

Mount Airy Christian Academy

"cultivating strong minds and passionate faith"

Parent Newsletter

October 21, 2016

MACA Accreditation Visit - October 23-26, 2016

Mount Airy Christian Academy is fully accredited for kindergarten through twelfth grade with the Association of Christian Schools International (a Christian agency) and Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (a secular agency). These organizations partner to offer qualified schools accountability, regulations, and commendations. MACA was awarded its first term of accreditation in 2007 and is currently in the final stages of renewal.

Next week, a delegation from ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) will be on campus to observe teachers, meet with staff, interview parents, and review documents and files to validate MACA's Self Study, which was completed and submitted this past July. They will conclude their visit on Wednesday afternoon by presenting their findings to the faculty and staff. We will be given commendations on MACA's strengths along with recommendations for the school's improvement.

While the process has required hard work for many months from faculty and staff, the benefits are extremely valuable. Throughout the accreditation process, everything from philosophy and curriculum to policies and procedures is evaluated and strengthened. We will base our new strategic plan for improvement on the recommendations of our accrediting agencies.

Student classes and activities will not be altered next week. In fact, we welcome the accreditation team into our school to see MACA in action. We are looking forward to the visit and the feedback which will drive us to improve. We will be sure to keep you informed following the visit.

First-Quarter Parent Conferences

The end of the first marking period will fall on Friday, October 28, which means parent conferences are right around the corner. Conferences will be scheduled from 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 8. Parents should email Mrs. Kim Duvall at kim.duvall@macamd.org to schedule a time. Elementary report cards will be distributed at parent conferences on November 8. Secondary report cards will be emailed to parents on Friday, November 4.

Conferences are mandatory for parents of:

- Students in PreK-5th grade.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 23-26 - ACSI Accreditation Visit

Oct. 24-29 - MCST V. VBall & Soccer Tournament

Oct. 28 - Elementary Fall Parties @10:30 AM

Oct. 28 - End of Marking Period, 1/2 Day Dismiss @ Noon

Nov. 7-11 - Jr/Sr Internships

Nov. 7 - Faculty Professional Day/No School

Nov. 8 - Parent-Teacher Conferences, Report Cards Distributed/No School

Inserts

- Grandparents' & Grandfriends' *Save the Date* Card
- Lunch Order Form for November & December

- Student in 6-12 grade with an average of 75% or below in a class.
- Conferences are recommended (not required) for parents of new students in grades 6-12.

Lunch Orders

With the holidays fast approaching, we request that you place your hot lunch orders for both **November and December**. Please return the order form and payment to the office no later than **Monday, October 31**. Sorry, we cannot accept late orders. A few dates to remember when placing your order:

- Monday, November 7 – No School
- Friday, November 11 – Jr./Sr. Internships
- Friday, November 11 - 1st Grade Field Trip

MACA Lions Athletics

Mighty Lions Basketball and Cheerleading

Thanks to all who registered for Mighty Lions Basketball and Cheerleading. We will release practice schedules next week.

If you missed the registration deadline, we still have space available on the following teams:

U10 Girls - 3-5 spaces available
 U12 Girls - 3-5 spaces available
 U12 Boys - 3-4 spaces available

Please contact Matt Brethauer at matt.brethauer@macamd.org if you are interested in registering.

MIAC Fall Volleyball and Soccer Playoffs

MACA's middle school and varsity volleyball and soccer teams are currently competing in the MIAC Fall Playoffs. Our varsity boys soccer and JV girls volleyball teams have advanced to the finals, and our varsity girls volleyball team advances to the semifinals on Saturday. Here is the schedule for the weekend:

Soccer

MIAC Finals - Friday, Oct. 21

MS Soccer Championship game - 5:00 PM

Varsity Soccer Championship game - 7:00 PM (MACA vs. CHEN)

Location:

Rockburn Branch Park
 5400 Landing Road
 Elkridge, MD 21075

Volleyball

MIAC Semifinals and Finals at Greater Grace - Saturday, Oct. 22

1:00 PM - Varsity Volleyball Semifinal (MACA vs. Greater Grace)

2:30 PM - JV Championship game (MACA vs. MSD)

4:00 PM - Varsity Volleyball Championship game

Location:
Greater Grace Christian Academy
6025 Moravia Park Drive
Baltimore, MD 21206

Admission for MIAC Finals games is: \$4.00/Adults; \$2.00/Students; \$12.00/Family Max.

