



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

Happy New Year! As the Christmas season comes to an end, we continue to reflect on the gift of Jesus becoming human and sharing His life with us. We continue in our second semester *Embracing Dignity in Self, Others and Community* as we have from the beginning of the school year. We are grateful for the love of God, especially present in those around us each day at NDA. It is wonderful to have our students back in the classrooms. They bring such life and light to our campus!

We celebrated the new year as a community with Mass on Friday. Following Mass, Fr. Hennigen helped us dedicate our year to God by blessing each of our classrooms with an Epiphany Blessing and chalking each door with "20 + C + M + B + 17". The 2017 represents the year and the C, M, and B represents the names of the three wise men: Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar.

Our science students have gotten right back into the swing of things. You can enjoy seeing some of the interesting projects they have been working on below.

We will begin our scheduling process for the 2017-18 academic year in early February. This includes meetings with parents as listed in the information below. 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, our students and their dads will enjoy our annual Father/Daughter Dance. This event is sponsored by our Panda Parent Club and will be held at Receptions in Erlanger from 7-11 p.m. I'm sure our students will enjoy this special evening with their fathers!

On Friday, January 20, we will hold our annual Silver Bells Dance sponsored by the sophomore class. The theme is Frozen in Time. It is a fun-filled evening for sophomores through seniors. There is further information about the dance and tickets in the Student Life section below.

I hope your year is off to a good start. May we all strive this year to see the presence of God active in our lives and may we be grateful for the love He shows us!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



# STUDENT LIFE

## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

### Silver Bells Dance: Frozen in Time

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Silver Bells dance. All sophomores through seniors are invited to join us on Friday, January 20, 2017 from 8:00 p.m to 11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 a person (\$24 per couple) and available for purchase before and after school in NDA's foyer now until Wednesday, January 18. Please make checks payable to Notre Dame Academy. School will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. on this day, and students planning to attend the dance are expected to be in attendance until dismissal.

### Catholic Schools Week Talent Show

Registration is now open for NDA's annual Talent Show scheduled for Friday, February 3. During the break, students were asked to think about how they can contribute to this annual celebration of talents. Any freshman through senior is invited to show off her talent whether it is in music, theatre, dance, band or comedy.

## COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

### Parent Meetings for Scheduling and PSAT overview:

We will have the parent meetings for current freshmen, sophomores and juniors in the NDA Theatre at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Freshmen: Tuesday, February 7**
- Sophomore: Thursday, February 2**
- Junior: Thursday, February 9**



We will review the scheduling process for the upcoming school year, and relevant grade level information including results of standardized testing for sophomores and juniors. Although we would love to have parents and students attend, it is not mandatory and follow up emails will give out presentation information and materials.

### Junior ACT on February 28:

All juniors will be taking the ACT during the school day, on Tuesday, February 28. We will help them with registering on paper during the school day for this District Test. There is no need to register for this test. We will ask the students to bring the fee of \$39.50 to school eventually for the test. If a student has trouble with that fee, please let Mrs. Monohan know. All high schools in the Diocese will be taking the ACT on that day. We will ask students to arrive at 7:45 that day to get ready to start by 8 a.m. More details and reminders will follow in an email to students and parents.



### Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts

Sophomores and Juniors

January 15: Deadline to apply

Feb. 28: Finalists will be announced

Mar. 24-25: Live Auditions/Second Round at Centre College in Danville, KY

Apr. 15: Accepted and alternate students posted online

June 18-July 8: Summer Program

For more information: [KY Governor's School for the Arts](#) or [hildrethk@ndapandas.org](mailto:hildrethk@ndapandas.org)

The [KY Lieutenant Governor's Entrepreneurship Challenge](#) is a tiered business pitch competition for Kentucky high school students in Grades 9-12, intended to introduce students to a realistic competitive business environment, as well as to promote business ownership and lifelong learning. Deadline for Intent to Compete is February 1, 2017. See their website for more information!



## PPC NEWS ◀

**PPC Meetings** are always the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the teachers lounge. All are welcome!

**Father/ Daughter Dance** is this Friday, January 13, 2017. We are in need of volunteers to help with setup and cleanup. Please contact Cherie Zieleniewski (PPC Vice President) at [cheriez@fuse.net](mailto:cheriez@fuse.net) to help.

## Engineering Pandas: Cardboard Chair Challenge

Build a chair that can support 200 lbs. with 2 cardboard boxes without using glue or tape.

