

MARCH PIE MEMO

(Partners in Education)

2008-2009 Enrollment

Happily, we have 315 families enrolled this year and, according to the Registration Forms due February 14th, there are 117 undeclared families I'm very nervous! Please, send in your forms ASAP since I am keeping potential families waiting until our class numbers are settled.



Our 14th Annual Bids for Kids Auction is a mere 5 weeks away! Shortly, your beautiful invitation will be arriving in your mailbox (be sure to check out our new, unique Bids for Kids stamp!). This year promises to offer lots of must-have items. A sampling of some is attached. The generosity of our donors is truly amazing. Shortly, our web page will begin to fill up with descriptions of the hundreds of donation items that we have to offer. 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 are still being delivered so if your busy schedule has prevented you from dropping off your item, please feel free to bring it into the Office. If you have any questions, please call Bobbie Coen at (401) 333-2074 or Kathy McBride at (401) 658-5322.

Also, don't miss out on the Tuition Raffle!! Only 150 tickets are sold. The winner will receive one FREE tuition for school year 08-09 or may choose \$5000.00 in cash! Tickets are \$100.00 each and you may purchase as many as you like! You could go in on a ticket with friends or relatives and split the winning (that's what I do) so buy now! Winner is announced live at the Auction on April 5, 2008. See the attachment for tickets. Thank you!

March Madness



We are now in the throes of basketball fever these days and nights. It's a great time to support the Pot-of-Gold Tournament now through March 13th. The Alumni Games on Friday night are always fun and the Futures Games on Saturday can't be missed. (come early to get a seat!) All proceedings toward the Sports Program and gym improvements.

Distinguished Graduate



On March 12th, the Foundation Day of the Sisters of Mercy here in the Northeast (1851), Mercymount will honor one of our distinguished alumni with the NCEA Distinguished Graduate Award. Robert DeBlois, Class of 1968, will be recognized for his extensive work in the field of educating at-risk youth.

Following graduation, Rob went to Cranwell Academy and the University of New Hampshire. In his junior year an accident occurred, making him a quadriplegic. He has since received his doctorate in education and numerous honorary awards throughout his exemplary extraordinary career. Rob is truly a “work of mercy” in action and we are proud to honor him as our distinguished graduate. All are welcome to attend the ceremony at 9:15 a.m.

Lenten Collection



Our annual collections for poor women and children has begun. Your generosity during these five weeks of Lent is deeply appreciated.

TLC



The used shoes and sneakers for children in the Phillipines piled high last week and are on their way with Mr. Unsworth. Thank you, Mrs. Sarcione and TLC, for organizing this important collection for basic necessities. God’s blessings will be with each Mercymount donor!

Blood Drive



Mercymount’s 6th Grade Girl Scout Troop will host a blood drive on Sunday, March 9th, from 8:30 – 12:30 in the cafeteria. Please consider stopping by—it only takes 15 minutes of your time and can potentially save up to three different lives!



*“When, where and how do we expect to take up our cross,
if we do not meet with it in those with whom we are associated?”*

Venerable Catherine McAuley

Clothing Drive



Just a reminder to hold on to your spring cleaning treasures for our first Clothing Drive in mid-May. Dan Knappenberger will coordinate the Saturday/Sunday drop-off.

NEASC

As mentioned in the January Memo, the accreditation process will require several professional days for committees to prepare reports and work together for the final copy. Although some of these are school days, we will not be making them up. The next “NEASC” Day” is March 20th and the last for this year is May 23rd. We’re doing well so far!

Volleyball



All middle school students are invited to play on the Volleyball teams (3) as of Wednesday, March 12th. The Clinic will be held from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Come dressed to play; all practice nights are also scheduled for March 28th and April 14th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The fee is \$35.00. Assistant coaches are needed for the season (April 6th – May 26th). Please contact Renee Gould at (401) 769-3932 or pnrsgould@cox.net

Drop In Wednesdays

Each Wednesday afternoon, from 3:00 – 4:00, you can “drop in” and do some art with Mrs. Masterson. All grades are welcome! Materials and themes will change each week, so join us once, or all four weeks! There is a fee of \$10 per class, with no pre-registration necessary. If your child will be attending, a note sent in the morning is all that’s needed! Drop in and join the creators!

