

McCall Middle School Parents Association Newsletter September 2008

From the Principal

Evander French Jr.

Welcome to McCall Middle School as we begin the 2008-2009 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 information 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 23, 2008 from 7:00 to 9:00pm There will also be parent/guardian grade level meetings that evening for all grades beginning at 6:15pm in locations to be announced. Open House 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. Rebecca Jacques, Grade 7- Ms. Shareen Dolan, Grade 8- Mrs. Melissa Suvak, and Grades 6-8- Mrs. Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant. 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 (**9/3**) will be a half-day for all students on the following basis: **Grade 6 should report at 7:45am 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 10:40am, the 6th Graders will be dismissed for the day. **Grades 7 and 8 should report to school at 11:30am. 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 2:15pm. **Lunch will not be served on this first day of school. Thursday, September 4 and Friday, September 5** will be full days of school for all students. Students should report to their homerooms by 7:45am on these days. Lunch will be served on 9/4 and 9/5.

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 (**9/3**) from 7:30 to 8:30am in the Cafeteria. Please check into the Main Office before attending the coffee.

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to McCall Middle School: Tom Awiszus, Grade 6-8 Technology/Engineering Teacher, Joel Buford, Grade 6-8 Music Teacher, Eleni Carayannopoulos, Grade 6 Special Education Teacher, Lori King, School Psychologist, Alison Matthews, Grade 7 Long-term Substitute English Teacher, John McGeehan, Grade 7 Math Teacher, Kierstin Owens, Grade 8 English Teacher, Kim Palmer, 1 on 1 Special Needs Instructor, Jane Sheehan, 8th Grade Math Teacher, and Lori Weir, .2 Computer Education Teacher. Congratulations and welcome!!

Two years ago in 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, and all students will be required to have a prepaid account if they wish to participate in the school lunch program this year. This is a cashless "debit" computer system that eliminates the need to pay cash each day for meals. **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** (every McCall student will receive a four-digit Personal Identification Number that has been randomly generated and has no relation to other student identification numbers). Please save this important letter.

Construction Message: This year while school is in session, G & R Construction and its sub contractors will be building a new wing in the back of the building to add ten classrooms to help meet the needs of our growing student population. The project should be completed in time to begin the 2009-2010 school year. This summer, on July 16, 2008, Mr. Marotta and I met with representatives from the Construction Company, Flansburgh Architects, the Owner's Representative, and Sergeant Dan Perenick of the Winchester Police Department and Captain Rick Tustin of the Winchester Fire Department, to address health and safety issues associated with the construction. This was a very productive meeting with the following agreements:

- Construction vehicles will enter the site @ 6:30 to 7:00am and leave the site @ 3:15 to 4:15pm.
- No parent/guardians vehicles should enter the back parking lot. This lot is reserved for faculty parking, bus drop off and pick up, and emergency vehicles.
- The construction area will be surrounded by a temporary 8-foot fence. Construction vehicles will park in this area.
- New evacuation routes from the building have been developed and approved.
- All construction personnel will be CORI checked and wear ID badges.
- Construction workers will have no contact with our students. These workers will use appropriate language at the worksite. There will be no smoking anywhere on school grounds.
- Students should not enter the construction site at any time- violation of this policy will result in suspension from school.
- G & R will monitor noise and dust levels. The school will provide G & R with special schedules that require as little noise as possible. Radios will not be used.
- The Construction Superintendent will police the site at the end of the day to make sure all construction materials are safe and secure.
- School and Construction personnel will maintain close communication with respect to school or construction emergencies.
- The Winchester Police Department will patrol the construction site at night and on the weekends.

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 7 with appropriate signatures **to his/her homeroom teacher by Monday (9/8).**

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 (pages 17 and 18) 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 (@ 940 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 on Mystic Valley Parkway. Do not enter the back parking lot. Encourage your child to use the sidewalks on both sides of the driveway.

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 940 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 8:15am.
- 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 9/3. 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, Diana Deering, and Susan Malatesta, and our custodians, Steve Cannon, Dan Doucette, Phil Doucette, John Lannon, and Brendan Minnehan for all their hard work this summer in getting the school ready for the start of the 2008-2009 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!

