



A Tradition of Excellence in a Quality, Catholic, Caring Environment

Vol. 14

No. 1

# **GO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Dear Friends of Mater Dei,

Greetings from your Catholic high school! On behalf of the students and staff of Mater Dei, please accept my sincere thanks for all you do for our school community. The efforts we receive from you through your generous financial donations, prayers, verbal support, or simply motivating our students to become the best they can be are truly remarkable.

In this issue of the *VITA*, you will be introduced to three alumni who have taken the tools they were given in high school and continued to develop them into their adult lives. At Mater Dei we believe it is our responsibility to prepare our

students to be future leaders of the Church as well as our communities. The three examples we present, and we could have included many more life stories, indicate that we have been successful.

Through the cooperation and support of the entire Mater Dei community, we can continue to challenge our students to go out and make a difference in the world.

Dennis A. Litteken, Principal



Margaret Hummert 1958

Margaret
Hummert Howe,
Class of 1958, was
involved in a variety of classroom
and extra-curricular activities while
at Mater Dei,
including class
officer, Em-Dee,
Pep Club, CYO

officer, May Queen Attendant, Catholic Literature Award, I.H.S.A. Award, Music Festival, Glee Club Accompanist, Student Librarian, Music, Sodality, and Dramatics.

Thanks to her teachers at Mater Dei Margaret was able to pursue a teaching career and credits her life long interest in the piano and music to Sr. Rose de Lima (now Harriet Suppan). During her years at Mater Dei Margaret was given the opportunity to get involved in producing the school newspaper and taking part in school plays, both of which were helpful in her later work

producing inset programs, initiating literacy projects, and making public presentations. After moving to England with her husband in 1970, Margaret continued teaching and worked with a Literacy Support Service as a Literary Consultant. Later in her career Margaret used her musical talents to organize and train a children's music group at the Catholic church in which she attended and accompany music groups

at the schools where she taught. As a lector and Sunday school teacher, Margaret has been involved in her Catholic parish for many years.

Although retired, Margaret is still involved in the school at which she last taught, supporting a project she set up three years ago



Margaret Howe calls England home.

with a grant that involves 8 to 11 year olds taking books home to share with their pre-school siblings, cousins, or neighbors.

Margaret is a volunteer and on the management committee of Home-Start, a charity which supports mothers, many who have suffered from post-natal depression. Also, Margaret has been busy helping a legally blind friend with a research project, assisting with typing

and reading articles and other professional materials.

Pope John Paul II once stated, "Catholic schools have proven to be of priceless value to generations of children, teaching them to know, love and serve God, and preparing them to take their place with responsibility in the community." Margaret Hummert Howe is a shining example of this statement and of how she lives the mission of Mater Dei throughout her life.



what God has
ready for those
who love him.
1 Cor 2:9-10

Sue Koch 1973

What does

Eye has not seen,

Ear has not heard

God have in mind for us?

I didn't understand the real meaning of Mater Dei until I began my own journey down her halls and into her classrooms. Little did I realize that this was only the start.

This journey took shape and form over the next four years. This can be credited to the countless number of teachers both lay and religious and the administration that dedicated their lives to developing a path of faith. I opened my eyes and saw God's "special" children at Murray Center in Centralia; I opened my ears and heard the voice of God through music. Those who believed deeply in Jesus surrounded me.

Four years went by all too quickly and this faith journey became my own as I was guided into my lifelong ministry of Nursing. Nursing became an extension of what I had "seen and heard." I never doubted this path I was given. I learned to comfort those who were dying, encourage those who were giving birth, and to be joyful with those

who were healed.

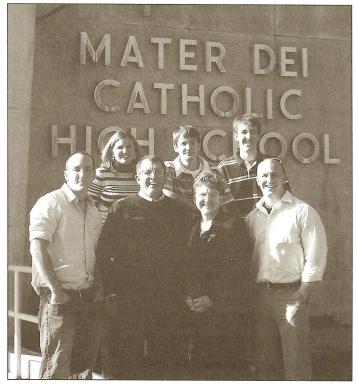
God continued his loving guidance to keep me along his path, in spite of worldly dreams to big cities far away. My real journey took a different path, however, when I married Jim Darr in November of 1976 and Catholic education became an important part of our life. We had grown from Catholic backgrounds and were strengthened by our common values and traditions. This bond of faith was to be truly tested during the summer of 1989, as I questioned does God love me?

