

McNews

The Monthly PTA Newsletter for McNamara Elementary School

A message from your PTA president ...

Dear Parents,

I know it seems as if there are still many months left in this school year to be talking about next year, but this is the time of year when we need to find our 2008-2009 PTA board members and committee chairs. We still need a President, President-Elect and Recording Secretary for next school year, as well as some committee chairs. If you have ever thought about any position, please give me a call to learn more about it.

Thank you to Jeanie Roberts, Patty Marshall, McNamara faculty and the all the volunteers for bringing back and making a fun Winter Olympics. We may have not had the snow, but all the things planned were enjoyed by the students. I would also like to give a special thanks to Sharon Catalino for helping chair our Enrichment Program. This program was put together quickly, but with the help of all our parent volunteers it turned out to be one of the most successful and smooth running Enrichment Programs yet. We look forward to our Science Fair, Family Fun Night, and Book Fair in March.

If you haven't attended a PTA meeting yet this year, please join us for our next PTA meeting on March 11. At this meeting, we will be voting on whether to stay with our current school picture and fundraising companies or to look for other companies to us. Prizes and refreshments will be on hand. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 635-7856 or by e-mail at panama9692@yahoo.com .

Kelly Dickter



Important news for March

✓ **March 3-7: Assessments**
Students in grades 3-5 take the New York State Math Assessments this week.

✓ **March 11: PTA Meeting**
Please plan to attend the PTA meeting at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Don't miss the refreshments and door prizes!

✓ **March 19: Science Fair**
It's here! Our annual science fair for grades K-4 runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the school.

✓ **March 20: Half Day**
Students are dismissed at 12:15 for a staff training day. AM kindergarten attends.

✓ **March 21-25: Break**
Students have no school because of the Easter holiday and a staff training day set for Tuesday, March 25. Students return to school March 26.

✓ **March 26: Book Fair**
Our spring Scholastic book fair runs through April 2. Check out some great books!

✓ **March 28: Family Fun!**
The McNamara Family Fun Night offers an evening of games, raffles and fun from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Please see Page 6 for more information.

Fun at the Winter Olympics



The Winter Olympics finally went off without a hitch! Please see page 5 for a special thank you to all.

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LOOKING AHEAD

April brings spring, warmer weather, and plenty of activity for students and parents at McNamara. Here's a look at what's ahead:

"K" REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is set for 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 1 and from 1 to 3 p.m. April 2 at McNamara Elementary School.

SPRING BREAK

Students begin their break on Friday, April 11. Enjoy the chance to spend time with your children! Think positive: Maybe they can finally play outside!

ART FESTIVAL

Be sure to visit McNamara between 5 and 6:30 p.m. April 30, when the school will be transformed into an art gallery of top-notch student work.

A message from Ms. Schiltz



Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who volunteered and gave up their time with their families to run McNamara's Enrichment Program. The success and value of this program was measured by the hundreds of students who participated.

Again I want to thank those creative individuals who facilitated such enriching projects for our students. Your dedication to all the students at McNamara is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mary Schiltz, Principal

Need more information about the McNamara PTA? Just click on www.bville.org, then "McNamara," then "PTA." Our web site offers previous issues of *McNews*, PTA meeting minutes, and more. Join us for the next PTA meeting at 7 p.m. March 11.

Worried about Internet safety for your children? District offers safety presentation March 26 at Baker

The Baldwinsville School District will present an Internet safety program for parents on March 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Baker High School, located at 29 E. Oneida St. in the village of Baldwinsville. Presenters will be Christine Weeks, an officer with the Baldwinsville police and a Baldwinsville School District resource officer, and Camillus Police Officer Kelly Fuller, an officer with the Camillus police and a resource officer in the West Genesee School District. This presentation is free and does not require registration.

Officers Weeks and Fuller will provide parents with a basic overview of how sexual predators, bullies, and others are using the Internet to victimize children and steal personal information. They will offer tips and information on what parents can do to protect their children from harm, monitor what they are doing on the Internet, and safeguard personal information. There will be a question and answer period after the presentation.

This presentation is intended for parents only. Officers Weeks and Fuller recommend that parents not bring their children since some of the information will not be appropriate for children.

