

MOUNT NOTRE DAME

DEVELOPMENTS

summer 2021



Your Seat Awaits

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Judy Back Gerwe '78
President

Dear Friends of MND,

God is Good! We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel from the last 18 months of the COVID pandemic and MND not only survived – we thrived! I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Developments and gain a glimpse into the many amazing accomplishments we celebrated since our last issue in January.

One of these accomplishments is the opening of the new Performing Arts Center in March. This space turned out absolutely beautiful and looks like a new addition to the school! We have already used it for performances, prayer services, assemblies, class meetings and so much more. It is a great addition to the campus. I would be happy to show it to you if you haven't had a chance to see it yet.

We also celebrate the Class of 2021 in this issue! We were delighted to have had a somewhat normal end of the school year and enjoyed the many traditions that we hold dear – Junior/Senior Prom, Dance Marathon, Showcase of Excellence, Awards Assembly, Senior Lunch, Walk the Halls, Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement. We even added a new tradition – Senior Recognition and Bridging. This event occurred at a breakfast for the graduate and her parents the morning of graduation.

Another amazing accomplishment is that of Mrs. Judy Metcalf who, after 36 years of teaching French and being an administrator at MND, is retiring from her current role as Assistant Principal of Student Development. We will miss her dearly but wish her all the best in retirement.

Finally, you may have heard that we had a banner year in Athletics, capturing three state titles – Volleyball, Basketball and Diving! Congratulations to all our student athletes, coaches, and the Athletic Department.

Thanks for your continued interest in and support of our amazing school. We are blessed to have you as a member of the MND Family!

Sincerely,

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Karen M. Day
Principal

Friends of the MND Community,

Saint Julie wrote, "When the heart is right, the good God always shows the way." (L 146) After a year in our lives like no other, we know that we were guided by and supported through our good God. You've read above about the many ways in which the MND Experience carried on throughout the COVID year. This would not have been possible without the amazing dedication of our Faculty and Staff and the tenacity of our students.

Our faculty and staff were innovative in developing new events, lessons and communication modalities throughout the pandemic. Balancing these demands while also building relationships and trust with students was challenging. My peers were so inspirational, and their efforts also provided role modelling for our students. MND's students also took on more than any student would in a normal MND year. Our building spaces and the way students could interact with their "sisterhood" looked different. Nevertheless, students learned content, participated in activities and grew spiritually.

The pandemic year was certainly not one we would have chosen. But, as St. Julie exclaimed, "God always shows the way" and we – the MND community – found success and are better because of our collective efforts. As I said last year, our hallways are quieter and our Zoom calls less frequent...and now, the work continues to bring about the next amazing year in MND's history!

May you find God's blessings ever present today and always.

Fondly,



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Judy Back Gerwe '78
President

Karen Day
Principal

Jeffrey Fulmer
Assistant Principal for Student Development

Ben Hunt
Assistant Principal for Academic Development

Jen Dodds
Director of Campus Ministry

Rose Eckhoff
Director of Leadership Giving

Chris Gramke
Director of Marketing and Communications

Diane Barney
Director of Finance, HR & Operations

Donna Groene
Director of Admissions

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Bob Crable

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Bill Goslee

Bill Hunt

Mina Jones Jefferson

Tom Joseph

Mick Kowitz

Tim Marklay

Kim McBride

Kathy Kissel McQueen '80

Dr. Jo Ann M. Recker '60, SNDdeN

Tony Reed

Lisa Harmon Rousseau '80

Jerry Royce

Cristina Seda-Hoelle '92

Pam Thiemann '82

Gerald Ulland

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Jen Eling Thamann '01
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Alumnae Development Officer

MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the Catholic faith and Saint Julie Billiart's belief in the "goodness of God," Mount Notre Dame educates and empowers young women to recognize and develop their unique capabilities to learn, live, lead and serve.

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COUGAR SIGHTING

Our newly designed Cougar is coming to the MND Spirit Shop! We are excited to begin featuring this additional graphic on fun and unique merchandise for all MND Cougars - past, present and future!

