



MATER DEI

Vita

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

VOL. 16 No. 1



Merry Christmas!

On behalf of the entire Mater Dei school community let me wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas season. Please know how appreciative all of us are to the many gifts of prayer, time, and treasure you have provided the school in order for all of us to carry out the mission at Mater Dei Catholic

High School. The annual fund donations, memorial gifts, scholarship programs, and fundraiser support all help fill the gaps between tuition and cost per student and allow those families who choose to take advantage of a Catholic education for their children the ability to do so, despite the current economic issues.

As you gather together with your family and friends this Christmas season, please take time to thank God for all you have and all you will gain throughout the New Year. I challenge all of you to remember the reason for the season, for we must "Keep Christ in Christmas," for the benefit of our country, community, and Mater Dei family.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis A. Litteken, '79
Principal

STRATEGIC PLANNING 2009

The Mater Dei school community has been working on its Strategic Plan since the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. This plan will set the agenda for the next five years. On Saturday, November 21, 2009, the school community came together to participate in the Strategic Planning Retreat and the results of that day are listed below. The Planning Retreat was facilitated by Sr. Ann Marie Bonvie, SSND, a 1966 graduate of Mater Dei. The day was centered on reviewing and dreaming of where Mater Dei has been and where it wants to be! Thirty-five alumni, parents, faculty, and friends came together to develop needs and strategies for us to address throughout the next five years. Sr. Ann Marie indicated that the school board of Mater Dei will now review this work and establish goals, action plans and time lines to be able to address the needs which were defined through this two year process. Listed randomly below are just a few of the needs that were identified by this process:

- To build upon our Academic Excellence in all areas of our school community
- To create programs that can link our parishes to our faith formation
- Roof replacements on Wings 1, 2, 3, 5
- Cafeteria expansion
- Sidewalk and curb replacement
- Tuition to stay competitive but realistic
- Expand our ability to tell our story, to market our school
- To continue to enhance our Memorial Grant program
- To continue to advance technology in the classroom
- To secure a full time Student Assistance counselor for both academic and emotional needs

As mentioned earlier in this article, these needs are now going to be addressed by the School Board in the way of developing goals, action plans, and time lines to address these issues in a timely fashion.



Sr. Ann Marie Bonvie, '66, leads the discussion at the Strategic Planning Retreat on November 21.



Thirty-five volunteers participated in the Strategic Planning Retreat including alumni, faculty, parents, and friends.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The faculty of Mater Dei has established a School Improvement Plan that addresses two fundamental goals. These goals have been recommended by the Faculty Council, which serves the school as the Academic Review Committee. When establishing the goals, strategies were developed to help attain these goals and ultimately affect our students' academic performance.

Listed below are our two goals, with the strategies that have been adopted by our faculty since the 2008-2009 school year.

- ***To improve the reading skills of all students by initiating additional reading across the curriculum.***
- ***To improve the writing skills of all students by initiating additional writing projects across the curriculum.***

READING

- All students participate in "silent reading." Silent reading takes place during the first 10 minutes of the built in study hall period each day.
- All students participate in the short reading passage/questions initiative. When period four/five is the study hall, students read the provided passage and answer the questions pertaining to the passage. Answers are provided for the teachers to review the questions with the students. Records are kept of the students' results.
- A "Word of the Week" is given in the student/teacher planners. All teachers incorporate this word into their lessons as often as possible. Students will become familiar with the word, its meaning, and its usage through continual exposure to the word.

WRITING

- All students will complete a writing assignment in all classes.
A locally developed rubric is used to grade the writing assignment.
- Teachers will include a short answer (or more) question on each test.
Students must answer these questions in complete sentences.

As we progress through the 2009-2010 school year, please know that our students will continue to be challenged to improve their reading and writing skills across the curriculum.

MATER DEI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL – A GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Over the past number of years, too many Catholic schools have had to face very difficult times both financially and emotionally. With aging buildings, smaller families, less connections to Church and family values, our schools have been hit hard. Through all of this, the blessings to Mater Dei continue to be granted! Our 2009-2010 enrollment is 515, a number that represents 43 more students than the low of 472 in 2005-2006. The greatest challenge we face at Mater Dei is to continue to offer our programs and keep our cost to the parents responsible and affordable. This is done by commitment from our staff and stewardship from our parents, alumni, and Church community.

Historically, Mater Dei has always been able to offer an excellent education for a very affordable price. Because of the dedicated religious in the 50's, 60's, and 70's, our tuition remained very low. Did you know that in 1969-70, the first year tuition was charged, the tuition cost was \$150.00 for one student? This figure was charged in light of the fact that the cost per student was \$557.00. In 1982 tuition was \$670.00 and the cost of education was \$1,506.00 per student.

Tuition cost in 2009-2010 is \$3,966.00 with the cost of education being \$6,250.00. The question is where does this extra \$2,284 come from? The answer is from YOU! By supporting our fundraising efforts and your local parish and diocesan appeals, the gap between the tuition charged and the cost of education lessens. This year our budget has been approved with \$592,448 coming from the Church and \$657,600 coming from our fundraising efforts.

