



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Greetings parents!

How nice it is to see sunshine and some warmer temperatures today! We can almost imagine spring!

As we move quickly through the third quarter, I am reminded daily of the many blessings in our community. We are truly blessed to have an accomplished group of faculty members dedicated to our mission of educating young women to make a difference. It is always nice to see our faculty acknowledged for their dedication and hard work. This week I am honored to announce that Mr. Joe Gray has received an award from the University of Cincinnati for his work as a science teacher at NDA and his collaboration with other science educators in the area. Please see more about this outstanding acknowledgement in the section below.

As indicated in the PPW last week, paper copies of the 2nd quarter report cards are being sent home with your daughter tomorrow. We are still working on full implementation of the electronic versions. You can always check your daughter's progress by viewing her Power School account as well.

Good luck to our NDA Aqua Pandas as they compete in the state meet next weekend. We wish you well in this competition. Please see other news about our winter sports teams, including our new archery program, in the Athletic Section below.

This weekend we will hold the first set of eighth-grade conferences. We look forward to welcoming members of the class of 2018 and their parents as they prepare for their high school years of NDA. If you are a current parent enrolling a new daughter, we are grateful to have one more member of your family in our community. If you know any of our new families, please join me in welcoming them to our community.

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl

NDA will use the following dates to make up the days missed due to the weather:

February 28
(School dismisses at 11 a.m.)

March 21

Let us journey together in hope

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF HOPE! ◀



Notre Dame Academy will host *Homeless to Hopeful*, Friday, February 28 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the NDA Theatre.

Join us at this special event to raise awareness about homelessness in our community and raise funds to benefit two organizations dedicated to providing shelter to hundreds of individuals and families in Northern Kentucky.

Jessica Noll, multi-media journalist at WCPO, will emcee this educational and entertaining evening that features a documentary, as well as first-hand reflections from shelter guests, volunteers, donors and staff. Silent Auction and raffles included!

Tickets are \$15.00/Adults \$5.00/Students and students can get their ticket validated for 3 hours of community service. For tickets please call 859-431-6840 or email janet@familypromisenky.org. Cash, checks, MasterCard, Visa and Discover are accepted. Be a part of a great evening to support - Family Promise of NKY and the Emergency Shelter of NKY!



STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

LEAD Conference

This past weekend, members of our Student Council attended the annual LEAD Conference in Chicago. Accompanied by Student Council Moderator Kimberly Wagner and Assistant Principal Amber Grayson, Juniors Hillary Hellman, Cassidy Ryan, Katie Kloska and Emma Hughes joined over 900 other students representing various Student Councils and National Honor Societies. For two and half days, the students listened to various keynote speakers, attended several sessions on student leadership and networked with other student leaders from as far away as Mexico. The students were not short of new ideas leaving the conference and look forward to sharing them with NDA's Student Council.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS ◀

Kentucky Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

The Kentucky Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) has named those invited to present their research at the 2014 event in Louisville. Szofia Komaromy-Hiller, Ellen Kendall and Cassidy Ryan are invited to deliver their original research on March 1. The symposium winners will represent Kentucky at the national symposium in Washington, DC, April 23 to 27.

Mr. Gray Receives UC Signma Xi Award

Biology teacher Joe Gray has been awarded the 2014 University of Cincinnati Sigma Xi outstanding high school teacher award in science/math. Mr. Gray is committed to student engagement in the classroom and first-hand experience of our natural world. Mr. Gray's lessons always involve hands-on applications in the lab and using outdoor activities. Furthermore, he has developed several blended and flipped classroom experiences that are well received by his students. Mr. Gray has always been one of the teacher leaders in using technology in the classroom. He was one of the first to use an online textbook and utilize a blog and webpage to communicate with students and share content in innovative and engaging ways. Congratulations to Mr. Gray!

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS ◀

NDA can proudly boast a 21st century playwright! Jessica Simendinger Cohen, a 2004 alum, wrote the drama, **Better**, which was read at the Playhouse in the Park on February 17 as part of its new Play Reading Series. A resident of New Haven, CT, Jessica and her husband drove in for the reading, which was attended by a large and receptive audience. The discussion which followed provided Jessica with a great deal of positive feedback and no doubt encouraged her to "write on." The play is about a young woman, Cate, who volunteers at a women's shelter and is affected by her interactions with people she encounters there. As her relationship with her fiance evolves, her personal life collides with issues at the shelter and she begins to question what is "socially acceptable" and what are "healthy choices."

