



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

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Dear Parents,

The 2012-13 school year has gotten off to a great start and it has been a blessed first week at NDA! At our Opening Assembly on Monday, it was a pleasure to welcome everyone back. I shared some remarks about my trip to Africa, our school in Uganda and the Sisters of Notre Dame educational principles which guide our school. We also introduced our student council officers and new teachers all of whom received a warm welcome from the girls. We had a spirited rendition of our school song and the hall was filled with enthusiasm. On Wednesday, we had our Opening School Mass celebrated by our new Chaplain, Msgr. William Cleves. Msgr. Cleves gave a beautiful homily and encouraged us all to begin the school year with peace in our hearts and towards one another.

As you know, teachers and students are busy getting set up with the iPads. This week students are being enrolled in the Casper mobile device management system and a Self Service app has been installed on their iPads. By clicking on this app, students find the suite of applications NDA is providing to them and they can download each one to their own iPad. By the end of the week the majority of students should have their accounts set up, be enrolled in the Casper software and have access to the student app suite. Mrs. Mullee will be following up with each student to make sure they are set up for their classes.

As I talk to students during lunch and before and after school I am hearing many positive and enthusiastic comments about their iPads. I appreciate the students' openness and enthusiasm for this new technology in the classroom. On Monday Mr. Gray's biology classes were already outside using their iPads to take photos of living things and to describe their observations. Please watch for weekly updates in this newsletter about use of the iPads in our classrooms.

For those interested in the Theater program please plan to attend a meeting next Tuesday, August 28th at 7:00 pm in the NDA Theater. Information will be provided about the 2012-13 Season, the Panda fees and opportunities for students and parents to participate in our shows.

The Advancement Office is making preparations for the Autumn Gala on September 29. We hope you will be able to join us for this fun-filled evening. Students will be asked to sell raffle ticket to support their school. Student Council will be sponsoring some competitions between classes to see which grade level can sell the most tickets!

Finally, thank you for making the decision to send your daughter to NDA! It is an honor to have her as part of our NDA community. We look forward to working with you in the coming school year.

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl

## NEWS FROM THE STUDENT LIFE OFFICE ◀

Hello, from the Student Life Office. My name is Mrs. Amber Grayson, and I am very pleased to join Notre Dame Academy this year as the Assistant Principal and Director of Student Life. Having served for 8 years in an urban Catholic elementary school in the Diocese of San Diego as teacher and administrator, I truly believe Catholic education is a gift and opens many doors. I look forward to seeing the doors open for all Notre Dame students, and I feel very privileged to be a new member and to share in its long history of success and accomplishments. As Assistant Principal and Director of Student Life Activities, I invite everyone to join together with the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Academy's staff and faculty to create an environment defined by Christian values. Through teamwork and open communication, we can accomplish such a task.

I encourage everyone to revisit this year's Student/Parent Handbook as several policies and procedures have changed from last year. Also, new to NDA this year is the iPad One to One Initiative which has the students collaborating and learning in ways essential for the 21st century. Most importantly, the students are excited about the new ways they can learn!

We anticipate a school year filled with many exciting events for our students. Tonight, the year's first Student Council Mixer kicks off at 8:00 p.m. and ends at 11:00 p.m. All students are encouraged to attend and to celebrate the start of the school year. Admission is \$5 per person, and the theme is Super Hero. Read the Panda Press to stay apprised of all other upcoming events!

## A GLIMPSE OF OUR FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL AT NDA ◀

We hope your daughters have enjoyed "Embracing 21st Century Learning" and are looking forward to a very successful year at Notre Dame Academy. It has been an exciting week for all of us at NDA. Check out what we've been up to in by double clicking [NDA New Beginnings 2012-13](#) and you can view it on Notre Dame Academy's YouTube site!