



## NOTRE DAME-BISHOP GIBBONS SCHOOL

2600 Albany Street • Schenectady, NY 12304-1899 • (518) 393-3131 • Fax (518) 370-3817

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

It doesn't seem possible but we are fast approaching the end of the 2nd semester and the mid-point of the school year. The 2009-10 academic year is moving very quickly and we are already in the process of planning for the next school year:

- Students will begin scheduling their selection of courses for the 2010-2011 in the upcoming weeks.
- The budget process has begun as well and we are beginning to develop a fiscal plan for next year.
- The Pre-Registration process will also begin in the first weeks of February. Packets will be sent to all ND-BG households with important information on re-registration for the 2010-2011 academic year.
- Included in the Re-Registration packet will be financial aid information, updated tuition information, a fundraising form and other important information.

Also, I would like to mention two (2) articles that are included in the newsletter:

- On Tuesday, January 28th, we will be conducting an Information Night/Open House event here at Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons School. This event is for prospective students, parents and family members to come to ND-BG and review information and speak with faculty, guidance, admissions and administration regarding all that ND-BG has to offer. The Information Night begins at 5:00 pm and goes until 7:00 pm and is designed to be informal without a structured format. We hope that this will be a convenient and helpful opportunity for prospective parents and students to gain important information about the ND-BG program.
- The 2009-2010 Annual Appeal is an on-going effort to secure donations that support the entire ND-BG program. Our financial needs include upgrades to the facilities and the instructional environment.

Sincerely,

Michael Sandore



4	School Reopens
12	St. Marguerite Prayer Service Period 4 & 5 in gymnasium (10:27 am & 11:12 am)*
13	Middle School Parent & Teacher Forum - 7:00 pm
18	NO SCHOOL-Martin Luther King Jr. Day
20	After Prom Meeting - Room 1 - 6:30 pm
26-29	Regents
28	Information Night/Open House 5:00-7:00 pm

29	Grade 10 to NYS Theater Institute
30	Winter Dance 7:00-10:00 pm

\*Please note: The Prayer Service on January 12 will be Period 4 for grades 6-9 and Period 5 for grades 10-12. As always, parents/guardians are welcome to attend.

**OPEN HOUSE**

Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons School will hold an Information Night/Open House for prospective students and their families on Thursday, January 28, 2010. At 5:00 pm there will be a brief presentation by our principal, Michael Sandore, in the gym. As a community we all need to encourage other families to look seriously at what ND-BG has to offer students academically, socially and religiously. There is no greater recruitment effort than that of a successful student and satisfied parents.

**SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT HOW GREAT IT IS TO GO TO ND-BG!**



**2009-2010 ANNUAL APPEAL**

Each year the ND-BG community conducts a multi-phased appeal for cash donations in support of our school. This year's appeal is upon us! Our goal of \$105,000 will continue to help us keep our tuition \$1,300 to \$2,400 below the cost of educating a student as well as help fund new cafeteria tables and classroom desks that are desperately needed and a new LED message board for the front of our school. Updated wiring will be installed to the front of our building. This message board will have the ability to project all current information useful to our students and parents, as well as our entire community. It is the support of hundreds of alumni and friends that continues to enable us to provide excellent education for the present as well as the past 50 years. During this new year please keep our community supporters in your prayers in thankfulness of their generosity.



**Spring Play Announcement**

ND-BG will present "Under Jekyll's Hyde" and "Seven Wives for Dracula" on April 24 and 25, 2010. Auditions will take place on Wednesday, January 6 at 2:45pm in Room 18. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, January 13 and will take place backstage from 2:45-3:30PM on alternate Wednesdays with each play cast taking turns. During the week of April 19, rehearsals will be held each day in the gym from 2:45-4:30pm. Parents and students, please be aware that taking on a part in either of the two plays involves responsibility. Please **DO NOT** take on a part unless you can commit to being present for all rehearsals. Each year, we have students who accept parts and then drop out which imposes a real hardship on the rest of the cast. Any questions, please contact Miss Quinn at 393 3131 X 125. Thank you.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Gennlie Pizarro, Steven Baldwin, Ryan Kanai and Jacqueline Duffy will be honored at a reception at Siena College on Friday, January 15, 2010 from 4:00-6:00 pm. Their art work will be on exhibit at the college for the Martin Luther King Lecture Series.

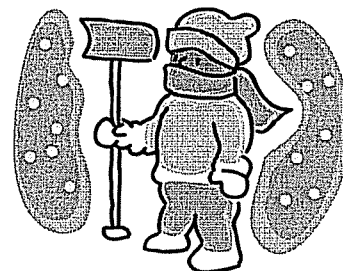
Congratulations to our fall sports teams who all earned the designation of Scholar Athlete Team for the Fall 2009 season. For those of you that are unaware, the designation of Scholar Athlete Team refers to a Varsity team with an overall grade of 90% or higher. The averages for the respective teams are as follows:

Boys Cross Country	95.452%
Girls Cross Country	93.465%
Girls Soccer	93.024%
Volleyball	91.593%
Boys Soccer	91.228%
Golf	91.173%
Football	91.107%

Thank you for everyone who took the placement/scholarship exam on Saturday, November 14th at ND-BG. We are happy to announce that the following students have qualified for a \$500 academic scholarship for each of their four high school years at ND-BG:

<b>Grade 6:</b> Jack O'Brien Grace Hamilton Steven Methe	<b>Grade 8:</b> Allison Caron Nicola Maggi-Trommer Jordan Bernancet
<b>Grade 7:</b> Brandon Brijlall Liam Scott Daniel Conway	<b>Grade 9:</b> Ryan Kanai Alexander Frost Phillip Riccobono

Congratulations to every student who participated in the placement/scholarship exam and we hope you will take advantage of all that ND-BG has to offer.



