

September 5, 2018

Dear Merrymount Parents and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back to Merrymount School. We look forward to an exciting school year filled with wonderful learning opportunities for you and your children. The first full day of school for grades 1-5 is Wednesday, September 5th. Let me update you on a few important items and some changes that have occurred over the summer.

- ❖ **Staff Changes and Additions:** Please join me in welcoming the following teachers to Merrymount School: Ms. Kerri Angellis, our 4th Kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Catherine McLaughlin is Merrymount's new Literacy teacher. She comes to us from Lincoln Hancock School. Welcome Back to Mrs. Zielinski on her return to Merrymount School as our 4th grade Science and Social Studies teacher. Ms. Kelsey Bina is the 1st grade long term sub for Mrs. Lovett while she is on Maternity Leave. Ms. Hannah Kirby, is our Media Teacher.
- ❖ **Open House:** *Open House will take place on Thursday, September 20th, 4:45-6:15.* Please come to meet your child's teacher(s) and visit the classroom(s). The PTO Board will greet parents in the gym. Don't forget to sign up for the various opportunities to volunteer at Merrymount School. The Scholastic Book Fair will be open. We look forward to seeing all of you there.
- ❖ **Arrival and Dismissal Safety Reminder:** Please observe the **No Parking on the Left** policy so that the school buses are able to drive down Agawam Rd. **Please be sure to read over and comply with the drop-off and pick-up procedures outlined here:**
Arrival and Dismissal Procedures
Arrival—Stop, Drop, and Go! The parking lot will be closed to dropping off students in the morning. Parents are asked to drive up Agawam Rd. (one way) and drop their children off on the right hand side of the street at the sidewalk along Perkins Field and around the corner on Virginia Road or Squanto Road. The students will enter the school through the side door immediately. It will be open until 7:50 a.m. Tardy students will enter the front door and check in at the office. Please do not double park and drop your child in the middle of the street—this is extremely dangerous. Pull out into traffic carefully. Please exercise patience and courtesy.
Dismissal—Live parking in the middle of the parking lot is not allowed. If you arrive at school early, you may either park on the right hand side of the street or park on Squanto Rd. and walk through the mini-park. Do not park on the right side of Virginia Rd. so that the buses can make a right hand turn from Agawam Rd. Extreme caution is advised when pulling out into traffic and driving at dismissal as there are many walking students and adults. Do not double park and call your child to the car—this is extremely dangerous. Once again—please exercise patience and courtesy!
Walkers: Students walking to/from school should always use crosswalks and pedestrian signals. It is important to use crosswalks that have a Crossing Guard where ever possible. This is extremely important to the everyday safety of the students.
- ❖ **Kindergarten News:** Kindergarten parents are invited to attend the special *Orientation Program* scheduled on Friday, September 7th, at 9:00 a.m. Meet Merrymount's new Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Kerri Angellis. We look forward to meeting all of you. **Full day kindergarten classes begin on Monday, September 10th at 7:45 a.m.**
- ❖ **Nurse Slocum's Healthful Hints-Allergy Alert:** Due to the increasing number of students with allergies at all grade levels, please be advised that all parents are encouraged to send **peanut/nut safe snacks** to school with your child. **The health and safety of our children is our #1 priority.** An information sheet with suggested snacks is posted on the PTO website, as well as sent home with each student. In keeping with our school procedures, please remember that we no longer have birthday food treats. If you would like to send something as a birthday remembrance such as pencils, stickers, etc. that would be most welcome.
- ❖ **Character Education:** Our character education value for the month of September is *Citizenship*. We will be stressing the importance of taking pride in your home, school community, and country; respecting authority; obeying laws and rules; believing that everyone matters and has worth; and defending your rights and the rights of others. We hope you will find ways of reinforcing these important lessons at home.
- ❖ **CORI Forms/Fingerprints:** All parents and guardians must fill out a CORI form if they plan to participate in school activities and field trips throughout the school year. CORI forms will be sent home with each child. Please return the filled out form to the school as soon as possible. In addition to the CORI form, parents and guardians will be required to have their **fingerprints** on file. Information regarding fingerprinting will be sent home to each family and will be posted on the PTO website.
- ❖ **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS):** The PBIS program has been implemented system-wide. Research shows that positive behavior results in higher student achievement. The Merrymount School goal is to create a safe, supportive, and accepting school climate, fostering positive behavioral skills which will lead to academic success. Merrymount School behavioral expectations are to ***Be Ready to Learn, Be Respectful,*** and ***Be Responsible*** throughout the day.
- ❖ **PTO Website:** Please visit the Merrymount School website. It is filled with information and upcoming events.
www.merrymountschoolpto.com

We wish everyone a successful school year!

*Sincerely,
Ann Pegg
Principal*