The Eagle Tribune



www.mcgrawschools.org

District Office 836-3636

Volume 16 Issue 2

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Dear McGraw Families:

As we transition into 2017, it is a great time for us to reflect upon our goals and dreams for our school and the students that we serve. The school district will be working with the R/E/D Group to create a strategic plan to help us maintain what makes McGraw Schools special and look at ways to help us best meet the needs of students in the 21st century. I encourage all parents to return the survey that we send home in January to help us with this important process. We will be asking your thoughts about the current strengths of the school, as well as the areas in need of attention. We are also interested in your input about our facilities, student programming, and the climate of the schools. Your thoughts and ideas are valued.

As McGraw Central School strives to help our students reach their greatest potential, one of the key components for high student achievement is making instruction relevant to students' lives, experiences, and background knowledge. Whenever possible, teachers and principals utilize the many resources that we have right here in our own backyard. The local fire department provided safety instruction to the elementary students in October, complete with newest heat identification technology. The Lamont Memorial Free Library hosted a community tree lighting event that included a sing-along lead by MCS chorus members. Our FBLA worked with the McGraw Food Pantry to complete a food drive that collected over 550 items. These additional opportunities to collaborate with the community enhance our student learning and their contribution to the well being of all.

Family participation is another major contributor to student success. Reading with children, discussing current events, reviewing the family budget, sharing information about a hobby or interest, writing out shopping lists or even following a favorite recipe from a cookbook are all activities that help children learn. These everyday actions help children put their thoughts into words and build a repertoire of knowledge. When families place value on discovery, knowledge, and learning, children portray a more positive attitude towards their education. Encouragement and pride in a child's school work and progress is extremely valuable to their effort and achievement. We are fortunate at MCS to have the support of families and the community, to best reach the goals that we set for each child.

With this important foundation, our students are able to reach the academic and social goals that we set for them to succeed in the 21st century. We are preparing students to be productive members of their community while instilling in them a need to collaborate, think creatively to problem solve, and continually take on new knowledge to meet an ever changing world.

Thank you for all that you do to make McGraw Central School a great place for children to learn and grow!

Respectfully yours,

Melinda McCool

January 2017

- 2—New Year's Holiday
- 3-Classes Resume
- 4—BOE Meeting 7:00 PM
- 13-14—All County Chorus Festival
- 16—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 18-PTO Meeting 6:00 PM
- 18-BOE Budget Meeting 6:30 PM
- 22—Soph. Class Pancake Breakfast
- 30-No School for Students

February 2017

1—BOE Meeting 7:00 PM

15—PTO Meeting 6:00 PM

15-BOE Budget Meeting 6:30 PM

20-24—Winter Recess



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Guidance Department News Contact number: 836-3610

Alumni Day 2017

We will be welcoming back the graduating class of 2016 to speak with our Junior and Senior classes regarding their experiences in the last year on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.

Note: Higher Education Week has changed from January to April this year. We will be attending a large college fair with students in April. Other activities for the week to be announced as the date draws closer.

Seniors: Class of 2017

Steps to applying to colleges:

- A. College applications should be sent to prospective colleges by late December. If you intend to apply and have not yet come to the Guidance office, please make an appointment with Mrs. Walter.
- B. Once you have applied to college **request a copy of your high school transcript** from the Guidance Office to be sent to the prospective colleges.
- C. View potential scholarships of the colleges to which you have applied, but also be sure to look in the **Scholarship Book located in the Guidance Office.** To find more scholarships available take one of the scholarship website lists from the book.
- **D.** All colleges have different financial aid deadlines. Find out financial aid deadlines on the college websites.
- E. In order to receive any financial assistance from the federal programs parents must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form after October 1, 2016. The information on the FAFSA is used to generate New York State grants and financial awards. Therefore to be eligible for any New York State grants the FAFSA must be completed www.FAFSA.ED.Gov. **Need free help filling out the FAFSA? Call SUNY Cortland Financial Aid Office or Tompkins County Community College Financial Aid office for free help with questions regarding the FAFSA.**

Juniors: Class of 2018

College Entrance Exams

Most four year colleges require a student to take a college entrance exam to be considered for college admission. These college entrance exams are known as the SAT and ACT exams. Students in their Junior year are encouraged to take the SAT and/or the ACT. These exams are offered in the Spring and Fall. Most students take the exam in the Spring of their Junior year to enable them to retake an exam if the student chooses to in the Fall. The website of prospective colleges will have the information whether the college admission process includes needing SAT and/or ACT scores for admission. Mrs. Walter will be going into classes to discuss the difference between the SAT and ACT. The SAT exam schedule, fee, and registration are located at www.collegeboard.com and the ACT exam schedule, fee, and registration are located at www.actstudent.org.

