

November 2011 Kerry Dunne, Principal • Harriet Alfano, Assistant Principal

Principally Speaking ...

It is hard to believe we are in the month of November and Thanksgiving is upon us. As we wrap up the first quarter of the school year, we have a great deal to celebrate and be thankful for. We thank the PTA for the events they have sponsored thus far including the Halloween Howl and the Wheels of Perfection assembly. We thank Ms. Arnone, the McVey Social Worker for another outstanding Red Ribbon Week that included the annual Wellness Walk and several programs that promote healthy decision making in children. We are also very appreciative of the hard work of the staff and students as we embark on the new Common Core State Standards. We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude for the support that is provided to the children at home which is critical to their success. The vital contributions parents make toward a child's success in school is undeniable, for success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child's schooling. Parents model both a silent and spoken language in front of their children daily while role modeling the behaviors that support success at school.

As we look ahead to the rest of the school year, it is important to continue to provide consistency for our children. Routines provide expectations and support organization. One such routine could include some quiet time where the students are free from distractions such as media devices, including the television,

in order to concentrate on their homework or independent recreational reading. The routine of a daily quiet time provides an opportunity to develop self-discipline, stimulate imagination and enhance reading skills. Routines can also help build responsible behaviors. If children are consistently expected to complete routine household duties daily, they begin to develop a sense of responsibility for their commitment and contribution to the family.

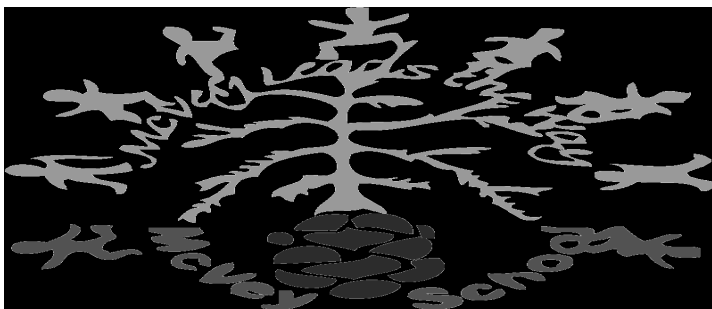
One of the routines that we look forward to and are grateful for is the annual Parent/Teacher Conference Day which will take place on December 7, 2011. This time is set aside for dialogue concerning the academic progress that your child has made thus far in the school year. We look forward to seeing you and to the continued partnership that provides the necessary home/school connection which fosters student success.

Happy Thanksgiving to the wonderful McVey family!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dunne

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From The Desk of Harriet Alfano

With the holidays quickly approaching, everyone's lives become a little more hectic. McVey's K-Kids and Student Council members found the time to make sure all of McVey's families have delicious holiday meals as part of their festivities. The two clubs organized food drives and collected an abundance of non-perishable items. The K-Kids and Student Council members sorted the food for distribution. Thanks to the generosity of the McVey Community, many of our children will be able to enjoy a wonderful holiday celebratory meal with their family members.

The spirit of the holidays is all about giving, but the gifts we can hold in our hands are not the most important we can give. McVey's students are learn-

ing what it means to "give of yourself." Our youngsters are contemplating gifts that would enrich the lives of their loved ones, and in the process making themselves better citizens of society.

McVey has such a strong home-school connection, which I am very proud of. I continuously look forward to working with our stellar staff and parents to continue building our challenging academic environment and also cultivating a caring school climate.

I wish everyone a restful, healthy and very happy holiday season!

Very truly yours,
Harriet Alfano
Assistant Principal

Upcoming Events November/December 2011

Nov 24/25

No School – Happy Thanksgiving

Nov 28

Picture Retake Day
5th Grade Group Shot

Nov 29th & 30th

Scholastic Book Fair
Access Workshop 7-9pm @ Salisbury

Dec 7

No School
Parent Teacher Conferences

Dec 8th & 9th

Holiday Boutique

Dec 16th

School Spirit Day

Dec 23rd – Jan 2nd

No School – Holiday Recess



PTA President's Message

The 2011/2012 school year is off to a fast start. Our World's Finest Chocolate and KidStuff Coupon Books earned us a profit of \$12,400 and \$3,337, respectively. Thank you so much to Ann Jackson, Michi Masacak and Kristina Hollywood for putting in countless hours and a tremendous amount of effort into making sure everything ran smoothly.

Our gardens in front of the school look absolutely beautiful thanks to Ana Giraci, our Green Thumb Chairperson. She organized our Fall Beautification Day and we had many classes assist in planting flowers to make our school ready for the fall. Thank you to all the parents who sent their child into school with a plant.

Membership is off to a great start. As of October 31st we have 377 members. Thank you to Andrea Thompson for running this committee. If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to join. Membership is \$8.50 (individual) or \$13.00 (per couple). Send a check made payable to MCVEY PTA and include the name of the person wishing to join, your child's name, teacher, and room number. Place it in an envelope labeled McVey PTA Membership and return it to the main office. **Remember, only PTA members can participate in PTA sponsored events.**

Our Blood Drive was able to collect 31 pints of blood. Thank you to all that came out to donate and thank you to Jen Kleiner for running the blood drive.

Thanks to Lisa Dosil and Kathy Whitehurst we were able to capture a memory for this year. Our school picture day went smoothly. The pictures arrived home just the other day. If you did not like the way the pictures came out, picture retake day is scheduled for November 28th.

