



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings parents!

*Living our Story of God's Goodness* is not only our theme for this school year, but it is also at the core of our education at NDA. Based on the first Educational Principal of the Sisters of Notre Dame, *The Centrality of a Good and Provident God*, our theme is paramount to our mission at Notre Dame Academy. We aim to graduate young women who will use their education and God-given gifts to make a difference in the world. I love NDA because it is a community embedded in this SND tradition, where we experience God's goodness and provident care each and every day.

Our students have certainly been living their stories of God's goodness. Our April Student of the Month, Emily Rice, is to be commended for her efforts of living God's goodness in and out of the classroom. Please find the link below to our website where you can read more about Emily.

Congratulations to our Latin Club and Mock Trial Team on their latest achievements. Also, please note all of the incredible educational enrichment opportunities our students are offered at NDA. Our faculty works very hard to give our students a rich and holistic education through special projects, field trips, class speakers and more. These are tremendous opportunities that prepare your daughters to be lifelong learners in the 21st Century.

We are celebrating Body Peace Week at NDA to help each student cultivate a more positive body image and sense of self worth. On Friday, our students will attend a *Seas the Day* presentation. The purpose of this presentation is to educate our students about the importance of suicide awareness and prevention by promoting a positive outlook on life and creating healthy alternative avenues for daily stresses. The presentation will also let them know it is OKAY to TALK about their feelings and introduce them to coping techniques and resources that will better prepare them for life's challenges. The main portion of the presentation will be facilitated by a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC). Thank you to our NDA counselors who have done a great job organizing Body Peace Week and the Seas the Day presentation.

Thanks for your continued support of NDA; please be assured that you are in our prayers during this Lenten journey.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf

Notre Dame Academy  
is built on the  
Four Educational Principles  
of the Sisters of Notre Dame:



- The centrality of a good and provident God
- The human dignity of each person as an image of God
- The Notre Dame educator as a Gospel witness
- An integrated education for transformation

# STUDENT LIFE

## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

### Uganda Pandas 5K

On Sunday, April 3, the Uganda Pandas are hosting a 5K Walk/Run on NDA's property starting at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds from the race will help us raise money for an organization called Unified for Uganda which financially and emotionally supports the educational journey of destitute children in Gulu (Northern) Uganda.

The Uganda Pandas sponsor 6 children from Gulu costing \$300 per student. The \$300 helps pay for one student's tuition, room and board, shoes, uniforms, mentors and emergency medical supplies. The Uganda Pandas are looking forward to hosting the 5K on Sunday, April 3 in support of these students. We hope that you will consider being a part of this day. [CLICK HERE](#) if you are interested in participating in the Walk/Run.



**NOTRE DAME ACADEMY**  
*Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World*

## UGANDA PANDAS 5K WALK/RUN

Sunday, April 3, 2016



## CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATE ◀

**7 Church Walk - A Pilgrimage Walk to the Holy Doors** (in Covington). All students (and their parents and other siblings grade 7 or higher) are invited to join us for this holy walk on March 12. We will begin at 7:00 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament and walk to 6 other churches - the last one being the Cathedral Basilica to walk through the Jubilee Doors. This event is free. We should arrive at the cathedral around 1:00 p.m. for our final prayer together and then bus back to Blessed Sacrament. Please RSVP to Mrs. Price by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4. For more information or to sign up - please email Mrs. Price at [priceb@ndapandas.org](mailto:priceb@ndapandas.org).

# LENT

## CIVIC MINDED PANDAS! ◀

Students from Nancy Stratman's senior level U.S. Government class recently toured the Kenton County Courthouse. They observed morning arraignments in Judge Doug Grothaus's courtroom and then sat through pre-trial hearings and sentencing in Judge Kathy Lape's courtroom. After touring the Judge's chambers, the jury deliberation rooms and the holding cells, they walked to the Board of Elections office and talked to County Clerk Gabe Summe, after which she invited the girls to register to vote.

Pictured: (Below) NDA students with Judge Grothaus and (Right) Pandas registering to vote!