McCall Middle School Statement Of Purpose

McCall Middle School exists 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.

From the Co-Presidents:

Robin Wolf and Susan Verdicchio
president@mccallpa.org

The **McCall Parents' Association** is an important and active part of McCall. We are dedicated to creating a strong sense of community, facilitating school-family communication, and encouraging volunteer opportunities for parents. We also support the school financially by funding enrichment programs, extracurricular activities, and intramurals, and much more. Our fundraising is done through an annual **Direct Appeal**. The Direct Appeal is the only fund raising we do for our many programs, so please be as generous as you can. You will have an opportunity to contribute at the **McCall Open House on September 23rd**, or look for the Direct Appeal solicitation elsewhere in this newsletter. 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**. Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of the month in the McCall Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m. (There will be no morning meetings this year since a portion of the Library is being used as a classroom during construction.) The schedule of meetings for the upcoming year is listed below. These meetings provide an opportunity to meet with the principal, assistant principal and other parents to learn first-hand what is happening at McCall. They 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 9 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 3rd from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. in the McCall cafeteria. (Please check in at the Office in case of last-minute location changes due to construction.) 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 Parent 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 everyone 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. Elementary school newsletter editors have also provided us with addresses for incoming 6th grade parents. If you are reading the print version of this newsletter and have not received the email version, **please take a second now to subscribe** by going to the McCall Parents Association Website. (HYPERLINK "http://www.mccallpa.org" www.mccallpa.org.) Email is a very effective, cost-effective and timely way to stay informed, so please remember to subscribe!

We **thank the communications team** of Sue Carney, Becky Miranda and Rachel Roll for all their hard work this summer in maintaining and updating the web site and email database, and compiling the print and electronic editions of the newsletter.

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 **6th Grade Enrichment**, and **Publicity**. An additional **Wish List coordinator** is also needed. You can sign up by contacting Co-Presidents Robin Wolf or Susan Verdicchio, or at the Welcome Coffee on the first morning of school, or the McCall Open House on Tuesday, September 23rd. (To volunteer for Wish List, please contact Louise Van Gelder.) Contact information is listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you at the first Parents' Association meeting on Tuesday, September 9th 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 Meeting Schedule 2008/2009

All parents and guardians are invited and encouraged to attend:

- Tuesday, September 9, 2008
- Tuesday, October 14, 2009
- Tuesday, November 4, 2008
- Tuesday, December 9, 2008
- Tuesday, January 6, 2009
- Tuesday, February 10, 2009
- Tuesday, March 10, 009
- Tuesday, April 14, 2009
- Tuesday, May 12, 2009
- Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Notes from the Nurse

Joan Wallwork, R.N.

Welcome Back to School!

A special welcome to all new students, parents and guardians; I hope to get to know you as soon as possible and I look forward to working with you and your children.

Please look at the Health Office Policies that are included in the Student Handbook.

When filling out the **EMERGENCY INFORMATION** form that will be sent home the first day of school please note any allergy information. If you wish your child to receive any Tylenol or Ibuprofen for simple headaches or other minor pain, please sign the permission and fill in the dosage included on the form. Please feel free to call me at any time during the day or email me at jwallwork@winchester.k12.ma.us.

From the Library

Jane Henchey

Literary Lunch

For the fourteenth year, sixth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in our Intergenerational Literary Lunch Program. Over the course of the school year the program will take place seven times, alternating between the Jenks Center and McCall Library. The first group to participate will be volunteers from Mrs. Daniel's Language Arts classes. They will have read Messenger by Lois Lowry in preparation. In October those students will walk to the Jenks Center where they will discuss the book while they enjoy pizza. The program, developed and nurtured by former McCall Librarian, Gerry Driscoll, is regarded as one of the best book programs in the area. Thank you to the Winchester Cooperative Bank and the McCall Parents' Association who have continuously funded the program!

Library Orientation

At the beginning of the school year sixth grader students, with their language arts teacher, visit the library for orientation. The librarian provides students with an overview of the library, which

includes available resources and their location and the library's policies and procedures. The librarian also gives each student a bookmark detailing the policies. Students will also have an opportunity to check out books.