The 5th grade yearbook is in the works. Any 5th grade parent who has not sent in a baby picture, please send one in as soon as possible. We are also looking for group photos of the 5th grade students

from previous years (Pre K – 4th). If you have any that you would like to be put into the yearbook please send those in also.

Our Halloween Howl and Spooky Walk was the talk of the town. Thanks to Dina Balsamo, Trish Rivers, Christina Ratkewitch and Joann Derosa, the Herald had an article about us on the front page. Thank you also to all the businesses who donated food and decorations and to all the parents that volunteered their time, to make it such a success.

The Wellness Walk was well organized by Arlene Dolan and Mrs. Arnone. Once again, this made the front page of the Herald. All the children received drug free bracelets compliments of the PTA.

The Cultural Arts committee was able to bring in a school wide assembly, "Perfection on Wheels", a bicycle stunt group.

If anyone is interested in helping to run the Red Ribbon Committee next year, please let me know.

Our Used Book Sale was run by Mary Hall and Michelle Gentile. The children enjoyed shopping for books.

Please continue sending in Box Tops, Labels for Education and Coke Points. Our school does benefit greatly from these.

Please join us at the next PTA meeting on January 10th at 7 pm, and bring your ideas and suggestions to help make this an exciting year. We look forward to seeing and welcoming our PTA members who are willing to get involved and make a difference for our children.

Congratulations to Linda Giblin who was nominated to be our 1st Vice President at our November meeting.

We hope you have a great school year.

Thank you.

Sue Cuttone

McVey PTA President



McVey PTA Board Directory

2011/2012 Executive Committee

President	Susan Cuttone	567-5863
1 st Vice President	Linda Giblin	485-4048
2nd Vice President	Lisa Amblo	794-7474
Treasurer	Cleo Gakshteyn	322-9399
Recording Secretary	Jen Kleiner	542-0979
Corresponding Sec.	Maria Kanas	731-7336
Historian	Michelle Gentile	794-2211

Committee Chairpeople

Access	Lisa Amblo	794-7474	Membership	Andrea Thompson	794-5270
Amblyopia	Maria Kanas	731-7336	Movie Nights	Dawn Patterson	796-1192
BBQ	Trish Rivers	579-3431	My Eco Bags	Lisa Amblo	794-7474
	Linda DeMasi	361-3641	Parent Delegates	Dina Balsamo	735-1941
	Christina Ratkewitch	414-7230		Elaine Sanzone	542-0925
Family Fun Night	Kristie Schwarz	662-5279		Annette Castillo	390-8787
Blood Drive	Jen Kleiner	542-0979	PARP	Elaine Sanzone	542-0925
Book Fair - Fall	Linda Giblin	485-4048	Plant Sale	MaryEllen Melanson	287-4399
Box Tops 4 Ed	Erin Herlihy	357-3684		Lori Van Houten	794-3223
By George	Joanne Newberger	542-9015	PMT	Linda Giblin	485-4048
	Kevin Jennings	542-5988	Public Relations	Maria Kanas	731-7336
Barnes & Noble	Danielle Sjolholm	794-2250	Recreation Games	Anthony Cardone	414-1093
Coke Rewards	Robyn Walsh	731-7120	Red Ribbon	Arlene Dolan	385-2582
Comedy Night	Cleo Gakshteyn	322-9399	Reflections	Annette Castillo	390-8787
	Nalinie Pooran	280-7167	Safety & Transp.	Andy Lindow	361-9727
Computers for Ed.	Anthony Cardone	414-1093	School Pictures	Lisa Dosil	542-1060
Cultural Arts	Danielle Sjolholm	794-2250		Kathy Whitehurst	794-5852
Curriculum	Lisa Amblo	794-7474	SCRIP Gift Card	Mary Hall	579-6575
Election Bake Sale	Jen Cardone	414-1093	SEPTA	Danielle Sjolholm	794-2250
KidStuff Book	Kristina Hollywood	228-8911	Spring Book Fair	Lillian Cruz	414-0906
K Moving-Up	Eva Marie Wilson	542-5955	Spooky Walk	Dina Balsamo	735-1941
Field Day	Danielle Sjolholm	794-2250	Spring Boutique	Maureen Spencer	794-5256
	Anthony Cardone	414-1093	Staff Recognition	Donna Doran	542-6339
Founders Day	Robyn Mooney	998-8373			
Garment Sale	Elaine Sanzone	542-0925	Used book sale	Michelle Gentile	794-2211
Graduation Party	Tina Rigolli	622-4742	Web Page	Jeanette Hafke	783-7420
Graduation Recep.	Jennifer Lugo	385-6575	World's Finest Choc	Ann Jackson	319-7226
Green Thumb	Ana Giraci	794-6822		Michi Masacak	735 1254
Hall Dec./Art Corner	Jen Kleiner	542-0979	Year Book	Sue Cuttone	567-5863
Halloween Howl	Christina Ratkewitch	414-7230		Gary Arm	542-4787
Holiday Boutique	Maria Kanas	731-7336			
Hospitality	Maureen Spencer	794-5256			
Labels for Ed	Dina Balsamo	735-1941			
Legislation	Jessica Kemler	917-626-2284			

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.[®]

Past Co-President Sue Cuttone 567-5863
 Past Co-President Starr Giannattasio 794-1018

PTA Committee Reports

Used Book Sale

Our used book sale was held on October 27th. We raised \$96.25! Thanks to Danielle Sjoholm, Michelle Gentile and Dorine Incammicia for helping. Please send in your gently used books so we may continue to have this successful fundraiser.

