



www.nd-bg.org

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians:

for scholarships awarded to the top three (3) scores in each grade level.

Over the past several weeks, we have held a number of activities here at ND-BG that have been very successful:

- **Open House** - On Sunday, October 25th we conducted our Open House. I am very pleased to report that between 30 and 35 families attended. The program consisted of a general presentation in the Library Media Center followed by tours of the school where prospective parents and students could speak with and obtain information from faculty members. The response from the attending families was encouraging for our potential enrollment numbers in the future.
- **Entrance Exam** - On Saturday, November 14th, ND-BG was one of four locations (Catholic Central, Bishop Maginn & Saratoga Catholic) to host a Scholarship/Placement Exam. Future 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th graders completed standardized, grade specific exams testing mathematics and verbal skills. 80 students took the test. 35 were current ND-BG students. However the most encouraging were the 45 new students who participated. In addition, students who participated are competing

We are scheduling an Admissions Information Meeting on January 29th from 5:00-7:00 pm. We hope prospective families will take this opportunity to consider ND-BG. Mrs. Agostara will be sending out information titled "Bring A Friend-Bring A Family" that should be arriving in households around the middle of January. The intent of her letter is to ask current ND-BG parents to help spread the word about the January 29th Informational Meeting. We are hoping to attract as many new students as possible through these evening Open House events and any assistance current parents can provide is invaluable.

Thank you all for your continued support of ND-BG and I wish you a blessed and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Michael Sandore
Principal



- 2 Advent Service in Gym - 8:10 am
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Liturgy at St. Paul's - 1:15 pm
- 14 Christmas Liturgy with Bishop Hubbard @ 1:15 pm - St. Paul's
- 16 Middle School Christmas Program-7:00 pm in the Gym
- 21 Progress Reports are sent out
- 22 Ineligibility begins
- 23-31 **NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS RECESS**

JANUARY

1
4

NO SCHOOL-NEW YEAR'S DAY

Classes Resumes



MUSIC STUDENTS TO VISIT SCCC

The ND-BG Singing and Exploring Music Classes will attend a voice recital at Schenectady County Community College on Thursday, December 3rd. Second year vocal students at the college will sing a variety of classical music in several languages, including arias and art songs from the nineteenth century along with more contemporary pieces. After the recital, ND-BG students will eat lunch in the college cafeteria and get a taste of college life!



ND-BG CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ON DECEMBER 16th

All middle school, instrumental and choral students will be in a special Christmas program on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 pm in the school gymnasium.

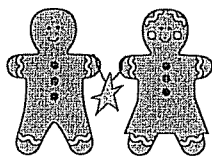
The ND-BG Band, under the direction of Ms. Fusco (Paul Effman Music Service) will start the program with a variety of holiday songs played by the experienced instrumental students. They will treat us to tunes such as *Silent Night*, *A Holiday Processional*, *Deck the Halls* and *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer*.

The ND-BG High School Singers, under the direction of Mrs. Heilman, will sing traditional songs such as *Wassail*, *Wassail, Sing We Now of Christmas*, and *Mary's Little Boy Child* as well as more contemporary numbers such as *Button Up Your Overcoat* and *Santa Baby*. There will be some solos and songs featuring several of our ND-BG singers.

The program will then feature our ND-BG Middle School Students in a Christmas pageant titled "In Anticipation of Christmas". The sixth and seventh grade religion classes will tell the story of the Annunciation and the Visitation in the story telling form of echo pantomimes. Eighth graders will portray a living tableau of the Nativity entitled *A Christmas Novena*. The students and visitors will sing traditional Christmas carols during the entire presentation. The Middle School Pageant is under the direction of Mrs. McGuinness, Mrs. Duff, Mrs. Kondratowicz and Ms. Jackett.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for the ND-BG community to come together to celebrate the coming of Christ with songs, words and enactments. We welcome everyone to join us on this very festive and memorable evening.

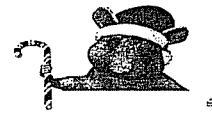
Come see our Fall Musical students perform at
Colonie Center on Saturday, December 5th
at 3:45 p.m.



ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

On December 9th, the students in Ms. Jackett's 9th grade Art Classes are going on a field trip to the Albany Institute of History and Art to see a special exhibit of Hudson River Art. They will also participate in a workshop on that day. What is wonderful about this opportunity is that there is absolutely no cost to our students for transportation, admission or workshop because of a grant we have received through an anonymous donor.

Four students have submitted art to the 23rd Annual Siena College Martin Luther King Invitational. They are seventh graders Gennlie Pizarro, Steven Baldwin, Ryan Kanai and 12th grader, Jacqueline Duffy. They will be honored at a reception at Siena College on January 15, 2010 from 4:00-6:00 pm.



INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT & ALUMNI OFFICE NEWS

Fundraising Information

Our students have started a new fundraiser with *Enjoy the City* Capital Region coupon books. Each student received a complementary 2009 book, which can still be used until the end of December, while selling the 2010 book. Order forms are on the back of the envelopes. Cities other than the Capital Region are available. These make great gifts!!!
ND-BG receives 50% of each sale!!!

**Orders are due to homeroom teachers on
December 1, 2009!!!! Order your book today!**

Price Chopper Tools for Schools

Price Chopper Tools for Schools points earned as of November 2009 are 21,389. Please register your Advantage Card if you have not already done so either at the service desk or online for our school to get credit for purchasers. Every dollar spent at Prince Chopper earns one point and specially marked items earn double points.

Hannaford Helps Schools

Do not forget to turn in your Hannaford receipts for our school to earn school dollars. Deposit school dollar receipts into the collection tower at your local Hannaford (make sure the receipt goes into the Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons slot) or turn them into Miss Baseel at school. This program ends on December 6th, so please turn in your receipts from your holiday shopping.



7th the Middle

Ninette Kondratowicz

"Putting Faith in Middle School"

Parent -Teacher Forum

The first meeting of the parent-teacher forum was held on Tuesday, November 10th. Mr. Ille gave a presentation on getting the most from Power School and Moodle. The presentation was followed by discussion on the scholarship exam, uniforms, upcoming events and bullying. **The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010.**

Bullying

We, at Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons maintain a 0 tolerance policy 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 students 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.

December Happenings

There will be two liturgies during the month of December: The 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 14th is the Christmas Liturgy with Bishop Hubbard. Both liturgies will take place at St. Paul's Church at 1:15 pm. All are invited. The Middle School Christmas concert and pageant will take place on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 pm in the school gym. All are welcome.

Progress Reports

Progress reports for the second quarter will be mailed home on December 21st. Please be sure that your son or daughter continues his/her work during the often-crazy but wonderful days of December.

Spelling Bee

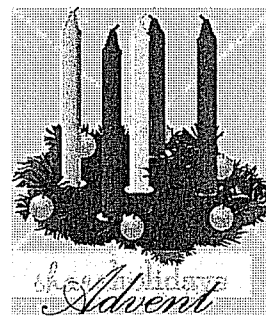
The regional Middle School Spelling Bee will be held on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm. at Proctor's Theatre. The ND-BG competition will take place at school on Tuesday, January 12, 2010 with 2 students each, from grades 6th, 7th and 8th competing. The winner will represent ND-BG on March 15th.

Ski School

Mrs. Lichorat, in conjunction with St. John the Evangelist School, is offering our middle school students an opportunity to participate in a 6 week ski/snowboard program at Maple Ridge Ski Lodge. The program begins January 5th from 3:00-9:00 pm and includes a one hour lesson. It will run for 6 weeks. The cost of the program is \$130.00 if payment is made after November 21st and \$140.00 if made after December 15th. (not including rental of equipment). Ski rentals are \$10.00 and snowboards are \$15.00. Parents are responsible for picking their child up at Maple Ridge and some carpooling may be available through the school or Mrs. Lichorat.

If you are interested in this program please contact Mrs. Lichorat at 377-0292 or have your child pick up a flyer from Mrs. Kondratowicz in room 22.

This program is not sponsored by Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons but is open to our students through Mrs. Lichorat and St. John the Evangelist School.



"Await his coming joyfully"

FROM OUR CAMPUS MINISTER

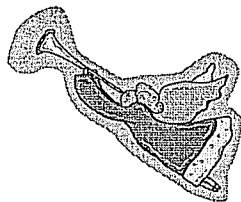
During this birthing season of peace and joy to the world we are reminded that as the Body of Christ on earth, we are challenged to be peace-makers and witnesses to gospel hope. Whenever we echo a message of solidarity, calling all people "friends" as Jesus did, we enkindle the light of Christmas compassion and faith.

