On October 22 we were blessed with a beautiful autumn day for the long awaited return of the Mount Aviat Academy Golf Tournament. Eighty-two golfers hit the links at the prestigious Newark Country Club and enjoyed an outstanding day of golf, a delicious lunch, fabulous prizes, and the warmth of friends. It was wonderful to see so many of our alumni and alumni families present. The day concluded with a delightful dinner and engaging presentations from Mrs. Christine Doordan, parent of alumni Trace ’11 and Jack ’13, and Mrs. Taylor Akers ’04, MAA alumna and parent of two current MAA students. Mrs. Doordan spoke about the impact Mount Aviat Academy has had on her family and Mrs. Akers spoke about her grandfather, Harry Hammond, founding member of our Board of Trustees, who left an indelible mark of love, devotion and determination on our MAA community. To honor Mr. Hammond’s faithfulness to Mount Aviat Academy, plans are underway for the construction of the Hammond Hive, a learning center providing students the opportunity for hands-on activities where they can collaboratively solve problems and explore and create new models for learning and expression. Proceeds from the golf tournament will subsidize the building of the Hammond Hive. (See page 4 for more details on this project.)

The success of the golf tournament would not have been possible without the loyal and enthusiastic efforts of our co-chairmen, Tom Petrella and Lou Peticca, as well as committee members Taylor Akers, Michele Camponelli, Jen Peticca, Marty (MAA Kindergarten graduate) and Chris Doordan, and Mike and Kathy Keogh. We offer them our deepest gratitude, as well as all of our sponsors, donors,
As Mount Aviat opened its doors on August 30th to yet another year of uncertainty in the second school year operating during a global pandemic, I was struck by the resiliency of our staff and teachers, our students, our parents, and our community and their dedication to Mount Aviat. Last year was a truly challenging year and completely unprecedented; we had to pivot sometimes daily to deal with the changes of operating a school in a pandemic. This year brought optimism, disappointment, and then ultimately, yet again, resiliency. Children and staff alike entered classrooms with masks and social distancing in place and were courageous and determined! Parents, alumni parents, and good friends gathered to bring back a fundraiser that had not been run at MAA in many years—a golf tournament—that was a blessing not only in the funds it helped to raise, but in the bonds it reinvigorated. Plans for a new learning center named in honor of Mr. Harry Hammond also became a reality thanks to the golf tournament and a grant from the Crystal Trust Foundation. Our extended community also showed up in great numbers to support our drive thru Roast Beef Dinner and Christmas Bazaar yet again this year. In addition, this year we welcomed a new Athletic Director—thank you, Mr. JR Wikes—who rallied the coaches to bring back our athletic programs after a yearlong hiatus, and our volleyball and soccer teams all had successful seasons. Finally, we celebrated a historic occasion with the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Oblate Sisters on October 11th. As always, there is much to be thankful for.

To all of you, I say thank you. Thank you for your unwavering support. We could not do all we do without you. As Saint Léonie Aviat so aptly stated, “God does not try us beyond our strength. When he sends difficulty, he adds the means of overcoming it.” You are those means. The Oblate Sisters continue to keep you all in prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Sister John Elizabeth Callaghan, OSFS

NOW HIRING!
MAA is seeking a Director of Advancement.
Visit www.mountaviat.org for a complete job description.
and volunteers who made this event a fun and memorable day (see sidebar).

An Online Silent Auction was held in conjunction with the tournament, which also raised funds for the Hammond Hive. Thank you to those who participated in the auction with your generous bids and to those who donated fabulous items and services: the Hammond Family, State Line Liquors, American Home & Hardware, Harmony & Home Decor (Meghan Handy), Rizzo Winery, Mr. & Mrs. Marty Doordan, Stella & Dot (Phuong Besancon), Pine Valley Christmas Tree, Rodek Dental Arts, Delaware Brick Company, Horizon Helicopters, the Brown Family, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Keogh, Mr. and Mrs. Marc Seigel, and the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales. We are grateful for your generosity and hope the winners enjoy their prizes.

