



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

It's a good week to be an NDA Panda! We began the week with a couple of very important announcements. NDA President Dr. Laura Koehl announced the initial launch of our \$7 million **Excellence Without Boundaries - Empowering 21st Century Women** Capital Campaign to renovate our 20th century building into a 21st century environment. Thanks to a strong leadership team, the campaign is well on its way to reaching the \$7 million goal for the campaign. Please see more about our capital campaign below.

Also this week, we held a special assembly for the NDA community to announce a \$1.995 million bequest from NDA alumna Ruth Wehage Schroer '38. With the exception of previous gifts made to Notre Dame Academy from the Sisters of Notre Dame, this is the largest individual gift ever made to NDA. The gift will support Notre Dame Academy's capital campaign and will establish the Ruth Wehage Schroer Scholarship. You can read more about this incredibly generous gift below.

We continue to focus on *Embracing Dignity in Self, Others and Community* during Respect Life Month. This week we held a dress down day to benefit those in need as well as a blood drive. Next week we welcome NDA alumna and pro-life speaker Liz Carl to speak to our juniors and seniors. I am very proud of the commitment our community continues to demonstrate supporting the value and dignity of life.

On November 7, NDA will hold **Student/Parent Teacher Conferences** from 2:30 - 8:30 p.m. Students taking responsibility for their education is a hallmark of the NDA experience. Student/Parent Teacher Conferences are a wonderful opportunity for our students to take ownership of their education and I encourage you and your daughter to attend teacher conferences this year.

While this is optional and may not have been common practice in the past, every student can greatly benefit from a personal conversation with her teachers. We are blessed with very qualified and dedicated faculty members at NDA who are invested in making each student's educational experience at NDA the best it can be. Please encourage your daughter to take advantage of this great opportunity, to be responsible for her education, and attend this year's Student/Parent Teacher Conferences.

Students will fill out a form prior to November 7 that will help them prepare and actively participate in the conference. You can view the form [HERE](#). Also, online sign-ups for conferences will be open beginning today through November 2. You can sign up for this year's Student/Parent Teacher Conferences [HERE](#).

I close my letter today with a grateful heart. I am grateful for the many supportive alumnae, parents and friends of Notre Dame Academy. Together we can make a tremendous difference in the lives of our students and in the world.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

## EXCELLENCE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES EMPOWERING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WOMEN



Notre Dame Academy has announced the launch of a \$7 million capital campaign to renovate our 20th century building into a 21st century environment where we will continue to serve as a premier Catholic high school, providing excellent academic and co-curricular programs that prepare our graduates to be outstanding female leaders serving the world.

Thanks to a strong leadership team, the campaign is well on its way to reaching the \$7 million goal for the **Excellence Without Boundaries - Empowering 21st Century Women** capital campaign. The campaign has already raised \$5 million, over 70% of the \$7 million goal in the campaign's initial phase, a six-month period of intense internal planning and preliminary gift solicitation behind the scenes. The initial phase ended on Monday with the public announcement of the campaign which was a special ceremony honoring NDA alumna, Ruth Wehage Schroer '38, who bequeathed \$1.995 million to NDA and will support the campaign. NDA's goal is to secure the remaining 2 million over the course of the next twelve months.

In light of NDA's tradition of holistic education, the campaign will support four funding priorities: Chapel Renovation; a 21st Century Collaborative Learning Center; a new Food Court and Student Commons; and Elevator and ADA compliance.

With our Catholic identity at the heart of our Notre Dame Academy education, the chapel has long been an important space within our school building. Having a special place where students can go for quiet reflection or to pray and honor God is increasingly important in this technological age. With a focus on the spiritual formation of our students, Notre Dame Academy plans to renovate and expand our chapel so that it will hold at least one full grade level and their teachers.

The centerpiece of the Excellence Without Boundaries campaign is a 21st Century Collaborative Learning Center. For several years, Notre Dame Academy has led the way in educational technology and STEM related fields. Educators at NDA believe that fundamental skills such as collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking are required for success in today's global community and they have integrated core competencies that have enabled students to thrive in the 21st century. NDA's 21st Century Collaborative Learning Center will support the new and innovative ways that NDA students utilize a library to access online resources and collaborate with others to problem solve and create new ideas.