Mary Hall, Chair

Reflections

The PTA Reflections "Diversity means..." is underway! Can't wait to see what you have created.

Annette Castillo, Chair

Green Thumb

It was that time of year again for sprucing up the McVey gardens. At first, the skies were looking a little threatening but after a brief shower, the sun prevailed.

Thanks to Mrs. Dunne and to the participating teachers for your support. Our McVey kids arrived with much anticipation and enthusiasm as leaves were raked, weeds pulled and beautiful mums planted. JOB WELL DONE!! I would like to thank Diane Volpe, Susan Cuttone, and Danielle Sjoholm for your help and guidance on running this task. I would also like to thank the following parents who stepped up to the plate and did an outstanding job: Steve Gerula, Michelle Gentile, Lori Van Houten, Pat Polehinke, Donna Doran, Tara Stergis, Jen Collura, Cleo Gakshetyn, Linda Giblin, Robyn Walsh and Alevtina Stehnach. My apologies to anyone that I may have left out.

Ana Giraci, Chair



World's Finest Chocolates Fundraiser

Once again, the time had come for the children of McVey Elementary to participate in our annual CANDY DRIVE. This fundraiser is important to us all. The money raised will allow us to continue with the many activities that the PTA sponsors, such as Cultural Arts programs, end of year BBQ, Halloween Howl/Spooky Walk and field day just to name a few. This fundraiser started on Wednesday, September 14th, and ended on Wednesday, September 28th.

On Wednesday, September 14th, each family received one (1) CHOCOLATE SHOP box. Many of the children had fun selling and requested additional boxes. We would like to especially thank our enthusiastic sellers. We are sure that this year was as successful as last year. Once again thank you for all your support.

Ann Jackson and Michi Masaoka, Co-Chairs

Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon and will transform the APR room into McVey's very own bookstore. The children will be able to find hundreds of books from new and favorite authors, popular series, cool posters and school supplies!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be here on Tuesday, November 29th and Wednesday, November 30th during school hours.

You can check out our Book Fair homepage at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/mcveyschool>. Here you will be able to sign up to volunteer to help out during the Fair and see a sample of some of the popular titles your children will be able to choose from at the Fair. You can also create a wish list online for them to bring to the Book Fair.

Reading is the most important skill we can teach our children. Of all the skills children learn, it is the one you can influence the most!

Our Scholastic Book Fair Theme -To The Book Fair and Beyond- is part of an out of this world reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read. I hope to see you there!

Linda Giblin, Chair

PTA Committee Reports

Box Tops

The Box Top program is off to a great start. A submission for over \$500 was just sent in for approval. Those small box tops really add up to free money for McVey Elementary School. Thank you to all the families who have sent in the box tops from various participating products. For a list of participating products, please visit the Box Tops website: www.boxtops4education.com.

McVey can also earn money through online purchases. Simply log onto the box tops website (if you are not registered, register TODAY), click on the EARN tab and then click SHOP MARKETPLACE. Next, look for the store you wish to purchase from and click the store. McVey will get credit for your purchase. This is a great way to support your child's school and to do some holiday shopping.

Finally, the Box Tops for Education website is often running contests where you can win box tops.

All you have to do is fill out the information and click the submit button...maybe the next winner will be McVey Elementary School.

A current promotion that is running on the Box Tops website is by Ford. If you are logged in and watch a 2 minute video, McVey earns 5 box tops for each video that you watch for a total of 25 bonus box tops. Here is the link for that program: www.forddrivesboxtops.com.

There is a submission form below. Please attach the box tops and return the form to the school. Bonus box tops need to be submitted separately, so please send them in a separate envelope. Additional submission sheets can be found on the Box Top website and on the McVey PTA website.

