

October 2, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have had a fantastic start to the year. September came and went in a flash. We have completed our first fire drill, safety drills and PBIS Assembly already. Our kindergarten students have acclimated so well to their new school, teachers and classmates. I'm proud to say that this transition was great because of our Fifth Grade Safety Patrol and Kindergarten helpers.

Thank you to all families that came to Open House. It was great to see so many families, the night was a huge success.

In PBIS news, our September Character Trait focused on The 3 Rs: Respectful, Responsible and Ready. At our monthly assembly one student from each classroom was awarded a certificate and prize for exemplifying this character trait throughout the month. In addition to our monthly assembly, we also had four weekly raffles where a ticket from each classroom was picked and a child from each class won a prize. We ended the assembly by introducing our October character trait: Citizenship. We will work on this trait through October.

Extended Day programs are up and running. We have many students participating from grades K-5. Please see the schedule on the last page of the newsletter. We will be offering a program called Kids Collaborate starting soon. This is a peer tutoring program that will run two days a week.

MAP Assessments have been completed. You will be receiving your student's MAP scores with your child's report card. If you have questions prior to report card conferences in December, you can always email your child's teacher or me for the report.

Just a few general reminders, I will be sending information out via Honeywell Instant Alert and ASPEN. We have also updated our website with information, so please check in there as well. We have a Lost and Found in the front hallway. If your child is missing something please have them check there. Please remember that if you are bringing your animal to drop off or pick up, please keep your animal on the perimeter of the school grounds. This is solely for student safety. Also, when dropping off students for a 7:15 a.m. morning program, please be mindful of regular drop off procedures.

Thank you for all you do to help us maintain a positive relationship from school to home.

Thanks,

Ms. Mitchell

Principal

EXCITING NEWS FROM OUR CLASSROOMS:

KINDERGARTEN:

Wow, it is October already!! It has been a great start to kindergarten! We have done a lot of learning and exploring these first weeks of school. Getting to know each other and making new friends has been a lot of fun. We continue to work on routines and the children are settling into school and seem to be adjusting nicely into kindergarten. It is amazing to see how much progress we have made within just a few weeks. We will continue to explore the alphabet, letter sounds, rhyming and the numbers 0-5 this month. We will also enjoy learning about pumpkins, spiders, pirates and bats. October will prove to be a busy month of activities and learning so please remember to check your child's blue folder daily.

FIRST GRADE:

First grade is off to an amazing start! We are all so impressed by the children's ability to be respectful, responsible, and ready in situations both inside and outside of the classroom. Blue tickets are being earned all of the time! The students are diving into our Journeys reading program at this point. We have been practicing sounding out, reading, and spelling words with short vowels. Students have been introduced to nouns and verbs. We will continue identifying these in sentences as well as introducing adjectives. In the coming weeks, we will be reading both informational text and fiction in our Journeys anthologies. Comprehension strategies will include story structure, summarizing, and identifying text features in non-fiction. We have reviewed and will continue to review number sense and addition in our GO Math program and will continue with subtraction concepts. We will even begin to explore the relationship between addition and subtraction using the part-part whole or "bar model" method. October is a time where we can make many observations in nature and start to make Life Science connections through plants and animals. Features and comparisons of pumpkins, spiders, and bats will be discussed. Look for more information on Pumpkin Day when children can bring in their own small pumpkins to make observations and decorate. Thank you for your continued support and happy fall to all!

SECOND GRADE:

Grade 2 students will be learning about the characteristics of various bats and spiders this month. They will have their first research project to complete. As a homework assignment, the students will conduct research about a bat or spider using the internet and/or a book. They will complete a report which will be presented in school to their classmates. Information will be sent home about this project.

We are excited to facilitate our first fundraiser for the American Cancer Society! Grade 2 students invite the Merrymount community to participate in "Real Kids Wear Pink" campaign. Watch for our flyer to be coming home soon with more information!

THIRD GRADE:

Third grade is off to a terrific start! Students were happy to have our first field trip on Monday, September 23. We traveled to the Commonwealth Museum and learned about the early history of Massachusetts. Many activities were enjoyed by all. Ask your third grader to tell you about some of them.

We're learning the routines and procedures of third grade. One of the biggest changes this year is that we are switching classes and have been for more than 2 weeks. It's a busy schedule and it helps to be organized with our papers, folders, and homework. Students and teachers are busy getting to know each other. We all worked hard to get ready for Open House and showcase our work.

This week is the first reading test with Mrs. Brown, the first math quiz with Mrs. Baldwin, and the first social studies quiz with Mrs. Morales. Good luck to everyone!

FOURTH GRADE:

Fourth grade is off to a great start! We are so excited to get our leadership teams started. Students on the Kindness Crew will be working on a project to support the community...more information to follow soon! It was great meeting all of our families at Open House! There are so many fourth graders taking part in our after school programs! Shakespeare and Learning Lab will be a great experience for all! Happy Fall!

