

McCall Middle School Parents Association Newsletter

September 2007

From the Principal

Evander French, Jr.

Welcome to McCall Middle School as we begin the 2007-2008 school year. Early each month, you will receive this McCall Middle School Parents Association Newsletter either by e-mail or by regular mail (see subscription form later in this 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 late October and mid-March at all grade levels. Our annual Open House will take place this year on **Tuesday evening, September 25, 2007 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.** 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- Ms. Shareen Dolan, Grade 7- Mrs. Melissa Suvak and Mrs. Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant, Grade 8- Mrs. Rebecca Jacques. 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 (9/5) 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 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 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 6 and Friday, September 7 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 9/6 and 9/7.

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 (9/5) from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the Library. Please check into the Main Office before attending the coffee.

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to McCall Middle School: Patricia DeVries, Grade 6-8 Computer Education Teacher, Mary Dunn, Grade 8 Earth Science Teacher, John Gill, Grade 7 Math Teacher, Michael Kasprzak, Grade 6-8 Physical Education Teacher, Amy Labnouj, Grade 7 Math Teacher, Alison Pomerantz, Grade 7 English Teacher, Matthew Taylor, Grade 6 Math Teacher, and Haining Wang, Grade 6-8 Art Teacher. Congratulations and welcome!!

Last May, we piloted a Point of Sale (POS) System in our Cafeteria to speed up the lunch lines so students have more time to eat. This year, we will continue the system with two major adjustments: you will be able to make your school lunch payments online (PayForIt.net), and every McCall student will receive a new four-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN) that has been randomly generated and has no relation to other student identification numbers. All 6th Graders will be required to have a prepaid account if they wish to participate in the school lunch program this year, and all 7th and 8th Graders will be strongly encouraged to have a prepaid account in order to reduce the wait times in lunch lines. **You will receive a special letter from me before schools starts with all of the details about this POS System including your child's PIN.** Please save this important letter.

On the first day of school, your McCall student(s) will receive a Student Handbook which includes the rules and regulations of our school, a daily calendar to help keep track of short and long-term assignments and tests and quizzes, a list of frequently misspelled words and other helpful guides, and a "Hallway Passport" which students use as a pass when they need to leave the classroom. Please review this handbook carefully with your child and have him or her return the sign off sheet on page 3 with appropriate signatures to his/her homeroom teacher by Monday (9/10).

As we begin the new school year, I want to continue to stress the importance of regular, on-time attendance for all of our McCall Middle School students. In the "Attendance, Absence And Tardiness" section (page 13) of the Student Handbook, we emphasize, "Students are expected to attend 180 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!

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 (@ 880 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 880 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
- 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 9/5. 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 offer my profound thanks to Kathleen Campbell and Carol Samson who have spearheaded our McCall Wish List the past three years. This list was established some years ago by Lisa Cleary and Sue Leathers in tight budget times to fund teachers' requests for equipment and supplies needed in the classroom but not included in our lean school budgets. The list is funded entirely through parent contributions and has included such items as videos, science kits, workbooks and textbooks, and LCD projectors. Over the years, Kathleen, Carol, Sue, and Lisa have made a major difference in our school and I sincerely thank them for their conscientious efforts. If you are interested in continuing the important work of these "Good Samaritans," please contact one of our McCall Middle School Parents Association Co-Presidents, Martha Sampson or Robin Wolf. I also want to recognize and thank our school secretaries, Carol McGrath, Diana Deering, and Susan Malatesta, 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 2007-2008 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! 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 Co-Presidents *Martha Sampson and Robin Wolf*

The McCall Parents' Association is dedicated to creating a strong sense of community, facilitating communication among families, administration, and teachers, encouraging and coordinating volunteer opportunities for parents, and providing funding for a variety of school programs. Our success depends on the involvement and support of McCall families, so please read on. Whether you are providing a dessert for a social event, working a shift at the school store or Library, or chaperoning an Activity Night, we need you!

