



An e-Newsletter for the Families of Notre Dame Academy

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ◀

Greetings parents!

I hope this letter finds you looking forward to Christmas with eager anticipation and that you are enjoying this time of preparation. Our students and faculty are one day closer to our Christmas break and the completion of the semester exams. This will be the last Panda Press newsletter in 2014 and the next issue will be January 7, 2015. Please note some of the important dates on the calendar early in the new year in the list below.

We will hold our annual Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon tomorrow after exams. I would like to thank our PTO and all the parents who support this celebration by providing great desserts and funding for Christmas gifts for our dedicated staff and teachers

When we return from our break the girls will be getting ready for the annual Silver Bells Winter Dance on January 9 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and will go on sale when we return from the break. This dance is planned by our sophomore class and is open to students in grades 10,11 and 12. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on that day and teachers will have In Service in the afternoon.

When we return in January we will begin the scheduling process for the 2015-16 school year. Parent information meetings will be held in January and February, please see the dates below. These meetings provide information 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 (12/19) at 1:30 p.m. and reopen on January 5th.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of NDA, I wish you and your family a very blessed and joyous Christmas. May the season bring you abundant joy, time to relax with family and friends and renewed hope.

Upcoming Activities

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|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| • January 5 | | Return from Christmas break, beginning of 3rd quarter |
| • January 7 | 7:00 p.m. | New Parent meeting: HSPT results |
| • January 9 | 8:00 p.m. | Silver Bells Winter Dance (school dismisses at 11:30 a.m.) |
| • January 13 | 7:00 p.m. | PTO |
| • January 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Class of 2016 Scheduling Information (Parents) |
| • January 19 | | No School (Martin Luther King) |
| • January 21 | 7:00 p.m. | Class of 2017 Scheduling Information (Parents) |
| • January 21-22 | | March for Life (Washington, D.C.) |
| • January 23 | 7:00 p.m. | Father Daughter Dance |
| • January 26-30 | | Catholic Schools Week |
| • February 5 | 7:00 p.m. | Class of 2018 Scheduling Information (Parents) |

May you know God's goodness each day,

Dr. Laura Koehl



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY UPDATE ◀

In the next few issues of the Panda Press we will feature *The Technology Evolution Series, a Senior Perspective*. Written by some of our NDA seniors, this is a series of descriptions illustrating how technology has changed at Notre Dame Academy during their four years here.

The Technology Evolution Series, a Senior Perspective Week One: Claire Suetholz '15

Looking back from a senior perspective, I've grown over these four years as a student at NDA, I've seen my school's technology grow along with me. This is significant because we are at a time of great change in how technology is affecting education. As a student, I have learned countless useful tools to improve my understanding of information, in school and out of school. NDA's integration of technology has prepared me not only for the technology I'll be required to use in furthering my education, but in learning to deal with real world difficulties.

Mrs. Mullee started a student technology team the year before I was a freshman. She did this to promote collaboration between students and faculty. The support system spread and allowed communication barriers to disappear and validation among peers. For example, when something goes wrong with my iPad or its software, I have been conditioned to take initiative and troubleshoot the problem myself using the tools and the resources in front of me. The Help Desk has become a "think tank." If a student asks Mrs. Mullee how to solve any kind of technology issue on an iPad or computer, she responds with "Google it" or "Check the Manual", not to be dismissive, but to make us see that the answer is truly right in front of us and if we take the initiative to look for it and discuss among ourselves sometimes finding several solutions to one issue- an insight we can utilize in so many different aspects of our life.

Just as technology has shaped each student's education, the students in turn have been able to shape and personalize our learning with using technology's offerings each day. As part of the SWAT course's theoretical foundations, student input is vital to the success of NDA's "One to One Initiative" which began when I was a sophomore. We use technology to collaborate, create, and communicate, and we give our feedback on what works and what doesn't. Not only does this help us create the most personalized education, but it validates the student and her opinion and way of learning.

My freshman year was the first year the school issued student e-mails, and look where we are now? A Production Lab, Apple TVs, One to One technology, and 4 different technology based classes integrated into the schedule... We would never have gotten there without the work of the students in collaboration with the faculty, one of Mrs. Mullee's strongest convictions. The growth of technology juxtaposed with my growth as a student is no coincidence. Notre Dame Academy's continuing technological growth prepares women who can make a difference in the modern world, women who can problem solve and adjust in this always-advancing world.