Volunteers

Once a month would you have two hours to spare? If so, would you be willing to volunteer at the McCall Library. We need volunteers to help with circulating, processing, and shelving books. If you are interested in volunteering, please send me an e-mail stating your name and the day of the week and the time (8:00 – 10:00, 10:00 – 12:00, or 12:00 – 2:00) that you would be available. My e-mail address is jhenchey@winchester.k12.ma.us.

Wellness Department, Grades 6-8

Jeannine 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. The Wellness Department is continuing to refine the newly developed comprehensive Health Science curriculum at all levels and are now focusing on developing a comprehensive Physical Education curriculum with a focus on lifetime fitness. Both the Health Science and Physical Education courses are taught in a co-educational 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 and the male and female reproductive system 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. 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, safe dating practices and health relationships 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 de-emphasized and the focus on strengthening one's fitness level, group cooperation, and attainment of personal goals is emphasized. Last year, a new fitness component, the "Dynamic Warm-up" was created by Donna Gildersleeve and Michael Kasprzak. This daily warm-up

engages students in a variety of fitness exercises that help them to develop both skill and health related components of fitness. In addition to the "Dynamic Warm-up", students will be engaged in a variety of physical 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.

Notes from the Guidance Office

We are pleased to have Guidance Counselor; Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant at McCall 4 full days (**Monday – Thursday**) for the coming school year '08-'09 as a result of our growing middle school enrollment. **Christine will continue working closely with counselors; Becky Jacques, Grade 6, Shareen Dolan, Grade 7, and Melissa Suvack, Grade 8 to support the students assigned to her across three grade levels.** "I'm excited to be part of an exceptional team of counselors during this time of increased enrollment and look forward to the start of a new school year!"

Students with last names beginning with (listed below) are assigned to Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant.

- Grade 6th A Team - A to Ko
- Grade 7th Marathoner A to Kie
- Grade 8th Silver A to Lac

Questions please call Christine Nunziato-Bonenfant at 781-721-7026, ext: 1125 or cnbonenfant@winchester.k12.ma.us.

Parent Conversations

Phyllis Greenspan

Tuesday, October 7th,

8:45am at McCall Middle School

SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN - IT'S PERMISSION!

It's that time again- the new school year begins! We welcome back returning parents and look forward to meeting the parents of our new sixth graders. **PARENT CONVERSATIONS**, now in its fifth year, is an informal monthly meeting of parents, McCall staff and faculty, and representatives of the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition. Our purpose is to offer a time and place to address the many questions, concerns, and decisions that middle school parents face daily. Middle School is not elementary school, but it is an exciting, welcoming, and supportive environment, so join us for coffee and conversation - be a part of the McCall Community!

Our first meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 7th at 8:45am. (For our 'regulars,' please note the change of day) Monthly meetings will take place the first Tuesday of each month. Please sign in at the main office.

Hope to see you on the 7th, and, oh yes, do bring a friend! Let's talk!

Questions? Please contact Phyllis Greenspan, Clinical Counselor:

pgreenspan@winchester.k12.ma.us; or Liz Silva, Director of the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition: esilva@winchester.us.

McCall Open House Hospitality:

The Open House for parents of all McCall Middle School students will be held the evening of Tuesday, September 23, 2008. Hospitality (beverages and snacks) will be set up in the cafeteria. Donations of desserts (such as cookies, brownies, etc.) as well as light snacks and finger foods are needed and most welcome!

Please contact either Hilary Grant (781-721-5116; hgrant5116@verizon.net) or Marie Saba (781-729-4128; msaba62@verizon.net) if you are able to contribute. Donations may be dropped off in the cafeteria just before the start of the evening events on disposable platters or bowls. Many thanks!

McCall Parents' Association Direct Appeal

Once again the Parents' Association has set an ambitious fundraising goal for the annual 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 such as Authorfest, the monthly parent association newsletter, teacher support and appreciation, library funding and other valuable programs.

There are many ways for you to contribute to the direct appeal: mail a check (payable to the McCall Parents' Association) with this form to Martha Sampson, Assistant Treasurer, at 16 Salisbury Street, Winchester, MA; drop a check with the form off at the McCall Main Office; bring a check to the Open House in September; or use PayPal.