Community – 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 below. These meetings provide an interesting opportunity to meet with the principal, assistant principal and other parents to learn first-hand about what is happening at McCall. Meetings provide a forum for asking questions and raising issues and concerns, and for making suggestions for new programs. Some meetings include outside speakers on topics of interest to parents. Our **first meeting** will take place on Tuesday evening, September 11 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 new people, and ask questions about the first days of school.

Communication – Our **newsletters** are emailed or mailed to each McCall family around the first of each month. These newsletters are valuable sources of information about a wide range of topics, and include news from the administration, teachers and staff as well as from the Parents' Association. In addition to the monthly newsletter, the Parents' Association sends an emailed **weekly update** for parents so that we can fill you in on upcoming events and important issues affecting McCall on a timely basis. Sending our newsletter electronically saves a substantial 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. **We strongly encourage you to sign up for electronic distribution of the monthly newsletter and weekly electronic updates. We will mail the newsletter (but not the weekly updates) via regular mail to families without email addresses.** 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 in April. **If you had an eighth grader last year 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 subscribe. Please refer to the instructions included later in this newsletter, or click on this link to the McCall Parents Association Website. www.mccallpa.org. Email is a very effective, cost-effective and timely way to stay informed, so please remember to subscribe!

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 **Building and Grounds, Gifts, Library, and Wish List**. You can sign up by contacting Co-Presidents Martha Sampson or Robin Wolf, or at the Welcome Coffee on the first morning of school, or the McCall Open House on Tuesday, September 25th. Contact information is contained in the list of Board members elsewhere in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at the first Parents' Association meeting on Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. 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 2007-2008

Tuesday, Sept 11	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday, Feb 12	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct 9	9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, Mar 11	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov 13	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday, Apr 8	9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec 11	9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, May 13	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan 8	7:00 p.m.	Tuesday, June 10	9:00 a.m.

McCall Parents' Association Board 2007-2008

Co-Presidents	Martha Sampson 721-5143 Robin Wolf 721-0817	president@mccallpa.org president@mccallpa.org	msampson@sampsonlaw.com robin.wolf@comcast.net
Secretaries	Aida Abujoub 756-1808	aida283@yahoo.com	
Treasurer	Joan Wyrwicz 729-3774	wyrfam@aol.com	
Box Tops	Mary LaMuraglia 756-0060	mlamuraglia@comcast.net	
Building & Grounds	Open		
Direct Appeal	Debe Holland 729-3917	debe.Holland@comcast.net	
Enrichment	Ann Marie Hill 617-359-4394	enrichment@mccallpa.org	hill.davis@comcast.net
Gifts	Leigh Kelliher 756-0433	leigh_kelliher@verizon.net	
Library/Book Fair	Open-Scheduling Lynn Bailey 729-6136	lynn.bailey@comcast.net	
Newsletter	Michelle Antonevich 729-6323	newsletter@mccallpa.org	mantonev@comcast.net
E-Newsletter/Website	Rachel Roll 369-1109	rkroll@rkroll.com	
E- Calendar/updates	Sue Carney 729-5078	calendar@mccallpa.org	sueyenrac@comcast.net
Data Base	Becky Miranda 729-0913	dbmiranda@verizon.net	
Open House	Jan Curran 721-5985 Anne Lucas 721-6055	jan.curran@comcast.net anne@ducksinaroworganizers.com	
Parent-to- Parent	Tracy Troiano 729-4334	Tracytroiano@aol.com	
Policies	Open		
Publicity	Open		
School Directory	Patty Castro 756-0098	apcastro@mac.com	
School Store	Carol Breen	mccallstore@comcast.net	
Social Comm.	Michele Nathan 729-5778 Shiva Barton 721-4707	nathanmichele@yahoo.com shivabarton@verizon.net	
Special Ed	Phil Arsenault 721-9594 Marianne Carter	mehmarsenault@verizon.net mcarre@comcast.net	
Substance Abuse Coalition	Jodie Mullane 721-0484	jodiemullane@verizon.net	
Teacher Luncheon	Margen Kelsey 729-7259 Nancy Hickey 729-1892	margenk@comcast.net nb.hickey@verizon.net	
Technology	Ann Corcoran 729-8789	corcoran44@verizon.net	
8th Grade	Debe Holland 729-3917 Pattie Manko 729-1711	debe.Holland@comcast.net Manko5@aol.com	
Coordinators of Activity Night Chaperones			
6 th Grade	Kim Gladstone 729-5799	c.Gladstone@comcast.net	
7 th Grade	Cindy Hale 721-2458	cindy@otwadv.com	
8 th Grade	Lynn Bailey 729-6136	lynn.bailey@comcast.net	
Wish list	Open - 6th, 7th, 8th grade positions	wishlist@mccallpa.org	