Jessica recently earned her MFA in playwriting from New York's *The New School for Drama*. She has authored three plays to date. Congratulations, Jessica! You have done NDA and your community proud. We await the performance of *Better*, hopefully at a nearby theater venue where we can give you the standing ovation you so deserve.



NDA/CCH BAND NOTES ◀

It is almost Spring and the band would like to invite any friend of CCH or NDA to rehearse and perform with the Panda-Colonel Jr. Band. This group will accept any musician grades 6 - 12 to rehearse on Mondays after school from 3:15 - 4:05 p.m. in the Notre Dame Band Room. The Panda-Colonel Jr. Band will perform alongside the High School Band in the Spring Concert in May. For more information contact NDA/CCH Band and Strings Director, Mr. Greg Cerimele at cerimeleg@ndapandas.org.

CONGRATULATIONS to the CCH / NDA Jazz Band who played three awesome shows during the Fine Arts Showcase at Notre Dame. If you missed the Jazz Band, you still have time to catch us as we will be performing for the Covington Catholic Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, February 23.

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

Congratulations to the NDA swimming and diving team who captured their 34th regional championship title on Sunday. The Aqua Pandas won or placed second in 10 out of 12 events securing their 16th consecutive regional title. Sophomore Madeleine Vonderhaar broke NDA graduate Michele Schroder's 21 year-old regional record in the 100 breast stroke before securing the 2014 Swimmer of the Meet. The Pandas advance to the state swimming and diving meet at Louisville's Ralph Wright's Natatorium February 27-March 1. Good luck Aqua Pandas!



Congratulations to the 32 archers who competed in the school's first regional archery competition at Williamstown High School. NDA's top regional performance came from senior Emma Jacobs who finished 18th out of 126 in the high school division and 28th out of 344 in all divisions. Despite strong individual scores, no archer qualified for the state competition. Congratulations to the Pandas on a very successful inaugural season!

Congratulations to the bowling team who advanced to the regional tournament seeded second out of eight teams before being eliminated in the semi-finals. Way to go Pandas!

Good luck to the NDA basketball team who plays host to district tournament next week on Tuesday (semi-finals) and Thursday (finals).

2014 NDA YEARBOOK ORDER INFORMATION ◀

The Notre Dame Academy Publications class is now accepting orders for the 2014 yearbook. Capture high school memories by purchasing your yearbook today! Tapestry, the formal name of the yearbook, will be distributed in October 2014. Graduating seniors receive their books during the Thanksgiving Eve class reunion. The yearbook is \$60. Don't delay. Price increases April 15. Please refer to the following link for order information: [NDA Website Yearbook Information](#). Order forms are also available in the office. If you have any questions, please notify Mrs. Gronotte at gronottek@ndapandas.org.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS ◀

High School freshman or sophomore? Want to serve as a peacemaker by hosting a teen from Northern Ireland in July? Then we need your help! We are seeking teens to fulfill this truly special role. Ulster Project Cincinnati brings youth from Northern Ireland to Cincinnati home in July. Northern Irish teens and their American teen hosts participate in a program designed to encourage leadership and foster peace. Northern Ireland is a divided country where those of differing religious and cultural backgrounds live separately and tension between groups is the norm. The Ulster Project works toward ending this.

Cincinnati is one of 28 cities in the US to sponsor this very unique mission. Ulster Project Cincinnati is offering one last information session for students and their families: February 24, 7 p.m. at Maderia Branch Library, 7200 Miami Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45243. For more information you can contact Jennifer Redmond at Jennifer.Redmond@mail.vresp.com or calling 513-619-1307.

FUN WAY TO HELP ◀

Be Concerned is seeking school organizations and/or young people interested in joining our team for the Hunger Walk on Memorial Day. The Walk is a 5K that starts at 9:00 a.m. at Sawyer Point Park on the Cincinnati riverfront and takes about an hour to complete. Walkers will raise money for Be Concerned with a \$15-\$20 entry fee and/or by securing sponsors from among their friends and family. The event is a great opportunity to have fun with your friends and help Be Concerned serve the 800+ families currently relying on us to put food on the table. For more information, contact: Paul Gottbrath at beconcernedinc@yahoo.com (859) 291-1340 or Andy Brunsman at (859) 291-6789 or beconcernedandy@yahoo.com.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

Looking for student summer opportunities?