Please consider donating as it does benefit the students and teachers at McCall.

Thank you!

Name of student(s) _____ Grade(s) _____

Contribution: \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ \$150 _____ Other \$ _____

Name(s) of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) _____

It's Yearbook time again!!!!

Check this one off your "To Do" list.

Order now and save on the **ALL COLOR** McCall Yearbook with hundreds of great pictures of your child's middle school year.

Send your check for \$45.00 made out to the McCall Middle School Yearbook to the office today.

Please make sure your child's name and grade are in the check memo.

Please contact Cydney Ambrose at HYPERLINK "mailto:Csaphoto@aol.com"

Csaphoto@aol.com with your questions.

SAVE THE DATE:**Michael Fowlin--December 15, 2008**

The McCall Middle School PTA, in conjunction with the Winchester Substance Abuse Coalition and the Multicultural Network, is pleased to announce that it will bring nationally recognized clinical psychologist and actor, Michael Fowlin, to Winchester on December 15, 2008. Dr. Fowlin will do two presentations of his thought-provoking show, "You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me" to the students of McCall, as well as an encore performance for all Winchester parents that evening at 7:30 pm. Dr. Fowlin's presentations focus on issues of diversity and personal identity, with a strong message of tolerance and inclusion. During the 75-minute presentation, Dr. Fowlin transforms himself into eight student characters of different backgrounds facing a variety of issues both in and out of the classroom. Using humor and emotion, Dr. Fowlin challenges his audiences to face the impact of ignorance and fear and to become more empathetic towards others. For more information on Dr. Fowlin's programs, please visit his website at www.michaelfowlin.com.

Winchester Youth Center

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 10th 6:30-8:00pm**

Come have a look at the WYC and learn more about all of our amazing youth groups, daily activities, community service opportunities, and special events! At the Open House you'll have an opportunity to meet Winchester's Youth Coordinator Rebecca Levine and the WYC Peer Leaders, get answers to all of your questions, and pick up membership applications. The WYC will also be open during the McCall School Open House on September 23rd. Feel free to stop by and check us out!

WYC 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 and the Peer Leaders provides a safe, supervised space where kids can have fun while interacting responsibly. Sixth-twelfth graders are all welcome to 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.

Please note: the Drop-in Center is open to WYC Members only and students are welcome to come and go on a completely voluntary, drop-in basis. Membership is \$40 for the year and is non-refundable. The Drop-in Center will be open on September 8th-12th for students to experience and explore. We will also have an Open House on Wednesday, September 10th so that parents can see what it's all about! Beginning Monday, September 15th 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 8th.

The WYC Drop-in Center features various activities organized by the Peer Leaders everyday from 3:00-5:00. Daily activities include sports, arts & crafts, and video game/game table tournaments. The schedule of activities changes according to members' interests.

The Drop-in Center also features a fully functioning homework room, furnished with new computers. All members are required to agree to and sign a PC User Agreement form in order to use the computers. The homework room is 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 the 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 \$50 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 19th for 7th and 8th graders, we hope to see you all there! Please check our website for other Activity Night dates.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

ABS: Anti-Bullying Squad

If you are an eighth grader who is caring, confident, responsible, and outgoing then we want you for the Anti-Bullying Squad! 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". Please contact the WYC immediately if you are interested. Students will be trained by the WYC Peer Leaders and will begin their ABS service at the beginning of the school year.

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 about the important issues they face as middle schoolers. The group will meet every Wednesday evening from 7:30-8:30 pm beginning September 17th; 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 5th. Anyone who is interested in this program should come to Discover on Wednesday evenings beginning September 17th.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Throughout the year the WYC Peer Leaders coordinate and participate in a huge variety of community service projects. The Peer Leaders are committed to making a positive difference in the world and encouraging others to do the same. If you're interested in doing something good for our community, stop by the WYC and find out how you can get involved. Please check out our website for a complete description of our service efforts.

WYC 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 handcrafted 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. Please check our website to find dates of upcoming jewelry parties.

