



*An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ◀

Greetings parents,

As the snow is falling, we are all having to adjust plans we thought we had for the day and evening. Perhaps we can view this as way to give our day over to God and welcome this day as a meaningful step on our Lenten journey. I hope any change of plans you experience due to the weather offers a time to reflect, relax and enjoy loved ones.

As you know it is possible that the weather will affect our day tomorrow as well. If it is necessary to cancel school we have made plans for a virtual school day. This year our teachers have been working on emergency lesson plans that can easily be accessed on Canvas. We had not planned to implement this idea so soon, but find this to be a good option for tomorrow. It will help us avoid having to add a day to our calendar at the end of the year. An email was sent to all students with instructions for the virtual school day. We appreciate your cooperation as we pilot this program.

I understand that there was a problem with the delivery of our early dismissal message last night. I am sorry for the confusion and we are looking into why it was not delivered as programmed. If there is any question about the plan for the day, it is always posted at our website as well.

Congratulations to senior Ellen Kendal who has been selected as a 2015 Coca Cola scholar. Please see Ellen's announcement below. This is an outstanding acknowledgment of her academic success and leadership skills. Ellen is one of 150 students selected out of a pool of 105,000 nationwide! Congratulations also to our Science Research students for their outstanding performance in the Science and Engineering Fair of Northern Kentucky. Senior Cassidy Ryan took home the prize for First Place Overall and Junior Kelsey Sucher was awarded Second Place Overall.

This past weekend our Aqua Pandas came in second in the State Meet. This is a great accomplishment. Not only are they talented athletes but they are excellent representatives of the NDA Panda Spirit. I received several compliments about the gracious way in which they handled themselves and acknowledged the winning team. One parent from Sacred Heart wrote "I have never witnessed such truly amazing sportsmanship as was exhibited by your young women at the awards ceremony. After your team accepted their runner up trophy they made an archway from their arms for our girls to walk through." Go Aqua Pandas!

Speaking of winners –thanks to all who participated in our Annual Raffle. It was huge success and a wonderful example of the generosity of so many who support our school. Congratulations to the winners and to those students who were top sellers. Please see those individuals listed below.

Please note that this Sunday we have scheduled a presentation on adolescent alcohol and drug abuse. This is a significant issue that affects many young people in our area. I hope you will join me at this valuable presentation to learn more about how we can support young people and help them stay drug and alcohol free. Knowledge and awareness are powerful tools in helping to prevent substance abuse. Please see important information below about the event. The girls will attend a similar presentation at school on Monday, March 9.

Finally, the calendar for the 2015-16 school year has been established. Please see a list of important dates in the note below. More information will be posted on the website as other dates are confirmed.

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl

The winter edition of  
**The Gavel,**  
NDA's Student Newspaper,  
is now online at  
[HERE!](#)



## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

### 2015-2016 Uniform Changes

Notre Dame Academy is adding the option of a light blue polo to the uniform policy beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Next year, all Freshmen through Seniors are permitted to wear the current white polo or the new light blue polo. Navy blue polos will no longer be an option for the Senior class. The navy blue fleece has been permanently added to NDA's dress code. To order uniform pieces, visit [Schoolbelles](#) – our official uniform provider.

### 2015-15 School Calendar

August 13	First Day of School
September 7	Labor Day (No School)
October 16	Diocesan In Service (No School)
November 25-29	Thanksgiving Break (No School)
December 8	Immaculate Conception (No School)
December 16, 17, 18	Exams
December 21-January 3	Christmas Break (No School)
January 18	Martin Luther King Day (No School)
February 12	Professional Development Day (No School)
February 15	Presidents' Day (No School)
March 24-30	Spring Break (No School)
April 22	Prom
May 20	Graduation
May 24, 25, 26	Exams
May 27	Cleaning Day/Last Day of School

### Intramural Volleyball Tournament

Student Council is hosting an intramural volleyball tournament on Sunday, March 15 starting at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person, and teams are able to register until March 10.

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY  
Presents

**FACING  
THE FACTS**

**the RISK of  
DRUG & ALCOHOL USE  
AMONG  
ADOLESCENTS**

Save the date...

