KNIGHTLIFE
October 2017
MATER DEI PARENT NEWSLETTER
October 2017

MATER DEI MISSION STATEMENT

Mater Dei, a Catholic, diocesan regional high school nurtures the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, and social growth of young men and women.

In a caring environment, respectful of individual differences, her comprehensive program educates, fosters faith, and develops gospel values.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Just as the fall season is settling in, so too are the students as we approach the end of the first quarter. Please be assured that the faculty members are challenging our students each day and are excited to observe them putting forth the effort required to meet those challenges. Also, know that we, the administration and faculty, greatly appreciate your active involvement in helping our students achieve their highest potential. The support you provide at home, which is essential to your child's success, is second to none! Thus, on behalf of our faculty, I say "Thank you!"

October is a busy month, as our fall sports and band competitions come to an end and our drama students prepare for the upcoming fall play. As I observe the students participating in our many activities, I continually recognize their amazing commitment and I am pleased to know that our students are developing values which will remain long after they leave Mater Dei.

More importantly, I take immense pride in our students' remarkable commitment to meeting the needs of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. In addition to donating to our class missions and special causes (nearly $11,000 in the 2016-2017 school year), our students serve others as Youth Faith Formation teachers, Eucharistic Ministers, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and members of Teens for Life and St. Vincent De Paul Society. Moreover, our extracurricular organizations also sponsor service projects throughout the year.

Our Mater Dei community truly demonstrates our main calling as Catholics: *to love our neighbors as we love ourselves*. With this calling in mind, we will continue to challenge our students, faculty, and staff to follow the model of Mother Theresa, who once reflected that she saw the face of Christ in every man, woman, and child she met.

As you can see, Mater Dei truly is an exceptional school as a direct result of the commitment of all members of the Mater Dei community. Together, we can grow stronger and provide the foundation our students need to become productive, Catholic adults.

THANK YOU for being members of the Mater Dei family!

FRIENDLY REMINDER

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

OCTOBER 25, 4:30 PM TO 8:00 PM

The administration and faculty invite all parents to our Parent-Teacher Conferences in order to discuss the academic progress of their child(ren) with individual teachers.

Report cards will be available in the main office, as well as a "directory" to assist parents in locating teachers.

Please note that the format of our conferences is "first come—first served."

Of course, if you are unable to attend the conferences, please feel free to contact teachers via phone or email.

Remember to mark your calendar . . . we hope to see you October 25!

BEN LOGULLO HONORED AS A NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENT

We are pleased to announce that senior Ben Logullo, son of Jon and Stephanie Logullo, earned recognition as a 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Student.

Ben is among approximately 34,000 students in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition as a result of placing in the top 3% of more than1.6 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2016 PSAT (Preliminary SAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as sophomores or juniors. Of those 1.6 million students, only 50,000 total students are recognized as a commended student, semi-finalist or finalist.

Join us in congratulating Ben for his exemplary dedication to academics!

MATER DEI
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

academic excellence in a faith-filled environment

OPEN HOUSE
FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES

Sunday, November 5, 2017
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Discover the unique opportunities of joining the Mater Dei family!

Guests will enjoy a guided tour and receive information regarding our spiritual, academic, and extracurricular programs; scholarships and tuition assistance; and free transportation.

Free transportation is offered east to Salem, north to Highland, south to Mt. Vernon, and west to I-64/Air Mobility Drive.

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Breese IL 62230
618.526.7216

Email: knights@materdeiknights.org
Website: www.materdeiknights.org
Facebook: Mater Dei Catholic High School

JOIN OUR CLASS OF 2022

Information Night
January 3, 2018

Placement Test
January 13, 2018

Registration
February 24, 2018

SHADOW A KNIGHT

Join us for a day of school to experience the MD spirit!

Contact Maria Zurliene, Director of Enrollment, for information.

SHARE OUR INVITATION

To help us spread our unique story to prospective families, please share the invitation to our Open House (left).

Please also share the many benefits your child has received as a result of attending Mater Dei.

Your story is the most important story!

SELL, SELL, SELL OUR 2018 MATER DEI CALENDAR

We are pleased to announce that the 2018 Calendar Drive has begun! Entering its 33rd year, the Calendar Drive, the only fundraiser for which we request participation from all students, serves as the cornerstone of our fundraising.

Did you know that the cost to educate each student is $8,474? As a result, $3,138 per student must be funded from two sources: parishes ($1,441 per student) and fundraising ($1,697 per student). **Thus, the participation of all families in the 2018 Calendar Drive is essential!**

Fr. Tuttle, Director of Advancement, met with our students to discuss their vital role in the drive and the many incentives they may earn. Each student is asked to sell a minimum of **eight** calendars, for which he/she will earn a day off school on April 13, as well as a jeans day each Friday thru January 26. Last year, 87% of our students met this quota.

