



2022



PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)

This year, the month of March starts with Mardi Gras and quickly ushers in the Christian season of Lent. As in various religions, the Christian tradition sets aside time to re-focus or reclaim one's commitment to God and one's journey in faith. Each year, I find it important to have a simple daily practice or daily reflection that fosters my ability to re-center ever more deeply in God and deepen my commitment to God's Word. This year, however, the practice and reflection found me. As I was driving to New York to visit my sister-in-law, I played my "driving playlist." To my surprise, the refrain from one of the songs, "Anyway" by Martina McBride, continued to play in my mind. Those lyrics are: "God is great, but sometimes life ain't good/When I pray it doesn't always turn out like I think it should/But I do it anyway/I do it anyway." Being a relatively positive person, I was taken aback by the song's impact. Yet, I know the world's events, particularly those in the Ukraine, have found their way into my psyche and have made my heart heavy. Although the message of the song is powerful, I sought out its original source, the words of Mother Teresa (found below). Although I imagine I will be "living with" both the song lyrics and Mother Teresa's words, I greatly appreciate the Mother Teresa's reminder that, "in the final analysis," all of it is between me and God. May the month of March and this holy season serve each one of us as we strive to grow in faith and love.

The version found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.
What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.
Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.
In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

Blessings of Mercy & Peace,

SPORTS UPDATE

The calendar turning to March can mean only one thing... Tournament Time! Our basketball teams wrap up their regular season on the weekend of March 5th and 6th and we are set to begin Mercymount's own version of March Madness!! Mercymount's Pot Of Gold Basketball Tournament began on February 28th, and various MCDS teams also entered in the St. John's basketball tournament in Attleboro which runs at the same time. In addition, we have several teams poised to continue on to CAL playoff tournaments. Tournament time gets a bit hectic, with schedules sometimes only available days in advance. Keep an eye out for emails from coaches on when your team will be playing next! (And buy those basketball players an extra Gatorade, they'll need it!!)

In conjunction with our Annual Pot of Gold basketball tournament we will also be hosting our Alumni vs. Parents/Coaches games on Friday March 11th. The Women's Game tips-off at 6pm and the Men's Game tips-off at 7:30. We will also host our Pot of Gold breakfast on Sunday, March 13th from 8:30 - 12:30. This is a fun, family oriented social event for the entire school, not just those participating in basketball! Come enjoy a hot breakfast (eggs, pancakes, bacon, coffee and more!) in the school cafeteria served up by our basketball players and parent volunteers with a side of fun! All are welcome to both our Alumni game and the Breakfast event.

Finally, we are also beginning to look ahead to Spring sports, which start in late March. Be on the lookout for signup forms for CAL Soccer (Grades 4 - 8), MCDS Instructional Volleyball (Grades 4 and 5), CAL Volleyball (Grades 6 - 8) as well as our planned co-op middle school baseball and softball teams. We will also offer the Spring All-Sports program to our youngest athletes (K - 3), likely beginning in early April.

GO MUSTANGS!

Annual Bids for Kids - Save the Date! May 14, 2022

The calendar raffle was a huge success!! Thanks to all that participated! No uniform slips will be going home on Wednesday -please be on the lookout for them and email melissaquinn8@hotmail.com by Friday, if you didn't receive them. Winners will be announced daily on Facebook and weekly by email. Good Luck!!

Our next Bids for Kids Auction planning meeting is Wednesday, March 23rd, at 8:30am in the teacher's room.

We are currently accepting donations of items for our silent and live items. Want to participate?: • Make a donation of items for packages or raffles, including our popular Gift Card Grab (gifts cards needed of at least \$25) • Donate through our Amazon Wish List and have the items delivered directly to school. Please indicate in the notes section or email us letting us know what you bought so that we can give you credit for your purchase. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S0ZYNQWN6URP?ref=wl_share • Become a Corporate Sponsor or Advertiser for the event. See attached forms. • Attend the auction!

Last Call for Registration Indicator forms!

This is a last call for registration forms for the 2022-2023 school year. All children except those in 8th grade, returning or not, need to hand in the form.

25th Annual Golf Tournament!

Save the date for this un-fore-gettable event! Mercymount's 25th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on September 19th at the Pawtucket Country Club. We look forward to seeing you on the green!

Tax ID

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

Thank You!!

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those that have been volunteering their help for lunch and recess coverage. This has been a tremendous help. We can't thank you enough!