## TBT CHILD DEVELOPMENT: PSYCHOLOGY CLASSES ENJOY SHOW & TELL ◀

On Thursday, March 3, Mrs. Johnson's 2 Psychology Classes shared their childhood memories by taking part in a Show & Tell of their favorite childhood toy(s). As part of the child development unit in psychology, Mrs. Johnson believes her students will be more receptive to learning the basic concepts of child development if they can reach back in time and remember what it was like to be a child.

Students seem to enjoy this stroll back in time as pictures, toys, and memories are shared. In past years both students and their parents have commented that these shared moments at school were also shared at home. What an enjoyable way for seniors to relive these nostalgic moments with their parents before going off to college in a few short months!



## VENI, VIDI, VICI! ◀

The Latin Club sent a delegation of ten students to the Kentucky Junior Classical League Convention last weekend and the Pandas showed their school spirit, placing or winning several spirit competitions. We also excelled in academics: Lauren Reinersman placed 3rd in Vocabulary 6th in Roman History, 6th in Art with partner Oli Marita, & 10th in Mythology, Teaghan Brauer placed 5th in Vocabulary and 10th in Mythology, Lily Thaman placed 4th in Derivatives. Well done, Latin Pandas!



## AND THE VERDICT IS...

### NDA'S MOCK TRIAL TEAM IS AWESOME! ◀

We would like to bring recognition to the incredible job our inaugural Mock Trial Team accomplished at the Kentucky High School Mock Trial State Competition in Lexington, Kentucky, March 4-6. In 4 trials, the team went 2-2 and only lost to the eventual state champions, Dixie Heights, by 5 points.

Placing 11th, the team came within 1 point of cracking the top 10, while competing against 32 other teams in the state. To put this accomplishment in perspective, NDA was the ONLY brand new Mock Trial Team to compete, AND every other team at the competition began preparing in October, while our Mock Trial Team only began preparing in January.

Also, each team at the competition is awarded one Outstanding Attorney award and one Outstanding Witness award. For the 2016 Mock Trial Competition, freshman Julia Hughes won the NDA Outstanding Attorney award, while junior Camryn Diebold won the NDA Outstanding Witness award.

Team members include, Madeline Dye (Junior), Hannah Hammond (Junior), Elle Kathman (Junior), Emma Finn (Junior), Julia James (Junior), Julia Hughes (Freshman), Camryn Diebold (Junior), Claire Benson (Junior), Ava Gray (Junior), Josephine Meyer-Hogan (Junior) and Claire Morgan (Junior).



## INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE ◀

### TechOlympics Reflection By Tess Witt

Two weekends ago, myself and three other NDA students had the opportunity to attend the INTERAlliance TechOlympics. A three-day, two-night conference at the Millennium Hotel which gives high school students the opportunity to network with



professionals, learn about technology, represent NDA and compete against other high school students in the Greater Cincinnati area. Myself, Tess Witt (2016), Jessica Beirl (2018), Alenna Fletcher (2018), and Brooke Schulte (2017), competed in various events and even at the chance to speak with professionals from companies such as P&G, Kroger, Western and Southern and many more! Friday night, we competed in a "Start-Up Creation Challenge," and got an honorable mention! We had the innovative idea to put a RFID strip in students lanyards to improve attendance, save class time, and protect students during fire drills, tornado warnings, etc. Saturday, we presented our "showcase," where we spoke with employees from Fortune-500 companies about our app, "Accelerating Test Score," that allows for high school students to improve their standardized test scores in an innovative, gaming approach that also gives valuable data to their educators. Also on Saturday, our keynote speaker, Dr. Santa Ono, President of the University of Cincinnati, had the opportunity to speak with us.

At the conference, I had the opportunity to speak with computer engineers from GE Aviation. At the end of our conversation, they gave different students the opportunity to compete in two events, "Cincinnati Trivia" and "IT Trivia." Cincinnati is my home, and after meeting Dr. Santa Ono, I knew I had a good chance of at the quiz. Sunday, during the awards ceremony, they announced that I was the winner of the "Cincinnati Trivia" competition. Wow! Because of this, I had the opportunity to meet with, and have a personal conversation with employees from GE Aviation again and talk with them about the future of technology. The TechOlympics was an amazing opportunity for our students to learn about technology and network with professionals from the Greater Cincinnati area, and I can't wait to see how the future of technology at NDA, and in our world, advances!

## FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

### Swimming

Congratulations to NDA's Diving Coach, Katie McGonigal, who won the "Girls Outstanding Diving Coach" award at the state!

### WINTER SPORTS PROGRAM

NDA's Winter Sports Program will be held March 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the theater.

## GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS ◀

The Herff Jones Graduate Service will be at NDA tomorrow, March 10, during your daughter's lunch period to deliver her graduation announcements .

## DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE PANDA? ◀

NDA Panda Preview Night for 6th, 7th and 8th Graders will be held on Tuesday, March 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This is a great chance for future Pandas to learn about the NDA life and how to get ready for high school all in one evening. Questions? Call Katie Caccavari, NDA Admissions, 859-292-1829.



## IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### FACTS Payment Plan Re-enrollment and Financial Aid Applications:

Re-enrollment in the FACTS Payment Plan is easy. You are automatically re-enrolled to the same plan you have for this school year UNLESS you want to change it. If you want to change your payment plan. An example of this would be if you paid monthly this year and want to do lump sum next year, just contact Laura Hehman in the finance office [hehmanl@ndapandas.org](mailto:hehmanl@ndapandas.org) or 859-292-1844.

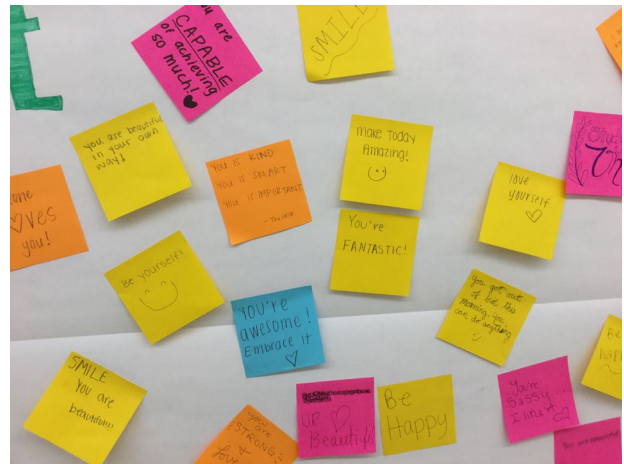
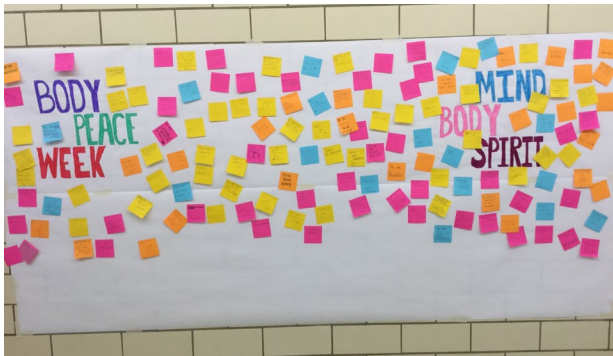
Also the financial aid applications are now open and will remain open until April 15th. This is separate from your payment plan. If you are in need of financial assistance OR are looking to do work study the application with FACTS must be completed before anything else. Financial assistance requests 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.

# COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



## Body Peace Week

This week is Body Peace Week at Notre Dame Academy, sponsored by the Teen Leadership Club. The theme this year is “Being at peace with our minds, bodies, and spirits.” The purpose of Body Peace Week is to help each student cultivate a more positive body image and sense of self worth. One way we are doing that is through a positive “post-it wall” where girls can post positive thoughts on a post-it, and others can then take that thought with them if they need it!