July began with the accidental death of my brother, Tom Koch, '78. I chose to can-

tor at his funeral the morning of July 14 and the consoling words were sung, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard what God has ready for those who love him..." But was I really ready to LOVE him? I had no idea I would be answering this question in only a few short hours. The answer I found

was, "You have no other choice because it is in his footsteps we are carried." I was truly carried by God, because five hours later, our 7-year-old son Ryan was killed. Yes, God loves those who love him. Jim and I found the courage to let Ryan go to him. We truly believe God's promise of eternal life. We had the gift of our faith!

The understanding of faith, hope, and love have been carefully chosen for us. My journey is not finished. I know my Catholic education at Mater Dei has directed me to become the person I am trying to become.



The Jim Darr Family





Jeff Ripperda 1996

Dr. Jeff
Ripperda has
spent most of
his life making
a difference in
the world. In
high school, Jeff
was involved in

almost every aspect of our school. Throughout his college years, Jeff participated in various community and service groups and traveled to Spain and other European countries. Now, as Jeff prepares to finish his residency at the Family Medical Center in Peoria, he continues to make a difference.

The activities in which Jeff was involved included Energynet, the Knight, the Lance, Scholar Bowl, Liturgical Music Group, Chorus, the Fall Play and Spring Musical. Jeff was also selected as an Illinois State Scholar, was active in the National Honor Society, and graduated as Valedictorian of the Class of 1996 and was voted Knight of the Year. Outside of school, Jeff served his home parish of St. Bernard, Albers, as a lector and Eucharistic minister. He was also named Outstanding Catholic Youth by the Diocese of Belleville.

Dr. Ripperda moved on to attend Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and graduated in 2000 with a degree in Spanish and Biochemistry. While at Knox, Jeff was vice-president of the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega and through this organization, coordinated various projects for numerous local organizations, including the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, and the Galesburg Masson, a shelter for battered women.

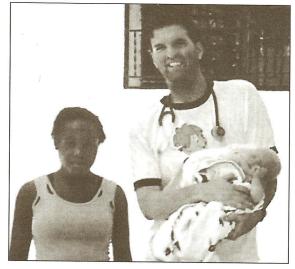
After graduating from Knox, Jeff was accepted to the University of Illinois School of Medicine in Rockford, Illinois. Jeff graduated in 2004 and moved to Peoria to continue training at the University

of Illinois' Family Practice Residency. Jeff is in his final year of residency and is currently interviewing with various hospitals in Southern Illinois for a position in July 2007.

Jeff and his wife, Kate (Wiegman), '96, have volunteered hundreds of hours to those in need. Throughout the summer of 2001, Jeff and Kate

worked in Mexico, volunteering with the Foundacion El Puente de Esperanza (the Bridge of Hope Foundation). Jeff is currently involved with the Friends of the Children of Haiti (FOTCOH), an organization in Peoria that owns a clinic in Haiti, where Jeff spent two weeks with a team of 17 volunteers providing free medical care. Jeff credits the experience he received at Mater Dei, especially the Spanish background, for his continued involvement with helping others.

Jeff and Kate are also the proud parents of a three-year-old daughter named Greta.

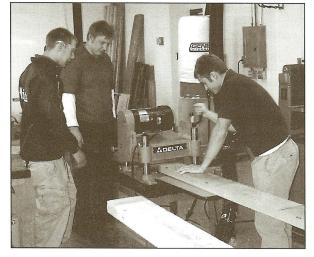


Dr. Ripperda in Haiti.

#### SHOP CLASS MOVES IN NEW DIRECTION WITH OPTIONS 2006

Throughout the 2004-2005 school year, the Mater Dei community participated in a comprehensive strategic

planning process which was highlighted by a weekend retreat in April 2005. Through this process, it was clear that Mater Dei needed to address a key element of its curriculum, namely, its vocational education program and its classroom space. Through the efforts of the Faculty Council, the vocational education department, and the principal's office, *Options* 2006 was created. *Options* 2006 was the vehicle that



drove the new curriculum for the Shop program and gave families and friends of Mater Dei an opportunity to financially support a new and improved Shop program.

When the new band room was built as part of the capital campaign in 2004, the fifth wing band room was

vacated and it was the hope of the administration that the vocational classes could be moved from the south end of the Hut to the fifth wing. As plans to move the Shop program were taking place, so, too, was a review of the Shop curriculum and at that time it was decided to initiate a more specialized

program. The committee decided to create a wood working curriculum and transform the fifth wing space into a wood shop. Before this could happen, however, there were a few issues that needed to be

addressed, such as ventilation, wiring, safety concerns, dust collection, and sound control. With the funds from *Options 2006*, these modifications were made to the classroom

area and needed tools and equipment were purchased for the improved Shop program.

