



MACA at a Glance

December 11, 2015

Christmas at MACA

Time to Think of Others

Every year at Christmas, we seek to help the students learn to give to others. After all, God gave us the greatest gift ever and we need to do likewise. In years past we have been able to bless local shelters and food banks with food, toys, toiletries and clothing. The students and you, the parents, have embraced these giving opportunities and we thank you. This year we want to go beyond our local communities and bless other parts of the world. For the third week of January, during our *Go Beyond* week, MACA will be hosting a feeding program. Each MACA student will have the opportunity to package rice and beans which will be sent to a third world country to feed the hungry. It is amazing to think that for 35 cents a meal can be packaged and delivered to someone in need.

This Christmas season, we are asking MACA students to serve friends and family to raise money to sponsor the meal packing program. How many chores would it take to raise 35 cents and feed one person? Think about feeding 10 people for \$3.50 or 100 people for \$35! We will discuss this program with the students at Chapel next week to make sure they understand. When we return in January we will send home a form for you to return with the student's name and the money they raised. All funds will need to be collected in the office by Monday, January 11. MACA has the opportunity to bless thousands of hungry people across the globe. Please join us in encouraging your MACA child to work to earn the funds to bless others. Final details will be sent home when we return from Christmas break.

Thursday, December 17

- Dress code for this Thursday during the school day will remain Chapel uniform.
- Students participating in the evening program should dress according to their teacher's requests.
- Join us in the multi-purpose room (gym) as the elementary music students and the secondary band students share the message of Christmas through song. Doors will open at 6:40 PM for students to report to their classroom and parents to get seated in the gym. We are looking forward to this special night of celebration together.

Friday, December 18

- Dress code for the day: jeans and Christmas shirt/sweater. (Clothing must meet normal dress code modesty.)
- Christmas Chapel will be held from 8:25 AM - 9:15 AM for students in K-12.
- Elementary students will be having their classroom Christmas parties sponsored by the Parent Association. Please check with your room mom and/or check the SignUpGenius for what to send to the party.
- Secondary students will have a Christmas celebration in the gym, complete with organized games, a Christmas lip sync contest and refreshments. Each secondary student should bring the following assigned item to school with them on the morning of Friday, December 18:

6th grade - one box of ten packets of hot chocolate mix

7th grade - prepackaged salty snack - package of 8 bags (*Doritos*, chips, etc.)

8th grade - one dozen homemade cookies

9th grade - a topping for hot chocolate (marshmallows, whipped topping, etc.)

10th grade - a pack of 6 large water bottles

11th grade - one dozen homemade cookies

12th grade - one package of prewrapped Christmas candy (Hershey Kisses, little Snickers bars, etc.)

Spirit Week

One of MACA's favorite traditions continues as Spirit Week will be held Monday through Friday, January 4-8. Staff and students alike will have the opportunity to show their school spirit by dressing to a daily theme that has been selected by the Student Council Association. The daily themes are as follows:

Monday, January 4 - Pajama Day

Back by popular demand for the Monday after Christmas vacation, students may wear their pajamas and slippers to school.

Tuesday, January 5 - Twin Day

Grab a friend and dress alike, or grab two friends and be triplets!

Wednesday, January 6 - Sports Team Day

Grab your sport jersey or T-shirt from your favorite team and add that to jeans for this day.

Thursday, January 7 - Look Like... Day

Students may dress to look like someone else - a friend, teacher, famous person, etc.

Friday, January 8 - Lion Pride Day

Bring out the school spirit with MACA gear, or look like a lion. On this day face and/or hair paint is allowed.

Please follow the guidelines for dress down days as you prepare for spirit week. We can have fun while being modest and following the guidelines. Should a student come in an inappropriate outfit, the parent will be called to bring a change of clothes. Let's keep this fun for everyone. Should a student not want to participate, they should come to school in regular school dress code.

Homecoming

As Homecoming approaches, the Student Life Team has decided to approach the selection of the high school Homecoming Court with a new philosophy. Since the purpose statement of MACA reads: "Mount Airy Christian Academy exists for the purpose of maturing its students academically, physically, spiritually and socially", we felt this mission should be reflected in the class representatives on the Homecoming Court. A point system has been developed that takes each of these areas into account: the student's GPA, their choice to participate in athletics, fine arts and student government, community service hours and school behavior. Each high school student has the opportunity to qualify to be on the ballot.

Ballots will be distributed in homerooms on Tuesday, December 15 allowing each high school student to vote for their class representatives. The results will be announced that afternoon. The Homecoming Court will be presented on Friday, January 8, at Glenwood Community Center following the Homecoming games. We look forward to presenting them to you - as they have matured academically, physically, spiritually and socially.

#macaONE

The theme for this school year is being carried into Homecoming this year. Homecoming night will be white out - where all MACA fans wear white shirts. Enclosed in today's communications envelope is a form for this year's themed shirt. The shirt is available for \$5; this is completely optional. Please see the order form for details.

Friendly Reminder

We recognize this is the busiest time of year and that each parent entering campus in the morning has a million things to do that day. When we are so preoccupied, it is easy to forget morning arrival procedures. Here at MACA the safety of our student body is of the utmost importance. Please take a moment to review the following policies, and thank you in advance for helping us to keep MACA safe throughout the entire campus.

