

November 1, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Fall has officially arrived! Students have been working so diligently and participating in so many hands-on, creative activities. Our STEM Week was a great success, with classes in each grade participating. Thank you to Mrs. Eckhardt and the Second Grade Team for putting together our Spook Out Cancer Fundraiser. Thank you to all the families who contributed money to help us with our grand total of \$1,690.00!!!! This amount exceeded our expectations. We also want to recognize the Quincy Youth Football and the Halpin family who so generously made Merrymount Football shirts. Thank you for your support. Mr. Rogan, Ms. Mulcahy and Mrs. Campbell led the charge with their fifth graders and made Unity Day a fabulous day here at Merrymount. The sea of orange was quite overwhelming! The upcoming months promise to be as busy and jam packed with activities. We already started our school-wide Can Drive and right now fourth grade is in the lead, with second grade trailing closely behind. Students can bring in cans and non-perishable food items until November 20, 2019.

Up next is our Veterans Day Celebration. We invite any parent and/or family member who is a Veteran to attend our celebration on Friday, November 8, 2019. If you are a Veteran, or someone you will be bringing to the celebration is a Veteran, please email Mrs. McLaughlin or call Mrs. Mazzini so we can have their name ahead of time. We hope this is the beginning of a great tradition here at Merrymount.

The Fun Run Digital Pep Rally will take place Monday. This will include all students, grades K-5. Students will assemble in the gym to be introduced to this program. The official Fun Run will take place on Friday, November 15, 2019. Please be on the lookout for flyers and other paperwork that will be coming home to explain this event.

It is hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is right around the corner. For parents who are new to this school, or for Kindergarten parents, please be aware that Tuesday and Wednesday are both half days and dismissal is at 11:25 a.m. There is no school Thursday or Friday.

Report Card Conferences will take place on Tuesday, December 10, 2019. Sign-up sheets will be sent home with your child and returned to school to confirm parent's conference time.

The Lost and Found in the front hallway is still overflowing. If your child is missing an item, please have them check there. We will have items displayed for parents at Report Card Conferences.

Thank you for being patient with us as we navigate through all of our communication tools. As a staff, we want parents to be aware of upcoming events and activities that involve their child. Please see that your information is up to date in both ASPEN and Honeywell Instant Alert so you are receiving updates.

Finally, please remember if you are bringing an animal to drop off or pick up, please keep your animal on the perimeter of the building and out of the way of students. I ask this solely for student safety as there are students who are afraid of certain animals and some students have allergies.

"Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations." - Bob Beauprez

Thanks,
Ms. Mitchell
Principal

EXCITING NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS:

KINDERGARTEN:

October has come and gone as fast as the changing leaves. We will continue to explore Fall through our five senses all throughout November. We had so much fun at the silly magic pirate show on Pirate Day and wearing our pajamas to school and learning about bats on Stella Luna Day. In Literacy, we will continue to explore letters and letter sounds focusing on the letters Aa, Tt, and Cc this month while reviewing the letters Mm and Ss. We will also continue to practice identifying the beginning sounds in words, identify and produce rhyming words, and blend sounds to say a word. In Math, we will continue working on comparing numbers 0-5 and begin learning about numbers 6-10.

What are Fine Motor Skills?

Fine motor skills involve the use of the smaller muscle of the hands, commonly in academic skills including using pencils, and scissors; in play activities such as construction skills - using Legos, making puzzles, building train tracks, etc..; and in self-care including buttoning, zipping, using cutlery, opening lunch boxes, brushing teeth, brushing hair, and toileting.

Ideas for Fine Motor Practice at Home:

- Cut out pictures in a magazine
- Pick up different objects (rice, macaroni, beads, etc...) with tweezers and transfer them from container to container
- Use a hole puncher to make "confetti"
- Open and close a Ziploc bag

FIRST GRADE:

First grade is gearing up for a busy, but exciting month of November. The Fun Run Fundraiser will begin on November 4th and conclude on November 15th. Students will be encouraged to raise pledges in order to help the school defray the cost of many in school activities. Each class will be working towards earning rewards based on pledges. We hope to have a lot of grade 1 parents cheering us on as we run our laps!