McCall Open House Hospitality

Open House for parents of all McCall Middle School students will be held the evening of Tuesday September 25, 2007, starting at 7:30PM. 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 Anne Lucas 721-6055, or Jan Curran 721-5985 or anne@ducksinaroworganizer.com or jancurran@comcast.net 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!

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 13th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Literary Lunch

Again this year, sixth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in the Literary Lunches. This intergenerational book group was developed thirteen years ago by former librarian, Gerry Driscoll. 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 while enjoying lunch. The program is funded by the Winchester Cooperative Bank.

The first Literary Lunch will be held on October 4th at the Jenks Senior Center. Volunteers from Mrs. Pickering's classes will join members of the senior center in reading *Flush* by Carl Hiaasen. A brief summary of the book is as follows: With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected waters around their Florida Keys home.

McCall School Store Volunteer Information

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 6th the first FULL day of school from 10:15 to 12:45 and again on Friday September 7th from 10:15 to 12:45. Parents are welcome both days to visit the store, buy supplies, and sign up to volunteer.

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 6th, at the school store on September 6 and 7th or by email (NEW ADDRESS!) to mccallstore@mccallpa.org by Friday, September 21. Please provide name, telephone number, email address, preferred days (M,W,F) or flexible. Also please indicate 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@mccallpa.org with any additional questions.

Wellness Department, (6-8)

Jeannine L. Lavoie, Wellness Director/Educator-Health Science, Physical Education

Jane Maloney, Wellness Educator- Health Science

Donna Gildersleeve, Wellness Educator- Physical Education

Michael Kasprzak, Wellness Educator-Physical Education

Hello and welcome back to school! We are really excited to start the new school year. Michael Kasprzak is a new addition to the Wellness at McCall. Last year Michael taught physical education at Ambrose and Lynch and although he had a wonderful year, he really enjoys working with middle school students. We are fortunate to have him!

In addition to that change, the Wellness Department has continued its work on developing a comprehensive Health Science Program at all levels. Health Science courses are taught in a coeducational setting.

6th Grade Health Science: 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 bullying and harassment. Students will examine the physical, social, emotional and financial consequences of tobacco use and abuse. Refusal skills to avoid them will be introduced and practiced. In the Sexual Health unit changes in puberty will be discussed.

7th Grade Health Science: Students learn the principles of nutrition and the relationship between eating habits, good health and food preparation. As a continuation in grade 6, students will examine the physical, social, emotional and financial consequences of alcohol and inhalant use. Refusal skills to avoid them will be reinforced and practiced. In the Sexual Health unit, the focus will be on prenatal development and sexual identity.

8th Grade Health Science: Students continue developing a proficiency in nutritious meal preparation. Students will develop fabric construction techniques and apply them in a community service project. As a continuation in grade 7, students will examine the use, misuse and abuse of prescription, non-prescription and non-medicinal drugs. Social, physical, emotional and financial consequences will be explored. In the Sexual Health unit, the description, health consequences, transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted disease and safe dating practices will be the focus. Students will continue developing a proficiency in refusal skill application.