FIFTH GRADE:

The fifth graders have been keeping busy since we've been back to school. They have been working extra hard as Kindergarten Helpers, Safety Patrol, Recycling Crew, and Color Guard. We are very proud of the way the fifth graders have stepped up to the plate as role models. In October, the students will be finishing up their first long-term project: the Biography Bottle. They are now in a routine with completing nightly, weekly, and long-term assignments. In addition, they are learning important lessons about prioritizing, self-advocacy, studying, and time management. We have also been using Google Classroom for various assignments and assessments. Check in with your child about how to log in to view assignments, grades, and comments. Upcoming in October: DARE Night with Officer Don, October School Store, and Unity Day.

ENGLISH LEARNERS:

Our EL Newcomer group is quickly becoming comfortable using the English language conversationally; we are having fun practicing our newly learned vocabulary and building upon the skills necessary for success in our mainstream classrooms! During this particular lesson, we began working towards saying appropriate greetings in a conversation and determining the appropriate greeting to utilize while reading the cues of a conversation. We are excited to create a comic strip with dialogue of an interaction with a family member from our home country

LITERACY:

Bootcamp Literacy groups have been falling in line here at Merrymount! Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. McLaughlin have been working with previous Literacy students during these first few weeks of September to get a "jumpstart" on their reading skills in the new school year. First and second graders have been reviewing CVC and "Magic e" words with games, reading passages, and fun activities! We are excited to have the opportunity to work with your children and we look forward to a fun year! Keep on reading!

Nurse's Update:

We are off to a great start in the health office. Mrs. Ehrlich is now located next to the main office as the office was moved this year. It is a fresh, new space and a great spot for the students to get healthy in! Just a reminder that all fourth grade students are required to hand in a physical at the start of the school year. If you haven't done so yet, please make sure you send one in as soon as possible. Please also make sure you completed the pink forms that were sent home as accurately as possible as I am using these to learn more about your child's health needs. With flu season around the corner, it is important that any student that is sick stay home. Anyone with a fever, vomiting or diarrhea must be home for 24 hours without symptoms (and without medications) before they are able to return to school. We will be doing our annual screenings next month! I will send home a letter with the date. If your child has glasses, please make sure they are wearing them that day. Also, my Aspen page is up and running! Check it out for announcements and other information you might be looking for. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

Mrs. Ehrlich
mollieoconnell@quincypublicschools.com

(617) 984-8925

Merrymount School

October 2019

www.merrymountschoolpto.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Bus Evacuation School Council Meeting @ 2:30	8	9 Yom Kippur	10 Parent Night	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL	15	16	17 PTO Candidates Night @ CMS @ 6:30 p.m.	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 PBIS Rally	26 
27 	28	29 Grade 1 Pumpkin Decorating	30	31 		



Open House Recap

Here is a quick recap of some of the information you might have missed if you couldn't make it to Open House or if you were busy following your children from classroom to classroom. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. Teachers and school admins can be reached via email (addresses can be found in [Aspen](#) or the [district school website](#)) or by calling the school at 617-984-8762.

Classrooms

Don't worry if you missed visiting your child's classroom! If you ever have questions you can contact their teacher (see contact info above). Also, try out [these questions](#) to learn more from your child about their school day. Does your child not like talking about their day? Check out some of [these tips](#) to see if they help open up the conversation.

PTO

If you would like to help with supplies/time/donations to any of our events/programs or have an idea for an event/program you want to run please fill out the sign-up form at bit.ly/MMPTOVol2019 or email us at volunteer.merrymount@gmail.com. Whether you can donate a table cloth or chair an event, you can make a difference. It's going to be a great year!

Mark your calendars!

PTO Meetings

*Tuesdays at 7:00pm at
Merrymount School*

November 12th - Elections
January 14th
February 11th
March 24th
April 14th
May 12th
June 9nd

Please note that dates are subject to change. If there are any changes, a notice will be sent out via Aspen, Social Media, or both as soon as possible.

PTO Sponsored Events

Events are free admission and held at Merrymount School unless otherwise indicated.

Picture Day Sep 26th
Halloween Howl Oct 26th
Bake Sale Nov 5th
Fun Run Nov 15th
Winter Wonderland Sock Skate Dec 7th

Family Skate Jan 28th @ Quincy Youth Arena
Winter Scholastic Book Fair TBD
International Night TBD
Trivia Night TBD
Cleaner Greener Spring Clean-up TBD
Spring Scholastic Book Fair TBD

Box Tops are going digital! Have you [downloaded the app](#) yet? You can still send in the old version as long as they aren't expired, but download the app today and start scanning in your receipts to raise even more for the school.



SEE THIS...
CLIP IT



SEE THIS...
SCAN
YOUR RECEIPT

And while you are at it, if you shop at Stop & Shop (or know someone who does) sign up for their free [School Rewards program](#).

Family Night

Join us for Family Night on Thursday, October 10, from 6:30-8pm! Group sessions will consist of a tutorial of websites and digital programs that your child uses throughout the school day. Staff will show you how your child can access these resources for reinforcement and enrichment. A movie will be available for students to enjoy while adults are participating in the learning sessions.

School Council

Interested in learning more about School Council? Email courtneymitchell@quincypublicschools.com.

