



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

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ◀

Greetings parents,

Happy Earth Day! I hope you had time today to step outside and praise the beauty of God's creation. Our NDA community is blessed to see new life all around our campus especially in the beautiful new trees that were recently planted.

Along with the splendor of spring comes a flurry of activity among our students. Today we celebrated two very important events at NDA. Our Spring Athletic Signing at took place today at 5:30 p.m. I congratulate all of our student athletes who will go on to compete at the college level. Our Sophomore Ring Ceremony was held at 7:00 p.m. this evening marking a special moment for our sophomores as they receive their class rings - an important reminder of their years at NDA.

As you will read below, we have quite a bit of good news to share this week about their accomplishments. Two of our students, Lauren Darpel and Rikki Buchberger, were accepted to participate in the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts program and five others were selected as alternates. Senior Brooke Barker received the Toyota TEMA Community Scholarship and will travel to Brazil for six weeks this summer. You can read about these students and several others who have been recognized recently for their achievements in the information below. Congratulations to all of these students on their recent accomplishments.

Our NDA student athletes have also been working hard and doing very well this spring. See updates on both our softball and tennis teams below.

Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on Friday and lunch will not be served. Our Student Council has planned a very special half-day of fun activities for the students to take part in. Our annual Junior/Senior prom will be held this Friday at the Hilton Netherland followed by our After Prom at Five Seasons. I am truly grateful to the students, faculty and parents who have put so much time and energy into planning these events to ensure a fun, safe and entertaining evening for our students and their guests.

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl





## INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE ◀

In the past few issues of the Panda Press we have featured The Technology Evolution Series, a Senior Perspective. Written by some of our NDA seniors, this is a series of descriptions illustrating how technology has changed at Notre Dame Academy during their four years. Read week 10 by Morgan Mueller [HERE](#).

## MEDIA AND PRODUCTION ASSIST A SKYPE OUTING FOR SR. REINA ◀

Recently, Sr. Reina came to the SWAT Help Desk asking how she could Skype with her sister who is currently living in Texas. Of course, our students jumped at this opportunity. It is interesting to note that Sr. Reina did not ask if it was possible to video speak with her sister across the miles, she asked how this could be possible. Sr. Reina's sister is not well and she has been very worried about her. In preparation of Sr. Reina's 11:00 appointment with her sister, student Josie Shriver made sure that Skype was downloaded, the mic was set properly, and that we had the proper Skype number to reach her niece's house in Texas.

At 10:55 a.m. Sr. Reina arrived for her charter Skype call. The excitement was building as we Sr. introduced us all to her niece. Sr. Reina could hardly contain herself when her sister appeared on the screen to greet her. The way the NDA community thinks has changed. Although Skype is not a new notion, it has enabled us to open our minds and surround ourselves with the ever-changing possibilities that technology brings. It turns out that later that day, Sr. Reina's sister had a relapse and had to go to the hospital. The magic that technology brought to our hearts that day will not soon be forgotten.



The spring issue of the Gavel is online [HERE](#). Enjoy!



## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

### 2015-2016 Student Council Executive Council

Congratulations to the following rising seniors who were elected to Student Council Executive Council:

School Co Presidents Kirsten Richards and Abby Schuh

School Secretary Libby Greenwell

School Treasurer Arden Cleves

**Applications for Class Co-President were due today, and elections will take place in two weeks.**

### Prom Day

This Friday is Prom Day, and school will dismiss at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will not be served. Student Council has planned a plethora of activities for the morning including NDA Bingo, an all-school Rosary, flag football competition and prom fashion show. Students are welcome to dress down (some students ordered special t-shirts for this day) and are encouraged to dress warmly with layers! A good portion of our morning will be outside, and we are expecting chilly temperatures.

### Orange and White Flag Football Game

Please join the NDA and St. Ursula communities at Sunday's Orange and White Flag Football Game. Support our senior Pandas as they take on the Bulldogs on their home turf Sunday at 5:30 p.m.! All proceeds from t-shirt and ticket sales will support Leukemia research. Tickets will be \$10 at the gate.



## AFTER PROM ◀

**After Prom is Friday night and we still need donations and volunteers.**

All donations can be dropped off in the school office until Friday at noon.

We need 50 volunteers and currently have only 9! Please consider signing up to volunteer or chaperone. We're using VolunteerSpot to organize our upcoming Sign-ups.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our Sign-Up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/NH9QuS>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.



## AFTER After Prom Fundraiser!

NDA is having an After Prom fundraiser at the new Chipotle in Erlanger on Monday, April 27. This event will help out with last minute expenses for this year's After Prom and help get things started for next year's After Prom as well. You can present the NDA coupon found [HERE](#) or just mention NDA and **50%** of the proceeds from your meal will be donated to NDA!

