



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

## LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL ◀

Blessings friends,

I hope you have had the opportunity this week to enjoy the incredible fall weather with which God has blessed us. Taking in the beauty of our world reminds us of the blessing of all living things around us.

As you know, this year at NDA we are focusing on *Embracing Dignity in Self, Others and Community*. This theme provides many opportunities for our students to foster an atmosphere that highlights the importance of supporting the dignity of human life especially in October, Respect Life Month. We know that there is no greater gift from God than human life and we believe that with this gift comes with the responsibility to protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence.

In celebration of Respect Life Month, we are supporting the importance of life in many ways at Notre Dame Academy. We celebrated our Life Mass this morning and the intention of this mass was **Respect for all Life from Conception to Natural Death**. You can take a look at the many ways in which NDA is embracing dignity and celebrating life on the following page. I would like to commend our students, faculty and staff on their strong commitment to supporting the sanctity of life in so many ways.

Congratulations to our Uganda Pandas on a successful fundraiser to benefit the Sisters of Notre Dame Mission in Uganda. This effort was a wonderful example of our students' desire to make a difference in the world.

I would also like to congratulate our October Student of the Month, Carlee Jones. Carlee is a student who embraces the dignity in herself, others and community. She is a good student and a devoted volunteer and we are proud to call her a Panda.

I encourage you to take some time to talk with your daughter about the importance of supporting the dignity of human life, not just during Respect Life Month, but always. Thank you for providing such wonderful young women with whom we work.

In Notre Dame,

Mr. Jack VonHandorf



*She is clothed with  
strength & dignity  
& laughs  
without fear of the future.*



# EMBRACING DIGNITY IN SELF, OTHERS AND COMMUNITY

## The Many Ways Notre Dame Academy Respects Life!

### DIOCESAN PRO-LIFE MASS

Last night, October 4, the Diocese of Covington celebrated Respect Life Month with a Pro-Life Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Two students from NDA, Junior - Maria Danneman and Senior - Bella Cooney, Life Club Co-Presidents, represented NDA in the procession.

### NDA LIFE MASS

This morning the Notre Dame Academy community came together to celebrate mass. Our intention for this mass was for the Respect for all Life from Conception to Natural Death. Fr. Eric Boelscher was our celebrant and two seniors, Abby Kelly and Lauren Reinersman, gave a brief joint reflection at the beginning of mass connecting our school year theme of *Embracing Dignity in Self, Others and Community* to the Respect Life theme of the mass. It was a very spiritual and moving mass for all in attendance.

### 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). We are still in need of a few trained chaperones. If you have any questions OR if you are a virtue trained parent and would like to chaperone, please email Mrs. Theresa Van Auken at [vanaukent@ndapandas.org](mailto:vanaukent@ndapandas.org).

### WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

This Thursday, October 6, Life Club will be collecting money for the Wounded Warrior Project in the Senior homerooms to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members. Our goal is to donate \$50 each month to the Wounded Warrior Project. Junior homerooms will be asked to donate to the Wounded Warrior Project sometime at the end of October.

### HOXWORTH BLOOD DRIVE

Sign-ups are currently taking place for the Hoxworth Blood Drive that will be held on Tuesday, October 11. Girls must be 16 years of age (with a parent permission form) to donate and weigh approximately 110 lbs.

### DRESS DOWN DAY FOR THOSE IN NEED

On Tuesday, October 11, the Life Club is hosting a dress down day for the NDA community. The money collected will be divided between Madonna House in Ft. Mitchell, Rose Garden Home Mission with the Franciscan Daughters of Mary in Covington, and also Catholic Relief Services for those affected by Hurricane Matthew.



### YEAR OF MERCY POSTERS

The Life Club hung USCCB posters that promote Respect for Life and the Year of Mercy throughout the school to reemphasize that we are to show mercy to one another during this Year of Mercy.

2016-2017  
NDA  
LIFE  
CLUB

"It's a beautiful day to save lives."

- Dr. Derek Shepard/Patrick Dempsey



### LIFE CLUB T-SHIRTS

This week the Life Club is taking orders for Life Club T-Shirts. Students must be a member of Life Club and have paid their \$2.00 Life Club dues to order a t-shirt. Short sleeve t-shirts are \$10 and long sleeve t-shirts are \$15. Money and order forms must be turned in by this Thursday, October 6.



