

NOVEMBER 2021 **PIE MEMO** (*Partners in Education*)

A Note from Sister Rayleen

As we approach November and the feast of All Saints, I am reminded of a story I heard in a homily years ago at the College Church in St. Louis. Fr. K, the pastor at the time, told us that he asked a group of grade school students: "What is a saint?" One little girl raised her hand with great fervor, so Fr. K called on her. Pointing to the stained-glass windows, she said: "Saints are people that let the light shine through." Fr. K reiterated: "Saints are people that let the Light shine through." I often think about that story, especially as November approaches. I am reminded that although the vast majority of us will never be considered a saint, at least in this lifetime, we do have the ability to let the Light shine through. The small gestures of caring, the "out of the way" errands for another, laughter shared, a warm embrace, an "I'm thinking of you" text or note, and a kind word are the many ways that we let the Light shine through daily. How blessed I am to be a part of such a light-filled community!! During this season of thanks, please know that I thank God for you and the many ways you share God's Light and Love in our Mercymount community.



Sr. Rayleen



Feast of All Saints - November 1

All are welcome to join students and staff via Zoom on Monday, November 1st at 10:00 a.m. for the **Feast of All Saints Mass**. Please use the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/237373776?pwd=Zmk4T1EwaUZNdKxaYzIcOWtoNTITZz09>

Meeting ID: 237 373 776 Password: 3THMJX

Winter Uniforms - November 1

The days are getting shorter and colder...winter looms ever closer! As a result the winter dress code per the Handbook goes into effect on November 1st. No shorts allowed until April 1st (*it will be a sure sign of spring - something to look forward to!*)

Parent-Teacher Conferences - November 2 and 3

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 3rd from 8am to 8pm for children in PK-5. Middle School conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd from 3:30pm to 8pm and Wednesday, November 3rd from 8am to 4pm. There is no school for all grades on Wednesday, November 3rd. This will be a distance learning day. Zoom links will be sent out by your child's teacher if you chose the virtual option. Those attending in-person conferences will enter through the side door.

Clocks Fall Back - November 7

Reminder to change your clocks before you go to bed next Saturday...and enjoy that extra hour of sleep on Sunday morning!

Thanking Our Veterans - November 10

Our annual assembly honoring those who have served our country will be held on Tuesday, November 10th at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome, and we extend a special invitation to veterans to join us for this meaningful and poignant ceremony. Please let Mrs. Simas know by Monday, November 8th if you have someone that you would like recognized during the assembly (include the name and branch of service, please). There will be no school on Thursday, November 11th.

Picture Day - November 17

Lifetouch Photography will be here the morning of Wednesday, November 17th. Students who are having retakes must return their original picture packet to the photographer. Students who were absent on picture day and are having pictures taken for the first time will give the order forms and money to the photographer. Order forms are available in the Office (you can also place your order online - refer to recent emails with Picture Day information.)

Footloose Friday

Friday, November 5th will be our first Footloose Friday of the school year. Footloose Friday is a day where your feet can be out of uniform- socks and shoes (no slippers or sandals) of your choice! Footloose Friday will be the first Friday of every month.

Afterschool Fun!

Crafty Kid's Club

Our Art Teacher, Mrs. Piers, will be starting a Crafty Kid's Club. Crafty Kid's Club for children in K - Grade 3 will be held on Tuesdays from 3-4:15pm and on Wednesdays from 3-4:15pm for children in Grades 4-8. The cost is \$15 per child. Please notify your child's teacher that morning if your child will be attending and send them in with cash or a check made out to Mercymount for \$15. Please see the attached flyer.

MakerSpace

The children have been having tons of fun with Mrs. Corio and Miss Lena in MakerSpace! MakerSpace is an afterschool program for creative kids in Kindergarten thru Grade 3 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. The cost is \$15. Each Thursday will be for a different grade, so please see the calendar for the schedule and the attached flyer for more details.

Homework Club

Homework Club is a time for students to work on homework and receive support from teachers when assistance is needed. There is no cost for this club. Homework club for Students in Grades 4 and 5 is on Tuesdays until 4:00 p.m. and for students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 on Mondays until 4:00 p.m. Please sign your student up each week by Sunday night/Monday morning by 8 AM with Miss Werderman at nwerderman@mercymount.org. Students are welcome to bring an extra snack to have during Homework Club. At 4:00 pm, students will exit out the front door. Please line up along the front of the building as is done for Early Bird dismissal.

