

The Gavel

Publications class spills the scoop on what has been going on in the school for the past month!

Check out what our Art students have been creating in the basement!

READ STORIES FROM THE TEACHERS THAT HAVE BEEN HERE FOR MANY YEARS!

Is there a story about the Christmas Tree in the foyer? Yes there is! Check it out on the back page!

Flashback: Enjoy some holiday humor from 1980



**Volume 86
No. 2
December 2011**

Beyond The Classroom

The Publication Class submits weekly articles about what's going on around the school. Here's what they have to say...

Fruit Sale

All Notre Dame athletes and their parents worked the fruit sale last weekend, either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. Each athlete had to sell fifteen boxes for one sport and twenty boxes for two or more sports. All the funds go towards all of the sports programs. Everyone needed to pick up their fruit and there was quite a system to distribute the fruit! This event was mandatory for all athletes. This was a great way for all athletes to come together and support our school!

By: Kelli Taylor

Christmas Decorating

On Thursday the Notre Dame student council girls stayed after school to begin celebrating Christmas and decorating are school. The girls were all very excited! They celebrated with pizza and soft drinks and a ton of snacks while they decorated. The school was decked out with every Christmas decoration they could find and they were awaiting the excitement of the rest of the student body to see there hard work be appreciated. Good work Student council and everyone have a Merry Christmas!

By: Meredith Ramey

Winter Collection

This year we collected items for different agencies. These agencies depend on us for many items during the Christmas holiday season. The freshmen and sophomores brought in canned and boxed items like canned fruits, vegetables, and noodles. The juniors and seniors brought in hygiene and cleaning items like laundry detergent and shampoo. Everyone worked really hard bringing in items and we were able to help many families this holiday season. The collection was a competition between each grade level, and the seniors won!

By: Tori Thaman

Beyond The Classroom

Athletic Signing

We recently had 10 Notre Dame Seniors sign their National Letters of Intent. These athletes have accepted scholarships from colleges and will be an athlete at a University. Auburn University will be gaining a swimmer and a diver from NDA who have decided to continue their athletic career. There were many sports represented and also many universities. Congrats Pandas!

By: Caitlyn Forman

You're A Good Man Charlie Brown!

Saturday December 10, 2011, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* was showcased for the Christmas play of Notre Dame and Covington Catholic drama students. Times for the show were 2:00 and 4:30. Adult tickets were ten dollars and student tickets were five dollars. The play was directed by Cathy Creason. There were students working behind the scenes and on the stage. Some of the cast was Neal Stansel as Charlie Brown, Michaela Kamer as Lucy van Pelt, Brady Dunn as Linus van Pelt, Emma Parks as Sally Brown, Katy Maurer as Snoopy, and more.

Christmas Show

Last Friday, December 2, 2011 the annual Christmas Show was performed! At first the seniors and juniors watched the band directed by Mr. Cerimele, complete with a sing-a-long. After the fun sing-a-long Notre Dame's dance team and pom team performed numbers to get the crowd into the Christmas spirit! Then we headed to the new auditorium to watch the choirs. First was Covington Catholic's choir which sang a few songs including "100 years" by Five For Fighting. The girls choir was next and they sounded great singing their songs. The girls choir and boys choir even sang a few songs together. It was a great way to start off December!

By: Ellen Sartori

ART 2



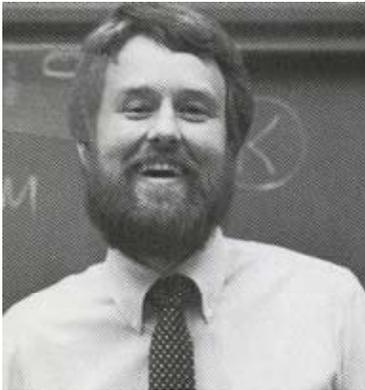


The art two classes have been working hard on their current project which is watercolors. There were many students from last year who took art and continued on because of their love for art and because of their amazing talents. They have several projects a quarter including the watercolors this quarter. They also have outside projects that they turn in for their exam grade. Their exam project for this semester for the art two class is to pick a song and illustrate it without using the lyrics.



PROFILES

TEACHERS: THE ONE'S WHO HAVE BEEN HERE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS



Gavel: How long have you been teaching at NDA and how old were you when you started?

Mr. Greife: I have been teaching here for 34 years. I started when I was 26 years old in 1978.

G: What subjects have you taught?

Mr. G: AP Euro, Psychology, World Civ, Global Issues, US History, Geography, and European Studies.

G: What has changed the most throughout the years?

Mr. G: The building has changed. There used to be no classes on the first floor; they were all typing rooms. The old gym was the auditorium. There was over 700 students and a lot more nuns as teachers.

G: Why do you like teaching history?

Mr. G: I love the subject. There are good stories, that's what makes up history. History tells you where you come from. It's the development of life.

G: What's your favorite event in history? Why?

Mr. G: I like the period of Ancient Rome, because it reminds me a lot of America today. Maybe we can learn from their history to help with the problems we are having today. I also like the French Revolution, because it is a very complicated event in history. Lastly, I like World War II. It is the biggest war in history and has changed warfare forever.

Gavel: How many years have you taught at NDA?

