



# GrandPartners GAZETTE

6th EDITION | WINTER 2023  
MACLARENSCHOOL.ORG | (719) 313-4488

Spring is on the way, GrandPartners, even if the groundhog saw its shadow. Here at MacLaren, it's always spring as our students learn and grow. Learning and growing is the MacLaren way.

## THE MACLAREN WAY: Minimizing screen time for students.

You're probably concerned about the effects of too much screen time on children and teens. Faculty and staff at MacLaren have always worked to keep students awake to the wonders of the real world and away from the dangers of the virtual one. It's an integral part of the MacLaren way. Upper School students hand in their phones to the front desk at the beginning of each school day. Lower School students are introduced to books, to the printed word, not pixels. Students sing and play string instruments. They discuss what they are reading. They write. They draw. They observe the changing seasons. It's screen off, hands on at Thomas MacLaren School.

Waking to wonder springs up often. Miss Hall, who teaches fifth grade, recalls a memorable day when one of her students began softly singing a folk song learned in music class. As the students worked quietly, another student began to sing with her. And another, until the whole class was singing, in parts and in harmony. One of Miss Hall's students reports that among class favorites are "Pretty Saro," "California Song," and "Shady Grove." The next time you talk to your Lower School student, ask him or her to sing one of the songs. **Maybe you can sing a folk song you learned as a child.**



**THE MACLAREN WAY: Learning from the best.** Think of how you have learned—your job, your craft, your way. You learned by watching, and imitating, the best. Then look at this display of eleventh grade acrylic portraits. Do you recognize Vermeer's "Girl With a Pearl Earring" on the lower left? MacLaren art students (and that's all students) are taught to study masterworks and learn from them—line, shading, perspective, and color. They are asked to take that careful study and apply it to their own faces to sketch self-portraits in pencil. By twelfth grade each student will complete a self-portrait in acrylic. **Don't forget to hint how nice that senior portrait would look framed on your wall.**



## Why we ask.

We are a public charter school and yet we receive **\$2,000 less per pupil than students in district schools. That's an annual difference of \$1,852,000.** We still must pay all of the operating costs of any public school, including paying for and maintaining our campus. We provide a rich and rigorous curriculum within a respectful and peaceful community of learners. We don't teach to the test; we teach. Even so our test scores are among the highest of our region and state. **We depend on generous people like you to help this wonderful curriculum, campus, and culture thrive! Thank you.**

## STAY IN CONTACT WITH US FOR VIDEOS, PICTURES AND MORE STORIES!

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**THE MACLAREN WAY:** If it's January, it must be **Project Week**. If the halls are filled with breaking bridges and Viking ships and catapults, wild animal dioramas, and "failed nations" maps, then it's Project Week for the Upper School. During Project Week, students spend 30 hours immersed in a subject, not for a grade, but for the sake of learning. **Be sure to ask about your student's winter research and work. You'll learn something, too.**



**THE MACLAREN WAY:** **Winning in sportsmanship and competition.** Senior **Jay Wood** became the first ever MacLaren athlete to sign for an **NCAA scholarship** on National Signing Day. Jay will run Cross Country at Colorado Christian University (NCAA DII). Jay modeled the MacLaren way in sports. He is skilled, finishing eighth at the state championships, and he is a leader. Jay helped coached younger Highlanders runners and passed on his love of running to them. Congratulations, Jay!

**Highlanders High School Boys Soccer Team** went to State (again!) After winning their division for three years in a row, they were ranked #3 going into the 2A state playoffs but lost in the quarterfinals to the state champs. The **Highlanders Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball teams** advanced to their league playoffs. This is a MacLaren first for both boys and girls teams. Fear the Deer!

Spring athletics bring Boys and Girls High School and Middle School Track & Field, Girls High School and Middle School Soccer, and a new sport for MacLaren—Boys High School and Middle School Volleyball. Come out and watch a match or meet and cheer on the team! Go Highlanders!



## SCHOOL EVENTS

*GrandPartners are always invited!*

**Junior Drama I:**  
*The Pillars of Society*  
by Henrik Ibsen  
March 6 and 7, 6:30 p.m.

**Junior Drama II:**  
*An Enemy of the People*  
by Henrik Ibsen  
March 9 and 10, 6:30 p.m.  
MacLaren Auditorium

**GrandPartners Bingo Party!**  
Friday, March 17, 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
Play bingo with your grandchildren!  
Refreshments, prizes,  
and Celtic music!  
Free. Space is limited.  
RSVP at [www.maclarenschool.org/  
community/grandpartners](http://www.maclarenschool.org/community/grandpartners)

**Save the Date:**  
**Spring Fine Arts Night**  
Friday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.  
Pikes Peak Center

Questions? RSVP?  
Contact Joy Oram  
at 719-313-4488 x107  
[joram@maclarenschool.org](mailto:joram@maclarenschool.org)

## PACK THE STANDS FUND



Highlander fans of all ages will enjoy watching basketball and volleyball games in new bleachers with guard rails, ADA access, and greater capacity. Please consider donating to the **Pack the Stands Fund** for new gym bleachers. We've raised \$51,000 so far and we're over 50% of the way to our goal of \$80,000. We need your help!