Hats off to the Class of 2021



Mount Notre Dame held its Commencement Exercises for the 161st Graduating Class – the Class of 2021 – on Tuesday, June 1 at the Sharonville Convention Center. A total of 455 scholarships equaling more than \$22.9 million was earned by the Class of 2021. Principal Karen Day commented, “The Class of 2021 has demonstrated their resiliency over this past year. They have become faith-filled scholars who have a commitment to serving others. We know they are ready to soar!”

SENIOR RECOGNITION AWARDS



St. Julie Billiart Christian
Leadership Award

Emma Campbell



Academic Excellence
(Valedictorian)

Rose vonErden



Excellence in English
and Performing Arts

Maria Zierolf



Excellence in French

Katherine Dorton



Excellence in Mathematics

Rose vonErden



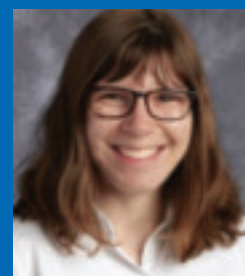
Excellence in Religious Studies

Madeline Briskin



Excellence in Science

Caroline Batt



Excellence in Social Studies

Anna Heilers

Happy Retirement, Mrs. Metcalf!

MND Assistant Principal for Student Development, Mrs. Judy Metcalf, has retired after 36 years of service to MND.

After working eight years as Dean of Girls and as a French/English teacher in Ironton, Kentucky, Mrs. Metcalf came to MND in 1985 to teach French. In the mid 2000's, Mrs. Metcalf transitioned to her position as Assistant Principal for Student Development.



"The programming, facilities, students and staff of Mount Notre Dame have been positively influenced by the faith-filled and compassionate leadership of Judy Metcalf. Her love of our good God has been evident in her many roles over the past 36 years. MND is better because of Judy and we wish her an abundance of blessings in her retirement," expressed Karen Day, MND Principal.

On July 1, MND welcomed Mr. Jeffrey Fulmer as the new Assistant Principal for Student Development. Mr. Fulmer is a graduate of St. Xavier High School, Xavier University (BA English, Minor Secondary Education) and University of Dayton (MA Educational Leadership in Catholic School Administration). He has taught in public high school, Catholic elementary school and most recently has served as the principal at St. James White Oak for the past five years.



Excellence in Information
Technology & Business

Rylee Strayer



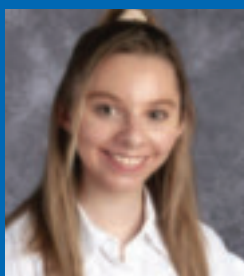
Excellence in Latin

Anna Rosian



Excellence in Spanish

Emma Campbell



Excellence in Visual Arts

Annabelle Beatty



Rachel Noschang '22 was selected to represent the state of Ohio and receive the Billy Michal Student Leadership Award from The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, LA. The Billy Michal Student Leadership Award is given annually to one student from each state who demonstrates the American Spirit in his or her community.

"Rachel is an outstanding servant-leader who understands the call to serve others," expressed Todd Forman, MND Community Service Director. "Her strong values, intense patriotism, willingness to serve and protect the vulnerable, and her love of people and love of the Lord are remarkable. Rachel has an interest in the Air Force and is strongly considering applying for the US Air Force Academy."



MND Diver [Sarah Krusinski '21](#) captured the 2021 OHSAA Division 1 Diving State Championship with a score of 468.1 at the C.T. Branin Natatorium in Canton on February 26. After finishing second at State in 2020, Sarah had an outstanding senior season where she was Sectional and District Champion and was named to the GGCL 2nd Team. Sarah will dive next year for West Virginia University.

Sarah becomes the third MND Diver to win State. Previous champions include three-time winner [Lori Rizzuto Rapp '88](#) (1986, 1987, 1988) and [Teagan Moravek '18](#) (2018).



STATE CHAMPIONS



State Runner-Up!

Congratulations to [Rachel Steffen '22](#) who was the State Runner-Up in the Seated 100M at the 2021 OHSAA Track & Field State Championships! Rachel also finished third in both the Seated 400M and 800M and fifth in the Seated Shot Put.



MND Basketball (28-0) defeated Newark (27-2) 57-55 in a double overtime battle to win the 2021 OHSAA Division 1 State Championship on Saturday, March 13 at University of Dayton Arena. It marked MND Basketball's 8th state title – a new state record! The Cougars now have 72 consecutive wins. MND Basketball finished the season ranked #1 in the Nation by Blue Star Media and #2 in the Nation by MaxPreps.

NEXT LEVEL

Congratulations to these student-athletes who signed to compete at the collegiate level!



Morgan Baker - Kenyon College - Soccer
Ally Christman - Robert Morris University - Volleyball
Autumn Crockett - Wittenberg University - Basketball
Hannah Eversole - Ohio Northern University - Swimming
Anna Harper - Otterbein University - Softball
Megan Hennie - Heidelberg University - Softball
Sarah Krusinski - West Virginia University - Diving
Isabella Marcum - Centre College - Soccer
Kristen McBride - West Virginia University - Volleyball
Laila Phelia - University of Michigan - Basketball
Elizabeth Pierce - Ohio Northern University - Soccer
Ava Tepe - Middle Tennessee State University - Softball
Megan Wielonski - Ball State University - Volleyball

Ohio Ms. Basketball

KK Bransford '22 was named 2021 Ohio Ms. Basketball. This award is presented annually to the top player in the State of Ohio. KK is the third MND player in school history to receive this prestigious honor. Previous winners include Kendall Hackney Udofia '09 and Mel Thomas '04. KK was also named the Ohio Gatorade Player of the Year. She becomes the first MND player to receive this top honor.



OHSAA Director of External Operations, Ms. Jacki Windon, presents KK with her award.

MND welcomes Mr. Michael Crofton as the new Head Varsity Volleyball Coach. Crofton, 34, spent the past two seasons as the head coach at Lebanon High School where he led the Warriors to consecutive league championships in the Eastern Cincinnati Conference (ECC) and the Greater Western Ohio Conference (GWOC).

Crofton compiled an impressive 41-8 record during his tenure at Lebanon. He was named ECC Coach of the Year in 2020 and GWOC Coach of the Year in 2019. Crofton is no stranger to the competitive Girls Greater Catholic League. Prior to taking the reins at Lebanon, Crofton spent a year as varsity assistant coach at Ursuline Academy where he helped lead the Lions to the 2018 Division 1 state championship. He also spent two seasons (2013 and 2014) as the varsity head coach at McAuley (now Mercy McAuley) High School, where he led the Mohawks to a Top Five finish in the city polls. He also spent a year on the freshman staff at MND from 2007-2008.

Crofton also has collegiate and club coaching experience, having served as the assistant volleyball coach at Otterbein University in Columbus for three seasons and currently serving as a head coach in the Cincy Classics and Elevation Volleyball Clubs for the last 15 years.

WELCOME





WELCOME TO MND'S NEW

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

It's showtime!

MND officially opened the brand new Performing Arts Center in March. After securing the funds through MND's *Achieve More...Now and Forever Campaign*, construction began on the new facility in June 2020 and was completed in March 2021. The Grand Opening performance featured MND Theatre's *Shrek: The Musical*.

MND partnered with MSA Design, HMBA and R.J. Beischel Building Company to convert the existing auditorium and library spaces (the original gymnasium for those who graduated prior to 2001) into a state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center, featuring 390 permanent seats with additional portable seating available.

The renovation includes upgrades to the HVAC and fire alarm systems, the sound and lighting system with an integrated AV system and control booth, a wrap-around gallery, on-site scene shop and box office.

The Performing Arts Center was made possible through the generosity of many benefactors. To express our appreciation and to acknowledge their investment in the MND community, a gratitude wall is featured at the entrance of the PAC. The wall leads into a wrap-around gallery which offers the perfect space to showcase student artwork and other educational work throughout the school year.



Gone are the days of MND Theatre members climbing the scaffolding "tower" to operate lighting and sound. The Performing Arts Center boasts a state-of-the-art control booth featuring the latest in lighting and sound technology. New features include LED lighting instruments that can be controlled with precision and offer an array of colors. Incredible new speakers compliment the space no matter where you are sitting. These features help MNDT enhance the quality for all productions in the new space.



The Performing Arts Center also includes an on-site scene shop located directly behind the stage. This allows MND Theatre members to conveniently design, build and store scenes and other prop materials directly on-site. Prior to the PAC, MND utilized an off-site location for the primary construction and storage of production materials, which led to the burden of transferring these items to and from MND.

Seating received a significant upgrade in both quantity and comfort. The Performing Arts Center offers permanent, theatre-style seating for 390 guests and includes handicapped-accessible seating as well. Individuals interested in sponsoring a seat with their names engraved on the back can visit www.mndhs.org or call the school at 513.821.3044 for more information. The PAC also features a handicapped-accessible elevator up to the stage.



1960s



Dr. JoAnn Recker '60, SNDdeN was presented the St. Julie Billiart Alumna Christian Leadership Award at Mount Notre Dame's end-of-the-year awards ceremony. This award is presented each year to one graduating senior and one alumna who demonstrate a deep personal commitment to Jesus Christ through their contributions to Mount Notre Dame and the broader community.



1970s



Members of the Class of 1970 (above) enjoying a picnic lunch at Sharon Woods. They have been meeting monthly in preparation for their 50th reunion.

Anne Scollard Fredrickson '75 retired from her professional career after 41+ years of working with and on behalf of seniors. She is relocating to Florida with her husband in late 2021.



Margie Holtman Linder '77 recently retired from Mount Notre Dame after over 22 years of service in the maintenance department.

1980s

Deb Fritz Hayes '80 was recently named the new President and CEO of The Christ Hospital Health Network.



Pictured above is **Vrinda Bagade Mundkur '83, Jean Young Fehring '83, Beth Beaumont Young '83, Joan Gentry Wetrich '83 and Mary Bonham-Richardson '83** on their annual trip. This year they went to Nashville, Indiana.

1990s

Beth Marks Kinder '94 works as a Manager of Regulatory Affairs and recently moved into her dream home in Lawrenceburg, IN.

2000s

Rebecca Rohlf '01 recently took a Senior Scientist position studying early drug discovery with Novo Nordisk in Indianapolis, IN

Melissa Doyle Rodenfels '01 left the world of Orthopaedics after 12 years to work with her husband at his business, Innovative Woodworking, Inc. which does commercial casework and millwork for businesses and medical companies in the tri-state. When she is not working, she enjoys watching her son play soccer for Moeller, her oldest daughter dance for MND's junior high dance team, and coaching her youngest daughters volleyball and dance teams at Sts. Peter and Paul Academy.

Lauren Meirose Moore '04 was recently named Vice President of Sales and Marketing for IMN Solutions in January 2021.

Laura Evers '07 is currently pursuing a PhD in English Literature at Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

2010s

Krista Kuhlman '12 is working as a Marketing Sr. Specialist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and recently got engaged to St. Xavier graduate, Jake Brodbeck

Emily Hunt '13 illustrated the book, "Journey to Me", which is a 21-day adventure that inspires children of all ages to develop regular mindfulness practices.

Rebecca Pittinger '14 has been working at the Hamilton County Municipal Court with the Adult Probation Department for the last two years. She also bought a house in 2020 and enjoys being an aunt to her niece and nephew.

Hannah Brandell '16 was recently promoted to Visual Production Coordinator at The Party Source and now creates, shoots, and edits video content for in-store and social media channel marketing.

A Note about Class Notes...

Class Notes are only published when received directly from the individual(s) who are the key focus of the photo or information submitted. This is to ensure the safety and privacy of our alumnae and their families. There is no guarantee that all submissions will be published due to space limitations and printing deadlines. Please submit your news via the What's New Form available on our website.

Morgan Nagel '16 recently graduated from the University of South Carolina with a bachelors in Biological Sciences and is currently working towards a Masters of Physicians Assistant Studies at Kettering College.

Le'Aia Reed '17 recently graduated from Bellarmine University becoming the third woman ever, and first woman of color, to graduate with a physics degree from the university.

Jourdhel Mabunay '18 accepted a position as an Industrial Engineering Intern for UPS (United Parcel Service) in Timonium, MD for Summer 2020, but due to COVID-19, the internship became fully remote. She is now the incoming Operations Development Intern for DHL Supply Chain for Summer 2021 at their North American Headquarters in Westerville, OH.

Teagan Moravek '18 qualified for the 2021 NCAA Diving Championships in both the 1 and 3 meter events.

Congratulations to **Rose Lavelle '13** for being named to the U.S. Women's Soccer Olympic Team. Be sure to tune in to cheer on Rose and Team USA as they compete this summer in Tokyo!



In Memoriam

*Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*



Mary Alice Pharo '43
(5/31/21)



Mary Lou Goldschmidt
Brockman '53
(1/22/21)



Mary Ann Ulmer Holt '54
(12/31/20)



Suzanne Behne Weber '60
(3/13/21)



Bonnie Woebkenberg Wilson '60
(1/30/21)



Paula Ward Hampton '61
(2/24/21)



Judy Mehrling Reilman '61
(3/1/21)



Mary Ann Pratt Ross '62
(1/18/21)



Pat Hardy Klare '62
(2/7/21)



Shirley Pritchett Daniels '63
(10/18/19)



Mary Ann Wade Lindsay '64
(9/35/20)



Norma Denning Cromer '65
(1/26/21)



Emily Asbrock Brogan '66
(4/11/21)



Mary Ellen Asbrock Kramer '69
(3/12/21)



Karen Parsons Schoenebaum '80
(5/30/21)



Sandy Schlosser '86
(3/5/21)



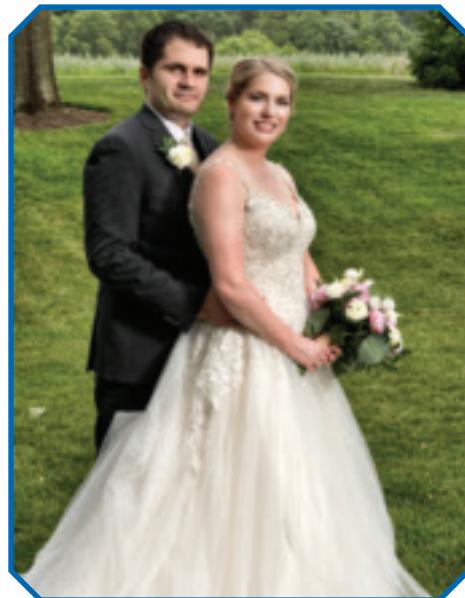
Mary Beth Kruse Westfall '90
(4/1/21)



Dana Hafertepen '01
(5/13/21)



Carly Mears '10 married Alex Beck on September 5, 2020. **Kelsey Carter '10**, **Michelle Griffin '10**, **Diana Monahan '10**, and **Emily McClain '10** served as bridesmaids.



Andrea Knollman '04 married Nick Gier on June 27, 2020. Due to the pandemic, the couple had a private ceremony at St. Gabriel Church and plan to celebrate their first anniversary with all of their wedding guests.



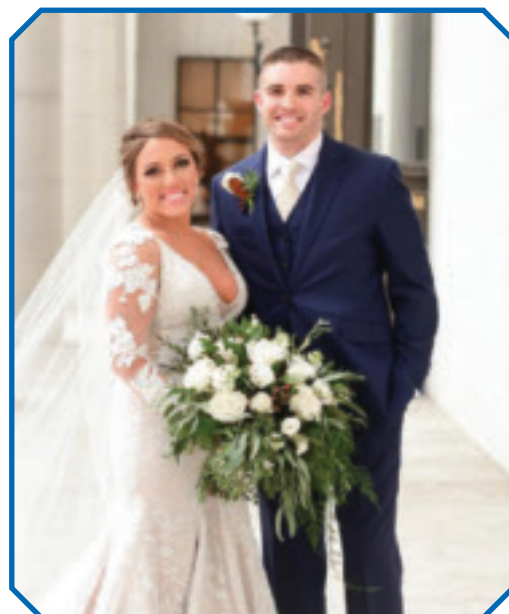
Lauren DiNardo '11 married Tyler Mikolajewski at All Saints Catholic Church on May 7, 2021.



Katelynn Williams '12 married Zach Mog on December 5, 2020. **Aubree Hord '12**, **Kelsey Wolf '12**, and **Ashley Keppler '12** (all pictured to the right of Katelynn) served as bridesmaids.



Elizabeth Bayer '14 married Nick Paxson at St. Gertrude Church on November 14, 2020. **Annie Bayer '15** (pictured second from the left) and **Catherine Buck '14** (pictured second from the right) served as bridesmaids.



Sara Bergman '08 married Sam DiSaia on November 9, 2019 at Holy Cross Church in Columbus, OH.



Rachel Klosterman Joebgren '08 and husband Steve welcomed their daughter Dorothy Elisa on January 18, 2021.



Alex and **Kate Anderson Grimm '06** welcomed their son Max on November 20, 2020.



Jackie Smeal Dooley '06 welcomed her second child and first son, Jackson Thomas on September 9, 2020.



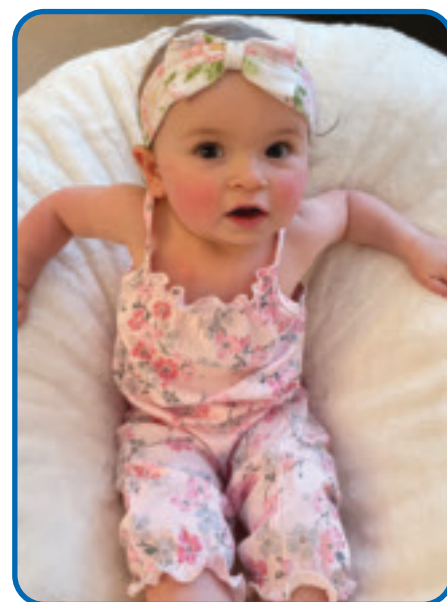
Susan Hoffman Sayatovic '13 and her husband Jordan welcomed daughter Nora Ann on January 5, 2021.



Katie Poulin Knight '07 welcomed son Jordan on June 9, 2021.



Stephanie Seibert Smith '00 welcomed daughter Leila Mae on March 25, 2021.



Justin and **Lisa Allgeier Browning '99** welcomed their second child, Kendall, on December 27, 2019.

10 Year Reunions

The Classes of 2010 and 2011 celebrated their 10 year reunions on June 19 with a cocktail party at MND! It was great to welcome all these alumnae back to school to reconnect and see all the new additions to the school that have taken place since they graduated!



The MND Experience is made possible through the generosity bestowed upon us by our alumnae, parents, and friends.

The financial gifts we receive through our MND Annual Fund directly impact the lives of each student who walks through the hallowed halls of MND. Their experiences help create that bond of sisterhood that our students will treasure the rest of their lives.

Please help keep that **MND Experience** alive with a gift to the 2021-2022 MND Annual Fund. Your investment helps fulfill St. Julie Billiard's goal to "teach them what they need to know for life."

Girls' Schools Unite!

\$456,796

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED
IN SUPPORT OF
CINCINNATI
GIRLS CATHOLIC
EDUCATION

\$81,084

TOTAL DOLLARS
RAISED FOR MND

2005

WAS THE TOP
PARTICIPATING
MND CLASS

622

MND ALUMNAE
PARTICIPATED WITH

109

OF THEM BEING FIRST
TIME DONORS



MOUNT NOTRE DAME

Virtual Gala

A *Virtual* Success!

Thanks to all of you who supported the Gala this year! Although we had to go virtual, we were able to keep many of the Gala events like the silent auction, live auction and raffle. We were also able to add some new events including a signature cocktail mix, basket preview nights, and personal visits with our sponsors. We are excited to report that we raised almost \$200,000 thanks to all who bid, raised their paddle, donated, sponsored the event, bought raffle tickets or helped in any other way!

Your involvement in this event and in other ways you support MND is crucial in helping Mount Notre Dame provide the necessary resources to advance our mission to educate and empower young women to recognize and develop their unique capabilities to learn, live, lead and serve.

Stay tuned for plans for next year's Gala!

Save the Date!
March 5, 2022

Thanks to your generous support, MND set a school record in raffle ticket sales with \$44,000 worth of tickets sold!

GRAND RAFFLE WINNER:

MELANIE BRINKMANN - MND FACULTY MEMBER!

GOLDEN TICKET WINNER:

JOE & TRICIA BUCKELY

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2021 SPONSORS!

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Save the Date

10.7.21

Manor House

The MND
Fashion Show
is back!

