Dear Parent,

We can’t thank you enough for the work you are doing to partner with our teachers to support your children! As we enter the holiest week of the year, we want to provide you with some updates and reminders.

Calendar Reminder
As explained last week, Spring Break begins on Thursday, April 9. Distance learning will recommence on Thursday, April 16 and continue on Friday, April 17. We will then continue with our schedule of four days of learning and Friday off for teacher planning starting on Monday, April 20. Based on federal guidelines, we do anticipate distance learning through at least the end of April.

Progress Reports
Progress Reports will NOT be sent home on April 30. Teachers will continue to assess their students and track their progress, strengths, and weaknesses and connect with you and your students as necessary.

Online Student Attire/Conduct
Students should be reminded daily to dress appropriately for their online learning. This can be any outfit that a student would wear for a Dress Down Day at Waldron. Students should come prepared for each online class and work at an appropriate workspace with a parent nearby. All cell phones and other devices should be put aside so your child can focus on their online lesson. We appreciate your partnership as we navigate this endeavor in remote learning.

Clubs and Reading Olympics
Our clubs are now continuing! Most club moderators have reached out to parents to make individual arrangements regarding the remainder of the club sessions. If you have not heard from your child’s club moderator by Tuesday, April 7, please contact Ms. Patty Papatheodore at ppapatheodore@waldronmercy.org for assistance.

Reading Olympics was held remotely among our own students on Friday, April 3rd! Mrs. Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Hymel reported that the competition was tough but both teams emerged victorious with tied rounds. Mrs. Hymel is so proud of both teams and all of the reading they have done this year. Congratulations! We thank the students and moderators for all of their reading efforts.

CARES
As you may be aware, the federal government has offered numerous programs to help small businesses, including private schools. We want you to know we are fully aware of and diligently exploring all options open to us. We are hopeful to capture any program benefits.

Holy Week
The Passion Play is one of our most highly anticipated eighth grade traditions and marks the beginning of the holiest week in the Liturgical Calendar. Aligning with our new distance learning, this has been reimagined to provide our 8th graders the opportunity to partake in this experience and convey the Passion of our Lord for the WMA Community.

While we are deeply disappointed that our eighth grade students will not be able to portray the Passion Play in person for our student body and parent community, thanks to the creativity of our faculty and staff, we will be posting video versions of the eighth graders’ experience in three separate parts: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday.

The first Palm Sunday video will be posted on our Virtual Community page in lieu of Community Gathering on Holy Wednesday, and most classes will watch this together virtually. The remaining two videos will be posted on the Virtual Community page on their respective days. We hope that you will take the time to watch each of these videos as a family and use it as a time of prayerful reflection.

**Mercy In Action**
The Spirit of Mercy is alive and well in our community!

In our last communication we reported that a parent and doctor at Jefferson Hospital asked our families for PPE donations - and of course, we got a response! Second grade parents and owners of C and R Building Supply donated masks they had in stock. If anyone else has masks that can be donated to a hospital in need, please continue to email me so we can help coordinate that effort.

Our last email also asked for our families to continue to ensure that our friends at St. Columba are fed. Thanks to your generosity, our community covered not only the planned meal in April but also four additional meals. Jack’s Firehouse, a Fairmount restaurant owned by alumni parents, is making and delivering the dinners. WMA outreach wants to continue to support the St. Columba residents. To the extent you may be able to donate the cost all or part of a meal, please sign up here. Please email parents Tracey Hagan or Sonia Forcino with any questions.

Additionally, one of our families is helping ensure that local healthcare workers and others on the frontlines of the COVID-19 fight receive a good meal. If you are able, please click here to support this effort. All meals are being purchased from local restaurants in an effort to support small businesses in their time of need.

Please continue to keep all the healthcare and other essential workers in your prayers.

**In Conclusion**
Don’t forget to join us in prayer every night at 6:30 in whatever manner you are comfortable! Prayer is a powerful resource we have at our fingertips right now.

I’d like to end with a quote from Catherine McAuley, “Oh may He look on us with love and pity and then we shall be able to do anything He wishes us to do, no matter how difficult to accomplish or painful to our feeling.” You are all warriors just as Catherine was. Take care of yourselves - keep up your energy and your faith!

Stay safe and healthy!

In Mercy and Prayer,
Ann Marie