

Dear ND-BG Parents and Guardians:

With the beginning of the third semester, I would like to mention three important items that will be occurring over the next several weeks:

Re-Registration Process

Households of current ND-BG students will be receiving a packet of material around the second week of February. Included in this mailing will be forms to be completed and updated tuition information for the 2010-2011 academic year. I would ask for your cooperation in returning the completed paperwork in a timely manner since it will assist us greatly in planning for the new school year.

2010-2011 Student Scheduling

Beginning in the second week of February Mr. Honsinger, Director of Guidance will be meeting with students to select their list of courses for the 2010-2011 academic year. The process will involve several weeks and will hopefully conclude prior to the April Easter break.

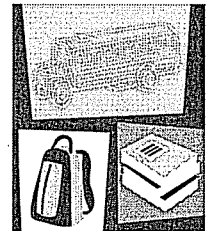
Catholic School Advocacy

Over the last several years, state lawmakers have failed to fully reimburse Catholic schools for the costs we incur in complying with state-imposed mandates and programs. I will be sending a letter to all ND-BG parents to enlist your help and support in attempting to secure the money that is owed to our Catholic Schools. Any assistance you could provide as outlined in my letter will be most appreciated.

Thanks for your continued support of ND-BG.

Sincerely

Michael Sandore
Principal



- 1 Coaches for Cancer Dress Down Day
- 1-5 Catholic Schools Week
- 1-12 Jr. NHS Book Drive for the Ronald McDonald House
- 5 Catholic Schools Prayer Service - 8:15 am
Second Quarter Ends
- 10 Booster Club Meeting - 6:30 pm
- 12 Jr./Sr. Prom Dress Down Day
Valentine's Day Flower Sale
- 15-19 **NO SCHOOL! WINTER BREAK!**
- 24 After Prom Meeting - Room 1 - 6:30 pm
- 26 Candy Sale Dress Down Day

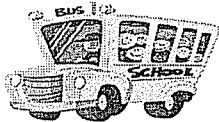
REPORT CARDS

Report cards for the second marking period will be distributed on Friday, February 12th. Please contact your student's Guidance Counselor if you have any questions or concerns regarding your student's grades.

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
LANGUAGE/COMPOSITION	A			
MATH/SCIENCE	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Overall Average: B				
Student: _____ Parent: _____ Date: _____ Guidance Counselor: _____				

MORNING ARRIVAL & AFTERNOON DEPARTURE

Parents are reminded that from 7:00-9:00 am daily, the entrance into the ND-BG parking lot is from Westminster Drive off of Jackson Street NOT from Albany Street. The roadway beside the café heading to Albany Street is one way in that direction. This same pattern is in place from 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Please be mindful of these traffic patterns because it ensures the safety of our students.



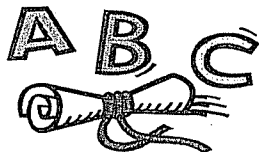
TRANSPORTATION 2009-10

Parents and guardians are reminded that all requests for transportation for the 2010-11 school year must be on the form provided by your home public school district and submitted to your home public school district by April 1. If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Office of your home public school district.



SPELLING BEE

The ND-BG Spelling Bee took place on January 13, 2010. The entrants had previously won the Spelling Bee which Mrs. Fingerhut held during English classes. They included: Grade 6: Elizabeth Asmus, Paul Bacchi, Colin Kennedy and Tara Strichman, Grade 7: Allison Caron, Bryanna Farrell, Emily Hard and Victoria Schickedanz and Grade 8: Damani Daniel, Chris Homenick, Nelly Meschino and Laura Reilly. Using words from the Scripps Spelling Bee List, the students proved their spelling prowess as they mastered words such as *adjudicate*, *labyrinth* and *photosynthesis* in front of an audience of attentive parents and family members. Allison Caron won the match and Mr. Sandore presented her with a trophy that deemed her the winner of the 2010 ND-BG School Spelling Bee. There are pictures of the event on the school web site. Allison will be our proud representative at the Greater Capital Region District Spelling Bee to be held at Proctor's Theater in Schenectady at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 15th. Please plan to attend the event to cheer on Allison.



