

FEBRUARY

PIE MEMO

(Partners in Education)

2008-2009

Enrollment

We were really happy with the Open House turnout this year...a testimony to our excellent education ! In order to insure that you all have a place next year, it is important that you send the Registration form (attached) to the Office as soon as possible. The fee for current families remains at \$125.00.

Tuition

As you read in your e-mail last week, the Board of Trustees approved the 3 million dollar budget for 2008-2009. Because Mercymount parents shoulder the experiences tuition and fundraising, we made every effort to keep the increase in tuition reasonable and still pay our bills. As a result, tuition for next year is as follows:

Pre-K - \$5,700.00

K-8 - \$6,650.00



Financial Assistance

The FACTS form for financial aid 2008-2009, are available from the office or online at www.factstuitionaid.com. Also, a letter requesting assistance from Mercymount's Scholarship Fund should be sent to me by February 1st.

NB Financial aid from pastors in Massachusetts parishes is at their discretion. Some will give to Mercymount but you have to ask your pastor personally.

Catholic Schools

Week

This week is very special to Mercymount students. Over the years, Catholic Schools Week has become a well-loved Spirit Week. It's fun, it's educational and it's "the best week of the year!" Highlights of the week are as follows:

- Monday Mass (all are welcome) colored tee shirts, baby pictures, decorated doors.
- Toasty Tuesday (pajamas and hot chocolate)
- Wacky Wednesday (crazy hats)
- Thoughtful Thursday (kindness in works and deeds and chorus to Mt. St. Rita)
- Fantastic Friday (laser show and DARE closing)

Bids For Kids



Mark your calendars...hire the babysitter and save your money! Our exciting once-a-year social event and fundraiser is quickly approaching. The invitations are ready and the Bids for Kids web page is up and running. The web page may be accessed through the Mercymount.org website by clicking on the Bids for Kids logo (which is shown to the left of this paragraph). Donations, advertisements and corporate sponsorships are steadily coming in. Should you need additional forms, you may use the attached forms or simply go to the Bids Kids web page and download them. If you know any business owners who would be willing to donate an item, place an advertisement or participate as a corporate sponsor, please let us know. We would be happy to contact them.

**Auction
(cont'd.)**

Parent Drop Off Day: Donation items may be dropped off at school on Wednesday, **February 6, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.** You may bring your item to the McAuley entrance (the Pre-K entrance) where you will be greeted by a volunteer from the Auction Committee. Please make sure that your Donation Form is completely filled out when you drop off your item. This will assist us in making sure that your item is given proper coverage in the Auction catalogue. If you have any questions, please call Bobbie Coen at (401) 333-2074 or Kathy McBride at (401) 658-5322. We truly appreciate all your gifts, advertisements, greetings, corporate sponsorships and support. Thank you!

**Kindergarten
Screening**

Screening for all children entering Kindergarten at Mercymount in 2008-2009 will be held on Friday, February 8th from 8:30 – 2:00 p.m. There is NO SCHOOL on that day for our Pre-K and K students since those teachers will be testing.



**Lenten
Collection**

Each week of Lent, Mercymount designates items for poor women and children in the area and for our Mercy Missions in Central America. Your generosity is truly appreciated by those recipients.

- Week 1 Kids vitamins for Haiti, Peru and Guyana
- Week 2 Peanut butter and jelly for meal sites
- Week 3 Money for Casa Misericordia in Honduras
- Week 4 Easter candy for children at FOCus
- Week 5 Kids underwear/socks for Girl Scout Drive



Pot-of-Gold

February 24th – March 9th
Kick-off breakfast on Sunday, February 24th.
Great games, great spirit!
Help wanted with concession admissions and scoring (see attached)
Alumni girls versus Moms needed!
Call Brian Lynch at (401) 658-

“Remember, if there are a thousand regulations to be observed, the most important is charity”

Venerable Catherine McAuley





Kudos

Christian Frangos (Grade 6) and his sister Olivia (Grade 5) bravely plunged into the cold waters of Groton, CT on New Year's Day for the Samaritan Swim fundraiser. Together they raised \$450.00 to benefit homeless people in the area. Students from both grades supported their friends which was so generous of them. What spirit!

Congratulations to James Pirraglia in Grade 7 for knowing all his geography facts! Jamie now takes the written test to qualify for the Rhode Island State Geography Bee.

Mercymount's Spelling Bee winners Patrick Grady (Grade 4) and Austin McCarthy-Kelley (Grade 6) competed in the diocesan regional competition last week. Patrick did well up against the middle school but it was Austin who will go on to represent Mercymount at the State finals in March. Congratulations!



Phonathon

The Phonathon to support the Annual Fund will be held on Tuesday, 2/12. If you have not yet made your annual fund gift, we will be calling to remind you and answer any questions regarding the Annual Fund.

