

December 2010/January 2011



McNews

The Monthly PTA Newsletter for McNamara Elementary School

A message from your PTA president



Dear McNamara Parents:

My name is Dee Wagner and at our Nov. 9th PTA meeting, I was elected to be McNamara Elementary School's new PTA president. It is a privilege for me to represent our PTA. I'm a stay-at-home mom with two children, a husband, and a cat. My daughter, Sam, is a former McNamara student who now attends Durgee Junior High School, while my son, Spencer, is in the second grade here. This is my third year involved with the PTA and I hope my business background can be put to use helping the school.

I would like to extend a very special "thank you" to Jackie Weigand, our past president, for staying on the job for a little longer this fall and for being so helpful during this transition.

It has been a busy fall and I can't believe the first quarter of our school year is already behind us. Our PTA has many exciting programs and opportunities for our students this year and any time you have to volunteer would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in receiving PTA updates and reminders by e-mail, please forward your e-mail address to McNamaraPTA@gmail.com. Be sure to write "new to the PTA list" in the subject line. I am looking forward to the holiday season and hope to see you at McNamara's Barnes & Noble Day on Dec. 5th. (See page 3 for more details.) Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Dee Wagner, PTA President

Meet McNamara's PTA Executive Committee

President, **Dee Wagner**, 303-4567, cwagner8@twcny.rr.com
Immediate Past President, **Jackie Wiegand**, 635-1884, jwiegand@twcny.rr.com
Vice President for Programs, **Melanie Randolph**, 635-5487, drandolph@twcny.rr.com
Vice President for Public Relations, **Anne McLaughlin**, 638-7304, anne3317@mac.com
Vice President for Ways & Means, **Lynn Gebhardt**, 635-8880, lynn_gebhardt@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary, **Amy DeJohn**, 638-2183, pkdejohn@aol.com
Corresponding Secretary, **Patty Lyons**, 638-2474, mermaid3@twcny.rr.com
Treasurer, **Nancy Seifritz**, 317-1300, nrski23@yahoo.com

Next PTA Meeting:

7 pm, Tuesday, January 11, 2011
Baldwinsville Public Library

Topics include
the Winter Olympics and
the Book Exchange



**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

Pardon us as the PTA works to build its own website. Submissions for the newsletter can be sent to Katie Andrzejewski at McNamaraPTA@gmail.com.



Support Our School and Save on Gas!



Please send us your Price Chopper AdvantEdge Card number today and you will join our "Tools for Schools" members. When you shop at Price Chopper with your AdvantEdge Card it helps our school earn points to purchase classroom materials and you also will save money on gas at participating Sunoco stations.

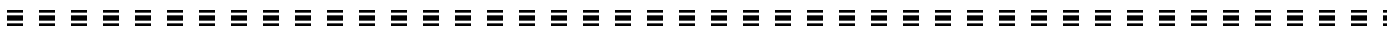


It's easy and there is no cost to enroll! Enter the number located on the back of your card and your name below and return the form to school in an envelope clearly marked "PTA - Tools for Schools."

10 Digit Price Chopper Card #										Customer Name(s)	Enrollment (Please Circle 1)
											New member or Current member
											New member or Current member

You can help even more by signing up a friend or relative, too!
No Price Chopper AdvantEdge card? You can request one at the store's customer service counter.
Please check the bottom of your receipt to ensure your points are accumulating.
For more information go to www.pricechopper.com; school code 16465.

Thank you to all of our "Tools for Schools" Members!



WANTED: YEARBOOK PHOTOS

Did you take photos of the Halloween parade? A special activity in your child's classroom? The children at your bus stop? It's never too early to submit your photos for the school yearbook. Photos with a resolution of at least 300 dots per inch are strongly suggested. They can be e-mailed to jwiegand@twcny.rr.com or sent to school in an envelope clearly marked "For PTA Yearbook." Please include your name and contact information and identify the people in the picture. The deadline for all yearbook photos is Feb. 28.



UPCOMING MCNAMARA EVENTS

- Book Exchange (drop off "gently used" books): January 12-14
- Book Exchange (pick out "new to you" books): January 19-21
- First Grade Concert: January 27
- Winter Olympics: February 18
- Science Fair: March 24
- Art Show & Ice Cream Social: April 28



Ongoing: The School Store is open for business most Fridays from 11am-1:15pm, and chock full of supplies every student needs. From calculators (\$1.50) to glue sticks (\$0.60), the store ensures that McNamara students have the right tools to be ready to learn.



