

# *The Eagle Tribune*



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

District Office 836-3636

Volume 16 Issue 1

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK



Melinda (Christofferson) McCool grew up on Carr Hill Road in the McGraw School District. She is a 1984 McGraw High School graduate and was awarded a Bachelor of Science, Master of Education and Certificate of Advanced Study from SUNY Cortland. After 14 years of teaching in the Homer School District and 10 years as a principal at Hunter-Tannersville School District in the northern Catskills, Melinda returned home to take on the role of Superintendent of Schools at McGraw this July. Melinda and her husband of 31 years, John, have a son and a daughter that live and work in Albany, NY. Besides her passion for education, Melinda enjoys preparing celebratory meals for her family, fishing and wine touring in the Finger Lakes, and spending time on her parents' property enjoying its natural wonders.

Dear McGraw Families:

The school year is off to a great start as the students get into their routines and teachers provide high expectations for their success. I am grateful to have moved back home to this caring and supportive community that works together with the school to ensure that our children are ready for what this world has to offer.

The partnership that exists between home and school creates a valuable relationship that enhances the whole education experience for our children. The high attendance at the Open Houses this year was an indication of the value that families of McGraw place on their child's education. All families will be able to schedule a parent-teacher conference on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> as well. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity.

The schools are humming with excitement. The elementary hallways are lined with exemplary samples of student work. Children eagerly share their thoughts using their latest language arts skills and strategies. Attention to details is apparent as one reads the rich array of written assignments. The use of hands on materials and problem solving activities make for very interesting math and science classes. The conscious effort of the teaching staff to overlap content makes the real life connections relevant.

The elementary after-school program is going strong under the leadership of Kim Freidman. Students are able to receive an afterschool snack, take some time for homework completion, as well as participate in a variety of enrichment activities. With programs such as this, the district is dedicated to providing programming that will enhance the educational experience.

High School students are paving the way to maintaining a caring community through volunteer work and community service projects. Two student organizations were recognized at the October 5<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting by the McGraw American Legion. Representatives Jim Caufield and Jim Aiken presented the FBLA and the Sr. Honor Society with \$3,500 each, to continue their training, workshops and activities that promote exceptional character. The American Legion wished to show their appreciation for the efforts of our students as they have continually made a difference in the lives of our local veterans.

McGraw Central School will continue to provide educational programming that teaches the whole child. We strive to provide the best academic programming to create intelligent members of our community that are capable of successfully making a difference in the world through exceptional character, work ethic, and compassion. Keeping this in mind, at times during the year, community members will be called upon for input and expertise in district committees. I look forward to collaborating with you. Thank you for your part in making McGraw Central School District a great place to live, learn, and grow.

Respectfully yours, Melinda McCool

## McGraw School News—

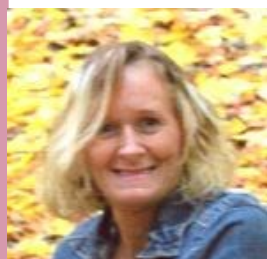
## NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Heather Frink is very excited to be working in McGraw this year as the 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher. She is new to McGraw this year, but has been teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA for 5 years. Heather decided to make the move to McGraw because she attended a small school as a student and missed the atmosphere.

Heather lives in Solon with her husband, Levi, and two children—Wyatt 7 and Sadie 3. They live on a small hobby farm. Outside of school she enjoys cleaning, dirt racing, and spending time with her family.

Teaching is her passion and she is very excited to be able to share it with all the children that she comes in contact with.



Holly Rickert is the elementary cook. She is a graduate of Homer CSD and has lived in Solon for the past 16 years. She has over 20 years of experience in the food service industry. She recently became a certified Zumba instructor and currently teaches classes in Cincinnati. She is looking to start a class here in McGraw as well. She is also a certified photographer. Holly has three beautiful children and the proud owner of two ferrets and three dogs.