Contributing to the advancement of this project was the hiring of Jason Litteken, a 2001 Mater Dei graduate and 2005 SIU-Edwardsville graduate with a degree in Construction Management. In late July, Jason Litteken agreed to teach the newly structured Shop course on a part-time basis due to Alan Fuchs' decision to retire from teaching after 34 years. With the help of family and friends, Litteken transformed the old band room into a fully functional wood working shop that was newly equipped with adequate dust collection and ventilation, band

saw, thickness planer, jointer, spindle sander, miter saw, and large wooden work tables. A second set of doors was built inside the main hall entrance so the noise level would not affect the other classes in fifth wing.

According to the 2006-2007 curriculum guide, the Shop class is now designed to "educate the students on safe and proper usage of wood working tools while constructing a planned and organized project." The goals set for the class

are to identify proper safety equipment and guidelines for the wood shop and finish room, to identify all of the wood working tools as well as their safety features and proper operating techniques, to educate the students to



plan, organize, construct, and complete a project.

Mater Dei is committed to maintaining a "comprehensive" curriculum, one in which the diverse interests of all Mater Dei students is addressed. With the efforts of the Mater Dei administration and school board, and the financial support of the generous donors of *Options 2006*, the vocational education program at Mater Dei continues to meet the needs of the students.



### GIVE THE GIFT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION THROUGH AN ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Over the years, people have asked, "What is the best way to help Mater Dei sustain itself throughout the community?" Our response has always been to provide financial resources to aid families with their tuition commitment. Recently, two members of the Mater Dei Hall of Honor have stepped up and done just that by establishing endowed scholarships for families that want to be part of the Mater Dei family, but may need a little support. The gift of Catholic education is a gift that keeps on giving. It is a gift for a life time.

Earlier this fall, Mr. Aloys Litteken, '59, and his wife Carol (Eilermann), '59, established the Litteken/Eilerman Endowed Scholarship Program. Their scholarships will be given each year in memory of Carol's mother, Caroline Eilermann, and Aloys' brother, David Litteken.

Mrs. Eilermann passed away on May 11, 2006, and David Litteken was called home on August 29, 2006. The Littekens are not new to giving the gift of Catholic education at Mater Dei, for they have been sponsoring the Sr. Miriam Coovert Scholarship for the past eight years.

Mr. and Mrs. James R. Lampe have recently endowed four scholarships for

students from the Germantown-Bartelso-Breese area. These scholarships will be based on financial need and will be awarded each May. The Lampe Scholarship Program will be an annual scholarship with criteria that will be used for incoming freshmen.

Both Mr. Litteken and Mr. Lampe are members of the Mater Dei Hall of Honor.

For further information on endowing a scholarship program or any other planned or deferred giving questions, contact Fr. Chuck Tuttle of Dennis Litteken at Mater Dei Catholic High School.

In Honor of

Jerry and Helen Middeke 50th Wedding Anniversary

# Did you know...

that Mater Dei received \$8,350.00 in matching gifts for the 2005-2006 Annual Fund Drive? Please contact your Human Resources department to see if your company has a matching gift program or, to see a list of matching gift companies, visit the Mater Dei website at materdei.breese.il.us, go to the Institutional Advancement page, and click on the box marked Matching Gifts. Your donation could go a lot farther with a matching gift!

# Thank you to the families of recently deceased members of the Mater Dei community who have named Mater Dei Catholic High School as a memorial recipient.

		8		
Alvin Bolk	Arnold Henss	Mike Nobis	Joseph B.	
Oleta Boulanger	Raymond Holthaus	Helen Ottensmeier	Timmermann	
Gerard Buss, '72	Catherine Jansen	Geri Ratermann, '69	Paul Von Bokel	
Scott Detmer, '97	Dorothy Kampwerth	Rick Richter, '88	In Honor of	
Irene Foppe	Tom Koch, '78	Ronald Richter, '67	Art and Sylvia	
Thomas Gebke	Adelle Korte	Josephine Robke	Henken	
Jeanne Gerstner	David Litteken	Gene "Micky"	50th Wedding	
Daniel Haselhorst, '64	Marcell Meyer	Schoendienst	Anniversary	
Dorothy Haselhorst	Harold Monken	Chad Schulte, '91		
Victor Hellige	Ralph Netemeyer	Herman Seelhoefer		

Gifts made to Mater Dei Catholic High School are directed to the Mater Dei Foundation unless otherwise specified.



