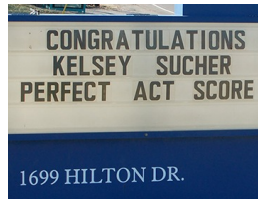




**WORKING PANDAS
FIND BALANCE. 2-3**



**A RARE FEAT:
THE PERFECT ACT. 9**



**SWIMMING: STATE
NEXT FOR PANDAS. 6**

THE GAVEL



A ROCKING FINISH FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

The annual Notre Dame talent show featured a performance of The Black Keys' "Gold on the Ceiling" by Mr. Stamm, Mr. Lander, Mr. Eckerle and Dr. Jackson, and wrapped up five festive, themed days celebrating Catholic education. **Story, Page 4**

Part-time Pandas

Jobs develop skills, test time management

Notre Dame Academy's publications class sent out a survey to the junior and senior classes, asking if they had jobs outside of school and if having a job affected their school work and social life with their peers. Of the 60 students who responded to the survey, 60 percent said they hold a job of some sort, from babysitting to hostessing, retail to food service. Of the students that responded, students work anywhere from four to 30 hours a week, and most do not get home until after 7 p.m. on school nights. Also, of those who work, the vast majority said work regularly or sometimes interferes with their schoolwork. Still, most said they have also learned or have improved with different skills and how to manage money. Senior Paige Hignite, who works at Paperphania in Edgewood, said she's learned a "sense of responsibility in having money; keeping track of time and how to use it to the best of my ability; and knowing that I am unable to do everything I want because sometimes I have to work when I don't want to." Some students here are also juggling school (some taking all honors or AP classes), sports, clubs, outside school activities (dance, art, etc.), and work and some have even had to quit sports in order to work to get the money they need for outside activities, helping pay for car insurance, or phone bills. Even though there are many sacrifices to having a job while being a full time student you still learn how to handle new responsibilities, new skills, and meet a lot more people who can become lifelong friends.

- Hailee Scheper

One case study: Jillian Walsburger, Old Navy

Jillian Walsburger is a NDA senior who has a part time job at Old Navy in addition to her schoolwork. Jillian said she absolutely loves her job and always looks forward to going into work. Looking back on her past jobs, Jillian can easily say that working at Old Navy has been her favorite job thus far.

Jillian says that working does not really interfere with her school work because she was able to choose hours, typically 15 hours a week, that work very well with her school schedule.

In the future Jillian would love to work in the fashion industry. She does not necessarily want to



work in a retail store, but she does believe that this experience will help her in the future.

She found that working at Old Navy has taught her many skills that she can use later in her life and career. She has learned many new selling skills and how to make the most money out of a sale.

She also take pride in being able to give the customer the best service and to be able to make sure they are happy.

- Carly Rodgers, Laura Noll

PART-TIME PANDAS

Hannah Ziegelmeyer's workplace is a zoo, and she loves it



Where do you work? The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

What is your position? I've held a handful of different positions, both paid and volunteer, but my longest-standing and most significant was through the Zoo's largest teen volunteer program, TRIBE, where I was the leader in charge of the teens in the program day-to-day.

What do you do at this job? I have done a bunch of different things, from handling animals like snakes, rabbits, and scorpions, organizing special events, teaching the public about animals, and even driving the train.

How long have you worked here? Four years.

What attributes have you gained from this job? My public speaking skills have definitely improved, as well as overall leadership and communication abilities. Of course from being at the Zoo I have learned how to appreciate and care for animals and the environment, which has been a major factor in determining my future career goals.

What is your favorite part about your job? Being surrounded by incredible animals all day is

amazing, but even better than that is all the awesome people I have been able to work with. Everyone at the Zoo is there for a reason and has a genuine love for their job; the people there never cease to inspire me.

Please describe one memory you have experienced at your job. A major perk of working at the Zoo is the opportunities to meet cool animals. I've gotten to hand-feed Klyde, the black rhino, play with Savanna, the cheetah — twice as a cub and once all grown up — pet Duke, the blind sea lion, go into the exhibit with the penguins, walk baby flamingos, and so much more.

Has this job made you a better person? Yes, in more ways than I could ever describe. My job has both humbled me and taught me the value of my work and opinions.

Do you enjoy your job overall?

Yes! If anyone is interested in joining TRIBE (you have to be 13-17) I encourage you to apply online through the Zoo's website.

~Abby Thelen

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Celebrating faith, knowledge and service, and having fun, too



The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year was “Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” Notre Dame Academy focused on the school's century-long commitment to faith development, academic excellence and community service. Each day, students participated in different activities and dressed in a different theme.

