

The Notre Dame Times

Notre Dame Academy - Fall/Winter 2024 - Issue 4

Kicking for a Cause: An NDA Tradition Continues

By: Nora Bloom

Notre Dame Academy held our second annual Kicking for a Cause Soccer Game recently. This event, organized by Mr. Bartosik, was shaping up to be a big success as it had been last year. Students who signed up to participate had to contribute a donation in order to play. These donations would be split between two families who had both experienced tragedies. This motivated many students to sign up, all hoping to be a part of a fun, rewarding event. The players were “drafted” onto two different teams: Team Stevens and Team Bartosik. Teams and coaches were announced and after much anticipation, it was finally game time.

When the morning of November 11 arrived, everyone was buzzing with excitement for the game to begin. Players, coaches, and spectators all arrived bright and early to prepare for the event. Both teams warmed up, stretched, and prepared for the game. The coaches announced the starting lineup, both teams took their places, and anxiously awaited the starting whistle.

The first few minutes of the game had little action, but after ten minutes, Nathan Wodaje scored the first goal, putting Mr. Stevens’ team in the lead first. As a result, Mr. Bartosik’s team played very hard, hoping to tie the game up. Even after many passes and shots, no one could score. When the halftime whistle was blown, everyone ran off the field into their team huddles. At that time, Nathan W. switched teams. Mr. Bartosik knew his players needed to score, so he hyped up his team. This strategy paid

off when Nathan scored a goal for Team Bartosik, followed shortly after with two more goals scored by teammates Nora Bloom and Sean Ryan. Mr. Bartosik’s team was now in the lead and playing very well. Ryan Staniszewski scored another goal for Team Bartosik who led by three. Mr. Stevens, knowing the game was about to end, ran onto the field. Mr. Bartosik followed shortly thereafter. After a few minutes, Mr. Stevens scored a goal. Then he passed to Aubrey O’Connor, which resulted in a third goal for Team Stevens. With many cheers from the crowd, the game was very close. As it got down to mere seconds left in the game, Team Bartosik gained control of the ball. The final whistle was blown. Mr. Bartosik’s team was victorious with a score of four-to-three.

Although the game itself was very exciting, the best outcome was seeing the school community come together for an important cause. “While the game is meant to be a rivalry game, it only strengthens the bonds and friendships between our middle school students, while also teaching them the importance of giving back and working together towards a common goal,” stated Mr. Bartosik. He added, “The NDA teachers always encourage students to give of themselves and to help and support one another.” This was certainly apparent at the game, where the school community was able to raise a total of twelve hundred dollars. “This event shows how much our students care about one another, and how powerful we can be when united as one,” Mr. Bartosik said. I couldn’t agree more!



Pictured above: Nathan Wodaje and Mr. Bartosik; photo courtesy of Cash Kirkby.

Best Places to Eat in South Buffalo

By: Connor Prendergast

1. Potter's Field

Not to be confused with where the soccer team practices, Potter's Field is close to the golf course in Caz Park. They offer several tasty wing sauces, delicious burgers, beef on weck, and many other pub specialties.

2. Imperial Pizza

This place needs no introduction. Found on Abbott Rd., they have delicious pizza, wings, and fries. Some of their prices are a little high but their lunch specials are unrivaled.



3. Brick Oven Bistro

If you're looking for something a bit more formal, the Brick Oven's got you covered. Situated right across from Discovery, their extra crispy Charlie's style wings and numerous types of pizza will keep you coming back. The beef on weck pizza and Big Mac pizza are some of my favorites.

4. Winfields

Located near the cemetery, this little place has a cool atmosphere and great food. What more could you ask for? Their mac and cheese is the best I've ever had and goes great with their sizable menu and ever-changing specials.

Lindy Ruff Makes His Return to Buffalo

By: Addison Cusack

The Buffalo Sabres are one of the youngest teams in the NHL. They have been having a problem of playing to the best of their abilities for multiple games at a time. They haven't made it to the playoffs since the 2010-2011 season. However, I believe that this season could be a different story.

