



Parent Bulletin
December 7, 2011

Message from Ms. Paetzold

Have you ever had the experience of having been to Disneyland many times, and then when you go with your child for the first time, it's a brand new experience as you see it through his/her eyes? You see things you never noticed before and you appreciate it in a new way. It may have happened to you once you had kids on Christmas morning or in some other way. Well, I've had the great fortune of having this experience several times lately. In the short 60 days that we have been in school, I have had many opportunities to see what is going on in the classrooms from different eyes. I have been able to watch lessons from the back of the room, enjoy speeches and demonstrations of projects, and watch interactions among students working in groups and learning together. I have been enjoying time teaching lessons with different grade levels, getting a new view of students and their abilities and seeing them from the eyes of the teacher. I have also had the opportunity to see the school through the eyes of amazed visitors who walk away impressed. Visitors who have come to Visitors' Days looking for the right school for their children, teachers from other schools who have spent the day in classrooms learning from our teachers, and administrators who have come to see what is possible in technology for their own schools. In each and every one of those situations, I have had the incredible experience of seeing our school, the students and the teachers from new eyes. And in each situation I have been amazed, thankful and proud of how far everyone has come, how hard everyone is working and how everyone has pulled together to make this school so great.

As I walk around the campus, I am thankful and proud of the students who are doing such an amazing job on the yard, in the classrooms, in their extra-curriculum activities, and in representing our school with visitors and on field trips. I am also thankful and proud of the teachers. Every faculty meeting is filled with great professional dialogue, planning and collaboration for best practices. In classrooms, teachers are planning and teaching with incredible effort. Best of all, they are reaching out to students in need, meeting with parents frequently and meeting with the administrators to find more ways to help students and improve instruction. Finally, I am thankful for the support we are getting this year from so many families. The parent reps, who are helping me as advisors and liaisons, everyone who has supported our outreach efforts, classroom helpers, and parents that worked on the Family Fun Day, the drop-offs in the mornings, and so much more.

You don't realize all the wonderful things that are happening around you when you are in it every day. But when you get the chance to see it all through other eyes, it is an amazing experience. During this season of giving thanks, I am thankful for this and for everyone in the NDAES community that makes coming to work a great experience. And in this season of making wishes for the new year, my wish is that together we keep this momentum going.

I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone! May you have a wonderful break with your family and friends with good food, sleeping in, relaxation and time together. See you in 2012, and God Bless!

Buck A Stuff -

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the outreach for Jonathan Phelps' friend who passed away last month. We expected to raise \$300.00 and instead we raised over \$1,000.00 for the family.

Father Chase –

By now you may have heard that our beloved Father Chase passed away the Sunday before Thanksgiving. For many years, even when I was a student in the school, Father Chase was a resident priest at Notre Dame. After he left Notre Dame, he became a famous priest as Father Dollar Bill. He gave out dollar bills on Skid Row every Thanksgiving and Christmas and the news channels always went out to find him each year. We always knew that we could see him if we turned on the news on Thanksgiving and Christmas morning. He was a wonderful priest that will be greatly missed by our NDAES community and the poor community that he did so much for on Skid Row. At our Thanksgiving prayer service we prayed for him and we showed the students a short documentary about Father Chase so that they could learn about his life and how he made a difference. Since Father Chase is no longer here to raise money for the poor, in honor of him, we are asking the Notre Dame community to join us for another Buck-A-Stuff day on Wednesday, December 14th. Students may come to school in free dress and donate \$1.00, which will be sent to the Father Chase Foundation for Skid Row to show our appreciation for him and what he did for our school for so many years.

There will be a Memorial Service at St. Augustine's Church on Friday, January 6, 2012 for Father Maurice Chase at 1:00 pm.

Rescheduling Tracy Webb –

Last Friday Tracy Webb was scheduled to speak to the students about cyber safety. She lives in Pasadena and unfortunately some trees fell in her driveway. Despite efforts to make it to the school, she was not able to make her speaking engagement with us, but has already reached out to reschedule the event. We will let you know when that date is confirmed.

Immaculate Conception Mass –

Tomorrow is a joint mass with the high school students, which we began last year. This is a beautiful mass with the high school liturgical choir and it is a wonderful experience. As you can imagine the gym will be full but there is always room up on top for parents who would like to join us. Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Enrollment –

We are currently accepting applications for new students. If you know any families that are interested in NDA, please let them know that they can pick up an application in the office, we can send one home with your child, or they can download it from the school website. We have already given out almost 100 applications so we are encouraged by the response from the community. But passing the word always helps our school.



SCHOOLWIDE LEARNING EXPECTATION FOR THE MONTH:



*An NDA graduate is a Christ-like Catholic
who lives like Jesus through service and leadership.*

SLE's of the Week Light the Way!!!!

We are looking for students meeting our school wide learning expectations in many different ways throughout the week. Below are students who were caught meeting the school wide learning expectations last week. Thanks for lighting the way for our school!

WEEK OF 10/31/11

Ciara, K

for being a Christ-like student who always follows directions the first time and uses her words to solve problems. She reminds friends in a kind way to listen when the teacher is teaching.

Samyuthka, K

for being a competent student who always pays attention in class and has a positive attitude.

Kalea, 1

for being a Christ-like student who respects others and shows her good manners all of the time.

Sofia, 2

for being a compassionate student who pushed in other students' chairs in Art class.

Matthew, 3

for being a compassionate student who showed kindness by helping his classmate to write down his homework and pack up.

Evelyn, 4

for being a competent student who is always expanding her knowledge through reading.

Matthew Lee, 5

for being a competent student who contributes to class discussions and asks questions.

Nikita, 6

for being a Christ-like student who generously offered to help her teacher during recess.