Ethan Brown grew up in Solvay and he played football, basketball, baseball, and was a part of the golf team. He was also a member of the stage crew in drama club. He received his Associate's degree at Onondaga Community College. After OCC, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in Water Resources Management. In 2007, he worked for General Electric as a water filtration technician traveling the U.S. to different coal, oil, and nuclear facilities. After having worked for a year, feeling academically unfulfilled, he went back to school in pursuit of a degree in education and received his Master's from LeMoyne College. For five years he taught grades 6-8 general sciences and regent's Earth science at St. Joseph School in Auburn. Presently, he is the 9th grade Earth Science teacher at McGraw and could not be happier to be a part of such an amazing staff.



Andrew Pierce was born and raised in Cortland where he still resides with his wife Kari and 3 children: Skylar(16), Hunter(15) & Jared(13). He received his Bachelor's from SUNY Cortland. Besides working for McGraw School, he coaches varsity girls basketball for Marathon and owns Funflicks Outdoor Movies of Cortland.



Crystal Noto is a 2004 graduate from McGraw High School. After studying Business Administration at TC3, she worked in several secretarial positions, which eventually lead her back to her Alma Mater. She is most excited to work in the Guidance Office because she will be able to help students during their high school career, and also with mapping out and planning their futures. Crystal can't wait to see where her path at McGraw leads and is so thankful for this wonderful opportunity. "Your life is your message to the world. Make sure its inspiring."

Jamey Crumb grew up in McGraw out in the country. He was always running around outside playing and riding dirt bikes and four wheelers. He played basketball, soccer and baseball throughout high school as well as race snowmobiles. Jamey graduated from McGraw in 2006 and went to SUNY Cobleskill for Physical Education and played soccer. After two years he transferred to SUNY Brockport. He worked at Suit-Kote Corp. since 2007 until he became a teacher here at McGraw. Being able to come back to where he grew up and once walked the halls is very exciting. He has coached all levels of sports and is currently the Boys Varsity Soccer coach. He has two beautiful girls in his life, his fiancé and 5 month old daughter Lyla.



## McGraw School News



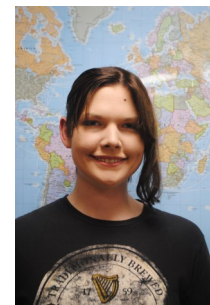
Adam Fox began working as a cook at the high school in March of this year. He was raised in Preble, NY and is a graduate of both Homer CSD and TC3. He recently located to the district with his wife and young daughter. When he is not working, he enjoys spending time with his family and tending to his beehives.

Mike Barnhart joined our team in January 2016 as a maintenance mechanic with 18 years of experience. He is a McGraw alumnus—Class of 1996. Mike attended college at Fingerlakes Community College studying environmental science. He is a proud family man who enjoys camping and being outdoors with his wife and children. Mike's character and energy makes him a great member of our team.



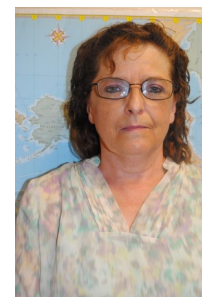
Dale Predmore is a McGraw alumnus—Class of 1972, and worked at Apex Tools in Cortland for 27 years. He is a family man who enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren. Dale wanted to try something new and serve his community by becoming a valued bus driver. He likes all the students on his route and being a driver which has made him a great member of the transportation team.

Ashley Johnson joined our team in August 2016 as a cleaner in the Elementary School. She brought enthusiasm, energy, and experience with her that keeps the whole team smiling. Ashley enjoys being with her family on camping trips and exercising. Ashley's motivation and dedication have proven her to be a proud member of our facilities team.



Julie Brown joined our facilities team in September 2016 as a cleaner in the High School. She has served for the last year as a valued substitute cleaner for the district. Julie is a proud wife and mother of her family which she cares for very much. Julie's big smile and positive attitude have enriched our facilities team.

Janice Moore joined our team of bus drivers in April 2016 after helping our district as a sub driver for 2 years. Janice also helps with the duties in the transportation office. She is a proud US Army veteran, wife and mother. Janice enjoys camping all summer at the Country Music Park and enjoys working with all the members of the transportation team and all the children on her bus.





## FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S DESK

We have had a great start to the school year and I am amazed that the first 5 weeks have already gone by so quickly. Something new for this year is that parents and students will be able to access their grades and various other types of information through our School Tool student/parent information system. Teachers have been trained and plans are in the works to get information to parents and students on how to use the system shortly. This system has replaced the Engrade system that was used previously by several of our staff members. The School Tool system will be available for use by all teachers. As a district we are excited to have this opportunity for parents and students to keep track of their progress throughout each marking period. I believe it will help bridge the gap between home and school allowing the two to work better together toward finding success for all of our students.

Another School Tool program that we are beginning to use this month is the attendance RoboCall system. When your child is absent from school you will receive an automated call informing you of their absence. Since the calls will go out at the same time each day, parents will be informed much earlier in the day in case there are any discrepancies and it will also free up valuable time for the school nurse. The system will automatically call the primary parent that is on file from the emergency contact information that you provided earlier this year. This system is used in other districts in our area and has been well received by parents and staff. I look forward to adding this technology to assist parents and our staff to help ensure students are safe and their attendance is being tracked accurately. The RoboCall system will not be used if your child has become ill while at school. The school nurse will continue to make those types of calls to parents. As with any new technology, I anticipate an occasional glitch in the system, I do ask that parents call to inform us of any problems that they may encounter.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child, our programs and/or policies, please feel free to contact me at 836-3601.

## FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Now that the school year is under way... the following are some ideas for you to support your child's learning.

- Spend a few minutes every day reviewing your child's agenda and any papers that they bring home. Ask them questions about what they learned during the day and ask them to teach you some of the things they mention.
- Send in a note to your child's teacher if you have a question about the school work.
- Read a fun novel or a chapter book series as a family- talk about it as much as possible.
- Create a family journal or a message book to write notes to each other.
- Complete any forms that are sent home and return them to the school by the next day. If you have any questions, contact the main office.
- Contact your child's teacher if you have concerns or notice any problems. You can access the staff emails on the last page of the Parent Handbook or on the district website. The teachers have updated their websites- take a peek!
- Attend any conferences, parent meetings, PTO meetings, and school events regularly. Complete a volunteer application to help out in classrooms or the cafeteria.

Working together and forming a partnership with the school will help your child succeed!

As always... if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone at: 836-3650 or by email: [sprince@mcgrawschools.org](mailto:sprince@mcgrawschools.org)

### What is Happening in Fourth Grade?

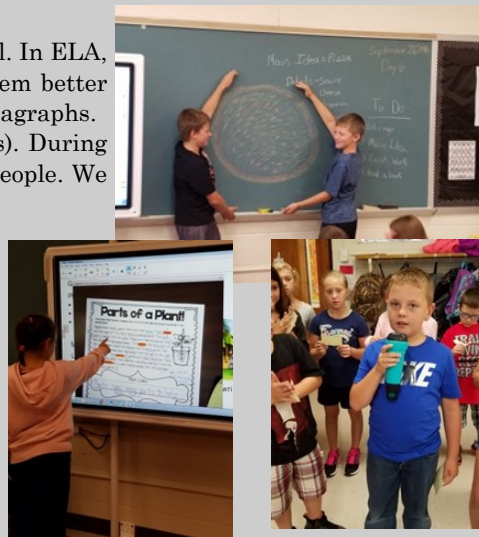
It is hard to believe that we are already a month and half into school. In ELA, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been working on close reading text to help them better understand what they read, writing short responses and writing paragraphs. Our first unit of study will be the Haudenosaunee People (Iroquois). During this unit we will read a variety of text about the Haudenosaunee People. We will also do LOTS of writing to show our understanding of the text.

The unit also focuses on many character education pieces including the CARES word of the month, Cooperation. Some of the character education lessons will be about being assertive, instead of a follower, doing what is right even when an adult is not around, following rules, and community building.

