HELLO CADET AND PLEBE PARENTS, GUARDIANS & SPONSORS:

Just one more week until we are privileged to welcome you back to campus!

If you have not sent your RSVP, please do so as quickly as possible by emailing Lstevens@vfmac.edu or calling 610-989-1328.

Thank you to all who have made a donation thus far! For donation forms, please click on this link for your convenience: http://www.vfmac.edu/campus-parents-family/campus-recognition-weekend/?template=paf-academy

If you wish to become an elite member of the Society of the Golden Sword and receive an invitation to the President’s Golden Sword Reception at Crossed Sabres directly following the Tattoo Performance, just send a donation of $1000 or more by November 20. Details are below.

All proceeds benefit cadets as a whole and are tax deductible!

Friday – 31 Oct. – 3:30 PM – Academy Football Game – O’Hara Athletic Field
7:00-10:00 p.m. in Eisenhower Hall - Parents Fundraising Reception.
Join us for an evening of food, drink (beer, wine and soft drinks) and much fun with staff and faculty, new and veteran parents, auctions, raffle, casino and a special march performed by the Regimental Band!

Saturday – 1 Nov. - 8:30-10:15 a.m. Barracks and Optional Academy Open House in Shannon Hall. Department Chairs will be available to answer questions you might have.
- 10:30-noon – unfortunately, due to talent not yet ready to perform we must postpone the show for now.
- 1:00 – College Football Game, O’Hara Athletic Field
- Noon-9:00 a.m. Sunday morning is leave with family members.

Sunday – 2 Nov. - 9-10:30 a.m. Family Breakfast (RSVP form is in the packet)
Mellon Hall. The breakfast is $15 per guest but cadets do not pay.
- 11-12:15 p.m. Chapel Service
- Regimental Review and Joining the Ranks Ceremony with Cadet Oath.
- Subsequent to the Regimental Review Cadet leave is authorized until no later than 9:00 p.m.
EVENT AND LEAVE ITINERARY AT A GLANCE FOR NOVEMBER, 2014:

- Ring Presentation – 8 Nov., 5:00 PM – Chapel. Family members welcome.
- Ring Dance – 8 Nov., 6:30 PM – Mellon Hall
  Academy Seniors, Sophomores and their dates only
- Gold and Silver Star Dinner – 10 Nov., 5:00 PM - Eisenhower Hall
- Military Tattoo Performance – 21 Nov., 4:30 PM – 6:15 PM - Price Gym
- Academy Thanksgiving Leave – 21 Nov., 7:00 PM – 30 Nov., no later than 6:30 PM
- College Thanksgiving Leave – 25 Nov., after class – 30 Nov., no later than 6:30 PM

Details below.

RING CEREMONY:
On Saturday, 8 November, beginning at 5 PM in the Chapel, all cadets receiving Class Rings will be invited to have their rings presented to them in a formal, longstanding tradition at Valley Forge, the Ring Presentation Ceremony.

The Ring Ceremony is open to family members of the cadet who would like to attend. It will begin promptly at 5:00 PM and last for approximately one hour.

Cadets must submit ring presenters to the Department of Student Activities by Monday October 27th.

RING DANCE:
Immediately following the Ring Ceremony, all Academy Seniors, College Sophomores and their dates are invited to the Ring Dance at 6:30 – 10:00 PM in the Mellon Hall Ballroom.

*We are asking parents to donate baked goods for the Ring Dance dessert buffet. At the last Ring Dance and Winter Ball, this was a huge hit with the cadets and their guests. If you wish to donate something such as cookies, brownies, cupcakes, etc. please contact Mrs. Theresa Piscal at TPiscal@vfmac.edu. No nuts or peanut butter please!* Thank you!

Academy Seniors and College Sophomores are encouraged to invite dates to this event. All dates under the age of 18 require parental permission to attend. Overnight leave will be granted at the discretion of the Commandant. Questions about the Ring Ceremony and Ring Dance can be directed to the Director of Student Activities; Mrs. Lauren Wochok at lwochok@vfmac.edu or 610-989-1262.