The gifts that we receive throughout the year help everyone at Mater Dei Catholic High School. It is truly the gift that keeps on giving. On behalf of all our families and members of our school community, I thank you for all you do, each and every year.

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

The Mater Dei administration has announced that 22 members of the Class of 2010 have been named Illinois State Scholars. This number represents 18% of the class (the state average is 10%). Those seniors named Illinois State Scholars are Lacey Albers, Lucy Albers, Trixie Amorado, Jessica Carron, John Dulle, Michael Geiger, Sarah Hawa, Elizabeth Hemann, Courtney Hemker, Alex Henrichs, Alexa Jansen, Patrick Loepker, Michelle Orr, Stephanie Osborn, Kirsten Ratermann, Carly Ripperda, Christian Sanders, Lance

Simmons, Ariel Stricker, David Toennies, Mary Vance, and Lindsey Wiegmann.

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/her junior year, unless the student scores at or above the 95th percentile in Illinois on the ACT and/or SAT test(s). While students do not receive a monetary award, Illinois State Scholars are able to list this prestigious honor on both college applications and scholarship applications.



Long-time Mater Dei volleyball coach Fred Rakers reached the 1,000 victory plateau in the team's first-round victory in the Regionals. Coach Rakers has been the volleyball coach at Mater Dei since its inception in the fall of 1976.



Senior Courtney Hemker receives her National Merit Scholarship Commended Student certificate from Mr. Litteken.



The Mater Dei Lady Knights played their way to the state championship game where they lost to Joliet Catholic.



Mater Dei Spanish teacher Mark McNamara addresses Open House attendees on November 8. Leading the group on tour are Student Ambassadors Katie Holgrave and Paige Johnson.



Sophomore Ellen Toennies (middle), accompanied by Lindsey Wiegmann and Alicia Timmermann, gets ready to leave for the state cross country meet in Peoria. Toennies earned state medalist honors by placing 16th in the strong field of runners, cutting 30 seconds off her personal best time.



Mary Vance and Alex Henrichs were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.



The Football Knights hoist the milk can trophy after their 36-7 victory in the annual Milk Bowl.



The Mater Dei Soccer Knights earned the program's first 1st Place trophy this fall at the Carlinville Soccer Fall Cup Tournament.



MAKING THE DIFFERENCE TODAY AND INTO THE FUTURE

Each year we approach our alumni and friends to request that they consider making a donation to the Annual Fund Drive. The contributions that are received are used according to the donor's request, whether for the educational fund, the Foundation, student tuition assistance, or capital improvements. These donations are critical in securing a solid framework upon which the school can operate each year to provide a quality Catholic secondary education. After you read Mr. Litteken's article concerning the cost of educating a student at Mater Dei Catholic High School versus tuition charged, it will become quite evident that your contributions do "help to make the difference."

For three generations Mater Dei Catholic High School has provided a caring environment in which students have been challenged to experience God in themselves and in others through a cultivation of respect and service to others. Without the sustained support of our benefactors, Mater Dei Catholic High School could not have accomplished that mission. Your support is vital both for today and for the next generation of students. That is why Mater Dei Catholic High School has established "The Mother of Perpetual Help Society."

The Mother of Perpetual Help Society was created to recognize alumni and friends who have included a gift to Mater Dei Catholic High School in their estate plans. These deferred gifts take many forms, including simple bequests by will, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, and life insurance. All are greatly appreciated and help ensure the tradition of building strong foundations and a remarkable future for Mater Dei students.

What qualifies an individual for membership and how does one join?

A simple statement that an individual has remembered Mater Dei Catholic High School in his or her will, estate plan, trust, life-income arrangement (i.e., gift annuity or lead trust), life insurance policy, pension or IRA, POD accounts (bank savings, bonds, stocks, real estate) is needed for membership. If an individual has made the decision to remember Mater Dei Catholic High School in any of these ways, he or she should inform the school.

How will the bequest be used?

A bequest may either be made for immediate use by the school or be directed to the Foundation. The Mater Dei Foundation exists to provide long-term financial support for Mater Dei Catholic High School.

An endowment is an institution's financial foundation and the avenue by which it can attain a margin of excellence. Endowment funds are held in trust and when wisely invested yield earnings that provide a dependable source of income and a stable resource upon which to plan and build.

Donations to the Foundation are endowed and invested to generate income that helps defray operating costs and reduce Mater Dei Catholic High School's dependency on tuition as a source of revenue. No other type of support can so effectively address both present and future needs.

How will members be identified?

Mater Dei will publish a list of members in the Annual Report and *VITA*. Names will only be listed with the specific written consent of the members. Names of donors can inspire others to give, effectively increasing the value of their gift. When it comes to Mater Dei Catholic High School, consider where there is a Will there is a way to remember Mater Dei forever.