Outdoor Classroom

The design is ready and looks amazing, but we need your help finding landscape construction companies to bid on the project. Have a company in mind? Please email us at mmoutdoorclass@gmail.com. So far we have reached out to Skinner Overlook, NELM Corp, JT Construction, Northern Oak Landscape, Tasco Construction, and MJ Nicholls. We are so excited for the outdoor classroom to become a reality for Merrymount, but we need your help with this last piece before the building can begin!



School Meals

- If you would like a free/reduced school meal application, please print one from the [district website](#) or contact the school to receive a printed copy.
- Tired of searching for quarters and singles? Sign-up for [mySchoolBucks](#) to deposit money directly into your child's school meal account.
- Want to know what is on the menu? Download the [school meal calendar](#) from the district website or check out the [Nutrislice app](#).

SPOOK AWAY CANCER

MERRYMOUNT ELEMENTARY OCTOBER 2019



AVON

National Presenting Sponsor



Real Kids Wear Pink

Dear Parents,

This year Merrymount Elementary will take part in the American Cancer Society's Real Kids Wear Pink campaign. This campaign was started by a young student in New York to help engage kids in the fight against Breast Cancer.

On October 25th students around the state will wear pink to school in support of Breast Cancer patients, survivors, and those who have been taken by the terrible disease. In addition to wearing pink, for two dollars you can honor a family member with a witches hat. For 5 dollars you can honor someone with a ghost, and for 10 dollars you can honor them with a jack-o-lantern. These cut outs will be placed on our school wide graph as we spook cancer away, while making learning fun!

This is a great opportunity for us to teach students the values of philanthropy, community engagement, and that even the smallest voices can make a difference. All proceeds from this campaign will be donated to Breast Cancer research and patient services, provided by the American Cancer Society. Can't make a donation at this time? No problem, students can participate just by wearing pink on October 25th. Checks and cash can be handed into classroom teachers. Checks can be made out to the American Cancer Society.





UNITY DAY

OCT 23, 2019

WEAR AND SHARE
ORANGE
IN SUPPORT OF
BULLYING PREVENTION

TOGETHER
WE ARE UNITED FOR
KINDNESS
ACCEPTANCE
INCLUSION

#UNITYDAY2019
PACER.ORG/BULLYING

Sponsored by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center since 2011

Merrymount Elementary School ~ Extended Day Programs ~ Fall 2019

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00-7:30				<u>BOKS</u> Grades 3-5	<u>BOKS</u> Grades 3-5
7:15-7:45		<u>Reading for Success</u> Grades 2-5	<u>Reading for Success</u> Grades 2-5		
2:00-3:00	<u>Peer Tutoring</u> Grades 1-5 <u>PBIS Leaders</u> Grade 5		<u>Math Maniacs</u> Grades K & 1 <u>Let's Talk</u> Grade 2 <u>Math Games</u> Grade 3 <u>Shakespeare</u> Grades 4 & 5	<u>Peer Tutoring</u> Grades 1-5 <u>Walking Club</u> Grades 1 & 2 <u>Chess Club</u> Grade 3 <u>Learning Lab</u> Grade 4	

Program Descriptions

Shakespeare with Mrs. Ciardi, Mrs. Lanham, and Mr. Rogan

4th and 5th grade students will have an opportunity to perform Shakespeare! Students will learn about scripts and stage directions while practicing fluency, expression, and building self-confidence. Each cast's hard work will culminate with a performance of "Romeo and Juliet" for families and friends.

Let's Talk with Mrs. Eckhardt

This program for 2nd grade students is designed to help children practice their social skills. The students will participate in games, reader's theater, ice breakers, and learn conversational strategies.

Reading for Success with Mrs. Eckhardt

This program for students in grades 2-5 is designed to help students improve their reading skills. Students will be working on their own fundamental reading skills in targeted areas of need, utilizing various computer programs.

Walking Club with Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Leuchte

This program for 1st and 2nd grade students will support physical wellness through walking around the Merrymount neighborhood, while making literary connections through a weekly reading lesson.

Chess Club with Ms. Corcoran

3rd grade students will learn the game of chess! They will learn to strategize and think logically, while also learning sportsmanship.



Learning Lab with Mrs. Lanham and Mrs. Ciardi

4th grade students will participate in a book club and explore math through hands-on activities and games!

Math Maniacs with Mrs. Richardson and Ms. Jones

Math Maniacs allows kindergarten and 1st grade students to collaboratively play hands-on math games to reinforce their counting, adding, subtracting, and subitizing skills.

Math Games with Mrs. Baldwin

3rd Grade Math Games will focus on math skills, problem solving, number sense, and fluency. Examples of games include Blokus, Qwirkle, and various card games. Students will also receive homework support.

PBIS Leaders with Mr. Rogan

5th grade students will work together to create initiatives that promote positive behaviors and expectations. Projects will include videos, posters, daily announcements, and classroom lessons.

Peer Tutoring with Ms. Mitchell

Students will have an opportunity to work with 4th and 5th graders to receive extra academic assistance.

