Dear Parent,

Happy Mother’s Day to all of our amazing mothers! I hope your family is taking time today to celebrate how special you are. Please know you are celebrated in our Waldron Mercy community!

Also today we would like to give a special shout out to all of our teachers, as last week was Teacher Appreciation Week. We are so proud of the way they have exemplified the ideal of a life-long learner and of all the work they continue to do to teach and engage our students remotely.

Looking ahead to this week...

**Belonging Pick-Up Update**
THANK YOU to the 140 families who picked up materials their students needed on Friday to continue distance learning! A huge shout out also to the 10 staff members in masks who made it possible. It was wonderful to be on campus once again and see you through your car windows! We are aware that the sign-up genius was filled and not everyone was able to pick up the items that they needed. You’ll hear more about the continuation of this effort next week.

**Surveys and Task Force**
Teachers in every grade continue to incorporate changes into their plans as a result of your survey responses. Please reach out to your teacher, one of our admins, or myself if your concerns are not being addressed or if new issues arise.

The Distance Learning Task Force I mentioned last week has been meeting and is analyzing from a broader perspective the parent distance learning satisfaction results along with the enhancements we are making. The task force will also be collecting and analyzing data from other private Preschool/PK-8 and Preschool/PK-12 schools in our area. The task force will be making recommendations as soon as possible and forwarding any recommendations to our admin staff and me. Since the board is aware we formed the task force, they are expecting to hear the results and our recommendations in the May meeting. You’ll hear more about this shortly.

**Family Support**
As the pandemic continues, we recognize that members of our community are experiencing emotional, spiritual, and financial challenges. If your student needs some emotional support, please visit the counselor Grace Zorn’s [webpage](#) and use materials she has provided. If you need additional resources, please contact Grace directly at gzorn@waldronmercy.org.
Please remember that our community is always ready to support you in prayer. By submitting prayer intentions on our [website](#), the entire WMA community will be praying along with you.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, our community is willing to help. We are anticipating the need to support some members of our community. Please reach out to Mark Murray, the Director of Operations at [mmurray@waldronmercy.org](mailto:mmurray@waldronmercy.org).

**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.

**End of Year Celebrations**
Our eighth grade students received a surprise delivery of Insomnia cookies this week to celebrate how special they are to us, and to let them know that we are thinking of them as they move closer to graduation!! It was wonderful to hear how they enjoyed this treat! Retreats for grades 5-8 are currently in the planning stages. You’ll hear more about our other end of year events shortly.

**Mercy in Action**
This week, each homeroom will pray the rosary for an individual Sister of Mercy from McAuley Convent or the Mother House as we are in May, a month devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Teachers will also ask students to write cards of encouragement for these communities. Details will be found on the [Virtual Community site](#) and teacher websites.

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.

If you are in a position to give back, we hope that you will consider supporting St. Columba alongside our Parent Outreach Committee! St. Columba is one of Project Home’s shelters for the City’s most vulnerable male homeless population where our Waldron students serve their donated meals to the residents each month. Although we cannot serve meals to the men at the shelter directly, the Spirit of Mercy continues to be seen from the Waldron community who has thus far bought dinner for its 60+ residents SEVEN times with the help and support of Jack’s Firehouse. St. Columba still needs our support for what would have been our last scheduled meal service set for Friday, May 15. To the extent you may be able to donate all or part of a meal, please sign up [here](#) or contact parents Tracey Hagan or Sonia Forcina.

**In Conclusion**
As this pandemic continues and your patience occasionally wears thin, I encourage you to reflect on the words Pope Francis offers in his prayer to Mary during this time. “We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our Pleas, We who are put to the test, and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.” Know that Mary, our Mother, is with us as we travel these challenging paths. Turn to her for support!

Stay safe and keep the faith!

In Mercy and Prayer,

Ann Marie