

November 1, 2018

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.
- **Welcome!** Merrymount School would like to welcome Nurse Christine Collins, who is now Merrymount's full-time nurse. We wish Nurse Slocum a relaxing and enjoyable retirement.
- **Boosterthon Fun Run:** The Boosterthon Fun Run is fast approaching with the Kick-off Pep Rally on Monday, November 5 and continuing up through Thursday, November 15 with the ALL SCHOOL FUN RUN! This Fun Glow Run Event is the culminating activity which will take place in the gym. Once our program begins on November 5, family and friends anywhere in the world can support our school by giving pledges toward the number of laps your students will run on the day of the Fun Run on November 15. **Our goal is to raise \$12,000 for Merrymount School.** Our Fun Run will be powered by the Boosterthon Fun Run, a fun organization that organizes Fun Runs all over the country. We're excited about their expertise and making this EASY on everyone involved—including you! **Watch for more specific information on how you can support Merrymount School online, Facebook, and flyers!**
- **Parent Volunteers:** All grade levels welcome parent volunteers. Recently, Kindergarten PIRATE DAY was a huge success with Silly Sally's associate, Silly Lizzie, 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 several 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 Monday, November 12th**. We will honor Veterans in front of the school at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, 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 6th. 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; all of our grades have included in their daily schedule time for a recess break. Our teachers use the school playground or play on Perkins Field (weather permitting) or use resources such as GoNoodle, Learning Station, and Brain Gym. Grades 3-5 are outside less frequently, however teachers may schedule additional time as needed to best support students. Mr. Barrett will continue to extend 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 12-16:** American Education Essay and Poster Contest's 2018's theme is, ***"Who, from your family, inspires you to learn?"*** **Choose a family member who has inspired you to grow and learn as a student in the Quincy Public Schools.** Flyers have been sent home with each student with details for the contest. 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.
- **Food Drive:** Merrymount's fifth grade students will be collecting nonperishable items for our first food drive for the GNC Food Pantry starting November 1-14. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Ann Pegg, Principal