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*Know Truth
Create Beauty
Practice Goodness*

GrandPartners Gazette

*A Newsletter for Those Who Help Make Thomas MacLaren School GRAND
Spring 2021 – First Edition*

Welcome to the first edition of the *GrandPartners Gazette*! This has been a year of distancing. With the *Gazette* we hope to bring you a bit closer - closer to the events you can view online, and closer to the events we hope all of us can join **live and in person** next year. Thank you, grandparents and “grand-friends” of students from kindergarten through 12th grade, for being such a vital part of your grandchild’s life. Each issue of the *Gazette* newsletter will focus on elements of life at MacLaren. In this issue, the focus is on music, drama, Morning Assemblies, and sports.

MUSIC - Each student at Thomas MacLaren is a music student, singing in K-5 and playing in the string orchestra 6-12. Sometimes grandparents, parents, siblings, and friends get to join the fun. **Watch the MacLaren YouTube channel this May for the Spring Orchestra Concert. Plan to be in the audience next May when we gather for this concert, also known as Fine Arts Night, at the Pikes Peak Center.**

When’s the last time you were part of an All-School Sing-Along? This has become a beloved MacLaren Lower School February event. You probably know that your grandchildren are taking music classes where they are learning about pitch and keeping time. Those skills are on display at the sing-along in the Commons area of the school. Everyone is invited, and even determined non-singers have a great time. Mark it down for February 2022!



DRAMA — From 6th graders memorizing and reciting poetry at Morning Assembly to 11th and 12th graders putting on plays before packed houses, all Upper School students learn the demands and the beauty of the dramatic arts. When it comes to the plays, it’s all hands-on deck, or, rather, stage. Students paint backdrops and work the lights. They make costumes and do make-up. And they act. The two upcoming 12th grade productions require hours of memorization, hours of backstage preparation, and hours of rehearsal.

In March, the senior class is presenting two plays by William Shakespeare: “The Tempest” and “Julius Caesar.” The productions will be posted on the MacLaren YouTube channel at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 19.



MORNING ASSEMBLY — Students come together for the first 15 minutes of the morning for a talk or a performance to begin the day, but lately it's been done in classrooms via video or in-person talks. Morning Assembly for the Lower and Upper Schools is available on the MacLaren YouTube channel. **Tune in to the January 25, 2021, LS Morning Assembly as Head of Lower School, Mr. Alvarado, teaches the students how to play, "Hinky Pinky."** This is a fun word game you can play with your grandchild over FaceTime or Zoom, in a phone call or over email or snail mail. Here's an example: The answer to the clue has to be two rhyming words of two syllables each, hinky pinky. *Question: Devotion to the queen?* *Answer: Royalty Loyalty.* Easy Peasy!

Or, listen to Mrs. Gonzalez, 6th and 7th Grade Girls' Dean, explain the history of plaid during the February 9, 2021, Upper School Morning Assembly. You'll be surprised to learn that wearing the plaid was once outlawed as an act of terrorism by the British in the 1746 Dress Act. Talk with your grandchild about the ways society views clothing and fashion, from your childhood to theirs. Haul out those high school yearbook pictures from the attic. Brylcreem and poodle skirts, or bell-bottoms and sideburns; it's bound to spark a conversation.

SPORTS — MacLaren students excel in the classroom and on the field. High school students participate in the state 2A Black Forest League and middle schoolers compete in CCAL against other Pikes Peak area schools. In the fall, boys' middle and high school cross country teams placed 10th and 6th in state! Now we're at the end of "basketball" season (yes, basketball wearing masks!) Both boys' and girls' middle and high school teams played well. You can watch the last middle school girls' home games on YouTube and, be sure to check out the new Highlander mascot painted on the gym wall. (A big thanks to the Class of '19 for the gift of the logo! We'd love to see our Highlander logo painted on the outside gym wall facing the field, too. Thanks to all who contribute towards these projects!) Middle school girls' volleyball season starts soon. Other sports coming this spring: boys' and girls' soccer, and boys' and girls' track & field. *Go Highlanders!*



We continue to be grateful to the MacLaren faculty and staff and their commitment to in-person teaching. Because of them, most of our activities continue and school traditions are preserved. We look forward to sharing activities and events with our GrandPartners in person (fingers crossed!) at MacLaren next fall. Please watch for the next *GrandPartners Gazette* with an invitation to a special GrandPartner event. If you have any questions or suggestions, please drop a note to Joy Oram, Director of Community Engagement, at joram@maclarenschool.org.

Thank you for supporting your grandchild(ren) and Thomas MacLaren School!

KEEP IN CONTACT!

Want to see more pictures, videos, and event information about life at Thomas MacLaren? Connect with us! MacLaren website – <https://www.maclarenschool.org> for Calendars, Giving opportunities & other information.



MacLaren YouTube Channel – Go to MacLaren's own YouTube Channel to watch videos like Morning Assemblies, sporting events and more. We will be adding more videos including concerts and performances soon. Please subscribe! <https://www.youtube.com/c/thomasmaclarenschool>



MacLaren School Facebook Page - Please "like" our Facebook page to see fun pictures and posts about students as well as information on upcoming events <https://www.facebook.com/ThomasMacLarenSchool>



MacLaren Instagram: View the school account at [@thomasmaclarenschool](https://www.instagram.com/thomasmaclarenschool) and athletics at [@tmacathletics](https://www.instagram.com/tmacathletics)