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***Keep an eye out for news about these exciting Doane traditions and events throughout the year!***

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| **THE EVENT** | | **WHO ATTENDS?** | **PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** |
| **Back to School Picnic**  August 27, 2019 | Before the start of the new school year, the Doane Community gathers together for a picnic to reconnect and to welcome new families. | Students, Faculty, Parents and families | Assistance is needed with registration, manning tables, set-up, clean-up. |
| **First Day of School**  September 3, 2019 | Doane Academy begins the school year in a way that is profoundly meaningful and joyous. The entire school community, including students, faculty, family, alumni, and members of the board of trustees, gather on the bank of the Delaware River to celebrate the start of the new school year and welcome the members of the senior class as they arrive by canoe for the first day of school. The seniors’ arrival is a moving reminder to them and their families that this is the beginning of the end of their time as students at Doane. It is a moment for seniors to reflect on how the school community will look to them to become leaders in the coming year. In addition, it is a magical and exciting way to open school for our youngest students, who track the seniors’ progress from the distant shore to the heart of Doane’s campus. | Students, Faculty Parents, Family & Friends | Before the seniors paddle across the Delaware River, the Parents Association provides breakfast for them at the boat launch in Bristol, PA. Help will be needed at the breakfast and at the school with set up and balloons for the riverbank event. |
| **Homecoming**  October 19, 2019 | The culmination of Spirit Week, Homecoming is a time for alumni to return to campus for a day of fellowship, celebration, and entertainment. The day begins with a soccer tripleheader, with the returning alumni facing off against each other, followed by the Varsity Girls and Varsity Boys hosting rival teams. At midday, alumni and members of the school community share signature dishes for the enjoyment of all and the glory of Best of Homecoming accolades. The day ends with teams of students using slingshots, trebuchets, and other homemade siege engines to launch pumpkins across the Delaware, and students in grades 9-12 return to school at night for the Homecoming Dance. | Day events:  Students, Faculty Parents, Family & Friends  Dance:  Students 9-12 only | Volunteers needed for set-up, clean-up or monitoring activities throughout the day and to participate in the cook-off. |
| **Doane's Dungeon**  October 25-26, 2019 | Started by Upper School students in the 1980s, Doane’s Dungeon gives a literary twist to the traditional Halloween haunted house. Scary, spooky, and Shakespearean, the event turns the basement and corridors of our historic school into a haunted dungeon for an entire weekend. Drama students, as well as those interested in set design and lighting, work together to create scenes from classics such as *Frankenstein*, *The Crucible*,*The Phantom of the Opera*, and “The Tell-Tale Heart.” Open to the public, Doane’s Dungeon is one of the year’s biggest community events. | Students, Faculty Parents, Family, Friends and the Community. | Assistance will be needed with set-up ticket sales, safety/monitoring locations through Doane’s Dungeon scenes. Help may also be needed with the 11th grade baked goods table. |
| **Thanksgiving Luncheon**  (November) | Doane students gather by school family for a Thanksgiving Luncheon. | Students, Faculty, Trustees only | Assistance will be needed with set-up, during the event and with clean-up |
| **Holiday Hearthside Gathering**  (early December) | The Holiday Hearthside Gathering is a festive event for the Doane Community and provides the student body with an opportunity to fundraise for their class activities. | Students, Faculty, Parents, Family and Friends | The event is managed by the 1837 Society and students. Some Parents Association assistance may be needed. |
| **Christmas Mystery**  December 20, 2019 | The Christmas season at Doane includes Upper School and Lower School concerts and decorations throughout its halls. Yet, the season’s centerpiece is the annual performance of the Christmas Mystery. Originated in 1848 by St. Mary’s Hall boarding students who were unable to travel home for the holidays, the Mystery is a play celebrating the birth of Jesus. Performed word for word as it was written so long ago (the current script dates from 1930), the Christmas Mystery is one of our most beloved traditions. Each year Upper School students vie for a part in the performance, with the parts of Mary and Joseph reserved for the senior boy and girl who have been at the school the longest and the part of Jesus filled by the baby of a Doane family or faculty member. The play is performed in the morning for students in grades Primary-8, and the evening performance for students in grades 9-12 is followed by a dinner that includes the reading of student holiday season reflections and the singing of “Silent Night.” | Mystery Performance:  Students, Faculty Parents, Family & Friends, but seating is limited in the chapel.  Dinner:  Students 9-12 only. | Assistance will be needed at the dinner |
| **Taste of the Best**  February/March | *Fundraising event*: Each spring, Doane’s dining hall becomes the host for up to 30 local restaurants who bring some of their best dishes for our guests to sample. One of our top three fundraisers each year, Taste of the Best is a delightful event to meet other Doane families and supporters. | Students, Faculty Parents, Family, Friends and the Community. This event is open to the public | Assistance may be needed with set-up, clean-up and during the event. |
| **Founder's Day Weekend**  First May weekend | An alumni celebration of the school’s founder, Bishop George Washington Doane, and his enduring, revolutionary vision of providing educational opportunities to young women takes place every May. A weekend long series of events inspires alumni to relive their days at Doane alongside their longtime friends and share their stories with current students. A cocktail reception on Friday evening welcomes back alumni, and there is a chapel service on Saturday morning during which a wreath of pansies is placed on Bishop Doane’s portrait as a symbolic expression of gratitude. This service is followed by the Society of Graduates luncheon, and a dinner party caps off the events in the evening. Each year’s Founder’s Day Weekend pays special tribute to classes celebrating their major reunions. | Senior students, Alumni, Parents, Faculty | The 10th grade class provides assistance for this event but some parent volunteer opportunities may exist. |
| **Spring Play**  (early Spring) | Don’t miss the talents of the Upper School’s Spartan Studio Actors as they present the annual spring play or musical. | Students, Faculty Parents, Family, Friends and the Community. This event is open to the public. | Volunteer opportunities for front of house and backstage, throughout the performance nights |
| **Winter and Spring Concerts**  Band:  Strings:  Choir: | Come out to support the talented student musicians and singers during the concert performances. | Students, Faculty, Parents, Family, Friends | Minimal assistance may be needed handing out programs. |
| **Before the Prom** | Doane students gather at the school for photos, light refreshments and celebration before heading off to the prom. This was a new Doane tradition started with the 2019 prom. This event is open to the entire Doane community. | Students, Faculty, Parents, Family, Friends | Assistance may be needed for set-up and clean-up |
| **Class Night**  June 5, 2020 | The Upper School awards are presented in the chapel. From the chapel, activities move outdoors where the traditional passing of caps and gowns takes place. A dinner follows in the dining hall and the senior slideshow is presented. The Ivy Necklace is passed down from a graduating senior girl to a junior girl and the evening closes with the signing of the Alma Mater. | Awards: Students, Faculty, Parents, Family and Friends (Seating is limited in the chapel)  Dinner: Students 9-12, Senior Parents, Faculty, Trustees | Dinner is managed by 9th grade class but a few parent volunteers will be needed |
| **Graduation**  June 6, 2020 | Commencement begins in the chapel where the graduating class is awarded their Society of Graduates medals. The ceremony continues outdoors were diplomas are presented to the graduating seniors. | Students, Faculty, Parents, Family and Friends (Seating is by ticket only in the chapel) | Assistance may be needed to collect tickets, provide programs and with seating of guests. |
| **Annual Golf Outing**  July | *Fundraising Event:* Celebrating the life of Mark Keays, a great parent and friend of the school, the annual Golf Outing raises funds for our athletic department. | Students, Faculty Parents, Family, Friends and the Community. This event is open to the public. | Minimal assistance may be needed. |