As parents you can help enhance your daughter (or son's) body image in various ways. In a January 2014 CNN.com article entitled Helping teens build a healthy body image, Dr. Larissa Hirsch recommended, “The best advice for parents...is to focus less on appearance and more on health, internal qualities and *things that your body can do, rather than how your body appears. Compliment them on things that have nothing to do with appearance: how well they shared with their brother, how nicely they stood up for their friend, how generous they were, things of that nature, trying to be supportive and positive and showing the importance of things that have less to do with appearance and more to do with the type of person you are.*”

## Help the Teen Leadership Club Make A Difference!

Next week, March 14-18, the Teen Leadership Club (TLC) will be collecting items to support the Notre Dame Urban Education Center. Their after school program assists 53 students daily after school and they come hungry! The center likes to provide a snack and drink for the children when they arrive after school and they need help providing the snack to the children. TLC will be collecting individually packaged snacks and drinks such as peanut butter crackers, cookies, Capri Sun, etc. Donations can be brought to school and placed in designated spots in the front lobby. If you donate, please make sure the portions are individually packaged. Thank you in advance for your generosity ~TLC

## Junior ACT and Sophomore CERT Testing

On March 15, the juniors will be taking the ACT during the school day. This is a real ACT and the scores can be sent to colleges. Students will register for this test during the next two Friday long homerooms. The fee can be paid to the school office and is \$39.50. If anyone needs assistance with this fee, please contact Mrs. Monohan. The sophomores will be taking the College Equipped Readiness Test (CERT) on the same day. This will be a practice test for the ACT and will be done online. Click [here](#) for more info about CERT testing. Both sophomores and juniors will have college and career presentations following the tests that day.

## WKU Open House - Friday, March 25

This is for all students! (Freshman, Sophomores or Juniors)

Head for The Hill is a free, open house event that offers a comprehensive look at WKU's outstanding academic offerings, student activities, and beautiful campus. Sessions are offered to provide valuable information about life on The Hill, and an exciting expo allows students and their families the opportunity to personally connect with representatives from different academic departments, student services, housing, financial aid, and more! You can Register for this Open House by clicking [HERE](#), but they will welcome Walk-In's on the day of the event as well!

## Wondering what to do for a Career or College Major?

We have a page devoted to Career Exploration on NDA's website. You will find links to Online Resources such as: Career Videos, Online Interest Assessments, Skills Assessments, and much more! \*This is for all grade levels! Link: [NDA Career Exploration Page](#).

CAREER EXPLORATION

What are you interested in? [+ Show all]

- Building and fixing things [+ Show]
- Computers [+ Show]
- Food [+ Show]
- Healthcare [+ Show]
- Helping your community [+ Show]

## College Rep Visits

4/12/16 University of Kentucky



## PPC NEWS ◀

### After Prom Fundraiser

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support NDA's After Prom. Come in to the Skyline at 1730 Dixie Highway in Ft. Wright on Wednesday, March 16 between 3:00 and 9:00 p.m. Bring in the flyer [HERE](#), show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 20% of the proceeds will be donated to Notre Dame Academy.

### PPC Meetings

Please note, the Panda Parent Club will not meet in April. The last PPC meeting of the school year will be held on May 10, 2016. We hope to see you there!



## NDA SUMMER CLASSES ◀

NDA has all sorts of Summer Enrichment Opportunities. Below is information on our Art Classes but you can find further information and registration forms online at <http://www.ndapandas.org/admissions/summer-enrichment-programs.aspx>

## IMPORTANT DATES:

March 9	Student Council Elections Information Session
March 11	Third Quarter Ends
March 12	Freshman/Sophomore Winter Dance 7 Church Walk
March 15	Senior Mission Retreat JR ACT/SO CERT Test/FR at Play
March 19	8th Grade Conferences
March 23	Holy Week Prayer Service
March 24 - 30	Spring Break (No School)
March 31	Classes Resume
April 3	Uganda Pandas 5K
April 14	Alumnae Dinner Theatre
April 15-17	Spring Musical
April 16	Incoming Freshman Math and Language Placement Tests
April 20	Sophomore Ring Ceremony
April 22	No School - Prom
April 24	Orange and White Flag Football Game

## COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Work Study Positions Available with the Sisters of Notre Dame
- Part-time Job Opportunities for Students and Moms
- Mass for the Loss of a Child

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

