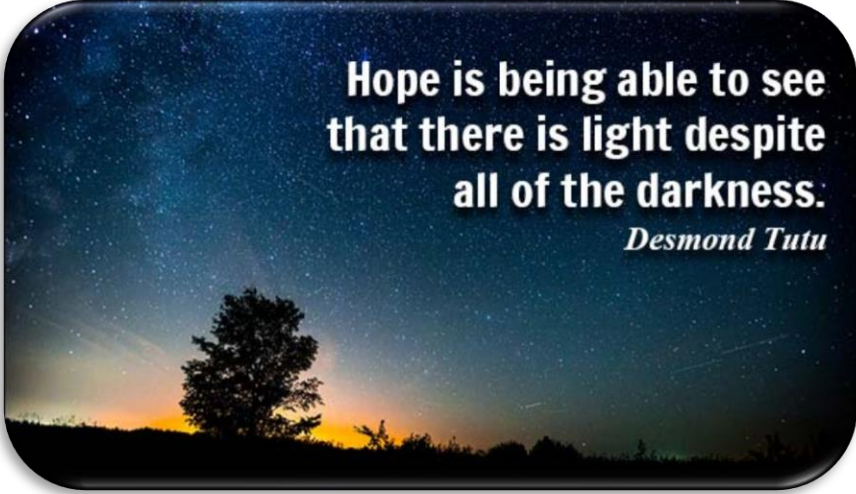


DECEMBER 2021

PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)

A Note from Sister Rayleen

happy  
HOLIDAYS



Hope is being able to see  
that there is light despite  
all of the darkness.

*Desmond Tutu*

In 2021, Advent and Hanukkah begin on the same day. Advent, with its four Sundays leading up to Christmas, marks the beginning of the Christian liturgical year. Hanukkah, often referred to as the “festival of light,” is often evidenced in the lighting of the menorah. Both sacred seasons are most often associated with light in darkness and hope in despair. Sometimes when the “hustle and bustle” of the holiday season gets the best of me, it helps me to pause and consider the deeper meaning of these sacred seasons, to remember that God brings light to darkness and hope to despair. In these very unusual times, I imagine we could all use more light and hope. As we enter this sacred season, be assured of my prayers for you and yours. May the light and hope of Advent, Hanukkah, and Christmas bear their fruit in the remaining days of 2021 and the whole of 2022.

God’s abundant blessings and my affection,



### **Santa Store - December 8-9**

December has arrived, and that means our **Santa Store** is here! Our Santa Store still needs a few more supplies. We are kindly asking for more bags (preferably medium to large), tissue paper, and wrapping paper. Please send your generous donation in with your child or you can also drop off to Mrs. Simas in the office.

We're also in need of 6-7 folding tables. We are short this year due to the cafeteria's lunch use. If you're able to lend them to us for the 8th and 9th please email [Colleen.dipetrillo77@gmail.com](mailto:Colleen.dipetrillo77@gmail.com).

### **Report Cards - December 10**

Report cards will be sent out on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. A printed copy will be sent home with children in Pre-K and Kindergarten. Report cards will be emailed to parents of children in Grades 1- 8.

### **Foundation Day - December 12**

Sisters of Mercy around the world celebrate December 12 as Foundation Day of the Mercy Community. On that day in 1831, Catherine McAuley, Mary Ann Doyle, and Elizabeth Harley professed vows as the first Sisters of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland. From their commitment to serve the poor, sick and uneducated, the Sisters of Mercy grew into thousands across the globe, reaching the United States in 1843 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and establishing foundations throughout the U.S.

### **Pre- Auction Raffle Drawing - December 17th**

Prize information and tickets were sent home to each family last week. Great prizes, which would make great Christmas gifts! They include an Oculus Quest 2 Advanced All-in-One Virtual Reality Headset, Kidzone 12V Kids Ride-on Bumper car with Remote control, LED lights and 360-degree spin, and the ever popular Mercymount Gold Card. Can't beat the deal at \$5 per chance! Order forms for No Uniform Slips were also sent home. A maximum of 5 slips can be purchased per student. These make great stocking stuffers!! Forms are available in the PIE Memo.