Please visit our NDA website to link to many different opportunities this summer. It is being updated as materials arrive at school. Some things include a Commonwealth Academy at Murray State for juniors interested in getting some free college credits, a Xavier Jump Start Program, and many other activities. [Click here for the website link.](#)



Northern Kentucky Spring College Fair

Monday, February 24, 2014 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Thomas More College - Connor Convocation Center

For a list of colleges attending and more info: http://www.thomasmore.edu/admissions/college_fair_list.cfm

This is during the school-day. This is not a school-sponsored event. Juniors and seniors will be allowed to use a "College Visit Day". See Mrs. Witt to pick up a College Visit Form.



AFTER PROM ◀

Skyline Night!

Why cook when you can go to Skyline and support NDA's After Prom at the same time? Next Tuesday, February 25, from 3-9 p.m., just mention NDA at the Ft. Wright Skyline and 10% of your sale will go to NDA's After Prom.



Great Advertising Opportunity!

The After Prom committee is looking for corporate and individual t-shirt sponsors. Every girl who attends After Prom receives a t-shirt. For more sponsorship information contact kirnl@ndapandas.org.

Please consider donating it to this year's After Prom. The After Prom committee is collecting items for the April 25, 2014 After Prom. Gift cards, gift items for themed baskets, electronic items, and accessories would all make great gift ideas for After Prom. Please send in your donations (marked "After Prom") to the school office.



SUMMER ART OPPORTUNITIES ◀

If you are interested in the Junior High or High School Summer Studio Art classes you can find all of the information you need as well as registration forms [HERE](#). All forms and payment must be returned to Notre Dame Academy by **Friday, May 30, 2014.**

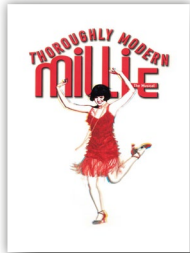
Women Making A Difference

February 28, 2014

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE ◀

Notre Dame Academy will honor four graduates who are living the mission of NDA and making a difference in the world at this year's Women Making A Difference luncheon. This year's honorees are: Mary Ann Blewett Robinson '55, Marcia Klaene '61, Joan Kluemper, DMD '69, Gabrielle Summe '84.

The 2014 Women Making A Difference Luncheon will be held on February 28, 2014, at Receptions in Erlanger, Kentucky. The event will begin with registration at 11:30 a.m. followed by a luncheon and program at noon. Tickets for the Women Making A Difference luncheon are \$55 and can be purchased by calling 859.292-7729.



ALUMNAE DINNER THEATRE ◀

The presentation of Thoroughly Modern Millie and the Alumnae Dinner Theatre will be held on Thursday April 3, 2014. Dinner will be at 5:30 in Alumnae Hall and the performance will start at 7 p.m. For more information, or to make reservations contact Emily Berling at 859-292-1852 or berlinge@ndapandas.org. Tickets are \$25. There is a registration form on the last page of the Notre Damian for this as well.

WE NEED YOUR HELP ◀

Parents, we would LOVE to have you join us in the cafeteria - even for just one day!

Volunteers are needed in the cafeteria on the following dates: **February 20, 24, 25, 26.**

Shifts are from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. You can sign up to volunteer at [Volunteer Spot](#). Thank you to all of the parents who are already volunteering. We truly appreciate your help!



WHAT'S FOR LUNCH? ◀

Did you know that the lunch menu is on website? You can find it by going to [Quicklinks](#) or directly to the [Cafeteria page](#) (Students>>Policies and Procedures>>Cafeteria).

▶ Important Dates

February 21	NCAA Freshman and Sophomore Athlete Meeting Junior ACT Registration Senior Breakfast
February 23	Pancake Breakfast at NDA (Ugandan Mission Benefit)
February 24	Students Register for Classes for 2014-15
February 28	SNOW MAKE UP DAY Women Making A Difference Luncheon
March 4	Blood Drive
March 5	Ash Wednesday Mass
March 5-6	KYSTE
March 11	6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Spring Open House 7:00 p.m. PTO Meeting
March 12	End of 3rd Quarter
March 18	ACT for Juniors (During school day)
March 19	Chastity Speaker

Family in Need

The husband of Jenny Harkins, cross country coach, was injured in November after slipping and falling 60 feet at Red River Gorge. He is currently in a wheelchair and continues to need very expensive medical interventions. Jenny and her husband are modern day missionaries in Lower Price Hill, working with BLOC ministries with children's programs, those in prostitution and those addicted to illegal drugs. As a result of their chosen path and Rhett Harkins' injuries, the family is financially destitute.