We are looking for any interested volunteers to help us that evening in contacting parents and alumni. If you have phonathon experience or are interested in helping, please contact Lisa Lydon in the Office of Development as soon as possible – ride5162@ride.ri.net or 401-333-5919 x14. The event will be held on Tuesday, 2/12 from 5:30 – 8:30 at EA Dion and Sons in Attleboro, MA.

Thank you to former parent and volunteer Ted Dion for his continued support of our phonathon. He allows us to use his facility and phone lines to raise money for the Annual Fund. His generosity is greatly appreciated!

Guess Who's

Turning 60 ... Mercymount, that's who! On September 13, 1948, Mercymount was opened by the Sisters of Mercy. During the 08-09 academic year, we plan to celebrate this auspicious anniversary in various ways.

We need your help! The Development Committee is establishing a 60th Anniversary Committee to assist in the planning, coordination and production of this year-long celebration. We are looking for a Committee Chair and dedicated, creative people to lead the celebration. For those parents who are Mercymount alumni, this is a great opportunity to give back to your alma mater. The schedule of events will be targeted to various audiences throughout the school year so we need a variety of interests to be represented. Please contact Lisa Lydon in the Office of Development as soon as possible. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 26 at 7:00 pm.

And in keeping with our impending historic celebration, we are asking for donations of any Mercymount memorabilia that may be hiding in your attics, basements and garages. We would be happy to take those books, trophies, uniforms and other items off your hands to be displayed throughout the year (looking toward a more permanent display as well). If you have any pictures to share, they can be scanned / copied and returned. Pass this request on to other siblings, friends and classmates as well! Contact Lisa Lydon at ride5162@ride.ri.net or 401-333-5919 x14.

**Help
Wanted**

COACHES: Volleyball coaches needed to field 1-2 Mercymount teams either as head or assistant coach; experience preferred. Season is April 6 through May 26th; Saturday a.m. games versus other Catholic schools. Call Renee Gould at (401) 769-3932.

LUNCHEON LEADERS: Teachers Appreciation Day in May needs 2-3 coordinators. Contact Carmen Harten at (401) 333-9000 or Diane Rinkacs at (508) 643-9456.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Mike McNeil looking for Committee members to plan June 6th tournament at Blissful Meadows. Contact Mike at mcneil43@cox.net.



**Calendar
Change**

The half-day on March 20th (Holy Thursday) has been changed to a full day so that teachers can work on the NEASC report. Therefore, NO SCHOOL on March 20th.

June 12th was our last day. At this point, unless we have more snow days, Friday, June 13th is the last day of school for students. Graduation will be Sunday, June 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Reminders: March 10th and May 23rd are scheduled Professional days for teachers...NO SCHOOL.



**Woes 'n
Whoas**

The drivers who drop off children in the morning need to do one of two rules. Either:

- a) pull up so your child(ren) exit on their own
- or

- b) park in the lot to help with the exit

Some parents are parking in the line of traffic to help thus holding up some pretty frustrated law-abiding drivers!

**Clothing
Drive**

When you do your spring cleaning, keep in mind that we will hold a clothing drive sometime in late spring. Proceeds from the collection will benefit our outreach programs.



**Teens
Living in
Christ**

TLC will be showing Christian love this month towards the poor children of the Phillipine Islands where Mr. Unsworth is volunteering as a missionary. He has told Mrs. Unsworth of a particular need of these children. They are picking up hookworms through their bare feet and are in need of shoes. TLC will be organizing a shoe drive for these children during the month of February. We will be collecting used shoes and sneakers in good condition – please don't send in flip-flops or sandals. There is a doctor in Providence who will be coordinating the shipment of these shoes. Thank you for your donations!



**Parent
Association**

The meeting began with prayer by President John Rinkacs followed by Secretary Holly McClanan, and Treasurer Kevin Poirier's reports. Minutes were accepted. The treasury has \$10,620.00 to date; savings account of \$6,214.00 to be transferred for a higher interest rate. Principal Sister Martha's report brought the members up-to-date regarding the Strategic Plan and NEASC and the overall positive CAT scores. Information about a clothing drive to benefit Mercymount's outreach programs was endorsed by the Committee; Dan Knappenburger will

coordinate. Sports highlights of fall and winter programs were shared; volleyball coaches are needed; upcoming Pot-of-Gold and the Alumni games promoted. Sunshine Deidre O'Sullivan sent sympathy cards to Judy Mitchell on the death of her step-mother and to Erwin Domingo on the death of his parents. Enrichment Lynn Malafronte has the Mad Science back for Grades 3 and 4 and Grades 5 and 6 for their NSAA program; the return of the Laser Show (Part II) and the zoomobile in April. Hospitality Reggie Barrows and Melissa Maxim will provide refreshments for the Open House on January 16th. Volunteers Jen Marcotte and Pam Nelson need a few more parents for cafeteria and recess duty. They need to be contacted directly. Parent Association's Kevin Poirier will represent Mercymount at the legislator's reception by the Diocese on January 23rd. Business the new Administrative Assistant in place of Heidi Macedo is Mrs. Barbara Langlois from Harrillville, Rhode Island. She began her position on January 2nd. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be February 13th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Board of Trustees