Physical Education, grades 6-8: The Physical Education courses are designed to help students understand concepts and develop skills that can be applied towards lifelong fitness. Competition is deemphasized and the focus on strengthening one's fitness level, group cooperation, and attainment of personal goals is emphasized. Students will be engaged in a variety of fitness activities. Some of them will include: team sports, fitness training, and Project Adventure initiatives.

Parents/ Guardians who have questions or concerns with regard to their child's participation in the sexual health component of the program or any other questions or concerns should contact Jeannine Lavoie, Director of Wellness at 781-721-7026.

September Special Education PAC Coffee

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. There's no need to RSVP, just drop in. September's coffee will be held on Wednesday, September 19th, 9:30-11:30 am, at the home of Carolyn Hintlian,

25 Calumet Rd. Questions? Call 781-729-3264, or contact winspedpac@yahoo.com. Also see the PAC website, www.winchesterspedpac.org.

Winchester Youth Center

458R Main Street
Winchester MA 01890
781-721-0906
www.wynec.com



The Winchester Youth Center (WYC) is committed to fostering leadership skills and a long-term commitment to community service through healthy social and experiential-learning activities for teens.

The goals of the WYC are to:

- Provide Winchester teens with their own space that will foster healthy, safe, and enriching alternative activities outside of school hours. This is a place for Winchester teens to engage in substance-free activities and develop healthy social skills.
- Supply valuable work and service-learning opportunities in the community that enhance leadership development through real life experiences.
- Strengthen the relationship between teens and the community and instill a commitment to civic responsibility and community involvement.
- Promote positive and healthy youth development.

WYC OPEN HOUSE Wednesday, September 12th 6:30-8:00pm

Come check out the WYC's new look! The WYC has been updated, redecorated, and refurbished this summer to accommodate our expanded programs, activities, and events. At the Open House you'll have an opportunity to meet Winchester's Youth Coordinator Rebecca Levine, the WYC's Program Director Jenny O'Leary, and the WYC Peer Leaders; get answers to all of your questions; and pick up membership applications.

Beginning this fall the WYC will institute our new membership system.

Benefits of WYC membership:

- Access to after school Drop-in Center and all of our amazing daily activities
- Email updates on upcoming programs and special events
- Reduced rates on various programs and special events

DROP-IN CENTER

The Winchester Youth Center has a Drop-in Center that is open daily from 2:15 to 5:00 pm on regular school days and 11:10-3:00 on early release days throughout the school year. The WYC staff including Winchester's Youth Coordinator, the WYC Program Director, and the Peer Leaders provides a safe, supervised space where kids can have fun while interacting responsibly. Sixth-twelfth graders are all welcome to come hang out with friends, play games, watch a movie, do homework, and take advantage of all the cool things that the WYC has to offer. Everyone is required to treat others with respect, be accountable for their own belongings, take care of the Drop-in Center equipment, and clean up after themselves.

Beginning this fall, the Drop-in Center will be open to WYC Members only. Membership is \$40 for the year and is non-refundable. The Drop-in Center will be open on September 11th-14th for students to experience and explore. We will also have an Open House on Wednesday, September 12th so that parents can see what all the buzz is about! Beginning Monday, September 17th the Drop-in Center will be open to WYC members only. Membership applications can be picked up at the WYC, the McCall Middle School office, or the Recreation Department beginning September 7th.

Students will continue to come and go on a completely voluntary, drop-in basis

The Drop-in Center will now feature organized activities everyday from 3:00-5:00 led by the WYC's Peer Leaders. Daily activities will include a sports option, an arts & crafts option, and a video game or game table option.

Example Drop-in Center activity schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Ultimate Frisbee	Basketball	Touch football	Soccer	Yoga
Scrapbooking	Jewelry making	Watercolors	Drawing	Trash art
Pool tournament	Video game tournament	Air hockey tournament	Video game tournament	Pool tournament

*The schedule of activities is subject to change based on weather and members' interests.

