



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ◀

Greetings parents!

I hope this letter finds you and your family staying warm and doing well. As January is in full swing please be aware of some important events this month.

Next week we remember our call to respect life for all - from conception to natural death. On Wednesday a group of students, teachers and parents depart for the Life March in Washington D.C. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this annual journey of advocacy to promote respect for all life. They will join citizens from around our country to speak out against abortion. On the day of the Life March we will join other schools in our Diocese in having a special prayer service to commemorate a "Day of Prayer and Penance for Life."

Congratulations to our January Student of the Month – student council school treasurer and senior - Claire Suetholz. Please read more about these outstanding students in the section below. Congratulations also to Junior Kelsey Sucher for getting a perfect score of 36 on the ACT!

Our annual Father Daughter Dance will be held on January 23 at Receptions. Thanks to all the members of our PTO who are planning this fun filled evening. The theme is NDA 500! Make sure to get your tickets for this memorable evening of dinner and dancing.

Our Fine Arts Department welcomed a new teacher this semester—Ms. Caroline Stine. Ms. Stine has taken over Ms. Perrino's classes. She is an experienced theater teacher who has worked on several community productions involving local students. Ms. Stine along with the other Fine Arts faculty are preparing for the annual showcase to be held on February 6-8. (Ms. Perrino will continue to assist with our productions this year as she makes her transition to her new role as the Theater Director at the Carnegie.) Please see our website ([LINK](#) for more details). The show this year is Once Upon a Time: A Showcase of Fairytales! Please plan to attend this entertaining event featuring our many talented arts students.

Report cards for the second quarter are ready and will be delivered to students in homeroom tomorrow. They will also be sent home electronically.

Finally, on Monday we celebrate Martin Luther King Day and there will be no school.

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl

*"A little bit of mercy
makes the world less
cold and more just."
Pope Francis*



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE ◀

In the next few issues of the Panda Press we will feature *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 here.

The Technology Evolution Series, a Senior Perspective Week Three: Mia Shelton '15

Want to know how many Giant Pandas there are in the world? Google it. Planning a vacation and want to find the best hotel? Google it. Your ring finger is turning purple and you want to know what's up? Google it. Giving 600 teenage girls access to the internet during class, taking away paper books and pens, and replacing them with a simple (albeit very expensive) sheet of fragile glass? Oh, you can't really Google that, can you?

Some may call it stupid or rash. Others might call it extreme. I call it necessary.

One to One computing has revolutionized the way I learn in the classroom and on my own time. It has changed the way I approach real world problems, has reinforced my passion for learning for the sake of learning, and has given me the power to create with purpose rather than for the sake of creating.

I entered Notre Dame at the ripe old age of thirteen, the slowest typist in my eighth grade class. I didn't even have a Facebook page, I had just gotten my first cellphone (Motorola Razor, baby!) and that was pretty average for a kid my age. As a sub-par typist, I was dreading taking yet another class dedicated to typing and mastering Microsoft Works, so you can imagine my surprise when I came into Mrs. Mullee's Freshman InfoTech class and was asked to find a way to design a 3D visual representation of our class seating arrangement. I thought she was insane. I barely type 32 WPM and she wanted me to do some serious Pixar coding! As if that weren't terrifying enough, she wouldn't answer any of our questions. That class should have been called "Figure It Out 101." Google became my best friend, and by the end of the year, not only had I designed a glowing rendition of my InfoTech classroom, I learned how to rewire speakers, download music and books, turn a colored video black and white, do voiceovers, engineer my own music, use a green screen, organize my email, make my own website, AND type 75 WPM without playing a single typing game. I was a new woman. And I was the first Freshman to be told that we would be getting iPads - I got to announce it to the news!

Sophomore year, I was elected the SWAT (Students Working to Advance Technology) Team co-President. Me! The 32 WPM girl! Having severe ADHD, I immediately benefitted from the elimination of paper and the ability to organize my notes in the way that worked best for me - with visual aids, color coding, sound clips, and more. On the same token, I have severe ADHD. I had internet. If I saw a bird outside the window and wanted to know what type of bird it was, I could look it up. Before I knew it I was in my own little world watching cat videos on YouTube and there was nothing anybody could do to prevent it. Needless to say, I needed to find a way to stay focused. And fast.

The solution was rather simple, actually. I just had to learn how to find something interesting about every single topic discussed in class. I began to go out of my way to find out more about that topic, downloading pictures and videos to add to my notes. It was the first time I truly loved learning - I developed a passion for it. I was learning for the sake of learning rather than for the sake of passing, and this passion has stuck with me throughout the past few years.

This year especially, I have gone beyond using technology at home and in the classroom when I need to. I use technology to improve anything and everything I do. Every single project I do involves some sort of visual or audio component, replacing chalk on slate or age-old powerpoint, engaging my audience. I have learned how to fully entertain each member of an audience while still getting the information across, which is something that no public speaking class can truly teach you. It is a developed skill - a sixth sense. A sense that most people don't attain until they present in front of a board their first day on the job when their ability to give an exceptional presentation is expected - it's what puts the bread on the table. (Continued on next page.)

As a Senior, I am meant to be prepared for either college or the workforce by the time May comes around, and I feel confident in affirming that I will be, thanks to the iPad initiative. Since my Sophomore year, I have had an iPad sitting in front of me during class. But, instead of learning how to balance technology and academics, as many would expect, I have learned instead to integrate unlimited information, social media, and digital design tools into my academic development. When I graduate, I will be leaps and bounds ahead of my peers from more traditional learning environments. As those around me are still learning how to balance their technological freedom, I will have already passed this “honeymoon period,” so to speak, and be using technology to improve my work. Technology, for a Notre Dame Panda, is no longer a crutch. It is an extra arm. And, with it, we are rapidly mastering the technological equivalent of ballet.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ◀

Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 26-30) is rapidly approaching, and this year we celebrate communities of faith, knowledge and service. There are many activities scheduled for Catholic Schools Week with one being the annual Talent Show on Friday, January 30. Student Council invites all Pandas who are interested in participating to complete a registration form. The forms are available for pick up in the office or [HERE](#) on NDA's website and must be completed and returned to Mrs. Grayson by Tuesday, January 20.