In math, the students have been working on fluency with multiplication facts, solving word problems and fractions.

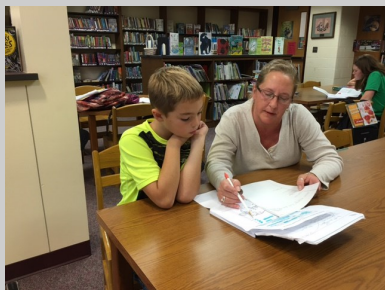
Stay tuned for more fun from fourth grade!

Heather Frink and Kathy O'Donnell



### AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

McGraw Elementary After-school Program is up and running! There are 80 students participating and the first few weeks have gone quickly. The philosophy of the program is to engage young people in enriching activities growing their desire for life-long learning. The daily schedule allows time for movement, relaxation, homework help and inspiring activities. From 3:05pm – 3:30 pm students gather in the cafeteria. They are assigned to tables according to grade level. This year our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders pass out snack to Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades and help them as needed. This encourages positive interactions among all grade levels, cooperation and responsibility. A cooperative environment helps to promote our new Character Education Program CARES - Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control. From 3:30pm – 4:15pm students go with an afterschool teacher to a classroom where they receive support to begin, and sometimes complete their homework. Around 4:15pm teachers shift from homework to an enrichment activity. These can include, but are not limited to, board games, technology, playground, physical activities in the gym, special programming, a community project and more. At 4:50pm students who do not ride the bus gather in the cafeteria with their belongings and wait to be called from the office when a caregiver arrives. For safety purposes, there is only one point of access for caregivers. They go to the office to sign children out at anytime during the program. At 5:00pm the program ends and children who ride the bus are dismissed. The after-school program runs Monday thru Thursday. There is **NO after-school on Fridays**. This month there will be no after-school on Halloween, Monday October 31<sup>st</sup>. It has been such a pleasure for me to see all the smiling faces every day. Feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or ideas, Kimberly Friedman at 836-3642 or email [kfriedman@mcgrawschools.org](mailto:kfriedman@mcgrawschools.org)



Mrs. Cornell helps a student during homework time.



Students helping to spruce up the landscaping



Happy boys helping clean up the flowerbeds found a special surprise...a bird nest.



# FALL FUND DRIVE

Dear Friends of the Lamont Library,  
The library board of trustees and staff ask that you join us in supporting the many wonderful services the Lamont Library provides. The board of trustees and library staff diligently seek grants and special gifts to subsidize the state and local tax funding received to run the library. However, we need your assistance to offset the rising cost of operating expenses, library materials and program supplies to help us continue to offer programs and services throughout the year. Once again this year we are asking you to partner with us to provide quality library services for McGraw residents.

Please take a moment to complete the donation form and return it to the library with your tax deductible check or money order. Contributions of any size are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Heather M. Cobb, Director

## Preschool Storytime

Every Friday at 10:00 a.m. families enjoy stories, songs, a craft and a snack  
Year to date attendance: 99



## Craft Club

Simple step by step craft projects offered second Thursday of the month at 5:30 for teens and adults  
Year to date attendance: 35

## Summer Reading



In July artistic and literary programs were offered for all ages. Special programming grants fund all guest artists.

Total Program Attendance: 409

Children Registered: 103

Tweens and Teens Registered: 34

Adults Registered: 15

## Kreative Kidz

Third Thursday of each month at 3:30  
tweens and teens can enjoy fun with friends, cool projects, games and a snack  
Year to date attendance: 53

## Public Computers



Six public computers and WIFI are available for accessing the internet.  
Year to date Internet users: 1,363

## Knit & Crochet Group

Group is open to all ages, beginner to expert. If you would like to learn or share your expertise, please join.