Lowell Wish Project: Collection of Pots & Pans, Jeans, and Baby Items

The Lowell Wish Project provides emergency, basic, and seasonal goods to low income families in the Merrimack Valley. The Peer Leaders volunteer several times throughout the year sorting and organizing donated items are collecting a wide variety of greatly needed items including new/lightly used pots & pans, jeans for school-aged children, clothing and other gear for babies. We respectfully request that all items be in new/lightly used condition. 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.

Animal Rescue League: Collection of Dog & Cat Toys and Cotton Towels

The Animal Rescue League of Boston is a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment, and neglect. The Peer Leaders are collecting clean cotton bath towels and new dog & cat toys to donate to their 3 local shelters. 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.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

The Peer Leaders are organizing a team to participate in the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Boston on October 5th. Please check out our website or contact us at the WYC to find out how you can make a donation to this tremendous cause for the American Cancer Society.

Woburn Food Pantry: Non-Perishable Food Collections

Each month the Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters go door-to-door in Winchester neighborhoods to collect food for the Woburn Council of Social Concern's food pantry. On Sunday, October 19th we will be all over town trick-or-treating for non-perishable items. Please contact the WYC if you have food items that you would like to donate and be on the lookout for flyers saying that we're coming to your neighborhood. We will also be out in November and December collecting for the holiday season.

Habitat for Humanity

For 3 years the Peer Leaders have participated in a weeklong service-learning project with Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for needy families. Throughout this school year we are going to work with Habitat for Humanity Boston and work to make a difference in our local communities. During April vacation we will travel to a different area of the country to participate in our fourth annual weeklong service trip.

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

The District Technology Committee would like to extend an invitation for parents and community members interested in joining the committee to an informational session on October 8, 2008, at the Lynch Elementary School Library from 7-9 pm. The District Technology Committee has been instrumental in creating the Winchester Technology Plan and guiding the district conversation relating to technology. New comers are welcome.

The District Technology Plan is located at

<http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us/technology/technologyinfo.htm>.

-If you have any further questions please contact Annamaria Schrimpf, Director of Educational Technology at 781-721-7007 or email <mailto:aschrimpf@winchester.k12.ma.us>.

**Help! The Paper's Due Tomorrow: Internet class for students and/or their parents
Tuesday, September 30, 7:00pm at the Winchester Public Library**

Find reliable, teacher-approved information for your papers, even when we're closed!

Access full-text reference books, journal articles and newspaper stories through the library website with the use of your library card. Learn how to use this wealth of information to make life less stressful and schoolwork more successful. For more information or to register, call the Winchester Library Reference Desk at 781-721-7171 ext. 20.

International Peace Day Celebration

International residents are invited to sign up for fall activities, including English Conversation groups, at the Winchester Public Library's celebration on International Peace Day on Saturday, September 20, 2008 between 10:00am and 2:00pm in Town Hall and the Library's Meeting

Room. Representatives from the International Connections Committee of the Multicultural Network will have a table with information and sign-up sheets.

The Library's celebration will include international entertainment from 10:00am to noon in the Town Hall auditorium with international snacks, and from noon to 2:00pm there will be international craft activities in the Library Meeting Room. This is free and all are welcome! If you have friends or neighbors from other countries, be sure to bring them. This is part of our library's welcoming outreach to international families and the Multicultural Network will be part of this wonderful event. Please call Sandy Thompson at 781-729-8063 or at Sandra.thompson3@comcast.net with your questions.

Parent-to-Parent Presents: Who Are You Voting For, Mom? Talking to Children about Power, Leadership, and the Presidential Election.

Dr. Petra Hesse will answer questions such as: How do children understand power, political leadership and government? What do they know about their own and other countries? How do they make sense of personal and political conflict? Dr. Hesse will provide an overview of the development of children's political understanding from early childhood to adolescence, and will make some recommendations for political discussions and how to deal with the emotions that come up with children and youth during this election season.

Dr. Petra Hesse is an associate professor of human development at Wheelock College. She holds graduate degrees in child development and international relations, has done research on children's understanding of the enemy and war, and teaches a class on children's political lives at Wheelock College.