On “Monday Nunday” we celebrated with an afternoon Mass in which Bishop Foys gave us a day off and we had sundaes with the Sisters during lunch. Tuesday was Pajama Day and we celebrated Sisterhood at lunch by everyone getting different colored jolly ranchers and sitting with other people who got the same color. This allowed students to sit with Panda sisters they usually don't sit with.

Wednesday was Teacher Appreciation Day along as dressing up as boys for the students. Every year the girls dress as boys in honor of the volleyball game against Covington Catholic. The Panda Volleyball team defeated the boys 25-2, our staff defeated CCH's staff and we raised over \$2,000 for the Emergency Cold Shelter of Northern Kentucky.

Thursday was Grade School Day and Student Appreciation Day, which honored all the students with a night of no homework! And lastly on Friday,



LEFT: Sophomores dressed in 1960s-themed outfits on Decade Day. **TOP:** St. Agnes alumnae represented on Grade School Day. **ABOVE:** NDA's got talent.

Decade Day. Each grade level was assigned a different decade: 1950s for freshmen, sophomores '60s, juniors '70s and seniors as the '80s. Students were also able to enjoy Skyline chili at lunch and then finished the week off with the annual Talent Show. This year a couple favorite performances were Synchronized Swimming, many solo singing acts and the Male Faculty Band of Mr. Stamm, Mr. Lander, Mr. Eckerle and Dr. Jackson. Overall, it was a successful week filled with lots of Catholic Spirit!

- Avery Warner

College process

Time to decide the next chapter

From the time we were little girls in princess dress-ups, we all went through phases of what we wanted to be when we grow up, like hair dressers, veterinarians, or even princesses. Now the day is nearing for the seniors to finally choose our colleges and begin to decide what we really want to do with our lives. For some, college was an easy decision; for some, it will be the one of the hardest. Ms. Kelly Burgei, the senior counselor, and Ms. Jan Schmidt, student services/records coordinator, have been a huge help for the senior class throughout the process, though Ms. Burgei said, "the teachers have academically helped the seniors get to this point." Ms. Burgei said one thing that stood out about the 2015 class is that the seniors have been very on top of applications and deadlines, and said one of her favorite things about working with the senior class is that she gets to interact with the students and see their progress.

Q&A: Why Emma Hughes chose Wake Forest

Where are you attending college in the fall?

I will be attending Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. I am not sure what I will be majoring in yet, but I am leaning towards economics and environmental science (like global sustainability).

What are you most scared or nervous about attending college?

I'm probably most scared of having to build a new support system. I'll be about seven hours away from my family and my friends so while they will still be there for me when they can, it will be hard to rely on them as much as I do now.

What are three things you will miss most?

The top three things I will miss most about Kentucky, besides my great friends and family, are Ale 8 One, Derby Pie, and the ever-delicious Skyline. Is it weird that they are all food related?



What are you most excited for about college?

I am most excited for all the new experiences and friendships that I will have at Wake. I know that's a super cliché answer but I get to be in a new place where I don't rely on my parents to make choices for me. I will be in a place where I can choose who I want to become without my parents or someone else telling me who they want me to become.

Why is this college a good fit for you?

I think Wake Forest is the best fit for me because it offers a balance of academics and social life. I like to think that I'm dedicated to learning but I also like to have fun with my friends. They also take the approach of experiencing a field of study before making it your major, which is something I value because I'm not 100% what I want to do yet.

- Clare Armbruster

Basketball

Pandas' 'resiliency' earns coach's praise



Panda captains Hillary Hellman, Sydney Stallman and Haylee Smith on Senior Night.

A challenging basketball schedule didn't get any easier for the Pandas on Tuesday night in the 35th District tournament.

Notre Dame, 13-16 during the regular season, faced a Holmes team that had only lost once. The Bulldogs beat Notre Dame 59-40, ending the Pandas' season.

Notre Dame had some setbacks throughout the season with injuries, and head coach Wyatt Foust said the Pandas had a hard time getting back to the same position they were in before Hillary Hellman, their leading scorer, got injured.

But the Pandas closed the regular season with three victories in a row, including 51-45 over Boone County on Senior Night behind senior captains Haylee Smith, Sydney Stallman and Hellman.

"With one of the toughest schedules in the state and a season marred by injury, it really tested our resolve," Mr. Foust said. "The resiliency this team showed will never be in any record book, but I think anyone intimately involved with the program knows that this team grew up in a big way this season."

- Katie Grefer, Abigail Kennedy

Swimming

Records washed away on Pandas' way to state



Panda swimmers celebrate a strong performance at regionals.

