DORM FEEDS

Dorm Feeds are an easy way to get involved and have a positive impact on student life on campus. STUDENTS LOVE DORM FEEDS. They build camaraderie and bolster spirits. They typically happen 4 times throughout the school year, usually on Sunday evenings of closed weekends. The dates are determined by the Head Dorm Parent in each dorm. Each dorm will have a parent who serves as an organizer to communicate with the other students’ parents and to coordinate efforts.

There are several ways in which parents can contribute:

1.) Contribute to the Dorm Feed Fund - this the easiest and most popular way!
2.) Help with pick-up, set-up and serving
3.) Provide a portion of the meal or beverages or dessert
4.) Take charge of an entire feed—prepare/order and deliver food, set-up, serve, etc.

How to Organize

This is meant to be guide, based on what has worked in the past. Feel free to be creative. The most important thing to remember is that the students and faculty really appreciate it!

Communication

- Contact the Head Dorm Parent and discuss dates and any specific requests or ideas they might have.

- Send an e-mail to the parents of the students living in the dorm (the Dorm Head or IT Dept. can provide the e-mail distribution list) to introduce yourself and let them know the different ways they can participate. (Also consider using BCC for privacy.) Samples letters are attached- please read.

- Most Dorm Feeds happen on Sundays, when students have fewer commitments, but that is also a day when many Day Students are not on campus so please make sure they are given advance notice.

- Ask Head Dorm Parent about any food allergies. It is essential to share this with the restaurant and/or other parents who may be bringing food to school.

Dorm Feed Fund

- Some people have found it useful to create a PayPal or Venmo account, others just ask that checks be sent directly to them.

- Please keep a record of all parent donations. The Development Office will ask you for the names of parents who contributed so they can be thanked by the school.

- Parents will ask how much to contribute— make sure they know that any amount is greatly appreciated. In the past, donations have ranged from $20-$500
• IMPORTANT NOTE: Any remaining money that has been collected will be given to the school to support the annual end-of-year "Food Truck Banquet" which is a Parent-sponsored event

Ordering/Coordinating Food

• Order food well in advance- the Dorm Parent will provide you with a headcount (students plus faculty). Don't forget to mention any food allergies. Also remind the restaurant to include plates, napkins, serving pieces and utensils.

• Dorm Heads will provide tables and can also provide beverages, if necessary.

• Remind any parents who might be bringing food of any food allergies.

• Many restaurants deliver so if no parents are available, Student Dorm Leaders and Dorm Parents can easily receive food and set-up. Students clean up no matter what!

Some Local Restaurants (all are familiar with Millbrook)

Maura's Kitchen, Millbrook (ask for Tom) 845-605-1620
La Puerta Azul, Millbrook (ask for Raffi ) 845-677-2985
Laurie Wilson (Chef at Duchess Day School and also a private caterer) 845-544-4353
When Pigs Fly (Southern BBQ)- Sharon, CT 860-492-0000
Stage Coach Deli- Mabbettsville 845-677-8771
Big W's Roadside BBQ- Wingdale 845-832-6200
Four Brothers (Pizza, Greek, Italian), Amenia 845-373-8178

Other Options

• In the past, some parents have provided special desserts or holiday treat bags for Halloween, Valentines Day, etc. This can be done in conjunction with a dorm feed or alone.

• Some dorms may also hold special meetings on weeknights and a surprise snack would be fun.

• Last year, on the Monday before exams, West put out breakfast for the girls- bagels, fruit, donuts, coffee, hot chocolate, etc.- to snack on throughout the day.

Sample e-mails to parents from previous years are on following page. Keep reading...
Sample e-Mails

Dear Fabulous Fellow Parents of Abbott Hall Residents:

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying a wonderful fall! My name is Kimberly Schlosser, and my daughter, Sophie, lives in Abbott Hall with all of your girls. I am so excited to help organize and plan “dorm feeds” for our girls and their wonderful dorm parents/families throughout the year. Dorm feeds are a special way of providing a yummy dinner or treat, other than what the dining hall provides. Although this is our first year at Millbrook, I hear the students really appreciate the effort and the food!!

In coordination with Elizabeth Skoglund, the Head Dorm Parent of Abbott, we have chosen four dates that, of course, can change if we feel the need. As you can see, the dates fall on a Sunday, and on a Closed Weekend, so the students will be on campus. Also, we really want the day students to participate in these dinners, as well, so hopefully, by giving the dates far in advance, they can also plan on being there.

The following dinners will be between 6 and 6:30 pm:
- December 11th - This is the Sunday before exams, and I have heard it is a great time to provide a nice dinner in the dorm.
- February 12th - This will be a nice mid-winter treat for the girls, and maybe it can have some type of Valentine’s theme.
- April 23rd - Time for Spring!
- May 14th - An almost end of year celebration!

