



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

A special note of gratitude to all who helped plan last week's Catholic Schools Week activities. Our NDA students together with students from CCH, raised over \$1700 for the Emergency Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky on Wednesday evening at our annual charity volleyball game. It is fitting that as a Catholic school community we share our gifts with those in need, especially the homeless.

Congratulations our February Student of the Month - Maddie Prospero. You can read more about Maddie below. Congratulations also to our students who participated in the Student-Directed One-Acts this past weekend. Our community is gifted with many talented young people!

We have one more scheduling meeting for the 2017-18 school year left this week. Our junior meeting will be held Thursday, February 9. This meeting will include information about standardized tests our juniors took this year as well as course scheduling for the coming year. Students are welcome to attend as well.

We have raised \$5.9 million of our \$7 million goal for our **Excellence Without Boundaries** Capital Campaign. We are very pleased that we are to 84% of our goal! This summer we will begin some of our Capital Campaign renovations. This is a very exciting time for us at NDA as we watch our fifty-year-old building that has served us so well over the years, be transformed into a 21st century learning environment. The extensive construction taking place over the next two calendar years will affect our school calendar. The calendar for the 2017-18 school year has been established and you can find a list of important dates and information regarding next school year on the page below. You can read more about supporting the **Excellence Without Boundaries - Empowering 21st Century Women** Capital Campaign on our website [HERE](#). You will find more information regarding our plans for creating a 21st century learning environment on our website [HERE](#).

Special congratulations to NDA Assistant Principal Amber Grayson on the birth of her baby girl, Willow Casas Grayson!

Finally, our annual raffle is underway and I would like to thank you for your support of this important fundraiser. Proceeds from the raffle help bridge the gap between tuition and actual cost of education and provide tuition assistance to deserving students. Each student is asked to sell six tickets for the raffle and they are given many incentives to motivate them in their selling. The winner will be drawn next Friday, February 17, so please encourage your daughters to turn in their tickets soon. Again, thanks for your support of NDA!

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



# 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

## IMPORTANT DATES ◀

September 5	First Day of School
November 1	All Saints (No School)
November 3	End of First Quarter
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Break (No School)
December 8	Immaculate Conception (No School)
December 21-January 3	Christmas Break (No School)
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No School)
January 17-19	Exams
January 19	End of First Semester
February 19	Presidents' Day (No School)
March 16	End of Third Quarter
March 29 – April 6	Easter (No School)
May 21, 22, 23	Exams
May 24	Cleaning Day/Last Day of School
May 25	Graduation

\*Dates can be found on our website [HERE](#).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ◀

- As you can see from the dates above, due to Capital Campaign renovations at NDA, our school year will begin **after Labor Day** and end **before Memorial Day**.
- Due to the shortened number of days in the school year, next year we will be **adding 33 minutes to each school day**.
- Each school day will **begin at 7:45 a.m.** and **end at 3:03 p.m.**
- All classes will last **52 minutes** with **4 minutes** in between for changing classes.
- **Semesters will be an even number of days** with mid-term exams held in January.
- The athletic **“Dead Period”** will run from **June 23 - July 13** this summer.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please remember that although our school year does not begin until September 5, other area schools will begin in early or mid August, therefore fall athletic schedules will remain the same as in past years. Many games and matches will be held prior to the beginning of our school year.

# STUDENT LIFE

## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

### Charity Volleyball Game

Last week, NDA and CCH hosted a volleyball game to support the Emergency Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky. As a result of the charity volleyball game, the students are able to donate over \$1700 to the cold shelter. The money will certainly go a long way this winter, so a huge thank you to all who coordinated, participated and attended the event.

### Enchanted Forest Dance

NDA and CCH Freshmen and Sophomores and their dates are invited to come to the Enchanted Forest, a Semi-formal dance scheduled at Notre Dame Academy on Saturday March 11 from 8:00-11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 per person, and will sold the week before. All proceeds will benefit Notre Dame Academy's Drug Free Club.



## CONGRATULATIONS MRS. GRAYSON! ◀

The NDA community would like to welcome our newest member! Willow Casas Grayson was born on Monday morning at 9:46 am. She was 7 lbs., 6 oz and 19 and 3/4 inches long. Mom, baby, Violet and Dad are all doing well!



## INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE ◀



Mrs. Mullee and seven members of the SWAT team are going to be attending the 2017 Tech Olympics February 24-26 in Downtown Cincinnati. This event brings together students from the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area to compete against other schools in programming, networking, digital design, and more.

