Dear Parent,

I can’t believe it is already May! I had been hoping to spend this first Sunday in May celebrating First Holy Communion with our second graders. All of our families are always in my prayers, but today in particular, I am praying for our second grade families. The entire grade prepared for this beautifully spiritual occasion, and I look forward to the time when we will celebrate together one of the most special events that Waldron hosts.

On to this week’s updates....

**Belonging Pick-Up**

Our faculty members have begun to prepare those items for pick-up that would be helpful for children to use in continuing distance learning. This includes items parents have specifically requested (glasses or instruments), some third grade books, Kindergarten iPads, packets of materials various teachers developed, particularly in the lower grades, and, for those that want them, medications and Tigerfest items. In order to get these essential items into your hands hopefully beginning this Friday, this pick-up will include non essential items only if the teacher is already packing up other items for your child.

We will email each grade separately detailing which materials will be available for pick up and providing you with a sign-up genius to schedule your pick-up time. Materials will be placed in your open trunk by one of us wearing a mask and gloves.

**Yearbook**

Our eighth grade yearbook staff has worked hard all year to capture special moments to complete the 2019-2020 yearbook and yearbook ordering is now open! Place your order directly through TreeRing by clicking on this link and creating an account: [TreeRing Order Form](#).

The cost of each yearbook is $40 plus $2.99 per book for shipping. Under the current circumstances, WMA will cover the shipping fee, provided you place your order by Wednesday, May 6. Any orders placed after this deadline will incur a shipping fee of $7.99 per book at the buyer’s expense. All yearbooks will be delivered directly to your home through TreeRing. Please note that there will not be any extra yearbooks to distribute. All eighth grade students will automatically receive a yearbook and do not need to place an order.

**2020-2021 Transportation**
As a reminder, please complete the Transportation Form to let us know how your children will get to and from WMA next year.

**Surveys**
We are grateful to you and your children for completing our surveys. We have reviewed each and every response, provided your feedback to our teachers, and have already started following up with our families and students as necessary. More importantly, teachers in many grades have already incorporated changes into their plans this week! You will continue to see that many of the requests you made have been addressed, so stay tuned!

Several student surveys addressed specific technology issues; if your child is having any problems with their technology please email Barb Scott so she can fix the issue immediately.

On Friday, as a continuation of our surveys, we had a wonderful and productive discussion with our eighth grade parents about their students’ end-of-year activities. We are looking forward to creatively adapting our traditions within the limits allowed by this pandemic to create events that will become wonderful celebrations and memories for our eighth grade students and families.

We are currently creating a task force of administrators, staff, board members, other non-competitor private school finance directors, and a MESA staff member to analyze from a broader perspective the parent distance learning satisfaction results along with the corrective actions we are taking. This task force will determine where we need to make other adjustments.

**Parent Resources**
One of our WMA staff learned that CNN and Sesame Street worked together to provide a series of videos for children explaining the coronavirus. Click [here](#) to view these videos. Since we have not viewed/approved them we recommend watching these videos yourself before you share them with your child as a way to ensure you are comfortable with the content and messaging.

**Mercy In Action**
On Wednesday morning we recognized the Sisters of Mercy in our WMA community who are Jubilarians this year. Our Virtual Community Gathering celebrated our beloved, long-time, former 3rd grade teacher and current computer teacher and reading enrichment specialist Sr. Barbara MacWilliams. If you missed the wonderful video that was featured, click [here](#) to watch! Then several members of our staff commemorated the 60th jubilee of Sisters Barbara MacWilliams and Marie Michele Donnelly (Board Trustee), and the 70th jubilee of Sisters Marianna Walsh (Board Trustee), Mary Hasson (WMA Latin teacher), and Kathleen McKee (retired from WMA recently) with deliveries of Nothing Bundt Cakes and drive-by parades at each of their homes. We are so grateful to each of these amazing women who lives her life exemplifying mercy in action and has touched our Waldron community in a special way!

In the month of May, WMA students pray the rosary remembering Our Blessed Mother Mary in a special way. As we have done for the past two years, we will be combining this spiritual ritual with prayers for those Sisters of Mercy in the Motherhouse and McAuley, praying for each of them individually. We’ll be sharing the specifics with your children this week. As a family it would be wonderful if you could remember our Sisters especially in this month of May with a rosary.

**In Conclusion**
As always, please remember to join us in prayer at 6:30 every night, keeping the Sisters of Mercy, the WMA community, and those on the front lines of the pandemic in your prayers. Tonight, please also remember our second grade students who would have received their First Holy Communion today. We know that Jesus is holding them in His hands until they are able to receive this special sacrament in the fall.

Stay safe and keep the faith! God is with you!

In Mercy and Prayer,
Ann Marie