



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

I hope your Advent has been filled with the peace, hope and many special blessings of the season. Our students, faculty and staff gathered yesterday for our annual Advent Prayer Service. It was a very nice way for everyone to come together as a community to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ this Christmas.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend yesterday's Advent Prayer Service and missed our last day of school before the Christmas break today. As some of may know, I was injured while working on Christmas decorations at my home this weekend and ended up having surgery yesterday afternoon to repair a tear in my thigh muscle. I am home now and doing well. I ask for your continued prayers for a quick recovery.

Our students and faculty are ready to begin a well-deserved Christmas break. This will be the last Panda Press Weekly newsletter in 2018. The next issue will be January 9, 2019.

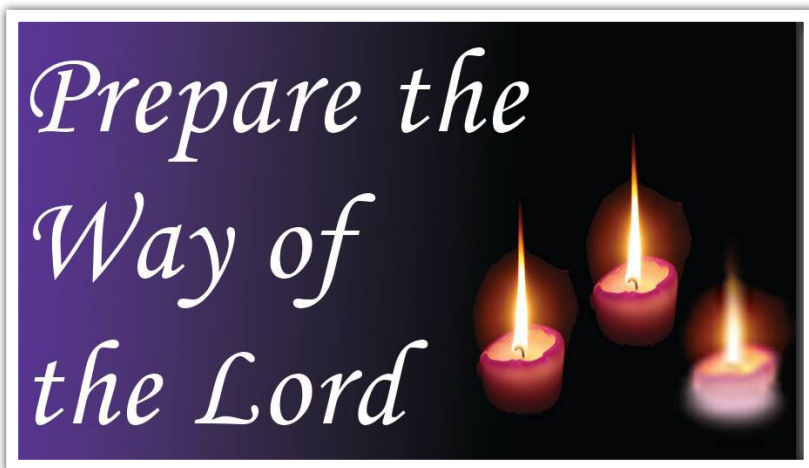
When we return from our break, students will be preparing for their exams. The exam schedule has been shared with your daughters and can be found online here: [exam schedule](#). As I said last week, I think it is important over the Christmas break to encourage your daughters to strike a healthy balance between studying for exams and taking some time away from school work. As much as we strive for excellence at NDA and want our students to be successful in their coursework, I also want them to take time to relax and spend time with family and friends throughout the Christmas season.

The school office will be closed from December 20 through January 2. Normal office hours will begin on our first day back to school after the break - January 3, 2019.

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. Christmas is such a special time of year and as I told the students at our prayer service, no one does Christmas better than NDA! Thank you for your continued support of our community. On behalf of Dr. Laura Koehl, 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

STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

Out of Uniform Days

Yesterday was the first of two out of uniform days in support of our clubs' service projects. \$1240 was raised today in support of the following clubs and their community outreach :

- NHS
- Math Club
- JETS
- Big Sisters
- Speech and Drama

We are looking forward to the next out of uniform day on January 9!

Club Leader Meeting

The second quarter Club Leader Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9. The focus for this meeting will be the importance of setting SMART goals within the club.



Sophomore Class Ring Information

During long homeroom on January 4, Herff Jones will share class ring ordering information with our Sophomores. The Class of 2021 and their parents are asked to mark their calendars for Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. This is the evening of the ring ceremony.

Silver Bells: Silver and Gold

Thanks to our Sophomore class for planning such a fun and successful Silver Bells dance this year!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH MICRO-FINANCING ◀



In Catholic Social Teaching we have been talking about the concepts of solidarity and subsidiarity in conjunction with watching the documentary Poverty, Inc. Solidarity is the idea that we are connected to one another as a global community and that when one part suffers we all suffer. Subsidiarity tells us that it is beneficial to address issues at the lowest competent level of government possible. Poverty, Inc. gave us many examples of how when we give to charity through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government programs, oftentimes our money is not being as helpful as we think and is sometimes even perpetuating the problem. This caused us to look at other options of how we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters who are living in poverty. This is what led us to micro-financing. With the principle of subsidiarity in mind, we are able to fund loans for individuals who may not otherwise have

access to banking services to help them improve their personal lives, the areas that they live, and ultimately the economy of their country. We chose to work through an organization called Kiva. Two classes together were able to give out two loans valuing over \$300. Those loans will get repaid over time and we will then be able to loan that money out again. This is the 2nd year that we have done this project and we have loaned out over \$700 to 5 different people between money that we have brought in and loans that have been repaid already. This year we have chosen to fund loans for [Abir](#) and [Fausto Francisco](#).