-- submitted by Kelly Cary, Baldwinsville School Information Officer, 638-6180 or kcary@bville.org



News from the Nurse: The Battle Against Head Lice

Anyone can get head lice. No matter what neighborhood you live in, no matter how clean your house is, lice will like your child's head if they find their way onto his or her hair. It's easy for lice to spread from one person to another through contact with infested items. Lice cannot jump or fly. Lice crawl onto things like brushes, hats, and hair accessories, coats and will gladly follow the next child home. Please teach the kids **not to share** these items.

Head lice are tiny insects that move quickly and are difficult to find. More likely you will find the nits, which look like small grains of sand, strongly attached to the hair and close to the head. You must remove all of the adult lice and their tiny eggs (nits). Nits cannot be shampooed or brushed out like dirt or dandruff. They are stubbornly glued to the hair and are difficult to remove. Picking (or combing) out nits is a lot like weeding a garden. Even if you do a good job early on, you need to check for weeds for ten days. If you don't get all of the nits they will hatch and the itching and infestation starts over again. Focus your energy on this task – not on the source of this infestation.

The following web site is available as a trustworthy source for lice management information. Note that many respected medical authorities are discouraging mass screenings (such as entire classrooms). These authorities include the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Harvard School of Public Health (www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html).

AAP guidelines also state that no-nit policies in schools are detrimental, causing lost time in the classroom, inappropriate allocation of the school nurse's time for lice screening, and a response to infestations that is out of proportion to their medical significance.

Accurate diagnosis, safe treatment options, and a common-sense approach to managing infestations in schools are recommended.

(Am J Manag Care. 2004;10:S269-S272)

You may call the school nurse for any information concerning detection and treatment of head lice at 638-6132.

-- submitted by School Nurse Marjorie Duger, RN

The McNamara Science Fair is March 19

The McNamara Science Fair provides all children in grades K-4 with the experience of running a science experiment using the Scientific Method. The steps of the Scientific Method are:

- o Define the Problem
- o Form a hypotheses
- o Test the hypothesis
- o Analyze and draw conclusions
- o Report Observations

First - fourth graders will be completing individual experiments at home. Kindergarten students will be doing a classroom experiment in their class. Science projects should be brought in on March 17th so your child can present it to the class. The Science Fair is March 19th from 5:00-6:30. If you have any questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Happy Experimenting!

-- submitted by Allen Wolf, Science Fair Chairperson

Volunteers are still needed to help set up and organize the fair. Please call Catherine Memmo at 638-7408 if you are interested in helping.





Want to get more involved? Consider these PTA openings for 2008-2009!

PTA is starting to look for people to fill next year's open PTA board positions. Listed below are the available positions that must be filled to even have a PTA. Please consider becoming part of a rewarding team. Contact **Kelly Dickter at 635-7856 or e-mail her at panama9692@yahoo.com** to find out more.

- **President** for 2008-2009 school year – 1-year term
- **President-elect** (to be president in 2009-10)
- **Recording secretary** - 2-year term

Several PTA committees will also have openings for chairpeople next year. Please consider chairing a committee.

Keep sending in Box Tops!

Earn Cash for McNamara with Box Tops!

Continue to clip and send in Box Tops for Education for our Contest. The grade with the most box tops at the end of the year wins a prize!



Here are the standings so far (as of February 1, 2008):

- 1st place: 4th grade
- 2nd place: 2nd grade
- 3rd place: 1st grade
- 4th place: Kindergarten
- 5th place: 3rd grade
- 6th place: 5th grade

For a complete list of Box Tops products, please see www.boxtops4education.com. Also, for additional questions, please call Box Tops chairperson Pam Darstein at 638-0997.

It's not too late! There is plenty of time left to make a difference in the standings.

Your PTA newsletter

Submissions to "McNews" are due by the 15th of each month. Please e-mail information to Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@twcnj.rr.com or call her at 635-1884. Please feel free to submit photos and other items of interest! **Please note: The final issue will combine May/June news.**

Budget newsletter arrives in April

At the end of April, residents will be mailed a special issue of *The Beacon* that will provide detailed information on the proposed 2008-2009 budget. Please read this important issue.

