



PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)



## A Note from Sister Rayleen

Happy Advent and Blessed December!

Christians around the world began the season of Advent this past Sunday. As you may know, Advent is my favorite liturgical season. Its readings and hopeful expectation allow me to find a peaceful, comforting oasis in the midst of the hustle and bustle that the holiday season brings. Although this year seems to have a lot less hustle and bustle, I still find myself seeking that peace and comfort. I imagine we could all use more peace and comfort in this very unusual time. Therefore, as I reflect, pray, and seek throughout this season, you can be assured that you and yours will be at the top of my Christmas wish list. I pray that the light, life, joy, hope, peace, and love of Advent, Hanukkah and Christmas will be yours for the remainder of 2020 and for all of 2021!

God's abundant blessings and my affection, Sr. Rayleen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr. Rayleen".

### **"Advent Prayer" by Henri Nouwen**

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do  
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things  
look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways  
long for the complete joy of your Kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy  
seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people,  
walking in darkness yet seeking the light.  
To you we say  
"Come, Lord Jesus". Amen.

## **Change to Calendar**

We are making a change to the December Calendar. Winter Recess will begin on December 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be no school on December 21<sup>st</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope that you enjoy this extended holiday time with your families. Friday December, 18<sup>th</sup> will be a dress down day. Children do not have to wear their uniforms on this day. They can come to school dressed in their favorite Christmas wear!

## **Picture Day - December 9**

Lifetouch is currently scheduled to be here on Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> for our annual individual and class pictures. The make-up day has not been scheduled yet. The class photo will be a composite photo of all of the children in the class. Children do not have to wear their uniforms on this day. If your child has gym, please have them wear or bring their sneakers. The attached flyer contains instructions to place your online orders.

## **Report Cards - December 11**

Report cards will be sent out on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. A printed copy will be sent home with children in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Report cards will be emailed to parents of children in Grades 1- 8.

## **Foundation Day - December 12**

Sisters of Mercy around the world celebrate December 12 as Foundation Day of the Mercy Community. On that day in 1831, Catherine McAuley, Mary Ann Doyle, and Elizabeth Harley professed vows as the first Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. From their commitment to serve the poor, sick and uneducated, the Sisters of Mercy grew into thousands across the globe, reaching the United States in 1843 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and establishing foundations throughout the U.S.

## **GROW Enrichment Event**

School gardens can provide an engaging space for limitless learning opportunities. The Parent Association is proud to sponsor a school tulip garden to connect students to plants, soil, ecology, and other hands-on experimental learning. In the month of December, a video will be shown from Wicked Tulip Farm on how they plant thousands of tulips each year. Then each student will be given a bulb and shovel to plant their own tulip. Over 300 tulip bulbs will be planted along the school's front property bordering the stonewall. In the Spring, students will see their hard work bloom and grow!

## **Winter Sports Update**

As you are likely aware, Rhode Island entered into a statewide "pause" on 11/30. During this pause organized youth sports activities are prohibited. While the Sports Committee believes that MCDS is well positioned to provide a safe environment for our children to participate in healthy and important athletic activities we also recognize the importance of respecting the decisions made by our State health officials in this unprecedented time.

What does this mean for our winter sports programs?

### **Biddyball**

Given the timing of the pause and the proximity to the school's Christmas break we do not anticipate any Biddyball practices in 2020. The dates on the December calendar are incorrect. Our current target date to begin Biddyball is Saturday, January 9th. You can register your child through the following link, <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/248808>

### **CAL Basketball**

Today, we received communication from CAL indicating that the CAL Board meeting scheduled to discuss the '20-'21 CAL Basketball season has been postponed from December 3rd to January 14th. This would appear to push back any CAL season to late January or early February. We are currently considering options to begin holding skills sessions/team practices for CAL eligible players in the interim. However, given the constraints noted above we do not anticipate any events occurring prior to our return to school in January. You can still register your child, <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/248809>

During the First Sunday in Advent we light a single candle, a light in the darkness representing Hope. Let us pray as a community that even in this moment of darkness we never fail to see the light of hope, that our statewide pause is successful in slowing the spread of this disease, and that we are able to hold sports this winter which are so important to our children maintaining healthy bodies and minds and becoming the best version of themselves.

Any additional questions can be directed to the MCDS Sports Committee at [mercymountsports@gmail.com](mailto:mercymountsports@gmail.com) .

### **Advent**

During this season of Advent, each class is helping those less fortunate by collecting and donating toys, clothes and toiletries. Classroom collections this year will benefit Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse, Pajama Project, and Children's Friend. Many thanks to each family for your continued generosity.

### **Message from Parent Association**

The Parent Association Committee would like to wish all of our families, the administration, faculty and staff a Merry Christmas.

## **Winter Weather**

In regards to snow days, not all “snow days” will be virtual learning days. The decision to do remote learning on snow days will be made on a case by case basis. This year emergency notifications will be done through our Rediker database program. Parents will receive notification via email, voice mail and/or text message.

