HELLO RETURNING AND PLEBE PARENTS, GUARDIANS & SPONSORS:

Now that all the summer campers have departed and just about everyone has completed registration, we are at “full speed ahead” this academic year of 2014-2015 with the 87th Corps of Cadets.

The cadets are in good form and excited to start another year toward their goal of graduation. The plebes all seem to fit in very well and are practicing their new skills with the help of their Cadet Leadership. We see them all over the post marching in step on the chapel steps, around the parade field and on the brick walks, a beautiful sight indeed! During Recognition Weekend, you will be impressed to see them with great posture, eye contact and firm handshakes!

Feel free to send non-perishable goodies in care packages as often as you like. But please keep in mind that their storage space is small and they will share with their roommates. It would be wonderful if you could include an encouraging handwritten note from you or other family members. Your plebe is very busy so please don’t worry if you don’t get a reply as soon as you wish. He or she might be out of practice writing a letter, on paper, with a pen!

It is only a short time until you can wrap your arms around them and we are counting the days with you. Stay the course!

If you wish information on how your cadet or plebe is doing and do not know his or her TAC, please feel free to contact me at Lstevens@vfmac.edu or 610-989-1328.

PARENTS OPEN HOUSE AND CHAPEL SERVICE THIS SUNDAY:
This Sunday, September 7 is the day of our first Chapel Service of the year. If you are local enough to join us, we will be in the Sara Crawford Room in Mellon Hall, next to the Chapel, for an informal meet and greet get-together from 9:30-10:30 AM. COL Piscal, Commandant of Cadets, Mrs. Young, Head of School for the Academy and COL Gallagher, Dean of the College will join us as well. Directly following, you may gather on the Chapel Steps to watch the Chapel Parade at 10:45 AM and hopefully catch a glimpse of your cadets or plebes as they march by. Parking will be available in the General Lot next to the O’Hara Athletic Field.

Please let me know at Lstevens@vfmac.edu if you are able.
We’ll have coffee!

**TAC CONTACT INFORMATION:**
Lafayette Hall, the contact number is 610-989-1273 or LHTAC@vfmac.edu
Younghusband Hall, the contact number is 610-989-1270 or YHTAC@vfmac.edu
Von Steuben Hall, the contact number is 610-989-1248 or VSTAC@vfmac.edu
Rose and Hocker Halls, the contact number is 610-989-1286 or HHTAC@vfmac.edu
Martin Hall, the contact number is 610-989-1280 or MHTAC@vfmac.edu

Please look in your Parents Handbook on Page 52-53 for additional contact information.

**NEW WEBSITE:**
As many know, the VFMA&C website is receiving a makeover. Please be patient as the old is making room for the new. However, much of the information on our current website is applicable. Please click on the links below:

http://www.vfmac.edu/academy-athletics/

http://www.vfmac.edu/college-athletics/

http://www.vfmac.edu/parents-family-newsletter/?template=paf-academy

**COLLEGE PLEBES/CADETS CORPS WEEKEND LEAVE:**
Corps Weekend is when your college plebe or cadet is allowed to have weekend leave. He or she may leave no earlier than 6:00 PM on Friday, October 17 and must return to sign in with his or her TAC no later than 6:30 PM on Monday, October 20, 2014. If you have questions, please feel free to contact his or her TAC.

**ACADEMY PARENTS, SAVE THE DATE:**
On Saturday, September 27, the Academy is planning to host a “Back to School” day for Academy parents. This will enable you to see the faculty and TACS and spend time with your plebe. He will not have taken his Cadet Oath until November 2 to become a new cadet so will still be considered a plebe, however, many will have earned that sought after prize of the Cap Shield allowing them more privileges. You may take your plebe/cadet out for leave that day following your visit with the staff and faculty. Information on leave and return times will be forthcoming.

**RECOGNITION WEEKEND:**
Plans for Recognition Weekend, 31 October, 1 and 2 November are under way and it will prove to be a highlight in your young men and women’s lives.

A package will be in the mail soon with RSVP forms and an itinerary for this great weekend.