On Tuesday, May 13, the Board of Education will conduct a public budget hearing at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of Baker High School. The Board (*see next page*)

Board of Ed invites you to their meetings

The Baldwinsville Board of Education would like to remind residents that they are welcome to attend the board's meetings. All meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are normally held in the cafeteria of Durgee Junior High School, located on the district's main campus at 29 East Oneida St. in the village. Meetings are usually held on the first and third Monday of each month with exceptions made for holidays and school vacation weeks.

Residents can confirm the dates and locations of all Board meetings by checking with the superintendent's office at 638-6043 on the Friday prior to the meeting. Board meetings scheduled for March will be held on March 3, 17, and 31.

The agendas of these meetings include discussions of the 2008-2009 budget, which the board is in the process of developing. If you would like to view the agenda for a board meeting or read minutes, please visit the board's page on the district's website at www.bville.org. The board meetings are also broadcast on PAC 98 the Saturday, Sunday and Monday after a meeting. The Saturday broadcast is at 12 and 9 p.m., the Sunday broadcast is at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., and the Monday broadcast is at 3 p.m.

-- submitted by Kelly Cary,
school information officer for the district



Have you tried **schoolmall.com**? Why not?

Doing some shopping for holidays, birthdays, any occasion? Of course you are! So why not buy gifts online and earn money for your school? McNamara Elementary School gets money if you buy products online from a variety of popular vendors, including JCPenney, Eddie Bauer, Dell, and more. Simply register our school by going to **schoolmall.com** before making your online purchases. McNamara can earn as much as 5 percent of each sale. *Last year, we earned \$2,272.40 because of this program.*

Our retailer of the month is ...

BARNES & NOBLE.com
www.bn.com

Questions? Call School Mall chair
Patrice Robinson at 638-4115.

Give it a try!

Nothing beats a good book, that's why **Barnes & Noble** offers a huge selection for both avid and occasional readers. They have also agreed to give a portion of their sales (5%) to McNamara if you register at **schoolmall.com** before buying from their web site, **www.bn.com**

A gold medal "thanks"

On behalf of the Winter Olympic Committee we would like to thank all parents and teachers who helped make our day fun-filled. Every student had a great time and the weather really cooperated. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Temple for ensuring we all had our cookies and for the use of her kitchen.

-- submitted by *Jeanie Roberts, Winter Olympics chairperson*

Budget newsletter slated for April

(continued from previous page)

encourages all district residents to attend this hearing to learn more about the budget and to ask any questions they may have.

As a resident of the Baldwinsville School District, it's your right to vote on how your tax dollars will be spent for our students.

Please come to the polls on Tuesday, May 20 and vote. Voting will take place in the auditorium of Baker High School from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

-- submitted by *Kelly Cary, district information officer*

It's the first-grade Share Bears!



Under the direction of music teacher Jennifer Cambareri, first-graders at McNamara presented a musical in late January that emphasized the importance of sharing and cooperating with others. Called "The Share Bears," this performance offered singing bears and bees, dancing snowflakes, a winter wind and more! Congratulations, first-graders, on a fine performance.

McNamara PTA Presents...



Family Fun Night

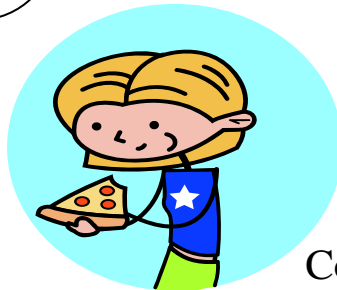
Date: Friday, March 28th

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

Gift Basket Raffle

Panera Bread
Italian Tastes
Market Beads
Creative Memories
...and many more

Purchase tickets for
the raffle at the
Science Fair on 3/19.



Co-chairs

Jen Guild: 638-2915 or jguild@twcnny.rr.com

Michele Petrelli: 635-6929 or apetrellijr@twcnny.rr.com

Game Tickets .50 cents: 12 tickets for \$5.00
Carnival Games * Prizes * Food Concessions
Basket Raffle: \$1.00 a chance

We Need Volunteers

Send this portion to school with your child in an envelope marked PTA Family Fun Night or e-mail us with your name & phone number. Our contact info is above.