Our character trait for the month is gratitude. Students will be exploring the meaning of gratitude and ways in which we can show gratitude at home, school and in the community. We will also be learning about the election process and the First Thanksgiving. Students will be encouraged to join their parents while they cast their votes on Tuesday, November 5th. Finally, we will be continuing to work on multiple strategies for addition and subtraction up to 20 in math. We hope you all have a wonderful month. Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

SECOND GRADE:

We would like to give a shout out to all of you in the Merrymount School community who helped with the fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. We are proud to report that we exceeded our goal of \$500 with a total amount of \$1,690.00!! We are so grateful to be surrounded by such a supportive and generous community. Thank you all so much!

This month, we will be focusing on social studies topics including the Pilgrims, the Native Americans, and the First Thanksgiving. We will be reading a special book in school about a Thanksgiving hero and the students will complete a report at home about their own "Thanksgiving Hero". In math, the students are working on addition and subtraction facts. Your child can practice these facts online or with flash cards at home. Thank you for continued support at home with these assignments!

THIRD GRADE:

3rd graders have been busy little bees this past month!

We have been building our digital literacy skills by using Chromebooks in all classes, and have been working on strengthening our typing skills in Media using the TypingAgent website. The kids have really been enjoying this typing program, and are always welcome to practice at home. In addition, we have been getting comfortable using our 3rd grade Google Classroom, which has activities, assignments, and material to supplement learning across the curriculum. On Monday, we will be sending home a "how to" guide, which will outline the sign-in process for using Google Classroom at home.

In addition, we wrapped up our weather unit in science with a STEM activity which had students work cooperatively to design and build a wind-resistant roof. Next, we are kicking off our social studies unit about the Pilgrims and Wampanoag. We hoped to start the unit with a trip to Plimoth Plantation, but weather got in our way. We will be rescheduling this trip, most likely in the Spring, and will send home the date as soon as we have it! In ELA, we will be tying in the topic of Pilgrims by reading the novel, "Molly's Pilgrim." In writing, students will be producing text-based persuasive essays on the topic of "Should Turkey Be the Official Main Dish of Thanksgiving?" After sorting evidence based reasons into "yes" and "no" columns, students will decide their position and three reasons why they feel this way. They will then use an OREO graphic organizer to organize their reasoning, and use this to aid them in writing a rough draft, and then continuing through the writing process to publish a final piece. Finally, third grade mathematicians are working with multi-digit addition and subtraction as well as ongoing review of rounding and place value. Solving word problems is our newest challenge. Students are learning the steps used to solve word problems that include careful reading, planning, and showing their work. Be on the lookout for word problem practice as part of math homework

Have a wonderful November, and a Happy Thanksgiving!

FOURTH GRADE:

October was a good month! The children enjoyed engaging in various activities in science to celebrate STEM week. Mrs. Latini continues to bring exciting technology to the classrooms. Fourth graders participated in a virtual escape room in math. In November, they will learn how to create their own Google Slides presentation! One of the highlights this month is the focus on Quincy history. Quincy Historical Society will come in on November 4th to give a presentation to the students. On November 13th, the students will go on a tour of some different historical sites in Quincy. The character trait for November is "Gratitude". Fourth graders will be working on various activities to express their gratitude. Lastly, the Kindness Crew will begin their community service drive after Thanksgiving. This year the fourth graders will be collecting coats for the Coats for Kids program. Look for a flier coming home Thanksgiving week. Thanks again for all of your support!

FIFTH GRADE:

October flew by! Unity Day was a huge success, and we owe it all to our October Student Council: Rory, Dolores, Frankie, Matthew, Seamus, and Vincent, along with the whole fifth grade class. With Shakespeare, PBIS Leaders, and Kids Collaborate in full swing, we are keeping busy. November will be busy, as well. We're looking forward to our first Science Showcase on Friday, November 22 from 9:00-10:00 am. At the end of November, and into December, we will have several opportunities for parents to get involved: Spoon Decorating to support Project Bread, the Holiday Bazaar on December 6, and our annual visit to the Fenno House. Make sure you have been fingerprinted and your CORI is up-to-date. We'll be sending home specific information soon.