The ND-BG school community will begin this season of wonder, an advent time of waiting, with prayer. We will gather to pray during our **Advent Prayer Service** on December 2nd at 8:15am in the gym. Prayer will continue to be a focus in our lives, as we celebrate Mass together on the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, December 8th at 1:15pm at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Finally, our prayer life at school will find us expressing our kinship in community at our **Christmas Liturgy with Bishop Howard Hubbard** on Monday, December 14th at 1:15pm at St. Paul the Apostle Church. As always, you add wholeness to our communion and you are welcome to join us whenever we pray together.

At ND-BG, we humbly become luminaries in darkness, not only through our December prayers, but also through our community service. At this time of the year you can see us transforming gospel words into actions during our annual toy drive to support the Salvation Army's "Toy Shop" in Schenectady. Once again our junior students will be organizing a Christmas toy collection at ND-BG and they will be working at the "Toy Shop" at the Salvation Army. **Unwrapped toys can be brought to school until December 15th.**

We are God's people, called to live the Christmas message from Bethlehem every day. In harmony may our hearts join with the angels and sing of the wonders of God's boundless love every day in our thoughts, prayers and actions of mercy.

Praise God!
Kathleen K. Duff
393-3131 X214



THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to assist Concerned for the Hungry fill approximately 2,900 Thanksgiving baskets which will feed close to 10,000 residents of Schenectady County.



REMINDERS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

All students in **grades 6th, 7th and 10th** are required to have a current physical on file. Many are still missing. Please have your student's doctor office fax me a copy if they have had one in the past 12 months. If they still need to have one done, there are forms on our website and in the Main Office.

Any student participating in a **sport** must also have a current physical on file. If that physical is done more than a month before the sport begins, they must also have a Sports Health Update on file. These forms are also available on the website and in the Main Office. I will be forwarding a list of those students to the coaches who do not have a current physical. Kindly send them in as soon as possible.

One more reminder about snacks/treats sent in for class parties, etc. Please be mindful of our students with **nut allergies**. No nuts of any kind. Thank you.

I am still waiting to hear if the Health Department will be coming to our school with the **H1N1** vaccine. In the meantime, they are recommending all children get the vaccine from their own doctors if available, even if they have already had a flu-like-illness this fall. I will make you aware if I hear anything further. Thanks for all you do to help keep our students healthy!



SCHOOL DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS

If school needs to be delayed or cancelled due to weather conditions, an announcement will be made on local radio stations and TV stations. Please **DO NOT** call the school seeking information regarding delays or cancellations. If school is closed due to weather conditions, all school activities (including sports practices) are cancelled for the entire day.



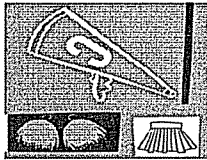
ATTENTION PARENTS!

There are a number of items in the Lost and Found box in the Cafeteria. Sweaters, uniform items, lunch boxes and more. If you student is missing something, please have them look in the Cafeteria. If things are not claimed by our Christmas recess, they will be donated to charity or put in the uniform room. Thank you.

FALL SPORTS SUMMARY

Varsity Cheerleading

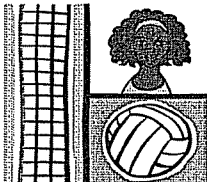
The varsity cheerleaders had a busy season! The girls cheered at all home games and even attended a few away games as fans in the stands. Their dedication to cheerleading, the football team and Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons has been inspirational to everyone.



Volleyball

The team finished well in the Big Ten. This is the first time that ND-BG has beaten both Schenectady and Catholic High in the same season. The squad took home a 3rd place trophy from the Schoharie Breast Cancer Awareness Tournament on October 17th and qualified for Sectionals as the 9th seed in the B division.

The Lady Knights were led by Big Ten Exceptional Senior and 2nd Team All Star Gina Cerutti, Big Ten 2nd Team All Star Junior Julianne Bouchard and Big Ten Honorable Mention All Star Junior Alexandra Gosh. Other strong contributors were Juniors Caroline Staccone and Meredith Shields, and Sophomores Felicia Gauthier and Maura Kozakiewicz.