The Drop-in Center will also feature a fully functioning homework room, furnished with new computers. All members will be required to agree to and sign a PC User Agreement form in order to use the computers. The homework room will be staffed each afternoon with Peer Leaders who are available for homework help. The Peer Leaders are also available for one-on-one tutoring, please see WYC Tutoring Program description below.

WYC Tutoring Program

The WYC offers tutoring for all middle school academic subjects. The Peer Leaders provide one-on-one tutoring after school in the Homework Room at the WYC. Each student is matched with a Peer Leader who will meet with him/her on a weekly basis. All sessions are 3:00-4:30pm, coupon books are \$100 and equal 6 sessions for WYC members, 5 sessions for non-members. Please contact the WYC for more information. Middle School Activity Nights The WYC co-sponsors monthly activity nights for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with the McCall Middle School Parent/Faculty Association and McCall Student Council. Participants are welcome to hang out, play games, or watch a movie in the Drop-in Center and listen to the DJ play music for the dance in the gym. Admission is \$7 at the door, all students must enter through the McCall front door. The first Activity Night of the year will be on Friday, September 28th for 7th and 8th graders, we hope to see you all there!

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS**Discover**

Discover is the WYC's middle school youth group, it provides 7th and 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 from 7:30-8:30 pm beginning September 19th, it is open to all 7th and 8th graders. All members will be given a participation contract to review and sign with their parents.

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, and Breakfast with Santa; 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 beginning November 7th. Anyone who is interested in this program should come to Discover on Wednesday evenings beginning September 19th.

ABS: Anti-Bullying Squad

If you are an eighth grader who is confident, responsible, outgoing, and caring then we want you for the Anti-Bullying Squad! In an effort to deal with the ongoing problem of bullying at McCall Middle School the Winchester Council on Youth, the McCall administration and the WYC have joined together to select and train eighth graders to serve on the Anti-Bullying Squad (ABS). The ABS volunteer in 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". A select group of 8th graders have been recommended by their 7th grade teachers to serve as this year's ABS. These students will be trained by the WYC Peer Leaders and will begin their ABS service at the beginning of the school-year.

SERVICE PROJECTS

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

PB&J Jewels

The WYC's first entrepreneurial endeavor is our jewelry business. The Peer Leaders have created beautiful jewelry made of fresh water pearls, glass beads, turquoise, and more. All of our hand-crafted jewelry is on display in the WYC and can be purchased Monday-Friday from 2:00-6:00 pm. The proceeds from all jewelry sales go to benefit the WYC and our youth development programs.

Lowell Wish Project: Jeans & Sweatshirts Drive

The Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters are collecting new/lightly-worn jeans and sweatshirts to donate to the Lowell Wish Project. The Lowell Wish Project provides emergency, basic, and seasonal goods to low income families in the Merrimack Valley. Please bring your donations to the WYC any day between 2:00-6:00pm or contact us and we'll pick them up from your home.

Hands Across the Water: Books For South Africa Project

The Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters assist the Hands Across the Water Project by collecting books at the WYC and going to the collection bin on a weekly basis to help sort and pack the books to be sent to villages in South Africa. Please contact the WYC if you have books that you would like to donate.

Woburn Council of Social Concern: Non-perishable Food Collections

Throughout the fall the Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the food pantry at the Woburn Council of Social Concern. We'll be going door-to-door, be on the lookout for flyers saying that we're coming to your neighborhood. Please contact the WYC anytime if you have items that you'd like to donate, you are welcome to bring your donations to the WYC any day between 2:00-6:00pm or contact us and we'll pick them up from your home.

Habitat for Humanity

During February vacation the WYC Peer Leaders will be participating in our third annual Habitat for Humanity trip. Each year we travel to a different area of the country to participate in a week-long service-learning project with Habitat for Humanity and help build homes for needy families.

Throughout the fall and winter, the Peer Leaders will be running a variety of events in an effort to fundraise 100% of the expenses for our trip. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation toward this amazing service-learning experience.