Additionally, students who sell ten or more calendars earn cash prizes, as well as special dress up days. Last year, 41% of our students sold 10 or more calendars.

Finally, top sellers in each class earn tuition credit ranging from $500 to $150.

For the benefit of our students, let's make the 2018 Calendar Drive a record-breaking success!

Thank you for your support!

MAKE TIME FOR MASS

As we enhance our Catholic identity at Mater Dei, we continually focus on our Mission to educate, to foster faith, and to develop gospel values. Participation in Mass plays an essential role in fulfilling this Mission. Thus, please take to heart your vital role in supporting our Mission, for as parents, you serve as role models for our students.

While prayer at home is an important aspect of our faith, it cannot replace the celebration of Mass, which offers the following opportunities:

- to experience community, especially through the Peace of Christ and the prayers;
- to receive inspiration from God's Word, through the readings, the homily, and the prayers, in order to strengthen our commitment to modeling the teachings of Jesus in our lives;
- to first acknowledge our sins and then to seek and receive forgiveness for those sins;
- to experience the miracle of the Eucharist;
- to share our talents with others by serving as cantors, lectors, servers, ushers, or Eucharistic ministers.

Please remember that we are all called to live our faith. We make time to answer many other calls - please make time to answer God's call to celebrate Mass with your family every week. God bless you!

OCTOBER KNIGHT LIFE

2 School Board Meeting (7:30 pm)
4 Bishop Braxton's Visit
6 No School — Liturgical Convention
9 No School — Columbus Day
Mothers and Friends Meeting (7:00 pm)
11 PSAT Test (registered sophomores and juniors)
Mater Dei College Night (6:30 pm to 8:00 pm)
15 Fall Concert (7:00 pm)
16 Band Parents Meeting (7:00 pm)
20 End of the First Quarter
25 Parent-Teacher Conferences (4:30 pm to 8:00 pm)
30 Fathers and Friends Meeting (7:00 pm)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SOUNDS OF THE KNIGHTS ♦ October 15
Enjoy the sounds of our concert band, jazz band, wind ensemble, and chorus at the fall music concert, held in the main gymnasium, at 7:00 pm.

GRANDPARENTS MASS ♦ November 1
We are pleased to invite our students' grandparents to join us for Mass at 9:40 am.

FALL PLAY ♦ November 3, 4, and 5
Enjoy a performance of *Radio Suspense Theater*, a comedic mystery by Steve Cleberg, at 7:00 pm November 3 and 4 and at 2:00 pm November 5.

A Prayer for Pumpkin Carving

Open my mind so I can learn about you . . . cut the top
Take away my sins and forgive me for the wrong things I do . . . clean the inside
Open my eyes so Your love I will see . . . cut the eyes
Know I am sorry for turning my nose to all You've given me . . . cut a nose
Open my ears so Your Word I will hear . . . cut the ears
Open my mouth so I can tell others You're near . . . cut a mouth
Give me strength to let Your light shine in all I say and do . . . light a candle

our caps YOUR CAUSE

DRINK PRAIRIE FARMS ... ... GIVE TO MATER DEI

Please remember that Mater Dei is a registered participant in the Prairie Farms Our Caps Your Cause program!

When you enter the code listed on the special cap sticker on Prairie Farms milk or iced coffee (gallon or half-gallon), Prairie Farms will then donate $0.05 per code to Mater Dei!

Your participation is greatly appreciated!

You may enter codes using the steps below or submit caps to the office.

1) Visit www.prairiefarms.com
2) On the home page, select the "Our Caps Your Cause" icon at the top
3) Scroll down to select the "Redeem Codes Now" icon
4) On the "OCYC-Redeem Codes" page, in the "Select a category" drop-down menu, select "Education"; in the "Select an organization" drop-down menu, select "Mater Dei Catholic High School, Breese, IL"
5) Enter your codes and select the "Donate" icon

ENROLL TODAY

SAFE HOMES NETWORK

Mater Dei is committed not only to providing a safe environment for our students on campus, but also to promoting safe environments, free from alcohol and drug use, for our students off campus.

Therefore, Campus Minister Ms. Colleen McDermott is coordinating a Safe Homes Network in order to establish cooperation among our families. Specifically, parents in the Safe Homes Network, whose names will be shared with all Mater Dei families, pledge to provide a safe home by enforcing the law in their home and on their property and to cooperate fully with Mater Dei, fellow parents, and law enforcement.

While families may join at any time, to ensure inclusion in the first network directory, please enroll by October 11. (See page 5 for enrollment information.)

THANK YOU for making a commitment to provide a safe environment for our students!

NOTE REGARDING ENROLLMENT
Families must enroll for this Safe Homes Network regardless of prior enrollment in the Safe Homes Program coordinated by former Campus Minister Mr. Jim Darr.