ENGLISH LEARNERS:

Grade 3 EL is in the middle of our Communities thematic unit! We are working and practicing descriptive writing for our end of the unit Writing Workshop. To help us think of all of the rich adjectives there are to create vivid descriptions, we'll play various descriptive guessing games in addition to our daily work. Students will eventually choose one event that has happened to them that they know extremely well; this will ensure that they are able to create a clear image for their readers! Our goal is to make the reader feel like they experienced this event as well!

LITERACY:

Spotlight on Kindergarten Literacy Support

Kindergarten literacy students are working hard on their early literacy skills: letter identification, sounds, and rhyming. We are currently reading Halloween riddles together. The students are learning how to count the words in each sentence and to point to each word as we read. We are sending these fun riddles home. We encourage you to reread them with your child. Thanks for your support!
Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. McLaughlin

Nurse's Update:

Greetings from the health office! With the upcoming holidays, it is important to note that for the safety of all students, we ask parents not to send candy or snacks in to their child's classroom. Thank you for your understanding.

As a reminder, all fourth grade students were required to hand in a physical at the start of the year. Please check in with me if you aren't sure if you have met this requirement yet. It seems as though cold and flu season is starting earlier this year! Remember, if your child has a fever or is vomiting, they must remain out of school symptom free (without medication) for 24 hours before they can return to school. If you are unsure if your child can come to school, please call or email me and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for a successful health screening day! If your child received a referral, please have your doctor complete this and get it back to me as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out!

If we have't met yet, please feel free to email or call at any time with any questions. My office is on the first floor next to the main office. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out! Be sure to check out my Aspen page for updates as well.

Attendance

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires districts and states to collect chronic absence data and report it publicly. Massachusetts has adopted chronic absence as a measure for school accountability. Like every school in Massachusetts, Merrymount school has been designated a target percentage for growth.

With this data in hand, schools, families and community partners can together determine the causes of chronic absence, and implement approaches that address barriers to getting to school. The challenge of improving attendance is to avoid making the incorrect assumption that chronically absent students or their parents simply do not care. By working together, all of us – schools, public officials, public agencies, families and students – can ensure all children can get to school every day so they have an opportunity to learn, flourish and realize their dreams.

I will be communicating with families in order to strategize so that attendance rates improve here at Merrymount. I am hoping to begin a dialogue with families about the barriers to daily attendance. Thank you for your continued support.

A Message from PTO:

Happy end of October from the Merrymount PTO!

To recap October, our annual Halloween Howl was a blast! We raised over \$300 and the kids had a great time. Thanks so much to everyone who volunteered and helped make the night a success!

Coming up in November, we have our annual [Election Day Bake Sale](#) here at Merrymount. [Sign up](#) to help out at the Bake Sale or to bring in baked goods or raffle items. And don't forget to come in and vote! Our next PTO meeting is November 12th at 7pm. Lionel Andre, a parent at Merrymount, will be talking about the important topic of Internet Safety so make sure you don't miss it! We will also be having PTO board elections to fill the empty positions on the PTO Board. To run for a position please complete [this form](#) by Nov 8th.

We are also starting a new Diversity Committee at Merrymount! This committee will work to meet the needs of all of the families in our school. If you are interested in joining, come to the meeting on Nov 12th or contact the PTO at merrymountpto@gmail.com and we will introduce you to the chair of the committee.

The Fun Run is also coming up! This is our big fundraiser for the year and we hope to raise a lot of money just like last year! This year, the majority of parents voted to spend money on enrichment. This can include special assemblies, guest speakers, workshops, subscriptions, etc. for our kids. Stay tuned for more specifics!

Here is the link to the link to run for School Council: <https://forms.gle/K5fffes3djMRCont5> .

School Council:

It was great to see so many families attend our first Parent Night earlier this month! Families learned a lot about the technology being used in Merrymount classrooms and how students can continue that learning at home. Stay tuned for our next theme night coming later this school year.