Mrs. Greife: I have been teaching here for 39 years.

G: Where did you attend high school?

Mrs. G: I was registered to attend NDA. I even had my uniform. But my dad was transferred to Chicago in August before my freshman year, so I attended Nazareth Academy, in LaGrange Park, Illinois. It was an all-girl school, very similar to NDA, but a little bigger. There were 299 students in my graduating class. (Now it is a co-ed school.)

G: What do you like the most about teaching at NDA?

Mrs. G: What I like best is the people - the students, my fellow teachers, the administration, and the staff.

G: What is your favorite day of the school year?

Mrs. G: My favorite day of the school year has to be graduation day - when we teachers witness the success of our labors.



Gavel: How long have you been teaching at NDA? How old were you when you started?

Mrs. Roenker: I started in the 1970's when I was 21. I left after two years to have a baby. I came back in 1985 and have been here ever since.

G: What subjects have you taught?

Mrs. R: I have taught PreCalculus, Geometry, Math Topics, and Algebra.

G: What has changed the most throughout the years?

Mrs. R: Technology has definitely changed the most. Back then there wasn't any technology in the school.

G: Why do you like teaching Math?

Mrs. R: I like teaching Math, because it's important to understand, especially for young women.

G: What's your favorite topic to teach? Why?

Mrs. R: I like teaching Geometry the most, because I like the logic.

Gavel: How long have you taught at NDA?

Mrs. Johnson: I have been teaching at Notre Dame for 28 years.

G: What do you like to do outside of teaching at NDA?

Mrs. J: Outside of NDA I like to read, work out, attend plays & concerts, and I enjoy going out to dinner with my friends and family. I love spending time with my "Honey"; we have been married for 32 years and he is still the love of my life. I am also in my son's choir at Holy Cross-Immaculata in Mt. Adams, and also active in other church & religious activities. I like to cook and bake when I have the time, I enjoy shopping, and I enjoy keeping in touch with friends and family on Facebook. These are just a few of the things I enjoy when I am not teaching.

G: What do you like the best about teaching at NDA?

Mrs. J: That NDA is truly a family united in Christ, how close everyone is, and how much each person cares about each other.

G: What is your favorite day of the school year?

Mrs. J: It may sound corny, but I really don't have a favorite day because each day is a special opportunity to learn and grow! I do however, love how special our graduation ceremony is - I feel honored to be part of such a special tradition!

Flashback

Holiday Humor by Tara Ellis

I have received many Christmas gifts from family and friends that are typical of those received by many NDA students. Among them in the back of my closet, are:

- granny slippers from a dear old aunt;
 - a game listed for four-to-eight years old when I was ten;
 - bath beads from my best friend (a blue-light special at K-mart);
 - educational books that I “can’t put down”;
 - the scratchy nightgown from Aunt Mae;
 - pierced earrings (my ears aren’t pierced);
 - queen-size panty hose with baggy knees;
 - uniform socks and sweaters;
 - Slim Whitman’s album from a grandmother trying to be really mod;
- and
- size 15 pants, which surprisingly fit even though I had always thought I was a size 9.

Also in the back of my closet is an old baseball bat I intend to use on my little brother if he once more goes on his yearly prowl and then tells me all the things I am getting for Christmas this year.

I am not really so negative about the whole holiday scene. My New Years resolution list is about as long as the list of gifts I have least use for. This year I have them all written out and ready for the start of 1981. As the New Year rang in, I promise to:

- lose weight;
- give up candy;
- give us nasty words;
- give up evenings spent talking on the phone;
- cut down on the amount of fist fights between little brothers and sisters;
- stop cheating on tests;
- stop fighting with food in the cafeteria; and
- not put Ex-Lax in my friend’s birthday cakes.

In conclusion, here is one brand new wish for all my readers, for happy gifting and successful resolution-making.

The History of the Christmas Tree with Sister Reina

We met with Sister Reina to talk with her about the Christmas tree in the foyer. She told us that there has been a tree put up every year since 1963. The first tree that was put up was aluminum. Then they decided that a real tree was more of the Christmas spirit. But shortly after that they realized a real tree is too messy, so they got an artificial tree. This tree was even bigger than the one we have currently.

Sister explained to us that her art workshop class came together after school on Tuesdays to work on decorating the tree.

She said this process took a very long time, they even stayed until 10:00 at night! All the students worked together to make the decorations. They made cardboard bells that were spray painted gold, a lot of big bows and strands of garland balls to put on the tree. Sister said the tree looked absolutely beautiful when they were finished.

Sister Reina also told us that her art class also made Mary, Joseph, and other people out of pop bottles and a manger. They displayed this nativity scene every year until two years ago. They donated the manger to a near by school that is taking very good care of it now.



Christmas Jokes



Q: If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?

A: Missletoe!

Q: What do you call a bunch of grand masters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

A: Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer.

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted flakes.

Q: What did the big furry hat say to the warm woolly scarf?

A: "You hang around while I go on ahead."

Q: What's an ig?

A: A snow house without a loo!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?

A: Frostbite.

Q: When does Chirstmas come before Thanks-giving?

A: In the Dictionary

Q: Why are there only snow men and not snow women?

A: Because only men are dumb enough to stand out in the snow without a coat.