## NDA FEATURED ON WKRC-TV ◀

WKRC-TV's Sheila Gray recently visited NDA to interview students and faculty members for a story she is working on. Ms. Gray's story on girls studying math and science will air tomorrow, Thursday, on the evening news at 6:00 p.m. on Local 12 WKRC and then again on their Friday morning newscast.



## JAMZ CLASS ◀

Do you like to work out? Do you enjoy dancing? Are you interested in helping others? If so, please join the Spanish Club and the Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica for a fun Zumba "Jamz" class on Tuesday, April 28 from 3:00-3:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. It's \$5 at the door (or more if you are interested in donating!), with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Cooperative for Education, a non-profit organization based in Cincinnati that creates sustainable education programs in Guatemala (<http://www.coeduc.org>). All are welcome!!



## KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS RE-ENROLLMENT ◀

Parents, thank you for being a part of Kroger's Community Rewards program. This is just friendly reminder that the new cycle for Kroger Community Rewards begins May 1 and you will be able to re-enroll beginning today, April 1, and running through April 30. If you need assistance with your online account, please call our tech team at: 1-866-221-4141.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR THE ART 2015 ACCEPTED & ALTERNATE STUDENTS ◀

The Kentucky Center Governor's School for the Arts (GSA) announced that NDA's Lauren Darpel and Rikki Buchberger have been accepted into the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts 2015. NDA's Amanda Sauer, Kaylan Frisch, Julia James, Andria Burden and Courtney Ziegelmeyer have all been selected as alternates.

The Governor's School for the Arts program is an intense three-week summer residential program for Kentucky's finest young artists held on the campus of Transylvania University in Lexington. The students will have the opportunity to live in a supportive learning environment and study with a group of distinguished teaching artists while participating in the program.



*Courtney Ziegelmeyer, Lauren Darpel, Kaylan Frisch, Rikki Buchberger, Andria Burden, Amanda Sauer, Julia James*

## NDA STUDENT WINS HOXWORTH BLOOD CENTER SCHOLARSHIP ◀

Congratulations to NDA senior Abigail Kennedy! Abigail recently received the Hoxworth Blood Center Scholarship of \$250 and an Apple iPad for her video submission promoting blood donation. You can view the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pu-SBZRdf9M>



## CIVIC AWARENESS RECOGNIZED ◀

Congratulations to Lauren Judy who was awarded a Civic Award for Northern Kentucky Kids Voting Organization. She will be honored at an Awards Ceremony on April 29th for her civic awareness, and community involvement.





## NDA SENIOR WINS SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY AND WORK IN BRAZIL ◀

NDA's Brooke Barker was recently awarded the Toyota TEMA Community Scholarship to spend 6 weeks studying abroad. Below Brooke explains a bit more about her plans for the summer in Brazil and her experience in pursuing this opportunity.

*The Toyota TEMA Community scholarship is a full merit-based scholarship to spend six weeks in either Japan, Brazil, or Germany through Youth For Understanding (YFU) USA. It covers the cost of the program (\$11,295) and*

*round-trip travel. Last summer, I had the opportunity to spend a couple weeks in Spain while living with a family and taking classes at a local university, and it was the experience of a lifetime. This year, I wanted to continue to travel and learn about other cultures, so I searched online and came across the YFU program and Toyota scholarship. Mr. Martin also promoted the scholarships and opportunities provided by Toyota. Subsequently, I applied online in early January by writing multiple essays, sending transcripts and letters of recommendation, and interviewing with a local representative. I was recently awarded the scholarship, and I am still in disbelief! In Brazil, I will live with a family and basically follow their daily schedule while immersing myself in the culture. I have no prior schooling in the Portuguese language, but I chose Brazil because I have learned a lot about South America during my four years of Spanish classes at NDA. I hope to engage in local festivals, explore the Amazon, volunteer in the community, and take on whatever else comes my way. Needless to say, I am so grateful for this opportunity, and I am excited beyond words to follow my passions through traveling this summer!*

## MAGNIFIED GIVING ◀

The Magnified Giving Program, founded by Mr. Roger Grein, empowers NDA's seniors to become junior philanthropists. The students research many local non-profit agencies and then choose their top two to receive a donation. The program is funded by generous donations from numerous benefactors. The program allows students to make decisions and develop leadership skills, as well as giving them an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

This year's Magnified Giving Program finalists were Faces Without Places and Potters Ranch. A spokesperson from each talked to the seniors before they made their final decision. After much research and careful consideration the students decided to donate \$1000 to Faces Without Places and \$500 to Potter's Ranch.