Why? Because Coach Lindy Ruff is back!. Lindy Ruff led us to the playoffs eight times and led us to a Stanley Cup Final in 1999. Ruff was relieved of his coaching duty on February 20, 2013, but was hired back in April of this year. This opened up many opportunities for the Sabres. For the past ten years the team hasn't played hard enough to make it to the playoffs. This year, they

have the skill to make it to the playoffs but they have to work hard at every game in order to do so. This year's team is a perfect example of how hard work pays off. I've seen the good and bad days at the games I've attended this season. This team has its ups and downs. They have the capability to beat any team but they need to become more consistent. Lindy Ruff can encourage them and make them work harder, and he will get performance. The Sabres have many young players with a lot of opportunities. I love going to the Sabres games and seeing them win. I'm hopeful they have the ability to make it to the playoffs and even win the Cup!

8th Grade Trip to Ellicottville

By: Madelyn Martz and Allyson Ybarra

This past October, the 8th grade class went on a field trip to Sky High Adventure Park in Ellicottville, where we ziplined, did ropes courses, and ate delicious food. We departed school by nine o'clock. On the peaceful autumn ride, we saw beautiful scenery of the changing leaves.

We arrived at the park and checked in. Then we went into a small cabin and suited up in our gear. For safety reasons, we went through training on how to actually operate our vest and do the ropes course without getting hurt. After that we hiked up a steep trail to the practice courses. At first I was worried I'd forget what the guide had said, but a worker was up there to help me when I got stuck.

Of the two of us, Allyson went on the ropes course, and it was really challenging. There were ziplines, bridges, and all sorts of hard obstacles. Some parts were definitely frightening at times because of how high up we were!

In addition to all the courses, there was a mountain coaster! It was self-controlled so you could either go really fast or really slow. The coaster had a lot of loops and hills and it was really fun. Some parts I slowed down because I got scared, but overall it was really fun.

Finally, after a lot of fun, we ate some fresh baked food from the kitchen. At our lunch we had mac and cheese, salad (with dressings), pizza, and water. Some students also visited the snack shop to buy some sweet treats such as brownies, popsicles, and candies. There were vending machines as well with candies, chips, drinks such as soda or water.

By the time we were finished with our activities, it was about four o'clock and we were ready to leave. The bus arrived and it was time to

head back. Luckily, it was another scenic ride, but this time the sun was almost setting which made it even more beautiful. I truly recommend not being on your phone during that time because it is so relaxing to view nature during the autumn season. We got back to school at about five o'clock. We got off the bus to find our parents. Once we did, we left the school to go home.

Overall this trip was really exciting and peaceful (even if you can't do the course or if you're too scared) and just a really good time. This experience was truly memorable. We look forward to our other field trips in the future!



Pictured above: Allyson Ybarra & Madelyn Martz on the Ellicottville trip at Sky High Adventure Park. More photos on page 5 - Thank you, Cash Kirkby and the teacher chaperones for providing the photos!

The Wacky and Wonderful World of Studio Ghibli

By: David Corbett

Have you ever watched a movie and thought: "Hmm... I wonder what movies are like in other countries?" Well in that case, you don't have to wonder much longer! I'm about to introduce you to a whole new world of movies you probably didn't even know existed! Far away in Japan, a movie studio called Studio Ghibli was started by a man named Hayao Miyazaki. They have made many wonderful movies. When watching the movies made by Studio Ghibli, a good place to start is the 1988 film: *My Neighbor Totoro*. The movie follows the

story of two young girls and their father, who have moved out to the countryside after the girls' mother fell ill, and they eventually discover many magical creatures in their house, and the forest behind it. You might think: "Oh! That sounds like a Disney movie!" and you're probably right. Studio Ghibli is kind of like the Disney of Japan in some ways, with many fantastical stories to their name. After you watch *My Neighbor Totoro*, you might want to

