

DECEMBER

PIE MEMO

(Partners in Education)

Thanksgiving



Once again, your generosity was overwhelming in response to the Thanksgiving basket collection. We gave 23 baskets to poor families, most of whom our 7th and 8th graders service through our Mercy Ministry at FoCUS in South Providence. God bless you for sharing of your wealth during this Thanksgiving season.

Advent



The malls are alive with Christmas songs and gifts and toys and most of us have started checking our lists. Advent, however, arrives very quietly this Sunday and for the next four weeks, serves as a reminder of Christ's coming, not only of 2000+ years ago, but of today, in the hearts and faces and events of our daily lives. An Advent Wreath prayer service will take place in the gym every Monday at 9:10; all are welcome.

Bids for Kids



The Pre-Auction Raffle tickets are doing nicely but we hope to sell lots more before the first drawing on December 13th (Celtics tickets, Webkins, Mercymount Gold Card and Wii). Attached is a page of tickets which you can reproduce if needed. Students who sell 5 or more tickets will receive a NO UNIFORM pass. Please support the Raffle which provides start-up money for Auction expenses. Thank you.

Partners In Philanthropy



National Philanthropy Day was celebrated by the R.I. Chapter on Tuesday, November 20th. Chosen as this year's recipient from Mercymount School was Beth Rossi and Greg Pope. Beth, a former parent for 17 years, served on the Executive Committee of the Parent Association, chaired the Auction for 3 years, began the Ski Club for the Middle School and currently serves on the Board of Trustees. Greg has been a Mercymount parent since 1997. Greg's love for sports steered him in the biddyball, basketball and tennis direction as coach and mentor. He currently serves as chair of the Sports Committee. Greg is an advisor to the Catholic Athletic League (CAL) and a storehouse of knowledge and experience in fostering and supporting Mercymount's mission and philosophy. Congratulations to our partners, Beth and Greg!

TLC Notes

Teens Living in Christ (TLC) wish to express their gratitude to all those who donated to Operation Holiday Cheer. Our soldiers in Iraq will appreciate the wonderful collection of items you purchased during November. Thank you! December will find our TLC friends Christmas caroling at Mount Saint Rita on Thursday, December 13th. They also will be decorating the bedroom doors with homemade door hangers. Nice!

FYI

There will be a new children's movie out on December 7th called "The Golden Compass." Written by an atheist, Phillip Pullman, the first of his trilogy of children's books is not as offensive as his next two when the children kill God. The PG-13 movie with Nicole Kidman seems to be the hook for children to buy his books. If you are as concerned, go to Google for the synopsis of The Golden Compass. A wonderful option are the Christian books and videos of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

Trimester

The first trimester of the year ends on Friday. All marks close. Report Cards for grades 4-8 will be issued on Tuesday, December 4th and report cards for grades K-3 will be issued on Thursday, December 6th. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on December 5th, 6th and 10th. All families received their confirmation times last week (please check backpacks!). We look forward to seeing you soon.

Santa's Store



All is in readiness for the Big Day when children purchase great gifts for you from \$1.00 - \$5.00. Also on hand will be MCD tees and hoodies from Lisa Lydon. Volunteers are needed throughout the set-up time on Monday, 3:00-7:00 p.m. and store-time Tuesday, 9:00-3:00.

Ski Club



The Middle School Ski Club is ready for the slopes! Forms have been sent home and representatives from Nashoba Valley will be here on Wednesday, December 12th to measure for rental equipment. Final payment is due December 17th. For further information please contact Cricket Hardenburgh at (508) 541-7000.

Weather



During inclement weather we suggest that parents check the following for delays or closings:

- TV - Channels 12, 10, 6 and FOX 64.
- Radio
- Schoolnotes (under my name)

N.B. When "**Cumberland**" is listed for delays or closings, **Mercymount School is included** unless posted otherwise.

Early Birds

The bus companies strongly request that the 2:50 early bird pick-up drivers leave enough room for the buses to enter their driveway.

At the age of 52, Catherine McCauley and two of her companions entered the Presentation Convent in Dublin to prepare for religious life. The day that they pronounced their vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service to the poor, sick and ignorant, was December 12, 1831. This is "foundation day" for the Sisters of Mercy. Happy 176th to all Sisters and Associates!



Help Needed



The Dahrooge family (Benjamin in grade 2 and two little ones) will be moving to North Attleboro or Wrentham, depending on housing, but transportation to MCD will be a problem. If anyone is willing to carpool with Mr. Dahrooge or knows of any alternatives, please call the Office. Thank you.

Boxtops

The children at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Academy in Central Falls, RI are collecting Boxtops for Education. Although we do not collect these, we'd like to help our "neighboring" school with their collection. A box will be placed in the cafeteria for the tops.