Advancement update:

Annual Fund

Please consider supporting the Annual Fund! All proceeds raised go directly to support all areas of an excellent education, from financial aid to cleaning and health protocols for keeping our students and staff safe, to Project Based Learning and STREAM programs that keep us engaged and learning. We welcome your gift in any amount, and are grateful for your generosity. If you work for a company that matches charitable gifts, you may be able to double or triple your donation by submitting a matching gift form (usually available through your HR office or on your employee website). You may make a gift online through our website here: <https://www.mercymount.org/giving/annual-fund>.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lisa Pare via email at lpare@mercymount.org or by phone at 401-333-5919 x19.

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. When shopping Amazon, use this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0298738>.

You can use your existing Amazon

accounts, just be sure to shop through the Amazon Smile site. 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!

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

Mercymount Spirit Has Its Rewards!

It's time to show off your Mercymount spirit! All members of our community are encouraged to wear their Mercymount swag to events and activities off campus for a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate to the Ice Cream Machine. Going somewhere fun? Be sure to bring your Mercymount water bottle or cooler! That's right, coolers, water bottles, hats - it all counts as swag and helps to promote our school! Send in a photo of you or your Mustang showing some spirit off campus (dance rehearsal, gymnastics, hockey practice, the movies, you name it!). Email your photo to Mrs. Lisa Pare at lpare@mercymount.org and Mrs. Colleen DiPetrillo at colleen.dipetrillo77@gmail.com with a creative hashtag to be entered into our Ice Cream Machine gift card drawing. Please know some photos may be featured on our public social media sites. Entries will be pulled every month through the end of the school year!

Lenten Collections

Our weekly Lenten collections for those who are materially poor are listed on the monthly calendar. Your generosity brings much joy to so many men, women, and children relying on local food banks and shelters. This year's donations will be directed to homeless individuals and families in the area. There will be boxes in the lobby under the wooden cross for donations.

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| • Week II | March 7-11 | Peanut Butter and Jelly for local food pantries |
| • Week III | March 14-18 | Men's T-shirts and socks |
| • Week IV | March 21-25 | Canned Tuna with easy open top |
| • Week V | March 28- Apr 1 | Ramen Noodles |
| • Week VI | April 4-8 | Men's Toiletries |

Teacher Snacks

Below is the link to our Amazon Snack 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 or Mrs. Ready.

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



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. Ready at: jready@mercymount.org

PK-D Miss Carito	Spring stickers, planting seeds, Paper Towels
PK_C Ms. Dias	Paper Towels, Disinfecting Wipes, Disinfecting Spray
1-6 Mrs. Corio	Bookshelf (donation can be split between multiple families) https://www.lakeshorelearning.com/products/classroom-furniture/storage-units/classic-birch-help-yourself-bookstand/p/JJ836/#
3-3 Mrs. Demirgioglu	Playdoh, Magnetic blocks from Amazon (Kids Magnetic Tiles Toys, 100Pcs 3D Magnetic Building Blocks Tiles Set)
3-4 Miss Bruno	Nature themed sticker, Paper towels, Poster boards (6)
Art	90-140 lbs weight Water Color Paper 9x12

Smart Gen Presentation for Parents

We will be hosting the Smart Gen Society on March 15th at 6:30 p.m. for a Presentation entitled "Parenting the iGen". Smart Gen looks to better inform parents of the ever changing digital world.

The Presentation covers topics such as:

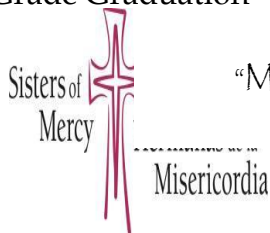
- COPPA laws
- Developmental, emotional, psychological impacts of social media
- Trending applications
- Implementing a Family Digital Plan
- Set healthy boundaries with screen time
- Account restrictions

Time to Spring Ahead! - March 13

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 13th. Yes, we do lose an hour's sleep, but it's a sure sign that Spring is right around the corner.....so it's worth it!

Save the Date!

- Father/Daughter Dance April 8 (More information to follow shortly)
- Good Friday/No School - April 15
- Spring Vacation - April 17 - 24
- Teacher Appreciation Day - May 5
- Mother/Son Event - May 22
- 8th Grade Graduation - June 10



"Mercy is more than charity....it receives pardons again and again"

Venerable Catherine McAuley