We look forward to hosting another golf tournament in October 2022…stayed tuned!
One of the many important lessons learned as a school during the pandemic is the value of learning space. With social distancing guidelines in place, learning space is at a premium at MAA. Thanks to alumnus Thomas Dymowski '17, MAA has a new outdoor learning space that accommodates 27 students. In addition, over the past few months a new pavilion has been erected, which will provide ample options for classes and meetings, too.

However, before social distancing was even a thought in our day-to-day lives, Principal Sr. John Elizabeth had recognized the need for a new learning space, one that would provide students the opportunity for hands-on activities where they can collaboratively solve problems and explore and create new models for learning and expression. “We knew we needed a space with the ability to quickly and effectively change the classroom configuration and encourage a truly collaborative classroom.” Thus, the idea for the new learning space was ignited and, with help from community supporters, its now on its way to becoming a reality (see renderings). The new space will be approximately 30 feet by 55 feet, making it larger than a typical classroom, and will be accessed through the lower level elevator lobby.

Classes such as STREAM, Art, and Music will make great use of the new, flexible space. Beginning in 2017, Mount Aviat’s STREAM program injected much excitement and energy into the already robust technology curriculum. STREAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math, is a comprehensive hands-on learning experience—and the favorite subject of most students! As the program expands, the need for more space has become crucial. Mount Aviat’s new active and collaborative student environment will help students become 21st century leaders, discoverers, and problem solvers.

Fittingly, the new space will be named Hammond Hive, in memory of Harry Hammond who was a friend of the Oblate Sisters since their arrival in the United States and a founding member of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Hammond left an indelible mark of love, devotion, and determination in the MAA community and the naming of the learning center will honor his legacy.

Dreams can only become a reality with support and funding, neither was long in coming. Michael Hanby, Board Member and husband of our 8th grade teacher, assumed responsibility for the building process and Shawn Crawley, Kindergarten parent and husband of MAA alumna Amanda Crawford, offered architectural services. Colin Bradley, MAA current parent, did the land survey. Funding came in part by proceeds from the golf tournament, which raised nearly $30,000. The Crystal Trust, a private foundation in Montchanin, Delaware, has contributed a $100,000 grant as part of their commitment to charitable giving and support for innovative educational programs. This gift will be invaluable in helping us reach our goal. Anyone interested in supporting this project should contact Sr. John Elizabeth. Opportunities to contribute to the cost of erecting the addition will be offered in the coming months.
Mount Aviat Academy

The Aviat Link

WINTER 2022

MAA Auction 2017 was a year to remember. That year, Mount Aviat celebrated 25 years of dinner auctions that supported our school—and the gentleman who made them such a success: our beloved Colonel Robert Burkheimer. As our auctioneer, he single-handedly brought out the best from our guests, encouraging them to give all they could to support MAA. His personal touch, along with his commitment to Catholic education, inspired so many of us. He was honored that year as our basketball court was named for him: Colonel’s Court. For a year, we were reminded of his generosity every time we entered St. Joseph Hall.

For over 25 years the Colonel donated his services as our auctioneer adding substantial profit to each auction. Originally made as a thank you gift to the Colonel for his volunteer efforts, each year he opened the auction with a homemade pie made by our equally beloved Sr. Jane Stanislaus. He was able to raise as much as $2,500.00 for a pie! Colonel Burkheimer continued to serve as auctioneer through 2019.

Colonel Burkheimer passed away November 1, 2021. We continue to remember and honor him and to pray for the repose of his soul. May his legacy of giving with such joy continue to inspire us.

The Gempesaws explained the reason and intent for their generosity: “From the time that our sons, Daniel and David, attended Mount Aviat Academy, we always felt that we were part of the MAA family. The Oblate Sisters, teachers, and staff are dedicated to helping each and every student achieve their potential and parent volunteers work together to support the school and the students. As parents, we were very pleased with the quality of education that our sons received, particularly its emphasis on high academic standards and character formation. Even after our sons graduated from MAA, we continued to support the school’s annual fund drive because we believe in its educational and Catholic mission. Through the Gempesaw/Albay Family Scholarship, we would like to support Mount Aviat Academy in providing opportunities for families in financial need to avail of an excellent Catholic education for their children.”

The first Gempesaw/Albay Family Scholarship will be awarded for the 2022-2023 academic school year. Scholarship recipients will be chosen from among the families who apply for financial assistance through the school’s financial aid application program. Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis.

Additional contributions may be made to the scholarship fund by other individuals or organizations. For more information, contact Sr. John Elizabeth at principal@mountaviat.org or email endowment@mountaviat.org.

FIRST ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED AT MAA

Through the generosity of MAA alumni parents Conrado “Bobby” Gempesaw and Clavel Albay Gempesaw and MAA alumni Daniel ’00 and David ’03 Gempesaw, the Gempesaw/Albay Family Scholarship was established on December 14, 2021 with contributions totaling $50,000. The endowed scholarship fund will be invested as part of the Aviat Foundation Endowment Trust.

REMEMBERING COLONEL ROBERT BURKHEIMER
MAA athletes make a comeback!

MAA witnessed quite the bounce back story in the Soccer and Volleyball programs this Fall under the guidance of newly appointed Athletic Director JR Wikes. There was an increase in participation from student-athletes and volunteers, as well as a notable increase in performance across all teams.

This year marks the 4th season of soccer at MAA since the program was reintroduced after 30 years, and we are thrilled by the level of participation and accomplishments by the student-athletes. Both Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity teams had full rosters. This coed program develops great camaraderie and school spirit among the students. Student-athletes showed exceptional improvement over the season in their individual skills and teamwork.

MAA’s JV Soccer team made it to the Finals and clinched the program’s first JV title with a 3–2 overtime win against Immaculate Heart of Mary. Congrats to the team which included Kylie Allen, Kathryn Cicero, Nicholas Cirillo, Madelyn Fausnaugh, Cash Fockler, Gabrielle Getz, Sofia Guarnieri, Parker Heitz, Nathan Henderson, Kallie Lewis, Riley Lewis, Kellan MacMillan, Elena McNaney-Droz, E.J. Papaleo, Cameron Poet, Mason Roe, and Sadie Trumbull as well as Coaches Tim Getz, Janie Trumbull, Dana Berry, and Patti Poet.


The Soccer program led by Soccer Coordinator, Janie Trumbull, continues to thrive with a notable uptick in new student-athletes and volunteers. We hope to continue that trend. Information for next year will be provided this spring.

MAA organized three CYM volleyball teams this past fall and all had a fantastic season. The program was led by Volleyball Coordinator, Vera Greenplate.

Coached by Jessica Johnson, and Leah and Colin Bradley, MAA’s JV team of 5th graders included Brooke Taylor, Skylar Marrero, Claudia Bradley, Daisy Murphy, Regan DiPietro, Jocelynne Swartz, Khloe Proctor, and Stella McConaghy. This was the first volleyball experience for these young players and they had so much fun learning together. They finished an amazing first season with a record of 8–2 and had a wonderful experience growing together as a team.

MAA’s Varsity Y1 team of 6th and 7th graders Katelyn Fritts, Lydia Simmons, Alaina Vible, Madison Truitt, Emma Lucky, Kendle Snyder, Linden Summers, and Reese Kirk was coached by Amanda Truitt and Jennifer Fritts. The girls had a successful season and grew together as a team while improving their playing skills. They made it to the second round of the CYM playoffs to take on the undefeated St. Anthony’s team in a 3 set match. They may have lost the match but finished strong and have much to celebrate!

MAA’s Varsity C team of 8th graders Ella Marsili, Raegan Brown, Tessa Palm, Maddie Barlow, Phoebe Nichols, Katie Greenplate, Alyssa Giovanni, and Caylee Moore was coached by Ed Murray, Larry Ertle, and Vera Greenplate. These student-athletes have all played volleyball for MAA since 4th grade with a strong season each year. Despite some initial fears about competing this season in the highest division of CYM volleyball, they wanted to be challenged on and off the court. Not only did they excel, they earned themselves a seat in the CYM Championship game! They finished 2nd place for the division and worked together to finish out an amazing season.

The huge success of MAA athletic programs is significantly dependent upon our community of committed volunteers. Parents, grandparents, former students, and friends of MAA step up as leaders, educators, and role models to help our student-athletes learn lifelong skills not only related to the sport but ones that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. MAA athletes are so successful because of the special volunteers in the school community who dedicate their time to work with our youth. Thank you to our many volunteers, and especially Vera Greenplate who has been instrumental in the success of the volleyball program since starting as a coach and then taking the helm as Volleyball Coordinator in 2017.
The Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales celebrated a milestone in 2021: 150 years as a religious congregation dedicated to living the rich spirituality rooted in St. Francis de Sales. In addition, 2021 marked the 400th anniversary of the death of St. Francis de Sales, doctor of the Church and known as the Doctor of Divine Love.

St. Leonie Aviat, Foundress of the Oblate Sisters, counseled and directed the Congregation until her death in 1914. Her words of wisdom continue to ground and inspire the Sisters and those whose lives they touch.

Let us work for the happiness of others.
- St. Leonie Aviat

From its quiet location among the farm fields of Childs, Mount Aviat Academy holds a special place in the hearts of many Cecil Countians, especially those with a connection to its storied educational history, or a taste for cream puffs! Both have their origins in the earliest mission of the Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales, a religious congregation that has run the school since the early 1950s.

May my love unceasingly offer something to my divine Jesus.

Founded in France in the mid-nineteenth century by Blessed Louis Brisson and St. Leonie Aviat, the Oblate Sisters were originally committed to providing guidance and education to the young women working in the many factories of that century’s Industrial Revolution. Education for these young women was a natural outgrowth of that mission and by the middle of the next century, the Sisters were operating a number of schools throughout Europe, South America, and Africa. It was on a tour of one of these schools that Mother Jeanne de Sales was asked to send some of the Oblate Sisters to America, specifically to Childs, to assist the Oblate Fathers who had established a novitiate there. Thus, in 1951, Srs. Bertha Gonzalez (Superior), Jane Stanislaus, and Mary Bertha came to America and worked with the Oblates, mostly in the seminary kitchen where all they did was for their “divine Jesus.”

Keep the Savior with you in your day-to-day challenges; He will be your strength.

In 1952, the Sisters took over the old county almshouse and established their first convent in the United States, still known as Villa Aviat. Day-to-day challenges were not lacking; neither was God’s strength. The buildings were in poor shape, but the Sisters relied on faith (and a lot of elbow grease provided by Oblate novices) to convert them to a useful facility. Once the buildings were ready, they opened their first school, a kindergarten. In 1960, the Oblates took the next step, opening Mount Aviat Academy, a day and boarding high school for young women under the direction of Principal Sr. Françoise-Marguerite. They graduated their first class of 24 students in 1964. The Academy did well for several years, but by the late ’60s, it was apparent that competition from other schools in the area was shrinking the available student base, so the Sisters began the process of converting from an all-girls high school to a co-educational elementary school. The high school graduated its last class in 1972, but beginning in 1969, the Oblates added one grade a year to the existing kindergarten, and in 1977 graduated their first 8th grade class.

Lord may I do nothing without being united to you.

