

February 1, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy February! Please take note of the following items of special interest to all our Merrymount families:

- ❖ **Monthly Character Theme:** Our character theme for the month of February is *Kindness*. This month we will focus on being kind. The week of February 5-9 will be designated “**Random Acts of Kindness Week**”. The children will be given hearts to take home as “homework”. They will do one “RAK” at home, bring it in to school to display on the bulletin board in the hallway. Teachers and staff will give out hearts to students when they observe a student “committing a RAK”. The whole month of February will be filled with kindness opportunities.
- ❖ **Math-A-Thon 2018: *Keep Calm Because Math Rocks!*** Merrymount School’s *17th Annual Math-a-thon* will take place February 12-March 2. As always we are planning an exciting event this year. The purpose of the *Math-a-thon*, along with raising money for learning materials for each classroom, is to immerse each child in mathematical thinking. Each student will complete a grade level *Math-a-thon* booklet at home with pledges from family and friends. In addition, the following in-school activities will be included: *Kick-off Video and Rally, Math Reading Buddies, Math Problem of the Day, a Math Essay Contest, Math Scavenger Hunt, and Math Banners and Posters* will be created and displayed around the school and in the cafeteria. Please check the Merrymount School PTO website to view the video (kick off rally is 2/12) and see a list of special learning materials that have been purchased by Math-a-thon funds in the past. (www.merrymountschoolpto.com) This year, teachers have been trained on Google Classroom and they would like to purchase apps to support student learning.
- ❖ **Celebrating 100 Days of School:** The kindergarten will be celebrating their 100th day of school on February 14th, and Grades 1 and 2 will celebrate on February 9th. In addition to counting, sorting, writing numbers 1-100, measuring 100 items, reading mathematical books, every child will bring in 100 items. What fun!
- ❖ **Special Lunch Pilot Program:** The school Nutrition Department is pleased to offer a PILOT program JUST to Merrymount Elementary School students. Beginning in February, students can pre-order the Cold Packed Lunch option which will be served on Mondays only. A form will be available in your children’s classrooms. Parents or guardians should complete the form and return it to the classroom teacher each Monday for the following Monday’s lunch. Only students who complete the form will be allowed to receive the cold lunch option. We will begin sending ordering forms home on February 5th due on the 12th for lunch served on Monday, February 26th in order to have supplies available. Just as a reminder, the cold lunch option includes: a whole grain bagel or muffin, yogurt, string cheese, baby carrots, and a piece of fresh fruit. Our Merrymount cafeteria team is looking forward to better serving you all. Thank you!
- ❖ **Planning Ahead:**
 - **February vacation is the week of February 19-23**
 - ***Kindergarten Registration*** will be held at Merrymount School on **March 6, 9:00-11:00 and 12:00-2:00** in the first floor lobby.
 - ***MCAS Dates:*** Grades 3, 4, 5—**April 2-May 25** (Specific testing dates for each grade will be announced at a later date.)
- ❖ **Nurse Slocum’s Healthful Hints:** February is **National Children’s Dental Health Month**. Here are a few things to remember about keeping your child’s teeth healthy. Your child should: 1) Visit the dentist every 6 months. 2) Brush his/her teeth twice a day (after breakfast & before bedtime). 3) Floss his/her teeth once a day. 4) Keep sugar snacks to a minimum. 5) Eat foods rich in calcium (dairy) and vegetables and fruits each day. These simple rules will ensure healthy teeth and thereby a healthy child.

*Sincerely,
Mrs. Pegg
Principal*