There are 47 girls in Abbott, and with our dorm families, the number of people we will be feeding will be 56. Also, it is very important to let me know about any food allergies your daughter has, so we can accommodate that.

So, I am sure you are all wondering...how can I help? Well here are a few ways:

1) First of all, I want you all to know I live in Aspen, Colorado, but I have been assured I can manage this from afar. I have been given the names of some restaurants in the area that have been used for catering these dinners, so that is what I will be doing for each one. I will let you know, in advance, where the food will be coming from as well as the chosen menu items. If any of you who live close to Millbrook ever want to help at one of the dinners, please let me know, and we can coordinate that.

2) You can contribute to the Abbott Hall Dorm Feed/Special Event Fund by sending a check, in any amount, to Kimberly Schlosser, Post Office Box 9768, Aspen, Colorado, 81612. I will use these checks to cover the costs of the four dinners and anything else we decide to do for our girls. I will report to the school each check that I receive, as well as all expenses incurred from restaurants we use to cater the dinners. I know everyone wants to know how much they should send in, and I have been told the amounts range from $20 to hundreds of dollars, so whatever amount you feel comfortable with is appreciated and valued. I know everyone has different resources, so I want you all to know I respect that. Whatever amount you decide to send in, if possible, please make it your donation to cover all four dorm feeds. If you would rather send more than one check throughout the school year, that is also fine.

3) If you are interested in donating food for any of the dates, please let me know. It might be nice to have homemade desserts at each of the dinners, so that is another way you could contribute, or even some fun drinks like Izze’s, or something they cannot get in the dining hall.
Hello Fellow Parents of Case Hall Residents,

My name is Jody Bliss, and my son, Will Bliss is also a resident of Case Hall. In coordination with the P.L.A.N. group at Millbrook and Vince Vincent, Dorm Head of Case Hall, I will be working to organize dorm feeds for our boys. Having worked in boarding school for over 25 years, I know how much the students enjoy these special festivities, and I know how much they eat! This is where you come in! In order to pull this off, I need your participation.

In coordination with Vince, I have earmarked a series of dates throughout the year that I'd like to strive to have a special event for our boys. Having done this for the past two years, Sunday nights work best, given other school commitments through the week. I know this involves more planning for day students, but I hope with a heads-up they'll be able to join the fun, dorm gatherings. Some stats:

Dates - (at least at the moment-some are tentative):
Oct. - Weekend of Halloween; treat bags (if we can get things going by then)
Dec. 13: (its just before exams - who doesn't love a little food and love from home?)
Jan. 10: (tentative) Just back in it - some fun to get the winter rolling.
Feb. 14: (mid-winter) - a little love from home??!
April 17: Time to think spring!
May 15: (tentative) A last hurrah??!

There is also the possibility of some special treats on Tuesdays to compliment their "Case Cup" activities. I live nearby so can easily drop off goodies for these occasions.

Numbers: 57 (includes dorm parents)

Food Allergies: Vince has informed me of them and they will be taken into consideration when ordering for the dorm. My son is one student with a food allergy, so I am aware and sensitive to these needs.

Time on these dates: 6:30pm, Sundays.

So, how you can help? A few ways:

1) Contribute to the Case Hall Special Event fund. Send a check, in any amount, to Jody Bliss, 211 Indian Mountain Road, Lakeville, CT 06039. I intend to cash them and literally keep them
on-hand to cover the expenses of these dorm feeds and special treats. Feeding 57 growing boys and men will take some food!

P.S. A frequently asked question is how much money should I send? There is no set amount. Recognizing that we all have different resources, it really is family specific. I have had contributions range from $20 up into the hundreds; it truly is what you can comfortably do to share in doing this for our sons. Some love from home means a lot.

2) If you are interested in donating food, let me know what food and what date.

3) If you'd like to assist with a particular date, let me know and we’ll coordinate. That said, I live nearby and can easily get to the dorm to set-up and deliver. Also, last year, I simply had food delivered from local restaurants and the dorm parents and boys did the rest. I know many of you are at a distance, so no worries about being around to lend a hand..adding to the Fund is a big help.

This is an ambitious list of dates, but I think together we can provide some fun for our boys and support to the dorm parents. Dorm parenting is a 24/7 experience and responsibility, so let's gather together to lend our support to Vince, Joel, Brendan, and Ryan as they care for our boys and build the spirit and camaraderie of Case Hall through the year.

Lastly, I will be at Parents Weekend, if it is easier to contribute then. Most of all, thanks for considering.

Sincerely,

Jody
Will, 2016