Earning Illinois State Scholar honors are: (front) Travis Hebrank, Jonathan Albers, David Vaughan, Alex Kuhl, Brian Garber, David Antonacci, Brittany Jansen, (middle) Melissa Steiner, Emily Eilermann, Megan Deerhake, Lauren McNamara, Kelsey Usselmann, Shea Humphrey, Carrie Schumacher, (back) Casey Hegger, Emily Toennies, Joe Isert, Jared Henrichs, Stacey Peek, Amanda Luebbers, and Cassie Von Alst.

### Did you know...

that the Mater Dei Class of 2007 has 21 Illinois State Scholars? That number represents 17% of the senior class. (The state average is 10% of a class). Selection for this honor is based on a combination of a student's ACT and/or SAT test score(s) and class rank at the end of his or her junior year.

### **ATTENTION IRA ANNUITANTS**

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 includes a provision – IRA Charitable Rollover – which could mean an additional gift to the Mater Dei Annual Fund Drive through an individual's traditional or Roth IRA.

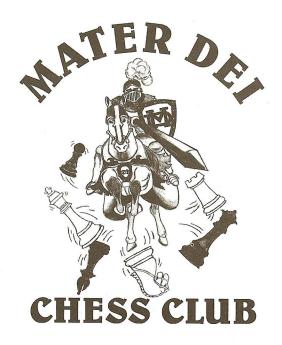
The IRA Charitable Rollover

provision is in effect for 2006 and 2007. A donor must be 70 ½ or older, and the donor can direct his/ her IRA trustee to direct a contribution up to \$100,000 each year to the Mater Dei Foundation (the legal title for the 501c3). For further

information contact the Mater Dei High School (618-526-7216) Office of Institutional Advancement (ext. 27) or Principal Dennis Litteken (ext. 28).

# Did you know...

that, due to the large number of students who were interested in playing chess, Mr. Joe Henken organized a Chess Club at Mater Dei? Students sign up to play during 8th period study hall and wins and losses are recorded. A number of donors donated 28 chess sets for the club to use, which means that 56 students may play, and finding that many players is not a problem for the club. Mr. Henken hopes the interest will continue and that the club could send students to represent Mater Dei at chess competitions.



#### KNIGHT CLUB RING OF HONOR 2006 - 2007

Joseph F. Becker Masonry Inc., John Becker, Breese, IL

#### KNIGHT CLUB **DIAMOND** CIRCLE 2006 - 2007

State Farm Insurance, Steve Klostermann, Breese, IL

#### KNIGHT CLUB **GOLD CIRCLE** 2006 - 2007

Excel Bottling Co. Inc., Breese, IL Feldmann, Dr. Marilyn, Cullowhee, NC Huels Oil Company, Carlyle, IL Jansen Chevrolet, Inc., Germantown, IL George B. & Robin Kruse, Bartelso, IL

Litteken Construction Co., Breese, IL Rakers, Marvin & Anita,

Damiansville, IL Wade Sales & Service, Inc., Breese, II.

#### **KNIGHT CLUB** SILVER CIRCLE 2006 - 2007

Albers, Tim & Lisa, Breese, IL Aviston Lumber Co. Breese East End Liquors, Inc. CC Food Marts, Breese, IL Comprehensive Care Pharmacy, Breese, IL Deiters, Dale G. & Jan, Breese, IL DNR Electric, Inc., Aviston, IL Faust, Allen & Milissa, Aviston, IL Foppe Insurance Agency, Breese, IL Chip Haag, Benhoff Insurance Agency, Breese, IL Hebrank, Jeff & Brenda, Highland, IL Hempen Funeral Home, Breese, IL Hill Law Offices, Highland, IL Hoerner, Dennis & Francie, Trenton, IL Interiors On Main, Breese, IL Koentz D.M.D., William G.,

New Baden, IL

Bartelso, IL

Kohrmann Electric Co., Inc.,

Lampe, Mr. Jim & Dr. Mary, Germantown, IL The Maschhoffs Inc., Ken &

Julie Maschhoff, Carlyle, IL NACO Printing & Advertising, Greenville, IL

Norrenberns, Pat & Esther, Carlyle, IL

Quad-County Ready Mix Corp., Okawville, IL R & B Plumbing, Heating &

Air Conditioning, Inc., Breese, IL.