MCNAMARA'S BARNES & NOBLE DAY



Forget Black Friday. Who wants to deal with those crazy crowds? Do your holiday shopping on **Sunday, Dec. 5th** at Barnes & Noble at 3956 Route 31 in Clay and have 10% of your purchases benefit McNamara Elementary School! This all-day book extravaganza to benefit our school will feature "celebrity" staff readers, musical performances, a special crafts table, student artwork, and more. **Special activities run from noon to 6 p.m.** at the store. **But any purchases made at the store between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. will apply.**

Short on time? Call **622-0370** now and ask the staff to order books that are not in stock. Your ordered items will be waiting for you at the checkout and you've saved on shipping! Use your child's McNamara book fair wish list as a starting point.

Simply provide the following **voucher number** at the time of checkout: **10352839**. (Voucher forms with this code will be sent home in your child's backpack and will be available at the store.) Please share this code with your friends and relatives to help make our McNamara fundraiser a huge success! The voucher can also be used at the Barnes & Noble website, (www.bn.com), between **Dec. 5 and Dec. 10**.

Questions? Contact Jackie Wiegand, jwiegand@twcny.rr.com, or Marcy Moreno, marcy.moreno@yahoo.com.



McNamara's Holiday Shoppe



This **student-only store** will be open from **Dec. 7th to Dec. 9th** to give children an opportunity to buy holiday gifts for their friends and relatives. Notices identifying which day students may shop will be sent home. Due to time constraints, Kindergarten students will not visit the Holiday Shoppe with their classes but parents can accompany their kindergarten students to the store from 9:15 a.m. to noon on Dec. 9th.

2010 PARP Results:



McNamara Students Are Superstar Readers!



Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) was a three-week event this fall to encourage strong reading habits among our students. Parents or caregivers were encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes each evening with their child.

Eighty-seven percent of our students participated this year, topping last year's level of 84 percent. Mrs. Sue Allen's third grade had 100 percent participation! The top class for weekly minutes was Ms. Jennette Allen's second grade with 4,196 minutes during the final week.

PARP concluded with a trivia competition at Literacy Night on Nov. 12. More than 200 children and adults gathered as Ms. Mills, Mrs. Miles and Mrs. Ancona were crowned the school's "Top Bookworms." Mr. Ashworth, Miss Zimmer, Mrs. Manton, Mrs. Allen and Ms. Hitchcock gave them a strong challenge for the title. Special thanks to the following parents for their help with these events: Linda Stoyer, Wanda Wachob, Michelle Petrelli, Karen Bilynsky, Susan Waldt, Jill Smith, Diane Rafkis, Charlotte Mourdant, Holly and Reggie Parker, and Shala Garner.

Congratulations to all the parents and caregivers who took the extra time to encourage a love of reading in their children!

PTA MEMBERSHIP

2010-2011

McNamara Elementary School belongs to the National Parent Teacher Association. By being part of National PTA we are provided with insurance coverage for PTA-sponsored events and numerous resources for the programs that we offer to our students.

As part of a National PTA, we are required to pay dues each year. These dues are used to cover our insurance and administrative costs for the programs and assistance we receive from the National PTA.

Therefore, our PTA conducts an annual membership drive asking each parent and teacher to become a PTA member. In order to be a PTA officer, a PTA committee chairperson, or to participate in PTA meetings, you must be a member of the PTA. This membership (running from October 1st to September 30th) must be renewed each year. As a PTA member, besides helping our PTA cover our expenses, you can use your membership to receive discounts with merchants such as Barnes & Noble, Liberty Mutual, and Southwest Airlines.

To become a member for the 2010-2011 school year, please fill out the form below and return it to school. Thank you in advance for your participation and support of the PTA.

McNamara PTA Membership Form

Name _____
(List each name for family membership)

Address _____

Phone # _____ Child's Teacher _____

E-mail address _____

PTA Membership cost (circle one):

\$5.00 Individual Membership
(one family member)

or

\$9.00 Family Membership
(more than one family member)

Make checks payable to: **McNamara PTA**

Return completed form and fee in an envelope marked "PTA Membership"