

NOVEMBER 2020 PIE MEMO *(Partners in Education)*

A Note from Sister Rayleen



Discerning the Signs

Throughout both Testaments in Scripture, miracles, unusual events in the natural order, dreams, and encounters are identified as signs. In many forms, God’s self-revelation continues. The world is full of significance. Part of our spiritual work is to learn to recognize it... God is making manifest all the time what we need to know. To watch for guidance is to live in expectation and trust that we are witnessed and accompanied and met and invited. All the time.

Marilyn McEntyre, *Word by Word*

As we reflect on these past months in which a pandemic monopolized far more energy than almost anything else in our public and social lives, we may struggle to “discern the signs” that may be of God. Where have there been in-breakings of God and God’s love in the midst of the social distance, mask wearing, and even isolation? How has God “broken in” to this time where many of us are feeling cumulative angst and stress? As I approach Thanksgiving, I find myself turning toward God with a very different list of things for which I am grateful: a kind word; a good hearty laugh; that person who knows that I am happy or sad behind my Covid mask; the cell phone that allows me to connect with my family members with whom I cannot physically visit; and the presence of a friend or loved one (even if it’s 6 feet apart). With the exception of my cell phone, our community of Mercymount has been the primary source and/or instrument of God’s inbreaking. Since March 13th, God’s guidance and love have been predominantly manifested in and through you. In this month of giving thanks, I will most especially remember you, your kindnesses, and your presence; and I will continue give thanks for you in my prayers. I will also pray that each one of us is open to the grace “to watch for the guidance to live in expectation and trust that we are witnessed and accompanied and met and invited. All the time.”

May God bless you with hope, love, and peace during this season of thanksgiving!

Sr. Rayleen

Winter Uniforms - November 1

The days are getting shorter and colder...winter looms ever closer! As a result the winter dress code per the Handbook goes into effect on November 1st. No shorts allowed until April 1st (*it will be a sure sign of spring - something to look forward to!*)

Clocks Fall Back - November 1

Reminder to change your clocks before you go to bed this Saturday.....and enjoy that extra hour of sleep on Sunday morning!

Election Day - November 3

Voting is not only a right, it's a responsibility! Remember to vote next Tuesday November 3rd! Please note that Mercymount **will be** in session on that day.

Flu Clinic - November 4

We will be hosting a second flu clinic on Wednesday, November 4th from 3:30-5:00pm in the school gym. All adults and children, age 3 and older, are welcome to attend the clinic and get vaccinated at no out-of-pocket cost. There are **NO** walk-ins allowed. This new rule has been put in place by The Wellness Company to avoid large crowd gatherings, and to keep all staff and participants at the clinic safe. Please register your family (age 3+) online at least one day prior to the flu clinic to make sure you are able to reserve an appointment time. You can register online using the following link <http://www.schoolflu.com/>

Parent-Teacher Conferences - November 5th and 6th

Parent-Teachers Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 5th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and November 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. As a result, there is no school on Friday November 6th. Sign up information was emailed out on Tuesday the 28th. Parents of students in PK-5 have the option of an in person or virtual conference. All conferences for middle school students will be virtual.

Thanking Our Veterans - November 10

Our annual assembly honoring those who have served our country will be held on Tuesday, November 10th at 9:00 a.m. The assembly will be virtual this year. All are welcome, and we extend a special invitation to veterans to join us for this meaningful and poignant ceremony. Please let Mrs. Simas know by Monday, November 9th if you have someone that you would like recognized during the assembly (include the name and branch of service, please). There will be no school on Wednesday, November 11th.

Spirit Week November 16th - 20th

We are looking forward to all the fun we have scheduled for our **Spirit Week!** Here is the schedule for the week.

Monday: Not All Heroes Wear Capes Day - Not all heroes wear capes! Some wear scrubs, police/fire uniforms, and fatigues. Our incredible teachers are some of my heroes! On Not All Heroes Wear Capes Day children get to dress up like one of their favorite heroes.

Tuesday: Wear Blue for JDRF - This day will be a No Uniform Day to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Children may bring in a donation of \$1 or more and come to school out of uniform and wearing blue. All proceeds will be donated to the local JDRF Chapter.

Wednesday: Choose Your Theme Day - Each classroom gets to choose their own theme. Food, music, animals, books, you name it! Your teacher will let you know in advance what your class theme is. I can't wait to see what each class comes up with!