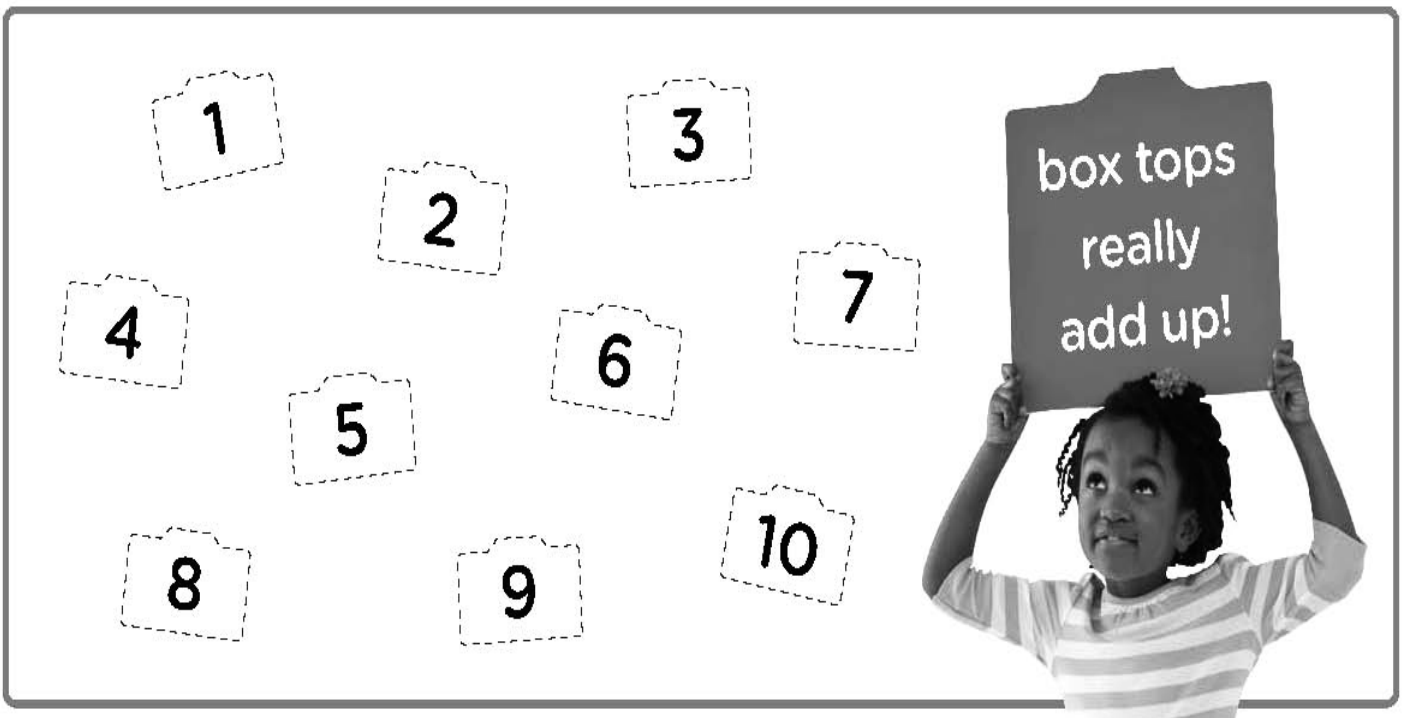
Thanks for your continued support. Keep sending in those box tops and shopping online through the box top website.

Erin Herlihy, Chair



thank you for collecting box tops!

Attach your Box Tops coupons here - each is worth 10¢ for your school.
To see more ways to earn cash for your school, go to btfe.com.



PTA Committee Reports

Scrip Gift Cards

Look for our Scrip gift card sale which began November 7th and will run until November 21st. The cards will be ready to be picked up at McVey on December 12th. Any questions, please call me at 579-6575.

Mary Hall, Chair

Founder's Day

Letters have been submitted and the committee is in the process of meeting. They are reading submissions and selecting the candidates who will be honored this year. This year's recipients will be honored in March.

Andrea Thompson, Chair

Human Dignity Committee

November's Theme: Appreciation or Gratitude/Thankfulness

McVey's Thankful Tree: Students will all be completing a "leaf of thanks" in library class. The students will be discussing the concept of being thankful. What does it mean to be thankful? What are some other words we can use to express thanks? What person in your life are you most thankful for? Why?

After a whole class discussion, students will create a leaf of thanks for McVey's Thankful Tree. McVey's Thankful Tree was drawn and painted by Becky Kleiner. The Thankful Tree will be used throughout the year for different themes for Human Dignity. The Thankful Tree is located in the hallway right outside the APR room.

Also in November, a school-wide activity: writing "Thank You Grams" for someone at McVey!

Students, teachers, and staff will write "Thank-You-Grams" to show appreciation. Thursdays will be a school wide day of Thankfulness.

Linda Giblin, PTA Member

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week was a huge success! A special thank you to Mrs. Arnone for all of her hard work. Every grade saw a performance by "Perfection on Wheels", a bicycle stunt group that taught children how important it is to make smart choices – wearing

their helmets, being a good friend and sticking up for each other, as well as staying away from drugs and alcohol. Each grade also had special shows to teach them positive messages on keeping drug free and healthy.

The Wellness Walk went very smoothly this year. Mr. Met was our special guest, throwing out the first pitch to Ms. Dunne to get the parade started. Thank you to all the 5th grade teachers, Mr. Simone and parent volunteers who helped blow up balloons and man street corners to keep our children safe: Joe Cuttone, Nicole Marinello, Danielle Sjöholm, Doreen Incammicia, Charlie McGovern, Lisa Amblo, Mrs. D'Amico, Amy Donnelly, Stacey Davis, Fran Wax, Mary Hall, Trish Rivers, Patty Romeo, Stacey Davis, and David Gatshteyn. And thank you to Tom Dolan for bringing Mr. Met!

Picture Day

McVey's annual picture day was held on October 13th and 14th in the APR room. Our children put on their best smiles for the occasion. Every one looked great! Many thanks to all who volunteered their time to make this day run smoothly:

Heidi D'Amico, Dorine Incammicia, Eva Marie Wilson, Kerri Mangone, Robyn Walsh, Michelle Gentile, Lisa Shubin, Linda Giblin, Ann Jackson, Michi Masaoka, Trish Rivers, Tami Scardino, Pamela Koumas, and Ana Giraci.

