

January 2021

PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)

A Note from Sister Rayleen

Happy New Year to you and to all you hold dear!

As I was reflecting on the hope and promise of 2021, it seemed most important for me to take a loving look back at 2020. I did not need to look far to realize that this past year has been a stark reminder to me of what is most important - personal connection. Just before we left for our holiday vacation, our 7th graders responded to: "How can we measure 2020 in LOVE?" Their words which I share with you here speak volumes.

May 2021 bring with it many opportunities to safely gather and celebrate all that we have learned in 2020! May we continue to measure our experiences in LOVE.



How can we measure 2020 in LOVE?

I can measure 2020:

In the extra moments I got to spend with my family playing outside
In the pieces of puzzles my family and I put together and bonded over
In the amount of Sunday nights that I watched football with my grandfather
In the many movie nights that I shared with my family
In the moments that I laughed with my friends while we were 6 feet apart
In the moments I learned to endure and build strength during this pandemic
In the long strolls and bicycle rides I took outside
In the many hugs that I gave to my dog instead of playing video games
In the countless hours that my sister and I played board games
In the loving hours that I spent with my cousins at the beach
In the countless hours I spent facetimeing a friend who needed me to keep her spirits up
In the many evenings I spent watching Holiday Baking Championship with my mom
In the songs that my brother and I bonded to while listening to Hamilton
In the countless number of days that I spent jet skiing with my dad
In the stories I read with my granny on facetime
In all the walks that I took with my dad after my classes on zoom
In the tears that I shed from disappointment and sadness
In the moments that I learned to grow through some of the hardest days
In the 5 hundred 25 thousand 6 hundred minutes that I could celebrate being alive!

Welcome Back – January 4

The second half of the 2020-2021 school year begins! A reminder to parents that all students come to school with appropriate outerwear (coat, boots, hats, gloves) for outdoor recess and/or After Care when the weather permits.

Covid Update Zoom Meeting – January 7 and January 12

There will be two informational meetings held on January 7th and January 12th at 7:00 p.m. Sister Rayleen along with Nurse Kelly and Nurse Gina will be providing further Covid related information. Please use the following link,

<https://zoom.us/j/237373776?pwd=Zmk4T1EwaUZNdKxaYzICOWtoNTITZz09> Meeting ID: 237 373 776
Password: 3THMJX

Bids for Kids Planning Meeting – January 20

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday May 15th, 2021**.....it's fast approaching for *Bids for Kids 2021!* Tell friends and family who are connected to Mercymount (past, present and future!) and ask them to save the date, because it's going to be a celebration! There will be raffles, dinner stations, cocktails and bidding, followed by the always exciting and entertaining Live Auction! Eat, drink and be giving! The Auction Committee invites everyone to participate in the planning of this exciting event. Join us via zoom on **Wednesday, January 20th @ 8:45 am**. The Committee is ramping up the planning and are looking for your ideas and energy! Contact Co-Chairs Jamie Sims mr.mrs.sims@gmail.com, Melissa Quinn melissaquinn8@hotmail.com or Melissa Titov mac33317@gmail.com for additional information.

A BIG thank you to all who participated in the Pre-Auction Raffle, and congratulations to the winners!

- **GoPro Camera:** *Joss Temlak*
- **Mandalorian Basket:** *The Cloutier Family*
- **Movie Night Basket:** *The Mallinson Family*

No uniform slips were distributed to those who purchased them prior to the break.

Catholic Schools Week – January 31 to February 6

Started in 1974, Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The 2020-2021 theme is *“Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.”* During our spirit week, we celebrate our school with fun activities as we focus on the values Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our Church, our communities and our nation. We will end our Catholic Schools Week celebrations with Mass (time TBD)....watch your email for more information!

Mercymount Parent Association: Sunshine Committee

If you know someone in our community who has recently lost a loved one, welcomed a new child or is celebrating another special event, please submit to Candace Simas csimas@mercymount.org and Ari Tanasio ariannemb1@gmail.com and we will acknowledge with a handwritten card from our Mercymount community.