see what is widely considered to be Ghibli's greatest movie: *Spirited Away*. This film follows a girl who has been trapped in a world of strange spirits, and has made a contract with a deceptive witch named Yubaba, who steals her name, and forces her to work in her giant bathhouse in return for her freedom. I personally really love this movie, due to its interesting plot, quirky characters, and beautiful animation. While "My Neighbor Totoro" is suitable for all ages, "Spirited Away" has some

scary or intense moments that may not be okay for little kids. But, if you're looking for more family fun, one of Ghibli's more tame movies is their 2008 film, "Ponyo." This film follows the story of a magical fish (with an oddly human face), who after befriending a young human boy named Sosuke, begins to turn human. This story may sound familiar, as it is very similar to Disney's "The Little Mermaid", but I assure you, it's much more than that. However, "Ponyo" lacks a lot of the classic action and otherworldly terrors of other Ghibli films, so if

you're missing all those elements, I suggest watching Ghibli's film "Howl's Moving Castle." After being cursed by a dangerous witch, a young woman named Sophie turns into an old lady. Seeking shelter, she moves into a large moving castle, inhabited by a sentient fireplace, a young boy, and a powerful wizard named Howl, where she begins to work as a cleaning lady/nanny, as the

castle and its inhabitants flee from an oncoming war. The movie's themes of war, love, and a familial bond, make it a moving experience. (see what I did there!) So now that you know about all of these movies, perhaps go and give them a watch! They can be viewed in select theaters around the US each year, and many can also be watched on MAX. Consider watching some of these movies!



Winter Break To Do List

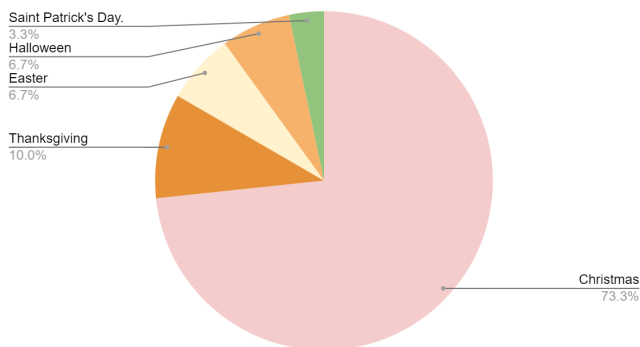
By: Mia Desiderio

- Go ice skating
- Bake Christmas cookies
- Build a snowman
- Go sledding
- Make a wreath
- Play Christmas trivia
- Make a Christmas ornament
- Make a gingerbread house
- Write a letter to Santa
- Hang up Christmas lights
- Christmas movie marathon
- Read a Christmas book
- Make hot chocolate
- Help clean your house (Santa is watching!)
- Help shovel snow
- Make a Christmas or winter craft

Favorite Holiday Survey Results

By: Ellie Barrett

What is your favorite holiday?



Christmas is the clear winner with 73%. Do you agree? Keep an eye out for more survey results on page 7!

Ellicottville Pictures

The 8th graders and their chaperones had a memorable experience in Ellicottville!



Above: Bella, Madelyn, Leah, and Aubrey at Sky High Adventure Park in Ellicottville.



Above: Tyler, Connor, Jacob, David, and Connor



Above: The 8th Grade Class in Ellicottville

Interview with Nora Bloom, Student Council Vice President

By: Mary Claire Trudell

Q: Why did you run for Vice President?

A: I decided to run for the position because I wanted to make a positive impact on the school that has given me so many opportunities to grow and change as a student. I value all of the knowledge, resources, and preparation that I receive from Notre Dame Academy, and so I wanted to do my part and give back to the school that has been such a major part of my life.

Q: Have you ever been a part of the student council before?

A: I have run for student council before, but I have never been officially elected.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish this year as a member of the student council?

A: I hope to bring a new perspective to the student council, and come up with ideas that appeal to the middle school students. I plan on suggesting many fundraisers, dance suggestions, and challenges that our entire middle school will be able to take part in.

Q: How did you feel when you found out you were the new Vice President?

A: I was very excited when I heard that I had been elected as the Vice President, but I was even more grateful that the student body trusted me to represent them in the student council.

