

April 30, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Time is flying by, and I can't believe there are only two months of school left. Our students continue to impress us every day. They have been working hard in their classrooms on daily assignments and in centers. They have embraced PBIS and show daily that they are Respectful, Responsible, and Ready. I am thrilled to see so many students involved in our extended day programs. Thank you to the staff who continue to keep students on track and focused, prepare them for MCAS and incorporate fun, hands-on activities into each school day.

Our students have completed their ELA MCAS, including make-up sessions. We are approaching Math and Science/Technology Test Sessions. There is still much to accomplish in the time left this school year. I can't wait to see their accomplishments in the next two months.

- **PBIS/Monthly Character Theme:**

We wrapped up our month of Respect with our second monthly assembly this past Friday. We will be introducing our May character trait: Ambition. Students continue to display "Respectful, Responsible and Ready" behavior throughout the school day and this expected behavior is acknowledged with blue tickets.

- Fresh Green Wandering Machine - The Fresh Green Wandering Machine was a huge success. Most students sampled the delicious salad bar provided by Food Services this week.
- Upcoming MCAS Dates:
  - Wednesday, May 1, 2019 - Grade 5 Math
  - Thursday, May 2, 2019 - Grade 3 Math
  - Friday, May 3, 2019 - Grade 5 Math
  - Monday, May 6, 2019 - Grade 4 Math
  - Wednesday, May 8, 2019 - Grade 4 Math
  - Thursday, May 9, 2019 - Grade 5 Science Technology Engineering
  - Friday, May 10, 2019 - Grade 5 Science Technology Engineering
- Thank you to everyone who participated in International Night. This was such a fabulous event for our Merrymount families.
- Congratulations to the Outdoor Classroom Committee. The CPA Grant was accepted last week. We will be updating families of this progress through ASPEN emails. Students will participate in "Change the Way You Learn" contest this week. Grade level buckets have been set up in front of the office.
- Friday, May 3, 2019 is Cleaner Greener Quincy, Spring Clean Up. Everyone is invited to help beautify the school grounds.
- First Grade is running the Quincy Animal Shelter Drive, this will begin on Monday, May 6, 2019.

Thanks,  
Ms. Mitchell  
Acting Principal

## EXCITING NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS:

### KINDERGARTEN:

It is hard to believe that the end of the year is fast approaching. May and June will be full of fun events in Kindergarten both at school and on the road. With Spring now here, we will be learning about different life cycles in nature. Through observations and hand on experiences, we will see the different stages of a seed, butterfly and frog. We will continue to examine both fiction and nonfiction stories and work with teen numbers and measuring in math. Look out for permission slips, donation requests, and volunteer opportunities as we wrap up the school year.

### FIRST GRADE:

During the month of May the first grade will be holding our 15th annual Quincy Animal Shelter Drive in order to support our community. This drive will last from May 6-24. This drive is a great opportunity to teach students about giving back to others in need.

In science we will be learning about various life cycles including butterflies, plants and frogs. Students will be reading many wonderful non-fiction books and demonstrating their understanding of each life cycle in a variety of ways.

As the year slowly begins to wind down we will continue to learn about many important themes through our reading program including perseverance and teamwork.

We have many fun and exciting activities planned for the end of the year. Some of these activities include an ABC Countdown, Beach Field Trip and Franklin Park Zoo Field Trip (June). Please watch your child's folder for permission slips and detailed information regarding each event. Thank you for your continued support!

### SECOND GRADE:

Grade 2 is excited to take a field trip to the New England Aquarium on Friday, May 17th. We will be leaving Merrymount at 8:30 and will be returning to school at 1:15. Please remember to send in a bagged, nut free lunch with your child. We will be exploring the various exhibits and will be viewing a 3D movie in the IMAX theater. Hopefully, we will get to see Myrtle the Turtle swimming in the Giant Ocean Tank!

### THIRD GRADE:

This month the Animal Fair is in full swing. Third graders are very enthusiastic about this exciting project. Students are reading their animal books in school as well as at home for their nightly reading log. We will begin our research this week and work on our two column notes. This is a school-based project and all work will be completed in school. Students are **not required to**

but welcome to print out pictures at home for their display board which is supplied by classroom teachers. There are several required components that are done at school. Additionally, students are **not required to** but may bring in their own animals and supplies for their shoebox diorama. Teachers have basic supplies for the students to use and get creative. Please contact us if you have any questions. We can't wait to showcase our projects on June 6!

