



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

In our Advent Journey we are reminded of the significance of prayer and community in our lives. While time seems to pass even more quickly than usual through the holidays, it is important for us to take time out during this busy season to pause and remember the blessings of people and community.

It is difficult to believe that we only have one more full week of classes before exams. Students and faculty at NDA are busy completing their semester work and preparing for exams. Our student council has done a terrific job decorating our school building with all sorts of holiday cheer to prepare us for the upcoming holidays.

Tomorrow, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and therefore school will be closed. I'm sure our students will enjoy the day off. I hope that they also find themselves inspired on this special day by our Blessed Mother and her willingness to say "yes" to God and that they see her humility and courage in following the Word of God.

Exams will begin December 19 and continue through December 21. The exam schedule can be found online [HERE](#). NDA is holding a Final Exam "Survival" Session for freshmen on December 12. I encourage all of our freshmen to attend. There is more information about the Survival Session in the announcements below.

Congratulations to our December Student of the Month - Saija Bedford. Saija is an amazing young woman who is making the most of her NDA education. You can read more about Saija and all that she has done to earn this honor below.

A very special thank you to the students and parents who came out this past weekend to support our annual fruit sale. It could not have been done without you! Also we are especially grateful to Jan Schmidt for the planning, hard work and infinite number of hours she contributed to making this fundraiser for our athletic program a success.

Congratulations to our Theatre Pandas and Theatre Director Ms. Stine on a wonderful *Showcase of Decades* production that they presented this past weekend. We have some very talented students at NDA!

Here are some special events to be aware of as our Christmas break approaches:

- The Christmas Choral Concert is scheduled for Friday evening (12/09) at 6:30 p.m.
- The High School Placement Test is scheduled for this Saturday (12/10) at 9:00 a.m. All eighth-graders should register by contacting Mrs. Katie Caccavari at 859-292-1829.
- Student Council will host a Christmas Mixer in the Auditorium this Saturday (12/10) at 8:00 p.m.
- The NDA PandaTones will perform at The Carnegie this Saturday (12/10) at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- The NDA/CCH Band Concert will perform this Sunday (12/11) at 4:00 p.m.

I hope you are able to take some time during this season of Advent for joyful preparation and peaceful reflection of the importance of prayer and community in our lives and the coming of our Lord on Christmas day.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



STUDENT LIFE

STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

Student Council Mixer

This Saturday, December 10, Student Council will be hosting a Christmas mixer! The mixer will be held from 8-11 p.m. in NDA's auditorium, and the theme is ugly Christmas sweaters. Students from area high schools are welcome to attend! Admission is \$5 with some of the proceeds benefiting Gatlinburg Fire Relief. The dance is a drug and alcohol free activity, and NDA reserves the right to administer preliminary breathalyzer tests to students in attendance.

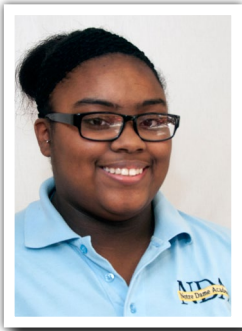


PPC is seeking help for After Prom

The Panda Parent club is looking for Junior and Senior parents to help plan After Prom 2017. The planning committee is in need of a few more members. Please email janna.collins@twc.com if you are interested in helping.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

If you are planning a family trip for the holidays, please remember the importance of your daughter's attendance at school each and every day. Our teachers will be teaching and our students will be learning right up until Christmas break begins and on the first day back. It is critical that they do not miss school on exam days. Absences at any time of year, including the holidays, can affect a student's opportunity for academic success. Please give your daughter the best chance to do well in her studies and make her attendance at school a priority, especially during this holiday season!



STUDENT OF THE MONTH ◀

December - Saija Bedford

Congratulations to our November Student of the Month - Saija Bedford. Saija is a junior at NDA. Saija's History teacher, Mrs. Stratman, says that "Saija is a joy to teach and a ray of sunshine when she comes into the room. She is hard working, friendly and always positive."

You can read more about our November Student of the Month - Saija Bedford - [HERE](#).

PANDATONES PERFORM AT CARNEGIE ◀

This Saturday, December 10, our NDA PandaTones will be performing at The Carnegie at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. In order to make the event more accessible to friends and fans, they are offering a student rush ticket price of \$10.00 for the performance at 7:30 p.m. Students should bring their student ID and pay at the window on December 10. Student rush tickets may not be reserved in advance. They are first come, first served on the day of the event.



YOU ARE INVITED! ◀

Don't miss the next Panda Parent Club meeting - Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the faculty lounge.

FRUIT SALE ◀

Please remember that all exchanges need to be done in the morning. I am not there after school. All exchanges and additional purchases need to be done by Thursday, 12/8, in the morning.

**ALL MONEY IS DUE BY DECEMBER 9.
WE START COLLECTING AT 7:00 AM IN THE AUDITORIUM.**

Please put each payment with the receipts that were given you.