Q: What do you do in the student council meetings?

A: We are given a list of topics that we then go over, discuss future events, and brainstorm ways to improve future activities, and vote on a Teacher of the Month

Q: What activities do you have planned this year?

A: We are planning future dances, activities, competitions, fundraisers, and much more.

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Elected 8th Grade Officers:

Cash Kirkby, president; Nora Bloom, vice president; David Corbett, treasurer; Leah Renowden, secretary



Above: Nora at the Halloween Dance, sponsored by Student Council.

New Kid on the Block

By: Sean Ryan

Notre Dame Academy welcomed some new students this year. I interviewed 7th grader, Evan Williams, to see what he likes about going to school here at Notre Dame.

Q: How do you like being in a new school?

A: I like it here! The kids are very nice.

Q: What do you like most about going to school here?

A: I like all my new friends and gym class is pretty fun.

Q: What do you miss about your old school?

A: I miss my old science teacher because she was really funny.

Q: What is something you like about Notre Dame that is different from your former school?

A: The sports are super competitive and people here are so welcoming!

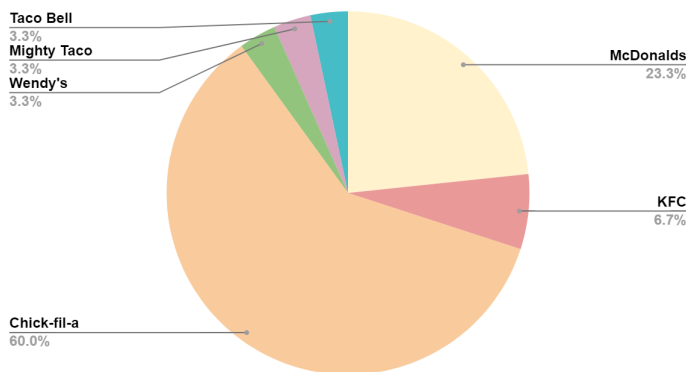
Q: What sports do you play at NDA?

A: I play basketball, and it is really fun.

Middle School Survey Results: Favorite Restaurants and TV Shows

By: Ellie Barrett

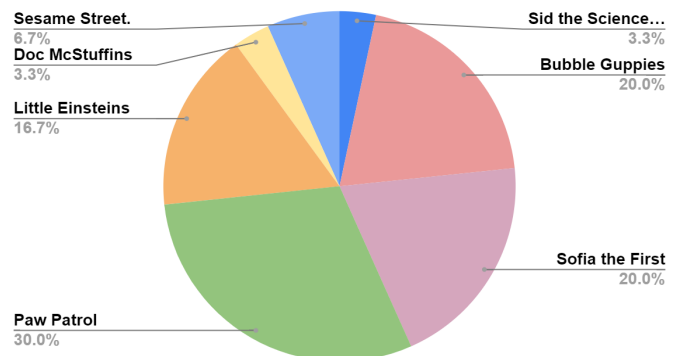
What is your favorite fast food restaurant?



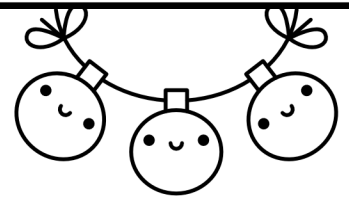
Wow! The middle school students sure love their Chick-fil-a! McDonald's finished in a distant second with 23% choosing it as their favorite.

Middle school students reminisce about the TV shows they used to (or still do) watch. The top favorites seem to be *Paw Patrol*, *Bubble Guppies*, and *Sofia the First*. Do you remember these fun shows?

What is your favorite childhood show?



DEAR SANTA,



★ My name is _____.

I am _____ years old.



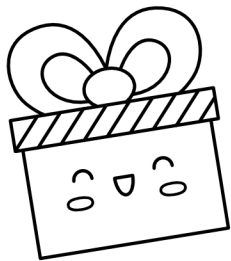
This year I have been:



Naughty Nice
(I can explain!)



For Christmas I would like:



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Thank you Santa!

From _____

