

THE blarney stone

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF NOTRE DAME PREPARATORY SCHOOL AND MARIST ACADEMY



Notre Dame Preparatory School: 248-373-5300
 Notre Dame Marist Academy-Middle: 248-373-5371
 Notre Dame Marist Academy-Lower: 248-682-5580

ND Prep has top athletic program

One of the state’s largest high-school sports programs earns “exemplary” status.

Michigan’s professional organization of high-school athletic administrators announced that the Notre Dame Prep athletic program has been recognized as the state’s 2010 Exemplary Athletic Program. NDP was the only high school in the state chosen for the award this year and is the first private or Catholic school in the state’s history to earn this honor.

The Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) in partnership with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) conducted an extensive review this fall prior to recognizing ND Prep as one of Michigan’s model high-school athletic programs.

The school went through a rigorous screening process and documentation of the program’s strengths. NDP also hosted an onsite visit by the MIAAA evaluation team made up of veteran athletic administrators.

Fr. Leon Olszamowski, president of NDPMA, says the report by the evaluation team was glowing.

“They could not believe what a great school we had and what a wonderful athletic program we offer to our students,” said Olszamowski. “They reported to their committee that they have not seen a program of such depth and breadth as the one we have here at our school. And they were overwhelmed by the sense of commu-

nity and cohesion in our mission and by the execution of our programs.”

“A hearty congratulations and thanks to Athletic Director Betty Wroubel, Assistant ADs Marty Simmonds and Megan Thayer and Administrative Assistant Mary Jo Leseman for successfully completing the work necessary for this award and, of course, for their stewardship of such a tremendous program for all these years,” added Olszamowski.

The MIAAA Exemplary Athletic Award

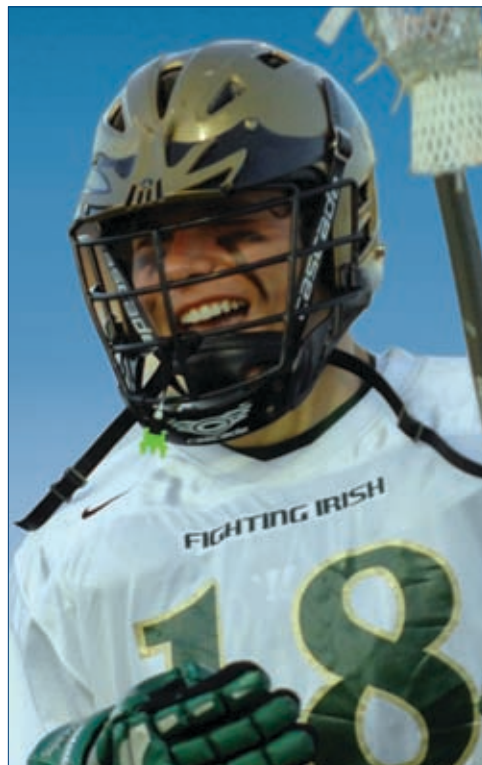
Program recognizes that outstanding school athletic programs greatly serve students, families, communities and schools. MIAAA says these exemplary programs occur when partnerships and cooperation exist between all administrators in a school, as well as among parents, community and student leaders.

According to the association, “Notre Dame Preparatory School’s athletic program reinforces the aims and goals of the academic program and is an integral part of the educational system designed to promote the physical, moral, spiritual, emotional and social development of the individual student. The athletic department is committed to providing the best facilities, equipment and the most qualified staff available for all athletes.”

Athletic Director Wroubel, though, is quick to also boast about what “the kids” have accomplished since the school opened in 1994. “To date, our kids have won over 180 championships, and I am proud to say that both girls and boys have participated equally in that success,” she said. “But it’s not just about championships. It’s about equality in the treatment of student-athletes and programs. I am also very proud of my staff and coaches, who have kept one of the biggest programs in the state running like a top.”

Notre Dame Prep offers a varsity team in nearly every MHSAA sport, fielding 49 high-school teams and three clubs. The athletic department also oversees 26 separate teams at Notre Dame Marist Academy.

Please see Exemplary, page 6



Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy provides its economically diverse student body a Catholic-Christian and internationally recognized college-preparatory experience of lasting value.

WROUBEL CENTER DEDICATED
 (See page 4)

'06 grad inspired by teachers to teach

Soon to be graduating from Saint Mary's College in Indiana, ND Prep alum Katy Durkin is ready to give back to the communities in which she grew up.



Katy Durkin spent her college sophomore year in Ireland studying at a leading university. Here she tours the Irish countryside.



Katy Durkin takes some time from her senior year at St. Mary's College to talk about her life since graduating from

ND Prep. Note: Katy's brother Tom '00 (NDP) is the cover story in the latest IRISH alumni magazine and brother Mike '01 (NDP) also talks about what he's up to in the same issue.

When asked about her choice of post-secondary education, Katy says she chose Saint Mary's because she wanted to continue her Catholic education. "I was looking for a school with a good academic reputation and a strong education program," she said. "I also wanted a school where I could continue to play soccer at a competitive level." And, after four years, she feels that Saint Mary's has fully delivered.

What's next for Durkin? Her plan is to find a teaching and a coaching job at a Catholic elementary school in Michigan. "I would love to give back to the schools that were formative for me early on—St. Joseph School in Lake Orion or Notre Dame Marist Academy." In addition, she soon may be earning a Masters Degree in Special Education.

Durkin decided on elementary education as a career at a young age. "My third-grade teacher inspired me to become a teacher," she said. "At a young age, she taught me that everyone is special. I had a learning disability, but she taught me that I shouldn't be ashamed and took the extra time to work with me. Without people like her, I don't think that I would have been successful academically."

Durkin wants to work hard to provide her students with the same confidence and inspiration that she received from her third-grade teacher. More recently, Durkin has felt a strong calling to

work with special-ed students. "These children are often looked down upon. If they're just given the chance, they can be successful in any academically challenging setting."

She speaks from experience. She did not let her own learning difficulties stop her from finding success at Notre Dame Prep. "I think NDP did a great job preparing me for college. I was academically ready for the challenges that awaited me at Saint Mary's College."

Durkin also has been a force to be reckoned with as a member of the St. Mary's Belles soccer team. She was chosen to be a member of the team's leadership council and finished her senior season as the leading scorer and offensive MVP. During her four-year career, she played in 60 out of 67 games and started in 32 of them. She has 11 career goals and one assist. Being on the Belles was awesome, according to Durkin. "I also was fortunate enough to spend ten days in England and Scotland with the team. It

was an unforgettable experience.”

Besides playing soccer in the U.K., Durkin also studied in Ireland during her sophomore year. “I attended an Irish university and lived with Irish students. I’ve always wanted to visit the country of my ancestry. I also took the opportunity to travel around Europe while studying in Ireland.”

Now, as graduation from college approaches, she looks to the future likely as a teacher and coach. Her brothers, parents and grandfather all work or worked in the auto industry. Did she ever contemplate following in their footsteps? “No, I don’t think so. While I am proud to say that my family works in the automotive industry, it’s not for me.”

Offering career advice to current high-school students, Durkin says, “Be patient! Teaching, for example, is not for everyone,

but it is extremely rewarding.”

As to why she is so drawn to Catholic education in particular? “Catholic education is unique,” she says. “It allows students to learn in an environment where aspects of their faith also are being taught.”

Durkin also appreciates how students are able to talk openly about their faith with teachers and staff. She says it’s important that students not hide their faith or worry that they will be ridiculed for it. “That is something from NDP that I will always value. It is one of the main reasons why I decided to continue on my path of Catholic education.

“I will always cherish the people and the memories from my four years at Prep.” 🇺🇸



During her four-year soccer career at St. Mary's, Katy Durkin played in 60 out of 67 games and started in 32 of them. She has 11 career goals and one assist..



THE POPE? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

You knew it would only be a matter of time.

Like his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI is keen to use the latest in technology to get his message out to the masses. Now, there's an app for that!

Building on a communications strategy that includes a channel on YouTube and a Facebook page, Benedict XVI has launched H2Onews, an application that is available on line and will be available soon through Apple Computer's App Store. According to the Vatican, the application H2Onews for Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch distributes exclusively the most important news about the life of the Church in the world. When launched later this year, the app will come loaded with daily audio and video inspirational/devotional content with bonus transcripts, scripture references and insightful commentary. 🇺🇸

LOWER DIV. JUMPS ROPE FOR HEART

The Notre Dame Marist Academy - lower division participated in Jump Rope for Heart again this year. The kids raised a total of \$2,865, which is about \$1,200 more than last year! Students from grades Jr.K through fifth participated during their gym classes on February 3rd and 4th. They moved through several jumping stations and enjoyed a healthy snack at the end of class. The fifth-grade class helped facilitate the event for the first-grade class and kids in all classes signed posters “In Honor and Memory Of” people they knew or know who have suffered from heart disease or stroke. 🇺🇸



Wroubel center dedicated on February 24

A dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on February 24 for the new Betty A. Wroubel Athletic Performance Center.

The 4,000-square-foot facility, designed for both male and female student-athletes of varying ages, includes space for weightlifting, plyometrics, stretching, rehabilitation and a training



Board trustee Darren Gifford, left, and ND Marist Academy principals Diana Atkins and Sandy Favrow, right, help school president Fr. Leon and athletic director Betty Wroubel cut a ribbon to open the new Betty A. Wroubel Athletic Performance Center on February 24.

room. Its total cost of \$400,000 was paid for 100% through private donations and provides NDPMA students with a first-class athletic performance center. Detroit Pistons' strength and conditioning coach and current parent Arnie Kander helped to design an optimum equipment layout in the center.

The facility's name was chosen to honor the school's long-time employee and current athletic director/assistant principal Betty Wroubel. According to NDPMA president Fr. Leon Olszamowski, Wroubel has been an institution at 1300 Giddings Road since she first began teaching in 1980. "She has been instrumental in building our athletic department, which is one of the largest in the state of Michigan, into an exemplary model of a mission-driven program. I couldn't be happier with the choice of name for this new addition to our school," said Olszamowski.

The facility is fully heated and air-conditioned and includes a large, windowed office for the school's athletic trainer or other athletic personnel. This will allow for close supervision of all student-ath-



NDP ninth-grader Connor Cervone, right, spots sophomore Devin Molloy on the bench press in the new Betty A. Wroubel Athletic Performance Center.

letes as well as those who may be rehabilitating particular injuries.

The Wroubel center includes a large name and donor recognition plaque that will serve as a permanent reminder of the individuals whose extreme generosity helped to make this project a reality. 🇺🇸

NOTRE DAME PREP'S RIGHT TO LIFE CLUB MARCHES IN WASHINGTON

NDP students were among the tens of thousands of Pro-Life protesters in Washington, D.C., for the 37th Annual March for Life on January 22. The 16 members of the school's Right to Life Club attended a rally at the Washington Mall and then marched along Constitution Avenue up Capital Hill to the Supreme Court.

In addition to the march, the students toured the Washington monuments and museums as well as the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where they attended mass. They were also treated to a concert and inspirational talk by the renowned physically disabled singer Tony Melendez. Born without arms, Melendez plays guitar with his feet and campaigns actively for the end to legalized abortion.

The NDP contingent joined the rest of the marchers, numbering over 200,000 by some estimates, some of whom waved banners and chanted "Hey hey, ho ho. Roe v. Wade has got to go" at the steps of the Supreme Court.

January 22 was the anniversary of the now 36-year-old Supreme Court ruling in Roe v. Wade that effectively legalized abortion in the United States. 🇺🇸



First row (from left) Kristen Dailey, Nicole Roser, Lisa Pellerito, Kristina Parise, Erin Gales. Second row (from left) Angela Connop, Maria Mikulec, Lisa Jankowski, Madeline Maher, Gabrielle Bowers, Bridgett Degenhardt, Michelle Utykanski, Sara Barron, Lauren Wilson, Tia Jurkiw, Christina Casali

SAVE THE DATE: BOOSTER CLUB'S 14TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday, June 17, at The Westwynd in Rochester Hills

For more information, please contact: Pat D'Agostini: 248-650-8601.

The registration form is available on the NDPMA website:

ndpma.org/drupal/node/1258

The need for vocations

By Fr. Leon Olszamowski, s.m., President, NDPMA

We could use a few more vocations, too! “We,” being the Marists of NDPMA, were talking about our own vocations a couple of weeks ago.

Among the five of us, we have nearly 150 years of experience as religious in the Society of Mary and over 90 years experience as priests. If I recall correctly, it was our most seasoned religious, Brother Louis, who asked the question, “Why have we (Marists) not been blessed with a vocation to the priesthood, brotherhood, or sisterhood from Notre Dame Prep and Marist Academy?” We’ve had three or four of our students go to the seminary or convent, but none have come to the Marist Fathers, Brothers, or Sisters. Sixteen years seems like a long drought! We’ve asked ourselves whether we were doing something wrong, or maybe we just don’t stress vocations enough in the school or ask individual students enough. We’d love to know what we can do better to bring students to the priesthood and religious life.

Fr. Joe, Fr. Jim and I are native Detroiters and graduated from Harper Woods Notre Dame; Fr. Brian and Bro. Louis came from Massachusetts. We all have a few things in common, I think. Each of us heard God’s call, and, as far as I know, each of us was invited by a Marist Father or Brother to give the religious life a try. Also, each of us came along, found it to our liking, and have stayed with it. I can’t say that every day has been easy; but I can say, without hesitation, that I love the religious life and priesthood, and I am thankful that God invited me. I just celebrated forty years as a religious and will celebrate thirty-five years as a priest this year.

I often wonder who will take up the Marist mantle to serve at this school when the five of us move on to other pastures. So far, it looks like it will be no one from NDPMA, unless some of our students generously respond to God’s call.

As a result of our conversation, the NDPMA Marists have decided to take a much more open approach toward inviting our students to learn and share our Marist way of life. We intend to be more forthright in asking students to consider a religious vocation and, then, help them to discern God’s call. We would also like to invite our parental community to hear more about the Marist way of life as a possible vocation for their children. We invite all members of our school community to pray that God will bless us with calls to the religious life and priesthood. Finally, sometime this spring, we intend to have a gathering at our Marist residence to talk more about the Marist way of life with students who are interested. God needs generous young people to serve His Church. We are confident that some of those young people are attending school here. 🙏

“God needs generous young people to serve His Church.”

Fr. Leon



SPRING INTO FASHION

The Parents Club of NDPMA is having its 13th Annual Fashion Gala Show on Tuesday, March 23, at 6:00 p.m. The gala will be held at the Cherry Creek Golf Club in Shelby Township and features cocktails, dinner, the fashion show and a raffle to follow. Tickets are \$45 per person and are available by calling Laura

Fitzpatrick at 586-566-1346. Ten seats per table. Parisian of Rochester Hills is working with the Parents Club on this event. More information on the NDPMA web site.



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS HEADED OUT OF TOWN TO PROMOTE PEACE

Eighth-grader Gil Guthrie and seventh-grader Kyle Weaver were recently accepted into the People-to-People Student Ambassador program, a nonprofit, Kansas City-based organization founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 to promote peace through understanding worldwide. Guthrie and Weaver are scheduled to travel to France, Italy and Greece in July.

Guthrie is spearheading a bottle drive to assist with the expenses. With the help of the Environmental Club in the middle division, he is collecting returnables at home from neighbors, and from the trash bins on the NDPMA campus. He also is selling Hungry Howie’s discount pizza punch cards through a corporate sponsorship with Steve Peterson (Nick Peterson’s dad in the middle div.) Guthrie will be collecting returnables for the entire school year. 🙏

NDPMA COLLECTS FOR HAITI RELIEF

Kudos to the students, parents, faculty and staff of NDPMA, who quickly put together over \$7,000 for victims of the tragic January 12th earthquake in Haiti.

The funds were sent directly to Haiti via the Catholic Relief Services, which thus far has distributed food aid to over 264,000 people, nonfood aid to 25,000 people and medical care and treatment to more than 4,000 people in Haiti.

As of March 2, CRS had raised \$86 million for its emergency response in Haiti. 🙏

Basketball team hits a three-pointer for Gleaners

The boys varsity basketball team took time away from their successful season to help with the distribution of much-needed food to the area needy. Members of the team, coaches and parents pitched in on February 1 at the Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. They helped sort more than three tons of salvaged food. Gleaners sends over 33 million pounds of food per year to over 400 partner agencies that distribute to the hungry.

Denise Leduc of Gleaners said in a note to the team: "We really appreciated your willingness to come and help. A special thank you to Beth Lofay as well as Michelle and Dani McCormick for coming to help too!" 📷

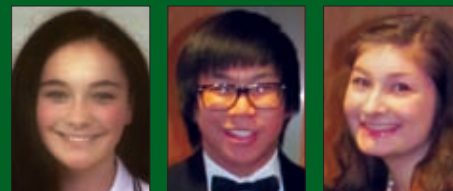


Basketball team members Kellen McCormick, left, and Charles Hayden, both sophomores, help organize canned goods at Gleaners Community Food Bank February 1st. The boys varsity basketball team spent a day at Gleaners and sorted through over three tons of food for distribution to the needy.

Exemplary, from page 1

"Megan, Marty, Mary Jo and Duane Holmes commit untold hours to making sure our athletes have all the support they need to succeed," adds Wroubel. "And I want to especially commend the student-

athletes and thousands of parent volunteers over the years who have contributed immensely to making our program what it is today." 📷



From left: Danielle Mullis, Chris Koo and Claire Zavolta earned accolades at the All State Music Ensembles in Grand Rapids on January 23.

ALL-STATE IN BAND

Three students from Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy made all-state band.

Eighth-grader Danielle Mullis, Chris Koo, 10th grade, and Claire Zavolta, 12th grade, were among over 2,300 students who auditioned for a spot in the All State Music Ensembles in Grand Rapids on January 23.

Only 120 young musicians from Michigan were chosen to perform with the all-state band at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids' DeVos Hall.

"This is a great honor for our school to have three students make all state," said Joe Martin, NDPMA's band director. 📷

A higher grade of learning

The Blarney Stone is published five times per year by the Advancement Office of NDPMA. Contact The Blarney Stone at 248-373-2171 or jkopytek@ndpma.org. School web site: ndpma.org

Notre Dame Preparatory School and Marist Academy - Middle Division are International Baccalaureate "World Schools."



2005 2007 2008



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