Middle School Hockey Program

The Middle School Hockey Program will begin Late in September. The program is very flexible and will work around school commitments and other sports schedules. Open to boys and girls. For additional information Contact: wolfpackhockey@comcast.net or Mike Messuri 617 480 2279

Parent to Parent Presents: "An Evening with Superintendent William McAlduff"

Please come and meet Winchester's new School Superintendent William McAlduff. Mr. McAlduff comes to Winchester from Wilmington, MA, where he was Superintendent of their public schools for four years. Mr. McAlduff will engage in an open dialogue with parents of elementary, middle and high school students regarding a wide range of concerns, and will discuss his short and long-term goals as the new head of the Winchester Public Schools. You may contact us at our website www.parenttoparentwinchester.org if you would like to identify specific questions in advance for Mr. McAlduff to address that evening. Please join us on Monday September 17th from 7:30- 9 PM in the Social Studies Open Area at Winchester High School

Winchester Multicultural Network

International parents are invited to the Multicultural Network's annual open house at the Winchester Public Library on Saturday, September 29 from 10:00-12:00 noon. Stop in and see what activities and events are available this fall. There will be walks in the Fells and around Horn Pond in October and an International Pot Luck Supper in November. International residents who would like to practice and improve their English skills are invited to sign up for one of the English Conversation Groups offered (either Monday or Tuesday mornings or Wednesday evening).

On October 1 at 7:00 p.m. Anne Copeland, founder of the Interchange Institute and editor of the Newcomers Almanac, will help international parents understand how American schools work. The program will be held in the meeting room of the Winchester Public Library and is free and open to anyone. For more information call the **Multicultural Network** at 781-729-7100 or email office@wmcn.org.

YEARBOOK PRE-ORDER FORM

THIS McCALL YEARBOOK IS



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ALL COLOR - ALL NEW!!
2007 - 2008 YEARBOOK
100% COLOR • 70 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 70 professionally published pages of all the McCall students.

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

PRE-ORDER YOUR CHILD'S BOOK AT THE YEARBOOK TABLE LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE FRONT OFFICE.

BOOKS SOLD AFTER JANUARY 1ST WILL BE \$60.00



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 _____

McCall Middle School Statement Of Purpose

McCall Middle School exist primarily to instill in its students a love of learning and a 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 is to help students develop to the fullest extent during their adolescence and grow 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 population in a unique stage of educational development, children in various stages of intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, social and physical development. McCall recognizes this diversity and strives to foster a continuing development toward maturity.

McCall provides a positive learning environment. McCall is a community of learners, students and teachers alike, in an environment which stimulates joy in learning and instills the spirit of risk taking and discovery. By their example, the faculty 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, support staff, 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. Reflecting the changes taking place in our society, the McCall community is increasingly made up of students who represent many diverse cultures from around the world. We strive, as a school, to welcome newcomers to our school and our country, and to honor the rich traditions and heritage that each culture contributes to our community of learners.

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 the students to inquire and learn for themselves. The McCall Faculty shares ideas about teaching and learning and continually updates their curricula.

The school program is varied in order that students can explore their own talents and interests. In particular, the exploratory program provides students with important opportunities to learn and to 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 in learning and a sense of self-worth in all our students.

Important Phones Numbers

McCall Middle School Phone Numbers:

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

Emergency Procedures for Evacuating/Closing School

The following procedures 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 across the street 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 School Department, in cooperation with the Fire and Police Departments, will activate the new reverse telephone system (parent/guardian home phones/work phones/cell phones), and the McCall Middle School Parents Association will be contacted to activate the e-mail chain system.

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

These forms will be brought home on Wednesday, September 5, and should be returned to your child's homeroom teacher on Thursday, September 6.