Pictures have been distributed. If for any reason you are not satisfied with your child's pictures or your child was absent on picture day, there will be a retake day on November 28. For retakes, you must return the entire package you received, minus the class photo, which you keep. Order forms will be available at the welcome desk for new orders.

Kathy Whitehurst, Chair



PTA Committee Reports

Membership

McVey's PTA's Membership Drive is still going strong. As of November 1st, we have a total of 377 members consisting of parents and staff and would love to beat our membership from last year. We would love the 100% Teacher Participation Award again, so it is never too late to join. However, the early bird special is over and the new prices are in effect. **Single membership is now \$8.50 and family membership is \$13.00.** Please support the PTA, which does wonderful things to help all the students in the school. Remember in order to participate in school events - you must be a member of the PTA.

If you would like to join the PTA, cut out this **"BY GEORGE"** slip, fill it out, and return it to your child's teacher in a sealed envelope marked **PTA MEMBERSHIP**. You can also add an email address to your membership form, if you choose.

Full Name: _____

Email Address: _____

<u>Names of Children</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Safety Committee

Hope everyone is having a great start to the school year. My name is Andy Lindow and I represent McVey at the monthly safety meetings with the district. Each month I meet with Ms. Alfano and the rest of the school's safety committee and bring our concerns to the district. If you have a safety issue or a transportation concern, I can forward them to the district. The district always welcomes comments on busing issues whether they are positive or negative.

Forms can be found on the McVey web page or you can simply write a letter.

However, any serious safety concerns should be brought to the attention of the administration immediately. The biggest safety issue we have month to month is student safety during dismissal. Nobody wants to see a child hurt to save a few minutes getting out of school. Hope everyone has a safe holiday season, and remember to change your smoke/CO detector batteries.

Andy Lindow, Chair



PTA Committee Reports

Spooky Walk

The 2011 Spooky Walk went “ghoulishly” well. The APR room looked amazing and most importantly the kids had a great time!! As chairperson of this event I would like to give a special thank you to Trish Rivers! Without your help this night would not have been a success! I would also like to thank the following people for taking time out of their busy weekend and time away from their families to assist in the set up, take down of the walk:

Andy Lindow	Anthony Cardone
Justin Weiss	Jacob Stringham
Dan Rivers	Daniella Cuttone
Jack Balsamo	Julia Cuttone
Jenna Balsamo	Victoria Cuttone
Tina Rigolli	Roseanna Cuttone
Jackie Rivers	Sue Cuttone
Amanda Rigolli	Ernie Stringham
Anthony Rigolli	Dylan Piccione
Zack Wolff	Jarrett Piccone
Nick Wolff	Daisy Delgato
Dorine Incammicia	Celi Delgato
Julia Incammicia	Faith Lodise
Emily Incammicia	Vicki Lodise
Thomas Allred	Peter Lodise
Sherry Caiozzo	Inez Rebelo
Andrea Thompson	Chris Clark
Amanda Thompson	Big Dan Rivers
Cathy Rodriguez	Olivia Castillo
Juanita Hernandez	Fran Wax
Cynthia Pereira	Miriam and Mike Loar

If I missed anyone I truly apologize!!

Thanks again,
Dina Balsamo, Chair



Halloween Howl

Over 400 McVey students came together October 24th for the annual Halloween Howl & Spooky Walk. This year there were a bunch of new additions including face painters, raffles and a buffet of food thanks to donations from several local businesses. Pie Sanos donated pizzas, Felicia’s Fabulous Cookies of East Meadow donated two large trays of cookies, A Taste of Home donated two large trays of cookies, KFC donated 600 pieces of chicken, Uncle Giuseppe’s donated a 12-foot hero and Moe’s Southwest Grill donated chips and salsa. Home Depot donated the barrels of hay and beautiful mums that brought fall colors to the gym and, along with the corn stalks Cipriano’s donated, it transformed the McVey gym into a festive Halloween landscape. All night long students danced to the sounds of DJ Slam of Long Island’s 106.1 WBLI who passed out glow sticks, festive guitars, microphones, vampire “fangs”, and Frisbees.

Some lucky students won raffles for free car washes, bowling, cookies, food and a whole lot more.

Each student went home with a gift bag courtesy of Sun Butter, a company which manufactures sun flower seed butter as an alternative to peanut butter. The gift bag included a coupon for a free Cheeseburger or Chicken Nuggets from McDonald’s of East Meadow, a cookie and a gift certificate for 2 free months of Karate classes from Kempo Martial Arts of Hicksville.

Special thanks go to Christina Ratkewitch who organized the event, co-chair Joann DeRosa and all of the PTA volunteers who made the night a huge success!

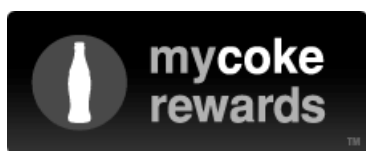


PTA Committee Reports

Coke Rewards

The Coke Rewards program has begun and is ongoing. The flyers explaining the program went out last week. Please feel free to send in your coke bottle caps/box labels in a zip lock bag addressed to the PTA and we'll enter them for you or you can enter them and donate the points directly to our school. We have over 2,000 points already which can be redeemed for items that the children can play with at recess. The more points, the more we can get for our children so please send in or enter the caps/box labels.

