



October 2021 PIE (*Partners in Education*)

A Note from Sister Rayleen...



As I reflect upon this new school year, what has passed and what is yet to come, I am reminded of the words of a homily that are often referred to as the [Romero Prayer](#). This “prayer” begins with the words: “It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view...” Paradoxically, these long months of responding to a highly contagious virus have found many of us unable to make plans, to take a “long view.” Since March of 2019, we have found ourselves taking small, measured steps. Poignantly, however, Fr. Untener’s homily goes on to remind me/us that for those of us who are about something much bigger than ourselves and/or who do God’s work, it is essential to focus on the long view. He asserts: “Nothing we do is complete... We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise... We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.” For me, these are words of encouragement, as well as great reminders of the ministry we - parents, grandparents, faculty, and staff - undertake each day. May they encourage each and every one of us as we continue to negotiate these strange times. May we trust that we are growing a future full of promise.

Sister Rayleen

No Uniform Slips

The expiration date of the No Uniform Slips sold at the Bids for Kids Auction has passed. No Uniform Slips sold as part of the Golf Tournament fundraiser have been distributed. There will be plenty of other opportunities throughout the year for the children to acquire No Uniform Slips. They are typically offered as reward/prizes during our fundraisers. When a child uses a No Uniform Slip, they are allowed to come to school out of uniform. The dress down policy is the same as if we have a dress down day.

Mercymount Parent Association Facebook Page

The Parent Association hosts the Facebook page **MCDS Parent Association**, a parent-moderated **CLOSED** group for current Mercymount families. The page features posts of current and upcoming events at school and offers an opportunity for questions to be asked and answered. To join, just submit a request to that page on Facebook.

Volunteers

All volunteers who have not been through the **Safe Schools** Presentation and/or had a criminal background check (BCI) since 2018 **MUST** complete these requirements prior to volunteering in school this year. The Safe Schools process is being done virtually this year. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Mrs. Simas at csimas@mercymount.org and she will provide you with instructions. If you plan on volunteering for recess, please see our attached Outdoor Recess Volunteer Guidelines.

Math Olympiad

Our Math Olympiad program will continue this year. Mr. Richard Grasfeder will be leading our Grades 4 - 6 group. We need parent volunteers to run the Grade 7-8 group. Both teams usually meet weekly before school (7:45 - 8:30), beginning in October and ending in mid-March. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Email Mrs. Bement, tbement@mercymount.org, if you are interested in leading the children in Grades 7-8.

MakerSpace

Mrs. Corio and Miss Lena are bringing back MakerSpace! MakerSpace is an afterschool program for creative kids who love hands-on activities. This is a "drop in" program, so there is no need to register ahead of time. Please just let your child's homeroom teacher know in advance if they will be attending. Each Thursday will be for a different grade, so please see the calendar for the schedule and the attached flyer for more details.

School Picture Day - October 4

Lifetouch is currently scheduled to be here on Monday October 4th for our annual individual and class pictures. We are currently working with Lifetouch to reschedule to another date when all students are back in school. The make-up day is scheduled for November 17th. Students may wear uniforms or dress clothes. The class photo will be a composite photo of all of the children in the class. Order forms have been or will be sent home. Orders may also be placed online; the flyer is attached.

Friends of Mercy – October 13

The first meeting of **Friends of Mercy** will be held after school on Wednesday October 13th, and will be held on the second Wednesday of each month from 3-4:15p.m. in the library. Friends of Mercy, open to students in grades 4 – 6, is a service and faith club guided by the teachings of Catherine McAuley. Students learn about Catherine and the Works of Mercy, serve the needy through weekly projects, and take part in other fun activities. Please see the attached flyer and sign-up sheet.

Flu Clinic – October 13

Has your family gotten the flu shot? A reminder that there will be a flu clinic held at Mercymount Country Day School on Wednesday, October 13th from 3:30-6:30 pm in the school gym. All adults and children, age 3 and older, are welcome to attend the clinic and get vaccinated at no out-of-pocket cost. There are **limited** walk-in appointments available. This rule has been put in place by The Wellness Company to avoid large crowd gatherings, and to keep all staff and participants at the clinic safe. Please register your family (age 3+) online at least one day prior to the flu clinic to make sure you are able to reserve an appointment time. You can register online using the following link <http://www.schoolflu.com/>

Reminder: the flu is a serious, sometimes deadly disease. It is also highly contagious. Catching the flu means missing days of work and school, and possibly being hospitalized. Don't take the risk – protect yourself and your family by getting the flu shot. If you have any questions, please call the RIDOH information line @ 401-222-5960. You can register online using the following link <http://www.schoolflu.com/>

Teacher Snacks

Below is the link to our NEW Amazon Wish List created especially for our Teachers & Staff to show them how much we appreciate them! The list was compiled of all their favorite snacks & drinks!

Orders will be shipped directly to the school (select Mercymount as shipping address) to help refill our Celebration Station located in the Teachers' Lounge throughout the year! For those who prefer to drop off directly to the school, please see Mrs. Simas.

For any questions, please contact Colleen DiPetrillo (MCDS Parent Association) at Colleen.DiPetrillo77@gmail.com.



Important Trimester Dates

November 24th is the end of the first trimester. Progress reports will go home with all children in Grades 4-6 on October 15th. Children in all other grades will only receive progress reports if needed. Report Cards will be issued December 10th. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in November, exact dates and times to follow.

Furry Friends

As much as we love animals, they are not allowed on school premises. Thank you!

Do You Shop at Stop & Shop?

