



PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)

A Note from Sister Rayleen

Gratefully, it's Spring again! The grass is turning green, the trees are flowering, the bird songs have returned, and the days are warmer and brighter. As one of my favorite poets, Rainer Maria Rilke notes, "The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart." Sweet and beautiful poetry it is!

The month of May holds many opportunities for us to come together as a community, either virtually or in person, to celebrate all of life's poetry. From Mass for the Ascension to our traditional May crowning, we can pray in gratitude and thanksgiving for God's endless generosity as we also recognize our continued need for Mary's intercession and patronage of our school community. We also look forward to celebrating our teachers, as well as celebrating the many women (and men) who have "mothered" us into being. Finally, we can enjoy and celebrate this year and our school community in person or virtually at our own "Bids for Kids" on Mercymount's back lawn. Although some of these events will be familiar to some of us, most poems have the ability to take on new and deeper meaning with each recitation. I trust that will be true for me, especially after a year like no other. May we savor each and every line of May's poetry together!

Blessings of New Life,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr. Rayleen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sr. Rayleen

Advancement Update

Support Mercymount while shopping for all your spring gifts!

As we enjoy the spring weather, our families' thoughts may turn to celebrations like Mother's Day, graduations, and Father's Day. Did you know that you can support Mercymount at no additional cost to you while shopping?

If you give gift cards, you may purchase them through *ShopWithScrip* or their companion app, *RaiseRight*, using the Mercymount enrollment code: [8D37565L73L84](https://www.shopwithscrip.com/giftguide). For each electronic or physical gift card you purchase, ShopWithScrip rebates a percentage of the purchase price directly to Mercymount. ShopWithScrip has also released a Spring Gift Guide, with lots of special promotions including bonus rebates on certain days. You can find that online here: <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/giftguide>. 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 \$834.79 to Mercymount!

For those of you who 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. We generally receive about \$600 per year through this program. You can use your existing Amazon accounts, just be sure to shop through the Amazon Smile site. If you prefer to use the *mobile app*, Amazon now lets you access Amazon Smile there, using the following steps:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Mercymount Country Day School" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

Printing out those *photos and photo cards* to send for graduation? 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 to participate.

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

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.

SPORTS UPDATE

Spring sports began this month, featuring CAL soccer, CAL volleyball and MCDS Instructional All-Sports. Limited spectators are permitted for Junior and Grammar soccer matches. CAL volleyball games will be broadcast via Zoom for the benefit of our parents and fans. Be on the lookout for communications via the Parent Association Facebook page with links to view these volleyball matches.

Instructional All-Sports will introduce our youngest athletes (K-3) to several different outdoor sports in a fun Instructional environment.

Please be sure to cheer on all of our teams when you can, and GO MUSTANGS!!!

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon - May 4

On Tuesday, May 4th, parents will host a fun and delicious catered luncheon to honor Mercymount's wonderful teachers and staff. What will this year's theme be? Many thanks to coordinators Colleen DiPetrillo and Lisa Iannetta, along with the many volunteers it takes to make this a special day for us!

There will be no hot lunch served on this day. Children will need to bring bagged lunches.

Dress Down Day - May 5

The Student Council has planned a dress down day for Cinco De Mayo. Children can come to school out of uniform. They can be dressed in red, white, and green for \$1. All proceeds will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

Nurse Appreciation Day - May 6

"Nurses may not be angels, but they are the next best thing." We are blessed to have two wonderful and caring individuals taking such amazing care of our students and staff. Thank you, Nurse Gina and Nurse Kellie!

Happy Mother's Day - May 9

The joy of motherhood knows no words.....it is a secret held in a mother's heart.... **Happy Mother's Day** to all the Moms and women in our lives who are or have been "mother" to us!

Mass to Celebrate the Feast of the Ascension - May 13

All are welcome to join students and staff on Thursday, May 13th for Mass to celebrate the **Feast of the Ascension**. This will be a virtual mass. The time and Zoom link will be sent out soon.

Kindergarten Screening - May 14th

On May 14th, we will be screening our incoming Kindergarten students. Students currently in Pre-Kindergarten moving to Kindergarten do not need to be screened. There will be NO school for Kindergarten ONLY on this day.