Mind, Body, and Soul

Mrs. Demirgioglu and Miss Bruno will help, guide, and teach you how to be present in the moment and ease away the stress and chaos of your busy lives through various activities and crafts that will strengthen our mind, body, and soul. Mind, Body, and Soul is for children in Grades 2-5 on Mondays until 4:10. The cost is \$15. Please see the attached flyer for more details. A link will be sent out weekly to sign up. Here is the link to sign up for Monday, November 1st.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kxWvffhy_jlE-7CNj2XhIzlvJ8AozqsAwCy08OMWzKY/edit?usp=sharing

AfterCare

Our school run AfterCare program is going great! I hope that you all are enjoying this more convenient option. We are using the ProCare software to check in, check out, and for billing. If you anticipate that you would need to use the AfterCare program, please email Mrs. Simas and she will send you the link to create an account. You have the option to pay online using your checking account, credit card, or debit card. Should you prefer to pay with cash or check, please send your payment to the office in an envelope labeled AfterCare. We will no longer accept payments at the AfterCare desk. There is no longer a weekly sign up form for AfterCare. You can send your child as needed. Please just let your child's teacher know if you plan to send your child to AfterCare. You can also call the office if it is last minute.

ThanksGiving!

We have been requested to help during the month of November with a collection of Thanksgiving foods to benefit the Northern RI Food Pantry. Through November 16th, we ask that each family donate cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing and instant potatoes. These items, combined with Staff donations, will provide all the fixings for complete holiday meals to be distributed at the food pantry.

Book of Remembrance

During November, a Book of Remembrance will be in the foyer for anyone to write the names of deceased family or friends for whom we will pray during the month.

Winter Weather

In regards to snow days, not all “snow days” will be virtual learning days. The decision to do remote learning on snow days will be made on a case by case basis. Our emergency notifications will be done through our Rediker database program. Parents will receive notification via email, voice mail and/or text message. Should the Cumberland Public Schools close or delay, Mercymount generally will follow.

Please be aware of the following additional means of obtaining information regarding delays, school closings or early release:

- TV – RI Channels 6, 10, 12 and Fox 64 (or check their websites*)
- Rhode Island Radio (or check their websites*)
- Emails from Mrs. Simas
- NOTE: We do not post information regarding weather-related announcements on the Mercymount web site

**The television and radio station web sites allow you to enter your cell phone number and/or email address to receive text messages or email notifications through RI Broadcasters. We strongly recommend that you consider using this option, particularly those families in Massachusetts who may not have access to Providence channels.*

Parking Lot Safety

PLEASE drive slowly!! We have noticed vehicles driving a little too fast when exiting along the front of the school. We are trying to manage both the front door drop off/early bird pick up line at the same time that parking lot vehicles are exiting. It is important that all vehicles are moving slowly to avoid a collision. Please remember that this is a one-way road. Also, 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. You should never exit the school onto Fisher Road. 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.

Student Council 2021-2022

Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council members: President Abigail Thibodeau, Vice President John Hanley, Secretary Emily Patterson, and Treasurer Mason Nealand who will serve alongside this year's class representatives: Grade 6-18, Jostan Sims and Morgan Smith; 6-24, Kaelyn Quinn and Christian Ruel; 7-21, Adelle Kenney and Ainsley Palermo; 7-23, Cooper Marino and Helena Cornwell; and 8-20, Julia Quick and Summer Titov.

MCDS Sports

After finishing in 2nd place (boys) and 3rd place (girls) in our division, our cross-country team participated in the Providence Diocesan meet at Slater Park on October 13th. Our boys team placed 9th out of 27 teams and our girls team placed 9th out of 25 teams. Great job by all of our runners!

With Fall sports wrapping up we are moving into our Winter sports season, which means... basketball is back!! CAL basketball teams have been formed and practices will begin in early November. The first weekend of CAL games is scheduled for December 4/5th. Be sure to be on the lookout for an email from your coaches soon!!

We will open Bidyball registration later this month as well. Bidyball is our instructional basketball program for athletes in Grades K, 1 and 2. Sessions will run for an hour from 8am - 11am on Saturday mornings in our gym.

Important info for CAL Coaches:

All CAL coaches are required to attend a CAL Basketball Coaches meeting and hold a current Play Like A Champion Today (PLACT) coaching certification. New coaches must attend a live PLACT certification training, which is good for three years. After 3 years renewal is done via an online training, which is good for the rest of your CAL coaching career!!

