the Parents' Association has set an ambitious goal of raising \$44,000 through a direct appeal. In recent years, parents have shown extraordinary generosity to McCall and their money has gone to support extracurricular activities, intramural sports, enrichment and special programs, the monthly newsletter, teacher support and appreciation, library funding and other valuable programs. Please give as generously as you can as we face another year of tight school budgets.

The goal of the Parents' Association Direct Appeal is to raise \$44,000 through the contributions of 100% of McCall families. Please mail your check payable to the *McCall Parents' Association* and this form to Debe Holland, Assistant Treasurer, 332 Highland Avenue, Winchester, MA or drop it off at the McCall Main Office. Thank you!

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution \$75 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Parents' Association Meetings for 2006-2007**

**Tues, Sept 12 -7PM**

**Tues, Feb 13 – 9AM**

**Tues, Oct 10 - 9AM**

**Tues, Mar 13 - 7PM**

**Tues, Nov 14 - 9AM\*\***

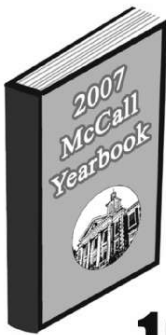
**Tues, Apr 10 - 9AM**

**Tues, Dec 12 - 9AM**

**Tues, May 8 -7PM**

**Tues, Jan 9 - 7PM**

**Tues, June 12 -9AM**



# ALL COLOR - ALL NEW!!!

## 2006 - 2007 YEARBOOK

**THIS MCCALL YEARBOOK IS NOT YOUR "PARENTS YEARBOOK"**

### 100% COLOR • 64 PAGES • \$45.00

The time is **NOW** to reserve your 2006-2007 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.

Celebrate this important stage in your child's life with this incredible book  
of McCall memories!

**BOOKS SOLD AFTER JANUARY 1ST WILL BE \$55.00**



clip and return .....

Please provide the following information and leave your check for **\$45.00**  
payable to **McCall Yearbook** in the yearbook folder in the front office.



Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_