

## Wednesday Notes November 20, 2019

Dear OLM Families,

With no school next Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, we will not send home a Wednesday envelope next week, and we will not have a full edition of the Wednesday Notes. This is our last big communication prior to Thanksgiving, but have no fear! There is a lot to communicate today!

First of all, A SPECIAL word of "THANKS!" to Our Lady of Mercy School Community for an outstanding collection of **Thanksgiving Food Items**. This year as in the past, the student body has RALLIED in the work of MERCY! The OLM Outreach Service is able to help many people and families celebrate the Feast of Thanksgiving. It is through your generous and heartfelt donations that allow those in need to be fed by Christ's compassion, mercy and LOVE. Many Thanks & God Bless you all in Christ's Joy & Love this "Thanksgiving"

As part of our continued outreach to those in need, we will be sponsoring a **toiletry drive** from December 2 until December 13. There is a flyer providing more information about the drive in this week's envelope. As an added bonus, students who bring in toiletries between December 2 and December 6 will be entered in a drawing to win a bicycle to be provided by Lifetouch. The drawing will take place after Mass on December 6, and St. Nicholas himself will be picking the winner!

In other recent news, we want to extend our congratulations to **Girls on the Run**, who completed their season on Sunday with a 5K run! The girls have been training for it throughout the fall, and their completion of the race is a testament to their commitment and perseverance, pursuing excellence in athletics and cultivating the virtues that will serve them very well as they strive to be saints and scholars every day. Way to go!

**We have a few items to call to everyone's attention for this week.** First, **all order forms for our Christmas sale are due this Friday!** If you are paying by check, please make the check out to Our Lady of Mercy School. All items purchased will be shipped directly to your home. A few other notes on the Christmas sale:

- Online ordering can be done at [www.meadowfarms.com](http://www.meadowfarms.com)
  - Enter seller ID (Bottom left hand corner of student order form)
  - Return both copies of the order form along with your check by November 22nd.
- In addition to the individual prizes found in student packets, the class that sells the most will have their choice of Allies donut cakes, Twisted pizza or Ice cream sundae bar!!!
- Please contact Kathleen Ringler at [kringler1@verizon.net](mailto:kringler1@verizon.net) with any questions.
- Thank you for supporting Our Lady of Mercy School!

Our **School Store** is open during all three lunch periods this Friday! This week's envelope has a flyer and a pricing list so your child can plan his or her shopping. This is a great opportunity to find some Christmas gifts before the rush, and to show off our OLM school spirit in the process! Many thanks to Mrs. Lee Mita and Mrs. Kristen Areson for taking the lead in bringing our school store back!

And also on this Friday, we will be **dressing down, so that Mercy may flourish!** Students who bring in one dollar or more to support Bishop Tobin's Keep the Heat On initiative may dress

down for the day. **Please remember that student attire on dress-down days should be in keeping with the Catholic mission of our school. Clothing should be modest and presentable. Specifically, this means that it may not have tears or rips, may not be excessively tight or revealing (please no leggings or yoga pants), and may not bear any messages or images that conflict with Catholic faith and morals.**

Skipping to next week, **Monday is the final day of the first trimester.** Our teachers will close grades on Monday, and **report cards will be distributed on Tuesday, December 10.** It has been an outstanding first trimester, and we pray that all of our students have earned report cards that reflect that truth. Please always feel free to reach out to your child's teachers if you have questions about their academic progress. The path to scholarship is rarely straight or easy, and our teachers are here to support students in facing their inevitable challenges and transforming them into opportunities for intellectual and spiritual growth.

When we return after Thanksgiving, our student council will be sponsoring a **Drop & Shop** on Friday, December 6 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. This is an opportunity for parents of children in grades PK-5 to drop off their children in the gym to watch *Dr. Seuss' The Grinch* (2018 edition: [Common Sense Media review is here](#)) while they go out to get some Christmas shopping done. There is no charge for the event. A flyer and permission form went home with every student in grades PK-5 today. Please return the permission form if you would like your child to participate.

The week after Thanksgiving will also be the time for the **yearbook committee** to begin their work. Their first meeting will be Wednesday, December 4 after school in the computer lab. The committee is open to all eighth graders. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Kimberly Sammartino at [kimberlysammartino@mac.com](mailto:kimberlysammartino@mac.com).

Our capital campaign- **Our Faith, Our Future: Grateful for God's Providence**- is ongoing, with the goal of raising \$500,000 to support needed improvements to our school, and a total of \$2,000,000 to support our parish community as a whole. These funds are critical for the continued success of our school. Please reach out to the parish office if you have questions. We thank you for your generosity.

And finally, a couple of logistical notes. First, our **lost and found** is overflowing! If your child has lost a sweater, jacket, or lunchbox, we probably found it! We encourage students who are missing items to check the lost and found on the stage in the gym during their lunch periods.

Second, we want everyone to have updated information on our policy around delays and closings. We will no longer be following East Greenwich public schools. With our students bussing in from multiple school districts and driving from even more, our specific circumstances will very often be different than those of any one district, and it is important that we can make decisions that are in the interest of everyone's safety. **Moving forward, Our Lady of Mercy will make our own decisions about delays and closings.** We will communicate these via email, phone, our school website, and local broadcast media. If you would like, you can sign up to receive text alerts as well. To do so, [go to this link](#), and select "Our Lady of Mercy-EG" from message group "3) RI CATHOLIC SCHOOLS." **On days when there is a question about a possible delay or closing, please look for an announcement specifically from Our Lady of Mercy.** The purpose of this change is to give us greater flexibility in making decisions that serve the needs of all of our students and families, and that can protect the safety of all in the event of

inclement weather. Please rest assured that these will be the principles guiding our decision-making, and that we will make and communicate our decisions as promptly as we can.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we want to thank our families, our faculty, and our staff for the many ways that you all support our students at Our Lady of Mercy School. We have much to be thankful for. And with our effort and God's grace, we can expect much more in the future. God bless. Go Jags. Happy Thanksgiving.

For Christ and Our Kids,  
Patrick McNabb  
Principal

### **Wednesday Envelope Enclosures**

School Store Flyer & Price List  
Toiletry Drive Flyer

### **Grade-Level-Specific Documents**

Piano Lessons Flyer (Grades K-2)  
Drop & Shop Flyer and Permission Form (Grades PK-5)

### **Attachments**

None

### **Upcoming Dates**

<b>Friday, November 22</b>	Dressing down...so that Mercy may flourish! Christmas Fundraiser orders due School Store open at lunch PreK/Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast
<b>November 27-29</b>	No School- Thanksgiving Recess
<b>Friday, December 6</b>	First Friday/Feast of St. Nicholas Mass (formal uniforms required) Drop & Shop 3:00-5:00 pm in the gym
<b>Monday, December 9</b>	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass (formal uniforms required)
<b>Wednesday, December 11</b>	OLM School Band Concert 8:25 am & 7:00 pm
<b>Friday, December 13</b>	Christmas Pageant 6:00 pm
<b>Friday, December 20</b>	Middle School Breakfast Advent Prayer Service Half-Day: 11:30 am dismissal
<b>December 21-January 1</b>	No School- Christmas Recess
<b>Friday, January 3</b>	First Friday Mass (formal uniforms required)
<b>Thursday, January 16</b>	Middle School Science Fair
<b>Monday, January 20</b>	No School- Martin Luther King Day
<b>Friday, January 24</b>	Middle School Dance 6:30-8:30 pm
<b>Sunday, January 26</b>	Open House