IMPORTANT NEW ROLE ◀

NDA Science teacher Mrs. Terri Perrino has been asked to serve as the community representative on Northern Kentucky University's Institutional Research Board (IRB). She will serve a 3-year term in this important role. All federally funded organizations where research is conducted are required to have an IRB. They review all research protocols that utilize human subjects. Mrs. Perrino is excited about this new position and looks forward to learning more about research in order to help her students at NDA.

PREPARING FOR EXAMS ◀

Many of our freshmen recently attended a Lunch and Learn on how to prepare for mid term exams presented by Mrs. Monohan and Ms. Ericson. They reviewed exam schedules, how to create study guides, different study apps, and when and how to begin preparing for exams.



CONGRATULATIONS ◀

Our NDA Speech and Drama team recently competed at the Dixie Heights High School Competition. They came in 6th place as a team with many students placing as Finalists.

Pictured (left to right): Bella Smith, Ella David, Oli Marita, Kora Hammersmith, Sarah Zimmer, Ella Hageman

Finalists: Sarah Zimmer (Broadcasting), Ella Hageman (Broadcasting), Sarah Zimmer and Bella Smith (Improv Duo)

YEARBOOK NEWS! ◀

2017-18 Yearbook: We have a limited number of copies of the 2017-18 school yearbook, "Building Our Sisterhood", available for purchase. Books are \$70 (check payable to NDA) and can be purchased in the school office or by contacting Publications instructor Rory Glynn at glynnr@ndapandas.org.

2018-19 Yearbook: This year's book, "New and Forever", will be out next fall but can be purchased now for the pre-order price of \$60. They're available at [jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1069982/Notre-Dame-Academy/2019-Yearbook/20180825044300310151/CATALOG_SHOP/) or by following this link. (https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1069982/Notre-Dame-Academy/2019-Yearbook/20180825044300310151/CATALOG_SHOP/)



NOW SHOWING

ON BROADWAY

NDA

Mother Daughter Dance

**January 12, 2019
6:30-10:30pm**

**Receptions Banquet Center
1379 Donaldson Road
Erlanger, KY 41018**

**Register by Monday, January 7th
\$25 per person**

Come dressed as your favorite Broadway characters/cast, theatre patron or stage hand. Plan to walk the red carpet, enjoy dinner and dance the night away to the tunes of DJ BCD (aka Brian Dunham). The costume parade will be after dinner & winners announced.

Make your reservation online at <https://www.cognitoforms.com/NotreDameAcademy1/2019MotherDaughter>

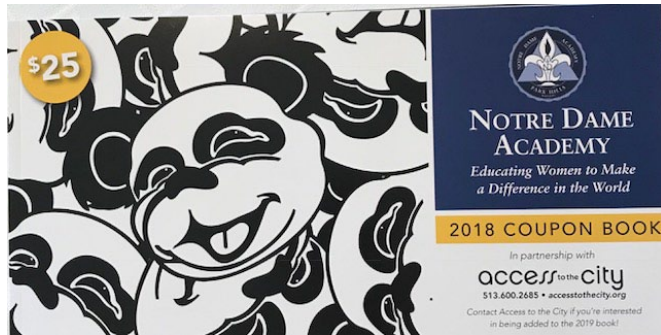
OR send cash/check along with this form to the school office.

Tickets must be paid for at the time of reservation. DUE BY January 7, 2019

Questions – stephanie_m_ahlers@yahoo.com or mklaird@fuse.net

Send in a cash or check with this form to the school office.

Student Name(s): _____
Mom's name: _____
Mom's email and phone: _____
Amount enclosed: _____



ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS ◀

Coupon book money is now due.

Coupon Book Sellers:

Looking for some great deals? Check out NDA's Access to the City coupon book! If you would like to purchase a coupon book, you can contact Susan Colvin in Athletics at colvins@ndapandas.org. The books cost \$25 and checks can be made pay-able to Notre Dame Academy.

Athletes should turn all money to the front office or the Athletic Department. All money and checks should be in a sealed envelope with name and homeroom on it.

Spring Athletes

If you are planning to participate in a Spring Sport but have not yet picked up your coupon books to sell you can pick up your books from the Athletic Department.



WORK STUDY AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LONGSHORE DINING HALL ◀

Do you have just one day a month to volunteer for two hours in the NDA cafeteria? Helping out is neither difficult nor time-consuming and our current volunteers have fun visiting the school and seeing their daughters, granddaughters and friends. Volunteers are also welcome to stick around after their two-hour shift for lunch with "the crew". Grandparents in particular seem to love this job, so please consider asking your daughter's grandparents if they would like to help out. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Karen

Brungs at 859.292.1856 or brungsk@ndapandas.org. The schedule is online and you can sign up [HERE](#).