Name _____ Phone _____

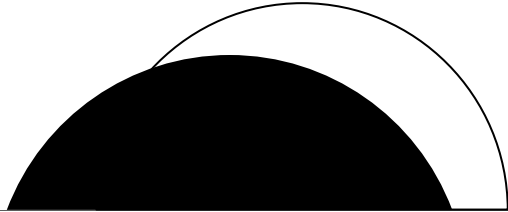
During Event

- ☐ Set up
- ☐ 13 + Child/Adult to work event
- ☐ I'll volunteer where you need me
- ☐ I know of a youth group that needs volunteer hours

Before the event

- ☐ Create and donate a gift basket for the raffle
- ☐ Bake a cake for the Cake Walk Game
- ☐ Donate food or underwrite the cost of food supply & receive free publicity at event
- ☐ Donate special talent to the event
- ☐ Other idea? Let us know.

This year, click on www.bville.org, then “McNamara” and “PTA” to get the most up-to-date calendar listings.



McNamara Elementary School

March 2008



LUNCH PRICES

DAILY: \$1.50

MILK: \$.50/pint

ICE CREAM: \$0.65

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Grade 3 State Math Assessment Board of Education 7 p.m., Durgée	4 Grades 3& 4 State Math Assessment	5 Grade 4 State Math Assessment	6 Grades 4& 5 State Math Assessment	7 Grade 5 State Math Assessment	8
9 Daylight Savings Time begins, move clocks ahead one hour	10	11 McNamara PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., cafeteria	12	13	14	15
16	17 St. Patrick's Day Board of Education 7 p.m., Durgée	18	19 Science Fair Grades K-4, 5 to 6:30 p.m.	20 Half Day for all students; 12:15 dismissal; AM K attends	21 NO SCHOOL Good Friday	22
23/30 Easter (3/23)	24/31 NO SCHOOL (3/24) EASTER HOLIDAY BOE Budget, 7 p.m. (3/31)	25 NO SCHOOL Professional Development Day	26 McNamara Book Fair begins (3/26 to 4/2)	27	28 McNamara Family Fun Night, 6:30 to 8	29

McNamara Elementary School
7344 O'Brien Road, Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Main office: 315-638-6130
Web site: www.bville.org

2007 - 08 McNamara PTA

Recording Secretary
Patty Lyons
638-2474

President Elect
Janel Bohman
303-4886

PTA President
Kelly Dicker
635-7856

Treasurer
Sharon Catalino
638-6335

Corresponding Secretary
Christina Mueller
635-7675

VP Programs
Katrina Grady
635-5459

VP Public Relations
Jackie Wiegand
635-1884

VP Ways & Means
Kelly Thompson
638-2814

After School Program
CHAIRPERSON
NEEDED

Reflections
Beth Lannier
635-4848

Bulletin Board
Kristen Peirfield
635-6262

School Board Rep
Mark Rossler
635-4739

Box Tops
Pam Darstein
638-0997

Fall Fundraiser
Kelly Thompson
638-2814

5th Grade Committee
Stacy Murphy
635-0310

Science Fair
Catherine Memmo
638-7408

Historian
CHAIRPERSON
NEEDED

School Sign
Anne McLaughlin
638-7304

Fall Book Fair
Cori Lawler
638-7817

School Mail
Patrice Robinson
638-4115

Harvest Dance
Tracey Lawrence
638-0663

PARP
Lori Kramer - 635-4334
Kristin Weaver - 303-4843

Kindergarten Screening
Anne McLaughlin
638-7304

BPT
Katrina Grady - 635-5459
Caye Streeter - 635-5489
Denise Hingre - 638-0379
Doug Huwe - 720-1028

Spring Book Fair
Cori Lawler
638-7817

Membership
Eileen Huwe
720-1028

Ice Cream Social
Charlotte Mordant
635-8889

Book Exchange
Lynn Gebhardt - 635-8880
Anne McLaughlin - 638-7304

Newsletter
Jackie Wiegand
635-1884

Window Painting
Kim Smith - 635-1400
Lisa Santoro - 635-7212

Holiday Shoppe
Susan Carson
638-5371

School Store
Beth Soeder
638-3469

Family Fun Night
Jen Guild
638-2915

Olympics
Jeanie Roberts
635-2458

Outside Publicity
Debbie Bowen
638-8889

Hospitality
Charlotte Mordant
635-8889

School Pictures
Cori Lawler - 638-7817
Julie Egnoto - 635-5371

Tools for School
Kristin Froass
638-4951

Lisa Santoro
Yearbook
635-7212