# STUDENT LIFE

## STUDENT LIFE UPDATE ◀

### Freshmen Breakfast

Next Friday during long homeroom, the freshmen class will join several of our sophomore class representatives for breakfast. The breakfast is not only a great time to indulge in some bagels and donuts but also gives our freshmen a chance to ask questions and to reflect on their transition into NDA life.

### Freshmen Homeroom Representative Elections

Attention to any freshman running for homeroom representative: The application must be completed and submitted by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 12. Elections will take place during homeroom on October 21.



## STUDENT OF THE MONTH ◀

### October - Carlee Jones

Congratulations to our October Student of the Month - Carlee Jones. Carlee is a senior at NDA. Her Honors Human Geography teacher Ms. Johnson says "Carlee is an active participant in groups and activities and makes the people around her better." Along with a challenging course load, Carlee is an avid volunteer and swims for NDA.

You can read more about our October Student of the Month - Carlee Jones - [HERE](#).

## PRAYERS PLEASE ◀

One of our recent graduates, Kelly Schmahl '16, was recently diagnosed with stomach cancer and began treatment earlier this week. Please keep Kelly and her family in your prayers. Kelly's sister, Jenna, is a sophomore at NDA and her sister Emily graduated in 2012. Kelly's mom, Stacie, graduated in 1985 and her grandmother, Donna, in 1959. May God grant Kelly comfort through her treatment and healing in the process!

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH SHOES AND PURSES! ◀

Last week the Uganda Pandas hosted a shoe and purse drive to benefit the Sisters of Notre Dame Mission in Uganda. The donated items are sold to people in developing countries who fix them up to fund small businesses. The mission uses the money received to help replace unsafe but necessary water equipment. They had a great response from the students as they were able to fill over three barrels! Thank you to all those who supported this important effort and congratulations to the Uganda Pandas on a successful event!



*Club Leaders: Cara Burke, Jessica Schumacher, Olivia Cooney, Madeline Deye and Sarah Draud*



## TAKE YOUR MARK ◀

Congratulations to Kristin Cirulli. Kristin is a sophomore honor student at NDA who was recently published in an online swimming magazine. The article she wrote, *Take Your Mark*, was a personal narrative she wrote for her English class at NDA. You can read it [HERE](#).



**NOTRE DAME ACADEMY**  
*Educating Women to Make a Difference*

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**Sunday,**  
**November 6**  
**1:00 - 3:30**



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



*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.



**PANDA PARENT CLUB**

**YOU'RE INVITED! ◀**

Don't miss the next PPC meeting on Monday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m in the teacher conference room!

**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.

## 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.

### **Career Fair**

NDA will be hosting a Career Fair on Thursday, March 16 from 8:00 -11:00 a.m. in our gym. We are looking for parents, alumni and community members that would be willing to come and talk to students about their career. This is done in a large group format with students traveling from booth to booth to get information. Please email Mrs. Chrissy Monohan at [monohanc@ndapandas.org](mailto:monohanc@ndapandas.org) if you would be interested in coming to represent a career.

### **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 Refund**

Refund checks were mailed on September 30 to all parents/guardians who overpaid for their daughters' membership in our chapter of Drug Free Clubs of America. (Notre Dame Academy provided \$10 toward each student's membership this year, and \$30 to freshmen who enrolled for all four years, to help defray the cost of membership for all families.) Please contact Mrs. Kathy Hildreth with any questions if you did not receive this refund check but think you should have.

### **Drug Free Club Membership Update:**

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 last 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.

## 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.



## DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ◀

Parents, did you know that NDA's daily announcements are posted each day on our website? You can find them [HERE](#).

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEND A HELPING HAND? ◀

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](mailto:brungsk@ndapandas.org). The schedule is online and you can sign up [HERE](#).



## 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 5	Life Mass
October 7	No School Youth 2000 Begins at NDA
October 9	Golden Girls Alumnae Celebration at NDA
October 10	Panda Parent Club (PPC) meeting 7:00 p.m. Teacher Conference Room
October 11	LIFE Club Blood Drive
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...

- 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 Cottillions

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