Several local coffee houses in Cincinnati are working together to raise money to help the family with mounting medical bills, as well as paying day to day expenses. Donations are greatly appreciated. In addition, during February these coffee houses are selling a special blend of Sumatran coffee to benefit the family. The cost of a 12 ounce bag (standard supermarket size) is \$13, with \$5 going to the family. Ground and whole bean are available (no decaf). Information is available at: <http://daily-coffeeneews.com/2014/02/07/near-death-in-nky-why-people-should-buy-coffee-for-this-man/>

Please consider helping. Checks for donation or to buy coffee may be mailed to Debbi Borchers, 139 Louise Drive, Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017. Please make the check out to Justin Carabello (from Carabello coffee). For coffee orders, it will be assumed that you want ground coffee unless you indicate otherwise. For donations, please write Harkins Family donation on the check. Debbi will deliver the coffee to you.

Coffee is only being sold in the month of February, but donations will be forwarded at any time. Thanks for helping this family who is in such need, a family who spends their lives helping others in need. For more information on how you can help contact Debbi Borchers at dborchers@gmail.com or 859-380-4365.

Skyline Time!

Many local students, including those at NDA, are beneficiaries of the Science and Engineering Fair of Northern Kentucky (SEFNK). Skyline of Fort Wright has generously agreed to sponsor a fundraising night for the science fair on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 3:00 to 9:00. Ten percent of your purchase will be donated to the fair with the presentation of a [coupon](#) or simply indicating that you wish to support the science fair when you make your purchase. Many thanks to Ken Darpel of Skyline for accommodating SEFNK.



SND Pancake Breakfast

Don't miss **Pancakes and Sausage** for breakfast this Sunday, February 23, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Notre Dame Academy. The cost is \$6.00/Adults and \$4.00/Children 12 and under. The event is sponsored by the Ludlow Knights of Columbus and all proceeds benefit the Sisters of Notre Dame Uganda Mission. Some of the SND Uganda missionaries will be present to meet you.

Streetsmartz, sponsored by KOI Auto Parts and Crux Roadboardz, is a comprehensive vehicle familiarization program that is held in Hebron, KY every Monday night from 7-9 p.m. If you have a new driver in the family or, you simply want to know more about your car and safe driving tips, you need this class!! The class covers what do do in emergency situations, how to properly change a tire, check tire pressure, what's under the hood, proper brake and tire wear, how to change your oil, and much much more. Get a group together and come on out!! The cost of the class is \$25/student and it's a one time class. It is real hands on training on a 2001 Toyota Camry designed specifically for this program. Please contact Dan Bosch at bosch@zoomtown.com or (859.240.4045) for further information or to schedule a class.

Evening to Treasure

Blessed Sacrament School cordially invites you to *An Evening to Treasure*, Saturday, February 22, 2014, from 6:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. at Cincinnati Airport Marriott. Cost is \$65/ticket. For more information visit www.eveningtotreasure.com. This year one of the raffles offered is a grand prize winner of a 2004 Ford Ranger truck. Tickets for this truck are only \$10 and can be purchased through Blessed Sacrament School or contacting Steve Middendorf at 859.322.4650.

Enjoy a night out with friends and support a great school!

St Therese Mother's Club is hosting our annual Ladies Spring Social on Friday, March 21st from 6:00-10:30pm. The evening will include a delicious pasta dinner catered by Pompillios, drinks, bingo, music by DJ Rockin' Ron and many raffles. First prize in the major raffle this year is \$1000!! Other fantastic prizes include a Margaritaville frozen drink maker, Kindle Fire HD, 2 hour house cleaning package, Disney World passes, a freshwater pearl necklace and more... Tickets are \$20 each in advance. All profits will be used to further the education of our children. Please contact Janet or Tracy for reservations. Janet - jvenn@fuse.net 630-5662 Tracy - tkegan@twc.com 652-2075

Part time dish room

The Sisters of Notre Dame are currently seeking a NDA parent to work part time as a dishwasher operator on Monday, Tuesday and every other Friday from 12:30 p.m. to approximately 2:30 p.m. in their Provincial House located in Park Hills, Kentucky. Although this position is run through the work study program, all families are eligible. Experience is not necessary. If interested in working in this loving, home environment please email us at humanresources@sndky.org, or call 859-291-2040.