Over the years, the Sisters have expanded their facilities, adding on to existing buildings and erecting new ones as needed. Today they teach a full curriculum, Preschool through eighth grade, at Mount Aviat in Childs (named a Presidential Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 2014) and have even been asked to help out in such diverse communities as Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, Fredericksburg, Virginia and, most recently, at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Towson, Maryland. Their desire to share their union with Christ, their efforts to “Live Jesus,” and their passion for leading our youth to be “no more and no less than their best” continues to inspire and animate them. In collaboration with faculty and staff who have equally embraced Salesian spirituality the legacy begun 150 years ago lives on.
1. Eighth grader Phoebe Nichols helps welcome new friends to MAA with temporary tattoos at the Ice Cream Social hosted by the Friends. 2. Friends’ members Theresa Vessey, Gloria Smith, and Jackie Murphy serve up ice cream treats with warm smiles at the Ice Cream Social for new school families. 3. First grader Rosemary Quinteros is all smiles on her first day in the “big school.” 4. First-grade students line up next to their new friend, the MAA knight mascot, located outside of their classroom. 5. MAA students gather together to form a Living Rosary at the school’s annual celebration. 6. Eighth graders are ready to roll on their first day of the new school year. 7. Fourth graders Payton Whiteman and Kylie Allen create some furry friends as they participate in Fall Fest activities, a fundraiser put on by the Class of 2022 to help the missions in Haiti. 8. Principal Sr. John Elizabeth enjoys carving pumpkins just as much as the 8th graders and their Kindergarten buddies. 9. The Kindergarten class proudly shows off the pumpkins they carved with their 8th grade buddies. 10. Much to the delight of their students, Ms. Huber and Mrs. Landis get in on the Halloween fun by dressing up as minions. 11. Kindergarten students line up and proudly wave their flags during the Veterans’ Day assembly outside of Preschool. 12. Patriot’s Pen Essay Winners: Phoebe Nichols, Caylee Moore, Jonah Landis, Tessa Palm, and Adrienne Peticca. 13. Third grade welcomes back Singerly Fire Company for a visit after a one-year hiatus. 14. Lower school students excitedly high five Sparky, Singerly Fire Company’s mascot. 15. Preschooler Dayton Sexton enjoys a delicious Thanksgiving meal. 16. Preschool and Kindergarten take part in a much-loved tradition of breaking bread together for Thanksgiving. 17. Preschoolers William Fritts and Olivia Vlamis shine as Joseph and Mary in the Preschool Christmas show. 18. Preschoolers wowed their parents with a lovely Christmas show on the “big stage” in St. Joseph Hall. 19. Lower school students join together to present the Christmas story to the rest of the student body. 20. Second grader Nicholas Papaleo presents his lines perfectly during the Christmas show. 21. The Beginner Band preps for their first big band concert. 22. The Advanced Band warms up under the direction of Mr. John Spangenburg. 23. Sr. John Elizabeth gathers with students for the annual Crib Ceremony. 24. Eighth graders Tessa Palm and Raegan Brown help explain the true meaning of the Christmas symbols of the star and bells during the Crib Ceremony.
THE FUND FOR MOUNT AVIAT

As we reflect on the support and generosity received during the record-breaking 2020-2021 Fund for Mount Aviat campaign, we are profoundly grateful for the blessing of our faithful community. The 2021-2022 Fund for Mount Aviat is progressing successfully and gifts totaling over $86,200 have been received as of mid-January. We are thankful for the continued support of our family and friends as we continue to navigate these extraordinary times. If you have not had an opportunity to make your gift, you are welcome to at any time. The Fund for Mount Aviat closes on June 30, 2022 and with your help, we can reach our goal of $125,000. Gifts may be mailed to Mount Aviat Academy, 399 Childs Road, Childs, MD 21916, or given online by visiting www.mountaviat.org. For questions or information, please contact Joan Fassano, jfassano@mountaviat.org or 410-398-2206, ext. 239. Following are giving totals as of mid-January 2022:

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1. MAA teacher Mrs. Hanby volunteers her time to help Sr. Joseph Margaret prep containers of delicious roast beef for the annual Roast Beef dinner.
2. Sr. John Elizabeth welcomes guests as they drive through food stations at the Roast Beef dinner.
3. The Huston family donates their time to the all-important pie pickup station at the annual Christmas bazaar.
4. A team of dedicated volunteers fills cream puff orders at the annual Christmas bazaar.