Here is a list of their donations from the past few years:

- 2012 - \$1000 to the Women's Crisis Center PATH program combating human trafficking surrounding the NASCAR race in Sparta, KY
- 2013 - \$1000 to Lovesome Stables equine therapy program, \$300 to The Cure Starts Now
- 2014 - \$1000 to A Kid Again, \$625 to The Emergency Cold Shelter of N KY
- 2015 - \$1000 to Faces Without Places, \$500 to Potter's Ranch

## ANNUAL BABY DAY ◀

The Psychology classes had a very successful Baby Day this year with 22 children attending. The youngest was just 7 days old! Not only did faculty bring their children but we had several Alums as well.

*Pictured: Bill Stamm, Amber Grayson and Myanna Webster and their babies.*



## BAMBOOTIQUE NEWS ◀

Have you had a chance to stop in and check out the latest items in the Bambootique? We've got a few new things as well as LOTS of items that have been marked down in the hopes of clearing out the inventory in preparation for next school year. Come check us out! If anyone is interested in working in the shop, please email Aimee Dickhaus at [ddickhaus@yahoo.com](mailto:ddickhaus@yahoo.com) with your availability - we can always use more help!

## ATHLETIC NEWS ◀

### **Congratulations to NDA's Tennis Pandas and their coaches on an undefeated weekend!**

The Tennis Pandas and coaches traveled to Lexington on the newly acquired NDA bus this past weekend. They left on Friday afternoon and played their first match against Henry Clay, and two more matches on Saturday against Lexington Christian Academy and Elizabethtown. The Pandas were undefeated, winning 4-1 against Henry Clay, 5-0 against Lexington Christian Academy and 4-1 against Elizabethtown. It was an awesome weekend for all players and coaches. Thank you to all the parents that showed up to support the team!



### **Congrats to NDA's Softball Pandas!**

Haylee Smith had two shut-outs and the team brought home two wins this weekend:

9-0 against Corbin High School

12-0 against Harlan County High School

Congratulations to Kennedy Baugh on her home run and to Angela Huston on her Grand Slam home run!



## 2015 NDA GOLF OUTING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ◀

If you are interested in serving on the committee or volunteering for the Notre Dame Boosters 17th annual Golf outing please contact the AD, Myanna Webster, at [webstern@ndapandas.org](mailto:webstern@ndapandas.org). The outing will take place at Twin Oaks golf course on July 31, 2015.

## COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

### **SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES!**

If you, or someone you know, is looking for activities for the summer, please visit our website [HERE](#) to see the many opportunities that exist.



**ATTENTION JUNIOR PARENTS:** The Junior Parent meeting scheduled for April 23 has been cancelled.

### **COLLEGE FAIR**

Covington Latin is hosting their annual College Fair next Wednesday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. It is a good way to start that college process for our sophomores and freshmen. For our juniors, it is a way to make that initial contact and set up college visits. All are welcome.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT? ◀

NDA is in the process of recruiting international students as part of our Fall 2015 enrollment. We are working with our sister school in Germany (Liebfrauenschule Vechta) to arrange for 2 German exchange students. We are also working with the Cambridge Institute to recruit students from China, Korea and/or Viet Nam. We are hoping to enroll 3-4 students through this program. At this time we are seeking families who would consider hosting any of these students. Please email Mrs. Katie Caccavari at [caccavarik@ndapandas.org](mailto:caccavarik@ndapandas.org), if you would be interested in more information about this opportunity. Your reply is not a commitment, but would help us to know which families would consider supporting our international student enrollment by serving as a host family. Thank you for your interest.



## at NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Whether you are **Artistic** **ATHLETIC** **Musical** **Dramatic**  
or you are just looking for **Something Fun**  
to do this summer, NOTRE DAME ACADEMY has all  
sorts of opportunities for you! Check them out at:

[www.ndapandas.org](http://www.ndapandas.org)

### ► Important dates:

April 22	Chastity Speaker at NDA Spring Athletic Signing Sophomore Ring Ceremony
April 24	Early Dismissal - Prom
April 26	Orange and White Game at St. Ursula
April 30	Diocesan Teacher Recognition Luncheon
May 1	Mass and May Crowning
May 4	AP Testing begins
May 5	Incoming Freshmen Parent Meeting
May 8	7th Grade Olympics Choral Concert
May 10	Band Concert
May 13	Academic Signing
May 14	Academic Awards
May 20	Senior Alumnae Luncheon
May 21	Baccalaureate Mass
May 22	N0 School - Senior Awards Breakfast/Graduation

### COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Part-time Position for Students
- Stem Camps now open
- Sisters of Notre Dame Women's Weekend Retreat

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