The next School Council meeting is on Nov 6 at 3:15PM; all parents and guardians are welcome to attend. Elections for the 2019-2010 School Council will be held at the Nov 12th PTO meeting. To run for a position please complete [this form](#) by Nov 8th

If you have any questions about running for the School Council please email Ms. Mitchell at courtneymitchell@quincypublicschools.com, Mr. Rogan at johnrogan@quincypublicschools.com, or Tim Burke at tmthyburke@yahoo.com.



Merrymount School November 2019

www.merrymountschoolpto.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lunch \$2.50 Reduced .40 Milk .50 Breakfast 1.00 Reduced .25 Breakfast served daily 7:30-7:45 a.m.					1	2
3	4 Quincy Historical Society Visits Grade 4	5 Election Day PTO Bake Sale	6	7	8 Veteran Day Celebration	9
10	11 Veterans Day NO SCHOOL	12 PTO Meeting 7:00-8:00 p.m.	13 Grade 4 Field Trip Quincy Historical Society	14	15 PTO FUN RUN (During school time)	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 	25 <u>Thanksgiving Schedule</u> Monday Full Day Tuesday Half Day Wednesday Half Day Thursday No School Friday NoSchool	26 Half Day for Students Merrymount Dismissal Time 11:25 a.m.	27 Half Day for Students and Staff Merrymount Dismissal Time 11:25 a.m.	28  NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 



Merrymount School's Veterans Day Celebration

*Honoring our local veterans and celebrating their
service with a warm, patriotic ceremony in the
Merrymount School Gymnasium*

When: Friday, November 8th, 1:00 PM

Where: Merrymount School, 4 Agawam Road, Quincy, MA

Who: All Merrymount family's veterans are invited!

Call (617) 984-8762 to RSVP if you are attending, so we
can reserve your seat!





QUINCY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Michael T. Draicchio
Director of Safety, Security & Transportation
34 Coddington Street, Quincy, MA 02169
617.984.8897
michaeldraicchio@quincypublicschools.com

Richard DeCristofaro, Ed.D., Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Quincy Public Schools has a history of making safety and security a top priority. The implementation of bus tags will play an important role in this process. Once again we are looking at a way of increasing the safety and security of students while they are being transported to and from school. During the weeks of October 28– Nov 8 2019 students in grades K-5 that use Quincy Public Schools Transportation will be issued bus tags. This will help increase communication between the parents, the Transportation Department and your child's school.

The bus tags/bus pass will lead to a district wide plan that would provide school personnel and parents with accurate and timely information regarding your child's transportation. Each bus tag will have your child's first initial, last name, bus stop, school phone number and the transportation office phone number.

We want to assure you that the bus tags are completely safe and store no personal information. The tag will only confirm your child's bus stop. As your child gets on and off a bus, the bus tag will help to assist our bus drivers with accurate information to be shared with your child's school. The bus tag will also help our transportation department's part time bus drivers that from time to time may fill in on your child's bus route.

To ensure 100 percent implementation of the bus tags, we are asking that parents, guardians, and staff encourage all students to place their bus tags on their back packs/book bags. If a student loses their tag or the information is not correct please contact your child's school so that the transportation department can replace or update accurate information to your child's bus tag.

We look forward to working with you on this safety initiative, which we believe will increase student safety and bus driver communication.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Draicchio
Director of Safety, Security & Transportation
Quincy Public Schools

Quincy Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, or handicap, in its educational activities or employment practices.

MERRYMOUNT SCHOOL
THANKSGIVING WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday	November 25	Full day of school
Tuesday	November 26	Early release day <u>11:25 a.m.</u> for all students
Wednesday	November 27	Early release day <u>11:25 a.m.</u> for all students and staff
Thursday	November 28	Thanksgiving – No school
Friday	November 29	All Quincy Public Schools closed

Merrymount School will close on Wednesday, November 27, 2019 at 11:25 a.m. for all students.

The building will be closed at 11:45 a.m. for all staff.

Please make arrangements to have your child picked up at school
or the bus stop on time.

WE WISH ALL FAMILIES A HAPPY HOLIDAY

