

# JUGGLER NEWS

December 2009

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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### A Christmas Blessing †

- Joyce Rupp -

-- May you give and receive love generously. May this love echo in your heart like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

-- May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ. May the honor given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

-- May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.

-- May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you. May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

-- May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

-- May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

-- May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.

-- May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.

-- May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world.

On behalf of the Notre Dame administration, faculty and staff, I wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and peace to you and those you love.

Christmas blessings,

Sister Anna Mae

### ***SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES/ CAMPUS MINISTRY***

Through the dedication and hard work of all in the Notre Dame family, our Thanksgiving Food Drive was a huge success. Again, we were able to feed 100 needy families. We raised almost \$1,800 and collected 2,508 canned food items. Homeroom 101, a seventh grade class, was the winner in the seventh, eighth and ninth grade competition, and the National Honor Society won in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade competition. They will be celebrating with a pizza party during lunch on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

We are now in the midst of our Christmas Drive and are focusing on some of the neediest individuals in our area. Again this year we are adopting children and adults who have little or nothing to call their own. Because the need is so great, we are asking each Religion class to purchase toys for two children. In addition, we are asking each class to fill a laundry basket with non-food items such as detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, paper products, mouthwash, deodorant, etc. for each household. These items can be costly and take a chunk out of the grocery budget. We are also hoping to be able to provide hats, gloves and scarves for about seventy people from the Refugee Center. Ask your child about the people their class has adopted and encourage them to share what they have been given.

### ***CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY/ AWARDS CEREMONY***

On Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will hold an assembly to celebrate Christmas and an awards ceremony to honor our students who have earned athletic letters, honor roll awards, and New York State distinguished Academic Athletes Awards.

We will begin at 8:45 a.m. Dismissal for students will be at 11:00 a.m. Parents are most welcome to attend the assembly.

### ***"THE GIFT" THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS***

Take time out of your hectic schedule and join us next Wednesday evening for a special presentation of **"The Gift" The true meaning of Christmas.** Performances include the O. Henry Christmas Classic play "The Gift of the Magi" that explores the virtue of sacrifice, the N.D. Praise and Worship band, 7<sup>th</sup> grade chorus, N.D. Choir, selected soloists and instrumentalists all harkening to "The Gift" of the Christ Child. This evening of song, drama and pageantry will be presented at Notre Dame Jr./Sr. High School gymnasium on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Please enter at the front doors. Bring your family for a Notre Dame community event to prepare your heart for the Christmas season.

This event is sponsored by Campus Ministry. . Admission is free however donations will be accepted to help us reach our \$100,000 goal of building a school in the Sudan. Moses Agapito, one of the orphaned 'Lost boys of Darfur', inspired this outreach with his compelling story of terror and escape during his country's civil war. T-shirts, whose proceeds support the 'Freedom project', will be available for sale in adult and children sizes. Cost: Long sleeve \$15, short sleeve \$10. For more information please call Mrs. Troy 724-5118 ext. 25.

### ***MARCH FOR LIFE***

Notre Dame has room for 10 students who are interested in attending the March of Life in Washington, D.C. on January 21-22, 2010. This life changing experience will take you from Notre Dame to the Vigil Mass for Life, at the Verizon Center with some 20,000 teens and college students who will come together to worship God and take a stand for life. Join other young people in becoming leaders in transforming our society into a civilization of love and a culture of life.

Cost: \$115 ...includes transportation by coach bus, lodging and some meals. A deposit of \$55/per person is due December 16, 2009.

Other highlights: National Basilica, John Paul II Cultural Center, Tour of Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in MD, and other Washington, D.C. monuments. For more information please call Mrs. Troy 724-5118 ext. 25.

## BOTTLE DRIVE

Our next bottle drive will be on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

## NOTRE DAME PRIDE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

The Pride Association will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. We strongly encourage parents to join and become involved with the Notre Dame community.

## 37<sup>TH</sup> JUGGLER CLASSIC

The schedule will be as follows:

### Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

- 1:00 p.m. – Girls – Camden Vs. Albertus Magnus  
3:00 p.m. – Girls – Notre Dame Vs. Indian River  
6:00 p.m. – Boys – James/Dewitt Vs. Bishop Kearney  
8:00 p.m. – Boys – Notre Dame Vs. Albany Academy

### Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

- 1:00 p.m. – Girls – Consolation Game  
3:00 p.m. – Girls – Championship Game  
6:00 p.m. – Boys – Consolation  
8:00 p.m. – Boys – Championship

Admission for each day is \$5.00. If you leave after one game and return that day for a later game, you will not have to pay the admission price a second time.

## GUIDANCE NEWS

### Progress Reports:

Progress reports will be mailed home Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. As we prepare for midterms, which will be given the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>, please use these

reports to encourage the academic achievement of your child.

### Standardized Tests

The results of the Standardized tests taken by the students in grades 10-11 in October usually are returned to us throughout the month of December. Counselors will discuss the results with the students in a group presentation and send them home with your child before the Christmas break, depending on when the results are received here at school. If you do not see these test results, please check with your son/daughter. Please feel free to contact the guidance counselors if you have any questions regarding your child's results.