Save the Date



This year’s Grandparents’ Day festivities are being held on May 15th. If you are the parent of a second grade student, please have their grandparents mark this date on their calendars. Each year grandparents have a wonderful time enjoying the program and lunch put on by the second grade students. We hope to have many in attendance. Additional notices and invitations will follow as time gets closer.

Administration

As of yesterday, Patricia Smith is our new Administrative Assistant, replacing Barbara Langlois. Our gratitude and prayers go with Barbara for her service to Mercymount for the past 8 weeks. Welcome Mrs. Smith!

O’Brien Fund

The tragic death of Kirk O’Brien has left a void in the lives of so many people. His wake and funeral last week were beautiful tributes to a well-loved and faith-filled young man. In lieu of flowers, etc., the O’Brien family requested that a scholarship fund be set for Hope and Hannah (Grade 1). Anyone wishing to contribute should contact:

The Memorial Fund for the Children of Kirk W. O’Brien
982 Park Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910

The first grade moms have also planned meals for the family during March. Your generosity and compassion knows no bounds!

**Parent
Association**



The February 13th meeting was led in prayer by Vice President Kimberly McCarthy-Kelley. Secretary Holly McClanan's report was accepted and Treasurer Kevin Poirier brought the Committee up-to-date financially. Principal Sister Martha Mulligan reported on the Mad Science termination. Sports Larry Forti highlighted the CAL season with the playoffs to include several Mercymount teams; Pot-of-Gold Breakfast and 3 weeks of games will support sports and gym needs; spring games of volleyball, track and field, tee ball and golf are organizing. Sunshine Diedre O'Sullivan sent congratulations on the birth of a son to the Youngs and a daughter to the Craigs. Enrichment Lynn Smith has planned several assemblies: March 19th, Native American music and culture, April 11th, Zoomobile and May 12th, Marionette Puppet shows. Hospitality Reggie Barrows and Melissa Maxim will plan for a collection for the Gallery Night on June 9th. Volunteers Jen Marcotte and Pam Nelson need help with cafeteria and recess duty. Volunteers should contact Jen or Pam directly. Socials Kristen Klowan is working with committees for the Father-Daughter, Mother-Son events (see calendar for committee dates). Business A clothing drive will be conducted on a May weekend. Dan Knappenberger will coordinate. Nominations for the 2008-2009 Hall of Fame are being accepted by the Executive Committee. Teacher Appreciation Day volunteers are needed (see attached). The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26th. All are invited to attend.



Well, the "Little Black Book" for Lent is in the hands of quite a few Mercymount parents and children. I'm happy to know so many of you, along with the faculty and my community of Sisters, are trying to spend at least six minutes a day in prayer and reflection. It's really not that hard, don't you think?

In closing, these words of Nancy Small seem appropriate: "Lent draws us into the sanctuary of the soul. We go there not alone...we are to break open our hearts so that God may break in. We are to enlarge our inner capacity for compassion and conversion." May each of us be specially touched by God during this holy season.

Happy March!

Sister Martha

Martha Mulligan, RSM
Principal



BIDS FOR KIDS ...SNEAK PREVIEW...

LA DOLCE VITA

Spend 7 nights in a stunning Italian villa located in Ailano, only 90 miles south of Rome. This villa sleeps up to 12 people. There are 5 bedrooms, living room, dining room, a complete kitchen and 2 full baths. Enjoy the scenery from 2 large terraces. Take a day trip to Naples, Sorrento, Assisi, Pompeii or the Isle of Capri - all only a short distance away. For an additional nominal charge, arrangements can be made for housekeeping, a cook, and/or a driver. Available July 2008 through December 2008. Airfare not included.