Scheduling for 2017-18

Classroom presentations for grades 8-11 regarding scheduling for next year will begin in January. Students will be given information regarding required and elective courses. Parents are encouraged to attend your student's meeting with Mrs. Walter to discuss course selections and future planning. Please call the Guidance Department at 836-3610 to arrange a meeting time. Students in grades 8-11 (11th graders first) will be meeting with Mrs. Walter to choose course selections for next year beginning in January.

8th Grade Parent Night is Thursday, March 2, 2017.

Parents and eighth grade students are strongly encouraged to come to the Eighth Grade Parent Night at the high school on Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the high school. Learn the graduation requirements expected of 9th graders who will be entering high school in September 2017. Also learn about A.C.E. (Access to College Education) a program available to 9-12 graders which is described below.

A.C.E. Access to College Education

A.C.E. is a program through Cortland State, Cornell University, Ithaca College and Tompkins Cortland Community College to help students learn more about the next step after high school to include college admissions, financial aid, and careers. Please complete an application in the Guidance Office if you and your student are interested in this program.

A.C.E. students strive for specific levels of academic achievement and participate in ACE sponsored events throughout their years in high school. ACE programs are designed to open students' minds to the idea of college in their future and to help them begin to dream about what kind of career they would like to have. Visit A.C.E. at www.cortland.edu/ace

Benefits include:

- Skill training and academic support, Access to college resources while in high school, College based programs including campus tours, theater presentations, lectures, conferences, sporting events, and social events.
- · Informative workshops such as: securing financial aid, Study Skills or Time Management
- Special admissions consideration for those who acquire the ACE recommendation and fulfill the college admission criteria.

Goals of ACE:

- Identify capable students who may not be thinking about college for academic or social reasons
- Help students access higher education by providing programs to raise their levels of expectations and achievement
- Increase students probability of success in college by developing appropriate attitudes, study skills, and life skills
- Involve parents in their children's education so parents can provide much needed support
- Encourage collaboration among educators at all levels of education in support of ACE goals If you are interested in signing up please call the Guidance Office at 836-3610.



ACE Juniors who attended the Dollars and Sense Workshop at TC3 in December.

New News in Phys. Ed.!

We are striving to help our students live a stronger, healthier life. We have incorporated "Fitness Friday" into our curriculum that focuses on the components of fitness. Components that we focus on are muscular endurance, muscular strength, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and agility, to name a few. We are hoping that students are being challenged, having fun, and learning skills to incorporate into their daily lives. We hope positive conversations are happening at home about the skills they are learning in class. Lastly, we have started our first "Challenge" outside of class. We hope these challenges will keep them focused on improving their body composition and help give them a fun activity to do outside of school. This month's Challenge is 500 sit-ups between December 1st — December 23rd. Feel free to join your child with this challenge for some positive family competition.

Thank you - Jamey Crumb & Taylor Hughes

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MCS Basketball

This is my fifth season coaching the boys' varsity program at McGraw High School. I am assisted this year by Coach Jamey Crumb as well as Coach Ed Pickert, who will again be coaching our JV team. Last year we finished the season with a regular season record of 11-6 and an overall record of 12-7. We finished 8-2 in the league which put us second in the league last year behind Madison. We advanced to the second round of sectionals with an overtime win over Tyburn Academy then lost in our second round of sectionals to NY Mills. We hope to repeat last year's successful season this year.

The players who graduated last year include Drew Smith, Justin Shorts (1st team all-league), Ryan Sherwood, Aiden Dittmann (2nd team all-league) and Chris Legg. These players had a large impact on our team's success last year and will be greatly missed. We wish them all the best of luck in college. Captains this year are Seniors Jordan Cowen, Carter Towsley and Devon Tuttle. We will look to them to provide leadership to our team throughout this season and to play a large role on both sides of the ball for us. Also returning to the team this year are seniors David Smith and Spencer Welsh who we will look to be a presence in the post this year. Also returning is senior Travis Walker who will play a utility role, both in the paint and on the perimeter. New to our team this year are Seniors Tim Horner who transferred in from Moravia, Chris Dwyer who is up this year from JV, and Dustin Hewlett who made the team this year and will help us out in the post. Juniors up from the JV team are Dakota Stauber and Kevin Shorts who each played very well in our first scrimmage. We are looking for these younger guys to learn our system and then play contributing roles throughout the season.

Our team is looking to improve on last year's performance in the league but we expect tough league competition this year from Madison who is returning many of the players from last year as well as DeRuyter and Cincinnatus who I think will be improved from last year and tough league competition. We also expect tough non-league competition from Blessed Virgin Mary Academy, Marathon and Cortland in a Holiday Tournament.

Head Coach: Matthew Martins Assistant Coach: Jamey Crumb



FBLA Food Drive Thanksgiving 2016!

Thank you to each of the students, faculty and staff who participated in the FBLA Food Drive Competition in November to help the McGraw Food Pantry fill baskets for the Thanksgiving holiday! With over 550 items and over \$125 collected we helped to feed many families over the Thanksgiving holiday.

On Thursday, December 1, fifty FBLA and Honor Society students toured New York City. Students arrived in Bryant Park to site-see in the Winter Village, taste the eateries, and enjoy the skating rink. The group walked to Times Square where they enjoyed shopping, street vendors, the sites, and lunch. In the afternoon, students enjoyed St. Patrick's Cathedral, the beautiful holiday decorations along Fifth Avenue, and the amazing Rockefeller Plaza Christmas tree. They saw the world-famous Radio City Music Hall Rockettes perform in the Christmas Spectacular and then rode 70 stories to the "Top of the Rock" and looked out over the city. After shopping their way back to Times Square, they enjoyed dinner at the Bubba Gump Shrimp Company. It was an amazing day with awesome students in a beautiful city!

FBLA & Honor Societies in NYC...







FROM THE HIGH SHOOL PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It's the most wonderful time of the year! That is how the holiday song goes. However, here at McGraw Central School, it is my goal to try to foster this type of caring behavior throughout the entire year. We pride ourselves as a district to offer a quality education that teaches not only the subjects needed to graduate, but also the qualities within a student's character to be a successful, productive member of society. Earlier this week, I was fortunate enough to listen to a speaker from the "Rachael's Challenge" movement. They stressed that the world has to start a 'chain reaction' of caring. If people do something nice or caring for someone else, hopefully the chain will continue and pass that act of kindness on to someone else. It was a powerful message and I feel that we need to continuously look for ways to start a chain reaction and be a change agent in our school, community and beyond. Let's not just focus on the Holiday Season as the only time to make it 'a wonderful time of the year.' Let's practice this behavior throughout the entire year. With that being said, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and I look forward to an exciting and successful 2017.

Mark Dimorier



FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S DESK



The McGraw Elementary School hallways are coming alive with excitement. This is always a lively time of year for all of our students. They are looking forward to the upcoming holiday events here at school and at home. December is a busy month for us with fun classroom projects, cookie baking, caroling through McGraw, practicing being generous elves, as well as our continuous adventures in learning. We will be having a window decorating contest, canned food drive, and various guests visiting this month.

