

Mount Airy Christian Academy

“cultivating strong minds and passionate faith”



21, November, 2014

From the Desk of the Educational Administrator, Daniel Perrotta

As I watch our elementary and secondary students, I am beyond thankful for the education God allows us to offer our students. I have the honor and privilege of walking through the halls of MACA each day observing students in their classes as they learn from MACA's outstanding teachers.

All along the elementary wing, our students and teachers are working hard. I have watched Mrs. Sweigert teach second graders reading strategies using nouns and verbs. Across the hall in Mrs. Hoefler's room, I saw her students learning from teachable moments that originated from a bible lesson. Down the hall, Mrs. Surland and Mrs. Proffitt are leading their students through an adventure called first grade. In the warmth of Mrs. Hammond's classroom, the fifth graders are focused and committed to building off the principles learned from reading *Little Pilgrims Progress*. Right next door, Mrs. Finch is allowing her students to learn math concepts through guided discovery and problem solving techniques. Learning is more exciting in a brand new way in Mrs. Schuetz's class room, as she uses the technological learning enhancement, of our new Promethean board. Just above the elementary wing, Miss Harmon's little students are hearing bible stories, learning their letters, and playing in the beautifully renovated Pre-K room. Just down the hall, the Kindergarten class, with the help of Mrs. Minor and Mrs. Parsons are heard practicing their songs for Grandparents' day.

Like the elementary school, teaching and learning can be seen in other creative and exciting ways throughout the secondary. I have watched vast experiments taking place in Mrs. Korn's

Upcoming Events

- 11/22 Secondary Drama Club Performance of *Why Christmas?*
- 11/26 Grandparents' Day, ½ Day, Thanksgiving Break DISMISS @ 11:30
- 11/27-28 Thanksgiving Vacation
- 12/1-5 Scholastic Book Fair
- 12/5 Elementary Christmas Program
- 12/6 Secondary Winter Program
- 12/6 Fifth Grade Class Performance of *the Night the Animals Talked*
- 12/15-19 "D Term" for High School
- 12/22-1/5 Christmas Break
- 1/8 Alumni Day
- 1/5-9 Spirit Week

Communication Envelope Inserts

- Newsletter
- 5th Grade Invite Flyer
- Secondary Drama Flyer
- Grandparents' Day Flyer
- PA Christmas Shop
- Candy Cane Flyer
- PA Christmas Shop

science lab, as well as the introduction of a science fair in Mrs. Grab's lab. I have been able to listen to Mrs. Neilson teach the 6th graders the history of Macedonia, and Mr. Rust thunder away on the importance of understanding our nation's rich history. I enjoy watching the progression of our secondary English curriculum. Starting with Mrs. Herdt teaching sentence structure through writing journals, traveling along to Mrs. Teixeira as she teaches foundations grammar and literature, and culminate with Miss Griffin as she is teaching British Literature to our seniors. With the additions of Mr. Teixeira and Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Woolverton's math department is exciting to observe. Together, all three are continually building math concepts for our students. Our foreign language department has our students far exceeding our expectations. Latin is being demonstrated and modeled by Mrs. Dibert and Mrs. Esterly, and multiple middle school students are walking around saying, "salve", which means hello. This is a wonderful foundation for our students, as they move into Spanish with Mrs. Dayhoff. This week, her classes have been presenting mini-dramas all performed in Spanish. Then there's our trio of Bible theologians, Mr. Shuetz, Mr. Sweigert, and Mr. Korn. All three are going after the hearts and minds of our students

Lastly, who can forget our enrichment teachers? When I think about it, these teachers are defining creativity. I get excited watching Mr. Schuetz teach his physical education classes and we are on our seats with anticipation, as Mr. Buisch's bands prepare for their winter concerts. We also appreciate Mrs. van Hemert's excitement when her students come to library. I love hearing the sounds of newly built robots rolling around in Mrs. Rice's robotics room. It is interesting to see the contrast across the hall between the glow of the monitor screens in Mr. Kelley's computer lab, and the colorful and innovative designs in Mrs. Bouslog and Miss Brunson's art room.

I am thankful for so much this time of year and included is MACA. God has blessed us with caring, passionate, creative, and Christ loving teachers, and our students are blessed each day by their service to our Lord.