A Week at The Bay Voyage Inn in Jamestown, RI

Enjoy a week in Jamestown, RI (September 26 - October 3, 2008). Get away for the whole week or just plan a quick trip. You will be staying in an ocean view suite at the Wyndham Bay Voyage Inn on the beautiful and quaint island of Jamestown, RI. This one bedroom suite also has a couch that pulls out into a double bed (maximum occupancy: 4 adults). Enjoy dinner or drinks at the Bay Voyage Restaurant which offers sweeping views of Narragansett Bay and the Newport Bridge. The Bay Voyage has been consistently voted "Best Brunch" by The Rhode Island Monthly since 1990.

Romantic Getaway at the Marshall Slocum Guest House

Indulge in a romantic getaway to Newport, RI. Enjoy a 3 night stay (August 8, 9, 10, 2008) at Newport, Rhode Island's Historic 1855 Inn. This exclusive getaway package includes 2 passes for entry to any 5 of the Newport Mansions, 2 tickets for a sail on the Newport Harbor aboard the Madeline or RumRunner, a New England lobster dinner for two at your choice of 2 restaurants, a second dinner for two (at your choice of The Canfield House, Yesterday's, or Café Zelda), two 50-minute Swedish massages or one 50-minute Swedish massage and a Fijian manicure and pedicure at the Hotel Viking Spa Terre (only a five minute walk from the Guest House) and a full gourmet breakfast each morning. You are guaranteed a first class service throughout your stay. While in Newport, you may also choose to enjoy the Newport JVC Jazz Festival.

Sail Around Goat Island

Come aboard a 42 foot sailboat as it leaves Goat Island in Newport for a cruise along Narragansett Bay. Your hosts will provide cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as you enjoy a relaxing sail. This boating adventure can accommodate 6 passengers and is to be scheduled for an afternoon in July or August, 2008.

Kate Spade Handbag

Need a fabulous new handbag to spruce up your wardrobe this spring? Then grab the latest Kate Spade Pattern Handbag and take a stroll down Newbury Street! This bag is just popping with color and would compliment anyone's wardrobe.

Mad River Mountain Condo

Enjoy a 5 night/6 day stay in this tastefully decorated two-story condo with king size master bed, one full-size loft and one twin loft (great for kids) and double futon couch (total: sleeps 6). You will be surrounded by some of the most scenic and beautiful mountain countryside in Vermont. Picture tranquility and privacy, yet still close to everything and only a few miles from Sugarbush Mountain and Mad River Glen for ski enthusiasts. This wonderful condo offers easy access to fine dining, antiques, hiking, biking, leaf peeping, apple picking and local artist studios. (This 5 night/6 day consecutive stay can be for use any non-holiday week/weekend from April 20, 2008 through December 10, 2008; non-smoking and pet free).

Zagat 5 Star Review

Enjoy dinner for 10 brilliantly prepared and served by Mercymount's favorite culinary artist, Brother Alan, at his home on a mutually agreed-upon date. The lucky winners may select one of 3 fun menus: "A Night in Italy," "A Williamsburg Evening" or "A Night in China." This spectacular feast has received a 5 star review every year. Expires 1/31/2009.

You're Going to Disney World

From Saturday, February 14, 2009 through Saturday, February 21, 2009 (school vacation week), bring the whole family to this 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom villa at the world class Orange Lake Country Club in Kissimmee, Florida. The villa sleeps 12 and has a full kitchen and living room. This resort boasts an 80 acre lake with a variety of water sports, 4 championship golf courses, 5 pool areas with waterslides and lazy river, tennis courts, mini golf, a movie theater, restaurants and a whole lot more. Just minutes from Walt Disney World and other Orlando attractions.

Luxury Box for the Providence Bruins

Save the Date: April 13, 2008 (Sunday) Luxury Suite at the Dunkin Donuts Center for a Providence Bruins Game. Suite comes with 15 tickets and 4 parking passes. We will also throw in a \$200.00 gift card for purchasing food and drink at the game. Go Bruins!

Lights...Camera...Action!!

Looking for the "Start of Something New?" How about a life in show business? Bid on a walk-on role in a production of the hit show "High School Musical." Your winning bid will provide a walk-on role for a child in Grades 1 through 5, who will be given the opportunity to join the cast in one ensemble musical production number during its local performance run (May 30-31). The winner must attend any and all rehearsals required of him/her (no exceptions), because after all, "We're All In This Together." Rehearsals typically run on Monday's from 3:00 pm -5:30 pm, and 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm during Tech Week.