Please be aware of the following additional means of obtaining information regarding delays, school closings or early release:

- TV – RI Channels 6, 10, 12 and Fox 64 (or check their websites\*)
- Rhode Island Radio (or check their websites\*)
- Emails from Mrs. Simas
- NOTE: We do not post information regarding weather-related announcements on the Mercymount web site

*\*The television and radio station web sites allow you to enter your cell phone number and/or email address to receive text messages or email notifications through RI Broadcasters. We strongly recommend that you consider using this option, particularly those families in Massachusetts who may not have access to Providence channels.*

## **MESA Christmas Card**

The Mercy Education System of the Americas has chosen a beautiful piece of artwork created by one of our very own Mercymount students to use as the cover of their 2020 Christmas Card. Artwork was submitted by students from Mercy schools around the country and this beautiful drawing by Sabrina Janah in first grade was chosen. Way to make Mercymount proud Sabrina!



## **Advancement update:**

### **Technology Challenge Update**

YOU DID IT! A huge thank you to all who supported the Technology Challenge. We have raised enough to purchase TWELVE iMac 21" computers, which will be matched by a board member for an additional 12 iMacs for our students to use. We are in the process of readying the space for them and looking for the best timing to purchase, so stay tuned for a new iMac lab in 2021!

### **Annual Appeal**

By now, you should have received the annual appeal letter from Sister Rayleen. The Annual Fund at Mercymount supports all areas of an excellent education, from financial aid to cleaning and health protocols for keeping our students and staff safe, to technology needs that keep us connected and learning. We welcome your gift in any amount to support the annual appeal, and are grateful for your generosity. If you work for a company that matches charitable gifts, you may be able to double or triple your donation by submitting a matching gift form (usually available through your HR office or on your employee website). If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Karen Weavill via email at [kweavill@mercymount.org](mailto:kweavill@mercymount.org) or by phone at 401-333-5919 x14.

### **Holiday shopping? There are several easy ways to do so that support Mercymount Country Day School, without it costing you any extra.**

If you're buying *gift cards*, you can create an account on the **RaiseRight** app or at **ShopWithScrip.com** using our organization's enrollment code: 8D37565L73L84

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. Buying gift cards in bulk for your small business to give employees? We have a few families that are already doing this. Since kicking off this ongoing program in October, gift card purchases have rebated \$426.54 to Mercymount!

Shopping for *groceries*? You can register your Stop & Shop card in the A+ School Rewards Program at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus), and your purchases will earn a percentage as a donation to Mercymount. Our school code is 06008, and this program has brought us \$429.37 in August, September, and October of this year.

For those of you that love *Amazon*, use this link to shop through Amazon Smile, <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0298738> and we will receive a donation of a percentage of your purchases. You can use your existing Amazon accounts, just be sure to shop through the Amazon Smile site. We generally receive about \$600 per year through this program.

Printing out those *photos and photo cards* to send? Shutterfly now has a school rewards program, and you can earn money for Mercymount with your order. Just shop through the following link, [www.mercymount.shutterflystorefront.com](http://www.mercymount.shutterflystorefront.com) to participate.

Have questions? Contact Karen Weavill via email at [kweavill@mercymount.org](mailto:kweavill@mercymount.org) or by phone at 401-333-5919 x14.

## 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](mailto:csimas@mercymount.org).

<b>PK Miss Carito</b>	Lysol Disinfecting Spray, Gallon Ziploc Bags with Zipper, Ziploc sandwich bags, Paper Towels, Lysol Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Googly eyes
<b>PK - A Ms. Dias</b>	Paper Towels, Disinfecting Wipes, Disinfecting Spray, 16 individual boxes of crayons, 16 individual packages of markers
<b>K-B Mrs. Kimatian</b>	Gallon Ziploc Bags with Zipper, 16 plastic scrapbook storage bins with lid (email Mrs. Simas for an example)
<b>1-6 Mrs. Corio</b>	Straw Constructor STEM Building Toys 300pc Set (2 sets), Creative Kids Flakes 600 Piece Interlocking Plastic Disc Set
<b>2-8 Mrs. Burke</b>	Webcam
<b>3-3 Miss Shea</b>	Junior size Wobble stools (email Mrs. Simas for link), Young Living essential oils, a variety of stickers
<b>3-4 Miss Bruno</b>	Disinfecting wipes, any type of math manipulative (basic ten blocks, unifix cubes, counters), small cones for recess
<b>4-19 Miss Werderman</b>	Clorox wipes and Paper Towels
<b>5-16 Mrs. Roberto</b>	Plain white art paper, whiteboard markers, sharpies
<b>7-18 Mrs. Antone</b>	Disinfecting wipes, Card stock
<b>Mrs. Pereira</b>	Purell, Rolling cart with 3 plastic trays
<b>Nurse</b>	Adult and Pediatric Surgical Masks
<b>Physical Education</b>	MacGregor Multicolor Basketballs (Set of 6) - Intermediate Size (28.5")(4 sets), Badminton birdies (15)



*"May God preserve and bless you and grant you all the graces and precious gifts reserved for this Holy Season."*