Volunteers Needed!!

We could really use more help for lunch and recess duty. Many of our teachers have not been getting coverage during their time. If you could spare even one hour a week, any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much to those already volunteering your time. If you need the link to sign up, please reach out to Lisa Albert via email, text, or call her at 401-474-7627 mcdsvolunteering@gmail.com. All volunteers must have completed the Safe Schools paperwork, please email Mrs. Simas if you need the Safe Schools instruction sent to you.

Thank you

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to thank you for your heartfelt holiday greetings and generous gifts. Your care, love and support was and is truly felt.

Tutoring

Anyone that has an interest in finding a tutor for their child, please reach out to Mrs. Bement. She will provide you with a list of contacts.

Registration Form

The 2021-2022 Registration form is attached. We have made a couple of small changes to the registration process for this year. We will no longer be sending out a Tuition Indicator Form in February. The attached Registration Form will be the only form that you need to return. Another change that we have made is that we have added a Pay in Full option in the FACTS portal. This will allow families that would like to use a credit card to pay in full, to do so. To do this, you will need to create a FACTS account, <https://online.factsmgt.com/signin/3FQSS>. You will still have the option to mail in a check, if you prefer to do so. Invoices will be sent in June and Pay in Full payments are now due July 1st. We are happy to say that there will be no increase in tuition for the 2021-2022 school year. We understand that these are trying times for all, and we are trying to do everything in our power to not add to the stress that all families are already feeling.

Please complete the Registration Form and return it to the Office with your registration fee of \$250 by January 29, 2021. Indicate if you have a child coming NEW to Mercymount next year so that we can ascertain our numbers for 2021-2022. All new incoming students must submit a completed application form, birth certificate and baptism certificate, if applicable.

Financial Assistance

Anyone in need of financial aid from the diocese, your parish or Mercymount for 2021-2022 school year may apply as follows:

- Use the FACTS online form at www.factstuitionaid.com
- Write a letter of request to Sister Rayleen Giannotti c/o Mercymount (indicate "personal" on the envelope)
- Contact your pastor who may also have available funds for assistance
- The deadline for applications is January 29, 2021
- Award letters will be mailed out the middle of February

Advancement update:

Technology Challenge Update

YOU DID IT! A huge thank you to all who supported the Technology Challenge. Over Christmas break we identified a space for the new iMac lab. We are looking for volunteers to form a committee to plan out and ready the rooms.

Annual Appeal

There's still time to support the Annual Appeal and help us reach our goal! The Annual Appeal 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 Project Based Learning and STREAM programs that keep us engaged and learning. We welcome your gift in any amount, 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). You may make a gift online through our website here:

<https://www.mercymount.org/giving/annual-fund>.

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Karen Weavill via email at 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.

PK Miss Carito	Lysol Disinfecting Spray, Gallon Ziploc Bags with Zipper, Ziploc sandwich bags, Paper Towels, Lysol Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Tangram sets
PK - A Ms. Dias	Paper Towels, Disinfecting Wipes, Disinfecting Spray, Finger paint
K-C Miss Lena	Sidewalk Chalk and disinfecting wipes
3-3 Miss Shea	Junior size Wobble stools (email Mrs. Simas for link), Young Living essential oils, a variety of stickers, disinfecting wipes
3-4 Miss Bruno	Disinfecting wipes, new or used copies of Mr. Popper's Penguins, small cones for recess
4-19 Miss Werderman	Clorox wipes and Paper Towels
5-16 Mrs. Roberto	Plain white art paper, whiteboard markers, sharpies
7-18 Mrs. Antone	Disinfecting wipes, Lysol spray
8-20 Mrs. Paquette	Rolling cart with 3 plastic trays
Nurse	Adult and Pediatric Surgical Masks
Physical Education	MacGregor Multicolor Basketballs (Set of 6) - Intermediate Size (28.5")(4 sets), Badminton birdies (15)



‘Try to meet all with peace and love’

Catherine McAuley