Mount Snow Ski Condo or Green Mountain Summer Fun

This lovely 3 bedroom condo with loft is located just one mile from the family friendly Mount Snow ski resort in West Dover, VT. This condo has a full kitchen, dining room, living room (with sleeper sofa), hot tub/sauna, and outdoor swimming pool (summer) and tennis court. Summer week/non-holiday winter weekend to be determined between owner and winning bidder! Come for a ski run down Mount Snow's most difficult run, Ripcord, one of the mountain's two double black diamonds. We dare you!

~We have much, much more...so visit Mercymount.org and click on Bids For Kids in the coming weeks to find your Red Sox and Patriots tickets, autographed sports memorabilia, golf outings, exquisite jewelry, classroom gifts, etc. Call Kathy McBride 658-5322 or Bobbie Coen 333-2074 with any questions. The excitement is just beginning!!!!

Coming Attractions for Kids

Webkinz World Basket

Pokemon Basket

Hannah Montana Basket

Jonas Brothers Basket

High School Musical Basket

Horseback Riding and Piano Lessons

iPods

and don't forget.....Classroom Creations!

We have much, much more..so visit Mercymount.org and click on Bids For Kids in the coming weeks to find your Red Sox and Patriots tickets, autographed sports memorabilia, golf outings, exquisite jewelry, classroom gifts, etc. Call Kathy McBride 658-5322 or Bobbie Coen 333-2074 with any questions. The excitement is just beginning!!!

BID for KIDS
NO UNIFORM SLIPS

Every student wants them...we have them!

The BIDS for KIDS Auction Committee is pre-selling **No Uniform Slips** to parents who are unable to attend this year's Auction. **Slips will still be sold the evening of the Auction**, so you may purchase them that night if you are joining us on April 5th! Don't miss out on these!!

No Uniform Slips are \$5.00 each with a maximum of 5 slips per student. They will be distributed on April 7th. No uniform passes are perfect for the warmer weather!!!

Complete the attached and make checks payable to MCDS.

Please send one slip for each student.

All proceeds benefit the BIDS for KIDS Auction 2008.

Thank you for your continued support!!

Student Name: _____

Grade and Room Number: _____

Number of No-Uniform Slips _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

BIDS FOR KIDS TUITION RAFFLE!!!!!!

The BIDS for KIDS Committee is pleased to present the Tuition Raffle! For as little as \$100.00 a ticket you will have the 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: _____

VOLUNTEERS

Help Wanted!

- A. LUNCHEON LEADERS – Teachers Appreciation Day in May. Contact Carmen Harten at (401) 333-9000, Diane Rinkacs at (508) 643-9456 or return this to the Office.

Name _____

Tel. # _____

- B. GOLF TOURNAMENT – Mike McNeil needs Committee members to plan the June 6th tournament. Contact Mike at mcneil43@cox.net or return to Office.

Name _____

Tel. # _____

- C. TENNIS/SKI CLUB – The departure of 8th grade parent coordinators for tennis (Sept. – Oct.) and skiing (Jan. – Feb.) next year leaves our middle school in need of volunteers. Contact Greg Pope at (508) 695-6001, Cricket Hardenburgh at (508) 541-7000 or return to Office.

Name _____

Tel. # _____

- D. HOST FAMILIES – New families to Mercymount enjoy the welcome current families offer during the summer months through phone calls, play dates or email. Contact Tony Fiorot at (401) 658-2643, Dawn Sbordon at (501) 520-1750 or return this to the Office.

Name _____

Tel. # _____

MARCH
“AFTER SCHOOL ART”

*Presents **MAKE a GAME** month!*

In this class students will
invent, design, build and then name their own game
(or maybe just tweak their favorite, to make it their own!).

Different mediums, such as clay, paint, etc.

will be available to suit

their individual “game plans”!

Who knows, it could be the next Monopoly!



