

# McCall Middle School Parents' Association Newsletter

## September 2010

### From the Principal

*Ralph 'Skip' Marotta, Interim Principal*

**WELCOME to a new school year at McCall.** Our beautiful building and grounds are ready thanks to the great work of our custodial staff: Dan Doucette, Steve Cannon, Brendan Minnehan, John Lannon, and Phil Doucette. With the help of Technology Director Annamaria Schimpf and the WPS Technology Department, McCall's student computers have been upgraded in the library and in each classroom and our new mobile computer carts are ready for teachers to use for instructional purposes. Special thanks to Registrar Diana Deering, Secretary Carol McGrath, and Susan Malatesta for overseeing the variety of tasks associated with the transition to a new school year.

**VICE PRINCIPAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** Our new administrative team is in place. With my thanks to the members of the A.P. Search Committee including Ms. Pickering, Ms. Walker, Ms. Lynn King, Mr. McGeehan, Ms. Marchese, Ms. Costello, Ms. LaMuraglia, Ms. Deering, and PTO Presidents Paula Michienzi, Anne Marie Hill, and Susan Verdicchio (former President), I am pleased to report that Superintendent McAlduff has appointed **Ms. Jeannine Lavoie** as Interim Assistant Principal at McCall Middle School. Ms. Lavoie has been a teacher of Health/Family and Consumer Sciences and Physical Education for 23 years, the past 21 years at McCall. While teaching, she has served as Wellness Director for the past five years and prior to that role, as Health/Family and Consumer Science Director for five years. In 2004 she was named the Massachusetts Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lavoie has a Masters of Education in School Administration from Salem State College. Superintendent McAlduff has also appointed **Ms. Leslie West** as McCall's new Assistant Principal. Ms. West has served 11 years as an educator in Lawrence, MA. For the first five years, she was a teacher and a Curriculum Facilitator of Middle School English and Language Arts. For the last six years, Ms. West has been an Assistant Principal at the Middle School Level at both the Guilmette School (Grades 1-8) and the Leonard Middle School. Ms. West has completed the National Institute for School Leadership executive training program and she has a Masters of Education in School Leadership from Cambridge College. Ms. West is a lifelong resident of Winchester and a graduate of the Winchester Public Schools. I look forward to working with these outstanding educators.

**ADDITIONAL STAFF:** We also have a new learning center teacher, Ms. Kacie Power, joining us at McCall after several years working at the Lynch School. Ms. Power will be responsible for providing instruction and support for Special Education students in all three grades at McCall. Replacing Ms. Alison Pomerantz, who has moved to Montana with her daughter and husband as he pursues his medical career, is Ms. Jaime Bailey, our new Grade 7 English/ Language Arts teacher on the Globetrotters Team. Ms. Bailey comes to McCall with substantial teaching experience and degrees from Queens College and Boston College. Ms. Valerie Jacobs, Ms. Erin Madden, and Ms. Michelle Murphy will be joining us as Special Education Teaching Assistants. Congratulations and welcome.

**The first school day is Wednesday, September 8th.**

**Grade 6, 7:45am – 10:40am**

**Grades 7 and 8: 11:30am – 2:15pm**

**Grade 6 students should meet outside the auditorium. At 7:45** they will be directed into the auditorium for a brief meeting with School Safety Officer Tom Groux, School Resource Officer Steve Palmer, Captain Rick Tustin of the Fire Department, Rebecca Levine of the Youth Center, and members of the McCall staff before going off to their homerooms to meet their teachers and teammates. Officer Groux will speak about walking safely to and from school and reiterate his message about vehicular safety in our school drop-off areas. This has been a major concern of our McCall School Council. **We need every parent to exercise utmost care in the drop-off and pick-up areas in front of McCall and along Mystic Valley Parkway in the back. Please drop off students at curb-side only. Remember the rear parking area and driveway are for buses and staff parking only.** Thanks to the work of the School Council, there have been a number of signage and lighting improvements along the roadways surrounding McCall. There will also be an additional crossing guard stationed in the front of the building and limited funding for a newly assigned p.m. crossing guard on Mystic Valley Parkway through the end of the calendar year. However, parents are our most important resource for improved traffic safety. Your help is vital and I thank you in advance

for your caution and cooperation during our busy before-school arrivals and after-school departures. Officer Palmer will talk about school safety and explain his role as our School Resource Officer and the implications of Massachusetts' newly enacted Anti-Bullying Law for Winchester Public Schools and McCall in particular. Captain Rick Tustin will review Fire/Emergency Safety Procedures with students, while Ms. Levine will outline the opportunities offered by the Recreation Department's Youth Drop-In Center located at the back of McCall. **Dismissal time is 10:40 for Grade 6 students.**

**Grade 7 students should convene in the auditorium and Grade 8 students should report to the cafeteria at 11:30 am** for similar programs. **These two grades will be dismissed at 2:15pm.** No lunches will be served.

**Thursday, September 9 and Friday, September 10 are regular school days and the cafeteria will be open.**

We recognize that some students will be absent for religious observation on September 9 and 10. You and your child should know that our staff is prepared to provide accommodations so that all students are successfully introduced to McCall.

