



Parent Newsletter

Mount Airy Christian Academy

December 2, 2016

Welcome to December's full edition of the Parent Newsletter. We have much to share with you, and all of this is valuable information. Get a mug of hot cocoa, sit by the tree, and enjoy the read! If we took the time to write it, we saw it as important communication to pass along. It's a busy month – thanks for reading!

January Hot Lunch Order

Please find enclosed a copy of January's hot lunch order form. One form should be used for each student. January orders must accompany payment and be turned into the school office no later than Monday, December 12. Thank you for working with us in advance so that we have time to process all the orders.

Progress Reports

Second quarter progress reports will be emailed to parents today as this marks the halfway point of the marking period. This is just one snapshot of your children's academic progress. There are 12 days of school before Christmas break and then two weeks in January before the quarter ends. We encourage you to check RenWeb regularly to view your child's progress and remind them to keep up with their studies during this busy season. As always, feel free to contact the teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Christmas vacation

Christmas vacation will begin at noon on Tuesday, December 20. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

Christmas Comes To MACA

Students in preschool through fifth grade are busy singing, our band students are practicing faithfully, and our drama team is acting every day in preparation for Christmas at MACA. This year's Christmas program will be held on Friday, December 16 at 1:30 and 7:00 PM.

If you have a child in preschool – 5th grade, please note the details from our music teacher, Mrs. Williford. Band students and drama team members will be given information from Mr. Mindte and Mrs. Esterly. We do expect a full house in the evening performance, so if your schedule allows, please enjoy the afternoon performance instead. Doors will open 30 minutes before each performance.

Christmas Chapel

Christmas Chapel will be held on Tuesday, December 20 at 8:25 AM in the multipurpose room. Parents are invited to join us for this special school-wide chapel. Parties will be held after chapel; elementary parents will be receiving details in an email from the room mom. Secondary students will be enjoying the 2nd annual Incarnation Celebration that morning. Details are included in this newsletter.

Calendar Reminders

- Dec. 2 – Progress Reports
- Dec. 16 – Christmas Program, 1:30 & 7:00 PM
- Dec. 17 - Alumni Games
- Dec. 20 - Christmas Chapel & Parties /Half Day of School/Dismissal at Noon
- Dec 21-Jan 2 - No School, Christmas Vacation

Inserts

- PK-2ND (only) Grade Basketball Clinic Flyer
- January's Hot Lunch Order Form (1 per student)
- Senior Fund Raiser Candy Cane Flyer & Order Form

Incarnation Celebration

After Christmas chapel, secondary students will have an Incarnation Celebration on December 20, in the gym, complete with a performance by the drama club, organized games, Christmas music, and refreshments. Each secondary student should bring the following assigned item to school with them on the morning of December 20.

- 6th Grade: one box of ten packets of hot chocolate mix
- 7th grade: prepackaged salty snack- package of 8 bags
- 8th grade: one dozen homemade cookies
- 9th grade: a topping for hot chocolate
- 10th grade: a pack of 6 large water bottles
- 11th grade: one package of homemade cookies
- 12th grade: one package of pre-wrapped Christmas candy

If you have any questions please email Kate Leonard at kate.leonard@macamd.org.

Elementary Music Notes

The time for our Christmas program is quickly approaching! The program is on Friday, December 16 and will include all students in preschool through fifth grade. The MACA band will also be performing. The performances will be at 1:30 and 7:00 PM. We anticipate a packed house for the evening performance, so those with flexible schedules, please consider attending the afternoon performance. This will free up seats for the crowded evening show and give our talented students a great afternoon audience!

Student Dress Code: Fancy and festive! We'd love to see your fancy dresses, Christmas sweaters, hair bows, and neck ties. Please limit dress and top colors to silver, gold, white, red and green. Students may also wear black or navy pants. No jeans. Ties are encouraged for the boys and dress shoes for all. Please keep in mind that the stage lights are very hot. This is not the time for very heavy sweaters or multiple layers.

Arrival and Departure Plan: Doors to the multipurpose room will open 30 minutes before each performance. For the evening show, students need to be in their classroom between 6:30-6:45 PM. When the show is over you will need to pick up your child from their classroom.

The students have been practicing for months. They are excited to sing for you and share about the true gift of Christmas, the birth of Jesus! Please contact Mrs. Williford, Elementary Music Teacher, at michelle.williford@macamd.org if you have any questions.

Margaret Meesuk NMSQT Scholarship Qualifying Announcement

This year, MACA is proud to be able to recognize one of its senior students who has been awarded the opportunity to continue in the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Competition for a corporate-sponsored Special Scholarship. This recognition is given based on the student's performance on the 2015 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The recognized student will now compete against other top students for a \$2000 scholarship award.

The MACA family is pleased to congratulate Margaret Meesuk for this honor. Maggie will now complete the application process with the award decision being made after the first of the year. Congrats Maggie! We are proud of you!

Alumni Day

Friday, December 16 will be Alumni Day at MACA. Parents are invited to join us for chapel as our alumni will be leading us in worship. Mr. Sam Fraley, Class of 2010, will be speaking. Alumni awards will also be presented for accomplishments academically, spiritually, socially, and physically. We will also be presenting the first MACA Distinguished Alumni Award.