Secondary Chapel – Charley Burrall

"What ever you want to do in life and what ever dreams you have, go after them with God at the center." Charley Burrall's dream was to become a published writer. Charley is a MACA parent, school board member, and a master English teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools. During secondary chapel on Thursday, he recounted an amazing story of his time on the ships in Alaska and how he was captured by the Soviet Navy in 1984. Since he was not born in Alaska, the Soviets believed Charley to be a spy and was repeatedly interrogated. Charley did have his Bible and was laughed at by the soldiers. While he was told that in the Soviet Union there is no God, Charley knew otherwise. While being captured by the Soviets, he resolved to

put God first. As a result, the ship's crew followed Charley's lead and they prayed together for God to help them. God answered their prayers, and after eight days in the Siberian jail, they were released. Even after this ordeal, Charley thanks God for the whole experience, because, "When God calls, that's your answer and you go." Ultimately, Charley chronicled a book about his experience entitled, "Captured By the Russians." God allowed his dream to come true, but it needed to be done God's way.

Staff Person of the Week, Gail Grab



Reading, reading, and more reading – this has characterized my life since I was little. I grew up with a younger brother and devoted parents in a Christian home. When I was young, I used to climb trees to read books and teach my “students” who sat on tree limbs. While reading in a tree one day, my brother called me to come in and I fell through the tree and broke my wrist. I might be the first person to break a bone while reading. I read everything I could get my hands on. I always loved to do homework which made my brother crazy. While I loved to learn about anything, I especially found the medical field fascinating. My plans always included either nursing or teaching. God did allow me to enjoy some aspects of the medical field in order to stay home with my daughter when she was little; however, my desire to teach has always been strong. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Bob Jones University. I taught for several years before God brought me to MACA in 2003. What an amazing blessing to be part of this school for so many years! While my husband and I followed what we felt was God’s plan in 2013, doors began to close, and God opened the door to come back to MACA. My daughter Caitlyn graduated from MACA in 2013 and had the privilege to attend MACA from Kindergarten through 12th grade. My husband Joe and I have been married for 23 years. We have been attending Mount Airy Bible Church for 13 years. We enjoy fishing together (well, at least he fishes and I read), and we are in that “empty nest” time with our daughter at Cedarville University. I also enjoy card making and stamping. I still love to read and will continue to encourage our students to read and learn. I am excited to be back at MACA and teaching these wonderful students.

Spotlight on Elementary Field Trips

The second graders had the first elementary field trip of the year to Farm Heritage Days. They experienced what life was like during colonial times. There were many hands-on activities such as making rope, shucking and shelling corn, and fodder chopping. They were able to see a blacksmith in action and hear from a beekeeper. They discovered that life was very different before electricity. It was a day enjoyed by all and a great learning experience. Kindergarten had a wonderful day at Summer’s Farm in Frederick. The students were able to hear about the life cycle

of a pumpkin taught by the farmer himself. The students were able to go on a hay ride, pet farm animals, and participate in numerous games and activities. At the end of the trip the students were able to pick a pumpkin to take home. We brought our pumpkins to school the next day for pumpkin day!

Pumpkin day was full of observing our pumpkin, weighing it, measuring it, and much more. All in all it was a wonderful trip! Brrrr! Even though it was chilly, the first graders had an informative and interactive field trip! Toward the end of their unit on the Pilgrims and The First Thanksgiving, the children visited Sharp's Farm for a very well thought out presentation on life back in the 1620's. The children were enthralled with the Wampanoag Indian who displayed his handmade tools and drum. They were captivated by his Indian dance and the bow and arrow that he used to hunt for wild game. The Pilgrim lady explained the chores of the women and how home life was conducted. All of the children were able to participate in games that Pilgrim children from long ago played. Games were very simple, but fun such as using a stick to roll a barrel metal hoop down a hill. From the game center, we visited the barn where the chores of both Pilgrim men and women were demonstrated. Of course no field trip is complete without a ride on a hay wagon and trip through the corn maze! Yes, it was cold, but a very memorable day! All elementary classes will be planning on doing at least two field trips this year. The children really enjoy these learning activities outside of the classroom.

Important Upcoming Events

- **Elementary Girls Chapel Dress**

Due to the cold weather, elementary girls may wear pants on chapel days for the months of December, January, and February.

- **Secondary Drama Club Performance of *Why Christmas?***

The Drama Club cordially invites you to their performance of "Why Christmas?" complete with a live band! The performance is scheduled for Saturday evening, November 22nd at 7:00 PM in the MACA Gym. Please see the flyer insert for additional details.