MILITARY TATTOO:
This year’s Military Tattoo performance will be on Friday, November 21 at 4:30 PM in Price Gym. All are welcome free of charge!

Webster’s Dictionary describes a modern Military Tattoo Performance as “A military evolution of spectacular character performed to the accompaniment of music.” It is a time-honored tradition that was used to call military members back to base through various musical tools. Today we use the Military Tattoo to showcase the many talents of our youth and their mastery of music, precision and entertainment.
VF’s Military Tattoo will present performances from the Regimental Band, Field Music and Choir, the VFMA&C Drill Team and more. Why not come and see for yourself and bring your family and friends!

Parking will be permitted on the Parade Field through gate E2 on Eagle Road. Following the performance, parents may take their Academy cadets on Thanksgiving Leave. College Cadets do not begin Leave until the following Tuesday, 25 November. Please see the Thanksgiving Leave policies below.

**SOCIETY OF THE GOLDEN SWORD:**
Directly following the Tattoo Performance, members of the Society of the Golden Sword will join the President for a reception as a thank you for their generous donations of $1000 or more in a year’s period. If you wish to be included, please make a donation prior to November 21 and you will receive an invitation. The reception will be held at the President’s house, Crossed Sabres, which is directly across the street from the Main Area. Members of the Society may also invite their cadets to join them at the party.

Thank you in advance if you are able and thank you to those who have already done so.

All donations, large, small and in between, benefit the cadets as a whole, are tax deductible and very much appreciated! Please contact Lini Stevens at Lstevens@vfmac.edu.

**THANKSGIVING LEAVE:**
**Academy Leave** begins no earlier than 7:00 PM following the conclusion of the Tattoo Performance, 21 November, 2014.
There will be a shuttle bus to the Philadelphia International Airport leaving VF following the performance at 7:00 PM and also the next morning on Saturday, 23 November at 7:00 AM for the Academy cadets.
Return time is no later than 6:30 PM on Sunday, 30 November 2014.

**College Leave** begins no earlier than after last class on Tuesday, 25 November, 2014.
There will be a shuttle bus to the Philadelphia International Airport leaving VF at 5:00 PM for the College cadets.
Return time is no later than 6:30 PM on Sunday, 30 November, 2014.

- No early or extended Leave requests will be granted.
• Cadets who make travel arrangements outside of these Leave periods are subject to disciplinary action.
• Please check with your cadet’s TAC Officer to find out exactly when he or she may leave before making travel arrangements.

If making airline reservations, please allow for at least a 45 minute ride to the Airport.

Because cadets return at various times there will be no shuttle bus returning to VF. Cadets have 2 options to find transportation back to VF:
• They can easily find a taxi outside of the baggage claim area to find transportation back to VF. If you would like to reserve a taxi for your cadet, please see the list in the Parents Hand Book on page 46.
• Cadets also have the option of getting a train from the airport to 30th Street Station in Philadelphia and from there get the Septa Rail Line Paoli/Thorndale to Wayne. It is a short walk from the Wayne Station to VF.

If your cadet is an unaccompanied minor (15 for train and 14 for airlines) you must have your cadet’s travel information (departure and return information) to the TAC, not later than 30 October 2014 to allow staff time to arrange accompaniment for your cadet. If you wait until too close to the departure or arrival date, there is no guarantee of staff availability.

Parents of International Cadets:
We strongly suggest that you schedule airline flights to and from the Philadelphia International Airport which is just a 45 minute drive to Valley Forge. Travel time from New York or New Jersey Airports will take another 3 hours on the road for your cadet.

However, if you already have made your reservations to New York or New Jersey airports, please see below:

If your cadet is traveling back and forth from Newark, NJ, LaGuardia or JFK International Airports, New York City, NJ, Super Trans Philly Shuttle Transportation provides transportation for $65.
Please go to: http://supertranspa.com/jfkandnewarkairport.aspx or call 215-333-1441 or Priority Shuttle at: http://www.priorityshuttle.com/
If you have questions, please email Col. Ken Seitz, Adjutant: KSeitz@vfmac.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS!
To: C Company for winning the Super Squad Competition. This Company is awarded a coveted “sleep in,” a rare and celebrated occasion for VF cadets and also a Live Auction item at the Parents Reception! Why not join in on the bid next Friday, 31 October at Eisenhower Hall to get one for your cadet’s company?