**EDLINE REGISTRATION:** To maximize school-home communication, McCall will be fully implementing our Edline system which provides parents with online, up-to-date information about student classes, team activities, grades, etc. for both our trimester and our semester-based Core and Exploratory courses. We have provided Edline presentations about how to activate your Edline account at our spring Parent Orientation meetings. An informative video clip prepared for Northwood Middle School about the process is available on-line at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8wFSwWtSv8>. Additional information will be provided at our Open House on September 22nd. **Please take advantage of this great communication tool by activating your Edline Account as soon as possible after receiving your activation code in the mail shortly before school starts.**

**LUNCH PURCHASE SYSTEM:** Before schools starts, you will receive a special letter from me about our Point of Sale (POS) lunch purchase system. We began the POS system four years ago to speed up the lunch lines so students would have more time to eat. This is a cashless "debit" computer system that eliminates the need to pay cash each day for meals. If you wish to have your child participate in the POS system, he/she will need to have a prepaid account (lunch payments can be made online or before school begins each day in the Cafeteria). In the letter that you will receive, you will get more 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).

**HOMEWORK POLICY:** After nearly two years of work, the McCall School Council has adopted a new homework policy for McCall. Special thanks to the faculty and parents who spearheaded this effort. Please take a moment to read the policy which is printed later in this newsletter.

**GRADE 6 STUDY SKILLS:** We are also proud to introduce a new Study Skills Program in Grade 6 this year which offers Core content-based opportunities for our students to develop excellent study habits. All of our Grade 6 teachers and many other staff members have received professional training about this program and are enthusiastic about its potential to improve student performance. The program will be assessed at year's end and the analysis shared with Grade 7 and 8 faculty members for their review and coordination.

**OPEN HOUSE:** At this year's **Open House on September 22nd from 7:00 to 9:00 pm**, you will be able to meet your child's teachers and be introduced to his/her courses. More information will be brought home by your child as the date approaches. **Grade 8 parents are invited to attend a special meeting at 6:15 in the auditorium for information about the proposed Grade 8 trip to Washington, D.C. tentatively scheduled for the week of March 28, 2011.**

**PICTURE DAY: September 22nd is also School Picture Day** and information will be sent home with your child a few days prior to Picture Day.

**DANCE SCHEDULE—SAVE THE DATES:** In other news, in light of increased enrollment at all grade levels, the McCall School Council has voted to help sponsor single grade level school dances. Admission has been increased to \$10. This increase will help support our extracurricular activity program. Doors open for all dances at 7:30. Pick up time is 9:30 PROMPTLY for Grade 6 and Grade 7, and 10:00 PROMPTLY for Grade 8.

- Grade 8 dances are scheduled for Fridays September 24<sup>th</sup>, 12/17, 3/11 and graduation evening.
- Grade 7 dances are scheduled for Fridays, 10/15, 1/21, and 4/8.
- Grade 6 dances are scheduled for Fridays, 11/5, 2/11, and 5/20.

#### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

**Please note the following important procedures/policies that will be in effect this year at McCall Middle School:**

- All visitors must report to the Main Office to sign in and out and to get a Visitor's Badge.
- The Winchester Public Schools supports a free and reduced lunch program. All McCall Middle School students will receive information about this program to take home on the first day of school. An application is included with this information. Additional information is available at the Winchester Public Schools Website: [www.winchester.k12.ma.us](http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us).
- All doors except the main entrance in the front of the building will be locked to the outside by 8:15am.
- 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.
- Skateboarding and rollerblading 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.
- 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 9/8. State law requires these immunizations. Please call 781-721-7026 if you have any questions.

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 regarding whether or not the requested days will be recorded as excused absences. I strongly urge your support of our daily, on-time attendance policy!

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 but important challenge we face as adults who live and work with middle school children. With the importance of this challenge in mind, I request that you help your McCall student remember the main items he or she needs to take to school such as lunch, books, homework, instrument, appointment notices, etc. **New this year, we will not be using the Public Address System to call students to the office 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.

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 take the time to read this document as it outlines what we try to accomplish with your children at a critical transitional stage in their lives.

**COMMUNITY THANKS:** I want to extend a special **thank you to those businesses that have contributed to our extracurricular activity programs** for the 2010-2011 school year. They include the **John and Mary Murphy Foundation, Litho-Craft Inc., Book Ends, WINCAM, O'Connor Studios, Winchester Cooperative Bank, Pairings Wine and Food, and Fresh Touch**. We want to maintain and expand our extracurricular offerings. We believe they are an integral part of our middle school, offering opportunities for our students to develop their

interests and competencies in meaningful ways. If your business or organization can support us with a donation- large or small- please contact our McCall Parents' Association Co-Presidents or me directly. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged in this newsletter on a regular basis.

In closing, I am honored to be serving as McCall's Interim Principal and I sincerely look forward to helping provide an engaging and productive school experience for each and every student at McCall. Please don't hesitate to contact us at 781-721-7026 with any questions or concerns.

### **From the Co-Presidents**

*Paula Michienzi and Anne Marie Hill*

[president@mccallpa.org](mailto: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 communications, and encouraging volunteer opportunities for parents. We also support the school financially by funding enrichment programs, extracurricular activities, 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 beginning of the school year and at the **McCall Open House**, which is scheduled for **Wednesday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Our success depends on the involvement and support of the McCall families.

**Community-**We encourage 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents to join us for an informal **Welcome Coffee** on the first morning of school, **Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30am in the McCall Library**. This is a great way to reconnect with friends after the summer, meet new people, get acquainted with volunteer opportunities and ask questions about the first days of school.