- **Grandparents' Day**

Grandparents' Day is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26th. Doors open at 8:15 AM and the program will begin at 9:00 AM. School will close that day at 11:30 AM to begin the Thanksgiving break. Please take note of the time change. Please see flyer details in this week's communication envelope.

- **Book Fair**

Please come support the Scholastic Book Fair being held in Conference Room 250 December 1-5, 2014. We will be open Monday through Friday from 2:00- 4:00 PM and Monday, Wednesday and Friday during morning drop off. Elementary students will visit the book fair during their class time and will be able to fill out a wish list to take home with them. Middle school students will also have an opportunity to shop. If you have time to

volunteer to help, please contact Mrs. van Hemert at pam.vanhemert@macamd.org. We hope to see you there!

- **Elementary Christmas Concert**

Elementary Christmas Concert grades K3-5th. December 5th, 7:00 PM in the gym.

- **Secondary Winter Concert**

Secondary Winter Concert, December 6th at 7 PM in the gym. You will hear the 6th as well as the 7th -9th grade band bands performs this evening.

- **Fifth Grade Class Performance**

On Saturday, December 6th, Mrs. Hammond's Fifth Grade Class cordially invites you to a special performance of *The Night the Animals Talked*. See flyer insert for performance dates and times.

- **Spirit Week – January 5-9, 2015**

We are bringing back a full week of Spirit Week. The themes for each day are listed below. Details will be coming out in the next few weeks.

- ✓ Monday – Pajama Day
- ✓ Tuesday – Fiction Day
- ✓ Wednesday – Favorite Sports Team Day
- ✓ Thursday – Decade Day
- ✓ Friday – Lion's Pride

Parent Association News

From Mrs. Krissy Cook

- **Operation Beacon of Faith**

Thank you so much students and parents for putting two feet in to make this mission project a HUGE success. What a wonder way to bring in the Thanksgiving season. We have been busting at the seams with organizing all the items that will be taken on Friday to the Beacon House and Faith House. From the Frederick Mission to you, they say *THANK YOU!!* A special thank you to Jenny Hill for doing all the research and leg work for this project. God loves a cheerful giver!

- **Christmas Shop**

The MACA-PA is so thrilled to bring the Christmas shop to you. K-5th will have the opportunity to shop for their loved ones on December 11-12th. All order forms, money and gifts will be collected on December 1-3rd in the front lobby. They are the only days you may drop off items. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Jenny Hill at jennydhill@me.com.

- **Elementary Christmas Party**

In lieu of Christmas parties, the elementary teachers and the PA have decided to have a polar express Christmas theme throughout the elementary wing. On December 19th, the elementary children may come to school in their pajamas. We will have hot chocolate, popcorn, and watching the *Polar Express* movie. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Race for Education

We are still busy collecting all of the money totals, lap totals and 1st and 2nd place winners for each grade. This is a long process, so please bear with us. We will announce all winners at the 2nd quarter awards chapel.

Wednesday Parent Prayer Meeting

Parents please come join us every Wednesday morning at 8:15 AM in the large conference room. Come pray with us!

If you have any questions regarding any of these activities, please contact Krissy Cook at krissy.cook@macamd.org.

Cafeteria News

- **Students' Thanksgiving Lunch**

On Monday, November 24th, we will be serving a Thanksgiving style luncheon to all the students. Nothing will be sold in the cafeteria that day. All regular hot lunch orders are cancelled for that day. There is a \$3.00 fee for this lunch to offset the cost and everyone will be billed. Please contact me if you are willing to help serve the meal.

- **Lunch Ordering**

Hot lunch ordering is now open for the remainder of the school year.

- **Lunch Ordering during Holiday Break**

All lunch ordering opportunities for the week of January 5, 2015 will close on December 19, 2014 due to the holiday. Thank you for your understanding

Other Information

- **Clothes Closet**

The Clothes Closet will be open on Tuesdays after school from 3:15 until 3:45. If this is not a convenient day or time, please email me directly at amdavis41@comcast.net to schedule an appointment.

- **Uniform Orders**

Uniform orders will be taken after Christmas break with a deadline of Monday, January 19th. Order forms are available on RenWeb under Resource Documents and through the school office. After January 19th, order forms will not be accepted.