CONGRATULATIONS MEGAN SALAVANTIS

Megan Salavantis, Grade 9, has been busily burnishing her literary credits. Last summer when she was only 13, she finished an 80,000 word novel, *Crescent*, which is now being prepared for submission to literary agents and publishers. In January, 2010, *Teen Ink* magazine published "Act I," Megan's poem that depicts her feelings during the first day of high school.

"Act I"

A new age is dawning in the world of myself.
 I am not going to be anybody but the girl with the guise of
 deep dark brown eyes and hair.
 I 'm going to stick to this path.
 I'm going to keep my eyes on my heart,
 And my ears on my head,
 And my soul in my hand.
 I'm not going to get knocked down.
 I'm not going to lose anything because I have nothing else to
 lose.
 I will walk right through the scarring fire that ricochets
 throughout the insipid hallways.
 The whispers will follow, just as they did last year from the
 girl who stole my friend.
 This is Act I.
 Where the smiles are still new.
 And the grimaces are still ignored.
 And the prying eyes and curious oral cavities that spread the
 anecdote like its ecstasy are barren to my presence.
 The cast is still being introduced,
 And I'm not going to vie for the lead.
 Let's leave that to the rotten apples.
 The scenes and the acts and the plots and the sets are all
 concepts that we create with our lies and truths.
 Sometimes it's better to just hangout backstage and let the
 drama unfold
 Without me as the center of it.

CONGRATULATIONS

ND-BG's music teacher, Mrs. Heilman, has been asked to be the featured guest conductor at the Ulster County Music Educators Association Young Elementary Music Symposium on February 27th in Kingston, NY. Over 200 young singers from eight school districts in Ulster County will learn, rehearse and perform a variety of songs at the day long festival, all under the direction of Mrs. Heilman.

Mrs. Heilman is a member of the Music Educators National Conference, the New York State School Music Association, the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and the American Choral Directors Association. She is also an Adjunct Instructor in music education methods at Schenectady County Community College.

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Save the Dates

February 5th – World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser begins!

April 26th – Mass of the Remembrance

May 1st – Triple Crown Auction

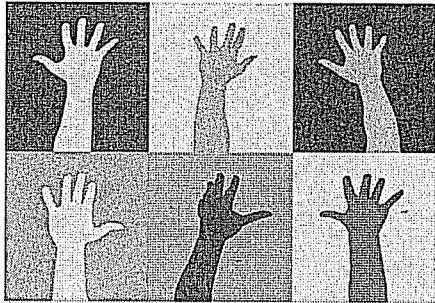
May 8th – 50th Anniversary Celebration of Notre Dame

Volunteers Needed!!!!

The Triple Crown Auction is off and running but volunteers are still needed. If interested in helping or serving on one of the committees, please contact Miss Christine Baseel '96, Director of Development & Alumni, 518-393-3131 ext. 107 or baseel@nd-bg.org.

Notre Dame Grads!!

If you are an ND grad and would like to help plan the 50th Anniversary events and/or help with the phone-a-thon, please contact Miss Christine Baseel. Our annual phone-a-thon will begin in March. We are looking for alumni who would like to come in and chat with some of their classmates for a little while. Dinner will be served! Our Anniversary Celebration of Notre Dame will be on May 8th and we need help planning the night. If interested in helping or serving on one of the committees, please contact Miss Christine Baseel '96, Director of Development & Alumni, 518-393-3131 ext. 107 or baseel@nd-bg.org.



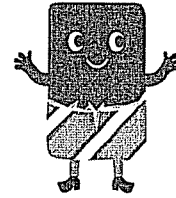
World's Finest Chocolates Fundraiser

Our next fundraiser begins Friday, February 5th!! Each grade will be called to the cafeteria during last period of the day and will receive his/her box of chocolates. Each box contains a variety of 50 chocolate bars that sell for one dollar each, earning the school a full 50% profit. Each chocolate bar not only displays our school's name, logo and website but also includes a \$2.00 coupon to Pizza Hut. Once each student receives his/her box of chocolate he/she is responsible for that box of chocolate. Our first collection date will be Friday, February 12th. If any student would like to turn-in money before the official turn in date, they may do so to Miss Baseel. Our final collection date will be Friday, February 26th. Any unsold chocolate bars may be returned to Miss Baseel.

