



Dear Students, Parents & Guardians:

We have just completed a very busy eight (8) week period since the opening of school and are rapidly approaching November 1st.

Homecoming was a huge success as the five (5) Catholic Schools, St. John the Evangelist, St. Helen's, St. Madeleine Sophie, St. Mary's Institute in Amsterdam and ND-BG, sponsored donations for the Troops. The total amount of collected items was overwhelming and the generosity by the students and families of all the schools was outstanding.

Congratulations to our Athletic teams for their tremendous success this fall! Football, Golf, Volleyball, Soccer and Cross Country all had outstanding seasons and are a source of tremendous pride for ND-BG.

As we begin the month of November, I would like to remind parents and family members that the Fall Musical "White

Christmas" will be presented on Wednesday, November 4th through Saturday, November 7th. Performance times on November 5th, 6th and 7th are 7:00 pm.

Also, during November we will have our annual Thanksgiving Liturgy and Junior Ring Ceremony on Tuesday, November 24th. Mass and the ring presentation will be held in the ND-BG gymnasium this year and not at St. Paul's Church as it was last year.

As a reminder, the end of the first marking period is Friday, November 6th with Report Cards being distributed to students on the following Friday, November 13th.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of ND-BG.

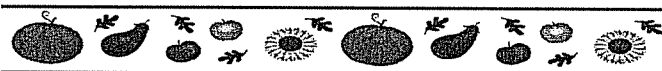
Sincerely,

Michael Sandore
Principal

November

- 1 Hall of Fame Dinner @ Glen Sanders Mansion - 4:00 pm
- 3 NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service Day
- 5 First Quarter Ends
- 6-9 Fall Musical—White Christmas
- 10 Middle School Parent/Teacher Forum - 7:00 pm
- 11 NO SCHOOL - VETERANS DAY
- 13 School Picture Retake Day
- 14 Entrance Exam - 8:30 am
- 17 Parent Conferences - 6:00-8:00 pm
- 18-24 Junior Week

- 19 Grade 12 to NYC - Radio City Music Hall
- 24 Junior Ring Ceremony & Thanksgiving Liturgy in ND-BG Gym - 1:15 pm
- 25 NO SCHOOL - Faculty Retreat
- 26-27 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Recess



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.

Thank you.





GUEST MUSICIAN VISITS ND-BG MUSIC CLASSES

Mr. Cliff Brant, a student at The Crane School of Music of The State University of New York at Potsdam, spent an entire day at ND-BG with all of the music classes. Mr. Brant is majoring in music education with a concentration on clarinet performance. He played his clarinet for every class and answered students' questions about college and campus life. Mr. Brant is a former student at SCCC, where he completed music education courses taught by Mrs. Heilman.

PARENT CONFERENCES

This year parent conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 17th from 6:00 until 8:00 pm in the gym. Appointments are not necessary. If you are unable to see a particular teacher on November 17th, please contact the Guidance Office and a conference will be scheduled. Conferences should be kept to approximately 10 minutes. If more time is required, please schedule an individual conference with the teacher for a later date.

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 6, 9, 10 and 13. 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.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

During the month of November the senior class is actively participating in Schenectady County's annual "Concerned for the Hungry" initiative. The seniors are organizing and managing a food drive to support this community effort. All of the food that is collected at ND-BG will be used to create Thanksgiving food baskets, feeding hungry people in Schenectady County. Please help us support our less fortunate neighbors by sending in non-perishable food items between November 4th through November 19th. On November 23rd, the senior class will deliver Thanksgiving baskets to our homebound neighbors. Thank you for helping us give back to our community!



ALUMNI MOTHER'S

The ND-BG Alumni Mothers have started off the school year with a bang!! We raised \$245 towards our annual scholarship fund by raffling off a Lottery money tree won by Mike Oschlitz and a beautiful men's bike generously donated by Plaine's Sports on State Street in Schenectady. The winner of the bike was Lisa Atkinson. Thanks to all that participated. You can look forward to seeing and hearing more about upcoming events sponsored by the Alumni Mothers. We welcome ideas and volunteers for our cause. Remember, we provide and deliver scholarship funds to ND-BG's alumni. Contact us anytime: Anna Signore at sianleo@nycap.rr.com and/or Mary Beth Gillespie at marybgillespie@juno.com.

FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

There are several students in our school community who have severe nut allergies (peanuts, pistachios, almonds, walnuts, etc.). While some reactions can be mild, students with severe food allergies experience serious, potentially life-threatening symptoms to eating (and in some cases touching and smelling) the food that they are allergic to. Please be careful not to send foods into the classroom that contain things that students may be allergic to. With the upcoming holidays and many classrooms having parties, please be sure to mark all foods that have nuts in them.

JUNIOR RING CEREMONY



The Junior Class will receive their rings at our Thanksgiving Liturgy on Tuesday, November 24th. The liturgy will be celebrated at 1:15 pm. Parents are invited to witness their son or daughter receive their ring. Father Leo Markert will celebrate the liturgy and bless the rings. Mr. Sandore will distribute the rings and pins to the Junior Class. Prior to the ceremony, the Juniors will have a luncheon to help mark their special day.

RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

Our senior class will be attending a performance of the "Christmas Show" at Radio City Music Hall on Thursday, November 19th. Buses will leave ND-BG at 8:00 am and return between approximately 8:00-9:00 pm. The cost of the show and transportation is \$75.00 and students will also need to bring additional money for meals and souvenirs.