President Christopher Keyes called the January 15th meeting to order. Led in prayer by Mission Chairperson Jeanne Barry, RSM and Secretary Karen Brennan's report was approved; Principal Sister Martha's report brought the Board up-to-date regarding a legal issue, Open House, CAT scores, the NEASC and Strategic Plan. Development Lisa Lydon reported the increase Annual Fund donors for 2007-2008 with continued solicitation throughout February via mail and the phone-a-thon. Other projects are developing, particularly plans for the 60th Anniversary next year. Finance Kathy McGuire presented the 2008-2009 budget which took the remainder of the evening. All remaining agenda items were tabled until March 11th. Tuition was set and will be announced as soon as possible.



During Advent I used a little book of meditations by the late Ken Untener, Bishop of Saginaw. All the Sisters of Mercy received this "**Little Blue Book**" as a gift—and it truly was! Bishop Untener offered his pocket-size stories and reflections as soul-food for 6 minutes a day. With 1,440 minutes in a day, the Little Blue Book helped in giving back six—sometimes more—to God.

Now, there is another book, the "Little Black Book" to be used during Lent with the same pattern: story, prayer and reflection...6 minutes. I thought you might like to join with me and many others in prayer during the 40 days of Lent so I ordered the "Little Black Book" and have made it available to you. Use it while you're waiting in the car for dismissal, or after the kids are in bed, or just announce to the family you're not to be disturbed for 6 minutes! However, it works, pamper yourself with some quiet time for God as Lent begins next Wednesday. Enjoy!



Happy February!

Sister Martha

Martha Mulligan, RSM
Principal

PS. The Little Black Book is available from the Office.

Pot-of-Gold Tournament

5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Mon. 02/25 _____

Sat. 03/01 _____

Sun. 02/02 _____

Tues. 02/26 _____

Sat. 03/08 _____

Sun. 02/09 _____

Wed. 02/27 _____

Thur. 02/28 _____

Fri. 02/29 _____

Score Table _____

Concessions _____

Admissions _____

Name _____ **Tel.#** _____ **E-mail** _____

DUE TO OFFICE: ASAP

REGISTRATION 2008-2009

Family Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Enrollment of child/ren:

Grade (2008-2009)

Amount Due: \$125.00 per Family by February 14, 2008



Mercymount Country Day School 2008 Bids Kids Wish List

We Need Your Help!

Donations from local businesses and past donors have been steadily coming in to the school, and the Auction Committee is busily sorting, combining and describing items. We still need your help as parents, however, to secure some additional items. This year, the Auction Committee is asking each family to try to procure at least one item. In early January, you will receive a letter explaining the donation process. A donation form will be attached as well. **Please note that all donation forms must be received by February 6, 2008.** This ensures that the items will make the printing deadline for our Auction catalog. If you are at a loss for donation ideas, let us offer you some suggestions to get your creative juices flowing! Big or small, every auction item is appreciated. Small donations can often be coupled together to make a very exciting donation package. Here are some ideas for donations:

Travel/Lodging/Vacation Homes

Consider donating your airline miles or hotel points to provide airfare or lodging for an exciting getaway. Think about that favorite inn that you love and consider how much others would love to visit it as well. If you or a family member owns a vacation home, consider off-season use of the home for a week or long weekend.

Sports:

Red Sox/Patriots and any other sporting event tickets are always great donation items. Donate a day of golf. Offer sport clinics or lessons for children or adults. Provide sports collectibles, athletic or exercise equipment.

Arts and Entertainment

Donate a piece of art or a tour of your favorite museum. Consider donating tickets to Trinity, Providence Performing Arts Center or the Rhode Island Philharmonic. We're always looking for exciting entertainment ideas such as TV show tickets (i.e. Dr. Phil, Oprah, Jay Leno, David Letterman), Broadway tickets or concert tickets (i.e. Greatwoods, Dunkin' Donuts Center, Mohegan Sun, etc.). Spa and golf packages are always fantastic auction items.

Dining

Offer a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant, create a themed picnic basket, compile a collection of your favorite cookbooks or put together a basket of baked goods.

Homemade

Knit a scarf or offer a knitting class. Make dress-up costumes, doll clothes or a quilt. Hand paint a piece of furniture. Donate handyman hours. Build a dollhouse, birdhouse, mail box or swing set. Donate a unique handmade jewelry item or a gift certificate to purchase jewelry.