The Notre Dame swimming and diving team continues to dominate the water. The Pandas won their 17th consecutive NKAC title on Jan. 31 and their 17th consecutive regional title Feb. 13-14 at Silverlake. NDA qualified 14 swimmers and three divers to the state meet Feb. 27-28 in Louisville.

NDA set five regional records: Maddy Vonderhaar in the 100 breaststroke; Sophie Skinner in the 200 freestyle; the 200 medley relay team (Lilly Morgan, Vonderhaar, Sam Glass, Katie Summe), 200 free relay (Skinner, Amanda Smith, Summe, Morgan) and 400 free relay (Skinner, Glass, Vonderhaar, Smith). Diver Karly Crail, who finished third at state last year, was another of the qualifiers. The only senior of the three divers, Karly says she's significantly improved on consistency and confidence, and hopes to carry these improvements with her all the way to state and the University of Akron next year.

"I'm very excited to be entering the Championship season with a deep and fun group of swimmers and divers!" coach Emily Maier-Knoll said. "We have a strong tradition of success and this season is trending to be no different."

- Anne Herrmann



STRIKE!



Successfully – that’s how Panda bowlers roll

The sound of ten pins falling is loud as the bowling ball slams into them. The greatest feeling of accomplishment takes place in the middle of Super Bowl, site of the regional tournament. Out of the nine teams that competed, Notre Dame came in fourth. Alicia Radford rolled the high game for the Pandas with a 227 and made the all-tournament team.

The bowling team has grown in size and competitiveness over the years.

“My hope is to help the high school girls today realize that bowling is an up-and-coming sport,” coach Michelle Wagner said. “Bowling is an activity that can allow someone to compete at both an individual level and at a team level.”

- Annie Cheesman, Grace Lubbe



Abigail Kennedy, Allison Whitacre, and Kayla Noble getting ready to bowl some strikes in the team tournament

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW MS. BURGEI?

How many years have you been at Notre Dame?

This is my fourth year here and I have enjoyed it!

Why did you come to NDA?

It was truly an act of God. The school impressed me so much and I did not think I would get the job.

What has been your funniest moment at NDA?

I was sitting in a meeting with Dr. Koehl in my office a few years ago. A student popped her head in the window from outside and said, "Hello!" It was awkward — but really funny!

What is your favorite thing about being a senior counselor?

It's truly fun. I get to work with all different personalities. I love working with students. They are fun and each is so unique. I am never bored :)



What is an interesting fact that nobody knows about you?

I once ate two Chipotle burritos in one sitting!

~Abigail Kennedy

arouND campus

Junior Sucher pulls off a perfect ACT

Junior Kelsey Sucher achieved a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. How rare is that? According to ACT Inc., fewer than one-tenth of one percent of test takers (there were more than 1.8 million last year) achieve perfection. Mrs. Schmidt said it's the first perfect score she's seen in her 22 years at Notre Dame.

"I was surprised and very excited," Kelsey said. "I have really appreciated how supportive everyone at NDA has been."

Kelsey said she hasn't looked at many colleges yet, but hopes her score "will lead to many opportunities in the future!"

- Annie Cheesman, Grace Lubbe, Clare Armbruster



Pandas on target in regionals

Erin Kirchner placed eighth, Camryn Scaringi 10th and seven Pandas posted their best scores of the season as Notre Dame finished fifth in the regional archery tournament with a new team-best score of 3,121. Lauren Reinersman had the most bullseyes, and the overall best shooters for NDA were EmmaGrace Wells, Kimmy Birrer, Reinersman, Kirchner and Scaringi. Wells, Hanna Knaley, Lily Gamel, Maddie Wermeling, Grace Schmidt, Grace Michels and Elizabeth Womble put up their best totals of the season.

- Carly Rodgers

Fairy Tale Showcase a hit

The cast brought the house down as they acted, danced, and sang their way through NDA / CCHs Fairy Tale Showcase that closed two weekends ago.

It was a fun-filled hour and a half with skits and

songs from the classics such as Beauty and the Beast, Shrek, and even the Wizard of Oz. Children coming to see the show were encouraged to dress up to take part of the magical atmosphere! The show sold out 3 out of the 4 shows, a pretty big achievement for the theater department, something that has rarely happened in the recent years. Along with that, another big announcement came from the theater department: The spring show is changing from Working to Little Shop of Horrors!

- Kylie Kanter

Van gives NDA a new way to travel

If you take part in a spring sport or activity at Notre Dame, you might be getting there in a different way. The school used \$23,000 raised at the extravapANDAZ event to buy a 14-passenger van.

The van will be used for events in all areas, including sports and club activities. The school has plans to buy a second van when possible, said Jane Kleier, NDA marketing coordinator.