



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings parents!

Happy New Year! As the Christmas season comes to a close, we continue to reflect on the gift of Jesus becoming human and sharing His life with us. We begin the second semester and continue *Living the Story of God's Goodness*, grateful for the love of God, especially present in those around us each day.

It was so nice to have all the students back on Monday and get back to our school routines. I would like to thank you for your support of our Faculty/Staff Christmas party. It was a wonderful opportunity for our faculty, staff and administration to celebrate together before the holiday break.

Congratulations to our January Student of the Month, senior Katie Stratman. Katie is a very dedicated student and a very active Panda! Katie is involved in the band, theatre and NDA clubs. She also lends a hand in helping to promote Notre Dame Academy with her photography of life at NDA. Congratulations Katie!

I would also like to commend senior Francie Case and the members of our National Honor Society. Francie organized a service project in December with our NHS students that made a true difference in the lives of children over the holidays. You can read more about this project below.

The scheduling process for the 2015-16 academic year begins this month. This includes meetings with parents as listed in the information below under Important Dates. We are also meeting with each class during the long homerooms to review the process and course options. More information about the scheduling process will follow in upcoming issues of the Panda Press Weekly.

This Friday we will hold our annual Silver Bells Dance sponsored by the sophomore class. The theme is *The Academy Awards on Hollywood Hill!* It is a fun-filled evening for sophomores through seniors. Typically, students dress up for this dance and have been informed that anyone who is not dressed appropriately will not be admitted to the dance. There is further information about the dance and the dress code in the Student Life section below. If you and your daughter are not sure about the choice of attire, feel free to email a picture to Assistant Principal Mrs. Grayson (grayson@ndapandas.org) and she will provide her feedback. Our dress code reinforces what is appropriate for a social function at a Catholic school and demonstrates respect for self and others. We appreciate your support of this policy.

Have a great week!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year
filled with many blessings!



STUDENT LIFE

STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀ Silver Bells



Today was the last day for sophomores through seniors to purchase tickets to the Silver Bells dance. The theme is "The Academy Awards on Hollywood Hill." All students are expected to arrive no later than 9:00 p.m. or provide Mrs. Grayson with a note granting parent permission to arrive later. The dance is a drug and alcohol free activity and NDA reserves the right to administer preliminary breathalyzer tests to students in attendance. Students must attend school on Friday in order to attend the dance. Thank you to the sophomore class for hosting this year's Silver Bells dance and to Emma Nurre and Meghan Greenwell for leading these efforts.

Silver Bells Dress Code: Dresses should be of an appropriate length and provide adequate coverage of legs, stomach, chest, and back areas. Extremely tight dresses like tube dresses are not permitted. Students who choose to wear tights should make sure these are covered with an appropriate length tunic or dress. We appreciate your support of this policy.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH ◀

Congratulations to NDA senior Katie Stratman on being named the January Student of the Month. Katie is not only a leader in the classroom, she is a very gifted student who shares her creative talents with her peers at NDA through the theatre, band and clubs. You can read more about Katie [HERE](#).



VOTE FOR MADELEINE VONDERHAAR! ◀◀

Take time to vote for NDA's Madeleine Vonderhaar for this week's LaRosa's MVP! A 4-year varsity swimmer for Notre Dame Academy, this NDA senior is a 7-time swimming All American and a 2016 Olympic Trials qualifier. At last year's Regional championships, Madeleine was champion in the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke events. She holds 3 school records and has committed to the University of Virginia. Vote [HERE](#).

NDA STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE! ◀

The National Honor Society collected, wrapped, and delivered 92 children's books to Cincinnati Children's Hospital in December. The books were distributed to children who were spending the holiday season in the hospital.



IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK ◀

Parents: Now you can order your daughter's copy of the 2016 edition of the Notre Dame Academy yearbook, Tapestry, by following [this link to jostens.com](http://thislinktojostens.com). Yearbooks are now available at last year's pre-order price of \$60; get yours before the price goes up in April!

JOIN US FOR PANDA BOOT CAMP! ◀

Start the new year off right by joining us for Panda Boot Camp on Mondays after school from 3 - 3:45 p.m. in the auditorium. Melody Hoppius, owner of Melody's Boot Camp Fitness, (and a Panda Parent) will help all Panda students, faculty, staff, and parents achieve their personal fitness goals for FREE! All fitness levels are welcome--especially beginners! This is a judgment-free zone! Hope to see you on January 11!

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

Juniors and Junior Parents:

This is a reminder that we will be having the March District Choice ACT test for all NDA juniors on March 15. We will register the students for the test during the school day (long homeroom periods) in the coming weeks, so there is not a need to go online and register for this test. The cost of the test is \$39.50 (no writing test) and the students can bring a check (made out to NDA) to the school office for this amount by March 11. Financial assistance is available for those who may need it. This is a real ACT test and the scores can be sent to colleges.



If you are interested in any test preparation for this test, please visit our website for more information here: [Standardized Testing Information](#).