Robyn Walsh, Chair



Cultural Arts

Their motto is it's cool to fly high naturally. On Thursday October 28,th as part of Red Ribbon Wellness Week, the McVey students were presented with the BMX bike show Perfection on Wheels. During the assembly, the McVey students were able to view cool bikes, listen to hip music, and watch extreme sports action tricks being performed while also hearing a positive message from the drug free healthy lifestyle stunt team.

The message that the performers of these daredevil tricks presented tied in perfectly with the school's message presented throughout the week: For the children of McVey to keep their bodies healthy and free from drugs, to follow their dreams and not let any bad influences derail them from reaching it.

They also were given bike safety tips as part of the message. This assembly captured the students from start to finish with thrilling flips, tricks and excitement. The assembly was presented by the PTA, Arlene Dolan, and along with the tireless efforts of Mrs. Arnone who dedicates herself to always presenting the kids with good character education and positive messages.

Danielle Sjolholm, Chair

Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night is a night filled with fun, games and excitement. This year's event will take place Friday February 3rd from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Students participate in a variety of Bingo games that offer many chances to win some great prizes. Students also receive raffle tickets to win additional prizes and all students are given goodie bags at the end of the event. Since refreshments are not provided at this event, we welcome families to bring their own snacks and drinks. Keep an eye out for the sign-up flyer coming in December!

Kristie Schwarz, Chair

Election Day Bake Sale and Auction

Thank you all for making the 2011 Election Day Bake Sale and Raffle such a success. First, I would like to thank everyone who helped out with making the baskets and working the day of the election: Alycia Cardone, Anthony Cardone, Barbara Clark, Jennifer Collura, Joanne Dolan-Wallace, Donna and Tara Doran, Alexis Hernandez, Kristina, Anna & Allyson Hollywood, Maria, Ashley and Nicole Kanas, Jen Kleiner, Miriam Loar, Heather Lonigro, Joanne Newberger, Danielle Scardino, Auying Rivera, Jeanne Marie Urban and Nancy Weiss. We also want to thank Bagelicious for donating bagels, Commissioner Foskey for donating the round of golf, Bounce U, Q-Zar, Chuck E. Cheese, Party Peeps (Mr. Targrove), and of course our East Meadow community who came out to vote and support the McVey PTA. We were able to bring in \$1,145. A special thank you to all our parents who baked for our bake sale. We could not have raised this money without you.

Jen Cardone, Chair

Comedy Night

Are you ready for a Night of Laughs??? McVey's Annual Comedy Night is scheduled for Sunday March 25, 2011 at 6:00 pm, at Governor's Comedy Club in Levittown. This would be a great time to have that much needed "date night" or to get together with some friends. Tickets are \$15 each or 2 for \$25. We hope you can join us!!!! Call us with any questions: Cleo Gakshteyn 322-9399 and Pam Komars 662-6549.

Science Lab News

Summer at Harmony Pond

In the spring of every school year, all McVey families are asked if they would like to volunteer to care for Harmony Pond for one week over the summer. Not only is it a way of staying connected to McVey, but it is also a simple service project that helps give back to the school community. There are basic science experiments and a journal to write in that help reinforce learning and, of course there is the bliss that comes from just spending time enjoying nature in McVey's own secret garden.

This year there were six families that volunteered. They braved the heat, the rain and even the hurricane! (Thank goodness, there was no damage to Harmony Pond from the hurricane.) Running into some of the families over the summer, and it was easy to see that they really enjoyed their time at the pond! Thanks to the Koumas, Cuttone, Newberger, Lent-Adjami, Yepes and Jasmin families. We really appreciate the time you spent, the donations of fish and tadpoles, and the weeding and cleaning you did.

If you think your family might be interested in caring for Harmony Pond next summer, please watch for a flyer in early spring, or contact the McVey Science Lab at any time.

Goodbye Mrs. Conway and Welcome Mrs. Sambar

The Science Lab sadly said goodbye and good luck to Mrs. Conway, who left McVey to concentrate on her career at Girls Scouts of Nassau County, where she has been the program specialist for the past two years. Mrs. Conway was responsible for so many wonderful changes at our school, most noticeably the McVey gardens and the organization and hanging of the permanent student art collection. Though we hated to see her leave, we are very excited to welcome Mrs. Sambar to the Science Lab! Mrs. Sambar is looking forward to working with all McVey students and teachers, and learning everything we do in the Science Lab.

Diane Volpe

From The Editors' Desk

Another school year is well underway. It's hard to believe it's almost Thanksgiving.

We look forward to keeping the dialogue open between the McVey Elementary Family members. This issue of "By George" is full of information for parents, students, teachers and the administration. Our new members of the McVey faculty have written short bios to introduce themselves.

There are reports from the various PTA Commit-

tee chairs about their plans for the coming months.

This issue, the student reporters are writing about school events.

As always, we look forward to serving you in the best way possible. Any suggestions are welcome. We can be reached by email at:

Joanne Newberger	jnewberg@optonline.net
Kevin Jennings	kjennings@msn.com
Kristina Hollywood	sillyme6@optonline.net

5th Grade Committee News

McDonald's Fundraiser

Our McVey Night at McDonald's earned us \$350! Thank you to all who attended and supported the 5th Grade Committee.