Fr. Chuck Tuttle
Director, Office of Institutional Advancement

GOLDEN KNIGHTS INTRODUCED AT HOMECOMING GAME



At the 2008 Homecoming game, the Office of Institutional Advancement began recognizing those alumni who have graduated from Mater Dei 50-plus years ago and dubbed them the "Golden Knights." These distinguished alumni were again invited to the 2009 Homecoming game and those in attendance were introduced at halftime. After the game an informal reception took place in the new gym. Those attending for the first time received a certificate honoring them as a "Golden Knight." In 2008 there were 48 Golden Knights in attendance and this year the following alumni were in attendance:

Class of 1955:

Ray Kampwerth
Jack and Deane (Ratermann)
Richter

Class of 1956:

Jerry Jansen
Bob Hitpas
Bob Fangmeyer

Class of 1957:

Pete Jansen
Adrian Henke
Carol (Deien) Hollenkamp
Mary (Hellige) Beckemeyer
Herb Hustedde
Mat Klumke

Class of 1958:

Carol (Kauling) Fritch

Class of 1959:

Rosie Jansen

Class of 1960:

Betty (Huelsmann) Ruth
Al "Turk" Kuper
Laverne Zurliene
Steve Norrenberns

Next year the Class of 1961 will be added. Make plans to join your fellow Golden Knights and be recognized for your contribution to the tradition of Mater Dei Catholic High School.

CLASS REUNIONS 2010

Class of 1955 – 55 years

Class of 1960 – 50 years

Class of 1965 – 45 years

Date: June 26, 2010

Place: Governors Run

Contact: Aggie Dumstorff
(618) 526-4652

Class of 1970: - 40 years

Date: July 17, 2010

Place: Bent Oak Golf Course

Contact: Marvin Eversgerd
(618) 526-4225

Class of 1975 – 35 years

Class of 1980 – 30 years

Class of 1985 – 25 years

Class of 1990 – 20 years

Class of 1995 – 15 years

Class of 2000 – 10 years

Class of 2005 – 5 years

Please contact Kathy Huelsmann at Mater Dei with information on class reunions.

MD STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ATTEND NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE

More than 20,000 Catholic youth converged on Kansas City, MO, the weekend of November 19-21 for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). The event is a biennial gathering for high school-aged youth from the 68 million American Catholics.

Among the multitude in Kansas City were 275 youth from the Belleville Diocese, including 14 students from Mater Dei, representing Youth Ministry groups from Breese, Mt. Vernon, Highland, Carlyle, and New Baden. Along with Youth Ministry moderators, Belleville Diocese representatives, parents, and chaperones, the Mater Dei contingent numbered 24. Mary Miesner, Breese Youth Ministry moderator, said, "It was an awesome experience made even better by having the opportunity to share it with so many wonderful Mater Dei students and alumni."



Mater Dei students and alumni attending the NCYC were students (sitting) Savanna Maue, Adam Cowgill, Sarah Hawn, Trixie Amorado, and MD foreign exchange student Elise Volant, (middle row) Michelle Orr, Michelle Parr, Liz Hemann, Joe Havrilka, Morgan Schulte, Sarah Nicmann, Breese

Youth Ministry moderator Mary Miesner, '79, chaperone Kristen Kuhl, '08, chaperone Kathy (Rolves) Renth, '80, (back row) Fr. Jim Deiters, '83, students Nick Mious and Brendan Kampwerth, chaperone Lynn Maue, '79, Breese Youth Ministry moderator Diane Klostermann, '79, student Austin Kuhl, Diocese of Belleville Youth Ministry Coordinator Colette Kennett, '69, and secretary for the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministry Vicki Korte, '71. Also attending the conference but not pictured were alumni Chris Kveen, '92, and Tonya (Tebbe) Meyer, '97.

MEMORIALS

Marcella (Sally) Becker
Mildred Book
Clara Brandmeyer
Frances Deters
James H. Donnewald
Andy Duncan
George Eaton
Ted Edwards
Tony Frohn
Derek Garrison, '06
Leo "Mugs" Gerling

Gerri Haar, '73
Kathleen Hellige, '66
Kyle Hemann, '00
Ethel Mae Hoeffken
Raymond Holtgrave
David L. Jansen, '58
Leonard Kampwerth
Linda Kampwerth
Ella Mae Knuf
Viola Korte
Florence Kressig

Mary Litteken
Bernard Loepker
Mildred Loepker
Marie Maue
Wilma Monken
Pat (Isaak) Moore
Edward Rehkemper
Cecelia Renschen
Elmer Rensing
Marcella Robke
Lucille Rohr

Helen Schaefer
William Schwarze
Alfred Thole
Marcella Varel
Msgr. Bernard Voss
Bernard Wessel
Dorothy Wolters

IN HONOR OF

Pat and Esther Norrenberns
On the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Don Schomaker
On the occasion of his 50th Birthday

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FATHERS AND FRIENDS



The Fathers and Friends organization celebrated 50 years of service to the students and athletes of Mater Dei on November 30. Eighteen past presidents were in attendance including (sitting, l to r) Virgil Tebbe, Roman Kloeckner, Stix Lampe, Brent Heier, Burnell Laux, Henry Kasson, Kenny Richter, Pat Norrenberns, (standing, l to r) Fr. Chuck Tuttle, Chaplain, Randy Beckmann, Mark Berndsen, Don Henrichs, Steve Schomaker, Mike Thole, Kevin Huelsmann, Bob Rinella, Wayne Kiefer, Pete Schumacher, and Richard Schulte.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE