

Winter Sports Preview

by Brian Brown

With the leaves falling and rain turning into snow, the winter sports season at ND is beginning! After all of our teams having successful fall seasons, NDHS is looking forward to an even more successful winter sports year!

First is the Girls Varsity Basketball team, coached by Mr. Robert Kelly. Having had both practices and scrimmages, the girls are more than ready to begin their regular season schedule. Junior Olivia May stated, "We have been putting in the time and effort every day, and it is showing in our daily improvement. We're ready to show people we mean business this year."

The Girls JV squad is looking forward to their season just as much, coached by Mr. Joe Leonard. Working hard every day to improve on their skills and chemistry, the girls are anxious to face new competition. According to sophomore Jenna Gordon, "We definitely have been working hard on mastering all our skills and moves. We also have really grown together as a team, and that chemistry is what is going to separate us from other teams this year and put us on top."

The Boys ND Basketball team is also off to an excellent start this season. Coached by Mr. Bill Hopkins, the boys have played superbly against many different schools in scrimmages in preparation for their regular season. Senior Matt Davis said, "We have been

working hard. I think that with all of our hard work we have been putting in we will achieve great success this year." Having high expectations for this year, he exclaimed, "States or bust!"

The Boys JV Basketball team, coached by Mr. Dan Sullivan, has equally high expectations for their season. Having many new freshmen and returning sophomores, the team plans on being extremely competitive with every team they face this year. Sophomore Hunter Thomas stated, "We have been improving day after day and we are expecting an even better year than last year!"

The basketball season just wouldn't be the same without our beloved cheerleaders! Win or lose, the cheerleaders are always at every home game supporting our Crusader basketball teams. Coached by Ms. Wendy Stedje, the Crusaders' most loyal fans are looking forward to another great cheer season. Senior Lexie Antos claimed, "We have a very small team this year, but we're definitely showing a lot of potential to do really well because of our experience and dedication."

Coached by our own Mr. Ed Shelling, the Indoor Track team is anxiously waiting for their meets to begin. Senior Joe DiFabio stated, "The team looks really good this year, with many experienced returned runners. The weather has been cooperating and we are looking forward to competing in meets at the new Ithaca College track."

Last but not least is the ND bowling team. Coached by Mr. Sherman, the team has been focusing on becoming better and better each practice in preparation for real matches. Junior Joel Siedman said, "It should be a fun and interesting year. We are all looking forward to it and hope our new coach will enjoy it as much as we will."

It is quite apparent that the work ethic here at NDHS is not just shown academically; each team has expressed tremendous dedication to their preparation for the upcoming sports season. Good luck to all Crusader teams this winter. Make us proud!



Winter Sports Captains

Winter Sports Schedule

Boys Varsity Basketball

12-02	Spencer-Van Etten	H	7:30
12-06	Candor	A	7:00
12-09	Tioga	A	7:30
12-16	Edison	H	7:30
12-20	Newark Valley	H	7:30

Girls Varsity Basketball

12-02	Spencer-Van Etten	A	7:30
12-06	Candor	H	7:30
12-09	Tioga	H	7:30
12-16	Edison	H	6:00
12-20	Newark Valley	A	7:00

Boys JV Basketball

12-02	Spencer-Van Etten	H	6:00
12-06	Candor	A	5:30
12-09	Tioga	A	6:00
12-15	Edison	H	7:30
12-20	Newark Valley	H	6:00

Girls JV Basketball

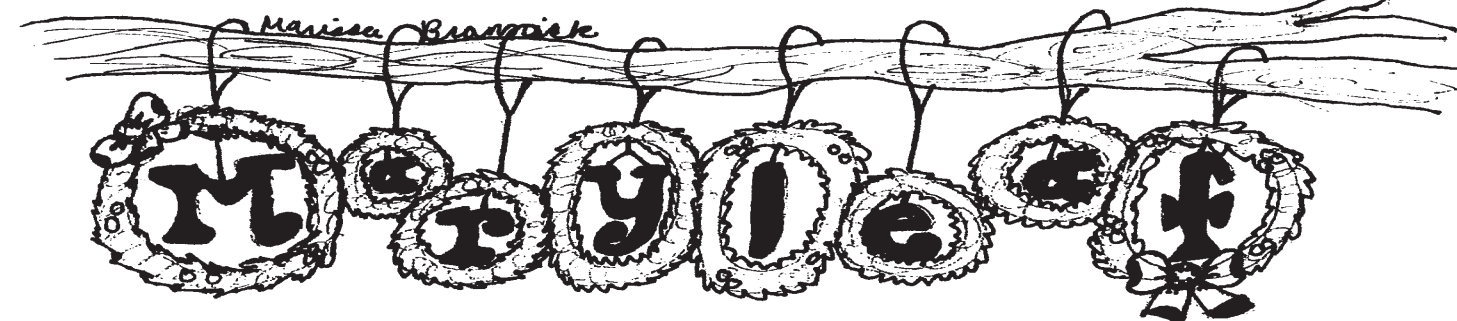
12-02	Spencer-Van Etten	A	6:00
12-06	Candor	H	6:00
12-09	Tioga	H	6:00
12-15	Edison	H	6:00
12-20	Newark Valley	A	5:30

