



January 2023

PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)

A Note from Sister Rayleen...

Happy and Blessed New Year to you and all those you hold dear! As I reflect on this past year, I ponder God's presence throughout its many ordinary and extraordinary moments. It's hard not to remember the year's events with all the ups and downs without also remembering those who accompanied me. All of you, with my family and friends, have flooded my mind's eye and been cause for a full heart as I remember each one with immense gratitude!

As I consider how every new year gives me an opportunity to reset, to re-commit myself to that which inspires and compels me, I find that the words of a reflection/poem entitled *The Work of Christmas Begins* from Xavier University's web page speaks to me:

When the carols have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When family and friends are gone home,
When we are back to our schedules
The work of Christmas begins:
 To welcome the refugee,
 To heal a broken planet,
 To feed the hungry,
 To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,
 To share our gifts,
 To seek justice and peace for all people,
 To bring Christ's light to the world.

(by Michael Dougherty, a variation on [Howard Thurman](#)'s 'When the Song of the Angels is Stilled')

As this new year gives each one of us somewhat of a blank canvas to start anew, to reset and recommit to what's most important, I recognize that Mercymount Country Day School is where God has called me, with God's grace, to bring Christ's light to the world. I also recognize that our Mission is a communal enterprise. You can be assured of my heartfelt gratitude for the ways in which you accompany me in this most important ministry. You can also be assured of my daily prayers for you and yours.

Welcome Back – January 3

The second half of the 2022-2023 school year begins! A reminder to parents that all students come to school with appropriate outerwear (coat, boots, hats, gloves) for outdoor recess and/or After Care when the weather permits.

Uniform Policy

A reminder to our families to please review the dress code section of our handbook, located on pages 8-12. For your convenience, a picture of approved school swag is attached. We ask that you honor the uniform requirements. When uniform violations occur, students will receive a verbal warning. For all additional occurrences, students will be asked to change or call home. Click on this link to review the dress code: [Dress Code - Mercymount Country Day School](#)

8th Grade Fundraiser- Tuesday, January 10th

Please support our 8th grade class by participating in their upcoming fundraiser at Davenport's restaurant in Cumberland. A percentage of the proceeds will go toward the 8th grade class trip when you dine-in or takeout from Davenports on January 10th from 11 am – 9 pm. Look for flyers to be sent home with the students or print the attached flyer to present at Davenports.

Catholic Schools Week – January 30 to February 5

Started in 1974, Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. The 2022-2023 theme is *“Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.”* During our spirit week, we celebrate our school with fun activities as we focus on the values Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our Church, our communities and our nation. We will end our Catholic Schools Week celebrations with Mass (time TBD)...watch your email for more information!

Pot of Gold Basketball Tournament

The Pot of Gold is a 3-week basketball tournament Mercymount has hosted since 1991. The tournament is a major fundraising event for the Sports Committee and in addition to 80+ basketball games for boys and girls grade 4 - 8, the tournaments also host an alumni game, futures game and Tip Off Breakfast. More information as well as a schedule of games will be provided on the MCDS Parents page as the tournament approaches. All are welcome to attend. Go Mustangs!

2023 Pot of Gold dates:

- Tournament - the games begin on Monday, February 27th and run through March 18th
- The Alumni game will be on Friday, March 3rd
- Pot-of-Gold Pancake Breakfast – Saturday, March 4th

Don't Miss Out: *all order forms are due to the office by January 20, 2023*

- Good Luck Posters - See attached flyer
- Corporate Sponsorship also available – See attached flyer

Several positions are open on the committee and no experience is required. If you are looking for a great way to get involved, this is it! For more information, please contact Tournament Direction, Keli Sanford @ Keli.E.Sanford@gmail.com

Open House - January 26th

On Thursday, January 26th, Mercymount will host an Open House for new and prospective families.

Attention Grade 5 Parents - Save the Date

On Thursday, January 26th, at 6:30 p.m., during our school's open house, the middle school teachers will hold an informational session for current grade 5 parents and/or new prospective middle school parents. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our middle school programs and ask any questions that you might have about our middle school. This meeting will be in person. More details to follow.