We also encourage and invite 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 Library and alternate monthly between evenings (7pm) and mornings (9am). Our first meeting will take place **Tuesday evening September 14 at 7pm**. These meetings provide an opportunity to meet with the principal and other parents and 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.

**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 our newsletter are two weekly email blasts, the first on Sunday evenings regarding school events and second on Thursday evenings regarding community events.

Our main means of communication is through email. We use a service, Constant Contact, to maintain our email list. We do not share our email list with any business or organization. We do pass email addresses on to Winchester High School in the Spring, after asking for exclusions from the outgoing 8<sup>th</sup> grade families, so that the High School can communicate effectively with you when your family moves up. If at any time you do not wish to receive email from us, Constant Contact has a simple button to click to unsubscribe from our mailing list or to select which mailing lists you want to be on. For example, if you have a 6<sup>th</sup> grader you would only get 6<sup>th</sup> grade specific news if you are on the "Class of 2017" mailing list.

This month's newsletter is the *only newsletter* that will be automatically mailed to you. **To continue receiving the News from McCall, please either sign up for the electronic method using the "Join our mailing list" box on [www.mccallpa.org](http://www.mccallpa.org), or, if you do not have an email account and need for a hard copy to be mailed, please send a written request to the McCall office, c/o The McCall Newsletter, with your name, child's name and grade, and the address to which we should mail the newsletter.** Please be aware that it saves us thousands of dollars in copy costs and postage by using email so we greatly appreciate your efforts to receive the news by email. Thank you.

**Volunteer Opportunities**-There are many ways to get involved at McCall. We need parent chaperones at the Dances, library volunteers and school store volunteers. In addition the 8<sup>th</sup> grade committee will need additional committee members. If you would like to volunteer please contact the Co- Presidents, Paula Michienzi or Anne Marie Hill at [president@mccallpa.org](mailto:president@mccallpa.org).

**We look forward to seeing you at either the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Coffee on Sept 8 at 7:30 am or the first Parents' Association Meeting on Tuesday evening Sept 14 at 7:00pm!!!!** 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.

### **2010-2011 Parents' Association Meeting Dates**

Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of the month in the McCall School Library and alternate between morning and evening times. All Parents and Guardians are invited and encouraged to attend.

Tuesday, September 14, 2010 7:00pm

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 9:00am

Tuesday, November 9, 2010 7:00pm

Tuesday, December 14, 2010 9:00am

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 7:00pm

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 9:00am

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 7:00pm

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:00am

Tuesday, April 26, 2011 7:00pm **\*\*Informal Parent Orientation for Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade Parents**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 7:00pm

Tuesday, June 7, 2011 9:00am

### **2010-2011 Dance Schedule**

Due to increasing enrollment and limited space in the gym, this year will be a trial year for Individual Grade Dances at McCall. The Dances (as they will be referred to this year) will be run exactly as the previous Activity Nights have been run, by the McCall Administration and Student Council. There will be three dances per grade this year. The admission fee for each dance will be \$10.00. All Dances will be held in the McCall School Gym and Youth Center. Parent/Guardian volunteer chaperones will be needed for each event. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Graduation Celebration dance will also be held as in previous years, but the date will be set by the Administration and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents' Committee.

8 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, September 24, 2010	7:30pm-10:00pm
7 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, October 15, 2010	7:30pm-9:30pm
6 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, November 5, 2010	7:30pm-9:30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, December 17, 2010	7:30pm-10:00pm
7 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, January 21, 2011	7:30pm-9:30pm
6 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, February 11, 2011	7:30pm-9:30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, March 11, 2011	7:30pm-10:00pm
7 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, April 8, 2011	7:30pm-9:30pm
6 <sup>th</sup> grade – Friday, May 20, 2011	7:30pm-9:30pm

### **McCall Direct Appeal**

*Martha Sampson, Chair*

The McCall Parents' Association raises money for many valuable programs including extracurriculars, enrichment, and other programs. We generally kick off our Direct Appeal at the Open House on September 22, but if you would like to contribute before then you could send a check to Martha Sampson at 16 Salisbury Street, leave a check in the school office, or donate via paypal on the Parents' Association web site, [www.mccallpa.org](http://www.mccallpa.org). Thanks for your support and see you at Open House!

**2010-2011 McCALL SCHOOL DIRECTORY**

If you would like to be included in the 2010-2011 McCall School Directory, please fill out the information below and return it to your child's homeroom teacher or the main office no later than September 17th. If you have any questions please call Reena Hain @781-721-5402 or email at [rrhain@comcast.net](mailto:rrhain@comcast.net).

I give the McCall Middle School Parents' Association the right to list the following information in the 2010-2011 School Directory:

Student's name (last, first) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian names \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Team \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> If you <b>WOULD NOT</b> like to be included in the School Directory please check the box and fill in the information. Student's Name (last, first) _____ Grade _____ Team _____
---

**Homework Policy**

Homework is an important component of being a successful student at McCall Middle School. **Students should expect to receive daily homework assignments in their core classes.** Homework is meant to foster student initiative, enrich classroom experiences, reinforce concepts, enhance learning skills, promote personal responsibility and inspire students to work together with their teachers to become the very best students they can be.

During the school year, students will be given a broad variety of daily, short-term, and long-term assignments. Homework assignments will vary from week to week. The time needed to complete assignments will vary from student to student. Plan to allow a block of time each day, in order to complete assigned work. At the start of the school year, set up a distraction free study environment. We believe that the student, the teacher and parents must support each other in making sure that assignments are understood, that lines of communication remain open, and that adequate time is allowed each day to complete homework assignments.