### Senior Parents

A **FINANCIAL AID Workshop** will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the McFarlane Auditorium in Deperno Hall on the **Utica College** campus. Financial aid counselors will be available to answer questions and assist parents in completing the financial aid forms.

Another workshop will be held on Saturday, January 23<sup>Rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Kunsela Hall at **SUNYIT**.

A *Thank You* goes out to Mrs. Laura Bedford, from Utica College, who conducted a very informative workshop for Notre Dame parents on Wednesday evening December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All seniors will be given the online instructional form for filling out the **FAFSA**, as soon as they are received here at school. This form may **NOT** be filled out before January 1<sup>st</sup>! Please **read the instructions** carefully and note you must **set up a pin number** at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) before you can begin filling out the form. After you have gone over the materials you can bring your questions to one of the workshops mentioned above. It is mandatory for all families to go through the financial aid process if they expect to receive **any** type of aid **or** scholarship consideration for college. Your attendance at one of the workshops could make a significant difference in the amount of aid you receive, because it will be an opportunity to have a financial aid professional assist you in filling out the application that is essential to the process.

Parents should check with the colleges their children are applying to in order to establish which forms are necessary for accessing financial aid. **All colleges require the FAFSA, and some private**

colleges require the **PROFILE** form as well, and some colleges have an additional form of their own.

The Profile form is available in Guidance and the counselors can assist students in determining if they need to complete the **PROFILE**. **ALL FINANCIAL AID FORMS SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND MAILED BETWEEN JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> AND FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup>**. Failure to complete the process during this time can have a negative impact on the amount of aid you receive.

### Reminder

Seniors who want applications processed by Christmas vacation should have all of their materials in to the guidance office by this time. Please check all your applications to make sure that you have no outstanding applications with early January deadlines. These must go out before Christmas. **Seniors who do the application online** must remember to print out the counselor referral and transcript request forms and bring them to the guidance office for processing.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to **Michael McCormick** who was nominated for the *Principal's Leadership Award*.

Congratulations to the following four students who were selected by the faculty to represent Notre Dame at the *Utica Rotary* at their January/February meetings:

**Nicolette Abounader**  
**Thomas Appleton**  
**Michael McCormick**  
**Elizabeth Sczerzenie**

### **PARENT COOPERATION NEEDED**

As we anticipate inclement weather, it is critical that we maintain supervision of all students until public school buses arrive. Students sometimes call home to say that we are closed and that they must be picked up. If your child calls you on a day with inclement weather, please encourage him/her to remain until his/her school bus arrives. Notre Dame cannot close since we must wait for all public school districts to transport students. If your child drove and you are concerned that conditions are dangerous, please call the office and ask that your child be released at the next change of class.

We cannot release students to ride home with other students without written parental permission.

School closings due to inclement weather can be heard on radio stations 950 (WIBX), 96.1 (WODZ-FM), 98.7 (WLZW-FM), 104.3 (WFRG-FM) and on TV station WKTU.

As you may know, the Utica School District may use a two (2) hour delay during the winter. If that occurs, we will open at the regular time due to the fact that we have students for 17 school districts. The day's schedule will be adjusted based upon the arrival of the majority of the students.

Parents are reminded that the driveway in front of the building is **ONE WAY ONLY**. Please enter the front of the school from **Burrstone Road ONLY**. We have had a few near misses when people incorrectly enter from Notre Dame Lane. New signage has been posted and your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

To insure your child's safety, parents are reminded to call the school any morning before 8:30 a.m. when your child will be late or absent.

### **THE MARIAN CLUB OF NOTRE DAME**

The year 2010 will be with us soon. Start early to plan for your class reunion.

### **OPEN HOUSE**

Our Open House for new students will be Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The first meeting of the committee will be Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. If you are able to help, please sign the volunteer sheet, download from newsletter, and return it to school.

### **KEVIN LONG – NY YANKEE HITTING COACH**

Kevin Long will be doing a Winter Baseball Hitting Camp for us on January 23, 2010. It will take place at the Field of Dreams Sports Complex. There will be 2 sessions: 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (ages 8-12) and 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (ages 13-18). Tickets are \$99.00. Ticket applications are available in the main office. TICKETS ARE LIMITED. Information will also be on our website: [ndjugglers.org](http://ndjugglers.org).

## **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Plans are moving along for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The next meeting of the committee will be on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. If you are interested in helping, please come to the meeting.

## **MIDTERM EXAMS**

Week of January 18<sup>th</sup> -- In class midterms will be given in the following subjects: Language, ROTC, Business, Computers and Psychology.

Week of January 25<sup>th</sup> -- Exams as scheduled below.

### **January, 2010** **Exam Schedule**

#### **Monday - January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**      **10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
English                              Math

#### **Tuesday - January 26<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**      **10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**  
Social Studies                      Science

**8:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

Math B Regents

#### **Wednesday - January 27<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

Spanish Regents

#### **Thursday – January 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon – 3:00 p.m.**

Integrated Algebra  
Chemistry Regents

**Please Note:** Regents listed are only for those students who are re-taking the regents listed.

**Reminder:** If a student is absent for a midterm exam, only a doctor's note will be accepted for an excuse and the midterm will be rescheduled. Otherwise, the student will receive a zero. Regents exams cannot be re-scheduled. Make-up for midterms will be scheduled for Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.