Thank you for your help with this fruit sale. WISHING ALL A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

Thank you for your help with this fruit sale .
Janice Schmidt

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

ARCHERY

The Panda Archers placed 5th at the first state qualifier of the season at Pendleton County. High scores included Erin Kirchner with a 266, Hope Feinauer with a 262, Lauren Reinersman with a 261 Gabriella Ficke and Kayla Torres both shot a 256. Gabriella Ficke, Claire Scheffter, Hannah Miller, and Evelyn Wagner shot well at their first tournament.



BASS FISHING

The bass fishing coach will be at the lunch mods on Friday to provide any interested students with info.

LACROSSE

Want to be part of the fastest growing women's sport in the country? If there was a sport that combined the athleticism and endurance of soccer, the strategy and physicality of basketball, and even the hand/eye coordination used in hockey, would you want to be involved? Would you want to know more? The sport is lacrosse and it is a spring sport offering here at Notre Dame. Head coach Jimmy Marshall will introduce the sport and discuss the upcoming spring season on November 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the NDA cafeteria.

NDA HALL OF FAME

NDA is pleased to announce that the next Hall of Fame Induction will be March 9, 2017. If you know any former NDA athletes, coaches or supporters please take a moment to nominate them here: [NDA Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination Form](#)
Nominations are due December 10, 2016. Questions? Contact NDA AD, Myanna Webster at websterm@ndapandas.org.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



KENTUCKY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR ENTREPRENEURS

We're getting close to the 2017 application deadline for the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs. Below is the important information. Email Mrs. Hildreth if you have questions.



Application Deadline: January 4th (only 5 weeks)

Apply Here: www.KentuckyGSE.com

GSE 2017 Dates: June 25th to July 15th

GSE 2017 Location: Transylvania University (our 1st year here!)

EXAM SCHEDULE

You can find a pdf of the exam schedule [HERE](#).

Final Exam "Survival" Session for Freshmen

The Final Exam "Survival" Session for Freshmen will be held on **December 12**.

The Admissions and Student Services Offices will hold a Final Exam "Survival" Session for Freshmen on Monday, Dec. 12 from 3-4 p.m. in Alumnae Hall. The session will provide information and strategies for:

- handling exam stress
- organizing notes and class content
- creating effective study aides
- staying healthy during exams
- AND MUCH MORE!

We hope to see all of the freshmen there!

IMPORTANT REMINDER ◀

Please check your daughter's account balances in the cafeteria and to pay any overdue balances by the Christmas Break. Thank you!



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE ◀

It's beginning to look a lot like a 21st Century Christmas at NDA! This year we trimmed our tree with 3D snowflake ornaments produced by our SWAT Team and Mrs. Mullee on our 3D printer!



HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE BAMBOOTIQUE - AT NDA and ONLINE! ◀

It's holiday shopping time at the Bambootique and now you can shop at NDA or online! To shop online [CLICK HERE](#). If you would like to come to NDA's Bambootique, we have special holiday hours to serve you better:



Saturday	December 3	10:30-12:30pm
Tuesday	December 6	3-5pm
Saturday	December 10	10:30-12:30pm
Tuesday	December 13	5-7pm
Thursday	December 15	5:30-7:30pm
Saturday	December 17	10:30-12:30pm

SUPPORT NDA WHILE YOU SHOP! ◀



Why not Make A Difference while you shop? Amazon Smile is a great way to give back with no cost to you. Any eligible products will donate 0.5% of the purchase price directly back to NDA. Simply click on www.smile.amazon.com and login with your amazon account, choose Notre Dame Academy as your charitable organization and shop away.

Kroger Community Rewards supports us.
And you can help!
 Enroll today or re-enroll starting April 1.



You can also help raise money at NDA through your grocery shopping at Kroger. Kroger is donating \$4 million to local organizations Use your Kroger Plus Card and help NDA grow!

Supporting our organization has never been easier — just shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! Here's how to enroll:

1. Visit KrogerCommunityRewards.com
2. Sign in to your online account, or create an account
3. Find and select your organization, and click "Enroll"

You'll start earning rewards for your organization right away on qualifying purchases made using your Kroger Plus Card! Learn more at KrogerCommunityRewards.com, and thank you for your support.

***Remember, you'll need to re-enroll every April.**

▶ Important dates

December 7	Sophomore Retreat Bowling with Drug Free Club @ SuperBowl 7:00 p.m.
December 8	No School: Immaculate Conception
December 9	In School Christmas Band and Choral Concert Christmas Choral Concert in theatre 6:30 p.m.
December 10	HSPT - High School Placement Test ACT Test at NDA Panda Tones perform at The Carnegie - 3:00/7:30pm Student Council Mixer in Auditorium 8:00 p.m.
December 11	Band Concert
December 12	Freshman Finals Survival Session Panda Parent Club Meeting
December 13	Exam Fest
December 15	Lip Sync Battle Contest Exam Fest
December 16	Advent Prayer Service
December 19-21	Exams
December 21	2nd Quarter Ends
December 22-January 4	Christmas Break - No School
January 5	Classes Resume

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Part-time job opportunity for moms and students
- National League of Junior Cotillions

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