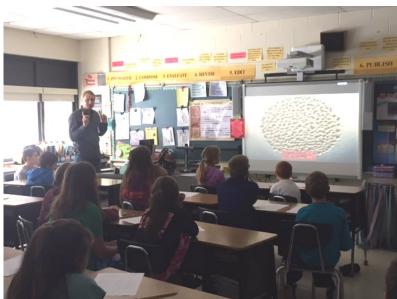
Even with this busy time of year we still look at fun ways to explore learning. There are many ways to get the whole family involved in fun activities that are great learning experiences such as:

- Playing games that involve strategic thinking and math concepts: Life, Battleship, Operation, Monopoly, Uno, Apples to Apples Junior, etc.
- Reading some of the great holiday stories: <u>The Snowy Day, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Light the Lights, The Polar Express,</u> or <u>Twas the Night Before Christmas</u>.
- Baking cookies or making homemade hot cocoagreat ways to use fractions and measurements!
- Physical Activities: sledding, ice skating, hiking through the woods, snowshoeing or skiing through the nature trails at Highland Forest, tubing at various ski resorts.
- Family movie nights with homemade snacks such as: trail mix or popcorn balls.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the entire McGraw Community a safe and happy holiday season. As always... if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone at: 836-3650 or by email: sprince@mcgrawschools.org

Susan Prince Elementary Principal

Fifth Grade STEAM Presentations



The 5th grade is excited to announce that we are holding presentations about Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) throughout the year. The inspiration for these presentations came from the need for proficiency in and passion for the STEAM subjects. We also conducted a survey in the 5th grade classes about hobbies. interests, and life The results included a lack of interest and activity in the STEAM subjects. We want to support our students' current interests and goals, but we also want to expose our students to new experiences and ideas. The fifth grade team hopes to continue to engage and inspire the students by having them interact with people who work within the STEAM fields, while simultaneously emphasizing the importance of specific skills that we teach and support in class.

We have contacted people that we know who study and work in these fields, including the following: a computational biophysicist, illustrator,

entomologist, producer (voice), music conductor, mechanical engineer, and geologist. Some of these people do not live locally, so we can utilize Google Hangouts as a means of presenting. We have provided them with a PowerPoint to highlight the objectives of their visit, but they are free to use a different presentation tool. We encourage them to bring visuals/pictures/video, "tools of the trade"/materials/equipment, and/or whatever else they deem appropriate to enhance their presentation. They are to provide the students with a demonstration or an interactive portion to their visit.

Our first guest was Adam Patch (pictured) on November 23, 2016 at the elementary school. He is PhD candidate at Syracuse University who studies and researches in the field of computational biophysics. Mr. Patch was very engaging and shared interesting experiences and information to our students. We can't wait for our STEAM presenters to continue to intrigue and inspire our class!

We are always looking for more STEAM presenters, so please contact us if you have someone in mind.

Kids Helping Kids

Mrs. Niver's 4th and 5th grade Social Studies classes participated in the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF program this past Halloween. The students were motivated by an article in Scholastic News and voted to participate in the collection of change while they trick-ortreated around the village. Our goal was \$80, so we are happy to announce that we collected \$350 from neighbors, family, and friends. Thank you to all for helping us surpass our goal!!

UNICEF is the United Nations Children's Fund that provides assistance to children around the world who are in need. The money we collected will go toward lifesaving vaccines and insecticide-treated bed nets, emergency relief following natural disasters, educational opportunities, and School-in-a-Box kits, and much more. Thank you for all of your donations!!



2016 Elemetary Holíday Concert

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Bus Driver Appreciation Day 2016

By Cindy Buerkle, BOE President

Hello McGraw School Community: Friday, October 21 was bus driver appreciation day, and I wanted to share with you my appreciation for our bus drivers. Many of our families entrust their children into the hands of these bus drivers twice a day to get them to and from school safely. They take our children to the enriching and fun activities away from school like sports trips, music trips, and field trips. Not very many people have what it takes to be a bus driver, and we are fortunate to have the quality people we have in the transportation department in this district. My mother was a McGraw school bus driver for 30 years, so I know the trials and tribulations of a bus driver and how dedicated the drivers are to getting our children to school safely. It is often not an easy task, especially driving on the hills in the winter! I thought of this on bus driver appreciation day this year as I was driving to work. It was still raining after raining all night with a flash flood warning. It was still dark, but the drivers were up early and out there driving with their eyes on the road and eyes in the backs of their heads, keeping an eye out for special circumstances that might arise just like every other day. The entire bus garage team is extremely dedicated to ensure our buses are safe and in excellent repair and that the whole operation runs smoothly. We should all keep in mind that this team is critical to the successful operation of our school.

