

November 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Can you believe it is November already? As you can see from our calendar, the month of November is filled with many exciting activities and events. I will highlight some of the significant ones below:

- **Monthly Character Value:** Our character value for the month of November is **Responsibility**. Encourage your children to make good choices, remember to do homework assignments, take care of themselves and others, and do the best they can do.
- **Merrymount Celebrates Diversity:** The PTO invites **everyone** to join in our fun-filled evening event to celebrate the cultural diversity in the Merrymount community. Families who would like to share their cultural heritage should contact Paige Reilly at paigemessner@hotmail.com or Jen Andre at Lionelandjen@gmail.com

- **November 16, 2017**

6:30-8:00 pm

Merrymount School Gym

Merrymount's International Night



- **Parent Volunteers:** All grade levels welcome parent volunteers. Recently, Kindergarten PIRATE DAY was a huge success with Silly Sally volunteering to make the day extra special. The fifth graders have many volunteer opportunities approaching, with Spoon Decorating, the Holiday Bazaar, and the Fenno House Community Service visit all coming up in December. Please remember that volunteers must have a current CORI on file and must have completed the Fingerprinting process. Watch for opportunities on your child's grade level FB page, the PTO website, and flyers that are sent home.
- **Kindergarten:** This school year, along with other parent-child events, there will be three special opportunities for Kindergarten parents to share time with their children at school. Activities will include crafts or other explorations for parents and children to do together. Events will be posted and flyers will be sent home.
- **Veterans' Day:** There will be **NO SCHOOL on Friday, November 10th**. We will honor Veterans in front of the school at 7:45 a.m. on Thursday, November 9th with a special flag raising and *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*. All classes will participate.
- **Election Day Bake Sale:** The Annual Merrymount Election Day Bake Sale will take place on Tuesday, November 7th. We are calling all our baking enthusiasts...and looking for volunteers to work the table throughout the day. We are also accepting any raffle items you may have. Our community always looks forward to our Bake Sale and raffle items. The PTO thanks you in advance for your generosity and contributions.
- **Recess:** There have been some inquiries about recess; our Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 have the opportunity every day for a recess break. Our teachers use the playground or play on Perkins Field (weather permitting). Grades 3-5 are outside less frequently, however teachers may schedule additional time as needed to best support students. Mr. Barrett will also be extending the lunch period recess for Grades 3-5 on a rotating basis on Wednesdays. If you have any questions about recess, please call or see me any time.
- **American Education Week ~ November 13-17:** 2017's theme is, "**Embracing Our Differences: How Quincy Public Schools promotes success for all learners**". American Education Week was first celebrated in 1921. Begun as a part of an effort to raise America's literacy rate after WWI, American Education Week now serves as a special opportunity to shine light on the great things that schools do. Please join me in honoring all those educators who are making a difference to ensure that every child receives a quality education.
- **Nurse Slocum's Healthful Hints:** Since you are all interested in the health of your child, let's talk about the snacks that are available. For information regarding healthy snacks available in the grocery store: <http://www.webmd.com/food-recipes/features/the-best-healthy-snacks-in-your-supermarket>
For ideas about creating your own healthy snacks:
<http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org/kid-friendly-healthy-recipes>
http://cspinet.org/nutritionpolicy/healthy_school_snacks.html#fruits-Windows
Please remember, **no nuts, peanuts, candy or soda** are allowed for snacks at Merrymount.
- **Food Drive:** Merrymount's fifth grade students will be collecting nonperishable items for our first food drive for the GNC Food Pantry starting November 1-20. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Ann Pegg
Principal