Girls Soccer

The Lady Knights completed a very successful season this year, accomplishing 2 commanding wins in a single season. They posted a shutout over Rensselaer in their 2nd game of the season and their second win came against Hadley Luzerne. Throughout it all the girls kept their focus, intensity and pride as they played every game hard down to the final second. We are looking forward to another good season next year.

The following players have made All-Star Status: 1st Team Senior Kim Creviston and 2nd Team Sophomore Taylor Florio. Receiving Honorable Mention this year are Senior Ashley Tanski and 8th grader Taylor Adams. Congratulations to all our award winners for your outstanding efforts.

Boys Soccer

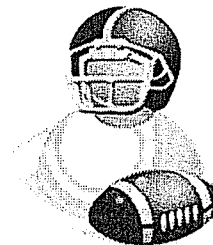
The Boys Soccer team ended a tough but well-fought season with victories coming over Amsterdam and CBA. Highlights of our season include: Senior Mike Carroll being named to the Big Ten 1st Team All Stars, the Big Ten's #1 Class A player and being ND-BG representative in the Senior All Star game. Santiago Uribe-Cano was named to the Big Ten 2nd Team All Stars along with Kevin Aziz receiving honorable mention for the All Star Team. The team grew tremendously on defense and had many close games. Congratulations to all our award winners for your outstanding efforts.



Football

The Varsity Football team completed a very successful season with the school's first ever playoff win over Warrensburg. This was a season of a great many highlights and many players achieving personal bests in yardage, touchdowns and defensive plays. Senior Derrick Pitts was selected to the Exceptional Senior Section II Football All-Star team and Seniors Robert Redman, Josh Fleming, Connor Dougherty, Ryan Maxwell and Derrick Pitts were all selected to be on the first team of the Section II Class D All Star Team.

Congratulations to the Varsity Football team and to our outstanding players, especially our seniors who stepped out in leadership to make this an outstanding season!



Sports Summary Continued on next page

Cross Country-Varsity Boys:

The Varsity Boys had one of the best seasons in over 20 years. The team finished with their best record since 1984. The year included a win over Amsterdam, which is their first dual meet win since 1989, a win over Queensbury at the Troy Invitational, a 2nd place finish at the Guilderland Invitational, a 2nd place at the Fort Plain Invitational and 3rd place at the E.J. Herrmann Invitational in Utica.

At Sectionals, the team placed a very strong 3rd place, matching the team's performance from 2004. The team was led by Matt Lange, Jordan Pantalone, Jason Lange, and David Knapick who all finished in the top 20 and we had respectable showings from the rest of the team. The future looks very good with this young team.

Matthew Lange, Jordan Pantalone, and Jason Lange were all chosen as 1st team Big 10 All-Stars and David Knapick was chosen as a 2nd team Big 10 All-Star.

Cross Country-Varsity Girls:

The Varsity Girls has a very good season finishing with a great record and a respectable 8th place at Class B's with most of the team still recovering from the flu.

During the season the team picked up 2nd place trophies at the Fort Plain Invitational, the Troy Invitational and the E.J. Herrmann Invitational in Utica. At Sectionals the team was led by Talya Williams with Angelique Cain, Diana Galofaro, Emily Lange and Lexi Vendetti all having respectable finishes.

With her 4th place finish at Sectionals Talya Williams qualified for the New York State Championships held at SUNY Plattsburgh where she finished very strong with a 38th place despite a steady rain.



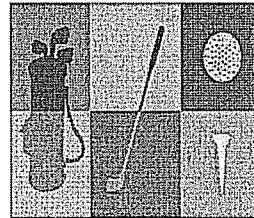
Golf Team

The golf team had another very successful year under the leadership of Coach Doepel. Will Mallia, Tim Driscoll, Alex Demarco, and Mike Gallagher qualified for the Section II Championships where they placed fourth out of sixteen schools.

Will Mallia and Tim Driscoll qualified for the Sectional Playoffs for Classes A, B, C/D.

Will Mallia advanced to the State Qualifier and qualified in a tie for fifth. He will advance to the State Tournament in early June.

Congratulations to our Golden Knights!



*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year!
See you on January 4th!*