Social engagement is an important element of the Notre Dame Academy experience. The goal for NDA's new Food Court and Student Commons is to create a space that will serve as a home away from home for students. It will provide an environment that is conducive to quiet study time and accommodate small or large group events as well as the entire NDA student body for assemblies and presentations.

A second elevator in NDA's school building will provide equal access for all. Half floor areas will be renovated into classroom spaces that will be fully accessible to provide equal access.

"This is an exciting time for Notre Dame Academy," said NDA President Dr. Laura Koehl. "Through our Excellence Without Boundaries campaign, we have embraced the bold vision God has for us: equipping our students to lead the way as Catholics in this globally competitive information age. Dr. Koehl added, "This campaign powerfully supports NDA's commitment to academic excellence and mission of educating young women to make a difference in the world."

# NOTRE DAME ACADEMY Receives \$1.995 Million Bequest



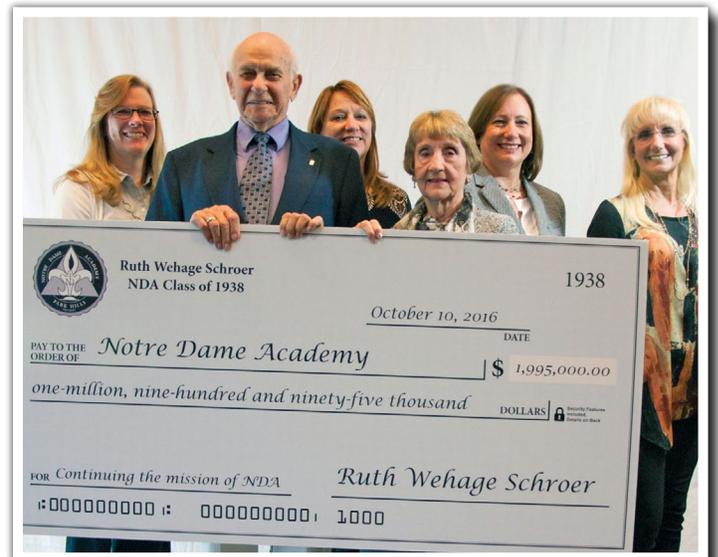
Notre Dame Academy has received a \$1.995 million bequest from the estate of one of its alumna, Ruth Wehage Schroer '38. With the exception of previous gifts made to Notre Dame Academy from the Sisters of Notre Dame, this is the largest individual gift ever made to NDA. The gift will support Notre Dame Academy's **Excellence Without Boundaries - Empowering 21st Century Women** Capital Campaign and will establish the Ruth Wehage Schroer Scholarship.

Notre Dame Academy invited Ruth's surviving family members to a special ceremony Monday morning where NDA President Dr. Laura Koehl announced the news of the \$1.995 million bequest to the NDA community. "As an Notre Dame Academy alumna, Ruth Wehage Schroer clearly lived the mission of her alma mater by making a difference in the world," said NDA President Dr. Laura Koehl. She added, "Ruth's generous gift will help generations of students receive an NDA education in a 21st Century learning environment."

In line with Ruth's enthusiasm for education and libraries, her gift will support the addition of NDA's 21st Century Collaborative Learning Center. This collaborative learning space will support the new and innovative ways that NDA students utilize a library to access online resources and collaborate with others to problem solve and create new ideas.

Ruth Wehage Schroer graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Covington, Kentucky in 1938 and attended Xavier University Evening College. Ruth married Ralph Schroer in 1942 and the couple moved to Cocoa Beach in 1958 where Ruth worked as an executive secretary for NASA Kennedy Space Center aircraft operations. Ruth was a Charter Member of the Church of Our Saviour where she served as a Eucharistic Minister and past president of the Catholic Women's Club. Ruth was also a devoted volunteer and passionate supporter of the Cocoa Beach Library. She retired from NASA in 1975 and volunteered as a tax counselor for the elderly until 1996. Ruth's husband of 57 years passed away in 1999. On November 21, 2015, Ruth passed away at the age of 95.

We are very grateful to Ruth and her family for their support of academic excellence at Notre Dame Academy!