Our next 5th Grade Committee Fundraiser will be

at Jake's Wayback Burgers! Dine there anytime between 3-7 on December 7th and we will receive 10% of your purchase! Remember: On December 7th, school is closed for parent/teacher conferences.

The 5th Grade Committee is not sponsored by the PTA.



New Faces

Hello, my name is Cheryl Safren and I am happy to be teaching art at McVey. Last year I taught part-time in the East Meadow School District, split between Bowling Green and Barnum Woods. This is a return to full-time teaching for me after working part-time for a number of years.

During that time, I was creating artwork for public facilities such as municipal buildings, universities, libraries and research institutions all over the United States. As an artist, I will encourage children to look at the world around them and see, visualize, and imagine as artists do.

Hopefully, my classroom will be an exciting place where students cultivate sensitivity *to* and enjoyment *of* art.

Hello my name is Nadine Lombardo. I am one of the new reading teachers at McVey. This is the third elementary school that I have worked at in East Meadow, and already I feel at home! I was an Intervention Assistant at both Bowling Green and Meadowbrook. Not only do I teach in East Meadow but I am also a former student of the East Meadow School District. I love the Yankees, spending time upstate with my family and I especially love to read. Last year I went on an adventure to Hogwarts through the Harry Potter series and loved every minute of it. I am looking forward to this year at McVey and working with my new family!!

Hello, my name is Susan Mechanic and I am the new part time nurse at McVey Elementary School. I split the rest of my day at Clarke Middle School.

Although I am new to McVey, I am not new to nursing or to East Meadow. I have been over at Woodland Middle School for 15 years and probably know a lot of the families I see here in McVey. It is my pleasure to see the smiling faces of younger children.

I look forward to keeping them healthy and happy

Hello everyone! My name is Stacey Matulewicz and I am an ESL teacher. I have been part of the East Meadow School District for five years and feel fortunate to have landed here at McVey!

I have a Certificate of Advanced Study in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, a Master's degree in Elementary Education with a Specialization in Math, Science & Technology and NYS

Teaching Certification in Childhood Education for Grades 1-6.

In my spare time I love to travel. I went to King's College in Pennsylvania for my undergraduate degrees where I played on the tennis team. I still love to play tennis! I look forward to a memorable and exciting school year!

Hello! My name is Kerry Sykora and I am a new reading teacher at McVey. I began my career teaching 2nd grade for seven years in Brooklyn, NY. I have many great memories from my students there. Next, I moved onto Levittown, NY where I was a reading teacher for five years. Now, my journey continues here at McVey. I am very excited to be here and already feel like a member of the family.

In my spare time you will find me reading for my book club, spending time with all my nieces and nephew, kayaking, and walking or bike riding on the boardwalk. I live on the beach so it couldn't be easier for me to fill my days with outdoor activities.

These are a few of my favorite things...

My favorite color is blue...turquoise to be exact.

Daisies and Sunflowers

Salad! I am a vegetarian so salads are usually on the menu.

My favorite snack is Cheez-Its. I've been known to finish a box in a day or two. Candy- Snickers and Skittles.

I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Here's to a great year!

East Meadow is a special place to grow, learn and work. I have had the pleasure of each of these experiences. I have walked the halls of the East Meadow School District as a child and adult, but always as a learner. It is my privilege to share my knowledge with the children of McVey Elementary School, as I have been at Meadowbrook Elementary School for the past 11 years, 5 of them as a Reading Teacher. Splitting my time this year between two schools is allowing me to help more children achieve their goals.

Have you ever read The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein? That is an amazing book of a young boy's journey into adulthood where he learns the power of love and importance of selfless giving. Children of all ages can appreciate the life lessons

New Faces

contained in this powerful text. In the security of my classroom, I have watched and listened to my students demonstrating their understanding of this profound story and realize the capabilities they have inside themselves. It is these moments that make me proud to be a teacher and honored to help children grow as learners and individuals.

Even teachers make the time to have fun outside of

the school walls. I love to scrapbook, shop and spend time with my family and friends. I can't forget about my three dogs, Bailey, Lucky and Star! Speaking of family, I am very proud to be a new member of the McVey family! I know this school year will be amazing!

Mrs. Fara Silva

From the Kids' Point of View

I enjoyed the Wellness Walk because in the beginning the teacher's gave us drug free wrist bands. I also liked it when we got to meet Mr. Met. One more reason I liked the Wellness Walk was because my class got to take a picture with Mr. Met!!!

Ana Martinez 5-103

One of the fun events that I enjoyed was the Wellness Walk. I enjoyed this event because it gave me a chance to do something good for my body. I also enjoyed it because everyone made signs to encourage people to say no to drugs and to stay healthy!

Nicole Ribeiro 5-106

I liked the BMX show because they did cool tricks and they taught us about safety and how important it is to stay away from drugs.

Glenn Newberger 5-108

My favorite event was the Wellness Walk. I loved the Wellness Walk because it gave me and everyone else a nice little walk and also it gave me time to relax from doing work at school and just hang out with my friends and walk.

Snowiya Multani 5-106

The one show that I enjoyed the most was the

BMX show. The bikers told us how to be drug free and safe when we ride our bikes. Another thing was they did really cool tricks with their bikes. They couldn't do those tricks without being drug free.

Alexandra Rogers 5-106

I sold chocolates to my friends and family. I also bought some. Yum Yum Yum!

