

March

2021



PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)



The first day of March! For many Christians, it is the beginning of the second week of Lent, a time for us to “step back” to examine our relationships – first with God, then with ourselves and others. Although fasting tends to be a significant aspect of our Lenten practices, it may seem a little harder to adopt this practice during this time of pandemic which has had us fasting from significant in-person connections, a vacation without the stress of travel restrictions, and many other social activities that serve our well-being. Many of us are certainly ready to “break the fast” of this past year. I know I am. Gratefully, this Lent is giving me an opportunity to practice what I preach and to re-focus my Covid-19 fast.

Last Monday, I asked the children to let the Covid-protocols be a reminder: to pray for someone each time they are putting on their mask or adjusting it to cover their noses; to take a moment to cherish and pray for their friends and extended family, especially when they need to stay distant; and to hold those nearest with greater appreciation and respect. Although we will need to be attentive to the remnants of these days and their social-emotional impact, I trust that the Source of Light and Life has been in our midst the entire time. When we finally loosen the restrictions of the past year, I imagine we will discover that the Source of Light and Life has been and is in the pandemic overcoming the “darkness” that has accompanied it and giving us the grace to defy the “distance” by ever deepening connections. Personally, I feel increasingly blessed and grateful to be a part of our Mercymount community, a community that, through God’s grace, has become more closely connected in spite of the necessary restrictions. I want to take this opportunity to let you know that I cherish you, hold you in prayer, and am grateful for ALL that you do to make Mercymount the loving and nurturing place it is.

Blessings of Mercy & Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Chittister".

SPORTS UPDATE

Basketball is well underway with teams from K - 6th grade holding weekly practices and having tons of fun just being back on the basketball court with their friends. Our 7/8th grade teams have a few games scheduled in March, so keep an eye out for an email detailing when and how you can watch!

Believe it or not, Spring sports are just around the corner! Registration for CAL Spring sports will open March 1st and close on March 9th. The Spring CAL Season includes 4/5th grade soccer, 6/7/8th grade soccer and 6/7/8th grade volleyball. Details on the programs and how to register will be provided via email on March 1st.

We are also looking to offer Instructional Volleyball for 4/5th grade as well as an outdoor sports program for our K - 3 students. Both programs are run by the school and registration will be later in March aiming for an early April start date.

Our March Sports Committee meeting will be held March 9th at 7pm via Zoom. A Zoom link will be provided closer to that date. All are welcome to attend!

Any questions? The Sports Committee can always be reached at mercymountsports@gmail.com

Annual Bids for Kids - Save the Date! May 22, 2021

The calendar raffle was a huge success!! Thanks to all that participated! No uniform slips will be going home this week-please be on the lookout for them and email melissaquinn8@hotmail.com, if you don't receive them. Our next Bids for Kids Auction planning meeting is Wednesday, March 24th, at 9:00am and 7:00pm via Zoom. We are looking for donations of baskets, the shredded filler, shrink wrap rolls, and shrink wrap bags.

We are currently accepting donations of items for our silent and live items. Want to participate:

- Make a donation of items for packages or raffles, including our popular Gift Card Grab (gifts cards needed of at least \$25)
- Donate through our *Amazon Wish List* and have the items delivered directly to school. Please indicate in the notes section or email us letting us know what you bought so that we can give you credit for your purchase.
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S0ZYNQWN6URP?ref_=wl_share
- Become a Corporate Sponsor or Advertiser for the event. See attached forms.
- Attend the auction!

Tax ID

It's tax time! Please note that Mercymount's Federal ID number is 05-029-8738.

Thank You!!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those that have been volunteering their help for lunch and recess coverage. This has been a tremendous help. We can't thank you enough!

Advancement update:

Gift Card Fundraising

As you shop for family gifts, keep in mind that gift cards purchased through ShopWithScrip.com or the Raise Right app provide rebates to Mercymount for every physical or electronic gift card purchased. A few of our families have even purchased cards for use at their family business. To date, this program has raised \$559.79 for Mercymount. For assistance in setting up an account, or to receive an enrollment code for the Raise Right app, contact Karen Weavill at kweavill@mercymount.org or 401-333-5919 x14. (Due to potential fraud, we cannot share the enrollment code online or in social media posts.)

Do you ski at Wachusett?

Wachusett has a new program that allows charities to register for a Donation Code. Once approved, that code can be entered each time you purchase lift tickets or beginner packages, and at the end of the season, the charity will receive \$10 for each purchase made during that season, up to \$5,000. We have registered for that code, and will share it with you as soon as we receive approval. Stay tuned!

Annual Appeal

There's still time to support the Annual Appeal and help us reach our goal! So far, we have raised over 70% towards 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.

Lenten Collections

Our weekly Lenten collections for those who are materially poor are listed on the monthly calendar. Your generosity brings much joy to so many men, women, and children in local food banks and shelters, the Sacred Heart mission in the Philippines and our Mercy ministries in Providence. The following is the list of weekly Lenten collections this year. There will be boxes in the lobby under the wooden cross for donations.

- Week II March 1 - 5 Peanut Butter and Jelly for local food pantries
- Week III March 8- 12 Paper Goods (toilet paper, paper towels, tissues, etc.)
- Week IV March 15 - 19 Money for Br. Joel's Mission, Iconhope, in the Philippines
- Week V March 22 - 26 Women's toiletries and Diapers for McAuley Village
- Week VI March 29-April 2 Easter Candy for McAuley House and McAuley Village

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	Baby Wipes, Tangram sets, Playdoh, Finger paint, Glue Sticks
PK - A Ms. Dias	Paper Towels, Disinfecting Wipes, Disinfecting Spray
1-6 Mrs. Corio	Light Covers (see Mrs. Simas for details)
2-8 Mrs. Burke	Stapler
3-3 Miss Shea	Stapler, Young Living essential oils, a variety of stickers
3-4 Miss Bruno	Markers, Fine Tip Expo markers
4-19 Miss Werderman	Clorox wipes and Paper Towels
5-16 Mrs. Roberto	Q-tips, colored yarn, duct tape, card stock, round "brads" fasteners for crafts
6-21 Mr. Evans	25 handheld magnifying glasses
Mrs. Pereira	Multicolored white board markers
8-20 Mrs. Paquette	Card stock, permanent markers
Nurse	Latex Free Gloves

Middle School Informational Meeting - March 8

On March 8th, there will be an informational meeting for current Grade 5 parents. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our Middle School programs and ask any questions that you might have about our middle school. This meeting will be via Zoom. The link will be sent out at a later date.

Time to Spring Ahead! - March 14

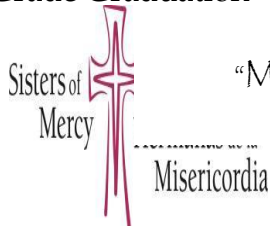
Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 14th. Yes, we do lose an hour's sleep, but it's a sure sign that Spring is right around the corner.....so it's worth it!

Go Green for AJ! - March 17

On March 17th, there will be a dress down day to collect money to be donated to AJ Quetta's recovery fund. AJ Quetta is a student at our sister mercy school Bishop Feehan High School. On January 26th, AJ suffered a serious spinal cord injury during a Bishop Feehan hockey game. AJ is currently being treated at Shepherd Rehabilitation Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Save the Date!

- Good Friday/No School - April 2
- Spring Vacation - April 17 - 24
- Teacher Appreciation Day - May 4
- 8th Grade Graduation - June 11



"Mercy is more than charity....it receives pardons again and again"

Venerable Catherine McAuley