## Notre Dame Academy Respects Life!

### FROM THE LIFE CLUB

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this week's dress down day and for your generosity for our chosen ministries. We collected over \$1300.00 for the charities. Madonna House & Mary Rose Garden Mission will each receive a check for around \$270 and Catholic Charities in Haiti will receive a check for close to \$800. Good job putting the needs of others as a top priority in our lives....Panda Proud!

### MARCH FOR LIFE

Get on board the March for Life Movement! We have two buses headed to the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. this year and spots are filling up quickly so sign up today! The March will take place on January 27, 2017, and the cost is approximately \$130.00 a person. Buses will leave Thursday evening (1/26) and return Saturday morning (1/28). If you have any questions please email Mrs. Theresa Van Auken at [vanaukent@ndapandas.org](mailto:vanaukent@ndapandas.org).

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

# STUDENT/PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

**WHEN:** Monday, November 7, 2016 | 2:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND:** NDA Students with their Parents

**HOW TO SIGN UP:** You can sign up online [HERE](#) from now through November 2

**HOW TO PREPARE:** Students should fill out [THIS FORM](#) prior to the conferences

*Every student can benefit from a Student/Parent Teacher Conference!*



## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

### Date Changes

Please take note of the following date changes:

- Father/Daughter Dance at Receptions (Friday, January 13)
- Silver Bells Dance at NDA (Friday, January 20)

### Dress Code

As the weather cools down calling for warm sweaters, sweatshirts and leggings, please take a moment to review Notre Dame Academy's dress code as stated below (Student/Parent Handbook, p. 22):

Notre Dame Academy has a school uniform that consists of:

- a gray uniform skirt (the skirt must fit properly, be zipped and buttoned, hemmed appropriately and free of stains, rips, and/or holes). Students are required to obtain a new skirt if it no longer zips, has tears, holes, or stains.
- a white NDA banded or light blue banded shirt for all students
- solid white, gray, black or navy blue socks
- appropriate shoes that have a back to them
- nametag/lanyard

Optional items that may be purchased and worn with the uniform include:

- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy pullover sweater
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy sweatshirt
- a navy blue Notre Dame Academy fleece
- a navy blue blazer with NDA's emblem for special occasions such as Mass, award ceremonies, etc.
- gray, black, or navy blue leggings

## STUDENTS EXPLORE SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ◀

On September 30, twelve NDA students took part in the Mayerson Student Service Leadership Workshop at the University of Cincinnati. They joined over 700 participants in exploring Service Learning Opportunities and sharing ways we serve our community here at NDA. Four of these students also presented one of the break-out sessions about their Service Learning Project from their Freshman Year. Fallon McAllister, Sydney Sparks, Claire James and Grace Lawler shared with other students and teachers how they fundraised for Restavek Freedom, an organization that advocates for the end of child slavery in Haiti. These students, as well as the others that attended, are anxious to put what they learned into practice here at NDA. The other participants from NDA were: Rachel Lukey, Madeline Deye, Jessica Schumacher, Claire Morgan, Clair Lange, Chloe Collins and Cara Burke.



NDA AND CCH PRESENT



**THE CRUCIBLE**

OCTOBER 21ST AND 22ND AT 7PM  
AND OCTOBER 23RD AT 2PM

TICKETS ARE 10 FOR ADULTS AND 5 FOR STUDENTS

Tickets can be purchased online at  
<http://www.ndapandas.org/arts/performing-arts-center/ticket-information.aspx>  
Or at the box office 30 minutes before a show

## NDA and CCH PRESENT ◀

Don't miss our first performance of the school year - The Crucible!

Friday, October 21 - 7 p.m.  
Saturday, October 21 - 7 p.m.  
Sunday, October 22 - 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids. Due to the subject matter, this play is not recommended for children under the age of 12. Tickets are on sale online [HERE](#).



The Crucible is a 1953 play by American playwright Arthur Miller. It is a dramatized and partially fictionalized story of the Salem Witch Trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692-93. Miller wrote the play as an allegory of McCarthyism, when the U.S. government blacklisted accused communists. The play remains relevant today, providing a voice for all peoples who find themselves oppressed/accused without proof and the frightening power of mob mentality.

