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.

Inside this issue

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PAGE 3 — Heads up on lice
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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 have 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

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.
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

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

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

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:

- Define the Problem
- Form a hypothesis
- Test the hypothesis
- Analyze and draw conclusions
- 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.

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

Your PTA newsletter

Submissions to “McNews” are due by the 15th of each month. Please e-mail information to Jackie Wiegand at jwiegand@twcny.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 Beecon 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)
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 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.

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

Give it a try!

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

(enclosed 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 Cambarer, 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

Co-chairs
Jen Guild: 638-2915 or jguild@twcny.rr.com
Michele Petrelli: 635-6929 or apetrellijr@twcny.rr.com

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

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

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.
**McNamara Elementary School**

**March 2008**

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<td>Grade 3 State Math Assessment</td>
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<td>Daylight Savings Time begins, move clocks ahead one hour</td>
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<td>St. Patrick's Day Board of Education 7 p.m., Durgee</td>
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<td>Science Fair Grades K-4, 5 to 6:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Half Day for all students; 12:15 dismissal; AM K attends</td>
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**LUNCH PRICES**

- DAILY: $1.50
- MILK: $.50/pint
- ICE CREAM: $0.65

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