Artist in Residence



The students in grade 6 created Christmas cards for their computer class and one was chosen to be our school card for this year. Congratulations to Zoe Lorusso for her lovely card and message (you'll soon see)!

Please consider...

The Executive Committee of the Parent Association is in need of one more member as of January. The term is for 3 years and the responsibility is to chair the Father-Daughter/Mother-Son Socials coming up in the spring. If you are interested, please call me for further information or offer to help.

Electives

The Middle School has the pleasure of an elective class every Friday afternoon from 2:10 – 2:45. It's a nice way to end the week knitting or practicing meditation or learning to dance. The teachers have fun too and are always looking for new and different classes. If you or someone you know are available to share your gift with a small group of students for 7-8 Fridays, let us know. Our next set of classes start January 25th.

Ideas: crafts, scrapbooking, manners, sign language or any world languages, business information, cooking, guest speakers, etc.

After School Program

Gifts from the Earth (Thursday, December 13th 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.) Come join us in this holiday season on a **hike** to discover the gifts that the earth offers us everyday. At the center, we will **make a gift for the creatures** that you can bring home. Grades 1-4 Limit 12 children. Donation: \$8.00. Sr. Denise or Diane West will pick up the children at school at 3 p.m. and walk them down the hill to the Center. They will have time to eat their snack. Please be sure that they have warm clothes as part of this program includes a hike. **To register, please call 401-333-1341 or email newdawn@mercynortheast.org with the following information: Child's name, grade, address. Parent's phone number and email.**

School Vacation Program – Animals in Winter (Thursday, December 27th 9:00-12:00) Parents, have a morning to yourself! Children join us for a hike, games and activities to learn about animals in winter: Which animals hibernate, which are active and how they get through the winter. Bring a snack and dress for the weather. Grades 1-3, Limit 10 children. Donation: \$20.00. **To register, please call 401-333-1341 or email newdawn@mercynortheast.org with the following information: Child's name, grade, address. Parent's phone number and email.**

Parent Association

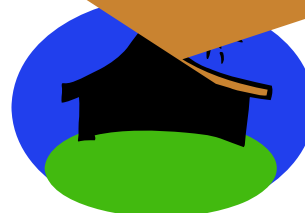
The Executive Committee met on Monday, December 15th at 7:00 AM. President John Rinkacs, Secretary Holly, and Treasurer Kevin Poirier's report brought the current balance of \$12,071. Sr. Martha welcomed the new members and clarified the recent problem of parents using Mad Science sportsweat or equipment, received feedback regarding the decision regarding Pre-K for next year. Sports gear is ready, Ski Club waiting for January snows and the bid program gearing up for a long season. Sunshine Deidre C... sympathy card to Mrs. Patricia Buzgo on the death of her father. Lynn Smith organized the Mad Science classes for grades K – 2. Christmas Concert by the Schoolhouse Orchestra on December 15. Reginald Barrows and Melissa Maxim will be sending home requests for an Open House collation in January. Volunteers Jen Marcotte and Pam Ne... need of more recess volunteers since the structured playtime often leads to "accidents" or inappropriate behavior. They will email current volunteers to remind them of their duties while outside, in particular. Anyone willing to volunteer should contact Jen or Pam. Parent Federation Kevin Poirier and other parents and faculty attended the R.I. hearing on students with disabilities. Information will be forthcoming from the diocese/state. Business The Student Fund is growing with the \$1,533.00 from the Spaghetti Supper, which is ready and the pre-Auction Raffle has a new twist this year. The need of one new member for the Socials Committee (to meet at the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

our hearts.”

This simple song sung by the angels brought joy to our hearts. How profound! We know how difficult it is to bring joy to our happy or harried spirits, our ordinary or overwhelmed hearts, our nourished or needy souls. Perhaps if we stop to pray often for grace and peace and God. So, during these few weeks of preparation for Jesus's birth, may we prepare well for Christ's coming so that we may have a heart that has received the greatest of gifts – Jesus Christ.

Happy Advent!

Martha Mulligan, RSM
Principal



SANTA'S STORE

Children can shop for Christmas gifts for their family and friends on December 11th, 2007. Our Gym will be transformed into a Christmas Store!

Please remind the children that the Santa Store is for purchasing Christmas gifts for others. We hope to keep the spirit of giving at the forefront of the event!

Below is a list to help your child make some shopping decisions. Younger grades shop at the store with the help of a "Big Buddy".

Please remember to send your children with small bills (no \$20's please)! We cannot accept checks – please do not send them.

Any questions – please call Therese Barry (508) 520-1868.

Santa Store Sale – December 11th, 2006

Mom	_____
Dad	_____
Grandmother	_____
Grandfather	_____
Sisters	_____
Brothers	_____
Uncles	_____
Aunts	_____
Cousins	_____
Teachers	_____
Friends	_____
Babysitter	_____
My Dog	_____
My Cat	_____
Others	_____

Please send small bills with your child. Zip-lock bags work well for their cash.