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015 | 7:00 -8:30 p.m.**

Did you know that in 2013, 18% of 10th graders and 23% of 12th graders had used marijuana in the past month? Or that 15% of high school seniors used a prescription drug for non-medical reasons or that was not prescribed to them in the past year? Were you aware that over 6% of 16 and 17 year olds drove under the influence in the last year?\* (\*National Institute on Drug Abuse)

Notre Dame Academy invites all parents and concerned adults in our community to attend the Sunday, March 8th evening program: **FACING THE FACTS—the RISK of DRUG and ALCOHOL USE AMONG ADOLESCENTS.**

Ashelle Kruetzkamp, Substance Abuse Nurse Educator with the Emergency Department, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, and Sergeant Michael Knight, with the Fort Wright Police Department, will share information about the current state of

adolescent usage in our Northern Kentucky area.

We hope to have at least one parent of each student join us in this educational effort with the goal of providing the healthiest learning environment for your daughters, our students.

Because we strongly want to encourage parents to attend, we will also be offering some great door prize incentives:

- Two Prom tickets
- Two After-prom tickets
- One Free Seat at a Torch Prep ACT Bootcamp (<https://www.torchprep.com>)
- Class with the largest percentage of parent attendance will receive a Pizza Lunch!!
- NDA students will attend a similar FACING THE FACTS program in school on Monday, March 9th.

**We hope to see you there!**



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE/WORK STUDY**

**In order to be eligible for Financial Assistance and the NDA Work/Study Program one must follow a 2-step process:**

1. The family must apply online for the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment by **April 1, 2015**. The application cost is \$30 per family and can be paid online after completing the application.
2. Families who are eligible for FACTS money must also apply for a school job by **April 15, 2015**. A job application form can be downloaded from NDA's website or a copy can be found at the school office. Jobs are assigned during the summer and families will be notified about their acceptance in the program toward the end of the vacation period.

**Both the FACTS Application and the Work/Study Job Application can be found on the NDA website at:**

<http://www.ndapandas.org/admissions/prospective-students/financial-assistance.aspx>

Limited need-based scholarships are available to students through the generosity of several benefactors. An application for these Tuition Assistance Scholarships can be found on the website [HERE](#). The deadline for all scholarship applications is **April 15, 2015**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment is required on file in the school office before a student is considered for eligibility of a Tuition Assistance Scholarship. Families must apply online for the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment by April 1, 2015.

**Thank you to our NDA families for participating in our NDA Cash Raffle!**

## **The raffle raised over \$40,000!**

Proceeds from the raffle help bridge the gap between tuition and actual cost of education and provide tuition assistance to deserving students.

**Congratulations to our winners:**

**1st Prize - \$5,000 - Dr. Robert and Mrs. Jean Longshore**

**2nd Prize - \$2,500 - Mrs. Pat Augur**

**3rd Prize - \$500 - Mrs. Mimi Bradley**

**Thank you also to our students for selling their raffle tickets!**

**Congratulations to our top sellers:**

**Mykel Northcutt - 80 tickets**

**Katherine Denby - 33 tickets**

**Jessica Le - 31 tickets**

**Saija Bedford - 21 tickets**

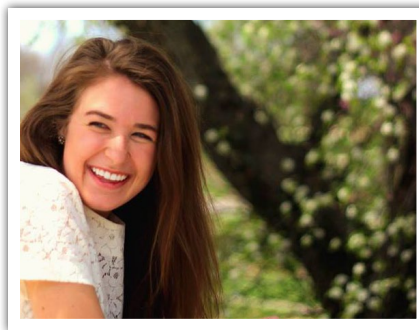


## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT NEWS ◀

Once again, Notre Dame Academy's Science Research students took top honors at the Science and Engineering Fair of Northern Kentucky (SEFNK). SEFNK, now in its 20th year, was held Sunday, March 1, at Northern Kentucky University. In addition to NDA students winning the school award for most points amassed, Notre Dame students took home the two top awards at the fair. NDA senior Cassidy Ryan took home the prize for First Place Overall and junior Kelsey Sucher was awarded Second Place Overall. Cassidy now receives an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in Pittsburgh in mid-May. Kelsey is the alternate to the International Science and Engineering Fair.