### **Advent**

During this season of Advent, each class is helping those less fortunate by collecting and donating toys, clothes and toiletries. Classroom collections this year will benefit Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse, Pajama Project, and Children's Friend. Many thanks to each family for your continued generosity. And for your daily Advent prayer reflection, the "Little Blue Books" will be available in the lobby - please help yourself!

Friends of Mercy will be collecting travel sized toiletries. They will be donating them to local shelters. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

## **Winter Sports Update**

Basketball is underway, with teams beginning practices in early November and our first CAL games scheduled for the weekend of December 4th and 5th. We are excited to be able to welcome spectators back to our gym (masks required!) this season, but each gym will be following their own rules regarding spectators in the gym. Some gyms have decided to limit the number of spectators per player or not to permit spectators at all. Please be sure to confirm with your coach prior to planning to spectate any away games to understand the rules of the facility you are visiting.

Keeping the Mercymount gym up and running is a full-time job. While the Sports Committee takes the lead on ensuring that our gym is in tip top shape for the season, we can't keep things running without the help of our entire school community. We will need volunteers for each game to run the scoreboard, keep the scorebook for our team, and run the admissions and concessions tables. Please keep an open mind when your respective coach(es) reach out to you for help in staffing these positions. Each family volunteering for one game per season would go a long way to helping us fill those positions (plus they all come with some of the best seats in the gym!) Parents of high school students... have your child email the Sports Committee at [mercymountsports@gmail.com](mailto:mercymountsports@gmail.com) to schedule some volunteer time towards those service hour requirements!

Finally, Bidyball registration has opened as well. Bidyball is our instructional basketball program for athletes in grades K - 2, focusing on developing the basic skills required to compete in CAL basketball. Our Bidyball season will begin on December 11th and run through late March. We meet in the Mercymount gym on Saturday mornings for one-hour sessions per grade. We are still looking for a number of coaches at each grade level. Moms, Dads, cool Uncles and Aunts, and Grandparents are all welcome to help coach, no prior basketball experience required! The only requirements are a positive attitude and the completion of the same BCI/Safe Schools Training required of all school volunteers. The Sports Committee wishes everyone a blessed and peaceful Advent as we await the coming of our Savior and a very joyous Christmas! GOOOO MUSTANGS!!!

## **Basketball Camp**

Our very own Mr. Houston will be holding a Basketball Camp over Christmas break for children ages 5-12. Camp will be held on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. Children can attend one, two, or three days. The cost is \$25/day. If your child would like to attend, please return the attached form with cash or a check made out to Mercymount.

## **Message from Parent Association**

The Parent Association Committee would like to wish all of our families, the administration, faculty and staff a Merry Christmas.

## **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. Emergency notifications will be done through our Rediker database program. Parents will receive notification via email, voice mail and/or text message.

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.*

## **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](mailto:csimas@mercymount.org).

**PK Miss Carito** Lysol spray, seasonal stickers, food coloring, Q-tips, cotton balls, 16 white boards, colored highlighters, paper towels

**PK-A Ms. Dias** Lysol disinfecting spray

**3-3 Mrs. Demirgioglu** 1 Lakeshore Flex-Space Comfy Floor Seat – Gray, 1 ECR4Kids - ELR-15810-NV The Surf Portable Lap Desk, 1 AANNY\_Designs JJS00060 Lychee Cotton Knit Pouf Ottoman Lt Grey

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

**4-10 Miss Werderman** Disinfecting wipes

**7-21 Mr. Evans** Mini-glue sticks for hot glue gun, model clay, assorted balloons, rubber bands

**7-23 Mrs. Antone** Colored pencils, markers

**8-20 Mrs. Paquette** Beach balls, tracing paper

**MakerSpace** 30 12" x 16" plastic food trays

**Mind, Body, Soul (5)** 3 ounce pinch me dough

**Nurses Office** Boy's and girl's undergarments, socks, leggings, children's Tylenol, children's Advil



*“May God preserve and bless you and grant you all the graces and precious gifts reserved for this Holy Season.”*