

JANUARY

PIE MEMO

(Partners in Education)

Santa's Store



Thank you for supporting our annual Santa's Store. Chairpersons Therese Barry and Donna Barrows along with a great team of volunteers, created an amazing "store" for our children with gifts at awesome prices (you'll soon see!). Believe it or not, they're already strategizing the after – Christmas purchases for 2008 Santa's Store!

There is a need for rolls of large wrapping paper for next year so feel free to drop off your donation in the bin located in the foyer. Thank you!

Pre-Auction Raffle

The Pre-Auction Raffle went well, giving us a great head start on expenses for the April 5th gala. We sold many tickets and raised \$5,485.02.

Winners were:	Celtics tickets	Fenton Family
	Wii	One Lucky Family
	Gold Card	Maxim Family
	Webkins Basket	One Lucky Family



On Saturday, April 5, 2008, Mercymount Country Day School will hold its primary fund-raiser, the "Bids for Kids" Auction. Our fourteenth annual Auction will be held at Luciano's at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA. Fundraisers such as the Auction, provide a major source of the operating budget. The Auction includes a sit-down dinner, Silent and Live Auctions, a Grand Raffle and a Tuition Raffle. Items available for bidding include everything from gift certificates and theme baskets to vacation destinations. The Auction is also an opportunity for all parents, alumni, faculty, staff and students to come together and celebrate our common interest: the education of our children. Last year, almost 450 people attended the Auction and over \$100,000.00 was raised!

There are several ways that you can help us make this event successful: (1) donate an item (see our Wish List attached to this month's Pie Memo); (2) purchase an advertisement or message in the Auction catalog; (3) participate in raffles; and (4) attend the Auction on April 5th. Also, you will receive a parent letter, donation form and advertisement form in the mail in January 2008. As the Auction draws near, you will be given information regarding Parent Donation Drop-Off Day, February 6, 2008, at the school. Thank you in advance for your participation. Your help is truly appreciated.

CAT



The results of the California Achievement Test taken in Grades 3-8 will be sent home with each child on Monday, January 7th. Please check your child's backpack if it's late on arrival since we will have no copy of the Home Report once we send it home with your child.

2008 – 2009

With Open House and new applicants coming on January 16th, I need to know if current families are returning and if other siblings will be entering Mercymount. Please use the Indicator Form so I can determine the number of spaces available to new families (due January 10th).



Tee Time...



Mark your calendars! The Mercymount annual Golf Tournament will occur on Friday, June 6 at Blissful Meadows in Uxbridge, MA. Last year's tournament was a great success and we look forward to doing it again this year. Mike McNeill leads this committee and they are looking for additional Committee members to assist in the planning of this year's tournament. Please contact Mike McNeill at mcneill43@cox.net if you are interested in joining the 2008 Golf Tournament Committee. The first meeting will be scheduled in the late February/early March timeframe, so keep your eyes out for updates in the upcoming months!

TLC



A visit was paid to the residents of Mt. St. Rita's Health Center on December 18th by TLC (Teens Living in Christ). Christmas carols were sung in the recreation hall with many of the members of the audience joining in. They walked through the halls wishing a Merry Christmas to one and all. Handmade Christmas-themed door hangers were hung on all the doorknobs of the bedrooms giving the halls a festive atmosphere. It was an enjoyable and much appreciated visit.

NEASC

Accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will take place at Mercymount in the Spring of 2009. Because there is so much to do in preparation for the team visit, faculty committees are meeting regularly during the week. Every so often, however, we will be taking full days to review, revise, compile, complete, etc., what is drafted. The Friday of the holiday weekend in January will be a "NEASC Day." Watch for those on the 2008 calendar!

Board of Trustees



The November 27th meeting began with prayer by Mission chair Jeanne Barry, RSM followed by approval of Secretary Karen Brennan's report. Sister Martha's report highlighted the annual visit conducted by the Sisters of Mercy and Sponsorship Council, an up-date on enrollment and Open House information. Reports from the following committees were approved by the Board: Development The Annual Fund for 2006-2007 reached \$75,000 however one-third was restricted to Endowment. The 2007-2008 Appeal begins now with the goal of \$60,000. Plans are being made for the 60th Anniversary next year. Finance chair Kathy McGuire gave a positive report from the auditors and the committee is currently meeting to establish the 2008-2009 budget. Building & Grounds chair Howard Dunn's report introduced Cecile Ryan to the Board to serve on this committee. The drainage problem in the playground area has been rectified and the committee is in process of receiving bids for the new parking lot. Mission Integration Sister Jeanne highlighted the committee's review of the Strategic Plan and their recommendations for promotion of goals. New Business President Chris Keyes and Carolyn Rabidoux will provide information on the Strategic Plan template at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2008.