All are welcome to join NDA and CCH who compete every year during Catholic Schools Week in a charity volleyball game. The game is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. in NDA's gym. Ticket sales will begin in the upcoming weeks, and all proceeds are given to the Northern Kentucky Emergency Cold Shelter.

Skyline will be served on Friday of Catholic Schools Week, and tickets are now being sold during homeroom. Students are able to buy a Coney for \$1 and a 3-Way or Veggie 3-Way for \$3!



STUDENT OF THE MONTH ◀

Notre Dame's January Student of the Month is your very own Student Council School Treasurer, Claire Suetholz. Claire, who intends to pursue a business degree and work in the fashion industry, is a key member of our Student Council as she manages the council's budget, coordinates schoolwide events and brings new, creative ideas to the group's planning.

Claire is a true servant leader who practices compassion, kindness and intellect and brings with her an impressive skill set. According to NDA's Admissions Director, Katie Caccavari, Claire was instrumental to the success of the Panda FunFest in the fall. Claire was able to reflect on last year's event, make appropriate modifications and engage her peers in facilitating the event. Mrs. Caccavari reports the FunFest, a very important recruitment event for NDA, “was fun and ran right on schedule” under Claire's leadership.

Since the start of her freshmen year, Claire who is a member of National Honor Society, has earned first or second honors each quarter and has participated in numerous service and extra-curricular opportunities. Aside from serving on Student Council, Claire participates in Moss Dance Academy, NDA's Pom and Dance Teams, Investment Club and Life Club. Most recently, Claire decided she wanted to branch out, so she began volunteering in Over-the-Rhine with an organization called Saturday Hoops. From 10-1 every Saturday, Claire volunteers to engage inner-city kids in healthy, faith-based fun.

Claire's plans for next year include attending a university that will allow her to develop her passion for writing, fashion and French. To our January Student of the Month, we wish you well in the upcoming months and hopefully one day we will be reading your work in Vogue magazine!



FATHER/DAUGHTER 500! ◀

“Gentlemen (and daughters too), start your engines!” Get ready to zoom around the dance floor at the 2015 Father/Daughter Dance Friday, January 23, 2015, at Receptions, 1379 Donaldson Hwy., Erlanger, KY, from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and includes a buffet dinner which will be served at 7:30 p.m. There will be music by The Mix.

Seniors: We encourage you to make your senior posters for display that night. Decorate with father/daughter pictures, and we will hang them at Receptions. Be as creative as you want!

R.S.V.P. Required: You can download the reservation form from our website [HERE](#). Turn in to front office at school. Please R.S.V.P. no later than MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

IMPORTANT SCHEDULING INFORMATION FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR:



We will start the scheduling process for next year with parent meetings. The meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Tonight, January 14 - Current junior meeting for students and parents. Review of the schedule and PSAT.

Wednesday, January 21 - Current sophomore meeting for students and parents. Review of the schedule, PSAT and Plan.

Thursday, February 5 - Current freshmen meeting for students and parents. Review of the scheduling process.



UNIFORM ADDITION ◀

NDA School Fleece - For those of you who have seen the new school fleece and are now wanting one, they are still available! Order forms can be found in the school office or in the Bambootique. Orders will be placed at week's end and will take approximately 10-14 days to be filled. If you have any questions, please email Aimee Dickhaus at ddickhaus@yahoo.com.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

Educating Women to Make a Difference in the World

Class of 2019

PRIORITY APPLICATION PERIOD JANUARY 7 - FEBRUARY 13, 2015

to be eligible for scholarship consideration and iPad drawing

CLICK HERE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION



The Notre Dame Life

Building confidence, celebrating excellence, and enabling a future without boundaries.



NDA LACROSSE ◀

Interested in participating in an exciting, fast-paced sport that combines skills seen in soccer, basketball, even hockey all wrapped into one? The fastest growing women's sport in the country, lacrosse, is now offered as a Varsity and Junior Varsity sport at Notre Dame Academy. An informational meeting will be held January 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria for all students and parents that would like to learn more about this up and coming sport and our plans for the spring season! Please contact head coach Jimmy Marshall (marshallj@ndapandas.org) with any questions.

▶ Important dates:

January 14	Class of 2016 Scheduling Information (Parents) - 7:00 p.m.
January 16	8:45 Long Homeroom Scheduling Meetings (Students) Sophomores - Theatre Freshmen - Auditorium
January 16-18	Senior Retreat
January 19	No School (Martin Luther King)
January 21	Class of 2017 Scheduling Information (Parents) - 7:00 p.m.
January 22	March for Life (Washington, D.C.) Prayer Service
January 23	8:45 Long Homeroom Scheduling Meeting - Juniors Father Daughter Dance - 7:00 p.m.
January 26	Catholic Schools Week begins Mass
January 27	LaCrosse Informational Meeting 6:30 p.m. in cafeteria
January 28	Charity Volleyball Game at NDA
January 30	Talent Show
February 5	Class of 2018 Scheduling Information (Parents) - 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection

St. Charles Community is now hiring

Class forming for new drivers with Streetsmartz

Are you caring for an aging parent or grandparent? St. Charles can help!

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