Students will network with professionals from top local companies who may be able to connect them with a dream job. Students will be able to develop their professionalism skills and give a competitive edge by participating in the new Tech Olympics Career Fast Track, where they will fine tune their resume, interview skills, and personal brand. Additionally, they will learn about hot topics in technology from industry experts, like healthcare IT, business intelligence, master class demos in how to code, tech startups, and more. SWAT students will represent their school in the Tech Olympics Showcase as well.

## 2017 NDA RAFFLE ◀

# It's Raffle time at NDA!

## HAS YOUR DAUGHTER SOLD HER 6 RAFFLE TICKETS YET?

Each student received 6 raffle tickets last week for this special annual event. As you know, this fundraiser helps keep tuition low and aids in providing tuition assistance to deserving students.

Our overall goal this year is \$45,000! We are expecting the students to raise \$40,000 of that goal. With generous alumnae support, we hope to exceed our overall goal.

The winning raffle ticket for **\$10,000** will be pulled on February 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the Winter Pep Rally.

Sr. Paul Ann, Sr. Rachel and Jan Gilliam will be collecting raffle tickets each morning, passing out Out of Uniform passes and tallying up totals for the students to check our daily progress.

Each student is highly encouraged to sell 6 tickets at \$15 each and there are many incentives for them to do so. You can find more information about student incentives [HERE](#). If you have any questions, please call the Advancement Office at 859-292-7729.



## JOIN US ◀

We will celebrate Mass Friday at 7:20 a.m. in our chapel. All are welcome!

## NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

### BOWLING

Good luck to our Panda Bowlers! Bowling was the Regional runner up and heads down to State in Lexington on February 9 and 10. Alecia Radford also finished third in the singles regional tournament and will represent NDA individually in addition to with the team at State.

### ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The NDA Athletic Hall of Fame is set for March 9 at 6:00 p.m. in alumnae hall. There will be a cocktail and hors d'oeuvre hour from 6:00-7:00 p.m. with the program beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending around 8:00 p.m. We are excited to induct the list below and recognize the Swimming and Diving State Champion Teams from 1972, 1973, 1976 and 1977. You can purchase tickets online [HERE](#).



Kim Gunning, Volleyball and Golf coach, AD 1989-2014

Rob Hardin, Tennis Coach 1995-2015

Sara Raaker McSorely, Soccer Coach, 2000-2013

Jill Hampton Baaker, Volleyball 1994-1998

Ally Westling, Tennis 2006-2010

Anna Walsh Koningsmark, Soccer 2001-2005



## COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

### Cinderella's Closet

Even though Silver Bells is still fresh in everyone's memories, some people are already thinking ahead to Prom! The organization Cinderella's Closet is definitely one of those groups, as they provide dresses, accessories, and shoes for junior and senior girls who need help to have a wonderful and memorable Prom experience.

They provide these essential Prom items at no cost to those who have a financial need. If this is something your junior or senior daughter could benefit from, please contact Personal Counselor, Erin Maggard, at [maggarde@ndapandas.org](mailto:maggarde@ndapandas.org). This year the weekend Cinderella's Closet is open is actually the weekend of our prom so Ms. Maggard has spoken with the director about how to accommodate our girls. However, we need to let them know soon how many girls would like to shop at Cinderella's Closet, so please contact Mrs. Maggard ASAP! For more information about Cinderella's Closet go to <http://www.cinderellas-closetusa.org/>



### Freshman Parents

Last week, the freshmen had "High School 101" with the NDA Counseling Staff. Below are some conversation starters to have with your freshmen daughters:

- Mrs. Hildreth helped the girls take a "Career Cluster" assessment in our new online tool called Naviance. They also started to log Resume information. Ask your student: "What were your top 3 Career Clusters and what specific careers did you get matched with?"
- Mrs. Maggard talked with the girls about good choices regarding their relationships, physical health, digital world, and emotional health. Ask: "What were the 4 components of the "HELP" model of making decisions?"
- Mrs. Monohan discussed Scheduling, the Curriculum Guide and GPA Scales. Ask your daughter: "What are you thinking of taking next year as your Elective?"
- Ms. Burgei talked with the girls about what a Transcript includes and some classes heard advice from current Seniors. Ask your daughter: "What advice did the seniors give you?"

### Parent Meetings for Scheduling and PSAT overview:

The only parent meeting left is the junior parent meeting on THURSDAY, February 9 in the NDA Theatre at 6:30 p.m. 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.