Three of our Science Research students were also invited to present their research at the Regional JSHS at U of L this past weekend. Congratulations to these students - Ellen Kendall, Paige Montfort and Hannah Ziegelmeier.

Congratulations to all of our Science Research students on their achievements this weekend. A complete listing of the awards received by NDA's Science Research students can be found online [HERE](#).



## CONGRATULATIONS! ◀

Congratulations to NDA senior Ellen Kendall who has been named a 2015 Coca-Cola Scholar! Ellen is one of 150 students who were determined to best exemplify superior leadership and dedication to their community from a pool of nearly 103,000 initial applicants from across the country. Each Coca-Cola Scholar will receive a \$20,000 scholarship to the college or university of their choice and travel to Atlanta April 16-19 for our Scholars Weekend. A full listing of the 2015 class is available [HERE](#).

## ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS ◀

### Congratulations to the Aqua Pandas on their State Runner-Up finish in the 2015 KHSAA Swimming & Diving Championship!

The Pandas finished with a team total of 271 points, placing in the top 10 in 10 of 12 events. Highlights of the state meet are listed online [HERE](#).

In addition to their great performance at the State Championship, NDA's Aqua Pandas showed great sportsmanship at the event prompting a parent of a First Place Sacred Heart swimmer to send an email to NDA. Here is an excerpt from the email:



***"I have never witnessed such truly amazing sportsmanship as was exhibited by your young women at the awards ceremony. After your team accepted their runner up trophy they made an archway from their arms for our girls to walk through. I have to tell you, some of our fanatical parents even teared up. It was very moving and I can tell you it will leave a lasting impression in our ladies' memories of how to be a gracious competitor. Tremendous display, Notre Dame Academy, for having such wonderful athletes and inspirational women. Keep up the good work."***

## SUPPORT TAX CREDIT FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE ◀

Representatives Tommy Thompson (D) and David Floyd (R) have recently filed House Bill 384. The bill helps parents exercise their right to choose the educational environment most appropriate for their children. It would accomplish this goal by increasing the amount of tuition assistance available to children enrolled in nonpublic schools, including Catholic schools. More information on the bill can be found [here](#).

We need families to contact their state representatives and ask them to co-sponsor House Bill 384. This can be done by calling 1.800.372.7181 and leaving a message. You can also send your representative an electronic message by visiting [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov). Your voice is important.

## COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



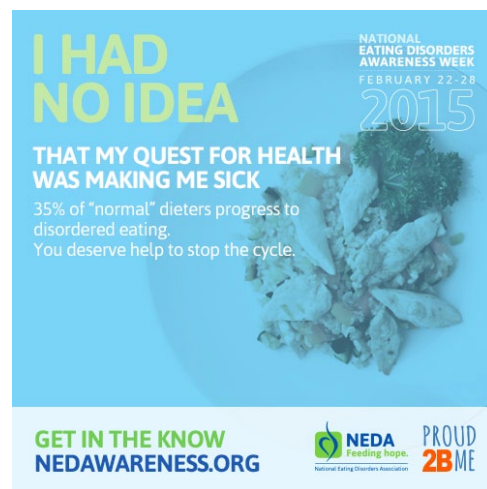
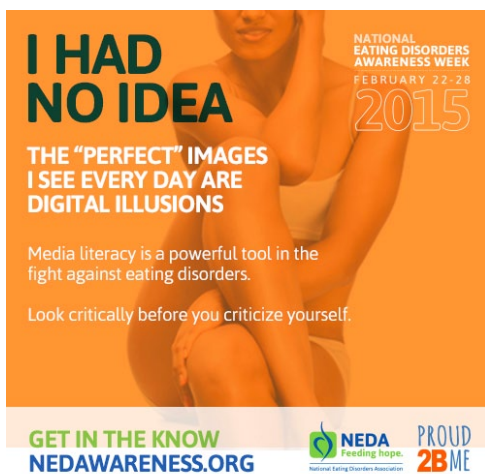
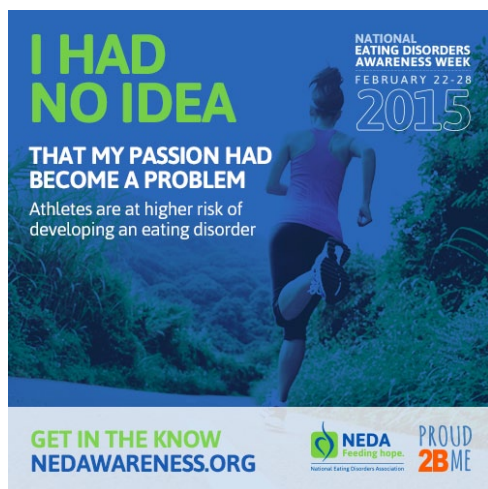
### National Eating Disorders Awareness Week

