

FEBRUARY 2023

PIE MEMO (*Partners in Education*)

A Note from Sister Rayleen:

Last week, Br. Alan, six students, and I had the blessed opportunity to attend the Mass of Reception to welcome Bishop Richard G. Henning as coadjutor bishop of Providence. The cathedral's capacity seemed to be enlarged by the attendees with their joyous excitement. Students and adults from throughout the diocese, as well as guests from visiting dioceses, were captivated by the sights and sounds upon entering the cathedral. Although the felt sense of joy of those gathered reached a pinnacle when Bishop Henning walked around the cathedral with his letter from Pope Francis, there seemed to be a strong sentiment of hope following Bishop Henning's homily. Our new bishop, ironically, spoke of the virtue of hope. Among his reflections, he shared an image from a poem by Charles Peguy. In his poem, Mr. Peguy describes Hope as the youngest of three sisters. Her two sisters, Faith and Love, are walking hand-in-hand with her. Bishop Henning reflected that Hope, the youngest of the three, holds Faith and Love together and keeps them young. Moving beyond the image of the sisters holding hands, our new bishop encouraged us to consider how the virtue of hope shares additional traits with children. For example, hope draws us out of our concerns; it reminds us of wonder; helps us to see what is possible; and sees the goodness in life.

Since last Thursday, I have found myself going back to Bishop Henning's reflection. Undoubtedly, each one of us appreciates the need, and perhaps desire, to have a little hope in our lives. Although I have come to understand all three virtues to be gifts of God and have attempted to find ways to nourish them, I fully resonated with Bishop Henning's final assertion (and I think he would say St. Paul's assertion) that the virtue of hope is nourished by those who accompany us. I do believe hope thrives when we surround ourselves with those who dare to hope. I have asked myself more than once since the Mass of Reception: How am I nourishing hope in those I accompany, especially our students? How can I better nourish hope in all? My prayer is that I become more hope-full so I may foster hope in others.

May God continue to bless us with Hope as we walk hand-in-hand with our children. May we allow them to draw us out of our concerns, remind us to wonder, help us to see what is possible, and recognize the goodness in life.



Catholic Schools Week!

January 30th – February 3rd is Catholic Schools Week! This year's theme is "Faith. Excellence. Service." Please see the schedule below. Children do not have to be in uniform this week.

MONDAY 1/30:

Celebrating our Community!

- Wear our school colors

TUESDAY 1/31:

Celebrate the Students!

- Traditional Dress Down Day

WEDNESDAY 2/1:

Celebrating our Nation!

- Dress in red, white and blue

THURSDAY 2/2:

When I grow up!

- Students will think about what they want to be when they Grow up and dress as that career

FRIDAY 2/3:

Pajama Day!

- Dress in your comfiest pajamas and slippers

Congratulations to our Spelling Bee Winners!

We held our school Spelling Bee competition on Wednesday, January 11th. Here are our winners:



Elementary:

London Gonzalez	1 st place
Sabrina Janah	2 nd place

Middle School:

Avi Amin	8-23	1 st place
Olivia Moseri	6-16	2 nd place

Best of luck to London and Avi who will compete in the State Spelling Bee on February 1st.

Middle School Semi-Formal Dance: February 3rd

The Middle School students are invited to attend the Semi-Formal Dance this Friday, February 3rd from 6:00-8:30. The cost is \$10 and includes snacks and drinks.

Cash or checks are payable to Mercymount Country Day School. A permission slip is required and can be found in the attachments.

Registration Indicators 2023-24

Registration Indicators are past due. Please return the form no later than February 10th to reserve your child's spot for the 2023-2024 school year.

Tardiness

Students are to be in school by 8:30. A tardy or late student arriving at school following the 8:30 a.m. must report directly to the Office. Please try your best to get your student here on time to limit disruptions in the classroom.

Pot of Gold Basketball Tournament

31st Annual Pot-of-Gold Save the Date -

- Tournament - the games begin on Monday, February 27th and run through the end of March
- The Alumni game will be on Friday, March 3rd
- Pot-of-Gold Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, March 5th

Join us on Sunday morning, March 4th at the 32nd Annual Pot-of-Gold Pancake Breakfast! Don't miss out on this delicious start to our tournament. Proceeds from the breakfast and the tournament games benefit the Sports Program.

Anyone interested in assisting with this year's Pot of Gold events should contact the Sports Committee at mercymountsports@gmail.com

Bids for Kids Auction Update

Mark your calendars now for **Saturday, May 6th, 2023**...for *Bids for Kids 2023!* Tell friends and family connected to Mercymount (past, present and future!) to save the date, because it's going to be a celebration! This year's Bids for Kids will take place at Bally's Twin River Event Center in Lincoln. There will be raffles, dinner stations, cocktails and bidding, followed by the always exciting and entertaining Live Auction, that you don't want to miss! This year will feature Live Music by The Breeze! Check them out in Instagram, [the.breeze.music](https://www.instagram.com/thebreezemuic). Eat, drink, dance and be giving!

The Auction Committee invites everyone to participate in the planning of this exciting event! Join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, **February 15th @ 8:30am** in the teacher's room. The Committee is ramping up the planning and are looking for your ideas and energy!

March Calendar Raffle is almost here! \$10 per calendar...for every 5 calendars your child sells, they will earn 2 No Uniform Slips!! Maximum 10 No uniform slips. More information will be out soon.