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER OFFER MATCHING OF CHARITABLE GIFTS?

These are just some of the organizations that contribute to MAA through employee contributions. Check with your employer and see how you can continue to make a difference.

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Attention Amazon Shoppers!
Did you know that you could support MAA while shopping on Amazon? By shopping on AmazonSmile, you can designate your favorite charity to receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases—with no fees or cost to you.

THE FUND FOR MOUNT AVIAT NEWS

1. MAA teacher Mrs. Hanby volunteers her time to help Sr. Joseph Margaret prep containers of delicious roast beef for the annual Roast Beef dinner.
2. Sr. John Elizabeth welcomes guests as they drive through food stations at the Roast Beef dinner.
3. The Huston family donates their time to the all-important pie pickup station at the annual Christmas bazaar.
4. A team of dedicated volunteers fills cream puff orders at the annual Christmas bazaar.
Maxwell Baker ’05 married Emily Biffen on October 16, 2021. The couple resides in Wilmington, Delaware.

Lisa DelCoglin ’00 married Christopher Price on October 19, 2019. The couple welcomed their first child, Christopher James Price, Jr., on May 22, 2021. Nana, aka Mrs. DelCoglin, couldn’t be prouder of grandchild number 7!

Makenzie Hendron ’10 married Tyler Walters on September 4, 2021. Makenzie and Tyler were married at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, PA. After having to postpone their wedding a whole year due to COVID, Makenzie and Tyler were so happy to finally celebrate their special day surrounded by their family and friends.

Nicholas Szep ’11 (Salesianum ’15) graduated from the US Coast Guard Academy on May 19. On June 12, in a ceremony celebrated by Rev. Chris Beretta, O.S.F.S., Nicholas married his childhood sweetheart Linda Morris. Mount Aviat and Salesianum groomsmen included Joshua Szep ’13, Robert Snyder ’11, and Justin Gannon ’11. The newlyweds reside in Norfolk, VA where Ensign Szep is assigned as the deck watch and navigational officer on the USCGC Northland and Linda Szep is an 8th grade English teacher.

Kathryn (Locke) Jones ’05 and her husband Nick welcomed twins Seamus Ryan and Thomas Healy on December 24, 2021. The twins share a birthday with their older brother, Maclin.

Don’t forget to like our Facebook page (Mount Aviat Academy Alumni Association) and follow MAA on Twitter and Instagram @MountAviat.

If you have alumni news you would like to share, please contact Mrs. Charlene Nichols, Admissions Director, at Admissions@MountAviat.org.

**Congrats to the following 8th graders** who earned scholarships to Catholic high schools: Padua Academy - Academic: Mary Drost, Phoebe Nichols, Tessa Palm, Adrienne Pettica Merit: Riley Bransfield, Caylee Moore, Phoebe Nichols
St. Mark’s High School - Academic: Madelyn Barlow, Riley Bransfield, Mallory Cohn, Mary Drost, Jonah Landis, Aedin MacMillan, Phoebe Nichols, Katelyn Novak, Tessa Palm, Adrienne Pettica Merit: Madelyn Barlow (Commitment to Leadership), Stephen Hilton (Excellence in Technology), Katelyn Novak (Excellence in Technology), Tessa Palm (Excellence in Technology), Anthony Veasey (Excellence in Performing Arts-Instrumental Music)
St. Elizabeth High School - Jonah Landis, Caylee Moore Merit: Jonah Landis (Service) Ursuline - Tessa Palm Bishop Shanahan - Tessa Palm (Scholarships awarded as of mid-January)
Now Accepting
Preschool Applications for
2022–2023 School Year

Living Rosary Tradition Continues On at MAA
Eighth graders request a special blessing from Mary during the annual Living Rosary celebration.