McCall Middle School faculty use a grade leveled "team" approach. Teachers work together and communicate regularly to plan the academic calendar to avoid excessive overlap of tests, quizzes and long-range projects. **It is recommended that students allow the following amount of time to complete daily homework assignments: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1-1:1/2 hours, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 1:1/2-2 hours, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 2-2:1/2 hours.**

If a student frequently spends more than this amount of time completing homework assignments, please inform your teachers or talk with your guidance counselor. Additional support may be needed.

When to "draw the line": If a student is not able to complete a nightly homework assignment, a parent/guardian may intervene and choose to draw a line to indicate the point where a student had to end working on it. Please write the date, time, and explanation for the incomplete assignment along with the parent signature. Completing the assignment will be subject to the teacher's discretion.

**Homework guidelines for students, teachers, and parents.****Students agree to:**

- Come to school each day with completed homework assignments, ready to learn and participate fully in the McCall Middle School classroom environment.
- Work with parents to set up a “focused” quiet, distraction free location to do homework.
- Pledge to do your own work. Collaborate...don't copy.
- Turn in homework that is done neatly, timely, and accurately.
- Follow teacher guidelines that are given. If they aren't clear, ASK to clarify.
- Use classroom support tools such as EdLine, teacher/team websites, Daily Planner, and weekly online calendars to assist in staying in step with current assignments, deadlines, and announcements.
- Communicate with your parents and teachers when you are unable to complete or do not understand a homework assignment.
- Use the buddy system (if applicable).
- Make up any missed assignments or tests by making individual arrangements with teachers to complete all required tests/homework in a timely manner.
- Know that homework is an important component in being a successful McCall Middle School student.

**Parents/Guardians agree to:**

- Be aware of what's being asked of your child and assist them by providing necessary school supplies and providing a quiet (distraction free) study area.
- Encourage them to do their own work. (Do not do the work for them.)
- Use the tools available at McCall to help your child succeed: check EdLine, subscribe to the school newsletter, record your teacher's e-mail address, attend parent/teacher conferences and refer to the team teacher websites regularly.
- Maintain an open line of communication with your child's teacher.
- Contact the teacher or guidance counselor if your child has frequent need for additional support in meeting homework requirements.
- Notify the school if your child must be absent so that missed homework can be provided.

**Teachers agree to:**

- Strive to give homework assignments that will not exceed the recommended range of time needed to complete the work by grade.
- Provide classroom homework guidelines to parents and students at the start of the school year along with contact information and curriculum support materials.
- Assign homework that is meaningful, enriching and related to the classroom curriculum.
- Provide a balance between short-term and long-range assignments.
- Provide written instructions for long-term/complex assignments.
- Not assign homework during vacation periods or over legal holidays.
- Not assign homework that interferes with the observance of District approved religious holidays.
- Give clear directions/instructions for homework assignments.
- Allow students time for questions and/or clarification of assignments.
- Encourage a student buddy system for homework support.
- Provide guidelines on how students can make-up required homework/tests due to absence, illness, or scheduling conflicts.
- Maintain an open line of communication with parents throughout the school year (via EdLine, team website, school newsletter, email, phone) to inform them of student status reports, upcoming events, performance tracking, etc.
- Encourage parents to use EdLine and visit teacher websites to track performance and gain access to current classroom information.
- Offer organizational assistance to students as needed to enhance study skills, test preparation, and project completion skills.
- Not give assignments over weekends that are longer than one daily assignment.

## **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.

## **Notes from the Nurse**

*Mary LaMuraglia, 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, 781-721-7026 x 1119 or email me at [mlamuraglia@winchester.k12.ma.us](mailto:mlamuraglia@winchester.k12.ma.us).

## From the Library

*Jane Henchey*

### Literary Lunch

Again 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 read *The Legend of Bass Reeves: Being the True and Fictional Account of the Most Valiant Marshal in the West* by Gary Paulsen in preparation. In October participants 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 grade 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.

### McCall Library Catalog

Students can look to see whether a book is available at McCall by looking at the Library catalog on the McCall Library Homepage. The McCall Library webpage can be accessed from the McCall Middle School Homepage. I do encourage student to tell me if there is a book that they think should be purchased for the library. Through the years many excellent books have been added to the collection because of students' requests.

## Wellness Department, (Grades 6-8)

*Jane Maloney, Wellness Educator- Health/ Family and Consumer Science*

*Donna Gildersleeve, Wellness Educator- Physical Education*

*Michael Kasprzak, Wellness Educator-Physical Education*

*Nicole Pineau, Wellness Educator- Health/ Family and Consumer Science*

Hello and welcome back to school! We are really excited to start the school year. We would like to welcome Geoff Quarles as the newest member of the McCall Wellness Team. Mr. Quarles has been teaching health and physical education at the high school and will also be teaching physical education to some of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders. 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 coeducational setting.

**6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**7<sup>th</sup> 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 & practiced.

**8<sup>th</sup> 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 healthy 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 deemphasized and the focus on strengthening one's fitness level, group cooperation, and attainment of personal goals is emphasized. The daily "Dynamic Warm-up" will continue to engage students in a variety of fitness exercises that will help them to develop both skill and health-related components of fitness. Students will also be engaged in a variety of physical activities to further develop these components. Last year, Ultimate Frisbee and Pickleball were introduced and this year, we will continue to add more of the following: 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 Jane Maloney at 781-721-7026.