Also to: Plebe Andres Victor Marquard Cerisola for Best New Cadet for the month of September. Cadet Christopher Bilardo for Best Squad Leader for the month of September. Plebe Julian R. Bodnar who is awarded the White Star for gallantry. Cadet Master Sergeant Krishawn Brown, I Co. to be Platoon Leader. Cadet Second Lieutenant David Ivashenko, I Co. to be Battalion IT Cadet
ACADEMY CADETS ENJOY HALLOWEEN:
Halloween is not overlooked just because cadets are not at their homes. Academy cadets may participate in dressing up if they wish. The schedule is as follows:

Halloween Parade (we affectionately call “Parade of silly walks”) will take place at 12:10 PM on the Main Area. Cadets wishing to participate, dress in their mostly handmade costumes, and form up on the Main Area. Prizes are given for various creations and they then proceed on their “walk” to the Mess Hall for 2nd Mess. Guests are welcome.

Between 1:15-3:00 PM, there is a Pumpkin Carving Contest in the Boodle. Each Company may submit 2 pumpkins for judging by staff.

From 1:30-3:00 PM it’s movie time in the Boodle Theater for those interested. The feature film is “The House at the End of the Street” starring Jennifer Lawrence. Pizza will be available as well.

At 3:00 PM, the cadets will be dismissed to return to barracks to form up for the march to the Academy football game beginning at 3:30 PM on O’Hara Field. All are welcome.

ACADEMY SOCCER FROM A PARENT’S PERSPECTIVE:
The 2014 Valley Forge Academy Soccer Season came to end the same way it began, on a high note with an exciting overtime finish. Goalkeeper Cadet Louis Sarkozy had another great game with some heart-stopping saves. Cadet Uriel Romero and Cadet Christian Minich each had beautiful goals that led the game to a 2-0 lead. The Christian Academy did put in two goals of its own to force the game into overtime and the overtime goal was driven in the net by Cadet Minich for an exciting, nail biting 3-2 finish.

Some outsiders looking in would say, “why all the excitement over the Trojan's 4th win of the season?” Insiders knew what a crescendo this was to an orchestrated piece of music that filled the season with heart, soul, guts, determination and camaraderie that was steadfast each and every game. It never mattered if the Valley Forge team was on the losing end. They played each and every minute of the game until the final whistle, as if they were playing for a coveted spot on the USA World Cup team. What separated this team from all others was not the score on the board, but the heart to drive on for themselves and their coaches. There wasn’t a game where they didn't take the field with smiles and determination to win. They also left the field with the same smiles regardless of a loss. This team left it out on the field every single game.

Valley Forge doesn't have MAPS players, Select players and players that have had the opportunity over the years to play in club teams together all year as some of their opponents have had. What Valley Forge does have are coaches Josh and Dan who taught these bright and talented young men much about heart, guts, determination and pure love of playing the sport more than any other team that would have a winning record. This Valley Forge team has character! Valley Forge Trojans, you guys had a great winning season in the lesson of life and friendship. No trophy, score or winning record could mean more. Here's to a great 4-13 2014 Season. You are all winners.
Thanks to all the parent support and excitement on the sidelines. Josh and Dan you did a wonderful job with our cadets. They were proud to call you their Coaches!!!!

**MORE FROM DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES:**
On Saturday, October 11, Student Activities took a group of 30 College cadets to Dorney Park in Allentown, PA. for their annual Fright Fest Event. Cadets enjoyed rides on roller coasters and other attractions and especially the haunted houses throughout the afternoon and evening. Fun was had by all cadets as they relaxed before they had to hit the books on Sunday to get ready for their mid-term exams.

