HELLO CADET PARENTS, GUARDIANS & SPONSORS:

Plebe parents, just one more week until your plebe becomes a New Cadet! The Recognition Ceremony will begin at 4:30 PM and will take place in Eisenhower Hall on Friday, 27 February. Parking may be on the Parade Field. We look forward to seeing you at that time.

Another interesting VFMA&C historical fact!

The white building located next to Lee Hall on the Main Area is Von Steuben Hall (c. 1905.) It was named to honor Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, the Prussian officer who assisted General Washington and the Continental Army at Valley Forge in military drill and discipline during the winter encampment of 1777-1778. Today, a renovated Von Steuben Hall is home away from home for our female College Cadets.

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 2015:

- 19 February - Chinese New Year, Year of the Sheep – Chinese Cadets dinner scheduled
- 19-22 February - Military School Band Festival at St. John’s Northwestern Academy in Delafield, WI.
- 27 February at 4:30 PM - Mid-year New Cadet Recognition Ceremony and Reception in Eisenhower Hall
- College Spring Leave begins at 6:00 PM on Friday, 27 February and ends no later than 6:30 PM on Sunday, 8 March
- 15 March – Academy and College Admissions Open House in Eisenhower Hall – Chapel Service – 11:00 AM
- 17 March – VFMA&C Regimental Band to perform in NYC’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade
- 20 March – 7:00-9:30 PM – Academy Parents Association Event – details will be forthcoming
- 22-27 March – Academy Close Up Trip to Washington, DC for invited cadets
- 26 March – 6 April – Chapel Mission Trip to Jamaica
- Academy Spring Leave begins no earlier than 6:00 PM on Friday, 27 March and ends no later than 6:30 PM on Monday, 6 April

CATHOLIC MASS SCHEDULE:

Below is the schedule for VFMA&C Chapel of Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Mass for the rest of the school year. The Mass is held at 4:30 PM in the Chapel and all are welcome!

February 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22; April 12, 19, 26

May 3, 10 Parents Spring Weekend, Mass at 9:00 AM, and the last Mass for the school year.
HEALTH CENTER ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Health Center is pleased to announce that Registered Dietician, Susan Hurd from Sodexo is again coming to Valley Forge to provide support with dietary questions. Ms. Hurd has assisted Valley Forge cadets successfully since last year and has agreed to expand the program and join us in the Mess Hall monthly until the end of the academic year. All staff and cadets are welcome to take advantage of this free service.

RIFLE RANGE COMPETITION:

On Saturday 14 February 2015 the VF Rifle Club held an inter-squad competition in the Mellon Hall Rifle Range from 8 – noon. Cadets competed in teams of two (shooter/spotter) in both rifle and pistol. The event was generously supported by Mr. Van Bentem, father of Cadet Jonathan Van Bentem, ’18, Mr. Gallagher, father of Cadet Niall Gallagher, ’15, and Mr. and Mrs. Freeman parents of Cadet Hayden Freeman, ’18.

The results of the competition were:
1st: Cadets Che/Korol
2nd: Cadet Freeman/K Freeman (right)
3rd: Cadets Moser/Frombach.

We look forward to getting off campus again to the woods of Oley Valley once the winter cold thaws.

CPT Christopher Bechtel

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTS:

Sky Zone Trip – 22 January

Jumping on trampolines has quickly become one of the most popular free monthly trips that cadets can attend. On Thursday, 22 January, a group of 35 cadets went to Sky Zone in Oaks, PA where they got to enjoy 1 ½ hours of jumping time. They had time before Study Hall to blow off some steam! Jumping activities included dodgeball, foam pit, basketball, and the large platform of trampolines. All of the cadets commented about how much of a work out jumping on trampolines really can be! Everyone left Sky Zone happy and feeling that “good tired!”

Boy Scout Camping Trip – 6-8 February

Troop 971 sent 9 scouts and our assistant scout master to the Poconos for a weekend camping trip at a cabin in Gouldsboro, PA. The cadets went to the Steamtown repair shop and spent hours snow tubing at Jack Frost Ski Resort. Cadets in the troop helped to prepare the menu, plan the outdoor cooking, and helped choose activities. They worked on skills for the cold weather merit badge. The repair shop tour was interesting and the snow tubing was much fun!
Weekend Ski Trip to Vermont – 6-8 February

A group of 24 cadets and 4 chaperones went to Vermont to ski Killington. The group got in a full day of skiing on both Saturday and Sunday with near perfect conditions. It snowed for most of the trip and was very cold but the group had a fun few days on the mountain. They stayed at the Holiday Inn in Rutland and enjoyed a delicious daily breakfast buffet and dinner. The trip was enjoyed by all and a few cadets tried skiing and snowboarding for the first time!
CADET APPOINTMENT NOTIFICATIONS:
Congratulations to our USMA Preparatory Cadets for their appointments to USMA (United States Military Academy at West Point!)

Cadet William Derrick
Cadet Camm Johnson
Cadet John Kelly
Cadet Junus Sela
Cadet Brett Van Buren

Congratulations to our Academy cadet’s appointment to the Naval Academy!
Cadet Niall Gallagher

NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST HIGHLIGHTS:
I had the honor of attending and representing VF at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC and was able to sponsor Cadet Jianru Li and Cadet Kezhi Wang. Cadet Wang also participated in the National Student Leadership Conference that ran concurrently with the NPB activities. There were representatives from 130 countries who participated including:

The Dalai Lama: (our Chinese cadets got to witness our democracy in action, observing protests for and against him in front of the hotel)
King Abdulla, II of Jordan: (who left early to return to Jordan in response to world events. The Jordanian Ambassador presented the King’s speech at Thursday’s lunch and received a standing ovation in support of Jordan)
Darrell Waltrip, of NASCAR fame and the keynote speaker
Stephen Baldwin, actor
Giba Goba, ’10 VFMA
Yija Gui, ’14 VFMA and his parents.

CAPT Gerry Hale
Chaplin

WEBSITE NEWS:
The new VFMA&C website at www.vfmac.edu has been launched and the development team continues to make enhancements and in some cases, fixes. Please feel free to contact, Lini at L.stevens@vfmac.edu or 610-989-1328 with questions.

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 on the bottom of the home page on our website which is updated as needed.

3RD ANNUAL VFMA&C CHAPEL MISSIONS TRIP, JAMAICA
March 26-April 6, 2015:
If your cadet is interested in this exciting trip, there is still time and space to accommodate. If interested, please contact Captain Hale at GHale@vfmac.edu.

PARENTS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Jay and Chris Cary, Chairs:        Jaycary@verizon.net  610-918-0568
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.

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

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