Exciting Adventures

Think about donating a plane, helicopter or hot air balloon ride over Newport, Mercymount or your hometown. Parasailing, skydiving or scuba lessons would offer a day of excitement and wonder. Send someone on a romantic gondola ride through downtown Providence.

Electronic Items

iPhones, iPods, iTunes certificates and CDs are great donation ideas for all ages. Also, hot electronic items such as PlayStation, laptops, global positioning systems and Bluetooths appeal to everyone. Redeem your credit card reward points for something that could be this year's hot item!

Hobbies

If you have a green thumb, provide flowers of the month or donate some unusual plants. Offer gardening, landscaping or lawn mowing services. Provide a wine basket, donate a wine of the month or offer a wine tasting session. Donate music lessons or compile a collection of your favorite CDs. Create a basket of your favorite best selling books or your children's favorite bedtime stories. Donate Pilates, yoga or workout classes or instructional DVDs. Ask your child's art, karate or gymnastics instructor to donate a gift certificate for lessons. Think about donating an interesting item that is unique to the state or country of your birth.

Services:

Use your great wisdom or expertise to offer consulting services such as accounting/tax services, architectural design, computer assistance, financial planning, interior decorating, nutritional counseling, orthodontic care, chiropractic services, personal training or wardrobe consultation (personal shopper). If you or a friend owns a car dealership, car service or automotive shop, consider donating a remote car starter, a limousine ride or automotive services.

The Donation Committee welcomes your contributions, and we look forward to receiving your donation items. Should you require any further information about your donation intentions, please contact Kathy McBride (401-658-5322) or Bobbie Coen (401-333-2074). Thank you for your help in making the Bids For Kids Auction a continued success!



*Mercymount Country Day School
2008 Bids for Kids "Item Donation" Form*

Donor Information (A contact name is necessary should we need to contact you regarding your donation item.)

Donor Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Would you like to remain anonymous: Yes No

Item Donation Description (size, color, amount, dates, useful adjectives):

Market/Estimated Value: \$ _____

Restrictions On Date or Use:

Please check all that apply:

- Item accompanies form** (for services & getaways, please attach pictures or brochures)
- Item to be delivered on Item Drop Off Day***.
- Cash Contribution** (\$ _____) Cash contributions will be used to purchase items to complete packages and/or offset costs of the Auction. To make a cash contribution, please specify the amount and attach a check payable to Mercymount Country Day School.

***Item Drop Off Day/Time:** **Wednesday, February 6, 2008; 8:00 am – 6:00 pm**
(Drop off location is at the McAuley/Pre-K entrance)

Send this completed form to: Mercymount Country Day School, 35 Wrentham Road,
Cumberland, RI 02864 (401) 333-5919 Fax: (401) 333-5150

Thank you for your support of our school!

*Please make a copy of this form once it is completed for your tax records. Mercymount Country Day School is registered as a 501 (C) (3) non-profit corporation, Tax ID#

Office Use Only

Lot #

Item ID#

Date Received:

Item Received:

Yes___ No___

Tuition Raffle

The Bids for Kids Committee is pleased to present the raffle for this year's Auction. For as little as a \$100.00 a ticket, you have a choice between:

- 1. One free year of tuition for the 2008-2009 school year for one student at Mercymount;
or*
- 2. \$5000 cash!*

It's that easy! Just fill in the ticket below and return it to the school office, along with your check made payable to Mercymount. The winner will be announced at the Bids for Kids Auction on Saturday, April 5, 2008.

Please hurry and purchase your tickets today. There is no limit as to how many tickets an individual can purchase, but only 150 tickets will be sold.

Good luck and thank you for supporting the Auction and our School!

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Date: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Date: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Date: _____

FEBRUARY
AFTER SCHOOL ART presents...
“ART GOING GREEN”!

This class will be a blast!
Each student will collect objects that no longer
serve the purpose it was once used for
and bring them to class.
Anything from spoons to an old pair (or single) of shoes,
a comb or a clock, most anything will work!
Once gathered, the fun begins! With a lot of imagination,
(and a few hundred glue sticks) we'll be ready
to build some wild abstract art!

Assemblage 101!

This class will be for grades 3 and up and will meet on
Wednesdays from 3:00- 4:30, February 6, 13, and 27.

Class fee of \$60.00

“DROP-IN” After School Art

will be on Thursday afternoons from 3:00-4:00.

All grades are welcome! Materials and themes will change each week,
so join us once, or all three weeks! There is a fee of \$10.00 (per class), with no pre-registration
necessary. If your child will be attending,
a note sent in the morning of is all that's needed!
Drop-in and join the creators!

Name: _____ Grade _____

Due: February 1st

Art Going Green _____

Drop-In _____