## **McCall Wish List - Jump Start the School Year!!**

*Louise Van Gelder and Laura Krotky, Wish List Committee*

Welcome Back to another school year! There are many ways to show your support and appreciation for our school and teachers. Please consider a contribution to the Wish List. The Wish List supports our children and their curriculum needs directly, as well as shows support and appreciation for our teachers. Yearly, teachers spend out of their own pockets for many of these needs and truly appreciate the support provided by the Wish List. This is a wonderful way to show your gratitude and provide a few extra curriculum needs for the start of a new school year.

To view the Wish List, go to the McCall School Website:

<http://www.winchester.k12.ma.us/HomePage/McCall2000/website/index/index.html> and select Wish List from the menu on the left, or go directly to <https://www.quickbase.com/db/7mv2ed32?a=q&qid=13>. You can specify your donation for a particular item, team, or teacher, or donate to the General Wish List fund. To make a donation, please send a check, made payable to the McCall Wish List, to Louise Van Gelder, 17 Madison Ave. West, Winchester, MA 01890. Feel free to email Louise with questions at [lvangelder@verizon.net](mailto:lvangelder@verizon.net).

Thank you for your consideration and we hope this school year provides excitement through learning.

## **Box Tops for McCall**

*Anne Spies, McCall Box Top Chair*

Have You Been Saving Your "Box Tops for Education" This Summer?

Please don't forget to cut those Box Tops off of your grocery and school supply items. Cut, save and drop them off in the Box Top container found in the office. We will also have the collection bin placed in a prominent spot during the McCall Open House. Some products on which you will find Box Tops are General Mills cereals and snack bars, Pillsbury products, Cottonelle and Scott paper goods, Betty Crocker, Ziploc and Avery school and office supplies. For a more detailed list, go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Ten cents per Box Top adds up quickly if everyone makes an effort. And don't forget to enlist family members and neighbors as well. Our wish list is long and the student population is growing so help us meet the needs of our students and teachers this year by participating in the Box Tops program. Thank you in advance.

## **Winchester Special Education PAC**

### **September Meetings:**

Monday 9/13 7-8:30pm Special Education PAC meeting at McCall Library

Monday 9/27 7-9pm Out of District Social at China Sky

Please Contact Janet Boswell or Cara Falconi, Co-Chairs with any questions. [winchesterspecialpac@gmail.com](mailto:winchesterspecialpac@gmail.com)

## **Winchester Cooperative Theatre Auditions**

Auditions for the McCall musical will be held on **Monday, Sept.13 and Tuesday, Sept 14** in the auditorium from 3-5:30pm. Students entering grades six through eight are invited to try out. Please prepare a monologue for your drama audition. Rehearsals will be on Mondays, Tuesdays and some Thursdays. Tuition (\$475) will be charged.

Please check our website for more info - [www.winchesterchildrenstheatre.com](http://www.winchesterchildrenstheatre.com)

**Winchester Youth Center**

458R Main Street; 781-721-0906

[winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:winchesteryouthcenter@gmail.com) ; [www.winyc.com](http://www.winyc.com)

**It's our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary**  
**The WYC has been in its current space at McCall for 10 years**  
**Come celebrate with us!**

*If you are a teenager who wants:  
to do something good for others...something fun to do after school...  
cool events and activities to attend...to spread the word about important issues...  
to be a role model to others...to give something back to the community...  
to learn more about yourself and what you're capable of...  
...then the WYC is the place for you*

The WYC offers something for everyone, come check us out and find out how you can get involved.

**WYC DROP-IN CENTER**

The WYC Drop-in Center is open 2:15-5:00 pm on regular school days and 11:10-3:00 on early release days throughout the school year. The WYC staff provides a safe, supervised space where kids can have fun while interacting responsibly. All McCall students are 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.

**We will open our doors on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** and will be open all week long for everyone to enjoy. Please stop by to have some fun with us and pick up your membership application.

Our \$40 membership is good for the entire school-year and scholarships are available. Students can become members at any time during the year. Membership is open to all middle school students and provides access to all of the following amazing activities. Every day after school we will be doing arts and crafts projects, playing sports outside, having dance parties, and generally having a great time! This year we will also be organizing group outings on early release days and off-site adventures every other Thursday after school including mountain biking and hiking in the Fells, excursions into Boston to explore China Town, Newbury Street, The North End, and Faneuil Hall, sledding in the winter and more. We will also be organizing kickball, dodgeball, and flag football tournaments as well as pool, foosball, and Rock Band tournaments. Additionally, Peer Leaders are available daily for homework help and one-on-one tutoring. Please contact the WYC for more information about all of these programs.

**Middle School Dances**

The WYC co-sponsors monthly dances for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders with the McCall Middle School Parents' 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. All students must enter through the McCall front door. We hope to see you all there!

**LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS****DISCOVER**

Discover is the WYC's middle school Youth Group. We will meet each week throughout the school year on **Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:00 beginning Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**. Each week the WYC Peer Leaders lead the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth group members in discussions and activities on important topics. Members of Discover learn about themselves and their peers and develop the skills to make informed decisions and positive choices. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to attend.