## CALLING ALL ARTISTIC PANDAS! ◀

Is your child a star in Creative Writing, Dance, Instrumental Music, Theatre, Visual Art, or Vocal Music? The Overture Awards program is one that recognizes, encourages, and rewards excellence in the arts among Greater Cincinnati students grades 9-12. Its mission is to encourage arts education as an integral part of a student's academic experience and to create an environment that encourages training in, and appreciation of, the arts. If you are interested in entering, please email Ms. Stine ([stinec@ndapandas.org](mailto:stinec@ndapandas.org)). Deadline for registration is November 18, 2016.



## TO COMPETE, OR NOT TO COMPETE, THAT IS THE QUESTION ◀

ESU Competition - Does your child have a love of Shakespeare? Consider entering the English Speaking Union Cincinnati Shakespeare Competition! A competition rooted in developing the skills needed for and a love of Shakespeare, his dramatic and poetic art, his universality, and his use of the English Language. Deadline to register will be November 1. School competition will be held in January.



## TALKING POLITICS ◀

Mrs. Stratman's US Government class was offered some insights into the Republican Party platform recently from Mr. Shane Noem, the field representative for Senator Mitch McConnell. He spoke to the students about how those issues are meaningful for the Northern Kentucky area. The class will welcome a representative from the Democratic Party later this week.

## UGANDA PANDAS are UNIFED FOR UGANDA! ◀

The Uganda Pandas Club recently hosted a speaker from Uganda. Her name was Beatrice. She told the girls of her story of life during the Ugandan civil war in northern Uganda and how she now works for the organization, Unified for Uganda (U4U) to raise awareness of issues still affecting the people of Uganda and to help raise funds to sponsor children to receive an education. Our Uganda Pandas are an affiliate with the U4U organization and in the spring will host a 5K on the grounds of NDA to raise funds for the four students we have chosen to sponsor.



## NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ◀

### GOLF

Congratulations to our Golf Pandas and Coach Karen Henderson on a great season. The Pandas completed the state tournament qualifying day one with a team total of 369 unfortunately missing the cut by 12 strokes. Lauren Bracken qualified for the Individual Championship with a first day score of 78 and finished the tournament in 26th place with a 164 two day total.

## ARCHERY PRESEASON MEETING ◀

The NDA Archery preseason meeting will be October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Athletes and parents are encouraged to come. Please email Coach Lander at [landern@ndapandas.org](mailto:landern@ndapandas.org) for more information about NDA Archery.





## ENROLLMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED ◀

### Don't miss the 2017 Summer Trip to the Eastern Seaboard!

Did you need just a little more time to think about attending the 2017 Summer Trip? Well, you're in luck! The Enrollment Deadline for the 2017 Summer Trip to the Eastern Seaboard has been extended through October 31, 2016. So enroll today and explore Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington D.C. with us this summer. It's a trip you will never forget accompanied by experiences of a lifetime. So gather your panda sisters and enroll today. If you need any additional information about the trip, please don't hesitate to email Mrs. Theresa Van Auken ([vanaukent@ndapandas.org](mailto:vanaukent@ndapandas.org)) or Ms. Hillary Johnson ([johnson@ndapandas.org](mailto:johnson@ndapandas.org)). We look forward to traveling along the Eastern Seaboard with you this summer!



## COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀

### CERT testing

This year we will be using the [CERT \(College Equipped Readiness Testing\)](#) for our sophomores and freshmen. This is an online standardized test that is modeled after the ACT. The students will receive grade level appropriate tests to help them prepare for the ACT. There are many things that the students can do with this test after they take it. There are online tutorials and plans that can be set up to help the student prepare for the ACT. The freshmen will be taking the CERT on 2/28/17 and the sophomores will be taking it on 11/21/16 and 2/28/17. We will be looking at the data after the test to help with curriculum and assisting the students with being ready for these types of tests.

### PSAT

The sophomores and juniors will all be taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) on Wednesday, October 19. Here is the link for info and free practice for the test: [PSAT INFO](#). The students will need to arrive at 8:00 a.m. that day in order to make sure we have enough time to take the test before lunch. After they eat lunch, we will have enrichment activities for both grade levels in the area of career and college. We will be using our new [Naviance](#) program to help students navigate through several career assessments and to look at the many things that they can do with Naviance.