Also, TorchPrep is hosting a session to prep for this test at NDA (for NDA and Cov Cath students) starting February 11 and lasting until March 12 (9 week prep class on Thursdays from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. & Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.). Early registration deadline is February 1 (\$50 discounted rate). For more information about this class at NDA, please visit the Torchprep website here: http://www.torchprep.com/courses/#select_city

Seniors: FAFSA Now Available

Attention Senior Parents: As of January 1, seniors are now able to fill out the 2016-2017 FAFSA (College Financial Aid Application).

It is highly recommended that families complete the FAFSA in the first 2-3 weeks of January. If a family qualifies for Grant money (especially Grants from Kentucky), they are first come, first serve. Most colleges ask that you complete the FAFSA by Feb. 1 or Feb. 15.

Resources to help:

Kentucky offers FREE Help Filling out FAFSA, [Click here for information](#).

For Checklist of needed documents, necessary Links, and other resources, [Click here](#).



PPC NEWS ◀

Father Daughter 2016

Don't miss out on a Trip Around the World at the NDA Father/Daughter, Friday, January 29, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. We will be visiting many exciting destinations at Receptions in Erlanger. Cost is only \$25 per person for memories to last a lifetime! Download your reservation

form [HERE](#) and send payment (check made out to NDA) to Notre Dame's front office by Friday, January 22. Any questions please contact the front office.261-4300



FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

Volleyball's Morgan Hentz was named the Under Armour All American West Team MVP for her performance in the match over the break!

NDA received the most votes in the state round of the USA Today High School Sports 2015/16 Best Athletic Program. NDA and Cov Cath, who finished second in votes, will both advance to the next round of national voting in May.

Swimming won the Girls Night Out Swim Meet in Louisville over the break and will have meets today and Saturday at Scott High School.

Archery hosted a Christmas Shoot over the break and placed 3rd as a team. Jordan Kreutzkamp placed 5th, Lindsay Brossart 8th, and Lily Gamel 10th in their division.

Basketball finished 4th in the Connor LaRosa's Classic and beat Muhlenberg County 61-42 for their highest point total of the year! Last night they beat Highlands 46-38!

We have a nutritionist coming to speak to student athletes and parents on Wednesday January 13 at 6 p.m. in alumnae hall for all who are interested.

Lacrosse tryouts will be Saturday January 23 at NDA 9:30 a.m. -12 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. at NDA. If you have any questions or if your daughter wants to participate but can't make tryouts - contact Jimmy Marshall at marshallj@ndapandas.org.

For anyone interested in trying out for softball, there will be an open gym for softball this Thursday from 4:00 - 5:30 in the gym. Please bring your glove and gym shoes.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ◀

Maintenance Technician

Notre Dame Academy is accepting applications for a Maintenance Technician. The Maintenance Technician is responsible for the repair, maintenance, cleanliness and safety of the facility and grounds. His/her mission is to maintain the schools' physical facility in a condition of cleanliness and safety. You can read more about the position on the website [HERE](#).

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS ◀

Do you shop at Kroger? Every time a registered Kroger Plus Card member shops at Kroger using their Kroger Plus Card, NDA will earn rewards if you designate Notre Dame Academy as your non-profit organization. It's easy – you shop, use your Kroger Plus Card, and Notre Dame Academy receives rewards. Most of you already have a Kroger Plus Card. If you do not, you can get one at the Customer Service Desk at any Kroger.



Your Kroger Plus Card **MUST** be registered online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. After your card is registered, you can then designate Notre Dame Academy as your non-profit organization. Our organization number is **#80500**. Some of you may already have your card registered, if you currently receive on-line coupons from Kroger. If so, you can skip the registration part and designate Notre Dame Academy as your non-profit organization. When you click on the link above there are step-by-step instructions to help you through the process; it only takes a few minutes. All Participants must re-enroll each year to continue earning awards during the coming year. This is one simple way to get money for Notre Dame Academy. **Please register your Kroger Plus Card for Notre Dame Academy today.**

Important dates:

January 6	Sophomore Retreat New Parent meeting: HSPT results 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
January 8	Silver Bells Winter Dance 8:00 – 11:00 p.m.
January 9	Basketball Grade School Event - JV-1:00 p.m. Varsity-2:30 p.m.
January 12	Panda Parent Club (PPC) Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 18	No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
January 21-22	March for Life (Washington, D.C.)
January 25	NDA Free Speaker Series – 7:00 p.m. An Introduction to Yoga
January 27	Class of 2017 Parent Scheduling/PSAT Meeting
January 28	Class of 2018 Parent Scheduling Meeting
January 29	Father/Daughter Dance 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.
February 4	Class of 2019 Parent Scheduling Meeting

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

Check out the Community News section of NDA's website for news about...

- Work Study Positions Available with the Sisters of Notre Dame
- Join the St. Agnes Youth Group
- Street Smartz

For a complete list of community news [CLICK HERE](#).