A preview of the itinerary is below:

**Friday – 31 Oct.** – Parents Reception and Fundraiser from 7-10:00 PM in Eisenhower Hall
**Saturday – 1 Nov.** – Barracks and Classroom Visitation with plebe/cadet leave directly following until 9:00 AM Sunday morning, 2 Nov.
Sunday – 2 Nov. – Family Breakfast (RSVP form will accompany the packet) in Mellon Hall at 9:00-10:30 AM – Chapel Service – Regimental Review and Join the Ranks Ceremony with Cadet Oath. Cadet Leave will be until 9:00 PM

Please contact me, Lini Stevens at Lstevens@vfmac.edu with questions or if you wish to volunteer at the Parents Reception.

Details as they are confirmed will be included in the Parents Newsletters.

We hope you are able to join us.

COMMANDANT’S RECOGNITION:
Each week, the Commandant sends “Weekly Information” to all cadets through their personal VFMA&C email accounts: This Newsletter will include the “Commandant’s Recognition” for your information as well:

August 24:
1. Congratulations to all cadets selected for leadership positions. The most important things I need for you to do this year is LEAD and Stay the Course!
2. Congratulations to all ROTC cadets who successfully completed their summer training at Ft Knox, KY. I am looking forward to your Leadership.
3. Congratulations to all Athletes and Band Members who arrived early to start preparation for the fall season. I am looking forward to some great performances. There is some great talent within the Corps!

August 31:
1. Congratulations to both the Academy and College Football teams and coaches. Even though they came up short and did not capture a victory, they finished strong and played hard for all four quarters, a great display of teamwork and discipline. Well done! There are plenty of games remaining and we are looking for your resiliency and putting a “W” in the win column.

A RUNNER AMONG US:
Academy Art Instructor, CPT Josh Irvan is our very own long distance runner! After participating in the Boston Marathon in May, CPT Irvan won the “3 Days at the Fair: 48 Hour Race, in Augusta, New Jersey, with a grand total of 202 miles. This ultra-marathon win ranks him 10th in the world and 1st nationally at the 48 hour timed event.

“Six Days in the Dome on an indoor 1/4 mile track in Anchorage, Alaska, this summer, CPT Irvan ranked 3rd in the nation and 12th in the world! He ran over 400 miles in six days.

2014-2015 CROSSED SABRES YEARBOOK ADS FOR SALE:
Purchase a yearbook ad for your business or a special message to your graduating Cadet!

*Full Page = $200.00  *Half Page = $150.00  *Quarter Page = $100.00

All ads will be color and each must be given to me in a PDF file format. If you are not sure how to set up a PDF file please contact CPT Irvan at jirvan@vfmac.edu or call him at 610-989-1417.
(Text and photos can be e-mailed to me for ad set up if needed). Deadline for final ads will be 3 Feb. unless all space is sold prior to this date. Space is limited!

Please make checks out to: Valley Forge Military Academy & College and put Yearbook Ad in the memo. Mail them to the school: “Attention: CPT Josh Irvan: Yearbook Coordinator.”

**VALLEY FORGE CLASS RINGS:**
Parents of Academy Seniors and College Sophomores, as you know your cadets who wish to purchase their VFMA&C rings have placed orders this week. Please know that you may contact Mark Judy at Jostens directly for any questions concerning your cadet’s class ring.

His contact information is: Mark.judy@jostens.com or 215-675-2044.

**TRAVEL FOR INT'L CADETS:**
International cadet parents, we recommend that you schedule flights in and out of the Philadelphia International Airport which is only a 40 minute drive in a taxi from VFMA&C.

However, if you schedule flights in and out of Newark, New Jersey, or LaGuardia and JFK Airports in New York, please arrange public transportation below for your cadet’s travel to Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.

-Super Trans Philly Shuttle Transportation which provides transportation for your cadet to Philadelphia for $65. He or she can then take a taxi to VF.