Meet the 2016-2017 McGraw School Board Members:

Cindy Campbell Buerkle, President—I am the daughter of Jerry and Gail Campbell. My husband, Dan Buerkle, and I live on Baker School House Road in Solon. I graduated from McGraw High School in 1980. My children attended McGraw schools. Tyson, Laura, and Wyatt have all graduated college and are making their way in the world. Wyatt is in grad school, so still lives at home between semesters.

I am the Cortland Junior-Senior High School Librarian. I earned my Masters in Library and Information Sciences at Syracuse University. I also have a Physical Education Degree from SUNY Cortland, and an Electronics Engineering Technology degree from the County College of Morris in Randolph, NJ. As you can see, I am interested in just about everything. I am currently pursuing my Certification of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership at Stony Brook University. I love learning, helping others learn, and learning about learning. I enjoy outdoor pursuits like hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, swimming, and gardening along with history and genealogy.

I joined the McGraw School Board in 2011. This is my second year as board president. I care very much about the McGraw School District present, past, and future – students, parents, teachers, staff, and community.

"Upon the subject of education ... I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in" - Abraham Lincoln.

Barb Closson, Vice President—I live on West River Road, Cortland, NY with my husband Lou. We have lived in the McGraw district for 34 years. We have one daughter, Sarah who attended McGraw from K-12 and graduated in 2012. I retired from the Cortland City School District after 35 years of teaching elementary school. I have served on the board of education at McGraw since 2008. I currently serve as Vice President. I also served three years on the OCM BOCES Board, representing Cincinnatus, Marathon and McGraw School Districts.

John Dewey said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."

Tony Opera—I live on Syrian Hill Rd., McGraw with my wife, Wendy. I have been a resident of the McGraw School District for 35 years. We have three daughters who graduated from McGraw Central School. I have served on the board of education since 2005 and the BOE president for three years, 2011 –2014.



Back: Tobias, Closson, Opera, Buerkle Front: Kenyon, Maricle, Wayman

Cheryl Kenyon—I live on Clinton Street Ext with my husband, Bob, and son, Matt. I have been a resident of McGraw School district for 32 years. Matt is the fourth generation in Bob's family to graduate from MCS. I have spent the past 26 years as Dr. Salman and Dr. El Hassan's medical practice manager. In my spare time, I try to give back to the community. As a McGraw Recreation Committee member for 15 years and McGraw Booster President for the past ten, I have had the pleasure of working beside many caring residents. We are truly blessed to be a part of this community.

"Treat employees like they make a difference, and they will" Jim Goodnight

Kristina K. Maricle—I have lived in the Village of McGraw for eight years now. I grew up locally in Solon and attended and graduated from McGraw School District. I have two children and both attend McGraw Schools. Abi is a Junior this year and Alex is in 1st grade. I work at SUNY Cortland as an Instructional Designer. I worked as a substitute teacher in many districts including McGraw while obtaining my bachelor's in Elementary Education and master's degree in Instructional Technology so I got to know multiple sides of the spectrum in the Education System.

My favorite quote is "If you fail to plan, then you are planning to fail" ~ Ben Franklin, 1790

Steven Tobias—I live on Stillwell Road in the town of Solon, with my son, Chris, who is a junior at McGraw this year. I have lived in the school district all my life. I, along with my two older children, Bryan, and Taylor graduated from McGraw Central School. Currently, I work for the New York State Department of Transportation.

"Whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well." Philip Stanhope 1746

Nathaniel E. Wayman—I have lived off of South Hill road in McGraw for seven years with my wife Gina. We have two daughters; Elena who is five years old and attending McGraw elementary and Charlotte who is two and eager to start school already! I moved from Michigan to New York nine years ago with BorgWarner as Plant Manager of the Cortland location and am now Director of Manufacturing Engineering at the Ithaca location. Over the years I have served on a number of boards and community committees but none so important or rewarding as the school board.

"We judge ourselves by our intentions. And others by their actions." - Stephen Covey

McGraw Youth Basketball Team

The McGraw Youth Basketball Team would like to thank the Village for sponsoring the team for this season. The team has been practicing for the past month and is looking to kick off their season in January. If anyone is interested coming out to support our team, games will be posted to the McGraw Elementary Physical Education Website. We wish everyone Happy Holidays!

