



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Greetings parents!

Earlier this week, students received a letter regarding the appropriate use of social media in the classroom and the NDA Acceptable Use Policy. Overall, the use of the iPad in the classes at NDA has been a very positive experience and teachers have found numerous ways to engage students, deliver content, differentiate instruction and promote effective information processing. Students are using their iPads to take notes, access and organize class material, collaborate with each other and communicate about ideas. Unfortunately, some are also using the devices to communicate via social media and access the internet for purposes not related to their classroom activities.

One of the goals of our iPad initiative is to educate our students about the responsible use of technology. Mobile devices are a reality in our lives and permeate our social interactions and gathering spaces. In and out of school everywhere, students are engaging in the use of social media. When not used appropriately, it is a distraction at the least and can be much worse when it involves inappropriate messages and photos. One of the recent apps that has become quite popular is Snapchat (please see iPad update below).

At NDA, the responsible use of social media is being addressed in three ways;

1. Classroom management
2. Security measures to block access
3. Education and awareness

Good classroom management is essential to good teaching. With the introduction of the iPad to the classroom, we continue to address its impact as part of ongoing discussion and professional development.

In terms of access, we are working to block all that we can, but there are some social media apps they are designed specifically to avoid these blocks. Currently we do have Facebook and Twitter blocked. We cannot currently block Snapchat as it uses the same port as the self-service app. Therefore students are required to uninstall this app while they are on campus or engaged in school related activities. This can be done very quickly and they can reinstall it once they are out of school at your discretion.

The third approach is, by far, the most powerful. If our students are educated about the effective ways they can communicate using social media and the dangers when social media is used inappropriately, they will be empowered to make wise choices. As they move through high school and on to college and careers they will find that inappropriate use of social media can have a negative impact on college acceptance, employment and relationships. We (educators and parents alike) will never be able to block them from accessing all the options that are out there now and in the future. However, we can educate our girls on how to make wise and safe choices about the use of social media in ways that respect and protect themselves and others.

We hope you will join us in this effort by speaking with your daughters about how they are using their iPads and other forms of social media to send messages and/or images of themselves and others. Please remind them, as we have done, that once a message is sent or posted it is no longer in their control. Snapchat is really no exception to this although they may think it is. If they have not already done so, you may want to share with them any policy you have in your workplace about using social media while at work and have them research college websites about how social media can affect college applications.

On a related topic some of you are aware that Ms. Sampson's Junior English classes are taking a break from technology as part of their current unit on transcendentalism. For three days her students will "unplug" from TV, phones, iPads and computers with necessary exceptions. Ms. Sampson's project – a 21st century version of a Thoreau retreat - is meant to provide a real world experience for her students on the value of "disconnecting" so that they can be more open to the value of face-to-face communication and time for personal reflection. This project underscores the importance of seeing technology as tool - one of many that we can use to learn, communicate, create and collaborate. It should never negate the value of genuine and meaningful communication with each other.

Thank you for your attention to this lengthy message and as always I appreciate the opportunity to work with you in making a meaningful education possible for your daughter.

May you know God's goodness each day,



Dr. Laura Koehl



iPad UPDATE ◀

Please take some time to learn more about the latest social media tool – Snapchat.

Students can take photos and send them instantly to others. It appears to have no educational value and is sometimes used to send negative and derogatory pictures and images. Students are not permitted to use this app while on the NDA network. You may want to view this short video (see link below) for more information about Snapchat. This

provides a great example of why it is so important to have open communication with our young people about how they are using social media.

<http://video.today.msnbc.msn.com/today/50068553/#50068553>

NEWS FROM THE STUDENT LIFE OFFICE ◀

Bring on the Christmas cheer!

Students are encouraged to attend the upcoming NDA mixer on Friday, December 14. The mixer kicks off at 8:00 p.m. and ends at 11:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person, and all proceeds will go to support NDA's After Prom. Read the Panda Press to stay apprised of all other upcoming events!



COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

Parent College Financial Aid Presentation at NDA: Paul Calme will be here on December 11 at 6:30 p.m. to give a Financial Aid Presentation. All parents are invited to attend and Senior Parents are highly encouraged to attend in light of filling out the FAFSA starting January 1, 2013 for students entering college in the Fall of 2013. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Ms. Burgei at burgeik@ndapandas.org.

DECEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH ◀



Notre Dame's December Student of the Month is no stranger to the stage, but according to Theater Director, Mrs. Stratman, "Katie Maurer's talents lie beyond her obvious musical and theatrical talents. She is conscientious, dedicated, motivated, imaginative and deeply concerned with her fellow students. She is engaging, gregarious and always gives 110% be it in a theatrical role, her biology homework or service to the community."

Aside from her studies and the stage, Katie, a junior at NDA, keeps busy as a member of National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, Speech and Drama Club, and Interact Club. Most impressively, Katie has served as a student director in our theater department and has developed her own theater project at Notre Dame's Urban Education Center where she facilitates games and mini-productions once a week with second through eighth grade students.

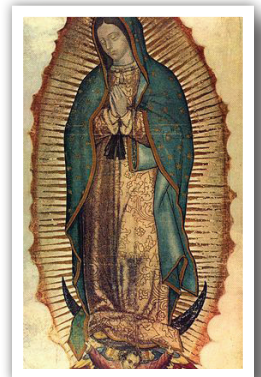
Katie receives recognition this month for her genuine character, kindness, positive attitude, and humility. We would like to wish this Panda the best of luck in all her endeavors, including her current contention for an Overture Award in the area of musical theater. Congratulations on your many accomplishments, Katie!

LIFE CLUB NEWS ◀

Life Club is selling pro-life Christmas cards. There are ten in a package; an assortment of beautiful pictures from classic artists. They are \$5.00 and the money goes to help pro-life activities. Students can purchase these cards (while supplies last) in 302 throughout the day. Thank you for your support.

GUADALUPE MASS ◀

On Wednesday, December 12, 2012, Life Club will be celebrating a Mass in the chapel at 3:00 p.m. in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of pro-life. Miracles happen when we pray, especially when we pray as a community. In 1531 Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico. She appeared wearing the native dress of a pregnant woman. Though he was Catholic, many of the people were still pagan and immolating their children to the gods. Within ten years of her apparition nine million native Indians changed their hearts and minds and were baptized! So all are welcome to attend this special Guadalupe Mass. Let us bring our hearts and souls together so that our nation will convert as did Mexico five hundred years ago.



MOM'S DAY OUT - Adjusted date and location ◀

NHS will be sponsoring a time for Moms (or Dads) to take some time for themselves or do that extra shopping that they need to do for the holidays.

The new date will be Saturday, December 15 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and will be held in room 112 on the first floor which is just beyond the college counselor's office. No reservations are needed and the ages are from toddler to eight years of age. Your child will be well cared for and entertained with videos, games, puzzles, play dough, coloring and snacks. They can bring their favorite blanket and/ or stuffed animal to snuggle while watching a movie.

PERU MISSION TRIP ◀

The first meeting for NDA's Peru mission trip was held last Thursday and there were about 25 girls in attendance. Several of the girls that went on the trip last year showed slides of what the mission and people looked like and spoke of the many reasons why the girls should go. The girls were also given a list of costs and how those costs would be collected over time. Our next meeting will be after Martin Luther King's birthday in January. We will then have a definite cost for the airfare, which is the largest and most subject to change cost. The girls will then apply for the trip by answering 3 questions and submitting a \$300.00 deposit, which will cover the cost of 2 chaperones and their deposit for their airline ticket. Another notice will appear in the Panda Press as the date draws closer.



DISH ROOM NEWS ◀



Hello Dish Room Volunteers! We need volunteers for the following dates: December 10, 11, 12 & January 3 & 4.

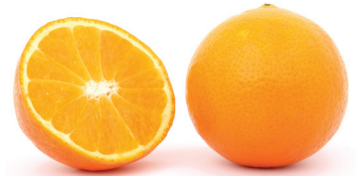
We understand that this is an incredibly busy time of year, but if you are able to donate just about an hour and 45 minutes on any of these dates, we would greatly appreciate it! You can sign up to help at [CAFETERIA SIGN-UP](#).