**LITTLE BROTHERS & SISTERS**

This is a select group for 8<sup>th</sup> graders who attend Discover, want to participate in community service, and aspire to become Peer Leaders. Our Little Brothers & Sisters have been selected by the Peer Leaders who will serve as their mentors for the remainder of the school year. The Little Sisters & Brothers volunteer in the Drop-in Center after school; participate in numerous community service projects such as the Books for South Africa project, food collections for the Woburn Council of Social Concern, and Youth Service Day; 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 5:30-6:00. Anyone who is interested in this program should come to Discover on Wednesday evenings beginning September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**PACT**

PACT is the WYC's new youth group just for 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls! We have created PACT with the goals of creating a dialogue about common issues girls face going into high school and inspiring a strong sense of self. Each month we will focus on one of the following issues: Self-image, Friends, Peer Pressure, Expectations, and Relationships. Through discussion, super fun activities, and special guest appearances we hope to motivate girls to build self-confidence and the ability to think critically and carefully about all of the decisions that they will make during the important transitions they face in the near future. PACT will meet on Thursday evenings in the WYC from 5:30-7:00 beginning in the Spring. Please contact the WYC for more information.

**SERVICE PROJECTS and SPECIAL EVENTS**

Throughout the year the WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters 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 and special events and mark your calendars for all the things you won't want to miss.

**Winchester Youth Service Day**

On **Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** the WYC & Connect and Commit will co-sponsor the seventh town-wide Youth Service Day in Winchester. Hundreds of teens will be given the opportunity to participate in service projects all over town including park clean-ups, planting and beautification projects, Aberjona clean-up, and more. This amazing community service event is open to all middle and high school students. Students can register at the WYC and in the WHS Connect & Commit office. We are also searching for adults who are interested in volunteering with the students and additional service projects that we can put on our list. Please contact us at 781-721-0906 if you would like to get involved.

**WYC Jewels**

The Peer Leaders have created beautiful jewelry made of glass beads, hemp, recycled materials and more. All of our hand-crafted jewelry is on display in the WYC and can be purchased Monday-Friday from 2:00-5:00 pm. The proceeds from all jewelry sales go to benefit the WYC and our youth development programs. Check out our website for upcoming jewelry party dates.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please check out our website or contact us at the WYC to find out how you can join our team and/or make a donation to this tremendous cause for the American Cancer Society.

**Scavenger Hunt**

We are organizing a town-wide scavenger hunt in October. Select 3-5 of your quickest, smartest, stealthiest, most adventurous friends and enter your team in this super fun challenge. Teams must have a team name, costumes, and a digital camera. Trophies, medals, and other prizes will be awarded to the most cunning, most creative, and best teams. Check out our website to find out more or stop by to enter.

**Halloween Window Painting**

The WYC sponsors and organizes this town-wide annual event for children in collaboration with the Winchester Recreation Department. Participants are given the opportunity to paint the the windows of participating downtown businesses with a Halloween theme on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Peer Leaders set it all up and will be in their

Halloween costumes along with their Little Brothers & Sisters to encourage the children and present medals to all participants.

### **Halloween Horribles Parade**

The WYC, Winchester Recreation Department, and Family Action Network are co-sponsoring the second annual Halloween Horribles Parade and Party for kids on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Children of all ages are invited to meet behind the Public Library at 10am for a costume parade to Winchester Common and then go trick-or-treating at many downtown businesses. Next we will head over to the Town Hall Auditorium for a Halloween Party featuring games, crafts, and music. WYC Peer Leaders and Little Brothers & Sisters will be in their costumes to help lead the parade and then organize games and crafts for everyone at the party!

### **Lowell Wish Project**

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. Currently we 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 during the week of October 4-8.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

For the past five years the Peer Leaders have participated in a week-long service-learning project with Habitat for Humanity to help build homes for needy families. During April vacation we will travel to a different area of the country to participate in our sixth annual week-long service trip. 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 in April. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation toward this amazing service-learning experience.

### **Winchester A Better Chance**

*Bottle Drive on Saturday, September 11, 2010, from 8 am to 3pm*

The Winchester ABC Program will hold its next **Bottle Drive on Saturday, September 11, 2010, from 8 AM to 3 PM** in the parking lot behind the Sons of Italy Hall at the entrance to the transfer station. Your returnable bottles and cans help to finance the ABC Program. As always, volunteers are needed the day of the drive to help sort the bottles and cans. If you have an hour or two and can help, please know that you are welcome. For more information, please call Brian Sergenian at 781-721-0242.

### **ABC Program Fall Event**

*Saturday, October 23*

Save the date! The annual ABC fall fundraiser will be **Saturday, October 23** at the Sons of Italy in Winchester. This year's theme is a Hoedown. More information about ABC and how to purchase tickets will be available via the ABC Website at [www.winchesterabc.org](http://www.winchesterabc.org).

### **Winchester Multicultural Network**

Winchester Reads has chosen *Hope's Boy* as this fall's community read. The book, by Andrew Bridge, is a memoir of his childhood years spent in foster care.

The first program of the fall will be an evening with WBZ's Jack Williams who will discuss "Wednesday's Child" on **Thursday, September 30 at 7:30 p.m.** in the Pond Room at the Jenks Center, 109 Skillings Road. Williams has received many awards for his weekly program, created in 1981, which features a special needs child who is in need of a permanent home. The program is free and all are welcome.