Coaches: Corey Wilson, Ben Doty, Tom McCall and Mike Murray

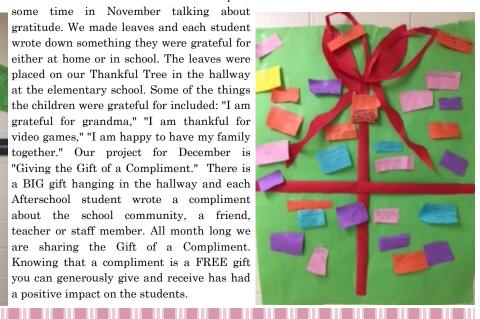


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MCGRAW AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM



The McGraw Afterschool students spent some time in November talking about gratitude. We made leaves and each student wrote down something they were grateful for either at home or in school. The leaves were placed on our Thankful Tree in the hallway at the elementary school. Some of the things the children were grateful for included: "I am grateful for grandma," "I am thankful for video games," "I am happy to have my family together." Our project for December is "Giving the Gift of a Compliment." There is a BIG gift hanging in the hallway and each Afterschool student wrote a compliment about the school community, a friend, teacher or staff member. All month long we are sharing the Gift of a Compliment. Knowing that a compliment is a FREE gift you can generously give and receive has had a positive impact on the students.



ATTENTION DISTRICT RESIDENTS

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN AGE CHILDREN MUST CALL MCGRAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT 836-3650 TO PRE-REGISTER. KINDERGARTEN SCREENING WILL BE IN THE SPRING. ELIGIBLE CHILDREN MUST BE FIVE YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2017. CHILDREN WHO TURN SIX ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2017 MUST ATTEND SCHOOL. PLEASE ALSO CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS ELIGIBLE, BUT WILL NOT BE ATTENDING MCGRAW ELEMENTARY.

The McGraw PTO is announcing the creation of the second edition of the McGraw School & Community Cookbook. You are invited to share your tried and true family favorite recipes to be included in the new edition of this beloved cookbook originally published in 2004.

Please use the Recipe Collection Sheet to submit your recipes (one per sheet.) You may submit as many as you like; send or drop off to McGraw Elementary School. Recipe Collection Sheet is available online at www.mcgrawschools.org under the Families tab under PTO. E-mail recipes to pto@mcgrawschools.org. The cookbook committee reserves the right to edit, limit, and/or omit any recipes necessary. Please submit recipes as soon as possible. We hope to have the cookbook ready for sale for the 2017-2018 school year.

Any questions can be addressed to the Cookbook Committee members: Fleurette Clough, Tina Minervini, Connie Neff, Joanne Roe, and Helen Sherwood.

		 Cootbook S
	nies of the <i>McGraw School & Community Cookbook</i> , Il be less than \$10. Return this form with your recipe subr	Edition.
Name	Phone #	

RECIPE COLLECTION SHEET For office use only Recipe No. **Category:** ___Main Dishes ___Appetizers & Beverages ___ This & That ___Soups & Salads ___ Desserts Breads & Rolls ___Vegetables & Side Dishes ___ Cookies & Candy Recipe Title _____ Submitted by (**Please print or type name legibly ink.** This is how it will read in the cookbook. If you would like to include a student's name, also include your relationship to the student or school. i.e. Mary Smith, Suzy Smith's Aunt; or Mrs. Brown, 4th grade teacher.) INGREDIENTS: Use abbreviations: pt. qt. pkg, env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg. DIRECTIONS:

Phone number _____(in the event we have questions.) This will **not** be printed in the cookbook.

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ECRWSS
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Congratulations, Donna Fox!!

After over twenty-six years as Secretary to the Superintendent and District Clerk of the McGraw School District, Donna Fox has retired. She has been a tremendously knowledgeable resource for the school community. Donna will be greatly missed. She looks forward to the leisure of being retired. Spending more time with family and prospects of travel are in her future.

Fleurette Clough has been selected to replace Donna Fox. She brings fifteen years of secretarial skills with her from the elementary school office. She is a lifelong Cortland County resident, making her home in East Freetown. Her pastimes include baking and gardening. She is excited about her new position at the district office.