The committee is accepting any donations at this time. Don't know what to donate, check out our Amazon wish list for ideas. All items on the wish list can be delivered right to Mercymount. Please remember to include your name in the note section, so that we know who donated the items.

http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2S0ZYNQWN6URP?ref_=wl_share

Contact Co Chairs Melissa Quinn melissaquinn8@hotmail.com, Jamie Sims mr.mrs.sims@gmail.com or Melissa Titov mac33317@gmail.com with any questions! Thank you for all your support!

Father/Daughter Dance - March 25

Please remember to send in your registration for the Father/Daughter dance. You will find the form attached.



Mercymount Jump Rope for Heart Event



February is Heart Health Month! Thus, it is with great excitement that we announce the first Kids Heart Challenge led by our new jump rope team, the Mustang Jumpers. The Kids Heart Challenge is designed to help students learn about the importance of making healthy choices to take care of their hearts through jump rope and healthy eating. Students will also help improve the health and hearts of others by collecting donations in support of the American Heart Association.

Our Kids Heart Challenge program will take place during school on **Thursday, February 16th, 2023**. This event will be held in the Mercymount gymnasium from 2:00-3:00 pm and will be led by our new Mustang Jumpers jump rope team. **All students in grades K through 3 are invited to participate in jump rope activities and a heart healthy education session at this time.** We understand every family may not be able to donate, however, all students and families will enjoy and learn from the heart healthy educational experiences that will be shared during our program. Students will be invited to jump rope during this event but are not required to so.

If your family would like to help with an optional donation of any amount, please consider using the American Heart Association's online donation program. We encourage online donations, however, checks or cash will be accepted as well. Checks should be made out to the American Heart Association. Follow these step-by-step directions to donate online. You will be able to reach out to friends and family via email or social media to support this cause as well.

To get started: Go to www.heart.org/KHC - Register to participate! (*You may also use your mobile device. Visit your Mobile App store and search: Kids Heart Challenge to download the free app!)

1. Scroll down to "Find Your Student's School. Select your State and type Mercymount in the search box.
2. Click the "Search" button and see "Results Matching Your School's Name."
3. Click the "Sign Up" button located under your school's name.
4. Log In - Did you have an account last year? Click "Yes - Log In" or "No - I'm New"
5. If you are "New" - Donate if you wish. Click "Next" and follow the directions to Create a Profile. Click Next and you will be in your student's webpage.
6. Start Finn's Mission to begin fundraising and to participate in heart healthy experiences. Simply click the icons found on the treasure map to Heart Health OR scroll down to "Spread the Word" - you are now ready to email family and friends or send personalized e-cards. You may ask for help with donations and encourage others to join you in a Heart Healthy Challenge to Move More and Be Kind and to learn more about Hands-Only CPR and the Warning Signs of Stroke.

Donations are due no later than February 16th. Thank you for your support of this fun and worthy event! If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Malachowski at colleenmalachowski@gmail.com

Annual Fund

Please consider donating to Mercymount's Annual Fund! All contributions go directly to support all areas of our Mission. From resources and programming to support our curriculum and high standards to maintaining a healthy and safe environment for our students and staff, your donation will serve our community. Keeping our students engaged and instilling a love of learning are of utmost importance - STREAM and Project Based Learning are among some of the ways our faculty strives to do so. In addition, our annual fund helps to provide some additional funding to support the financial aid we are able to provide. 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 Mrs. Simas via email at csimas@mercymount.org or by phone at 401-333-5919 x32

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 Mrs. Delauriers: Small containers of Play-Doh, Liquid hand soap

K-B Mrs. Capone: magnetic wands (Lakeshore - 12/\$32), Bright Giant Washable Ink Pads (Lakeshore), Easy grip safety tweezers (Lakeshore 12/12.99), Seasonal stickers, Popsicle sticks

1-5 Mrs. Lanyi stickers and kid-safe wipes to clean desks

3-3 Mrs. Demirgioglu: Lysol wipes

3-4 Miss Bruno: markers, small bean bag chair https://www.amazon.com/Posh-Creations-100in-Classic-Childrens/dp/B092W43SGX/ref=sr_1_19_sspa?keywords=small%2Bbeanbags%2Bfor%2Bkids&qid=1674589898&sprefix=small%2Bbeanba%2Caps%2C98&sr=8-19-spons&spLa=ZW5jcnldGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEyWVJjTElGSkxUjNVJmVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwMTAoMzgwModOOUJUVVVEsFNfSSZlbnNyeXB0ZWZlZElkPUEwNjcwNDYxMVJONlZURoFVQ1Q2QjZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPXNwX210ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU&th=1

5-15 Mrs. Roberto: Sharpies and white board markers

7-21 Mr. Evans: Hot melt glue sticks 4 x 2.7 and Ziploc storage bags

7-23 Mrs. Antone: Scrabble or other word games

Library Mrs. Parella: glue sticks, colored pencils, and Crayola crayons

Mrs. Fleming: (PreS/K Spanish): Mis primeras canciones infantiles (1):

<https://a.co/d/6TTWXsQ>, Mis primeras canciones tradicionales (1):

<https://a.co/d/dAc6USX>, Mis primeras canciones de cuna (1): <https://a.co/d/dwuWfm2>,

Band Wrist bells 12 PCS (2): <https://a.co/d/8QMCXlk>, 8 Pairs Classical Wood Claves

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.



Tax ID

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

Looking Ahead.....

- Winter Recess - February 18-26
- Professional Day - March 13
- Reports Cards Issued - March 17
- Father/Daughter Dance - March 25
- Spring Vacation - April 7 - 16
- High School Musical - April 29, 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm
- Mother/Son Event - April 30
- Bids for Kids Auction - May 6



"The only return GOD requires of us for all HIS favors is a return of love"
Venerable Catherine McAuley