### **Winchester Field Development Council**

Join the Sachem Youth Football & Cheerleading Program for a Night of Fun  
September 21, 6:30pm kickoff

On September 21, 2010 the Sachem Youth Football and Cheerleading teams will be hosting the Melrose Junior Red Raiders at Manchester Field in Winchester. Gates will be open to the public at 5:30pm. Kickoff is scheduled for 6:30pm. On this night the Sachems will be competing in their first home game of the 2010 season. The game will be highlighted with a special Halftime performance by Ernie & The Automatics (featuring Ernie Boch and Sib Hashian and Barry Goudreau from the multiplatinum selling band BOSTON). This is a family friendly event. Food and Beverages will be available for purchase at the game. Ticket sale proceeds will be donated to the Winchester Field Development Council (WFDC) for the benefit of the Phase 2 Manchester Field Renovation Project. Adult tickets will be sold for a \$5.00 donation and Students for a \$2.00 donation. Come show your community and school pride and join us for a great evening of fun.

### **Connect & Commit Welcomes Condoleezza Rice**

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7:00pm, for an evening of dialogue

The former Secretary of State will be speaking at the McCall School Auditorium in Winchester. Dr. Rice's visit is a fundraiser for Connect & Commit, Winchester's community service-learning program which, during this past school year alone, involved more than 600 students in meaningful service-learning projects both in the classroom and through their after school service club.

Dr. Rice will be on a book tour for her first autobiographical work, *Extraordinary, Ordinary People*, a story about her parents and the impact they have had on her life, from growing up in the segregated South to becoming the 66<sup>th</sup> US Secretary of State.

It will be an honor to have Dr. Rice in Winchester for this community event (the only one of its kind for Dr. Rice in the Boston area); we plan to provide her with a warm welcome and a full house. Last fall, Connect & Commit brought Madeleine Albright to Winchester, and is pleased to be able to host Dr. Rice.

Connect & Commit has been active in the Winchester Public Schools for six years. A combination of community donations and public support provide funding for the program.

### **To Get Tickets**

Tickets are \$85 and include a copy of Dr. Rice's book. They may be purchased at Book Ends in Winchester or at [www.bookendswinchester.com](http://www.bookendswinchester.com).

### **Youth Field Hockey**

Heather Carbone [hwcarbone@aol.com](mailto:hwcarbone@aol.com)

Coordinator of the Winchester Youth Field Hockey League

Youth Field Hockey returns for McCall Middle School students! Practices will be conducted by the rising stars of the Winchester High School Field Hockey team, as your instructors and coaches to your games. Practices will be on Wednesdays and Thursdays alternating between days due to game schedules of the HS teams. Practices will be from 5:30 – 6:30pm. Field location to be determined. Game schedule will be posted by the first week of September (last year they were played on Sundays between 12-4)

Just a reminder that in order for an athlete to play in the league, they must be a member of the United States Field Hockey Association ([www.usfieldhockey.org](http://www.usfieldhockey.org)). Other than that, the only other cost will be for the uniform shirt or reversible pinnie (estimated \$8.00-11.00). I will let you know as soon as I know. Once you have registered with the USFHA, please let me know so I can keep a final list of all youth participants. Any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

### **Winchester League of Women Voters**

As campaign signs sprout up on neighborhood lawns, and we look ahead to the November 2nd State Election -- as well as a potential Town Election on a Prop. 2 1/2 override for Vinson-Owen Elementary School -- please consider the important role the League of Women Voters plays in Winchester. Our town has had a local LWV for over 90 years. Our members are grandmothers, mothers, voters of all ages across Winchester. Like any organization, we always need new members and new ideas! From the traditional "Day at the Races" candidates' question & answer session, to new voter registration efforts at the high school, the LWV is a non-partisan, voter education organization dedicated to ensuring that Winchester voters get the facts they need to understand the issues and to participate in the many critical decisions facing our town and state.

For more information, or to join the LWV, please visit <http://www.lwvwinchester.org/> or contact Susan Verdicchio at [s.verdicchio@gmail.com](mailto:s.verdicchio@gmail.com). Help us make Winchester the town where everyone votes!

### **TOPSoccer**

#### **Bringing the joy and excitement of soccer to young athletes with disabilities**

Offered by the Winchester Soccer Club, this community-based program provides an opportunity for all children with disabilities to play soccer through rule and equipment adaptation. Athletes between the ages of 6 and 16 are invited to participate in a modified game of soccer once a week. A volunteer group of "junior coaches" serve as one-on-one buddies with TOPS athletes.

**Schedule:** 1:00-2:00, Sunday afternoons at Lynch Front Field in Winchester (September 19th through October 31st (excluding Columbus Day Weekend).

If you are interested in Winchester's TOPS program as either an athlete or junior coach, please contact Jeff Calnan, TOPSoccer Director, at [jfcalnan@yahoo.com](mailto:jfcalnan@yahoo.com). No prior soccer experience necessary.