Please join us Thursday, October 2, 7:30 - 9:30pm at Winchester High School, Social Studies Open Area. For more information: www.parenttoparentwinchester.org.

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

Please join us for a talk with Winchester's School Superintendent William McAlduff. Mr. McAlduff will engage in an open dialogue with parents of elementary, middle, and high school students regarding a wide range of concerns. He will discuss the current state of the school district after his first year here and the progress of his short and long term goals for 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.

Thursday, October 16th from 7:30- 9:00pm in the Social Studies Open Area at Winchester High School.

Art Octoberfest

Saturday, October 4, 2008, Noon –4:00pm at the Sanborn House, Sponsored by Winchester Friends of Art.

Activities & Events

Pumpkin Painting, Mask Decorating, Parent – Child Team Pumpkin Carving Contest. \$10.00 Sign – up Fee includes Pumpkin, but bring your own tools for carving. Register at [HYPERLINK "mailto:winchesterfoa@hotmail.com"](mailto:winchesterfoa@hotmail.com) winchesterfoa@hotmail.com.

WHS Art Students: Handmade mugs for sale, cider by WHS families and Consumer Science Department.

(Sales benefit Winchester K-12 Art Program & Connect and Commit Program.)

The Winchester Co-operative Theatre will be holding Auditions for this Fall's middle school musical:

“The Music Man”

Auditions will be held on Monday, Sept 8th & Tuesday, Sept 9th at the Winchester High School Auditorium from 3:00-5:30pm. Auditions are open to all Winchester children in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The show dates are November 14th 15th and 16th.

For more information, please visit us at <http://geocities.com/cooptheatre/> or call 781-729-0224.

McCall Parents' Association Board 2008-2009

Co-Presidents	Robin Wolf	721-0817	
	president@mccallpa.org		
	Susan Verdicchio	721-0441	
	president@mccallpa.org		
Secretary	Brian Rogers	721-7867	info@mccallpa.org
Treasurer	Leah Holber	(617) 640-8128	
	treasurer@mccallpa.org		
Box Tops	Sandy Reismann	729-1219	info@mccallpa.org
Direct Appeal	Martha Sampson	721-5143	
	directappeal@mccallpa.org		
Directory	Patty Castro	756-0098	info@mccallpa.org
8th Grade	Patty Castro	756-0098	
	Grade8@mccallpa.org		
	Audrey Loria	729-1671	
	Grade8@mccallpa.org		

Enrichment	Anne Marie Hill	(617) 359-4394	
	enrichment@mccallpa.org		
	Gail Freeman	721-1909	
	enrichment@mccallpa.org		
	OPEN* (6th Grade)		
Gifts	Leigh Kelliher	756-0433	info@mccallpa.org
Library/Scheduling	Kirstie Miller	721-0527	info@mccallpa.org
Library/Book Fair	Heidi Driscoll	729-8007	info@mccallpa.org
	Paula Michienzi	729-8935	info@mccallpa.org
E-Newsletter/Web	Rachel Roll	369-1109	
	webmaster@mccallpa.org		
Newsletter, E-Calendar/Notices	Sue Carney	729-5078	
	newsletter@mccallpa.org		
E-Data Base	Becky Miranda	729-0913	
	newsletter@mccallpa.org		
Open House	Marie Saba	729-4128	info@mccallpa.org
	Hilary Grant	721-5116	info@mccallpa.org
Publicity	OPEN*		
School Store	Lisa deRosa	729-3827	
	mccallstore@mccallpa.org		
Special Ed	Phil Arsenault	721-9594	info@mccallpa.org
Substance Abuse Coalition	Jodie Mullane	721-0484	info@mccallpa.org
Teacher Luncheon	Nancy Hickey	729-1892	info@mccallpa.org
Technology	OPEN*		
Wish List**	Louise Van Gelder	721-7379	info@mccallpa.org
	wishlist@mccallpa.org		
	OPEN*		

Coordinators of Activity Night Chaperones

6th Grade	Regina Hain	721-5402	info@mccallpa.org
7th Grade	Kim Gladstone	729-5799	info@mccallpa.org
8th Grade	Cindy Hale	721-2458	info@mccallpa.org

*For information on open positions, or to volunteer, please contact Robin Wolf or Susan Verdicchio (president@mccallpa.org)

**The Wish List operates independently of the McCall Parents Association Board, but is included on this list for the convenience of the McCall community.

