HELLO CADET PARENTS, GUARDIANS, & SPONSORS:

We trust you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break with your cadets and guests!

EVENT AND LEAVE ITINERARY AT A GLANCE FOR DECEMBER, 2014:

- Christmas Vespers – 7 Dec., at 6:00pm Chapel – all are welcome – religion specific celebrations are held in various campus locations simultaneously
- Wreaths Across America – 11 Dec., Chapel, time to be determined
- Cadet Holiday Meal – 11 Dec., Mess Hall, 11:00 AM
- College Mid-Year Cadets’ Graduation – 12 Dec., Eisenhower Hall, 1:00 PM
- College Winter Holiday Leave – After Last Exam, 13 Dec., - 6:30 PM 11 Jan., 2015
- Academy Winter Holiday Leave – 4:00 PM 18 Dec., - 6:30 PM 4 Jan., 2015

Please do not schedule leave outside of the Leave period

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:
The mission of “Wreaths across America” is to Remember, Honor and Teach, carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on the second Saturday of December at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC as well as veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

In the last two years, bikers who are also veterans from motorcycle organizations from all over the country, visited VFMA&C to place wreaths on the VF graves in memory of veterans of all wars. This was a very moving and inspirational ceremony which began in the Chapel. Please join us for this event you will not soon forget.

The date is Thursday, 11 December and the time will be in the afternoon depending on when the many cyclists and their other vehicles arrive.

Visit [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org) for more information.

WINTER HOLIDAY LEAVE:

College Cadets Winter Holiday Leave begins no earlier than after the last exam on Friday, 12 December and ends no later than 6:30 PM on Sunday, 11 January, 2015.

College Athletes and College Midyear Trainers return no later than 6:30 PM on Sunday, January 4, 2015

The campus will be closed until noon on Sunday, January 4, 2015. Please do not book flights for your cadet’s return before that date.

Academy Cadets Winter Holiday Leave begins no earlier than 4:00 PM on 18 December, and ends no later than 6:30 PM on Sunday, 4 January, 2015. A shuttle bus to the Philadelphia Airport will leave VF at 4:00 PM on
Thursday, December 18 and also at 7:00 AM on Friday, December 19. **Return transportation to campus from the airport is the responsibility of the individual cadet.**

*Travel time from VF to the Philadelphia Airport is approximately 45 minutes. Your cadet will need to check in 2 hours prior to his/her flight departure.*

*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](http://supertranspa.com/jfkandnewarkairport.aspx) or call 215-333-1441*

*If you have questions concerning travel, please contact Col Ken Seitz, Adjutant, at 610-989-1254 or KSeitz@vfmac.edu.*

**A MESSAGE FROM THE ACADEMY HEAD OF SCHOOL, MRS. SANDRA R. YOUNG:** Please do not make travel arrangements (including purchasing airline, train or bus tickets) that will conflict with the official start and end dates for the Winter Holiday Leave. All Academy classes will be in session up to Thursday, December 18, 2014 at 4:00 PM, and will resume at 7:45 AM on Monday, January 5, 2015. If your son misses class due to an unauthorized early departure or late return to school it will have a negative impact on his academic progress in his classes and he will be considered “Absent Without Leave.”

**“IO, SATURNALIA!**

During the week preceding Christmas, in many secondary schools throughout the Main Line area, students will be heard exclaiming the celebratory “IO, SATURNALIA!,” a herald of the centuries-old festival of the Saturnalia.

According to tradition, the ancient Romans honored Saturnus, the god of seed and sowing, after the autumn planting was completed. Through the ages, the fabled festival in honor of Saturnus had acquired various customs and traditions, many of which were adopted by the early Christians and persist to the current day. The Saturnalia was an occasion for celebration, visits to friends, and the presentation of gifts. Hence, by the middle of the 4th century A.D., many customs of the old Saturnalia were adapted to the celebration of Christmas.

On December 19, Latin students from the Main Line and Metropolitan Philadelphia are invited to participate in the annual Classical World Fashion and Design Show to be held at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, PA.