"In the Middle"

By
Ninette Kondratowicz

"Putting Faith in Middle School"

Report Cards

On Friday, November 13, first term report cards will be issued to students. Parents and guardians should carefully review the information the report card supplies. Besides checking the grade average, take special note of teacher comments especially in the area of effort and conduct. Discuss with your son/daughter areas that need improvement as you praise those areas where he/she has done well.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday, November 17th from 6:00-8:00 in the gym. Teachers are seated alphabetically around the gym and parents are able to see teachers as their spot becomes available in line. The lines for some teachers can become rather long, so I would suggest that you get into the line of the teacher you want to see most and then see others as their line becomes shorter.

If you have any questions or concerns about the report card or parent-teacher conferences please call Mrs. Kondratowicz at 393-3131 Ext. 216.

Attention 8th Grade Parents

The scholarship exam for incoming 9th graders (our present 8th graders included) will take place on Saturday, November 14th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. **This exam is not based on need but on academic scholarship.** If you are interested in having your child take this exam, please sign up with Mrs. Kondratowicz at 393-3131 Ext. 216 or have your child stop in room 22.

Parent-Teacher Forum

There will be a meeting of the Parent-Teacher Forum on Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 pm in the school library. This forum provides a time and space for parents of Middle School Students to receive information, share ideas and express concerns. Mr. Ille will take part of the meeting to discuss getting the most benefit from Moodle and

Powerschool. An open discussion will follow. All parents of middle-school students are invited to attend.

Middle School Field Trip

Grades 6,7 and 8 will travel to Albany on Friday, November 20 for a tour of the NYS Capitol and the New York State Museum. **More information will follow.**

Ski School

Mrs. Jamie 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 Jan. 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 Dec. 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 Jamie Lichorat and St. John the Evangelist School.



GIFFY'S BBQ

.....

Last year, our Giffy's BBQ's were so successful, that we have scheduled one for Tuesday, November 17, 2009 from 5:00-7:00 pm. This is the same night as the Parent/Teacher Conferences. The profits from this event will be used to offset the costs of the Prom Activities on May 21st & 22nd.



NOTES FROM OUR CAMPUS MINISTER

During this season of gratitude I am reminded to pray in thanksgiving for the diverse ways that Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons School honors her Catholic identity in both words and actions.

Sometimes I take our Catholic identity at ND-BG for granted because it has become so normalized within my experience. However, recently my appreciation for what is part of an ordinary day at school became highlighted on three different occasions.

First, a recent graduate returning to the area for Homecoming events mentioned that although she does not see herself as a "very religious person" she missed starting every class with prayer, as we do at ND-BG.

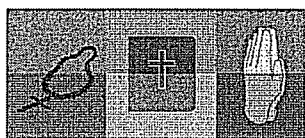
Second, during an interfaith event that wrestled with the question "Is faith necessary for ethics?" a person attending the panel discussion commented about the limitations public schools encounter regarding faith-based discussions with students.

Both of these situations during the last month reminded me of the rich blessings that are intimately part of an education where Catholic identity is woven throughout the fabric of every day. At ND-BG, we do pray before each class. At ND-BG, we can discuss the connection between faith and ethical perspectives.

Lastly, I am keenly aware of our Catholic identity as I prepare for our Thanksgiving liturgy, where our junior students will be given school rings or pins. All parents/guardians and friends of ND-BG are warmly invited to gather with us in the school gym at 1:15pm on November 24th to celebrate Mass and to honor our junior students by offering them a presence of support and solidarity.

My gratitude for my school family keeps me humble. Thank you.

Kathleen Duff
393-3131 X214



ONLINE COLLEGE PLANNING TOOL NOW AVAILABLE

Our school now offers Peterson's StudentEdge-an online college planning tool with free access to the tools you need for college success.

Feeling stressed about what major to choose? Wondering which colleges you should apply to? Thinking about college tuition already? StudentEdge offers personalized college planning that's based on you and offers guidance in the following areas:

- Find the best college for your academic goals, social interests, and financial needs
- Access a scholarship search worth more than \$8 billion
- Improve your SAT, ACT, and PSAT scores with online courses and practice tests
- Explore potential career paths based on your interests and talents

Log on today at www.mystudentedge.com! Our school access code is: **HTYSQGUV**. If you haven't registered yet, it will take just a moment to do so. Then, you can access this great resource 24/7 from school or home....whenever you want.



FALL MUSICAL

The Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons Fall Drama group is proud to announce their 2009 musical production, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, which will be performed on the ND-BG stage from November 4th through the 7th. The musical features such famous songs as *Happy Holidays*, *Count Your Blessings*, *I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm*, and of course, *White Christmas*.

Tickets are on sale in the Advancement Office (extension 130) beginning October 21st. This year's productions boasts fifty students in grades 6-12, and features seniors Sean Baldwin, Timothy Driscoll, Sean Drzonsc, Monika Drzymalski, Celeste Hudson, Abby Jones, Jeff Ra, and Joseph Sise, juniors Julianne Bouchard, Michael Gallagher, Alexandra Gosh, and Mary Suttie, sophomores Colleen McLaughlin, John Paul Ryan and Madeline St. Amour, freshman Emily Hebert, and eighth-graders Steven Baldwin, Caroline Bouchard and Rebecca Scorzella.