McCall Middle School Calendar of Events 2008-2009

- Wednesday, September 3- 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 9- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Tuesday, September 23- McCall Open House- 7:00 p.m. Parent Meetings all grades at 6:15 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 24- McCall School Picture Day
- Tuesday, October 14- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, October 22, Thursday, October 23, Friday, October 24- Parent Conferences
- Tuesday, October 28- McCall School Picture Make-up Day
- Tuesday, November 4- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Tuesday, December 9- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, December 17- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Instrumental Concert
- Tuesday, January 6- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Tuesday, January 13- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Choral Concert
- Friday, January 16- 1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly
- Thursday, January 22- 9:00 a.m.- 5th Grade Special Education Parent/Guardian Meeting at McCall
- Thursday, January 29- 8:00 a.m.- 8th Grade Special Education Parent/Guardian Meeting at High School
- Tuesday, February 10- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, March 2- 8:00 a.m.- Grade 8 WHS Orientation Assembly- Tom Gwin
- Monday, March 2- 7:00 p.m.- Grade 8 Parents & Guardians WHS Orientation- WHS Auditorium
- Monday, March 9- Grade 6 and 7 Parents & Guardians Orientation Program- 7:00 p.m., McCall Auditorium
- Tuesday, March 10- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Wednesday, March 11, Thursday, March 12, Friday, March 13- Parent Conferences
- Monday, March 23 through Friday, March 27- proposed 8th Grade Washington, D.C. Trip
- Monday, April 6- Grade 5 Parents & Guardians Orientation Program- 7:00 p.m., McCall Auditorium
- Week of April 13- Grade 5 Meetings in Elementary Schools
- Tuesday, April 14- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, May 4- 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.- Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- Tuesday, May 12- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Monday, June 1- 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.- Moving Up Day- Grades 5-8
- Monday, June 1- 7:30 p.m.- McCall Instrumental Concert
- Wednesday, June 3- 7:30 p.m.- McCall Choral Concert
- Thursday, June 4- 7:30 p.m.- 8th Grade Awards Assembly
- Tuesday, June 9- 7:00 p.m.- McCall Parents Association Meeting
- Weeks of June 8 and June 15- Final Exams- Early Release Days- 6/16, 6/17, 6/18
- Wednesday, June 17- 8th Grade Canobie Lake Trip
- Thursday, June 18- Final Exams Review, Final Exam Makeup Day, Last Day of School if No Snow Days, 8th Grade Graduation and Celebration Dance- 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

September 2008 Public Access

Category: All

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	01 Labor Day	02 Staff Returns- Faculty Meeting, 10:15am in McCall Cafeteria	03 1st day of school for all students Grade 6- 7:45-10:40am. Grades 7th and 8th- 11:30am-2:15pm. Grade 6th-Parents coffee 7:30-8:30am in cafeteria	04 Day 1	05 Day 2	06
07 (Week 37)	08 Day 3 McCall Faculty Meeting-2:30pm in McCall library Auditions-Winchester Co-operative Theatre- 3:00-5:30pm, WHS auditorium	09 Day 4 McCall Parents Association Meeting-7:00pm- McCall Library Auditions- Winchester Co-operative Theatre-3:00-5:30pm-WHS auditorium	10 Day 5	11 Day 6 October Parents Association Newsletter Deadline-2:30pm	12 Day 1	13
14 (Week 38)	15 Day 2	16 Day 3	17 Day 4	18 Day 5	19 Day 6 Grades 7&8 Activity Night- 7:30-10:0pm in Gym and Youth Center	20
21 (Week 39)	22 Day 1	23 Day 2 McCall Open House-7:00-9:00pm, Parent Meetings- All grades 6:15-7:00pm.	24 Day 3 McCall Picture Day	25 Day 4	26 Day 5	27
28 (Week 40)	29 Professional Day- No School	30 Day 6 Rosh Hashanah				