On Thursday, October 16, Student Activities took a group of Academy and College cadets to “Skyzone Trampoline Park” in Oaks, PA. Dodgeball, dunking on 12 foot baskets, and flips into the foam pit were all part of the fun at this 17,000 square foot arena. Cadets from 7th grade to college all had a very energetic time jumping and flipping around the facility. The reviews were so positive that we plan to go again early next semester.
**UPDATE FROM THE COUNSELING CENTER:**
On October 16th, Academy and College cadets were invited to listen to a nationally recognized guest speaker, Jordan Burnham, who shared his challenging experiences with severe depression as a teenager. Jordan not only captivated our cadet audience but did so at the UN, ESPN’s E:60, Good Morning America and other venues to increase awareness of mental health and the stigma of seeking treatment. The cadets were quite absorbed with Jordan’s story of his triumphs over depression and were advised on how to create a healthier and more supportive environment for those they know suffering from this as well.

**CHAPEL, PARADE AND OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE:**
All services, Chapel Parades on the Main Area, and Regimental Reviews on the Parade Field are open to the public. Chapel begins at 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Religion specific services will be held at various locations at VFMA&C simultaneously unless otherwise noted. Chapel Parades and Regimental Reviews occur directly following the Chapel Services when the Corps is set.

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**EMERGENCY INFORMATION ALWAYS AVAILABLE:**
A voice and text emergency notification system is available for parents and guardians of our cadets. You may sign up by submitting the form found on the Emergency Information page on the website, link provided below. Messages are primarily text based, and therefore you should submit a cell phone number that can receive text messages. You will be subject to any fees or limits set by your cell phone provider for text messages and minutes used, based on your current contract conditions. International texts are not obtainable at this time.

In the event of any emergencies, we encourage you to access the VFMA&C Emergency Info page: [http://www.vfmac.edu/campus-emergency-information/](http://www.vfmac.edu/campus-emergency-information/) which is updated regularly as needed.
POINSETTIAS AVAILABLE FOR ORDER:
If you wish to order poinsettias, please contact Captain Hale at Ghale@vfmac.edu.

3RD ANNUAL VFMA&C CHAPEL MISSIONS TRIP, JAMAICA:
If your cadet is interested in this exciting trip, please contact Captain Hale at GHale@vfmac.edu.

2014-2015 CROSSED SABRES YEARBOOK ADS FOR SALE:
Purchase a yearbook ad for your business or a special message to your graduating Cadet! Please contact CPT Irvan at jirvan@vfmac.edu or call him at 610-989-1417.

PARENTS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Jay and Chris Cary, Chairs:          Jaycary@verizon.net  610-918-056
Parena and Eoin Mooney, Vice Chairs: Parena1970@gmail.com  302-897-7714
Bill and Nancy Minich, Secretary/Treasurer: nminich@comcast.net  609-504-1154

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

ACADEMY GUIDANCE CONTACT INFORMATION:
Cadets last names from A-M: Paul Noon  PNoon@vfmac.edu or 610-989-1287
Cadets last names from N-Z: Megan Sullivan  MSullivan@vfmac.edu or 610-1384
Registrar: Kathryn Ford:  KFord@vfmac.edu or 610-989-1380

COLLEGE COUNSELORS:
Please get the counselor’s contact information from your plebe or cadet.

NEED COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS?
Official or unofficial transcripts, please go to: www.getmytranscripts.com
Enrollment verification, please go to: www.studentclearing.org.

HOTEL INFORMATION:
Please check the previous Parents Newsletters on www.vfmac.edu, click on Academy or College photo, click on Parents and Family, click on Newsletters for all current issues.

YOUR PLEBE/CADET IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY?
Just call the Cadet Store a few days ahead of the great event at 610-989-1542 or 1540 to place a cake or cookie cake order if you wish.

Lini Stevens
Director of Parent Relations
Valley Forge Military Academy & College
1001 Eagle Road
Wayne, PA 19087
Phone: 610-989-1328
Fax: 610-989-1332
LStevens@vfmac.edu
www.vfmac.edu