The theme of the 2015 National Eating Disorders Awareness Week (February 22-28), "I Had No Idea", focused on the importance of early intervention. Early detection of eating disorders and intervention improves the likelihood of full recovery. Too often symptoms are overlooked as insignificant behaviors when in fact many of these are early warning signs of eating disorders. The Counseling Staff at NDA supported this increased awareness of eating disorders and offered resources for our students through posters, announcements, and emails.

Eating Disorders are serious illnesses, not lifestyle choices, but help IS available and recovery IS possible!

For more information contact any of our NDA School Counselors or visit:

National Eating Disorder Association (NEDA): <http://www.nationaleatingdisorders.org/learn>



## POSITION AVAILABLE ◀

Notre Dame Academy is seeking a substitute teacher in our music program for the period of May 4 - May 29, 2015. This position includes teaching 2 courses per day and serving as the Chorus Director. Please submit resume and letter of interest to [ndahr@ndapandas.org](mailto:ndahr@ndapandas.org).



## SUMMER ART INFORMATION ◀

If you are interested in taking the entire Summer Studio Art course for credit, or just parts of the course for enrichment, the information including the registration date, dates of the class, and registration fee, can all be found at this website:

<https://www.ndapandas.org/admissions/summer-enrichment-programs.aspx>

### Summer Junior High Art Camp

This year for the Summer Junior High Art Camp we will be learning the art of Screen Printing. All of the steps from design to surface. There will be 2 sessions:

Session A: June 29th - July 2nd, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Session B: July 27th - July 30th, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Information for that course can be found at: [Junior High Summer Art Camp](#)

and of course, if you have ANY questions about either course, please feel free to email me at: [eckerlem@ndapandas.org](mailto:eckerlem@ndapandas.org)

THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL

# *Women Making A Difference*

AWARD LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

HONORING NOTRE DAME ACADEMY ALUMNAE FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY  
HAVE MADE TO THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND BEYOND.



Meghan Scherder Olson '91



Julia B. Meister '87



Wendy Vonderhaar '86

**PLEASE JOIN US IN HONORING THESE DESERVING WOMEN.  
TICKETS ARE \$55 AND CAN BE PURCHASED BY CALLING 859.292.7729.**

## ► Important dates:

March 6	Sophomore Retreat
March 8	Drug Education Program (Parent Assembly)
March 9	Drug Education Program (Student Assembly)
March 10	PTO Meeting
March 13	SNOW MAKE UP DAY
March 15	Student Council Volleyball Tournament
March 16	Third Quarter Ends
March 17	Senior Mission Retreat Junior ACT Testing
March 18	Winter Sports Award Program
March 19	Career Fair Women Making A Difference Luncheon
March 21	8th Grade Conferences
March 24	Panda Preveiw Night for 6th-8th Grade Girls 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

## COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Stem Camps now open
- Tickets on Sale for St. Joseph School Spring Play
- St. Therese Mother's Club Annual Ladies Spring Social
- Sisters of Notre Dame Women's Weekend Retreat
- 2015 Hillenmeyer Lecture

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