The *A+ Bonus Rewards* program from Stop & Shop is available again this year. Through March 16, a percentage of your receipts will be donated to Mercymount when you register your card and designate our school as the recipient of the funds (our school ID is 06008.) Please see the flyer available on the Mercymount web site PIE Memo page and follow the easy directions. Note: if you have registered in the past, no need to do it again! If you are new, please help us support Mercymount, and forward the info to your friends and family to do the same!

Parking Lot Safety

Vehicles must maintain traffic flow on Fisher Road and in the parking lot until they are either in the early bird line or in a parking spot. Per the Cumberland Police Department, at no time can Fisher Rd be blocked. If the line for the main entrance to drop off or pickup is stopped on Fisher Rd, vehicles must pull into the lot and park until the line starts moving. Cars in the early bird line should be parked close together to allow for more vehicles on our property and not on Fisher Rd. Also, please remember to back into your parking spaces. Please pass this information to anyone in your family that may drop off or pick up a child in school.

Sports Update:

Our tennis, cross country and instructional soccer seasons are in full swing!

We have had some outstanding performances from all of our cross-country runners as they work each week to improve against their own personal times. We are all looking forward to the CAL State meet on October 13th at Slater Park.

Despite some challenges with the weather, our tennis team of six has made great strides since beginning the season. Please say a special prayer for some sunny days to help us close out the season with a bang!

Our Instructional Soccer program is one of the largest groups in recent memory, with over 50 players across two weekly sessions. Special thanks to all of our parent volunteers who coach us each week, with a special guest appearance from Mercymount's own Mr. Houston! Our season is scheduled to run through October 23rd.

Finally, hard to believe, but CAL basketball team formation is well underway for our 3rd -8th graders, with the aim of starting practices in late October or early November. Be sure to block off the weekend of December 3rd and 4th for the first week of CAL basketball games!! We will launch signups for Instructional Bidyball for grades K-2 later this month as well, to begin after Thanksgiving.

Thanks from the Sports Committee to everyone who helps keep our programs running, and GO MUSTANGS!!!

Advancement update:

Mum's the Word!

Thank you to all who generously supported our Mercymount in Bloom Fundraiser. Not only have you helped raise funding for our school, but you supported local business in the process. Sales were so good, we had to stop selling a few days early! Judging from the positive feedback this initiative has received, we are hopeful to do this again next year.

Family Night at the Drive-In.

The Mercymount Drive-In is one "drive-in" you will never want to drive-out of! For those attending, please arrive between 5:30 and 6:30p.m. so that you can park your vehicle and be settled in before the movie begins. While you can hear the movie through your car radio, to save your battery, we strongly recommend bringing a portable radio. No need to eat dinner before you come, leave that to Saugy Dog and Black Dog Donuts - cash and card accepted. Don't forget to stop by the popcorn station and support our 8th graders as they raise money for their class this year (cash only)! Thank you to all who purchased tickets for the movie and raffles!

Mercymount Mini Golf "Fun"-raiser and Fundraiser all in one!

Looking for a family outing this fall? Why not try your putting skills at Phantom Farms Halloween themed mini golf course! Starting October 8th you can golf 7 days a week (weather permitting) for \$5 a ticket. Golfing at night more your thing? Try Glow Golf (\$10 a ticket) Friday and Saturday evenings from 6-9pm. By purchasing tickets directly through Mercymount, we will receive 100% of the profit! No order form needed for this event, just send in cash or check with a note to specify your ticket amount and day or night golf tickets to Mrs. Pare. Tickets will be sent home via backpacks after purchase. Ticket sales will run through October 29th. Mini Golf ends on Halloween! Thank you for your support and have a ghoulish time! Please see the attached flyer for more specific details.

Trunk or Treat - A Boo-tastic Time!

Save the date! Mercymount's 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Friday, October 29th. This spook-tacular event is one you don't want to miss! Walk the trail and collect treats from various members of Mercymount's faculty, staff and Board of Trustees. Be sure to stop by the voting place at the end of the trail and vote for your favorite trunk! Kindly fill out the attached form and return to Mrs. Pare no later than October 25. **To make our trail even longer, we are inviting alumni back to decorate their trunks and pass out candy. Volunteer hours will be given and candy will be provided! Please email Mrs. Pare if your alum is interested!** *The Halloween Committee is graciously accepting candy donations for this event. Should you wish to donate, kindly drop those off to the school. Thank you in advance!

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 Cream of Tartar (for playdough), Lysol spray, small plastic cups, seasonal stickers

PK-A Ms. Dias Lysol disinfecting spray

K-A Miss Lena 18 4x6 in. pocket photo albums

K-B Mrs. Kimatian 18 4x6 in. pocket photo albums, 20 compact mirror bulk round makeup glass mirror for purse 2.5in. (can be found on Amazon)

2-8 Miss Colavecchio 8x10 classroom rug

3-3 Mrs. Demirgioglu Plusplus blocks (Amazon), Brainflakes (Amazon), Snowflake building blocks, Hashtag blocks

4-19 Mrs. Gaul Purple PaperMate Flair Felt Tip Pens, Avery 5160 Easy Peel address labels, Scotch double sided tape, "Bag of Balls" Basketball, soccer ball...(Amazon), box of Smead 1/3 cut tab file folders, 12 book collection set of Dork Diaries

Middle School Math Classroom set of mini whiteboard erasers, stool (29" height)

7-23 Mrs. Antone 3-hole punch, sticky tabs, Halloween decorations

MakerSpace 30 12"x16" plastic food trays

Nurses Office Boy's and girl's undergarments, socks, leggings



*Don't let crosses vex or tease;
try to meet all with peace and ease.
Notice the faults of every day -
but often in a playful way.
Be mild and sweet in all your ways;
now and again bestow some praise.
Avoid all solemn declaration,
all serious, close investigation.
Turn what you can into a jest,
and with few words dismiss the rest.
C. McAuley*