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

FREE ACT PREP PERIOD 3 STUDY HALLS

To assist our students in preparing for the ACT, Mrs. Goetz will host ACT test preps in room 505 during **every period 3 study hall** (after silent reading) **beginning October 16**.

These sessions are provided free to all interested students, who may participate in as many sessions as they choose. Mrs. Goetz will review all subject areas included on the ACT, but will initially focus on the subject area determined "most needed" by participating students.

Students interested in participating should register on the "ACT Prep Study Group" page on Schoology (code: 24NHR-TCQ2N).

NOTE: An additional extensive ACT test prep will be offered later in the school year.

ACT TEST DATES

Registration information is available in our College Placement Office or on the ACT website (www.actstudent.org).

October 28, 2017
(deadline September 22, 2017)

December 9, 2017—at Mater Dei
(deadline November 4, 2017)

February 10, 2018
(deadline January 12, 2018)

April 14, 2018—at Mater Dei
(deadline March 9, 2018)

June 9, 2018
(deadline May 4, 2018)

July 14, 2018
(deadline June 15, 2018)

NOTE
In order for Mater Dei to receive ACT scores, the registration must include our CEEB code (where a student attends school): 140-395.

Test accommodations must be requested at the time of registration. International and ELL students are eligible for extended time.

MATER DEI COLLEGE NIGHT

October 11, 2017
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

financial aid presentations
6:30 pm and 7:15 pm
in the Lampe Commons

PSAT TEST— October 11
registration required

All juniors and high achieving sophomores are encouraged to register for the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) test.

This test, which assesses students' skills in the areas of critical reading, math, and writing, prepares students for the SAT college entrance exam. In addition, students who earn high scores on both the PSAT and the SAT are then eligible for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program.

Students must register at the College Placement Office. The test fee is $16, which may be paid by check only (payable to Mater Dei).

NOTE
Because we possess a limited number of tests, early registration is recommended.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT SCHOOLOGY PAGE AND NEWSLETTERS

Mrs. Goetz invites students and parents to review the College Placement Office page on Schoology (code 4N3C9-XM2CR) and the College Placement Office newsletter, which will be emailed and posted on the PlusPortals home page in the "School Links and Files" window (select "College Placement Newsletters" in the drop-down menu).

The Schoology page and newsletter include information related to college fairs, college visits to Mater Dei, ACT test prep and test dates, and scholarship opportunities. In addition, Mrs. Goetz provides websites related to the college placement process, including preparing for the ACT and SAT, searching for colleges, applying to colleges, applying for financial aid, and NCAA eligibility.

SAFE HOMES NETWORK
MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Together, we can protect our children from alcohol and drug use,
for they deserve to be safe from these influences during their youth.

PURPOSE

Mater Dei Catholic High School is committed not only to providing a safe environment for our students on campus, but also to promoting safe environments, free from alcohol and drug use, for our students off campus. Creating a network of safe environments requires cooperation among Mater Dei, parents, and community members. Thus, Mater Dei is implementing a Safe Homes Network in order to establish cooperation among our families. Specifically, parents in the Safe Homes Network, whose names are shared with all Mater Dei families, pledge to provide a safe home by enforcing the law in their home and on their property and to cooperate fully with Mater Dei, fellow parents, and law enforcement.

PLEDGE

Parents who choose to participate in the Safe Homes Network agree to the following pledge:

- I will actively supervise all gatherings of youth in my home or on my property, or secure a responsible adult to do so when I am unavailable.
- I will not allow the possession or the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by youth in my home or on my property, thereby enforcing the laws of Illinois.
- I will establish my child(ren)'s understanding that I expect to know the details of social plans (the event location, with whom he/she is attending, the time to return home).
- I will store alcohol, tobacco, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, firearms, and other potentially hazardous items in a secure location in my home.
- Should a guest who I suspect is intoxicated arrive at my home or on my property, I will not permit him/her to drive and will contact his/her parents.
- I will encourage contact from parents whose children are gathering in my home or on my property and will feel free to contact a member of the Safe Homes Network prior to my child(ren) attending a gathering in the member's home or on the member's property.
- I will expect a parent who personally observes my child(ren) using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs to inform me in a manner that is confidential and without judgement; and will fulfill this same expectation for the parents of a child who I personally observe using alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

ENROLLMENT

To enroll in the Safe Homes Network, please return the form below or email Ms. Colleen McDermott (cmcdermott@materdeiknights.org) with the information requested on the form.

2017-2018 SAFE HOMES NETWORK ENROLLMENT

By signing this form, I acknowledge my understanding of and agreement to fulfill the Safe Homes Network pledge.

Parent/Guardian _____ Parent/Guardian _____

Phone _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

Signature _____ Signature _____

Street Address _____ City _____

Name of Child(ren) with Grade Level _____

_____