Thursday: Make an Impact Day - Dress like a person in history that has made a positive impact on the world.

Friday: School Spirit Day - Children can wear our school colors, blue and white and/or Mercymount swag. We will finish the day with the school's favorite event, the Pig Race!

ThanksGiving!

We have been requested to help during the month of November with a collection of Thanksgiving foods to benefit the Northern RI Food Pantry. Through November 21st we ask that each family donate soup, red/black beans or chickpeas. These items, combined with Staff donations, will provide all the fixings for complete holiday meals to be distributed at the food pantry.

We are also putting together Thanksgiving baskets for the needy. Your child will come home with a form with an assigned item for them to bring in for their class basket. Baskets will be distributed to St Patrick's Word of God meal Kitchen.

Student Council 2020-2021

Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council members: President Brendan Bauschard, Vice President Rebecca Marinella, Secretary Luke Dahrooge and Treasurer Ashley White who will serve along with this year's class representatives: Grade 6, Leah Walden, Alexandra Terrien, Adelle Kenney, and Autumn Gerrish; Grade 7, John Caggiano, John Hanley, Abbey Thibodeau, and Julia Quick; Grade 8, Avery Kenney, Jayden Parkes, and Owen Hanna

Footloose Friday

Friday, November 13th will be our first Footloose Friday of the school year. Footloose Friday is a day where your feet can be out of uniform- socks and shoes (no slippers or sandals) of your choice! Footloose Friday will be the first Friday of every month.

Book of Remembrance

During November, a Book of Remembrance will be in the foyer for anyone to write the names of deceased family or friends for whom we will pray during the month.

MCDS Sports

Congratulations to all our student-athletes on an amazing Fall sports season. Our CAL Cross Country and Tennis teams, as well as our MCDS Instructional Soccer players and Mercy Milers, did an amazing job exemplifying dedication, teamwork, sportsmanship, and a spirit of mercy while representing our school community. Everyone had a blast! A special thank you goes out to the parents, teachers and coaches who helped to guide us through a successful fall season.

Basketball

Plans for basketball are still in development, and the Sports Committee is closely following all the latest developments in the broader Rhode Island sports community. CAL has recently announced that the 2020-2021 season will be delayed until at least January 2021. As many of you know, a significant amount of planning goes into each basketball season, and our planning is well underway. To that end, we are currently opening basketball registrations in Teamsnap to determine player interest and to allow us to begin forming teams.

Grades K - 3 participate in Bidyball, which is a school sponsored instructional basketball program. Similar to instructional soccer sessions run for one hour on Saturday mornings and focus on helping our youngest athletes develop basic basketball skills. "Teams" are divided by grade and all sessions are held in the MCDS gym. Please register your player for bidyball at the following link: <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/248808>

Grades 4 - 8 participate in RI's CAL basketball program. Practices will likely be held one day a week, anytime from 3:15pm - 8pm, depending on the availability of coaches. Games are generally held on weekends (anytime on Saturday, after 12pm or later on Sunday) and teams are eligible to participate in several different post-season tournaments, which may include games on weekday evenings in March. Practices are held at the MCDS gym and games may be at MCDS or at the gyms of other schools throughout RI and nearby Massachusetts. Please register your CAL basketball player at the following link: <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/248809>

A few notes:

- Registration is to determine interest only, and there is currently no fee required. Fees are expected to be approximately \$30 for Bidyball and \$50 - \$75, plus the cost of uniforms for those who will need them, for CAL Basketball, but will be subject to change as we get more info.
- Please register 3rd graders for Bidyball for the time being. Depending on the numbers, some 3rd grades may have the opportunity to play on the CAL Instructional team. 3rd graders ALWAYS have the option to play Bidyball if they are more comfortable.
- **Please register by November 15th. We need an accurate count of players by that time in order to properly form team.**

Any questions or concerns please reach out at MERCYMOUNTSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Picture Day

As you know, Picture Day had to be rescheduled. I am still waiting to hear back as to when that date will be.

Earn While You Shop!