WEEK OF 11/7/11

Logan, K

for being a Christ-like student who is a model leader who continually shows classmates how to be a competent learner and compassionate friend.

Charlie, 1

for being a Christ-like student who helps others without being asked.

Biruke, 2	for being a Christ-like student who helped another student look up a word in the dictionary.
Juliette, 3	for being a competent student who demonstrates enthusiasm and is ready to get to work.
Hayley P., 3	for being a competent student who has developed study skills and used her prior knowledge to solve math problems.
Joshua, 4	for being a compassionate student who without being asked, he threw away his trash and then he picked up and threw away all the trash on the ground.
Lia, 5	for being a competent student who loves to learn, always uses her words to communicate, and participates in all class discussions.
Valerie, 6	for being a competent student who critically analyzed a complex religion topic and who always goes above and beyond!
Kent, 6	for being a competent student who is ready to go above and beyond in technology class.
Roy, 6	for being a competent student who is ready to go above and beyond in technology class.
Kevin, 6	for being a competent student who is always on task and participates in class.
Eric, 7	for being a competent student who stays on task, finishes his work, and is showing me an improvement in responsibility.
<u>WEEK OF 11/14/11</u>	
Nicholas, K	for being a Christ-like student who always does the right thing because it's the thing to do, and always participates in prayer with a smile.
Ciara, K	for being a competent student who is ready to work and pays close attention in technology class.
Ximena, 1	for being a Christ-like student who always comes to school prepared and helps others.
Ernie, 2	for being a competent student who wrote an incredible story and used his best handwriting.
Braylin, 3	for being a competent student who communicates effectively and was able to proficiently explain the strategy that he used to solve a math problem.

Alouette, 4 for being a competent student who is working hard to use reflective thinking when asking questions and participating in class discussions.

Rhea, 5 for being a competent student who follows directions and is always kind to her classmates.

WEEK OF 11/21/11

Milo, K for being a Christ-like student who helped Charlie's sister, Julia, get food at our Thanksgiving feast and was a compassionate buddy.

Mahlete, 1 for being a competent student who did a wonderful job reading during the Thanksgiving prayer service.

Justin, 2 for being a competent student who works very hard on all English projects and does more than what is expected!

Rory, 3 for being a compassionate student who organized the classroom bins without being told.

Michael, 4 for being a competent student who practiced and performed his reading at the Thanksgiving Prayer Service perfectly.

Nicholas, 5 for being a Christ-like student who wanted to share his snack with his teacher.

Jonathan E., 6 for being a competent student who went above and beyond his technology project and interviewed "Occupy LA" protestors.

Nicole, 8 for being a Christ-like and compassionate student who comforted a younger student who was sad and needed a friend.

Max, 8 for being a Christ-like student who was recognized by his peers and teachers for being an outstanding leader during school families.

Lorenzo, 8 for being a competent student who created a witty and entertaining Thanksgiving video to share with his School Family.

WEEK OF 11/28/11

Mason, K for being a compassionate student who helped classmates sound out words in Reading Groups.

Zachary, 2 for being a compassionate student who wrote a journal entry about his Thanksgiving holiday and shared with the class.

Viviana, 3 for being a competent student who is respectful and follows instructions the first time they are given.

- William, 4** for being a Christ-like student who is a leader and gentleman in the way he conducts himself both inside and outside of the classroom.
- Francesca, 5** for being a competent student who continues to work hard in all subjects and always strives to do her best.
- Margaret, 6** for being a competent student who has great participation in class in all subject areas!
- Megan, 6** for being a compassionate student who took notes for another student who was sick without being asked to help.
- Michael, 6** for being a compassionate student who runs errands for the teachers and helps without being asked.
- Eric, 7** for being a competent student who had great participation in Social Studies.
- Parker, 7** for being a competent student who has gone above and beyond in his efforts to achieve his academic goals.
- Roman, 8** for being a competent student who was very passionate about his final English project.

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

AUCTION ENDS TONIGHT at 9PM

Help us reach our Goal of \$60,000! Tell your friends and family that tonight is the LAST NIGHT.

www.BiddingforGood.com/NotreDameAcademy

MERRY CHRISTMAS

As we close out the year I would like to thank all of our families for their help and support. We tried some new things this year that made our fall very eventful. We are planning some fun social events for next year. If you have any ideas, please let Renata know at renata.abraham@gmail.com - Have a wonderful and restful Christmas and we will see you next year!

TRAFFIC NEWS

Did you see the morning traffic line in November?? At times we had not only seven or eight BUT up to nine parents helping work the Drop-Off line, AND everyone arrived before 7:15 a.m. ready and willing to pitch in. Wow!! Second Grade, give yourself a hand!!! A G-R-E-A-T big "Thank You" goes out to Silvia Morales who did an absolutely wonderful job as 2nd Grade Drop-Off Coordinator.

Currently, our Sixth Grade Parents have December under control.
And looking ahead to 2012: January - 7th Grade
February - 3rd Grade

Thanks to everyone for their cooperation.

MANDARIN PROGRAM

Please look for the Mandarin Program flyer in today's brown envelope. Sign-ups for the Mandarin Program ends **Tuesday, December 13th**. Please return the bottom portion of the form with a check to the office, attention Karen Valte. If you have any questions, please call Karen Valte at (310)234-8828 or email her at karenvalte@yahoo.com.

LOOKING AHEAD TO...



Thursday, Dec. 8	Immaculate Conception Mass (with HS Students)
	9:30am, HS Gym
Friday, Dec. 9	Spirit Day: Wear your Spirit T-shirts and jeans
	Bake Sale: Grades 1, 3, 5, & 7 to bring goods
Wednesday, Dec. 14	Buck-a-Stuff Day for Father Chase
Friday, Dec. 16	Christmas Prayer Service, 8:30am, HS Gym