## COLLEGE VISITS ◀

On February 13, the Navy will be at NDA during the lunches. On February 14, the Marines will be at NDA during the lunches. These changes are due to the day the Bishop gave the students off.

On Wednesday, March 8, Northern Kentucky University will have the rep at NDA to talk to seniors registered at NKU. She will be here from 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.



### PPC NEWS ◀

**PPC Meetings** are always the second Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the teachers lounge. Our next meeting is February 13. All are welcome!



## MADDIE PROSPERO

FEBRUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Notre Dame Academy Freshman, Maddie Prospero, who has been named February's Student of the Month. Described as kind, hard-working, and helpful, Maddie is also "a great classmate who works well with others" according to her teacher Ms. Schellhaas. Ms. Duncan, her chemistry teacher, further explains her helpful attitude by sharing how Maddie, "will go out of her way to help another student understand the material." Although only a freshman, we love how you have already embraced the Panda spirit of helping out another Panda sister!

### SOMETHING ABOUT MADDIE



In her short time at NDA Maddie has jumped right in becoming involved in softball, kickball club, student ambassadors, spanish club, drug free club, and math club!

Some of Maddie's favorite experiences so far have come from her time as a student ambassador. She particularly enjoyed volunteering at the speaker series where she was able to hear and be inspired by Lieutenant Colonel Amy McGrath-Henderson. Mrs. Caccavari says Maddie makes a wonderful ambassador because her "enthusiasm for sharing her Panda pride is terrific!" Additionally, Mrs. Caccavari shared Maddie is an exemplary shadow host because "she is always so welcoming and friendly."



Thus far, Maddie says she has found her peers at NDA to be "accepting and friendly" and teachers to be very supportive. Maddie also says, "I have met so many new people who have been very supportive and have helped me, especially the upperclassmen on the softball team. I would love to be able to pay it forward, and help other girls feel welcome and included."



# ZUMBA®

**HOLA!** ◀

Next Wednesday, February 15, at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium, Spanish Club will be hosting a Zumba class as a fundraiser for an amazing organization, Cooperative for Education. Cooperative for Education's goal is to break the cycle of poverty through education in Guatemala. We ask a minimum of \$5 donation and all proceeds go directly to putting a textbook in the hands of child. For more information check out their website: <http://www.coeduc.org/>.

Hope you can join us!



**YEARBOOK SALES** ◀

Parents, now is a great time to order a 2017 yearbook and take advantage of the best price available! Yearbooks are \$60 and can be ordered by clicking [this link](#) or visiting [jostens.com](http://jostens.com).



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEND A HELPING HAND?** ◀

Do you have just one day a month to volunteer for two hours in the NDA cafeteria? Helping out is neither difficult nor time-consuming and our current volunteers have fun visiting the school and seeing their daughters, granddaughters and friends. Volunteers are also welcome to stick around after their two-hour shift for lunch with "the crew". Grandparents in particular seem to love this job, so please consider asking your daughter's grandparents if they would like to help out. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Brungs at 859.292.1856 or [brungsk@ndapandas.org](mailto:brungsk@ndapandas.org). The schedule is online and you can sign up [HERE](#).



## IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INFORMATION ◀

### Financial Aid Applications:

Financial aid applications are now open and will remain open until April 15th. If you are in need of financial assistance OR are looking to do work study the application with FACTS must be completed before anything else. Financial assistance requests increase each year we cannot stress enough the importance of getting your application in early. Late applications run the risk of financial aid funding being exhausted. You can access the Financial Assistance page of the website [HERE](#).

## ▶ Important dates

February 9	Junior Parent Scheduling Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in NDA Theatre
February 10	Mass in Chapel 7:20 a.m. All are welcome!
February 13	Panda Parent Club Meeting 7:00 p.m. Teacher Lounge
February 17	NDA Incoming Freshman Priority Application Period Ends! Winter Sports Pep Rally
February 19	Sisters of Notre Dame Pancake Breakfast
February 20	Presidents' Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
February 21-24	Senior Retreat
February 24	Mass in Chapel 7:20 a.m. All are welcome!
February 28	Super Tuesday: Senior Mission Retreat, Juniors - ACT, Sophomores and Freshmen - CERT Test
March 1	Ash Wednesday Mass
March 9	NDA Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
March 11	Freshman/Sophomore Dance: Enchanted Forest
March 16	Women Making A Difference Luncheon

## COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Work Study Opportunities for the Sisters of Notre Dame
- Scholarship Tax Credit Messenger Story

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

