

The Spartan Speaker

The Alumni Newsletter of Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School

Dec. 2016

From the Office of the Principal

Dear Alumni (ae), Parents, and Friends of Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School,

Today is the day after our annual Homecoming activities. Some of you may remember the “Spirit Week” activities of your time at Notre Dame. You may remember decorating the halls and the windows, preparing the Cawley Auditorium for the Homecoming Dance, possibly being presented with the crown of Homecoming Queen or King, playing in the soccer or field hockey games on that day, preparing booths, floats, cars, and faces for the fall festivities, or joining us in celebrating the liturgy at 4 o’clock on Saturday afternoon. Some of you may have continued your celebrations at the homes of your high school friends. I’m sure there were stories of the time that you; or other stories of what one of your teachers said or did. Your Notre Dame experience was relived in some form during that fall afternoon or evening. High school did have many unforgettable moments.

I find the reality hard to grasp but 49 years ago Notre Dame opened its doors. “Peters’ Farm” had been transformed from pasture land to a land of Catholic educational opportunity for the East Stroudsburg area. The Class of 2016 was the 46th class to be awarded diplomas from our school on Spangenburg Avenue (and now Highland Drive). Our 38 acres are currently populated with two schools as Notre Dame Elementary has joined us at this campus and we now house 523 students in Grades Pre-K through 12. The Class of 2016 boasts a graduating class of 72! This class also boasts of having been granted scholarships in the amount of \$12,022,000.00. The class had three valedictorians (all with 4.0 GPAs) who will be attending The University of Delaware, Fairfield University, and Dartmouth College, as well as one other student attending the United States Naval Academy.

I recently received a communication from a Catholic college which announced that, “To thrive and lead in a world that is increasingly global and complex, students today must learn to think critically, communicate clearly, and act with integrity.” I believe that is quite a challenge for today’s Catholic schools. For 49 years, Notre Dame has been attempting to fulfill that goal. Our Mission Statement does not use those exact words but the idea is very similar. Tomorrow’s adults must be educated in these areas. As a Catholic school, Notre Dame has placed increasing amounts of effort in helping our students understand that they have the obligation to act with integrity in a world that doesn’t seem to live that lifestyle although most people admire those who do. This is today’s challenge and the Notre Dame Schools (Notre Dame Elementary, Monsignor McHugh School, and Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School) are continuing to take that challenge seriously in order to fulfill our mission.

As you reflect on your time here at Notre Dame, I hope you can see that Catholic education (specifically Notre Dame education) must continue in the Pocono area. Please help us in whatever way you can so that we can continue to serve the people of our area. Join us in striving to be a part of the solution.

We hope to create opportunities for you to join us in celebrating our 50th Anniversary at Notre Dame. Can you believe the time has come? Please keep checking our website at: www.ndhigh.org for upcoming activities. We all should be proud of how we helped Notre Dame be the school that it is today for: “WE ARE N.D.!”

Principal Jeff Lyons
Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School

Fall 2016

Join us! Public event calendar for the Notre Dame Schools

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
January 11, 2017	10:40 AM	New Years Liturgy
January 26-27, 2017	9:00 AM	March for Life bus trip to D.C. (overnight)
January 29, 2017	1:00 – 3:00 PM	Catholic Schools Week Open House
February 3, 2017	9:00 AM	Blessing of Throats
February 11, 2017	4:15 PM	Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions
March 1, 2017	10:40 AM	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
March 24-26, 2017	7 PM/7PM/3 PM	Senior High School Musical
March 29, 2017	10:00 AM	Liturgy with Bishop Bambara
May 4, 2017	7:00 PM	Jr./Sr. High Spring Concert
May 22, 2017	12:00 PM	Athletic Booster Golf Club Outing
May 25, 2017	10:40 AM	Ascension Thursday Liturgy
June 3, 2017	11:00 AM	Senior High School Graduation

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2016!

Danielle Abril, Zachary Acosta, Mady Agin, Isabel Alejandro, Mehyke Aultman, Christian Bahara, Jose Bordas, Megan Brosnan, Samuel Brown, Joelle Buenventura, Derrick Capa, Shauna Charlton, Deanna Clarkin, Chloe Corwin, Alexa Custard, Kenneth Dougher, Dajour Douglas, Michael Forzato, Jr., Thomas Gallagher, William Gregory, Janie Hetu, Michael Higgins, Justin Hilario, Chanasorn Iemsakul, Kara Kaufmann, Naruporn (Pam) Kayankuan, Grant Klinger, Nicole Koscielniak, Courtney Krechel, Lynda Laventure, Matthew Ledner, Rachel LeGendre, David Long, Gerro Lorenzo, Adrian-Neah Lozada, Derek Marocchi, Isabella Martinez, Natalie Martino, Ava-Nicole Masseria, Rishabh Matta, Andrew McCarthy, Kyle McCarthy, Olivia Miller, Robert Miller, Michael Miserendino, Brendan Murphy, Conor Naughton, Todd Nordstrom, Michael O'Malley, Derek Osinski, Jr., Edward Parmer, Idalis Paulino, Jan Carlo Perez, Jared Piniero, Sofia Pipolo, Tia Radway, Grace Ramirez, Sarah Richmond, Kallie Romascavage, Alexandra Rowe, Maria Sgheddu, James Senholzi, Sherod Sharif, Michael Sheptuk, Julia Streeter, Katherine VonGorden, Glenda Vo, Catherine Waguespack, Sophie Westfall, Michael Wojtanowicz, Bethany Zack and Amy Zhang

Spartan Spotlight: *Alumni “Boost” Boosters!*



Since the 1990's, Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School has been the beneficiary of an Athletic Booster Club. Staffed mainly by parents of students involved in sports at that particular time, each year club members give their time and resources to raise funds for “extra” items that improve all sports' landscapes at ND. Projects that the club has funded and worked on include padding on the gym walls, an indoor batting cage, baseball dugouts, softball fencing and wall, lighting in the gym and Cawley Auditorium, renovation of the baseball infield and clay pitching mound, and portable glass-backboard baskets in the auditorium that are useful for elementary and high school workouts. Last year, the club helped the Spartans turn the old “stoneroom” downstairs into a practice area complete with indoor pitching mounds, a golf ball hitting cage, and a putting green. And they have been integral in the development and maintenance of ND's playing fields through the purchase of a tractor and drag and aeration equipment as well as a huge undertaking this past summer that created another practice field across the parking lot. All this and they pay for the Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremonies too...which, by the way, will take place this school year on Saturday, February 11th at 4:15 in the afternoon, here in the gym. Please watch Notre Dame's website and Facebook for upcoming info about who will be honored.

Not lost on us through all these great efforts has been the outstanding continuing commitment of so many loyal Notre Dame Alumni. Whether through a donation of assets, effort, or support, Spartans help Spartans to “Spartan On”. Their presence and aid has and will always be a source of great pride to Mr. Lyons and of great fun and inspiration to everyone who helps ND students. One of the best places to see this is at the annual golf outing that the booster club puts on each May. If you want to mark your calendar to attend, this year's event will take place at Shawnee Golf Resort on Monday, May 22nd. It will be the 18th straight year for the golf outing which usually tees off shortly after lunch and also includes prizes and a barbecue afterwards. Exact details can always be found on the web so try to join the camaraderie. So many alumni have stepped up to help this event that it has definitely become the club's most successful fund and friend raiser. ND grads like Joy Danielewicz Britton '87, Paul Kennedy '89, and John Peeney '87 have lent their efforts and expertise to the cause and Mary Barwick Bahara '88 was a co-chair this past year. James Rosado's '92 family's car dealership was a very gracious large sponsor in 2016 which marked the return of The Alumni Cup, a coveted trophy battled for among alumni only. The rule is simply that at least three of your golf foursome must be ND graduates...it doesn't matter what year. It was a spirited competition, especially since Shawnee's layout lends itself to golfers seeing each other throughout the day. Overall, 20 alums participated in the 90-golfer field with the Rosado and Kennedy teams tying for honors with a score of 7 under par 65. Their names are now engraved on The Cup: James was joined by fellow '92s Greg Ahnert and Brian Kennedy and friend Shawn Humphrie while Paul had '89er Beth Lannon Sheehy and brother Kevin Kennedy '98. Here's hoping you can join the fray this May and thank you again to all of our awesome alumni!

Do You Remember When It Was Said or Done?



The first senior class graduated in 1971...the balance beam was used in gym class...the faculty included four priests and eight nuns...accuracy in typing was rewarded...the class of '72's hair standards differed from today...Mr. Lyons joined the faculty...the Case of the Crushed Petunias...baseball still had a Field of Dreams look...Patti Gibson '76 was chosen the number one player on the All Pocono Basketball Team... the prom's theme at the Sheraton Inn was "Stairway to Heaven"...the cookie room got raided during the senior retreat...Marc was Moose and MVP...Mr. Stauderman's stories were "dandy" in '77...Sister Allison was "Shhhh"...Karen was "Kraze"...Soccer won ND's first championships...You've Got a Friend in the class of '81...FBLA won regional awards...Paul Crowe led the way to Anything Goes victory...the '82 yearbook included a 119 question quiz...Coach Mullen got hit with pies at Homecoming...Rooth and DeQuevedo played with the band at the Prom...Vince Mendoza '86 bequeathed the juniors his speeding tickets...ND cheerleaders learned how to "rap"...Gymnastics set the school scoring record...the class of '87 received autographed sweatshirts on Class Night...the girls' Wawa runs...Spanish pizza parties...Curly and Will in Oklahoma...the '91 SADD group introduced "Ghost Day"...Constantine's Adventure...rubber band fights in Mr. Gaa's class...Pizza Pizza...the '92 seniors leading soccer to ND's first undefeated regular season... James Rosado and Patricia Castillo were Prom King and Queen...the Art room scam...the class of '96 held intramurals...Steve Miller began his sports writing career...Jason Puleio's Big Blue Buick...Grendel...the '97 seniors had a dunk tank...make-your-own sundaes at the semi-formal...Diane Young as Dean...senior skip day...the class of '01 really did have a King Lear...Snee solving a murder in Boston...Jana's motto: life is short, take chances...Juri Steiner on piano...Rose Afriyie's art in '02...Ben Crowley was nicknamed "the smartest man alive"...the personally designed "Babel" bricks at retreat...the NYC Firefighter's graduation speech..."who's got powerRRR" in '06...the grads included TEN who would go on to coach a sport here... golf and tennis record-breaking seasons...senior stars on stage...Ed Burke '07 had keys for everything at ND...nicknames like Etch, LT, Stupe, Booby, and New John...Annie's MANY questions...sleepovers...Philly bound for college...dirty water dogs in '11...VanSolkema tricked Catrillo into eating a deer steak...friends tried to bequeath Ryan Adhari their parking spots...Odyssey of the Mind champions...two twins, two Gabbys, and three Caitlins...Mrs. Krogulski spread cheer in '12...Brett Gubitosi ran in states for the fourth time...Ryan O'Leary and Scott Wisbauer stealing each other's lunches...great humor with A.J., Julie, and McLovin...and Brianna Strunk our singing Sugar Kane!



Send an e-mail of your favorite ND memories to advancement@ndhigh.org!

Recent Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School Sports Highlights

- Girls Soccer won the D11 Class A championship in November
- Boys' Soccer and Boys' Cross Country finished second in D11 in November.
- Michael Sheptuk won the D11 Class A 800 meter run (second consecutive).
- Boys Basketball won the 2016 District 11 Class A championship (second consecutive).
- William Mirams won the D11 Class AA golf championship (second consecutive).

Scholarship Opportunities to Support Notre Dame Students

As a Notre Dame alumnus, you can make a huge impact on the lives of current ND students. Your company can make Catholic School education more affordable for Notre Dame Students, while taking advantage of important tax benefits. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania allows businesses that are subject to state taxes to obtain tax credits by contributing to need-based educational scholarships.

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, and Opportunity Scholarship Foundation (OSTC) program, gives businesses and the Diocese of Scranton the opportunity to offer financial assistance to students, including those attending Notre Dame Jr/Sr High School.

The programs are designed so that a Pennsylvania business may receive a tax credit equal to 75% of its gift to a scholarship organization, up to a maximum of \$750,000 per taxable year. If the business agrees to contribute the same amount for two consecutive years, the tax credit is increased to 90% if used for the Kindergarten through 12th grade level. At the Pre-K level, businesses can receive a tax credit of 100% for the first \$10,000 of a contribution to an eligible organization. A 90% tax credit is granted for the remaining contribution up to a maximum of \$200,000 per corporation.

The application process is simple, but the application deadlines and compliance steps must be strictly followed as the tax credits are awarded on a first come, first serve basis. The application process for new applicants begins on July 1st. It is important to discuss the tax implications and the proper timing of the submissions with your company's tax advisor.

More information about the EITC/OSTC programs and the benefits to your company can be found at: <http://www.dioceseofscranton.org/catholicschools/scholarship-foundation/>. Contributions for tuition assistance can also be made by an individual, business, or organization through the Academic Angel program. These funds can be restricted to your school or designated where most needed.

CATCH OUR SPIRIT...

BECOME AN ACADEMIC ANGEL



Contributions to the Scholarship Foundation support need-based tuition assistance for our students, and are an investment in a child's future. Your gift will allow families to choose a Catholic Education that challenges the mind while strengthening the spirit.

Thank you on behalf of our students!

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Remember to Keep Us Updated

There is nothing that pleases the current Notre Dame faculty and staff more than seeing and hearing about members of the Notre Dame family. Whether it's someone completing an advanced degree or getting married or adding to your family or succeeding in a job or moving to a new place...it can easily bring a smile to those who knew you when.

Let the Advancement Office know the big and little things that are happening in your life, so we can share it with everyone else. You can call, e-mail, snail mail updates or even log onto the Notre Dame website and access the Alumni link. Go to www.ndhigh.org, scroll to "Click here to visit our Alumni page", click on the "Update Information" button, and submit the information to share.

If you want to learn about the latest school happenings, Notre Dame has its own Facebook and Twitter accounts. In a couple of clicks, you can receive regular updates about the current academic, social, and athletic life at your Alma Mater.