Bids for Kids Auction - May 22

Thank you to all that have already donated to the auction! There is still one more week to donate items. Bottles of wine (\$25 - \$35 value) and \$25 gift cards are still needed. There is also still time to purchase items off the of the Amazon wish list. The link to purchase tickets to attend the auction is now open!! <https://mercymount.ejoinme.org/rsvp2021> This year's auction will be under a beautiful tent in our very own backyard. It's going to be a great night celebrating our favorite place AT our favorite place! You won't want to miss it! Get your tickets now!

May Procession and Crowing of Mary - May 26

All parents are invited to join us via Zoom on Wednesday, May 26th for our annual **May Procession and Crowing of Mary** (we expect only sunshine!) Children in Grades 2 and 3 who have received or will be receiving their First Communion this Spring may wear their special clothing to lead the procession to the statue of the Blessed Mother (remember to *Bring Flowers of the Fairest* for Mary!) The rain date will be May 27th. The Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date.

Memorial Day - May 31

Memorial Day is a day for remembering and honoring military personnel who died in the service of our country, particularly those who died in battle. As we enjoy the day off and celebrate the unofficial start of summer, take a moment to pause, thank and pray for those who died protecting our freedom. May we never take their sacrifices for granted. *As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.* (John F. Kennedy)

Congratulations are in order...

Congratulations are in order for one among us! Congratulations to our Kitchen Manager, Heather O'Brien, who was offered and accepted a full-time position at the Warren Center. Although we will miss her, I am very happy for her.

Heather, please remember that you always have a "home" with us.

Donnelly's Uniforms

There will be no uniform fitting at school this year. Donnelly's has "tooled" their website to help parents with "at home fittings". Be sure to place your order before June 15th to receive 20% off of your order. Order before May 18th to receive an additional 5% off of your order. I have attached the flyer with information on how to order.

Summer Camps

To date, the following camps have been scheduled for the summer. Additional information (including camp hours) are included in the attached flyers. Flyers Mrs. Paquette's and Mr. Houston's Summer Fun will be sent out shortly. Sign up soon! Spots are limited!

June 21-25	Holiday Camp	K - 3	Mrs. Corio and Mrs. Burke
June 21 - 25	Archery	Gr. 4 - 8	Mr. Evans
June 28 - July 2	Summer Fun	PK - 2	Ms. Gallagher and Miss Shea
July 28 - July 2	Summer Fun	Gr. 4 - 8	Mrs. Paquette and Mr. Houston
July 12 - 16	Amazing Authors	K - 3	Mrs. Corio and Miss Lena
July 19 - 23	Under the Sea	PK - 2	Ms. Gallagher and Miss Carito
July 19 - 23	Spanish Camp	Gr. 4 - 5	Sr. Larivee
July 26 - 30	Chess Camp	Gr. 6 - 8	Sr. Larivee
August 2 - 6	Spanish Camp	Gr. 6 - 8	Sr. Larivee
August 16 - 20	Study Skills	Gr. 6	Mrs. Paquette

From the Parent Association...

Congratulations Sister Rayleen, Mrs. Bement, Faculty, Staff, and Students on our NEASC Reaccreditation! We are so proud of all of you and so thankful to be a part of the Mercymount community!

Mercymount PA & Families

The Parent Association is also looking for new committee members. If you are interested in becoming a member, please return the attached form to the office by May 31st.

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, Lysol wipes, Markers
PK - A Ms. Dias	Paper Towels, Disinfecting Wipes, Disinfecting Spray, Sidewalk Chalk
K-B Mrs. Lanyi	White board markers, regular markers, colored pencils
1-6 Mrs. Corio	Light Covers (see Mrs. Simas for details)
3-4 Miss Bruno	Plastic Bags, Crayons, Colored Pencils, Markers
4-19 Miss Werderman	Clorox wipes and Paper Towels
7-18 Mrs. Antone	Stickers
8-20 Mrs. Paquette	Inflatable Beach Balls
Spanish	Spanish Board Games: Adivina Quien?, Cluedo, Memory Games such as Memorama, Spanish Bananagrams, etc
Nurse	Latex Free Gloves and masks

Looking Ahead to June...

- Middle School Finals – June 2 - 4
- Graduation! – June 12
- Last Day of School– June 15



“No matter how small the gift,
God gives the increase.”

Venerable Catherine McAuley