- Shuttle service that transports to/from Newark, LaGuardia and JFK airports is: [http://www.priorityshuttle.com/](http://www.priorityshuttle.com/)

**HOTEL INFORMATION:**
Preferred Vendor (12 minutes by car to VFMA&C)

**Homewood Suites by Hilton Philadelphia-Valley Forge**
681 Shannondell Blvd,
Audubon, PA 19403
610-539-7300
(Please mention that you are a VFMA&C cadet family when making reservations)
Other hotels with the closest proximity to VF are:

**Courtyard by Marriott, Devon**
762 W. Lancaster Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087
800-320-5746

**Courtyard by Marriott, Valley Forge**
1100 Drummers Lane
Wayne, PA 19087
800-320-5746
(Please mention that you are a VFMA&C cadet family when making reservations:)

Marriott Courtyards have rooms blocked for the following events:
Academy Back to School    9/26-9/28  – Cutoff date is September 12, 2014
Recognition Weekend       10/30-11/01 – Cutoff date is October 9, 2014
Mother’s Day Weekend       5/8-5/10   – Cutoff date is April 17, 2015
College Graduation        5/14-5/16   – Cutoff date is April 23, 2015
Academy High School Graduation 6/5-6/6   – Cutoff date is May 15, 2015

Wayne Hotel
130 E. Lancaster Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087
800-962-5850

Radnor Hotel
591 E. Lancaster Avenue
St. Davids, PA 19087
800-537-3000


A PROUD CADET PARENT WRITES:
My son, Niall, a senior this year and in the Regimental Band, is a member of “Bugles across America” that provides buglers to play “TAPS” at veterans’ funerals. He and some of his fellow buglers were asked to play on the Battleship USS New Jersey on July 4th at the swearing in of 138 new American citizens. The ceremony was held on the fantail of the battleship and was a great experience of everyone as Niall and his group played many patriotic songs for the event as well. All the Philly stations covered it and highlighted and interviewed Niall as a VFMA&C cadet.

What a great organization of volunteer cadets!

Chris Gallagher

ACADEMY ASSISTANT DEAN, MR. BARKLEY, SHARES EXCERPTS FROM AN ARTICLE ON ONE OF OUR RISING SENIORS, CADET PAUL FEMIA:
“Femia attends American legion Jersey Boys State”

Paul Femia of New Jersey was selected to attend the 69th session of American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) which was held in June. The week-long program brought together rising seniors in high schools from all counties of New Jersey. It is sponsored by the American Legion Department of New Jersey and an action-oriented approach for teaching civics and government at the local, county and state levels. Within the first 24 hours, each city divided into political parties and elected a mayor and council from within its ranks. By the end of the session, statesmen filled the ranks of local and county governments, the state Legislature and municipal courts and elected two senators to serve at American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D. C.

Cadet Femia attends Valley Forge Military Academy and College where he is a National Honor Student and is also an Eagle Scout.
VFMA&C CATHOLIC COMMUNITY –
CHAPEL OF SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:
The cadets are back at Mass! This past week we had over 30 cadets attend our Sunday afternoon Mass in the Chapel…blessings abound!

As of today, the Mass schedule will be Sunday’s September 7, 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12 and 19 and will be held in the Chapel at 4:30 PM. Family members are invited to join the cadets.

Confirmation/RCIA classes will begin soon. Please contact COL Gerry Cupo at GCupo@vfmac.edu if you have any questions about the classes.

Our Facebook site for our group is called “VFMAC Catholic Community.”

Feel free to contact me, Theresa Piscal, if you have questions at TPiscal@vfmac.edu.

FOLLOW VFMA&C ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER
VFMA&C is enhancing its social media status. Come follow us on Facebook, Twitter. If you haven’t yet be sure to follow us on twitter. Share our stories with your friends and family, look for new photo albums of the unique experiences at VFMA&C.

On Twitter, search @VFMAC
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/VFMAC

YOUR PLEBE/CADET IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY?
Did you know that you can order a sheet cake or a “Cookie Cake” (a large cookie about 18” in diameter) from the Cadet Store for your plebe or cadet? It can be personalized with icing and is delivered during 3rd Mess. It is rumored that the cadets like the “Cookie Cake” more because it can be taken back to barracks. Just call the Cadet Store a few days ahead of the great event at 610-989-1542 to place the order.

Lini Stevens
Director of Parent Relations
Valley Forge Military Academy & College
Phone: 610-989-1328
LStevens@vfmac.edu
www.vfmac.edu