Leaves in Winter

No, not leaves as in leaf, but leaves as in leaving! I regret to tell you that Heidi Macedo will be leaving Mercymount as of January 4, 2008. Heidi has been the administrative assistant for the past 2 ½ years and has done a remarkable job in the middle of construction and pregnancy and all the daily ups and downs in the front Office. All of us are grateful to her for her expertise and smile and sense of humor. In the meantime, I'm looking for another Heidi! God's blessing on her from all of us at Mercymount.

The lights of Hanukkah and Christmas will soon be extinguished or put away for another year but the symbolism remains: Yahweh or God's love and concern for his people. Light was so special to God that, according to the Book of Genesis, light was given to us on the first day of creation. As Christians we have been given the "light of faith" by which we come to know, love and serve God. So, as we walk cautiously or confidently into the New Year, I pray that we will be able to look within and without ourselves for the guiding, forgiving, loving light of Jesus Christ.

In gratitude for your light in our lives, I have sent a donation to the Rhode Island Food Bank.

Happy New Year!

Sister Martha

Martha Mulligan, RSM
Principal



WEATHER WATCH

Parents, please – please – please:

Winter weather creates havoc everywhere and we try very hard to communicate delays, early dismissals, etc. PLEASE check almost daily from 6:00 – 8:30 a.m. your TV, radio, internet and/or schoolnotes under my name, for any announcements regarding Mercymount arrival time. If we have a boiler problem or Cumberland changes the schedule, you cannot drop off your child(ren) and leave, which happened last Thursday.

Early dismissal is communicated on all stations, on the internet as well as via Mercymount's email addresses as you gave them to us. PLEASE update with work addresses if possible.

Updated Email Home/Work Address

Name: _____

HONOR ROLL

GRADE 6

HIGH HONORS

Shaina Bauersachs
Christopher Cambio
Matthew Cadden
Matthew Ceh Castillo
Connor Collins
Christopher Delude
Timmur Guzelek
Elizabeth Hanley
Gregory Iovanel
Jordan Majka
Austin McCarthy-Kelley
Liam McLaughlin
Samuel McQuaid
Shanelle Reilly
Peter Roche
Aric Scheid
Amy Schmitt
Danielle Staelen
Jenna Zuromski

HONORS

Pavit Arora
Sophie Cram
Christian Frangos
Delia Gorman
Matthew Kenney
Duncan Nunes
Emma Rinaldi
Morgan Smith
Marisa Trant
Benjamin Tyler

HONORABLE MENTION

Sejal Batra
Caitlyn Brice
Paige Coffey
Andrew Hagopian
Julia Keefe
Zoe Lorusso
Grace Mellor
Mark Perilli
Caitlyn Picard
Patrick Regan
Marianna Shaikhly

GRADE 7

HIGH HONORS

Carissa Gould
Zoey Killion
Matthew Lepine

HONORS

Ryan Durand
Andrew Gagnon
Caitlyn McLoughlin
Zachary Noe
Rachel Pereira
James Pirraglia
Natalie Jo Sidman
Deirdre Sullivan

HONORABLE MENTION

Alexandra Jorde
Mary Grace Lawson
Shana Lynch
Conor Martin

GRADE 8

HIGH HONORS

Grace Fenton
Rachel Powers

HONORS

Kelly Byrne
Alexandra Doucette
Peter Genest
Meghan Hoell
Michael Luther
Noah McClanan
Gregory Pope
John Sterlacci

HONORABLE MENTION

Joseph Agnello
Honora Clemmey
Michael Colucci
James Corbesero
Rashi Gupta
Robert Hanley
Jacquelyn Hardenburgh
Mary Keefe
Regan Kelliher
Micah Macari

A Special Thank You!

I would like to take this time to thank all of you for making the After School Art program such a success; it's been great! Your children have created some awesome pieces of work and have, I believe, enjoyed both the creative as well as the social aspects of these classes. Your support of the arts has been overwhelming and again I thank you.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of new years.

With warmest wishes, Lisa Masterson

JANUARY

AFTER SCHOOL ART

IT'S "DROP IN" WEDNESDAYS

To begin the New Year in After School Art

We will be having a "drop in" class on Wednesday afternoons.

Starting on January 9, each week from 3:00-4:00,

the art room will

offer a "per week" class. Students will be able to come just once or twice or enjoy all 4 weeks!

We will explore a variety of materials and techniques, changing each week.

All ages are welcome and no registration is necessary.

The class fee will be \$10.00 (per day) and will need to be handed in by that morning.