Second Tuesday of the month at 3:30

Fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30

Year to date attendance: 58

Lamont Memorial Free Library, P.O. Box 559, McGraw, NY 13101 • (607)836-6767

Enclosed please find my tax-deductible donation: \_\_\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\_\$100

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



## Whom should I talk to about...

Registering my child in McGraw School.....	Guidance Office - 836-3610 (HS) Main Office—836-8610 (Elementary)
My child's bus route & other transportation questions.....	Transportation—836-3670
Free or reduced school lunches.....	Cook Manager—836-3619
My child's academic progress/concerns.....	Classroom teacher
Counseling services.....	Guidance Office—836-3610
Special education questions.....	Special Education Office—836-3669
Health services or administering medication.....	Nurse's Office—836-3606 (HS) 836-3652 (Elementary)
Student schedules, transcripts, college applications & financial aid.....	Guidance Office—836-3610
Athletics.....	836-3616
My child's absence from school.....	836-3606 (HS) or 836-3652 (Elem.)
Withdrawing my child from McGraw School.....	Guidance—836-3610
Working papers.....	Nurse's Office — 836-3606

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## **MS/HS Art News**

**Empty Bowls** - The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser will be held again this year on Saturday, October 29th at 6:00 PM at the Center 4 the Arts in Homer. Tickets are a \$35.00 minimum donation for a handmade bowl. This event is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger and was created by the Imagine Render Group. Potters, craftsman, educators, and students work with the community to create beautiful and unique hand crafted bowls. These bowls will then be used to eat out of that night for dinner and then will be taken home with the buyer as a reminder about world hunger. The food for the dinner is donated by several local restaurants and musical entertainment will also be provided. All proceeds go to Cortland's Loaves and Fishes program to provide food for those in need. McGraw Art students each made two beautiful handmade pottery bowls, one to donate and one to keep. You may purchase tickets from Hage Real Estate, Center for the Arts of Homer, Ultimate Image Hair Studio, Sheridan's Jeweler's, Loaves and Fishes Board Members, the Loaves and Fishes Office at Grace and Holy Spirit Church @ 607-756-6195. You may also visit them at [cortlandloavesandfishes.org](http://cortlandloavesandfishes.org).

**Art Club** – We have a HUGE club this year of 40 members!!! The Art Club met for our first workshop on October 14th. We made a variety of autumn themed projects such as decorated wreaths, mason jars, stained glass, candle holders, and wooden decorations. Our next workshop will be December 2nd.

### **WATER QUALITY TESTING**

Proudly our district has always chosen to take the proactive approach when it handles the health and safety of the students and staff at McGraw Central Schools. During the 2010 Building Project a majority of the plumbing & fixtures were upgraded to align with the federal guidelines of being lead-free. This past summer we tested various sinks and drinking fountains for water quality. Of the 100+ tests, only four sinks came back with levels slightly above the action level required by the DOH. The fixtures were replaced, labeled, and have been retested.

On September 6 NYS signed into law requiring all possible drinking water sources with student access be tested for the presence of lead to a limit of 15 ppb (parts per billion). We were working with the county DOH to ensure all the proper procedures and regulations are followed. On September 29th the remainder of the testing was performed in all the facilities, and we are awaiting results. Once results are back, we will create an action plan to correct any issues. We will continue to communicate with you on our findings and actions, including taking any faucets or fountains offline for drinking water.

We will also be continuing to ensure the water quality is up to the new standards by having a testing schedule that ensures all locations will be tested at least every five years.

McGraw Central School District  
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McGraw, NY 13101

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ECRWSS  
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**THE MAXIMUM FULFILLMENT OF EACH STUDENT'S POTENTIAL**

***Board of Education Members***

<b>Term expires</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>email</b>
2017	Cindy Buerkle, President	cbuerkle@mcgrawschools.org
2017	Barb Closson, Vice-President	bclosson@mcgrawschools.org
2018	Cheryl Kenyon	ckenyon@mcgrawschools.org
2019	Kristina Maricle	kmaricle@mcgrawschools.org
2018	Tony Opera	topera@mcgrawschools.org
2018	Steve Tobias	stobias@mcgrawschools.org
2019	Nathaniel Wayman	nwayman@mcgrawschools.org