Prizes!!!!

Each student who sells his/her entire box of chocolate bars by Friday, February 12th will receive a dress down day on Thursday, Feb 25th. Each student who sells additional boxes after the first full box will receive a \$10.00 iTunes card for each box sold!

Parents asked for this fundraiser because it really is a great way to raise money. . . and it's easy!!! Many times, a business wishing to support ND-BG will buy the entire box and then sell them at their counters!! Parents often bring them to work and display the box on their desk! Everyone loves a chocolate bar . . . and only for \$1.00!!!



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 518-393-3131 ext. 107 or by email at baseel@nd-bg.org.

"In the Middle"

Will return next month. If you have any questions regarding any Middle School activity or event, please contact Mrs. Kondratowicz at 393-3131 ext. 216.

President's Day

ADOPT-A-STUDENT

Each year, ND-BG is approached by parents who strongly desire a Catholic education for their children but simply cannot afford one. You can make a difference in a student's life by sponsoring all or part of a student's tuition. Please consider helping a student in need to receive a Catholic Education. If you would like more information about sponsoring a student, please contact Mr. Sandore at 393-3131. Thank you.

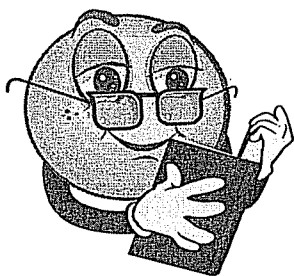
THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all of our ND-BG families for helping with our First Admissions Informational Evening. Because of your help every year we have new Churches and Business' that post our flyers and we have new parents come and see what sets us apart. Our next Admissions Informational Evening is Thursday, April 22, 2010 from 5:00-7:00 pm. If you know a family that might be interested in ND-BG, please invite them to attend or send me an email and I will send out an invitation to them. Respectfully, Pennie Agostara (Agostara@nd-bg.org)



Happy Valentines Day!

YEARBOOKS ARE ON SALE!!
GRAD ADS ARE DUE!!!



Please place your order in 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.

Senior Parents: Please send in your Grad Ad form with a picture(s) to Mrs. Tobin or Mrs. Agostara.
Forms are in Guidance and the Main Office.

Thank you for your continual support in our school.

Campus Ministry

Our school's first response to the horrific earthquake in Haiti was a prayer response, which included participation in a beautiful interfaith prayer service at St. Luke's R.C. Church for the people of Haiti and beyond. I am especially grateful to the following students who represented ND-BG at the prayer service with dignity, maturity and poise.

Veronica Perez (12)	Mylique Rivera (11)
Mary Suttie (11)	Felicia Gauthier (10)
Emily Hebert (9)	Sarabelle Germinal (7)
Christine Guidarelli (7)	

Our prayer response of faith and hope continues with a prayer board created by the seniors in our peace and justice classes and is located near the Main Office.

This year the theme for Catholic Schools Week (January 31st thru February 6th) is "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life, Faith, Knowledge, Morals and Discipline." In recognition of our solidarity with the wider family of Catholic Schools, we will be gathering to pray as a school community on Friday, February 5th in the school gym. In preparation for the prayer service students were asked to reflect on the question, "What does ND-BG mean to me?" The student responses clearly and powerfully affirm the value of Catholic school education.



Ash Wednesday is February 17th, the first day of Lent - a season for prayer, penance, reflection, charity, fasting and conversion of hearts. Roman Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting as explained by the U.S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal. In addition, all Roman Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

St. Marguerite. . . pray for us.
Blessed Edmund Rice. . . pray for us.
Live Jesus in our hearts. . . forever.

Winter blessings,
Kathleen Duff,
Campus minister
393-3131 X214