

# The Blue Blazer

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Volume 10

THE EYES AND EARS OF GRIFFINLAND

Edition 1, A1

## ***HALLOWED HALLOWEEN***

*Mater Dei's seriously silly and sometimes scary tradition returns Monday*

By **LEO RODRIGUEZ** *Editor in Chief*

Arriving at Mater Dei on Monday morning, there will be a different energy in the air. We have the annual Halloween parade to look forward to that day, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Every year, Griffins unveil their costumes in the holiday spirit – with a few solo costumes, many group ideas, and some hoping for one thing and one thing only: The Caulfield Award. Each Halloween, one costume is chosen from the whole school to win this award. Students can also win 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in their respective grades.

The costumes seem to get better and better every year. Besides having fun, the main goal of the parade is to earn enough student government votes for recognition. What will this year's Caulfield Award-winning costume be?

Happy Halloween.



## ***White bodies Blue, 11-5***



By **CONNOR BEDNARZ** *Staff Writer*

When first grader Knox Jolly scored a rare first grade goal in the annual Blue/White Game Oct. 21, he gave the White team a 1-0 lead – and an early preview of what was to come that afternoon.

Blue responded, though, with second graders Albie Turco and Eamon Sweeney both scoring goals. In the third grade, Sammy Cronin scored to give the Blue team a 3-1 lead.

Fifth grade finally got it going for the White team. Connor Bednarz scored a goal, and Will Henahan then netted two more, and the White team was off to the races.

Goals by sixth graders Cristian Tomasso, Ryan Arata, and

***SEE WHITE, page***

# Palmer nets hat trick for soccer team

By **WILL CRONIN** *Staff Writer*

The Mater Dei 7/8 B team defeated Sidwell Friends Thursday, 4-3, in front of a loud crowd of Griffins at Joe David Field. Behind three goals from seventh grader Anderson Palmer, the Griffins improved their record to 2-6-2 and have two games remaining -- against St. Stephen's & St. Agnes and The Heights.

"We are going to win the last three games," eighth grader Julian Moraczewski said on Tuesday.

Three standout players this year are Jack Welch, Hedges Maddux, and Anderson Palmer, the team's leading goal scorer. Their goalies this year are William Hall and Grayden Blair. The team's other win was against Landon. Their two draws were against Bullis and Sidwell Friends. Their hardest match was against St. Albans.

The Mater Dei 7/8 A team this year is off to a great start. They are 8-2-1 and have two games left on the schedule.

"The eighth graders this year are playing and leading the team very well," Coach Bednarz said.

A few standout eighth grade players have been defenseman Trevor Weiner, midfielder Cam Weber, and goalkeeper Merric Tate. A couple of standout seventh graders are forward Jack Peppo and defenseman Patrick Doyle. Peppo and Weber are the team's leading goal scorers.

The Mater Dei 5/6 soccer team is doing very well this season, currently 8-0.

The Griffins defeated St. Albans 4-1 Monday in a game that featured a terrific save off a penalty kick from goalie Finn Smith. They also won at The Heights 3-1 on Oct. 20.

On Oct. 17, they defeated Georgetown Day, 6-1, behind a hat trick from sixth grader Declan Matthews.

On Oct. 13, the fifth grade beat Landon, 6-0. Connor Bednarz had a hat trick that game -- and his last goal was a beauty, with an incredible pass from John Robert MacMillan.

The team's primary goalies this year are Smith, a sixth grader, and fifth grader Charlie Turco. Sixth grade leaders this season have been Everett Morris, Deco Guzman, Christian Tomasso, and Will Gallagher. Fifth graders Will Henehan and JP Jolly have helped lead the way, as well.



## ***From WHITE, page A1***

Ryan Lutz pushed the lead to 7-3. Seventh graders Jack Peppo, John Phillips, and Pat Doyle scored for White, putting the game out of reach.

In the last game, the eighth graders (pictured left), White's Dom Cerbone scored a goal, making the score 11-3. Blue made a late push, with Colton McAndrew and Dylan Behrens scoring, but by then, the White team's lead was too great.

As the final horn sounded, the White team rushed the field, celebrating a hard-earned victory to kick off the 2022-23 Blue/White Competition.

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### **UPCOMING SOCCER GAMES**

*Wednesday*

5/6: at Avenel v. The Heights

7/8A: at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes

7/8B: home v. St. Stephen's & St. Agnes

*Thursday*

5/6: at St. Albans

7/8A: at Potomac School

# Gridiron Griffins pounce on Prep

By CHARLIE TURCO, JACK TURCO, and NIK MUNDY *Staff Writers*

The Mater Dei 7/8 football team beat a team of Georgetown Prep freshmen Thursday, 21-7.

Eighth grader Logan Higginbotham (bottom right) hauled in two receiving touchdowns in the game, played at Prep. Seventh grader Abe Mayo had a pick-six. Seventh grader Brady Cox led the way for Mater Dei at quarterback.

Prep played its second stringers. The Griffins' defense was stout, and the offense was steady. The team turned it one of its best performances of the season.

At the 5/6 level, the Mater Dei Griffins began the season with a tough loss to the Rockville Bears 12U team. Since then, the boys have been moved to the 11U bracket, they have been on a winning streak.