Strieker Electric, Breese, IL TechKnow Solutions, Aviston, IL

Timmermann, Craig & Peggy, Aviston, IL

Wessol, Sid & Kay, Carlyle, IL

#### KNIGHT CLUB **BUSINESS**

2006 - 2007

Breese Dental Care, P.C. Breese Journal & Publishing Co. Carl's 4 Wheel Drive & Performance Center. Bartelso, IL Cook Tractor Co., Inc., Germantown, IL

Dairy King, Inc., Breese, IL Donnewald Distributing Co., Centralia, IL

First Bank, Breese, IL First National Bank in Carlyle, IL

Foppe Ace Hardware, Breese, IL

Fuehne's Tavern,

Damiansville, IL Germantown Trust & Savings Bank

Gerstner Plumbing Co., Breese, IL

Hansen Foods, Inc., (Hardees), Breese, IL

B.G. Heiligenstein/Joseph B. Heiligenstein, Carlyle, IL

Hellige's Market & Lockers, Inc., Breese, IL

Jan's Hallmark, Granite City, IL Jerry's Landscape Nursery, Inc., Breese, IL

Kalmer Lumber & Pallet Mfg., Inc., Albers, IL

LRB Construction, Inc., Breese, IL

Moss Funeral Home, Breese, IL Napa Auto Parts, Trenton, IL Netemeyer Engineering Assoc., Inc., Aviston, IL

The Timmermann Group, Jerome A. Timmermann, Breese, IL

Timmermann Milk Service, Inc., St. Rose, IL Tom's Cleaners, Breese, IL Turf Lounge, Breese, IL Wiegmann Woodworking & Fireplaces, Inc., Trenton, IL

#### KNIGHT CLUB INDIVIDUAL

2006 - 2007

Albers, Leon & Ruth Arentsen, Jerry & Anita Barr, John & Barbara Beckemeyer, Dave & Mary Beckemeyer, Doug & Julie Becker, Albert & Judy Becker, Bill & Joanie Becker, Charlie & Karla Becker, Cyril & Leona Beckmann, Alfred & Helen Beckmann, Randy & Lori Beer, Darlene S. Benhoff, Matt & Pat Benhoff, Paul & Jeanette Berndsen, Tom & Phyllis Boeckmann, Monica Bridges, Kevin & Susan Buehne, Randy & Michelle Burton, Kevin & Dottie Connelly, Kevin & Diane Crocker, Dick & Carolyn Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Davis, Mrs. Jim Detmer, Tom & Maribeth Diekemper, Leroy Dierkes, Bruce & Kathy Dougherty, John & Lauri Dulle, Brian & Diana Eilermann, Rich & Lynette Engelmann, Mark & Cheryl Essenpreis, Dale & Helen Etter, Craig & Penny Etter, Jack & Mary Alice Etter, Jim Etter, Mark & Fran Ferris, Don & Debra Fischer, Fr. Henry Fischer, Joseph & Mary Lou Frey, Dave & Marilyn Frey, Susan K. Fuehne, Roger A. Fuehne, Ron & Sue Garber, Bill & Lynn Garcia, Arnel & Julie Garcia, Mrs. Lori Garcia, Philip E. Gebke, Glennon & Wanita Gebke, Mike & Mary Kay Gerstner, Rick & Barb Gonzalez, Ben & Janice Gonzalez, Bryan & Krista Grapperhaus, Dave & Diane Gray, Ronald & Roberta Haake, Joe & Stacey Haar, Joe & Louise

Haas, Dan & Shirley Haas, Greg & Tina Hampel, Barry & Ann Harper, Lawrence & Colleen Haukap, Rita A. Hellmann, Paul & Patricia Hemann, Mike & Sandy Hemann, Tony & Mary Hemker, Jeff & Susan Henken, Art & Sylvia Henrichs, Pat & Don Henrichs, John & Martha Hilmes, Charles & Vicki Hitpas, Gary & Donna Hitpas, Patrick & Carol Hitpas, Tom & Colette Holthaus, Norbert & Sharon Hudspeth, John Huelsmann, Jerry & Karen Huelsmann, Marcellus & Dolores