Indoor Track

12-03	Age Group 9-10	A	6:00
12-09	Age Group 11-12	A	5:00
12-17	Ithaca College Invite	A	10:00
12-29	His/Hers Invite	A	TBA

Bowling

12-07	Watkins Glen	H	4:00
12-08	Marathon	A	4:00
12-13	Lansing	H	4:00
12-14	Odessa Montour	A	4:00
12-20	Groton	A	4:00



Mean Girls and Service Learning

by Brittany Schutrum

On October 3rd the halls were filled with blue Stomp Out Bullying tee shirts. For most of us the end of that day brought the end of raising awareness and trying to prevent bullying. However, for the Service Learning class that day was just the beginning of a yearlong initiative of bullying prevention.

During October, which was National Bullying Prevention Month, the class taught by Mrs. Roberts-O'Brian, designed and presented an anti-bullying program in several local elementary schools. These in-school programs included talks, video presentations, skits, and some prizes as participation incentives that were donated by the Stewart Insurance Agency, one of the class's partners.

One of the major sources of inspiration for the class was the Kind Campaign. The Kind Campaign is a school program and movement based on kindness, which works towards preventing and bringing awareness to the harmful effects of bullying with a special focus on girl-to-girl cruelty. This campaign turns anti-bullying and kindness into something cool and modern.

In 2009, the Kind Campaign was founded by two girls from Pepperdine University, Lauren Parsekian and Molly Thompson, who had both experienced female bullying. Females can be especially vicious to each other and these girls decided to do something about it. They got together and traveled across the country with their mothers to create a documentary to raise awareness of the negative effects of female bullying and to provide a positive message of spreading kindness.

As a part of their initiative the Service Learning class is planning on holding a showing of the documentary entitled "Finding Kind." This event will be held at the Palace Theater in Corning, which will be free and open to all members of

the community. This is planned for late February. To see a trailer for the movie and check out the Kind Campaign, go to the Kind Campaign website at www.kindcampaign.com. Later in the year, the Service Learning class is planning to invite the creators of the Kind Campaign to make a presentation at our school.

The class is also working with author Kody Keplinger, the author of *The Duff* and *Shut Out*. Kody was a senior in high school when her first book was published. Kody faced many challenges in her life including economic problems, being legally blind, and feeling like the duff, the designated, ugly, fat, friend. Kody didn't let any of these things get in her way and she became very successful with now two published novels to her credit at the age of only 19. The Service Learning class is using her inspirational story to promote female empowerment and offer hope to girls who are in a similar situation as Kody was. Kody will be at the Barnes and Noble Book Fair on December 10th and is planning to speak at our school earlier that week.

Another project the class is working on is organizing a fashion show held in partnership with Glamour and Glow to be held at 171 Cedar Arts Center in March. The idea behind the show is to promote female empowerment and allow girls the chance to share their stories of how they were bullied, how they bullied another, or their thoughts on bullying. Girls of all shapes and sizes, and girls who have many different looks will be models and share their story.

One other idea the class is focusing on is the creation of a KIND magazine within the school. The Kind Campaign has a magazine called KIND which is published online and gives girls the opportunity to share their stories. Girls are invited to write about their experiences, to tell about how they overcame or were a victim of bullying, how they bullied, or how bullying affected their lives. Members of the Service Learning class are working on creating a magazine and are looking for girls or guys who are willing to tell their stories. So if you have

experienced any form of bullying, please tell us your story. In the coming weeks more information will be available on the specific dates of events and opportunities will be provided for you to share your story.

ND Theater Success

by Rachael Miller

On November 18th, 19th, and 20th, Notre Dame's theatre program presented the classic tale of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* Set in 1906 in the town of Claremore, viewers follow Laurey Williams (Emma Anderson) and her cowboy love interest, Curly McLain, (Danny Cleary) as they encounter all sorts of obstacles in their relationship, such as an envious Jud Fry (Isaiah Smallwood) trying to claim Laurey for himself.

Anderson and Cleary provided memorable performances as the two leads, and Sarah Kaschalk's role as Aunt Eller offered well-timed comic relief. Emily Grace Davies, Adrien Remy, and James Gaige depicted a subplot concerning the love triangle between Ado Annie Carnes and her two beaux, Will Parker and Ali Hakim -- all of which added a humorous note to the story. Brief ballet performances given by Mina Raj and Maddy Horne, endearing supporting roles played by Allie Steed (Aggie/Ike) and Taylor Stuart (Gertie Cummings), and the ever-present support of the chorus made for another successful show.



Emma Anderson and Danny Cleary

The Meaning of Christmas

by Rachael Miller

The date of December 25th means different things to people all across America. To most, it means a day when families get together and enjoy traditional gift-giving beside a Christmas tree, followed by a warm meal and catching up on the past year's events. It is the day that Christians celebrate as the birth of Jesus, whom they believe to be the only son of God. However, this day, that has become a national holiday, is not recognized by many groups, which means that they probably don't participate in what we believe to be "standard" Christmas practices.

Approximately two thousand years ago, historians believe that the man we know as Jesus Christ was born. As the story goes, three wise kings brought him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In order to commemorate this holiday, Christians would exchange small gifts on Christmas Day to show their spirit of generosity, such as the three wise kings had done.

In the time since the holiday was first established, the original meaning may have been lost due to marketing, an increase in prosperity, and an overall move toward a more secular way of living. In many cases, grandiose and extravagant gifts have become not only accepted, but expected. However, many people still recognize Christmas as the birthday of Jesus, as shown by attendance at masses.

Movies such as *A Very Harold and Kumar 3D Christmas*, which poke fun at Christmas and Christian practices in general, suggests that Christmas has become something less than a day of respect and being thankful. As a society, we have moved far beyond the meaning of *Miracle on 34th Street* which is that everyone should be thankful for the simple things they have in life.

Is too much emphasis put on the secular meaning of Christmas? Has this holy day turned into something that should be scorned or something that should be left alone? Many non-Christians believe that

celebrating Christmas as a religious holiday is unfair to their personal beliefs, and that they have a right to celebrate Christmas secularly. Conversely, denominations of Christians everywhere, the largest of which is Catholicism, believe that the gift-giving and celebrating aspect of Christmas should be given less emphasis in favor of more humble and respectful practices.

Whatever one's personal creed, Christmas is undeniably a huge day of celebration for people of faith, for those who don't practice Christianity, and for those who don't particularly believe in anything. It is a day for which department stores across America prepare their sales teams to convince customers to buy as much as possible. On a more

positive note, Christmas continues to send the message that we all should show love and respect to others and celebrate the birth of our Savior. All we have to do is listen with our hearts instead of acting with our wallets.



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1990 Crusaders Honored as Second Greatest Area Football Team

by Brian Brown

WENY recognized the 1990 Notre Dame Football team as the second greatest football team in the area in the last 25 years. The Crusaders are known for changing the way Elmira area football was viewed that amazing season. The Crusaders won the New York State Title, beating Saugerties



1990 Notre Dame Crusader Football Team

32-13. They also became the first area team to win ten games in one season.

When asked about his team, Coach D'Aloisio stated, "They were over achievers in the classrooms. They were over achievers on the athletic fields. But more importantly, they are even better people and that is why I am so proud of them." Notre Dame went on to pile up 32 wins during the first four years of the 1990s, a feat that is unlikely ever to be seen again in Elmira.

The Notre Dame community is very proud of the Crusader team that brought such an honor to our school. Congratulations to the 1990 Crusader Football team, the second greatest area football team in the last quarter century!

The Golden Mass

by Gwen Zwirko

This year, Notre Dame High School's Golden Mass celebration will be held on Wednesday, December 21st

at 1:30pm. The Golden Mass is the school's annual Christmas Mass, where the students and faculty are invited to don their Sunday best and participate in fellowship. It is a reminder of how close the Notre Dame community is, and offers a chance for all of our members to be together before the Christmas holidays. The stage will be filled with the generous donations of food and gifts that will brighten the Christmas season for 20 local families. All are welcome to attend, and be on the lookout for some of Notre Dame's alumni.

School Scene

On November 13th, Notre Dame had its annual Open House. Our Crusader Ambassadors gave guided tours throughout the school for prospective students and their families. Visitors had the opportunity to talk with Notre Dame parents, teachers, and staff and experience Notre Dame first hand. It's not too late to encourage your friends to consider coming to Notre Dame.

-Emily Grace Davies

Student Opinion

"Do you think Christmas has become too commercialized? What do you like or dislike about current Christmas celebrations?"

Senior, Elizabeth Ike

"I think it's over commercialized because they start advertising too early. I enjoy Christmas and all of its celebrations because it's a time when the whole family gets together, and it's a time of giving."

Junior, Jake Rice

"I believe that Christmas is way too commercialized, but I also believe that it brings family together."

Sophomore, Maddy Raudat

"I do not believe Christmas has become over commercialized. It has expanded into a celebration for everyone, not just Christians, to participate in. I love how it brings families and friends together."

Freshman, Zach Brand

"I don't think it has become too commercialized. Even though it's a popular holiday, it's still mostly about family and friends getting together and celebrating"



Elizabeth Ike



Jake Rice



Maddy Raudat



Zach Brand

On Thursday, November 10th, Notre Dame held its Sophomore Get-Together. The sophomore-only party had dancing, food, and karaoke. It was a great time for all who attended. - Brandon Mahajan

A New Look for ND in September, 2012

As we went to press, it was announced that Holy Family Junior High is merging with Notre Dame High School.

An informational meeting will be held in the Notre Dame auditorium on December 12, 2011 at 7:30 pm. We will have much more on this story in our next issue.