



PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)

A Note from Sister Rayleen

“There is new life beginning everywhere—in the earth around us and, if we will, in our souls. Both kinds of life, however, must be cultivated.

It is an exercise in ‘yes,’ this slip-slide from winter to spring, from dark to light, from Lent to Resurrection. Yes to today; yes to tomorrow; yes to life again. We all come out of the tomb of winter new and bright with promise. It is ‘yes’ to our life now... It is the rediscovery of possibility again. Easter is here.”

Joan Chittister, OSB

Have you noticed that the tulip bulbs that our students planted are beginning to grow? They are. Soon, there will be a cascade of color at the bottom of our hill and it will be another indication that “there is new life beginning everywhere!” Over these next few days, I look forward to having some time to stop and literally see the new life that is bursting forth, “the slip-slide from winter to spring, from light to dark, (and in the Christian tradition) from Lent to Resurrection.” For all of us, these months, this year, have been exceptionally unusual. For many, it has felt like a very long winter, one with many short days. Gratefully, the daylight is and feels longer as Springtime seems to be evident both literally and figuratively. In a short time, we will exclaim: “Easter is here!”

May these holy days of Passover and Easter Triduum be especially blessed for each of you and your families. May they bring a renewed sense of saving life and possibility.

Affectionately,

Sr. Rayleen

Grade 8 Fundraiser at Davenport's - April 7

On Wednesday, April 7th, there is no need to cook! Plan on getting delicious food (dine in or take out!) from Davenport's in Cumberland. Twenty-five percent of all purchases made will be given back to the school to help defer the cost of the 8th Grade Graduation Activities. Please be sure to show the attached flyer (printed or digital copy) to your waitress to be sure that we get credit for your purchase. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Spring Pictures by Lifetouch - April 28

Our school photographer, Lifetouch, will be at school on Wednesday, April 28th for a **spring portrait session**. Participation is optional. You can place your orders on www.mylifetouch.com . Use Picture Day ID: EVTVFGK2J . Order Forms are also attached.

Catherine McAuley Award Nominations - April 30

The **Catherine McAuley Award** is the highest honor bestowed on a student at Mercymount Country Day School, and is given to one who best exemplifies the Mercy spirit of kindness, compassion, leadership and service. Do you know of a student who should be considered for this prestigious award? We invite any student, teacher or parent to nominate a student in grades 4 - 7 who fits the description of this award, and who has been active outside of the classroom as well as in the school. The application (on the PIE Memo page of the web site) must be completed and submitted to the Mercy Integration Committee (c/o Julie Lena) no later than Friday, April 30th.

Bids for Kids Auction - May 22

Thank you to all who participated in the calendar raffle! It was a huge success and a lot of fun! Now your Facebook feed will be filled with packages for the auction! 😊
We will be having our LAST drop in day on Friday, April 9th 8:15-11:00am and 1:30-2:45pm. There is still plenty of time to donate! Need ideas check out our Amazon wishlist. Going out to dinner or shopping at your favorite store, pick up a \$25 gift card to be used in the gift card grab! Have a \$25-\$30 bottle of wine that just isn't the kind you like sitting around at home, we can use it for our wine pull-please make sure the value is between \$25-\$30. Own a business and want to support the Bids for Kids auction through sponsorship, please fill out forms attached. Those that would like to hear more about the auction and its details, please join us on Wednesday, April 28th at 9:00am or at 7:00pm via Zoom. Link will be emailed at a later date

Volunteer S.O.S.!

One of the most important components of Mercymount is the wonderful group of volunteers who help the staff and teachers during the school year. Currently we have a shortage of volunteers to help out at lunch and at recess. Please consider two hours per month, every other week or weekly to help. Grandparents and nannie or babysitters are welcome also! Lisa Albert is Volunteer coordinator; you may contact her directly at mcdsvolunteering@gmail.com with any questions or to sign up to volunteer. **Please Note:** All volunteers who have not been through the **Safe School Presentation** and/or had a criminal background check (BCI) since March of 2018 MUST complete these requirements prior to any volunteering. Please email Mrs. Simas for details. Thank you so much to all of you that take the time to volunteer!! We are so very grateful for your help!

2021 Child Tax Credit

With President Biden signing the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan stimulus bill yesterday, one of the changes to the child tax credit has important implications for MCDS because a family can utilize increased child tax credits as a means to subsidize their MCDS tuition.