ALSO, we have a Work Study position open in the Longshore Dining Hall dishroom as well. If you are interested in this position, please contact Karen Brungs at 859.292.1856 or brungsk@ndapandas.org.



ALUMNAE MENTORING ◀

Last week our seniors had the opportunity to attend a Speed Mentoring Session hosted by our Alumnae Department. We will have more opportunities throughout the rest of year, along with another Speed Mentoring Session at the end of the school year. The alumnae mentors have sessions set up for once a month to speak and interact with Seniors.

Here is what to expect for future dates:

Women in the Workplace
Soft Skills / Office Etiquette / Social Media Do's/ Do Not's
Communication / Responsiveness
Critical Thinking/Decision Making Skills
Speed Mentoring Session

Wednesday, January 23
Wednesday, February 13
Wednesday, March 13
Wednesday, April 10
Wednesday, May 1

We will release more details of each session prior to that session.



GSE
The [Governor's School for Entrepreneurs](#) Application is open **NOW until January 20th** for Kentucky 9th, 10th, and 11th graders! A total of 72 students will be selected to

learn about opportunities, benefits, and pitfalls of taking a business concept from the idea phase to pitching it to potential investors! This 3-week residential program at NKU is FREE of charge, and can ultimately result in college scholarships! Program dates are June 23 - July 13. Students can apply as an INDIVIDUAL, as a TEAM (Leadership/CEO, Technology, Speaker, Design/Artist) or - THEY CAN APPLY FOR BOTH!



GSA
[The KY Governor's School for the ARTS](#) from Kentucky 10th and 11th grades are due **January 11!** Students can apply in TWO of the nine Art Forms! Creative Writing is one Art Form that some students do not realize is an option, so we are hoping that some talented student writers will apply!

Tips for Talking with Your Teen

From Lisa Damour, PhD <https://www.dr.lisadamour.com/untangled/>



<p>You can tell your daughter is upset but doesn't want to talk about it...how come?</p>	<p>What can you do to improve communication?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She may be worried you'll have a big or bad reaction • She is concerned if she talks about it, there will be negative consequences • She may be worried you will tell someone else • She may already be talked out about the topic or feel things aren't going to be solved by talking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could ask if they're worried about your reaction and that's why she doesn't want to talk • Attempt to remain compassionate and realize that teens make mistakes too • Be clear on what you would have to share and what you can keep private and then keep your word • If all else fails, treat them like they have the flu! Offer them their favorite food, ask what they would like to watch on TV, suggest some alone time, or see if they just want a hug!

ACT Math Prep

All Juniors will be taking an Official ACT test on Feb. 20 during the school-day here at NDA. **NKY Tutoring** offers ACT Prep specifically for the MATH section of the ACT. They have just opened their Registration for the classes that will prepare Juniors for the February 20 ACT. **For more Information and to Register:** <http://nkytutoring.com>

Full List of ACT Prep Options

There are many options for ACT Prep. We have compiled a full list of options here: [ACT Prep Options](#)

Free Online ACT PREP: [ACT ACADEMY](#)

The ACT has launched a Free Online ACT Prep called ACT Academy. We have gotten really good feedback from students who have used this Free Resource! Students take short diagnostic quizzes and then are given specific prep for areas they need to work on. **Sign-Up Here:** [ACT Academy](#)

*Please email Ms. Burgei if you have questions or would like assistance setting up this Free ACT Prep Resource. Ms. Burgei: burgeik@ndapandas.org.



CALLING ALL NDA/CCH THEATRE ALUMS! ◀

Join us for the first-ever NDA/Cov-Cath Alum Cabaret at Notre Dame Academy on Sunday, January 6 at 1:30 p.m.! We'll be spending an afternoon with drinks, food, and a celebration of the performing arts, past and present, at NDA/CCH. This variety show will feature performances from recent and not so recent alum and to round out the show, we will have performances from our current theater students. You can purchase tickets [HERE](#).

▶ Important dates

December 19	Faculty Christmas Party
December 20- January 2	Christmas Break
January 1	Holy Day - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
January 3	School Resumes
January 4	Sophomore Ring Information Session
	Junior Class Mass
January 6	NDA/CCH Alumnae Cabaret
January 7	HSPT meeting for Incoming Freshmen
January 12	Mother/Daughter Dance
January 15-17	Mid-Term Exams
January 18	Life March
January 21	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 22	Senior retreat
January 25	Father/Daughter Dance

COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- NCYC
- B.R.A.K.E.S. - Teen Pro-Active Driving School

You can find a complete list of community news [HERE](#).