Mercymount Ladies Hoops



We are looking for more ladies who would like a good workout and a lot of fun to join us on Tuesday nights at 8pm. We play full court for at least one hour. All abilities are welcome, you do not need experience to play. We have already started and would like to play throughout the school year but we need more people !

If you are interested, please fill out the information and you will be put on our e-mail list. You can play every week or every once in awhile. whatever works for you.

Any questions you can contact Kim McLaughlin at 508-316-3299 or Kimberlyjmcl@comcast.net.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Grade 6, 7, 8 Electives

Name: _____ Tel#: _____

Opportunity/talent to share: _____

Due: December 15th

**PARENT ASSOCIATION – CHAIR OF SOCIALS COMMITTEE
Starting in January**

Name: _____ **Tel#:** _____

Email: _____

DECEMBER
AFTER SCHOOL ART is
MAKE A GIFT MONTH!

These art classes will be dedicated to making
"artful" gifts!

Wow, homemade presents! What you've always wanted...
what they've always wanted to do!

Each class will be filled with creative ideas and busy hands,
as each student builds, paints, and draws wonderful gifts for their family
and friends!

We'll begin by making jewelry and ornaments, oil pasteling winter scenes,
or building trinket boxes (just to mention a few)! We'll end with framing,
wrapping and,
well...a really cool surprise!

These classes will be offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for
grades 3 and up,
as well as Tuesdays for grades K-3.

Each session will meet once a week from 3:00-4:30
with the cost of \$65.00



Mondays, December 3, 10, 17 ~ Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19.
Thursdays, December 6, 13, 20. , Grades 3 and up, from 3:00-4:30
Tuesdays, December 4, 11, 18. Grades K-3, from 3:00-4:30.

Classes will fill quickly and space is limited, so please register early to assure enrollment!

THANKS!

DECEMBER

AFTER SCHOOL ART

Name: _____ Gr: _____ Tel# _____

Email: _____

WISH LIST 2007-2008

*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. For further information, please contact Lisa Lydon, Director of Development at 401-333-5919 x14 or ride5162@ride.ri.net.*

PRE-K

Bookcase – *Anonymous*

KINDERGARTEN

Pocket Chart Stand (KB)

Math Manipulatives: attribute blocks, plastic pattern blocks, plastic color tiles (KB)

Compartment Literature Organizer—24 slots (KB)

Crayola Washable Multicultural Paint (KA)

Crayola Washable Paint (KA)

Reading Rods – Phonemic Awareness Kit (KA)

Plastic Base Ten Class Set (KA)

Two-Sided Easel (KA) - *Bourque*

GRADE 1

GRADE 2

Electric Pencil Sharpeners (2-9) - *Marcum*

Basic Calculators – *Marcum; Sarcia*

GRADE 3

Set of encyclopedias (3-3)

Cart for lunchboxes (3-2)

Rug (3-2) – *K. Poirier Family*

Bookshelf (3-2) – *Zaarour Family*

Indoor Recess Toys (3-2)

Clipboards (3-2)

GRADE 4

Indoor & outdoor recess toys – *Lambros*

Twister, Jenga, Checkers, playing cards, Monopoly, a States Game; Outdoor – balls and a football

GRADE 5

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Outdoor Recess Toys for Middle School Age

Nerf Footballs, wiffle ball/bat, Frisbees, long jumpropes

Portable CD Player (Science)

Videos by “Bill Nye the Science Guy”

Computer Desk (Mrs. Unsworth) – *Ceh Castillo; Cadden*

ART

Paper Cutter – larger than 18 inches – *Mitchell*

Slab Roller for clay

“V” shaped shelving for large mat board

MEDIA CENTER

Beanbag Filler

MUSIC

New piano for gym

Stereo w/Cd & Tape - *Perry*

COMPUTER

NURSE –

Fanny Packs to hold Epi Pens

Large – 6 - *Capuano*

Small - 6

4 Drawer File Cabinet with Lock - *Sarcia*

Cabinet for Bathroom to hold supplies / clothes

Throughout the year:

tissues, cough drops / throat lozenges

OFFICE

Artist to decorate foyer with inscriptions, quotes, etc.

Collater

Desk Chair

Updated Typewriter

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Pedometers, for a program with the Nurse's Office

Arrows for Archery

Golf Pencils

5 gallon pails with covers

RESOURCE

SCHOOLWIDE

Basketball Backboard & Rim - *Hearn*

Laminating Machine

Desks - *Taylor*

SPANISH

MAINTENANCE

Cordless Drill - *McComb*

Floor Buffer

DEVELOPMENT