Huelsmann, Mike & Kathy Husmann, Joe & Judy Isaak, Doug & Julie Jansen, Carl & Denice Johnson, Mark & Donna Johnson, Mildred, Jansen, Rosie Kampwerth, Dan & Cheryl Kampwerth, Ron & Lori Kasson, Bob & Terese Kasson, Dennis W. Kasson, Henry & Ruby Kauling, Doris & Erika Kauling, John & Ruth Kauling, Paul & Jan Kelso, Steve & Mary Ketterer, Daniel L. Kleber, Ed & Jean Kloeckner, Del & Gerry Kloeckner, Roman & Doris Klostermann, Leann Knebel, Rich & Deb Knolhoff, Stewart & Brenda Koerkenmeier, Jerome Koerkenmeier, John & Deb Korte, Jerry & Judy Korte, Vickie Kruep, Randy & Pat Kueper, Jim & Kim Kuhl, Dennis M. Kuhl, Jim & Cooky Kuhn, Charles & Evelyn Kuper, Turk & Barb Lager, Paul & Ruth Lake, Kelly & Steve Lawrence, Cory/Josten's Leitner, Marian & Jack Litteken, Bob & Donna Litteken, Dennis & Rita Loepker, Jerry & Patty Lohman, Dennis & Barb McNamara, Joe & Barb Middendorff, Dennis & Virginia

Moss, Karen Fiedler

Mulcrone, John & Rozanne

Netemeyer, Steve & Shelley Niemann, Jim & Mary Normansell, Steve & Susan Ofstedal, Peter & Pat Padfield, Rita A. Peek, Ron & LuAnn Petermeyer, Greg & Kim Pingsterhaus, Norb & Alice Pingsterhaus, Phil & Michelle Pulver, Roy & Rose Rehkemper, Greg & Nancy Rehkemper, Jerry & Paula Rehkemper, Ken & Lynn Rehorst, Susan & Reed Restoff, Susie Richter, Jack & Deane Rinella, Lynn & Bob Ripperda, Kurt Ripperda, Linda Robben, Betty Rolfingsmeyer, Lavern & Mary Ann Schleper, Gervase & Mary Schmitz, Mary & Don Schmitz, Kurt & Jackie Schnieder, Mrs. Frances Schomaker, Don & Sherri Schomaker, Steve & Debbie Schuchman, Charles G. Schwierjohn, Dan & Jan Schwierjohn, Don & Alice Sommers, Mark J. Stoecklin, Al & Ann Strieker, Bob & Joyce Tebbe, Dave & Connie Tebbe, Donald & Karen Thole, Kenny & Diane Thole, Marcellus H. Timmermann, Duane & Dana Timmermann, Tony & Marcella Toennies, David & Shelly Toennies, Jerry & Bernice Toennies, Mike & Brenda Trame, Floyd & Denise Tuttle, Fr. Chuck Usselmann, Steve & Mary Van Dorn, Gene & Jean Van Winkle, David & Cindy Varel, Al & Geri Venhaus, Bob & Joannie Venhaus, Mike & Marilyn Venhaus, Ron & Kathy Vogt, Jim & Jean Vonder Haar, Doug & Bernice Voss, Chuck & Joyce Voss, Jerry Voss, Joe & Joan Voss, Ray & Bernice Voss, Ted & Laura Wilke, Hugo S. Winkeler, Gary & Diane Winkeler, Tom & Darlene Winter, Terry

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

March 24: Mothers and Friends Dinner Auction

**April 5-9:** Easter Break

April 13-15: Spring Musical, "Into the Woods"

May 5: Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony

**May 25:** Graduation

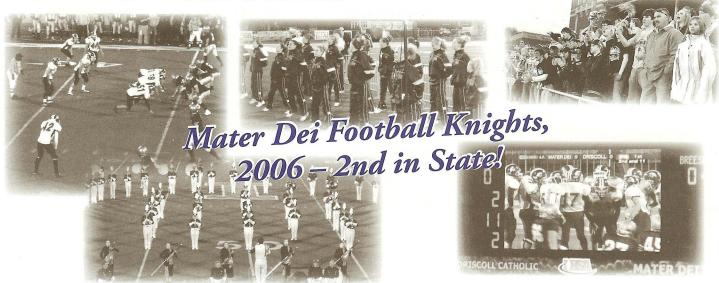
June 9: MD Golf Tournament, Governors Run

Please call the Mater Dei office for more information about these events.

# Did you know...

that Mater Dei now has a Dance Team?
Mrs. Donna Goetz is directing the six-woman dance team. She and the squad are excited about performing at basketball games and different events this year, and, as the squad grows, competing in dance competitions.

### **SCENES from STATE**



Mater Dei High School 900 N. Mater Dei Drive Breese, IL 62230

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