So if you chance to hear an occasional “IO, SATURNALIA!” exclaimed by your favorite Latin student during the week before Christmas, know that you are welcomed to commemorate the ancient Roman festival of peace, goodwill, and harmony.

Mary Brown,
Instructor of Latin, VFMA

**CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER:**

Congratulations to former E Battery Commander, Daniel Fabrega, ’93 on being named Panamanian Ambassador to Great Britain! We wish Daniel the best of luck in his new position and the members of the Alumni Association and the 2014 Corps of Cadets give him a hearty cheer!
A HAPPY ALUMNUS SHARES:
“Hello, just a quick note. I was at the Veterans Day Ceremony and just wanted to express how impressed I was in the organization and professionalism of both the Faculty and Cadets I encountered. In particular, my escort, a Bandsman in 11th grade, was very helpful, professional and engaged. Make him a SGT as soon as possible! I’m an alumnus of 1990 and it is nice to see my school moving in a good direction.

Thank you,
LTC Adam Hackel, Ed. D., ’90

TATTOO UPDATE:
The Tattoo Performance was wonderful and another reason why our school is so well known, world-wide! The performers in the Regimental Band, Field Music and Choir, plus the Drill Team are the signature of Valley Forge Military. The added bonus of the performances of the Washington Pipe Band and Irish Dancers was also a lovely! We are so proud of all performers, Bandmaster, WO2 Phil Evans, Choirmaster, Harry Sokol and all those who organized and executed this awesome event!

THE COMMANDANT’S RECOGNITION:
1. Thank you to Coach Noon for organizing the 7th and 8th grade Turkey Bowl on 21 November. Despite the cold weather, the cadets played with great enthusiasm and Team Gold pulled off a 28-21 OT victory. The Most Valued Player was Cadet Richie Burns with 2 touchdowns, 2 passes broken up and 1 sack.

2. To be Cadet Sergeant First Class: Cadet Kubilay Ceylan, 11th grade, B Co. to be Medical NCO

3. To be Cadet Sergeant first Class: Cadet Sean McLaughlin, CF, H Co. to be Supply Sergeant

4. To be Sergeant Colors: Cadet Maxwell Thomas, CF, G Co.

VF RIFLE CLUB HIGHLIGHT:
On Saturday, 15 November, the VFMA Rifle Club went on an off-campus range trip to Oley Valley Fish and Game outside Reading, PA.

The cadets practiced with .22 rifles in the morning and did military small arms acclimation in
the afternoon. Additionally, the cadets worked in teams to clear brush and dead trees from the perimeter to help out the Oley Valley personnel.

A special thanks to Mr. Gallagher, father of Cadet Niall Gallagher and Mr. van Bentem, father of Cadet Jonathan van Bentem for their support and attendance. The cadets warmed up afterwards with a well-deserved Chinese buffet.

The results of the .22 rifle competition:
1. Cadet Cameron McCutcheon, C (96 points)
2. Cadet Salvatore Longo, S (86 points)
3. Cadet Liam Winters, L (82 points)

VF Rifle Club will open up mid-year recruiting in late January. Interested cadets are encouraged to contact CPT Bechtel for more information.

CPT Christopher Bechtel
History Instructor, VFMA

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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<td>December 7</td>
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January 18, 2015  Chapel Service  Chapel Parade  April 25  (Saturday)  Alumni Chapel Service  Regimental Review
February 8  Chapel Service  Chapel Parade  April 26  Chapel Service  Chapel Parade
March 15  Chapel Service  Chapel Parade  May 10  (Mothers Day)  Chapel Service  Regimental Review

**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 on our website which is updated as needed.

**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
Eoin and Parena 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.

**PHOTO GALLERY ONLINE:**
Please feel free to check our online photo gallery for both the Crucible, Join the Ranks Ceremony and more events from throughout the current school year.

In addition, portrait photos were taken during the 2 November Sunday breakfast, check the link to view and make your purchase.

**IS YOUR CADET 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  
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