STUDENT LIFE

EXAMS ◀

Exams are this week: today (12/17), Thursday (12/18) and Friday (12/19). Your daughter has been given a schedule for her exams. It can also be accessed [HERE](#). There were three exams today and there are two exams on both Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 10:20 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

UNIFORM ADDITION ◀

There will be an additional sweatshirt added to the allowed uniform. The sweatshirt is fleece with three quarter zip and can be personalized. The forms are available in the school office if anyone would like to order one. The order may arrive before Christmas but we cannot be certain.

THE GAVEL - DECEMBER 2014 ◀

Have you had a chance to read the latest issue of The Gavel? The Gavel is an online newspaper produced by the NDA publications class. 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. Our publications class and new publications teacher, Mr. Rory Glynn, recently redesigned The Gavel to a magazine layout to further update it and they did an amazing job. Take a look at the latest issue of The Gavel [HERE](#).



ONLY TWO BAMBOOTIQUE HOLIDAY SHOPPING DAYS LEFT! ◀

It's holiday shopping time and Santa loves to deliver NDA spirit wear! The Bambootique has special holiday hours to serve you:

Thursday	December 18	5-7 pm
Saturday	December 20	9-12:30 pm

Reminder to replenish your student's meal account:

Please check your daughter's cafeteria account balance as many currently have insufficient funds. You can check PayPams for your balance. Thank you!

IN SUPPORT OF GRACE WHITE ◀

NDA students and Alums from the Class of 1994 will be hosting a **Mother's Day Out** event at NDA this **Saturday, December 20**, to benefit Grace White, a local young girl suffering from cancer. Grace is the daughter of NDA alum Amy Cobble White '94 and Covington Catholic alum Scott White '93.

The event will be from 1-5 p.m. and plenty of fun and games will be arranged for the children (potty trained and up) that are dropped off for the day. The cost is \$10/child and \$25/family. The students will also be wrapping presents for anyone who would like to get some of those Christmas gifts wrapped. If any parent would like to help out that day or supply us with snacks/drinks or wrapping supplies, please contact Mrs. Monohan at monohanc@ndapandas.org.

We ask everyone in the NDA community to continue praying the rosary for Grace White and her family with us. Each day, the White family is remembered in NDA's chapel as Sr. Reina leads the community in a decade of the rosary before school begins. Also, rosaries are being sold in NDA's Bambootique or through the Alumnae Department for \$5 each with 100% of the sales going to support Operation Grace White.

COUNSELING AND STUDENT SERVICES ◀



FREE Self Defense Class for Women Ages 12-99

The Kenton County Sheriff's Office is offering a Free self defense class for women aged 12 - 99 at the Edgewood Senior Center. The class takes place on January 6, 8, 13, & 15, 6:00 - 9:00 pm and you need to be able to attend all sessions. This would be a great way to learn how to defend yourself in an attack and avoid dangerous situations. It will be led by Deputy Autumn Ruehl who has worked with NDA students before. Contact Deputy Ruehl to sign up at 859-393-7345 or 859-331-5910. You can also talk with Tessa Taylor (taylor@ndapandas.org) for more info.

IMPORTANT SCHEDULING INFORMATION FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR:

We will start the scheduling process for next year with parent meetings. The meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

Wednesday, January 14 - Current junior meeting for students and parents. Review of the schedule and PSAT.

Wednesday, January 21 - Current sophomore meeting for students and parents. Review of the schedule, PSAT and Plan.

Thursday, February 5 - Current freshmen meeting for students and parents. Review of the scheduling process.

GSA DEADLINE:

Sophomores and Juniors applying for the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts have until December 31 to submit applications. All students who apply receive an interview. See the GSA website for information and details:

<http://www.kentuckygsa.org/students-parents-teachers/summer-program-application-process/summer-program-online-application>



▶ Important dates:

December 17-19	Exams
December 20 - January 4	Christmas Break
January 5	School resumes
January 7	Incoming freshman HSPT Results Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
January 9	Silver Bells - 8:00 p.m. (School dismisses at 11:30 a.m.)
January 13	PTO Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
January 14	Class of 2016 Scheduling Information (Parents) - 7:00 p.m.
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January 21-22	March for Life (Washington, D.C.)
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COMMUNITY NEWS ◀

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

KY FAME Open House

Class forming for new drivers with Streetsmartz

Are you caring for an aging parent or grandparent? St. Charles can help!

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