Live PLACT trainings will be held November 20th from 9am - 12pm and December 2nd from 6pm - 9pm. Trainings are held at the Rejoyce in Hope Youth Center in Cranston.

Online PLACT recertification can be done at your convenience before December 4th.

Please register at www.calsportsri.org for these sessions and contact the sports committee for reimbursement.

CAL Basketball Coaches meeting will be held:

November 10th at 6pm,
November 20th at 9am and,
November 30th at 6pm.

These meetings will be held at Bishop McVinney Auditorium in Providence.

Go Mustangs!!!

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!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2YKSSGNOHUE9B?ref_=wl_share

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.



Santa Store December 8th-9th

Christmas is coming, and that means our Santa Store is right around the corner! Lots of Elves are needed to help coordinator Colleen DiPetrillo set up the Santa Store and on shopping day. Please see the attached form and ticket sheet for more information. If your child would like to participate, please return the attached form, ticket sheet, and payment to the office by November 17th. If you have any questions, please email Colleen DiPetrillo at colleen.dipetrillo77@gmail.com.

Middle School Mid-Terms - January 19 - 21

Cumulative Mid-term exams for Grades 6, 7, and 8 are scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, January 19, 20, and 21. There will be two exams each day. Exams will take place in the morning.

Earn While You Drink and Shop!

There are a few sites that allow you to quench your thirst and shop to earn money for the school. For those of you that love Amazon, use this link to shop, <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0298738>. You can use your existing Amazon accounts, just be sure to shop through the Amazon Smile site. Shutterfly also has a school rewards program. You can now earn money for the school while ordering those Christmas cards. Shop through the following link, www.mercymount.shutterflystorefront.com. There is also the Box Tops for Education Program. You no longer have to cut out the Box Top squares. You just download the app, choose the school you want to earn for, and take a picture of your receipt any time you buy a qualifying product. It is super easy! Happy shopping!

Now for the drinks - Turn your Coca-Cola product purchases into donations to Mercymount! To donate, visit coke.com/give/schools, select Mercymount and scan or enter product codes from participating Coca-Cola products. Get started today! Don't have time to input codes, feel free to send in your bottle caps as well as the codes off your 12 packs to school and let us input those for you! Thank you for helping Mercymount make the most of this program! To learn more, go to Coke.com/give.

Halloween Costume Drive

National Junior Honor Society are collecting new and gently used costumes to be donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters RI. They are asking for fabric costumes only with no face masks. Please send your donations by November 18th.

Phantom Farms Fundraiser

Don't know what to bring to the Thanksgiving table this year? We've got you covered! This Thanksgiving season be sure to purchase pies, fudge, brittle and even scented candles through Mercymount and support not only our community, but local business as well. Together with Phantom Farms, we have all your dessert needs covered. With pick up at Mercymount on November 24th, you'll skip those long lines at the farm! Orders must be turned in on or before November 10th. Please make checks payable to Mercymount. Pies will be made fresh and dropped off at school Tuesday November 23rd late afternoon or evening. **Pick up for all orders will be Wednesday, November 24th in the cafeteria from 3:00 - 6:30p.m.**

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, seasonal stickers, food coloring, Q-tips, cotton balls, colored feathers

PK-A Ms. Dias Lysol disinfecting spray

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

K-B Mrs. Kimatian washable markers

1-5 Mrs. Lanyi 10 Bath mats/rugs, color pencil sharpener

2-7 Mrs. Burke Calculators, BESTWYA 12-Digit Dual Power Handheld Desktop Calculator with Large LCD Display Big Sensitive Button (Black, Pack of 5)

2-8 Miss Colavecchio 8x10 classroom rug

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

3-4 Miss Bruno Orbeez, fidgets, kinetic sand, felt, tape, glue

6-18 Mr. Cotnoir 3-hole punch, clipboard, electric pencil sharpener, hardcover bibles

7-21 Mr. Evans Colored pencils, (12-15) compasses for drawing circles

7-23 Mrs. Antone Post-It tabs, reading pillows

8-20 Mrs. Paquette Beach balls, tracing paper

MakerSpace 30 12"x16" plastic food trays

Mind, Body, Soul (3)3 lb. bags of kinetic sand, (5) 3 ounce pinch me dough

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

Looking Ahead to December.....

December 9 Santa's Store

December 10 Report Cards Sent Home

December 23-Jan 2 Christmas Break



"No matter how small the gift, God gives the increase"