The child tax credit is being increased for 2021. Here are the details.

Presently, the child tax credit is worth \$2,000 per kid under the age of 17 whom you claim as a dependent and who has a Social Security number. To qualify, the child must be related to you and generally live with you for at least six months during the year. The credit begins to phase out if married filing jointly adjusted gross income (AGI) is above \$400,000, or over \$200,000 on a single or head-of-household return. Up to \$1,400 of the child credit is refundable for some lower-income individuals with children, but these people must also have earned income of at least \$2,500 to get a refund.

The American Rescue Plan would temporarily expand the child tax credit for 2021. First, the plan would allow 17-year-old children to qualify. Second, it would increase the credit to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 per child under age 6, done especially for families needing daycare services) for many families. Third, it would remove the \$2,500 earnings floor. Fourth, it would make the credit fully refundable. And fifth, it would allow half of the credit to be paid in advance by having the IRS send periodic payments to families from July 2021 to December 2021.

Obviously, there are other factors besides child tax credits that determine whether a family sends their child to MCDS. However, the income levels on the child tax credit are already quite high, which means almost all families attending MCDS get this benefit. Therefore, we should keep this in mind as we consider either scholarships or financial aid for 2021/2022 school year. At least for one year, we should be a bit more stringent on what we provide since the government has increased the child tax credit by \$1,000 to \$3,000 for 2021 and most of our families are able to fully utilize that credit towards MCDS tuition. For 6 and younger, the credit is \$3,600 for 2021.

Tax ID

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

Bishop Feehan Early Action Program

Bishop Feehan is again offering the **Partner School Early Action (PSEA) Program**. Through this program, students in Grades 5, 6 and 7 at select partner grammar schools can apply early and reserve a guaranteed spot in the freshman class one, two or three years down the road. The application process is open April 1 through 30. Parents complete a short application using the following link: <https://www.bishopfeehan.com/admissions/earlyaction/>

Acceptances are conditional on a student successfully maintaining high standards academically, behaviorally, and spiritually through the completion of their grammar school course of studies. In 8th grade, Early Action students must complete our traditional 8th grade application process (including entrance exam) to finalize the acceptance. If you have any questions please contact BFHS directly.

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, Paper Towels, Lysol wipes, colored construction paper
PK - A Ms. Dias	Paper Towels, Disinfecting Wipes, Disinfecting Spray
K-B Mrs. Lanyi	White board markers, regular markers, colored pencils
1-6 Mrs. Corio	Light Covers (see Mrs. Simas for details)
3-3 Miss Shea	Stapler
3-4 Miss Bruno	Markers, Fine Tip Expo markers
4-19 Miss Werderman	Clorox wipes and Paper Towels
Mrs. Pereira	Multicolored white board markers
7-18 Mrs. Antone	Stickers
8-20 Mrs. Paquette	Card stock, permanent markers
Nurse	Latex Free Gloves and masks

Advancement update:

iMac Lab news - Through the generosity of our community to the Technology Challenge and the golf tournament, we are able to grow and build upon Mercymount's history of academic excellence in an environment that develops and nurtures faith and service. We hope you share our enthusiasm about the success of Technology Challenge, raising the funds to equip a new iMac lab with powerful computers that will allow our students to explore programming, design, engineering, robotics, music, and video editing. Over February vacation, we addressed the infrastructure needs, and were able to add a new electrical panel and power poles for the new iMac lab space, as well as clearing out furniture and bringing in new chairs for the lab. We look forward to the next steps of painting and decorating the space to ready it for the installation of the iMacs. We anticipate a ribbon cutting and celebration later this spring and would love for you to be a part of the excitement, so stay tuned for more details!

Golf Tournament - Plans are under way for our annual golf tournament to be held on Thursday, September 23, at Kirkbrae Country Club, so save the date! If you'd like to join the planning committee, please contact Karen Weavill at kweavill@mercymount.org, or 401-333-5919 x14.

Last But Not Least

The last day of school for Mercymount will be **Tuesday, June 15th**. Let the summer vacation planning begin.....

Looking Ahead.....

- Bids For Kids Auction - May 22
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon - May 29
- 8th Grade Graduation - June 12



“We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us”