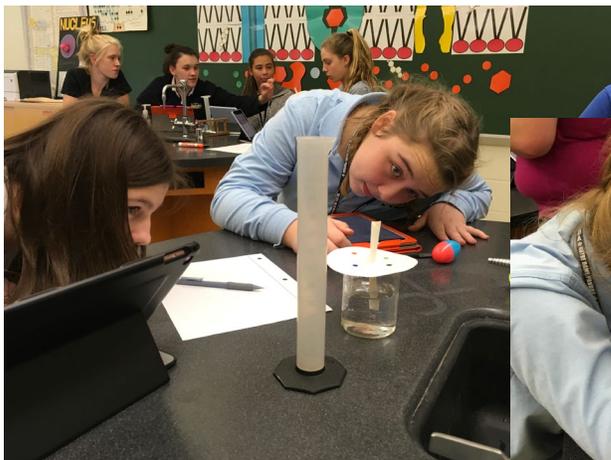


Mission Accomplished!



## FRESHMAN PONDER POLARITY ◀

Our freshmen in Ms. Duncan's Chemistry class had fun today in the lab learning about polarity and how differences in solubility differ in polarity!



# DEDICATING OUR YEAR TO GOD...

## FIRST SCHOOL MASS OF THE YEAR AND THE BLESSING OF THE DOORS ◀

Friday, the NDA community came together to celebrate Mass for the first time this year. NDA Chaplain, Fr. Michael Hennigen, had everyone's full attention during his homily with an inspiring rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas! After Mass, he helped us dedicate our year to God by blessing each of our classrooms.



## NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

### ARCHERY

#### Cov Cath Christmas Classic

The Pandas and Colonels shot well at the 1st annual Cov Cath Christmas Classic. Alexis Hehman shot her personal best of 278 coming in 7th, Erin Kirchner shot a 274 for 8th place. Lauren Reinersman and Lindsay Brossart were the other top shooters with a 264 and 259 respectively. Scores for the whole roster can be found on <http://nasptournaments.org>



#### Ryle Tournament

NDA and CCH sent two teams to a tournament at Ryle, coming in 3rd and 9th place. Alexis Hehman scored a new personal best of 279, coming in 4th in her division, Erin Kirchner came in 5th with a 277, and Manon Stovik shot a 270 and placed 14th. Other top shooters were Hope Feinauer with a 260, Claire Scheffter with a 257, and Jenna Wigger and Lily Pierson who both shot a 256. The results for our full rosters can be found at <http://nasptournaments.org>.



## LaROSA'S MVP OF THE WEEK ◀

Congratulations to NDA's Amanda Smith who was named this week's LaRosa's MVP!

A four-year varsity starter and a swimming Olympic Trials qualifier in two events (100 and 200 backstroke), Amanda is coming off a junior year when she won three regional championships -- the 100 backstroke for the third time, 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay. She was also regional runner-up in the 200 freestyle and was Kentucky

state runner-up in the 100 backstroke both of her sophomore and junior years.

Amanda helped the Pandas win an 18th straight regional title and a third straight Kentucky state runner-up finish. She was named 1st team all-NKY, 1st team all-region and 2nd team all-state, and holds three school records. Amanda also swims for the Northern Kentucky Clippers team and is an academic honors student who is active in community service. She has another talent as well -- she sang the National Anthem to kick off the regional and state swimming tournaments. Amanda will swim collegiately at the University of Missouri.

## NDA STUDENT FEATURED IN LOCAL NEWS ◀

The Northern Kentucky Tribune recently featured one of our NDA students, Kimmy Birrer. The article, Kimmy Birrer: Sharing a best birding memory and reminding of the value of vultures in our lives, is very interesting and can be found [HERE](#).



## ▶ Important dates

January 11	Out of Uniform Day for After Prom  Mrs. Gray from NDUEC in chapel to sign up volunteers
January 12	Juniors First Day to Service
January 13	Freshmen Scheduling Meeting in Auditorium  Sophomore Scheduling Meeting in Theatre  Senior Meeting in Gym  Father/Daughter Dance 7:00 - Receptions
January 16	No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 20	Early dismissal at 2:00 p.m.  Silver Bells Dance
January 23-26	Senior Retreat
January 30	Catholic Schools Week Begins - Mass with Sisters and Bishop Foys
February 1	Diocesan Mass for Catholic Schools Week
February 2	Sophomore Parent Scheduling Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in NDA Theatre
February 3	Talent Show
February 7	Freshman Parent Scheduling Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in NDA Theatre
February 9	Junior Parent Scheduling Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in NDA Theatre

## COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Part-time job opportunity for moms and students
- National League of Junior Cotillions

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