This class will meet on Tuesday afternoons
from 3:00-4:30, March 4, 11, 18 and 25

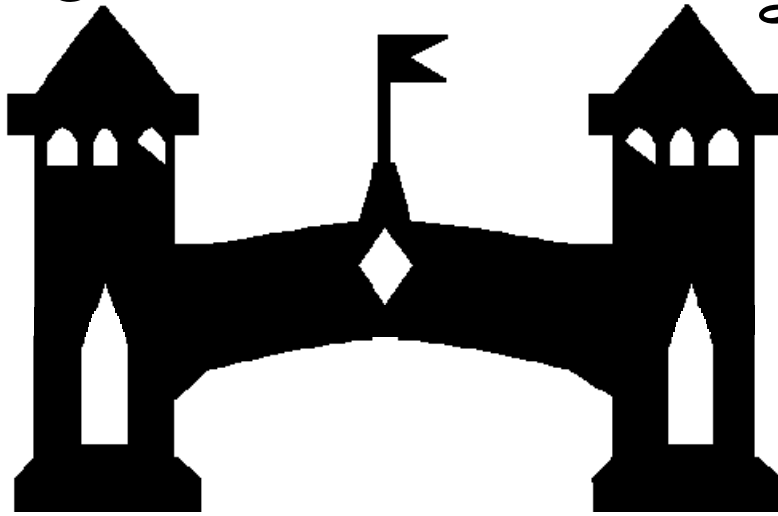
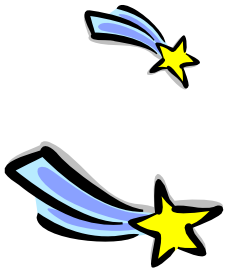
it will be offered to
students in grades 3 & up

class fee will be \$75.00

NAME _____

GRADE _____

An Enchanted Evening



The
Father-

Mercymount K-8
Daughter Dance
Committee invites you to

An Enchanted Evening

When: Friday, May 2, from 7 to 9 o'clock in the evening.

Where: Mercymount gymnasium

Attire: As elegant as you prefer. Slacks and dress shirts suggested for gentlemen.

Cost: \$20 per mademoiselle and honored monsieur; \$5 per additional mademoiselle. Professional photographs are included.

First mademoiselle's name: _____

Second mademoiselle's name: _____

Third mademoiselle's name: _____

Honored monsieur's name: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ *(Checks to Mercymount by April 25, if you please.)*

After school program at New Dawn Earth Center

YOU ROCK!

Monday, March 3, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Grades 1-4 Limit: 16 children

Learn about the different types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic from Sr. Denise. Under the direction of artist educator, Germaine Gerie, paint a background of Cumberlandite and then add other rock paintings to your creative piece!

Cost: \$15 .00 per student All materials provided. Sr. Denise will pick up the children at school at 3 p.m. and walk them down the hill to the Center.

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.

A Family Program at New Dawn Earth Center

THE WONDERS OF THE NIGHT SKY

Saturday, March 8 7:30 –8:30 pm (raindate March 9, 8:30 p.m.)

Join Arthur Sgalia to view Mars, Saturn, the Andromeda galaxy, as well as several open star clusters. Bring binoculars if you wish to help you see Pleiades, the Orion nebula, Polaris and Sirius. Enjoy naked eye views of constellations/asterisms, the dippers Orion, Cassiopeia, and Auriga. Dress warmly. Call 401-333-1341 to register. Donation: \$5/person \$18/family

A Special Event for ALL

BIRDS OF PREY: Featuring A LIVE BALD EAGLE

Saturday, March 29, Noon – 1:15 pm & 2:00 – 3:15 pm

The New Dawn Earth Center is hosting Tom Ricardi of the Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Facility who provides a close-up look at a live Bald Eagle, Snowy Owl, Turkey Vulture. and Red-tailed Hawk. Through a slide program he teaches about the care of injured birds and the successful eagle captive-breeding program. **Event will be held at Mercymount Country Day School!** Please call New Dawn Earth Center at **401-333-1341** ahead to register. Donation: \$8 / person or \$30 / family (children 3 & under free)