FRUIT SALE INFORMATION ◀

Thank you to those that signed up to work the fruit sale. We need a great number of people to work on Friday since it has the most work to do. I still have many spots open for the last two shifts on Friday and could use more help at the end of Sunday, also. There are a number of you that have not signed up to work or pick up your fruit, so I would be happy if you would sign up for the Friday or Sunday times. The following Friday (December 14) is when the Fruit money is due. If you could help count the money, I could use the help at that time.

The site to go to sign up : <http://www.timetosignup.com/ndafruitsale/>

I need everyone to pick up fruit either Saturday or Sunday. Saturday's hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday it is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There is a place to sign up for a time. Sunday we get very busy putting the school back to order for Monday classes.



All the fruit money is due on Friday, December 14. We start collecting the money at 7:00 a.m. in the auditorium.

I want to again thank everyone for their help with the fruit sale selling, working and picking up the fruit. This is a busy time of the season for everyone but if all do their part we can get it done. THANK YOU !

J. Schmidt

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK ◀



Stay up to date with everything that is happening at NDA on our official Notre Dame Academy Facebook page. It is at [Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills](#). There are many listings for Notre Dame Academy on Facebook so look for our NDA seal to make sure you have our official page. You can also check out our NDA Alumnae page at [Panda Pal, Park Hills, Kentucky](#) to find out what's going on with our NDA Alumnae.

NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT ◀



To all of you practicing artists...we would love to show your talents in Notre Dame Academy's Art gallery. If you are interested in exhibiting your work, please contact Mr. Eckerle at eckerlem@ndapandas.org and please include some of your work samples or a website if you have one. We are looking to fill the gallery with a variety of shows including solo shows and group shows, using any and all types of mediums. Please contact Mr. Eckerle if you are interested.

ADULT BEGINNING GROUP PIANO AT NDA'S PIANO LAB ◀

Learn the basics of making music – note reading, chord patterns, and proper technique – in a relaxed, fun, and learning-filled environment.

Course content includes:

- Finger numbers, proper playing posture, keyboard topography
- Note values and rhythm
- Note identification on the staff and reading music
- I-IV-V Chords
- Accidentals



The classes will be held on Tuesdays from 6:00 - 6:50 p.m. beginning January 8 through May 28 (no class on April 2 for Spring Break). The classes will be in the Piano Lab on the ground floor of Notre Dame Academy. The cost is \$265 and includes your book.

Each group is unique and will determine the pace of the class. At the end of the course, we will have an evening of good music, food, friends, and fun. Come join us! For more information contact Nell Schaffer at schaffern@ndapandas.org or 859.261.4300.

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

Cast your vote for St. Augustine School in "Power A Bright Future" Grant Program

Help St. Augustine School win up to \$50,000 by casting votes now through December 19, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. Adults and children 13 and older can visit www.PowerABrightFuture.com to vote once a day. Neighbors, friends and family can also vote for their favorite school on the website or right from their phones via text message (message and data rates may apply).

Find The One Team Asks For Your Help

St. Agnes mom, Sharon Gerdes, was very recently diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome which is a rare, possibly fatal blood disorder. Her best chance to survive is to receive a bone marrow transplant from a matching donor, but she hasn't found that match yet. On **December 15 and 16**, the **Find The One Team is holding a Marrow Donor Drive at St. Agnes** to register potential donors for Sharon and others. Registering is just a cheek swab and donors need to be 18 to 55 years old and in good general health. Many people have heard donating is painful, but PLEASE don't be misinformed. Donating is an outpatient procedure with a short recovery time, and stem cells are actually taken from the blood most of the time. For more info, go here: <http://www.deletebloodcancer.org/faq/general-questions.html>. Help fight blood cancers by Getting Swabbed to save Sharon and others. If you cannot make it to the drive, you can register for free online at www.deletebloodcancer.org and they will mail you a kit.

Young Adult Author to Offer Writing Tips

Teens and young writers are invited to meet and learn from author Katie McGarry on Thursday, December 6 at 4:30 p.m. at the Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library. McGarry is the author of "Pushing the Limits," an intense and intriguing look at the romance of two troubled teens. McGarry, a Louisville native, has recently been named as a finalist for Goodreads Choice Awards for Young Adult fiction. She states that she has always considered herself a storyteller and a few years ago, decided to write the stories down on paper. Teens who attend the program will have an opportunity to win a copy of "Pushing the Limits." McGarry will sign copies of her books the teens bring with them.