### Junior College Planning Meeting - Wed., Oct. 19 | 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. | NDA Auditorium

Juniors and Junior parents are invited to attend this College Planning Meeting aimed at informing Juniors of steps they can take this year to prepare for the College Admission Process. \*If you are unable to attend this meeting, Ms. Burgei will email any hand-outs and the powerpoint to all Juniors and Junior parents.

### Seniors & Senior Parents - FAFSA opens October 1

The Financial Aid Application (the FAFSA) opens October 1. It is recommended that families complete the FAFSA in the first 2-3 weeks of October. For information on completing the FAFSA and helpful resources, visit the College Financial Aid page on NDA's website: "College Financial Aid" If you have any questions about College Financial Aid, contact Ms. Burgei at [burgeik@ndapandas.org](mailto:burgeik@ndapandas.org)

### Drug Free Club Membership Still Available:

Notre Dame Academy currently has **62%** of our total student body enrolled in Drug Free Club!!! This is a huge increase from last year! Applications remain open until Thanksgiving.

### Parents of Sophomores and Seniors:

Please check for an email this week regarding the Kentucky Incentives for **Prevention (KIP) Student Survey**. This survey will be administered to all sophomores and seniors on Friday, **October 14**. Please complete and return the attached Parental Notification Form only if you would not like your child to participate in the survey. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kathy Hildreth.



## MOTHER DAUGHTER 2016 ◀

Mother Daughter is coming up on Friday November 11, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Receptions. It is a western theme this year so start getting your costumes together! More information will be coming.



## NOTRE DAME ACADEMY

*Educating Women to Make a Difference*



[www.ndapandas.org](http://www.ndapandas.org)

# OPEN HOUSE

Sunday,  
November 6  
1:00 - 3:30



*A National School of Excellence*

## LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION! ◀

Our Open House is fast approaching and we are looking for some prime locations for a few of our Open House signs. We have larger 3x5 signs and smaller yard signs. If you think your home or business would be a good location to promote our Open House, please contact NDA's Director of Admissions, Katie Caccavari at 859.292.1829 or [caccavarik@ndapandas.org](mailto:caccavarik@ndapandas.org). Our staff will install the larger signs the week of October 17 and take them down after Open House on November 6. The smaller yard signs will be sent home with students.

## INFORMATIONAL COFFEE for PROSPECTIVE PANDA PARENTS ◀

Do you know a future Panda parent? Parents are invited for a "sneak peek" at NDA: Who we are, what we value, and how we will prepare your daughter to make a difference in the world.

### Dates and Times:

Wednesday, October 19, 8 - 9 a.m.\*

Friday, November 4, 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.\*

\*Reservations are required for these events. Please RSVP to Katie Caccavari, Director of Admissions, [caccavarik@ndapandas.org](mailto:caccavarik@ndapandas.org), 859-292-1829 at least 24 hours prior to the date you wish to attend.





## 2016-17 College Rep Visits at NDA

Throughout the school year many college representatives visit NDA to speak with students during lunch mods (M/T/Th/F 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Wednesdays 11:12 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Below is a list of upcoming visits.

### OCTOBER 13

Vanderbilt University



University of Dayton



## ▶ Important dates

October 14	First Quarter Ends Junior Retreat
October 19	Freshman Retreat Sophomores/Juniors PSAT Seniors at the Mosque Parent Informational Coffee
October 19	Junior College Planning Meeting
October 21-23	Fall Play
October 24	Senior Retreat Red Ribbon Week Begins
October 27	NHS Induction
October 29	CCH Halloween Bash
November 1	All Saints' Day - No School
November 2	Faculty Mtg
November 6	Open House
November 7	Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 8	No School: Election Day
November 11	Remembrance Mass Mother/Daughter Dance

## COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

- From the NKY Health Department
- St. Agnes Youth Group
- Life's 5th Quarter
- Park Hill's Animal Hospital Halloween Pet Fair
- Part-time job opportunity for moms and students
- Now hiring at Chick-fil-A in Fort Wright
- National League of Junior Cotillions

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