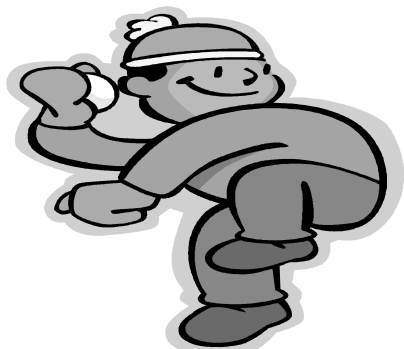
Briana Davis 5-109

My favorite events were the BMX show and the Wellness Walk. A reason why I liked the BMX show was that I loved the awesome tricks they did. I thought that was so cool. My favorite trick was the one they did at the very end of the show. That is a reason I liked the BMX show. A reason I liked the Wellness Walk was that I saw really cool posters and signs. It was really fun walking with my friends while taking pictures. That is a reason I liked the Wellness Walk.

Juvaria Zahid 5-109

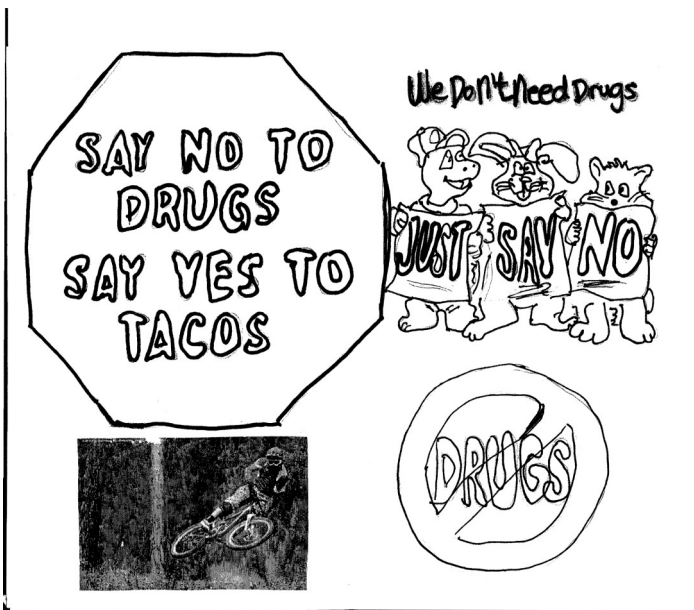
I love the Halloween Howl the most because it was fun. I got lots of prizes. The music was loud but I enjoyed it.

Priya Mathai 4-203



From the Kids' Point of View

I liked the BMX show because it not only shows me that if you practice you can do cool tricks like them, it shows me that YOU CAN SAY NO TO DRUGS. If you say no to drugs you can do incredible things. For example, why do you think the bikers can do amazing stunts like that? BECAUSE THEY DON'T DO DRUGS!!



Kelsey Vasquez 4-206

I mostly liked the BMX show because they did amazing tricks that were so cool. It was so loud, but I still liked it.

Savannah Smith 3-219

My friends and I had fun selling candy at my brother's soccer games. We met a lot of people who all wanted chocolate.

Emily Anne Jackson K-202

My favorite part was when I got my face painted at the HALLOWEEN HOWL.

Lainey Russo K-201

I liked the Spooky Walk because I was in the dark auditorium. It was very spooky because there were scary things. I was excited because last year's Spooky Walk wasn't really scary, but this year's Spooky Walk was scary. I really enjoyed the spooky Walk!

Nishanth Chinnaduria 3-220

I really loved selling the chocolate for our school.

Selma Hassan 5-106

The PTA sponsored many things for us kids. I think the BMX show, Halloween Howl, Spooky Walk and the Wellness Walk were great and it would not have been better without them. Thank You.

Taylor Havlik 4-203

My favorite events are the BMX show and the Wellness Walk. A reason why I like the Wellness Walk is you get to walk with all the classes and you get to walk with your friends. The reason I liked the BMX show is because the riders are cool because they can do really awesome tricks with the BMX bikes.

Rooman Zahidk 4-206

One of the PTA sponsored events I enjoyed was the Wellness Walk. I loved the band & Mr. Met was awesome. It felt longer than our usual Wellness Walks.

Anusha Arora 5-106

I think our fundraising this year was very successful. I love all the fundraising we did this year. It allowed the PTA to sponsor many fun events. I will tell you a little about some of these events. The first one I will talk about is the Wellness Walk. I think the Wellness Walk is good for our school since the people of our community get to see us trying to be healthy and drug free. The Spooky Walk/Halloween Howl was a big success. It was scary but not too scary for the little kids. It was great that the DJ gave stuff away. They had face painting and much more. It was very fun. One of the little kids had a big butterfly on her face it was so cute. The BMX show was a big hit. The bike riders were talking about not doing drugs and how they had friends who did drugs but now they are not friends anymore. That's how drugs can take you away from your family and your friends. Kristen also said you should always check your bike before you ride it. All the bike riders said we have to make a promise not to take drugs. So remember don't take drugs. I had a great time selling the chocolate and coupon book to my neighbors although there are three people on my block that go to McVey. Even though you think you are not keeping the money you really are. How you ask... well all the money goes to the school and these fun events. These are the many reasons I enjoy all our fundraising.

Madison J. Miranda 4-206