Father/Daughter Dance

The Father Daughter Dance committee is excited to announce details about this year's event. The 2022-23 Father/Daughter Dance will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 6-9pm at enVision Hotel and Conference Center in Mansfield, MA. The cost is \$70 per couple/\$25 each additional child. Please see the attached forms to register. You may contact Shelly Gambogi at shellyallard@yahoo.com or Shadia Velez at velacebridal@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Volunteers Needed!!

We could really use more help for lunch and recess duty. If you could spare even one hour a week, any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much to those already volunteering your time. All volunteers must have completed the Safe Schools paperwork, please email Mrs. Ready if you need the Safe Schools instruction sent to you.

Please sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/noCNZLM>

2023-2024 Registration and Financial Assistance

The registration forms for the 2023-2024 school year are attached. We understand that many families are dealing with the current cost of living increases. We are grateful and happy to say that there will be no increase in tuition for the 2023-2024 school year. Please complete the Registration form and return it to the Office with your registration fee of \$250 by January 31, 2023.

Financial Assistance:

Anyone in need of financial aid from the diocese, your parish or Mercymount for 2023-2024 school year may apply as follows: (please complete ALL steps)

- Use the FACTS online form at <https://online.factsmgt.com/aid>
- Write a letter of request to Sister Rayleen Giannotti c/o Mercymount (indicate "personal" on the envelope)
- Contact your pastor who may also have available funds for assistance
- The deadline for applications is January 31, 2023
- Award letters will be mailed out the middle of February.

Bids for Kids Planning Meeting - January 18th

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday May 6, 2023**.....it's fast approaching for the *Bids for Kids 2023*! Tell friends and family who are connected to Mercymount (past, present and future!) and ask them to save the date, because it's going to be a celebration! There will be raffles, dinner stations, cocktails and bidding, followed by the always exciting and entertaining Live Auction! Eat, drink and celebrate Mercymount! The Auction Committee invites everyone to participate in the planning of this exciting event. Join us in the faculty room for a planning meeting on **Wednesday, January 18th @ 8:45 am**. The Committee is ramping up the planning and are looking for your ideas and energy! Contact Co-Chairs Jamie Sims mr.mrs.sims@gmail.com, Melissa Quinn melissaquinn8@hotmail.com or Melissa Titov mac33317@gmail.com for additional information or if you have an item that you would like to donate.

Thank you

On behalf of our faculty and staff, we would like to thank you for your heartfelt holiday greetings and generous gifts. Your care, love and support were truly felt.



“Try to meet all with peace and love”

Catherine McAuley

December 2022

Honor Roll

First Trimester

HIGH HONORS

Grade 8

Avi Amin
Helena Cornwell
Autumn Gerrish
Onyeka Moseri
Ansley Palermo
Alexandra Terrien
Leah Walden

Grade 7

Ainsley Hubacz
Ashlyn Iannetta
Kaelyn Quinn
Jostan Sims

Grade 6

Andrew Albert
Lyla Alves
Matthew Burke
Margaret Caggiano
Gilchrist Daniel
Gregory Martin
Amelia McCarthy
Oliver Page
Robert Shaughnessy
Caroline Trask

HONORS

Grade 8

Avery Dunderdale
Kaylee Dunderdale
Chloe Iannino
Zoe Kurtz
Nina Lantini
Cooper Marino
Christina O'Leary
Andrew Sanford
Maya Spadano
Joss Tendlak
Eva Tomas

Grade 7

Jackson Allen
Gavin Britt
Caroline Cooney
Jack Crossley
Victoria DiPetrillo
Colin Gerrish
Norkham Khamsyvoravong
Kaitlyn Pathe
Ilinca Pirvu
Samantha Putt
Jordan Romano
Christian Ruel
Morgan Smith

Grade 6

Camryn Augustyn
Benjamin Ciavottone
Henry Donohue
Ayaan Jain
Broderick Kurtz
Juliet Le
Raeghan Magill
Onyinye Moseri
Alexa Parkes
Dominic Patricia
Yuvraj Singiri
Luke Swahn
Justin Tessier
Maxwell Thibodeau