#### FOURTH GRADE:

We are movin' into May! This month the fourth graders will be going on a field trip to the John F. Kennedy Museum in South Boston on Wednesday, May 15th. We will be reading the biography, Who Was John F. Kennedy? by Yona Zeldis McDonough to prepare for our trip. Fun fact...the cost of the trip is FREE! Also, students will be taking the math MCAS on Monday, May 6th and Wednesday, May 8th. Please have your child eat a good breakfast and arrive to school on time. In social studies, the students will continue to work on their State Fair projects as well as learn about the Midwest and Southwest regions of the United States. Science studies will focus on human uses of energy. It will be a busy month!

#### FIFTH GRADE:

May is a busy month for the fifth graders. They will have 4 days of MCAS- Mathematics on May 1 and 3 and STE on May 9 and 10. Then, they will be "flying up" to middle school. Students going to CMS will go to Fly Up Day on May 20th, and students going to BMMS will go to Fly Up Day in June. Also, we are excited that the Merrymount PROgrammers will be competing at the district-wide LEGO Robotics Competition on May 18 at QHS.

#### ENGLISH LEARNERS:

Second Grade EL is excited to wrap up their unit on comparing and contrasting the past and present this upcoming month! As this unit concludes, we will practice making claims and warrants of whether we think schools in the past were better versus schools today. We will get to use our newly learned simple present and past tenses and information gathered from our stories

#### LITERACY:

The literacy students have been diligently working on their phonics, fluency and comprehension skills in small groups with Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. McLaughlin. Progress monitoring will continue this month and the students are giving their best efforts! Remember, we are always here if you have a question or concern. Feel free to contact us through the Main Office or email at [kathleenhiggins@quincypublicschools.com](mailto:kathleenhiggins@quincypublicschools.com) and [catherinemclaughlin@quincypublicschools.com](mailto:catherinemclaughlin@quincypublicschools.com).

# Merrymount School

## May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lunch \$2.50 Reduced .40 Milk .50 Breakfast 1.00  Breakfast served daily 7:30-7:45 a.m.	<b>April 29</b> Change the Way You Learn Fundraiser for Merrymount Outdoor Classroom April 29 – May 3	<b>April 30</b>  Monthly Character Theme “Ambition”	1  Grade 5 MCAS – Math  Aspen Family Portal Launch	2  Grade 3 MCAS - Math	3  Grade 5 MCAS - Math	4  City of Quincy Cleaner Greener 9:00-12:00
5  Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-10  Happy Cinco de Mayo	6  Grade 4 MCAS – Math Kindergarten Josh the Otter 8:00-8:30 a.m. Animal Shelter Drive	7  Greg Tang Parent Night Central Middle School 6:30-8:00 p.m.	8  Grade 4 MCAS - Math	9  Grade 5 MCAS - STE	10  Grade 5 MCAS - STE	11  
12  	13	14	15  Grade 4 Field Trip JFK Museum	16	17  Grade 2 Field Trip New England Aquarium	18  Robotics Challenge Quincy High School 9:00 a.m.
19	20  Grade 5 Fly-Up Day Central Middle School 9:00 a.m.	21  Picture Day Siblings (Grades K-5) Grade 5 Group Picture	22	23  PTO Meeting Media Center 7:00-8:00 p.m.	24  Animal Shelter Drive Ends	25
26  	27  Memorial Day  NO SCHOOL	28  Kindergarten Screening	29  Scholastic Book Fair BOGO (Buy One Get One)	30  Scholastic Book Fair BOGO (Buy One Get One)	31  Kindergarten / Grade 1 Beach Day	

**A message from The Outdoor Classroom Committee:**

Spring has officially sprung and we have two exciting updates. We received word that our Quincy Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant application was approved for funding! This is a huge accomplishment for the outdoor classroom as it will provide the majority of funding needed for this project. Additionally, April 29 marked the beginning of the week-long "Change the Way You Learn" challenge - a fun contest to get the entire school excited and involved in raising the remaining funds towards the Outdoor Classroom Project. Details on the challenge were emailed by Ms. Mitchell on April 24th. There will be prizes for 1st & 2nd place - and they are pretty awesome!

So far we have raised just shy of \$10,000 from generous donors and mini-grants. That brings us close to \$5,000 away from our \$15,000 commitment for the CPA grant. Fundraising efforts have been a true community effort and we thank you!

**A message from PTO:**

We will be taking orders for Square 1 as soon as the order forms are in. Your child will be taking this home and there is an on-line link as well to order from.

Upcoming elections for PTO Executive Board Members will take place at the June 13th meeting. All positions are up for re-election. Please see a current Board member for any questions. At the May 23rd meeting we will also be discussing the role of School Council vs. the role of PTO.

Thank you all for your support of Trivia Night and a huge thanks to our Co-Chairs, Kate Clougher and Marianne Anderson. It was a huge success again this year and thanks to all your generous donations we raised \$6,300. THANK YOU!  
Get Involved, Get Excited.

Merrymount School PTO Presidents  
Alexis McLean & Stephanie Gallegos