



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

I hope your Advent has been filled with the peace, hope and many special blessings of the season. We gathered together yesterday for our Advent Prayer Service. It was a nice way to prepare ourselves for Christmas. You can see a couple of pictures of the service below.

Our students and faculty are just two days away from our Christmas break and the completion of semester exams. This will be the last Panda Press newsletter in 2015 and the next issue will be January 6, 2016.

We will hold our annual Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon on Friday after exams. I would like to thank our Panda Parent Club and all the parents who support this celebration by providing desserts and funding for Christmas gifts for our dedicated faculty and staff.

Congratulations to the NDA Panda Tones on winning First Place in the Q102 Christmas Choir Competition. The Panda Tones received a check for \$5000 from Q102 last Friday after a wonderful performance from everyone at our Christmas Choral and Band Concert for NDA.

When we return from our break, the students will be preparing for the annual Silver Bells Winter Dance on Friday, January 8, at NDA. This dance is planned by our sophomore class and is open to students in grades 10,11 and 12.

We will begin the scheduling process for the 2016-17 school year when we return from our Christmas break. Parent information meetings will be held in January and February, please see the Important Dates section below. These meetings provide information to parents about the process including the core requirements and elective courses available to students.

Please note that the school office will be closed during the break. We will close Friday (12/18) at 12:00 p.m. and reopen on January 4, 2016.

Christmas is more than simply the celebration of God becoming Man in a historical moment; it is also a reminder to all of us that He continues to be present in our world today. I see God present in our students, our faculty and staff, and in all that we do at Notre Dame Academy. Thank you for your continued support of our community. On behalf of the faculty and staff of NDA, I wish you and your family a very blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

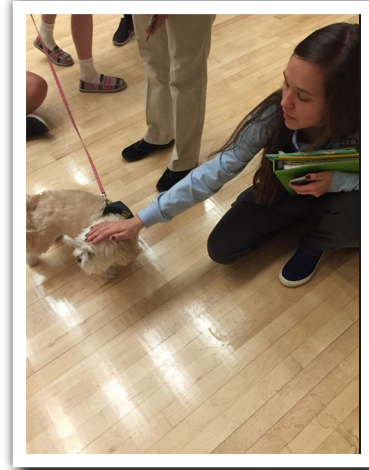
Silver Bells

Ticket sales for the annual Silver Bells dance will continue after the Christmas Break. All sophomores through seniors are invited to join us on Friday, January 8, 2016 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. for the dance. The theme is "The Academy Awards on Hollywood Hill."



Students De-Stressing

After exams today, our students relaxed with some furry friends from Pet Partners Therapy Animals Program. The four-leggeds were a huge hit and allowed the students an opportunity to relax after a morning full of exams.



CONGRATULATIONS PANDA TONES! ◀

Congratulations to the NDA's Panda Tones who won First Place in the Q102 Christmas Choir Competition! They received a check for \$5,000 from Q102 on Friday!



IT'S TIME TO ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK ◀

Parents: Now you can order your daughter's copy of the 2016 edition of the Notre Dame Academy yearbook, Tapestry, by following this [link to jostens.com](http://link.to.jostens.com). Yearbooks are now available at last year's pre-order price of \$60; get yours before the price goes up in April!



HAVE YOU READ NDA'S ONLINE NEWSPAPER? ◀

The Gavel is our online newspaper produced by the NDA publications classes. This publication has been reporting the news inside and outside of the classrooms at Notre Dame Academy for over 100 years. Until 2011, the Gavel was a printed newspaper. In an effort to be more eco-friendly and give access to more readers, NDA students moved to an online version of the newspaper. The Gavel was recently redesigned to a magazine layout to further update it.

If you haven't already read the first issue of the Gavel for this school year, you can find it online HERE.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

FAFSA Information from Kelly Burgei

Seniors and Senior Parents are reminded that the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) can be accessed starting Jan. 1, 2016. It is highly recommended that families complete the FAFSA by Feb. 1st (I recommend shooting for submitting in the first 2 weeks of January in case you run into any bumps). Here are a few reminders:



- You can start the FAFSA and if you need to stop, you can **'Save'** your work and return to your FAFSA later. **It does not need to be completed in one sitting.**
- You do not need to have your Income Taxes completed to submit the FAFSA. You can use estimates based on 2014 Tax Information.
- If you have questions throughout the process of submitting your FAFSA, I highly recommend the FAFSA Assistance Center. They are very helpful! :) **FAFSA Assistance: 1-800-433-3243.**
- **Remember...You Can Get FREE Help filling out the FAFSA!!**
 - **College Goal Kentucky** - FREE Service to Kentucky residents. Get personal assistance from Financial Aid Specialists and complete the **FAFSA on-site and in one day.**
 - Go to their Website to find event dates and locations: www.kasfaa.com/CollegeGoalKY. Or call their office: 1-888-452-7322.

Commonwealth Honors Academy at Murray State

The Commonwealth Academy at Murray state is a summer program for juniors who have approximately a 25 on the ACT and a 3.5 GPA. The program is a residential program on Murray's campus. Students who apply and are accepted can earn up to a total of 12 credit hours for college (6 in summer and 6 online after the camp). Here is a link for more info and the application: <http://www.murraystate.edu/cha/>

HARD WORK AND PERSISTENCE PAID OFF! ◀

Our students in Textiles have been working very hard lately to complete their quilts. Making a quilt is the capstone project for this class. Most of these quilts fit a queen size bed. The girls do a great job! Their happiness and success is reflected in their glowing smiles!



FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

IF YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED YOUR ATHLETIC REGISTRATION ONLINE FOR SPRING SPORTS PLEASE DO SO ASAP.
<https://www.cognitofirms.com/NotreDameAcademy1/NotreDameAcademyAthleticRegistration>

TENNIS

After 19 years of service and coaching to Notre Dame Academy, our tennis coach, Rob Hardin, has decided to retire. Please come help the tennis family celebrate his dedication in the form of a roast. Click [here](#) for details.

SWIMMING - CONGRATS AQUA PANDAS!

Congratulations to our Aqua Pandas. The girls were able to swim to a 101-84 victory over St. Ursula Academy on Saturday! This was a huge win on the path to State! Next Meet is Friday, December 18th at the University of Louisville. Rock the Blocks, Aqua Pandas!

BASKETBALL

Swimming beat St. Ursula 104- 81 on Saturday. Basketball beat St. Henry 52-39 on Saturday.



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
2015-16
ANNUAL APPEAL

THANK YOU! ◀

A very special thank you to all of the parents and friends of NDA who have already donated to our **2015-16 Annual Appeal**. Funds from the appeal will help to bridge the gap between what is generated in tuition and what it costs to educate each of our young women. This gap currently stands at \$1,500 per student. If you have not already made a donation and would like to you can do so online [HERE](#).

Over \$800,000 was dispersed this school year at NDA in tuition allowances including financial assistance, need based grants and scholarships, and work study. Your donation to the Annual Appeal will allow us to continue to work with any young woman who could benefit from an NDA education.

We are grateful for your support and we thank you in advance for your commitment to supporting the mission of Notre Dame Academy!

JOIN US FOR PANDA BOOT CAMP! ◀

Start the new year off right by joining us for Panda Boot Camp on Mondays after school from 3 - 3:45 p.m. in the auditorium. Melody Hoppus, owner of Melody's Boot Camp Fitness, (and a Panda Parent) will help all Panda students, faculty, staff, and parents achieve their personal fitness goals for FREE! All fitness levels are welcome--especially beginners! This is a judgment-free zone! Hope to see you on January 4!



PPC NEWS ◀

Save the Date!

This year's Father/Daughter Dance will be held on Friday, January 29, 7-11 pm. Look for further information in the first edition of Panda Press in January 2016.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ◀

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

FROM THE FACULTY AND STAFF ◀

The NDA faculty and staff would like to thank all of the parents and students who donated to the faculty/staff Christmas party. We are very blessed to have such generous and supportive parents!



IT'S HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIME!
Come visit us at the **Bambootique!**

Special Holiday Hours to serve you!

Saturday	November 14	10:30-12:30pm
Saturday	November 28	10:30-12:30pm
Saturday	December 5	10:30-12:30pm
Thursday	December 10	2:30 - 5:30 pm
Saturday	December 12	10:30-12:30pm
Tuesday	December 15	5-7pm
Thursday	December 17	5-7pm
Saturday	December 19	9-12:30pm



Athletes/Parents!
Grab your gifts on December 5th from 10:30-12:30pm while picking up your fruit!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ◀

Maintenance Technician

Notre Dame Academy is accepting applications for a Maintenance Technician. The Maintenance Technician is responsible for the repair, maintenance, cleanliness and safety of the facility and grounds. His/her mission is to maintain the schools' physical facility in a condition of cleanliness and safety. You can read more about the position on the website [HERE](#).

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS ◀

Do you shop at Kroger? Every time a registered Kroger Plus Card member shops at Kroger using their Kroger Plus Card, NDA will earn rewards if you designate Notre Dame Academy as your non-profit organization. It's easy – you shop, use your Kroger Plus Card, and Notre Dame Academy receives rewards. Most of you already have a Kroger Plus Card. If you do not, you can get one at the Customer Service Desk at any Kroger.



Your Kroger Plus Card **MUST** be registered online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com. After your card is registered, you can then designate Notre Dame Academy as your non-profit organization. Our organization number is **#80500**. Some of you may already have your card registered, if you currently receive on-line coupons from Kroger. If so, you can skip the registration part and designate Notre Dame Academy as your non-profit organization. When you click on the link above there are step-by-step instructions to help you through the process; it only takes a few minutes. All Participants must re-enroll each year to continue earning awards during the coming year. This is one simple way to get money for Notre Dame Academy. **Please register your Kroger Plus Card for Notre Dame Academy today.**

Important dates:

December 16	Exams Begin
December 18	Last Day of Exams
January 4	Return from Christmas break, beginning of 3rd quarter
January 6	New Parent meeting: HSPT results 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
January 8	Silver Bells Winter Dance 8:00 – 11:00 p.m.
January 9	Basketball Grade School Event JV-1:00 p.m. Varsity-2:30 p.m.
January 12	Panda Parent Club (PPC) Meeting 7:00 p.m.
January 18	No School (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
January 21-22	March for Life (Washington, D.C.)
January 25	NDA Free Speaker Series – 7:00 p.m. An Introduction to Yoga
January 27	Class of 2017 Parent Scheduling/PSAT Meeting
January 28	Class of 2018 Parent Scheduling Meeting
January 29	Father/Daughter Dance 7:00 – 11:00 p.m.
February 4	Class of 2019 Parent Scheduling Meeting

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- Miracle Fest Christmas Festival by Save the Storks
- Join the St. Agnes Youth Group
- Street Smartz

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