McCall Middle School Calendar of Events 2007-2008

- Wednesday, September 5- 1st 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 11- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Tuesday, September 25- McCall Open House- 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 9- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, October 24, Thursday, October 25, Friday, October 26- Parent Conferences
- Tuesday, November 13- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Tuesday, December 11- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, December 12- Winter Instrumental Concert- 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- Tuesday, January 8- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Tuesday, January 15- Winter Choral Concert- 7:00 p.m., Auditorium
- Tuesday, February 12- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, March 3- 8:00 a.m.- Grade 8 WHS Orientation- Tom Gwin
- Monday, March 3- 7:00 p.m.- Grade 8 Parents & Guardians WHS Orientation- WHS Auditorium
- Monday, March 10- Grade 6 and 7 Parents & Guardians Orientation Program- 7:00 p.m., McCall Auditorium
- Tuesday, March 11- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, March 12, Thursday, March 13, Friday, March 14- Parent Conferences
- Monday, March 24 through Friday, March 28- proposed 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip
- Monday, April 7- Grade 5 Parents & Guardians Orientation Program- 7:00 p.m., McCall Auditorium
- Tuesday, April 8- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, May 5- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.- Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Tuesday, May 13- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, June 2- 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.- Moving Up Day- Grades 5-8
- Monday, June 9- Spring Instrumental Concert- 7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- Week of June 9- Final Exams this week- Early Release Days- 6/11, 6/12, 6/13
- Tuesday, June 10- 9:00 a.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Tuesday, June 10- Spring Choral Concert- 7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- Friday, June 13- 8th Grade Canobie Lake Trip
- Monday, June 16- Final Exams Makeup Day, Last Day of School if No Snow Days, 8th Grade Graduation and Celebration Dance- 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Friday Night Dance Dates

- September 28- Grades 7 & 8 (7:30- 10:00 p.m.)
- October 19- Grade 6 (7:30- 9:30 p.m.)
- November 2- Grades 7 & 8
- December 7- Grade 6
- January 11- Grades 7 & 8
- February 8- Grade 6
- March 14- Grades 7 & 8
- April 4- Grade 6
- May 9- Grades 6 & 7

September 2007 Public Access

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
02 (Week 36)	03 LABOR DAY	04 STAFF RETURNS	05 SCHOOL BEGINS Grade 8-7:45-10:40am.Grades 7&8-11:30-2:15pm. WELCOME COFFEE FOR 6 GRADE PARENTS -McCall School Library-7:30-8:30am.	06 Full Day of School	07	08
09 (Week 37)	10	11 MCCALL PARENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING in the McCall library-7pm.	12 WINCHESTER YOUTH CENTER OPEN HOUSE-6:30-8:00PM.	13 ROSH HASHANAH Coffee Hour for Library Volunteers-McCall Library-9-10:00am.	14 ROSH HASHANAH	15
16 (Week 38)	17 PARENT TO PARENT PRESENTS:"Meet Superintendent William McAlduff. WHS-7:30-9PM."	18	19	20	21	22
23 (Week 39)	24 PROFESSIONAL DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	25 MCCALL MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE- 7:30pm-9:30pm	26 SCHOOL PHOTO DAY	27	28 GRADES 7&8 Activity Night Gym & WYC - 7:30-10PM.	29 WINCHESTER MULTICULTURAL NETWORK;Open House -Winchester Public Library-10-12pm.
30 (Week 40)						

Winchester Public Schools
154 Horn Pond Brook Road
Winchester, MA 01890

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(Put your email address in the "Join Our Mailing List" box and follow the instructions.)
Or, send a request to: newsletter@mccallpa.org

Newsletter Submission Deadlines:
Submission deadline (2:30pm) Issue

Thursday, September 13, 2007	October
Thursday, October 11, 2007	November
Thursday, November 15, 2007	December
Thursday, December 13, 2007	January
Thursday, January 10, 2008	February
Thursday, February 14, 2008	March
Thursday, March 13, 2008	April
Thursday, April 10, 2008	May
Thursday, May 15, 2008	June

It is preferred that you email your articles to
newsletter@mccallpa.org

*If you cannot email, please submit a hard copy
to the Newsletter mailbox in the McCall Middle
School Office or mail to:*

*McCall Newsletter
458 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890*

Thank you.

*Please submit your articles for the newsletter
by 2:30 pm on the deadline date.*