# In the Middle

Ninette Kondratowicz

## "Putting Faith in Middle School"

### Parent -Teacher Forum

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010.

### Spelling Bee

The regional Middle School Spelling Bee will be held on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm at Proctor's Theatre. The ND-BG competition will take place at school on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 with 2 students each, from grades 6, 7 and 8 competing. The winner will represent ND-BG on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Middle School Activity Night

The second Middle School Activity Night will take place on Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 pm in the school cafeteria/gym. The cost is \$5.00.

### Second Quarter Report Cards

The second quarter ends on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> with report cards being distributed on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Students needing extra help or needing to make up work should take the initiative and seek out the teacher during a study hall or after school. It is very important that students keep current with homework and projects noting due dates, rubric requirements and completeness.

### Middle School Students' New Year's Resolutions

#### How to Study?

- Have the correct tools at hand.
- Set daily study goals for what you need to accomplish.
- Start with the tough stuff first. That's when your brain is at its best.
- Review daily class notes each night.
- Divide long assignments into shorter chunks.

#### Homework Time Made Easier

- Continue to use your planner. If you're not using it find it and begin again to use it.
- Have a regular homework time. It will help you to use time wisely.
- Have a regular homework area with all the

supplies needed to complete the assignments.

- Prioritize your assignments. Is there something you can do in study hall?

### Bullying

We, at Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons maintain 0 tolerance for bullying of any kind...physical, verbal or emotional. It is the right of every one of our students to feel emotionally safe as he/she walks through our doors. When it is verified that a student is bullying another student we:

- Speak to the student (first offense)
- Call the parent (second offense)
- Suspend student (third offense)
- Expel student (fourth offense)

Telltale signs of being bullied are:

- Sudden mood swings, frequent crying and/or depression. Bullied teens have 5 times the rate of depression as non-bullied students.
- Withdrawing from friends, clubs sports, or other activities.
- Frequent illness, skipping school or avoiding certain classes.
- Lost or broken possessions.
- Complaints of being picked on or persecuted.
- Threats of personal harm or suicide.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at 393-3131 ext. 216.



## January Guidance 2010

### January Regents Exams

If your son or daughter needs / wants to re-take a Regents Exam in January 2010, please encourage him/her to attend the review classes for those subjects. If you are not sure if your son or daughter needs to take Regents, please call the Guidance Office. Please note: June 2010 will be the last time the Math B will be administered.

### Second Quarter Marking Period

A reminder to all parents/guardians that the second quarter marking period ends February 5th. Report cards will go home February 12<sup>th</sup> and ineligibility takes effect February 15<sup>th</sup> 2010.

### College Financial Aid

Please fill out the FAFSA form (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>) to be considered for college financial aid. Forms are available January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. FAFSA on the Web edits your application before you transmit ensuring that the data you transmit to the U.S. Department of Education is ready to be processed. High school juniors can take advantage of our FAFSA4caster Web site and learn about the financial aid process, gain early awareness of aid eligibility, and much more at <http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/>

### College Acceptances

Please have your son or daughter bring in their acceptance letters and scholarship letters to guidance. We will make a copy and return the original. We want to make sure that the students are recognized for their accomplishments at graduation.

### PSAT Results

The PSAT results have arrived. All juniors and sophomores should have received copies of their individual scores. Please use this information to help assess areas of strength and weakness, which will aid in preparation for the SAT. Visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more information.

### Guidance Web Page

Please visit our guidance web page for more information on scholarships. Students and parents may want to click the "college admission handbook" and the "getin2college" links for more information regarding the college search process – this information is useful for all grade levels, beginning with the middle school.

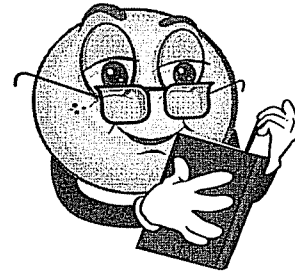
### Teen Talk

At ND-BG, we are continuously looking for ways to improve the quality of the educational experience for our students. We are also aware that there are circumstances outside of our school environment that impact your

child's school performance in both negative and positive ways. With the help of Joan Petramale, LCSW-R, we have created Teen Talk – a small group experience where students have a safe place to discuss their thoughts and feelings about the challenges they face and explore new ways to cope with them. We are looking to have this program begin in the middle of January. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Honsinger ASAP to help your child receive the extra support he or she may need. Mr. Honsinger can be reached at 393-3131 ext. 115.

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### YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE!!!



Please place your order TODAY-

The cost is \$70 only until the end of January. Then it will go up!

Forms are in the main office, guidance and online. Also, if you have a business, please consider advertising in our yearbook. Forms are in guidance and online.

Thank you for your continual support in our school. -Happy New Year and God bless-

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### FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Dear Parents and Guardians:

All students in grades 6, 7 and 10 MUST have a current physical on file as well as all students in a sport. I still have not received a physical from many of these students. Those who do not have one on file will need to be seen by the district doctor when we comes in a few weeks. If you are not sure if you handed one in or not, feel free to call or email me and I will let you know.

Thank you,

Jeanne Ryan RN MS

ND-BG School Nurse

Phone: 393-3131 ext. 104 Fax: 370-3817

[ryanje@nd-bg.org](mailto:ryanje@nd-bg.org)