Following chapel, alumni will be hosting round table discussions with juniors and seniors on college life, academics in college, playing sports in college, community college, four-year schools, etc. After the round table discussions, alumni will enjoy a time of fellowship and of course, visiting their favorite teachers. If you have contact information for a MACA alumni, please email that information to kate.leonard@macamd.org so that we can get in touch with each one.

We've Got Spirit

We've got spirit; yes we do! We've got spirit; how about you? Traditionally, the first week of school in January is Spirit Week at MACA. Each school day has a theme and the week culminates with Homecoming festivities.

Each day, staff and students are encouraged to dress according to the theme of the day. Here's a sneak peek at the themes selected by the SCA:

Tuesday, January 3	Pajama Day
Wednesday, January 4	Favorite Sports Team Day
Thursday, January 5	Favorite Character Day
Friday, January 6	Lion Pride Day

Homecoming festivities will be held throughout the day and evening on Friday, January 6. A pep rally will be held in the afternoon; and after school we have a full schedule of basketball games, along with special performances from all our cheer squads. At the conclusion of the games, the Homecoming Court will be presented and our King and Queen will be crowned. The Homecoming dance, for all MACA high school students, is the finale for the festivities. Exact times and locations of all these events will come out later; for now, mark your calendar and plan to be with us on Friday night, January 6.

MACA Goes Beyond – Again!

Mount Airy Christian Academy is committed to the spiritual development of each student, and from that goal comes our *Go Beyond* initiative. On January 17-19, we will be having special chapels each morning to challenge the students' hearts to go beyond their comfort zone and minister to others less fortunate. On Thursday, we will participate in a meal packing program through a partnership with Willet.

As a school, we have chosen to forgo the student gift exchanges at Christmas parties. There are many excellent local opportunities to support food banks and missions during this season. However, we have opted to work as a school community to support the meal packing program.

We are encouraging 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! Last year, the students raised enough funds to pack 10,000 meals.

We can do that again OR we can work hard and pack 20,000 meals! It is really up to the students. Next week we will send home donation forms. All funds will need to be turned into the office by Monday, January 9th in order for us to order the appropriate numbers meals. If you have any questions about this program, or if your business would like to be a part of matching funds, please contact Mrs. Webster at vicky.webster@macamd.org.

Grandparents' & Grandfriends' Day

"Grandparents, you mean so much to us. All that you do, we can't forget you. We love you! Thank you for loving us too!" sang the fourth and fifth graders during the 2016 MACA Grandparents' Day Celebration.

This past Tuesday, on November 22, 2016, Mount Airy Christian Academy held its traditional "Grandparents Day." Grandparents and Grandfriends traveled from far and wide for this special occasion. For nearly 200 visitors, the students prepared a heartfelt, entertaining program. Grandparents and grandfriends enjoyed special music by the Faith Boyz, (which consists of two MACA middle school brothers); songs played by the MACA band; a performance by the drama club; and verses, songs, and poems performed by preschool through fifth grade. For those grandparents and grandfriends that were unable to attend, the program was livestreamed on the cube so they could still enjoy every minute.

After the program, classroom doors were opened up as grandparents and grandfriends were encouraged to join their grandchildren for interactive activities prepared by the teachers. From painting to show-and-tell, classrooms were full of wonderful moments. Third-grade teacher Mrs. Finch had learning games set up so students could play games with their grandparents. They also had an interview session, sang songs, and even completed a turkey craft. Middle school science teacher, Mrs. Parsons said, "We played some review games featuring Quizlet Live with our grandparents. Grandparents were able to play along and experience the teamwork that Quizlet Live requires for them to succeed as a group. Grandparents were able to 'show off' their science knowledge." Our high school history teacher, Mr. Rust, encouraged the grandparents to share their remembrances of where they were when they heard the news of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, since the day coincided with the 53rd anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Mr. Rust shared, "It was a great way to get them involved and make them the focus of the class, as they should have been."

As several grandparents headed out the door, they concluded that this was the best Grandparents' Day yet! Mount Airy Christian Academy is so grateful and thankful for all our grandparents and grandfriends! We love you!

MACA Alumni Basketball Games

We are excited once again to be able to welcome back our MACA alumni at the Annual Alumni Basketball games to take place on Saturday, Dec. 17. MACA's varsity girls basketball team will take on the MACA Alumni at 3:00 PM, with our alumni guys game to follow at 4:30 PM. We invite you to come out to the MACA gym for this great time of fellowship. If you know of any MACA alumni wishing to participate, please have them contact Matt Brethauer, Athletic Director, at matt.brethauer@macamd.org.

MACA Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball to Play at the Verizon Center

On Saturday, December 10, MACA's Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball teams will get the opportunity to play at the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. before the Washington Wizards game vs. the Milwaukee Bucks. MACA will take on New Life Christian starting at 1:00 PM. Thank you to those who purchased tickets. We will distribute tickets next week. For planning purposes, MACA's games will finish at 3:00 PM. At that time we are required to exit the arena and then will be able to return when gates open at 6:00 PM for the 7:00 PM Wizards/Bucks game.

Seniors' Annual Christmas Candy Sale

Order a treat for your favorite teacher, a friend, neighbor, or another person on your Christmas list. This is a great little sweet way to show you care. All candy will be delivered on December 20, 2016 during the school day. See the red order form in this week's communication folder.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY 2016



1ST QUARTER AWARDS ASSEMBLY