### **Parent to Parent**

Parent to Parent presents an important talk for parents of 11 - 18 year olds, "**Adolescent Psychology – The Parent Version**" presented by Joani Geltman, MSW, an expert in child development and parent-teen relationships. Her talk will cover the physical, cognitive, and social/emotional changes that occur in adolescence and how they affect relationships with parent and friends as well as school life. **Please join us on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00pm. Location to be announced; watch your email for details.**

Learn how to:

- Identify your teen's "lightning rod, imaginary audience, and personal fables"
- Set appropriate limits so your teen will want to follow them
- Develop effective tools for identifying and dealing with your teen's experimentation with sex, drugs, and alcohol
- Separate high expectations from unrealistic expectations and their respective consequences for your teen's emotional well-being

Ms. Geltman has been working as a therapist, parenting consultant, and coach for more than 30 years, and has given her seminar on "The Parent Version" at over 40 Middle Schools, High Schools, and community groups all over Massachusetts. As a member of the adjunct faculty of Curry College and Lesley University, she designs curriculum and teaches Child and Adolescent development. For more information please visit:

[www.parenttoparentwinchester.org](http://www.parenttoparentwinchester.org)

**Parent to Parent Book Group**

Ever wonder if your kids have too much of a good thing...cell phones, credit cards, computers, cars? Ever worry whether things are too easy for them or whether they shoulder the expectations and responsibilities necessary to develop strong character? Come explore these issues with other parents as we discuss the book, *Too Much of a Good Thing: Raising Children of Character in an Indulgent Age*, by local author Dan Kindlon, Ph.D. Using both empirical and anecdotal evidence, Dr. Kindlon sounds a wake-up call for parents raising children in a self-indulgent world. He explains the rationale between being a good parent first and good friend second and offers concrete advice on raising children of conscience and character. Join us on **Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm** in the Library Meeting Room for a lively and informative discussion. Books are available through the library and through Book Ends. Books will also be available for purchase the night of the meeting. This will be the first of three book groups organized by *Parent to Parent* this year. Please visit our website for information on additional programs: [www.parenttoparentwinchester.org](http://www.parenttoparentwinchester.org)

**Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence****WFEE McCall Grants**

Check with McCall Teacher Amy Johnson this fall to learn about her participation in an international conference focusing on strategies for enrichment teaching. Thanks to a WFEE grant, Ms. Johnson was one of two teachers to attend this past summer's "Confratute" at the University of Connecticut. Ms. Johnson focused on a program called "Mentoring Mathematical Minds," a strategy for challenging talented math students to further develop critical thinking skills.

Drop by Dennis Kronenberg's classroom later this year to check out replicas of ancient artifacts which will be used to teach 6th graders about history. As Mr. K. said in his application for a WFEE grant, "If you can hold it, you can understand it." While bringing priceless museum artifacts to McCall is impossible, giving students the chance to examine museum replicas engages them in new ways of learning. All 6th grade social studies teachers are benefiting from the WFEE grant which allows the purchase of three museum kits highlighting Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Chinese, Indian and Mesopotamian cultures.

WFEE grants are made possible by the generous donations of Winchester parents and community members. For the latest WFEE news visit our website, [www.wfee.org](http://www.wfee.org).

**Winchester Public Library**

*Julie Kinchla, Head of Reference*

As the new school year begins we welcome you all to the Winchester Public Library. The library is yours so feel free to use it and ask us for help. It is open to everyone, young and old alike, so remember to share space, Internet access and resources.

**Students, please remember that**

- food and drink, except for bottled water, are not allowed in the library so fill up your empty stomach before you come in
- we have rulers, scissors, scotch tape and staplers for you to use but we do not supply paper, index cards, colored pencils or markers.
- you must bring your library card with you if you wish to have access to Internet in the library.
- photocopying and printing costs 15 cents for black and white, 25-cents for color.
- cell phones should be on vibrate inside the building.
- the library closes at 5:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. The person responsible for picking you up after school on Fridays needs to know this important fact. Remind them and share this with them!

**Help! The Paper's Due Tomorrow: Internet class for parents and teens**

**Wednesday, September 22 at 7 PM** 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 web site with the use of your library card. Learn how to use this wealth of information to make life less stressful and schoolwork more successful. Please register online at [www.winpublib.org](http://www.winpublib.org) or call the Winchester Library Reference Desk at 781-721-7171 ext 20.

**September 2010**  
**McCall Parents' Association**

Category: All

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			01	02	03	04
05 (Week 36)	06 Labor Day	07 Teachers Return, Greeting, 10:15 Auditorium	08 First day of school, grade 6 7:45-10:40, grades 7&8 11:30-2:15 7:30-8:30am Parent/Guardian Welcome Coffee in Library	09 Full days of school begin, 7:45-2:15 Day 1	10 Day 2	11 ABC Bottle Drive, Sons of Italy Parking Lot, 8am-3pm
12 (Week 37)	13 Day 3 CoOp Theatre Auditions 3-5:30pm in McCall Auditorium Faculty Meeting 2:30 Library	14 Day 4 7:00 pm Parents' Association Meeting CoOp Theatre Auditions 3-5:30pm in McCall Auditorium Election Day	15 Day 5	16 Day 6 Newsletter Deadline for October edition	17 Day 1	18
19 (Week 38)	20 Day 2	21 Day 3 WFDC Benefit Football Game, kickoff 6:30pm	22 Day 4 6:15pm Grade 8 Parents' Meeting 7:00pm McCall Open House School Picture Day	23 Day 5	24 Day 6 7:30-10:00pm 8th Grade Dance, Gym and Youth Center	25 Youth Service Day, Connect & Commit and Winchester Youth Center
26 (Week 39)	27 Day 1	28 Day 2	29 Day 3 7:00pm Parent to Parent "Adolescent Psychology - the Parent Version"	30 Day 4 7:30pm "Wednesday's Child" presented by Winchester Multicultural Network		