There are a few sites that allow you to shop and earn money for the school. For those of you that love Amazon, use this link to shop, <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0298738> . You can use your existing Amazon accounts, just be sure to shop through the Amazon Smile site. Stop and Shop also has a school rewards program, our school code is 06008. If you need instructions on how to register, please see the attached flyer. There is also the Box Tops for Education Program. You no longer have to cut out the Box Top squares. You just download the app, choose the school you want to earn for, and take a picture of your receipt any time you buy a qualifying product. It is super easy! Shutterfly now has a school rewards program. You can now earn money for the school while ordering those Christmas cards. Shop through the following link, www.mercymount.shutterflystorefront.com Happy shopping!

Teacher Wish List

Our school is blessed to have what we **need** to educate our students. However, our resources cannot always incorporate what we **wish** for to enhance the educational experience for your children. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Simas at csimas@mercymount.org.

PK Miss Carito	Bingo Dot Art Bingo Daubers, Lysol Disinfecting Spray, 10 smocks for painting, Gallon Ziploc Bags with Zipper
PK - A Ms. Dias	Paper Towels, Disinfecting Wipes, Disinfecting Spray, 16 watercolor sets
K-B Mrs. Kimatian	Gallon Ziploc Bags with Zipper, 16 plastic scrapbook storage bins with lid (email Mrs. Simas for an example)
K-C Miss Lena	Gallon Ziploc Bags with Zipper, 16 plastic scrapbook storage bins with lid (email Mrs. Simas for an example)
1-6 Mrs. Corio	Straw Constructor STEM Building Toys 300pc Set (2 sets), Creative Kids Flakes 600 Piece Interlocking Plastic Disc Set
3-3 Miss Shea	Junior size Wobble stools (email Mrs. Simas for link)
3-4 Miss Bruno	Disinfecting wipes, play money, any type of math manipulative (basic ten blocks, unifix cubes, counters), flexible seating that can be wiped down (Ikea has great kid chair and stool options), large map of the United States, small cones for recess
4-19 Miss Werderman	Clorox wipes and Paper Towels
5-16 Mrs. Roberto	Disinfecting wipes, math grid paper, colored card stock paper
7-18 Mrs. Antone	Disinfecting wipes, Rolling cart with 3 plastic trays
8-20 Mrs. Paquette	Stapler
Mrs. Pereira	Pencil Sharpener, Rolling cart with 3 plastic trays
Physical Education	1 Croquet Set, MacGregor Multicolor Basketballs (Set of 6) - Intermediate Size (28.5")(4 sets), Badminton birdies (15)

Advancement update:

Magazines, and Cookies, and Coops, Oh My!

Thank you to all who took part in our annual Fall Product Sales Fundraiser, whether you encouraged friends and families to make sales or donations, or were part of the amazing team of volunteers working here to process orders and ensure that everyone received their coops and prizes. Thanks to all of your hard work, we had a tremendous success this year, logging more than \$36,000 worth of total sales, and collecting almost \$6,000 in direct donations!

You may have received an emailed shipping notice about your cookie dough order. We don't yet have a delivery date scheduled, but it is likely to be sometime during the week of November 9th. Stay tuned!

Shop for gift cards to fundraise for Mercymount Country Day School

Last year, members of the Parents Association asked us to launch a gift card fundraising effort. Gift card fundraising is an easy way to support MCDS. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

How it works:

- Raise money by purchasing gift cards at face value
- Shop 750+ top brands and immediately earn up to 20% on every gift card you buy.
- Use gift cards at full value for your daily purchases, or give as gifts

Earnings come from brands, not from your pocket, so gift cards are worth every penny. Raise money simply by doing everyday things – like grabbing your morning coffee or ordering dinner for the family. You can even compound those earnings: purchase gift cards using an account that earns miles or points for you, or use gift cards on shopping portals or stores that earn further rebates for Mercymount like *Amazon Smile* or *Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards*.

How to get started

Create an account on the **RaiseRight** app or at **ShopWithScrip.com** using our organization's enrollment code: L834CDL373L84

Seamlessly check out and receive eGift cards faster by securely paying online with a linked bank account or credit card. Prefer to receive physical gift cards? That's an available option too. Not comfortable using an app or buying online? Just fill out the attached order form and return it to the school with your check for the purchase amount (made out to Mercymount Country Day School).

Have questions? Contact Karen Weavill via email at kweavill@mercymount.org or by phone at 401-333-5919 x14.

Looking Ahead to December.....

December 4 End of First Trimester

December 11 Report Cards Sent Home

December 23-Jan 3 Christmas Break



"No matter how small the gift, God gives the increase"