PreK – 11th Grade Individual Student Pictures

Individual pictures have arrived and will come home with your student. Every student, including students who did not pre-order pictures, will be given a reorder/add-on envelope with a website listed on it: www.photos.legacystudios.com. The envelope will have an access code where parents can view their child's individual photo. You will need to do a separate order for each child. Photos will be shipped to your home.

Picture retakes are scheduled for Thursday, November 3. If your student needs a retake, he or she will need to bring in the old package on the day of the reshoot. Please write a note indicating what is wrong with the photo so that the photographer can get a more pleasing image. Should you have any questions regarding your pictures, please call Legacy Studios, Customer Care at 1-800-348-4360 or email them at customercare@legacystudios.com.

Lost & Found

Please take a moment to look for lost articles in the Lost & Found. Items that are not picked up by Friday, October 28, will be donated to local clothing bins. There are many items!

Grandparents' Day: SAVE THE DATE!

Grandparents' Day will be held on Tuesday, November 22 from 8:30 – 11:30 AM here at MACA. Please have your student invite their grandparents/grandfriends to celebrate this special day. You will find a *Save the Date* card in your student's communication folder. Invitations and details will be coming soon.

Juniors Attend Baltimore National College Fair

Twenty-five MACA juniors, three parent chaperones, and two MACA faculty traveled to the Baltimore Convention Center for the National College Fair on Monday, October 17. Approximately 400 colleges and universities from schools nationwide sponsored booths at the event and were available for students to gather information and ask questions. Informational sessions on Financial Aid, ACT and SAT test prep and score interpretation, college applications, and Maryland scholarships and grants were hosted by representatives from College Board, ACT, and the Maryland Office of Student Financial Aid. The day was designed to provide juniors, who begin the college search process at this time, with a wide range of information.

Nora Doxzen says she found the event helpful as she starts her pursuit of God's college for her. "It was a good learning experience about how to prepare for college and how to apply for admission." By visiting information tables for colleges from 32 different states and three countries, students were able to gather facts and ideas from several institutions in a short amount of time. "It was a chance to learn more info

about colleges you haven't visited or know much about," said Stephen Rice. "You got to learn new things."

During the three-hour event, MACA juniors walked around the convention hall, which was filled with booths, and attended sessions designed to help them narrow their many options to a select list of schools. "It helped me determine which colleges I shouldn't waste my time on because they don't have my major," said Xavier Marmol. Students also learned about available opportunities. "I learned that overseas there are a lot of real cool programs," stated Jessie Markley. "I can do a semester abroad!"

The parent chaperones who attended gleaned great information from the event, as well. "It was a tremendous experience for both MACA parents and students," said Barb Schaefer, mother of junior, Eli Schaefer. "It provided an opportunity to gather valuable information on financial aid, student grants, and SAT testing and allowed us to come face-to-face with representatives from colleges and universities."

MACA hosts a trip to the Baltimore National College Fair every fall for its juniors. As these students begin the important process of learning about, examining, and visiting colleges and universities, this trip is a great source of knowledge and a motivation to get the ball rolling. Any students or parents that have questions about the college fair or the college search process can contact Dr. Lori Sefton, MACA Academic Dean.



MACA Students Complete the PSAT/NMSQT

How did you spend your morning on Wednesday, October 19? On the MACA campus, 51 sophomores and juniors and six homeschool students spent their time taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The PSAT/NMSQT is a standardized test administered by the College Board which provides a practice opportunity to students preparing for the



SAT college entrance exam as well as access for juniors to scholarship dollars available through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Selection for scholarships is highly competitive; only three percent of the 3½ million students nationwide who complete the test each year are chosen for recognition. MACA is very proud to have had multiple National Merit Scholars among its student population over the years. We look forward to the results of this year's test to see who among our junior class might be selected. Award nominees will be announced in the spring, with final awards being given in the fall of 2017. Best wishes to all our students and congrats on completing this important test!

Applefest: Senior Class Fundraiser

The senior class, along with the Barnsley family, is hosting an Applefest every Saturday in October from 8 AM to 6 PM (weather permitting) at the Lisbon park and ride. Choose from more than seven apple varieties for only \$1 a pound or \$18 a half bushel. Also available: pumpkins, mums, jams and jellies and apple cider. Come on out and support the senior class's Costa Rica mission trip! Tell your friends!

Box Tops for Education

The first Box Tops for Education submission of the school year will be sent in on Wednesday, November 2. Take advantage of those box tops that expire soon. Box tops can be turned into the office via your communication folder. Every little bit helps!