They beat Olney, Clarksburg (in their homecoming game), and the Rockville Raiders. On Oct. 19, they played two games in a one-day jamboree. Each team was given ten plays; the Griffins beat Bullis and tied Landon.

The team is up again tonight against Olney; kickoff is 8 p.m.

In the Rockville Raiders game, Christian Polis, Ryan Arata, Jack Turco, Dylan Higginbotham, and Jack Teare each scored touchdowns. Tom Erdel and Sean Madden led the way at quarterback.

The Griffins have plenty of other offensive players making big contributions, such as Cormac Johson at receiver, Henry Larranaga at tight end, and Ayden Lymus and Connor Chun at backs. The defense is just as good, starring Jack Hamilton, Jasari Dixon, and Ryan Lutz upfront.

Sadly, there have been some injuries, such as starting lineman Caleb Arata (knee), but Colin Shorb, Johnny Marquis, Ryder Collins, and Leo Rodriguez have stepped in to fill the gap.



## GETTING TO KNOW GRIFFINLAND'S PREZ & VP

By JONAH MORACZEWSKI *Staff Writer*

Eighth graders Dante Uptgrow and Dom Cerbone have been named Mater Dei student body president and vice president.

Uptgrow has been at Mater Dei for three years, and Cerbone has been here for four years.

They both enjoy the Blue/White events more than any other Mater Dei traditions.

Dante is on the Blue team, while Dom is on the White team and is the White team captain.

They would like to add Blue/White flag football to the list of Blue/White events.

They also plan on doing another Donut Day soon and a meeting with the class reps to come up with ideas on what they could do throughout the year. When they asked Mr. McMurtrie if they could do karaoke in the gym, he said no.

Dom likes listening to Taylor Swift, and Dante will fall asleep listening to rap music.

Dante plays on the football team, while Dom plays soccer for the 7/8A team.

# Heilman trimming times for Griffins

By MACK PAPA *Staff Writer*

Do you run for a living? Well, it sure does look like Mater Dei's cross country runners do.

The cross country team typically runs 5,000 meters for training – and usually the runners clock in around 21 minutes! Impressed yet? Here is all you need to know about our cross country team.

They have run in three meets thus far, and they have done very well. They placed second in the first meet, and they won against Landon in the second meet!

The point system in cross country is kind of like golf. The object is to get the lowest score.

First place gets one point for his team, second place earns two points, and so on. The first five players count towards a team's score.

Mater Dei's fastest distance runner, seventh grader Owen Heilman, placed first in his first two meets, meaning he had accumulated only two total points.

The cross country team prepares for meets by approaching practice in the same style every day. Led by team coaches Mrs. Leasure and Mrs. Sullivan, the boys start by stretching, then move to warm-ups, and then they go to the workout.

The workout is when they go to the trails behind Mater Dei or do timed runs. Then they finish with a little cooldown. This workout has helped put them on the podium in both their first two meets.

Eighth graders Nate Jacques and Grayson Skeeter help pace the boys, and a slew of younger runners look up to them. In seventh grade, the leaders next year may be Heilman, Landon Eum, Will Jacobus, Mac Keogh, and Sullivan Rump.

The team will help host the Georgetown Prep Middle School Classic on Wednesday, and on Nov. 9, it'll run in the Maryland Private School Championship.

# World Series starts tonight in Houston

*Blue Blazer staff reports*



**WHO:** Houston Astros v. Philadelphia Phillies

**WHAT:** The 118<sup>th</sup> World Series

**WHERE:** Houston, Texas

**WHEN:** Game 1, 8:03 p.m.

**HOW:** Houston defeated the New York Yankees, 4-0, to advance, led in part by Chas McCormick (left, left). Bryce Harper (left, right) blasted a two-run home run to help Philly hold off the San Diego Padres, 4-1.

# REVIEW: “Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2”

By LEO RODRIGUEZ *Staff Writer*



The new Call of Duty campaign early access came out, and I have recently finished it. The full game comes out today.

You got this if you preordered the game, which I did. I am here to talk about this if it is good or it is bad. The first thing I would like to say is that there are **spoilers ahead**, so if you do not want to know what happens in some parts of the game, then stop reading.

The best part of the game is the graphics. The graphics are amazing in this game. It is truly the best graphics I've ever seen in a video game. The best parts of the graphics are the cut scenes, which are almost like real life.

Another great part of the campaign is the action. This is not one of those games where it is all shooting. Some parts are just shooting, but some are sneaking past enemies and only shooting a couple of enemies. The main villains of the story are a Mexican drug cartel and terrorists led by Major Hassan.

Later you get betrayed by Shadow Company, a group of elite soldiers led by Phillip Graves.

In the game, you take control of two characters. Captain John Mactavish, also known as “Soap,” and Kyle Garrack, or “Gaz.”

Another great part of the game is nostalgia. Nostalgia is a big thing nowadays. Sometimes it is done well, while other times it is not that good.

Another great thing about this game are the weapons. The weapons have so much detail to them and always look like they are real. One time while I was playing, I was switching my gun from single fire to full auto, and on the screen, my character moves a slide on the gun that would be on there in real life. That is how much detail they put in.

Usually, this would be the part where I say what I did not like, but for the first time ever while playing a video game, I have had no problems with the game.

Considering all I've written, I rate this game a **5 Griffins out of 5!**