Happy New Year!

"Drop In" Wednesdays

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Telephone #: _____

THURSDAY

AFTER SCHOOL ART

MIXED MEDIA / COLLAGE

In this class, students will choose a theme to develop, then create a piece of work that involves collage and the use of many different mediums!

This should be lots of fun!

The class will be offered to students in grades 3 and up.

It will meet on Thursday afternoons,

January 10, 17, 24, and 31, from 3:00- 4:30

Class fee will be \$75.00

Thursday After School Art

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Telephone #: _____

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) - *Bourque*

Plastic Base Ten Class Set (KA) - *Bourque*

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*

Set of 24 calculators

GRADE 5

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Outdoor Recess Toys for Middle School Age

wiffle ball/bat, long jumprobes

6 footballs / Frisbees – *Cryan Landscaping, Agnello*

Portable CD Player (Science)

Videos by “Bill Nye the Science Guy”

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

ART

Paper Cutter – larger than 18 inches – *Mitchell*

Slab Roller for clay

“V” shaped shelving for large mat board

MEDIA CENTER

Beanbag Filler or Bean Bag

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 - *Mitchell*

Updated Typewriter

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Pedometers, for a program with the Nurse’s Office -

McBride

Arrows for Archery

Golf Pencils - *Bourque*

5 gallon pails with covers

RESOURCE

SCHOOLWIDE

Basketball Backboard & Rim - *Hearn*

Laminating Machine

Desks & Filing Cabinet - *Taylor*

SPANISH

MAINTENANCE

Cordless Drill - *McComb*

Floor Buffer

DEVELOPMENT

2008 – 2009 Indicator

Parent Name _____

Student Name _____ Present Grade _____ Will Return _____
Not Returning _____

Student Name _____ Present Grade _____ Will Return _____
Not Returning _____

Student Name _____ Present Grade _____ Will Return _____
Not Returning _____

New Student _____ Entering Grade _____

- Please attach a copy of your child’s birth certificate if entering Pre-K or K. Children must be 4 years old by September 1, 2008 for Pre-K and 5 years old by September 1, 2008 for Kindergarten – no exceptions.
- Registration forms and fee will be available once tuition for next year is set. This is simply an indicator for planning purposes.

DUE: January 4, 2008



Mercymount Country Day School *2008 Bids for Kids Question & Answer*

What do I need to do as a parent for the Auction? The Auction Committee asks that each family try to procure at least one item. We realize that many parents are very busy and that some parents, therefore, would prefer to make a cash donation rather than procure an item. Cash donations are accepted and will be used to purchase items to complete packages and/or offset costs of the Auction. To make a cash contribution, please complete an Item Donation Form (available at the school office or online (<http://www.ri.net:80/bidsforkids/Auction/Default.htm>)). Checks should be made payable to Mercymount Country Day School.

What kind of items do I donate? So many wonderful items are auctioned off on Auction night, and we are always seeking new and creative items. Please see the attached *Wish List* for examples of items that we think would be fun and exciting to offer our Auction attendees.

When is the deadline to drop off items for the Auction? Item Drop Off Day is February 6, 2008. Items may be dropped off at the McAuley/Pre-K entrance between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm.

Why is Item Drop Off Day several weeks in advance of the Auction night? Our Auction catalogue, which describes each item that is available for bidding, is printed several weeks in advance of the actual Auction night. Therefore, each donation item must be fully described and ready for printing several weeks before the Auction night.

How is the money used that is earned from the Auction? The Bids for Kids Auction is a major annual fundraising event for our school. Since Mercymount is a private, non-profit, Catholic elementary school, we do not receive funding from any congregation or government agency. Therefore, fundraisers such as our Auction comprise a major source of the operating budget. The money raised helps offset the annual costs of operating the school, provides resources for classrooms and the library as well as items needed by special teachers, facilities and faculty. It also provides financial aid to families. The success of our Auction is essential to the continued quality of education and moral upbringing provided by Mercymount, a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Last year almost 500 people attended and over \$120,000 was raised, thanks to donations!

When and where is the auction? Saturday, April 5, 2008, commencing at 6:00 pm with the Live Auction, at Luciano's Lake Pearl, Wrentham, Massachusetts.

How do I RSVP? Invitations will be sent out after the first of the year, along with RSVP cards.

What do I wear? Attendees typically wear attire that is suitable for an elegant restaurant.

Who do I contact with questions about the auction?

Auction Chair: Mark McLoughlin (mmcl2000@cox.net) or Auction Co-Chairs: Bobbie Coen (r.coen@cox.net) and Kathy McBride (kathrynmmc@aol.com)

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!