- Students are not allowed to enter the building prior to 7:50 AM when the doors open. Please do not drop off your student(s) earlier than 7:50 AM. If special circumstances exist and an earlier arrival is necessary, please contact the office for approval.
- When you enter the campus, even if traffic is light or non-existent, we ask that you please follow the traffic pattern explained in the Handbook. Enter the lot, turn right and drive the entire perimeter of the parking lot to enter the drop off line.
- If your student wants to walk in, enter the lot, turn right and then left to enter a parking spot. Students may only cross at the crosswalk under the direction of the crosswalk monitor.
- The crosswalk monitor will direct traffic; pedestrians have the right of way so please follow his lead.
- Students should not be dropped off in the west campus parking lot. They may only exit cars from the east lot or the drop off line. The only exception to this is our student drivers, who will park on the access road.
- Please maintain a low speed when traveling through campus. It's safety first at MACA.

Maryland State Approved Drivers' Education Class Coming to MACA Campus

To qualify to take the Maryland Vehicle Administration's (MVA) driving test for a provisional license, potential drivers must complete and pass 30 hours of Driver's Education class time and six hours of drive time with a qualified instructor. Would you like your student to complete this required class in a Christian environment with other Christians? MACA is excited to announce that we will again host a Maryland Drivers' Education class on our campus beginning Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

The course will be taught by an instructor from Greg's Driving School and will cost \$350, the same cost incurred when a student takes the class at a commercial driver education facility. This price will include the in-class instruction and materials as well as the required six hours of drive time. Students who are 15 years old or older are eligible for the course and students enrolled at MACA or participating in an approved homeschool group will be eligible for enrollment.

The MACA driving class will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 3:15 PM to 6:30 PM (3 hours of instruction with a 15 minute break). The course will run the required 10 week period, from January 20 to March 23, 2016. In order for us to be able to offer this class, we must have a minimum enrollment of 10 students. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact the school office so we can plan accordingly. If you have any questions about this class, please contact the school office.

VFW Award Winners

Mr. Allen Yader, Commander of the Mount Airy VFW Post, visited MACA on Monday, December 7, 2015, to present gifts to the MACA students who participated in the recent VFW competitions, Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy. Students recognized included Aaron Barrios, Jacob Brethauer, Angel Brunson, Hannah Gammell, Laura Howard, Colton Ramsey and Jennifer Wasula.

The Patriot's Pen, an essay competition for students in middle school, included essays from students from middle schools throughout the Mount Airy area. All students in Mrs. Neilson's MACA 8th grade history class participated in the competition as part of the class. From the class essays, Mrs. Neilson selected the top eight pieces. Those eight essays were reviewed by a panel of MACA teachers who chose the top five MACA essays. Those five essays were submitted for the area-wide competition. Of all essays submitted from middle schools throughout the Mount Airy area, Aaron Barrios, an 8th grader at MACA, received second place overall. Barrios was recognized in front of his class, as well as by the Mount Airy VFW Post during their awards meeting. The five other MACA middle school students who were selected for the competition, Jacob Brethauer, Angel Brunson, Laura Howard and Jennifer Wasula, also received recognition from Mr. Yader in history class.



MS essay contestants: Laura Howard, Angel Brunson, Aaron Barrios, Jacob Brethauer and Jennifer Wasula with Commander Yader.

The Voice of Democracy, an audio essay competition for students in grades 9-12, also included students from high schools in the Mount Airy area. Two MACA students, Hannah Gammell, a 9th grader, and Colton Ramsey, a 10th grader, competed in the contest. Mr. Yader presented Gammell and Ramsey with a gift in recognition of their participation in the contest. The presentation was made during Mr. Rust's World History class.

Congratulations to all the MACA students who participated. We are proud of you!



HS audio essay contestants: Hannah Gammell and Colton Ramsey with Commander Yader.

2016 ACSI Fine Arts Festival

The 2016 ACSI Fine Arts Festival for high school students will be held on **March 8, 2016** at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, PA. MACA will be sending a number of high school students with their art projects as well as group and individual band performers to compete against students from other ACSI schools in the area. Students will compete in the categories of:

Abstract
Band/Orchestra
Image Capture

Assembled Art
Small Instrumental Ensemble
Narratives and Storytelling

Commercial Design and Visual Order
Large Instrumental/Jazz Ensemble
Nature and Observation

All entries for the Fine Arts Festival will be due by Tuesday, January 12, 2016. ANY MACA high school student interested in submitting an art project for the festival should see Mrs. Bouslog for more information and to sign up their entry. Instrumental students will be registered by Mr. Mindte through their band class. If you have any questions about the Fine Arts Festival, contact the school office.

Calendar Reminders

Thursday, December 17	MACA Christmas Program, 7:00 PM
Friday, December 18	Christmas Chapel & Parties, Half Day of School/Noon Dismissal
Friday, December 18	Alumni Reception, 5:00 PM/Alumni Games, 6:00 & 7:30 PM
December 21-January 1	Christmas Vacation/ No School
January 4	Return to School
January 4-8	Spirit Week
January 8	Homecoming Festivities
January 13-15	High School Exams
January 15	End of Marking Period/ Half Day of School/Dismissal at Noon



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