

THE VISTA



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Candidates Weigh In on College Loan Debt

HALEY DEKEYSER

As more seniors receive college acceptance letters, the reality of paying for college sets in, and students may be faced with the decision to use college loans.

\$1 trillion. This is the total amount student loan debt is expected to reach near the end of this year, already exceeding credit card debt in 2010.

President Obama and other candidates in the approaching presidential election are speaking out about plans regarding this popular method of paying for college.

“One of the reasons that college debt exceeded credit card debt is because the average tuition has gone up so high. Tuition and medical expenses are the only costs that have not been affected by the recession,” social studies teacher Mr. Matt McEwen said.

The Obama Administration recently decided to put a student loan payment plan into effect in 2012. This plan is a modification of a congressional proposal that would have taken action in 2014, but Obama made tweaks and changed the start date to be sooner through executive order.

Known as the “Pay as You Earn” plan, college graduates will be able to decrease their monthly student loan payments.

Obama’s plan lowers the payment amount to 10 percent of a person’s discretionary income, compared to the current 15 percent.

Nearly 1.6 million Americans will be able to lower their student loan payments with the implementation of Obama’s plan.

Under this plan, if people do not pay off their student loans after 20 years, the remaining amount they owe will be forgiven. However, this does not apply to those who take out loans from private lenders.

“My mom took out student loans to pay for her college tuition, and not too long ago she told me that she had finally paid



Seniors Martha Guisfredi, Taylor Hoffman and Maegan Cline look through the college scholarship binders in the Guidance Galleria in hope of finding scholarship opportunities to help them pay for their college educations. Photo by Haley DeKeyser

them off. It took her 17 years,” senior JaLynn Gover said.

Obama’s plan will allow people to combine their Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loans into a single loan, enabling them to make one payment. This can decrease the interest rate on their student loans up to 0.5 percent.

“The downside of college loans is the part where you have to pay them back with interest. Interest can accumulate and you will end up owing a lot more money than you initially borrowed,” Mr. McEwen said.

As the 2012 presidential campaign heats up, some candidates reveal their own strategies on how to handle this issue.

Republican candidate Michelle Bachmann believes that it is solely the borrower’s responsibility to repay his or her student loans.

As a man who worked to pay off his college tuition, republican candidate Herman Cain claims that it should not be the federal government’s responsibility to aid students in paying their college tuitions. He believes the

government at the state and local levels should take care of this, if they choose to do so.

“Some colleges allow you to do some work for them, and that can help offset your costs,” Mr. McEwen said, “Grants and scholarships are always helpful in paying for college. Notre Dame does a great job at helping students apply for these. Also, living at home and commuting to a local college can help save a lot of money.”

Eliminating federal student loans and the Department of Education is libertarian candidate Ron Paul’s approach to this issue. He blames the increasing college tuition costs on the government’s involvement in paying for college.

Although republican candidate Mitt Romney does not have a plan specifically directed at student loans, he claims that he will focus on creating jobs for Americans, giving college graduates a source of income to pay off their loans.

“If you do not get a job right after college, your student loans build up and you spend your whole life paying them off,” senior Emily Reese said.

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Occupy Wall Street Grows; Toledo Joins

BREANN MCDEDE

"We are the 99%!" On Sept. 17, 2011, thousands of New Yorkers gathered into Wall Street to show the government how unsatisfied they were with them. On Oct. 10, 2011, this movement moved to Toledo, Ohio, just as it has to many other cities around the country.

U.S. History teacher Mr. Matt McEwen describes the movement as "a movement among the middle and lower class that are upset by different aspects of the current economy, such as college debt, corporate greed and government bailouts to big business, and how the government is set up."

Their reasons are simple, yet complex at the same time.

"They are upset," Mr. McEwen said. "They feel that the cards are stacked against them, and they are showing feelings by protesting."

Many people across the country have their own opinions on this movement.

"I can see why people would be against the higher class, but a lot of those with money earned their way instead of

looking for handouts," senior Jenna Castillo said.

These protestors have gained a large following, with the number of cities participating reaching 1,500. One of these cities is Toledo, Ohio.

The movement in Toledo began Oct. 10 at Levis Square and has since been asked to leave. Now, they have begun holding General Assemblies at indoor locations.

The movement in Toledo focuses on arts and culture, local issues and at their forefront, foreclosures.

"The first rally went great. Marcy Kaptur and Carty Finkbeiner attended, as well as about 200 people," Ed Heilman, a protestor at the Occupy Toledo movement, said. "However, for the first three weeks we had no tents, fires or pretty much anything else that could keep us healthy or safe."

While the conditions were bad, there were always at least one or two people on site.

"All we want is economic justice," Mr. Heilman said. "We have changed the



Occupy Toledo holds a General Assembly, where they work together to make a change. Photo by Breann McDeDe

national outlook on these situations, and that is just part of the success."

Occupy Toledo continues to push on, even though it has been forced to move indoors.

It has its own Facebook group, where participants constantly update and inform their followers.

"Changing the world takes time," Mr. Heilman said, "because of this I got to know good people. We created a community that is hopeful; hopeful for change."

Many Hearts Warmed in Harlan

BRIANNE SZYMANSKI

"In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

These words of Acts 20:35 are experienced by about 45 NDA ladies every year during the service trip to Harlan County, Kentucky, one of the poorest counties in the United States.

"We set up and run a toy store for local residents in the basement of Holy Trinity Church. Once the toy store closes, we sponsor a Christmas party and provide a hot meal and gifts for about 300 people in Harlan, Kentucky. We take about 1000 gifts with us all provided by the girls of NDA!" Pastoral Services Assistant Mrs. Aimee Parks said.

The service trip profoundly influences all involved. NDA girls provide the impetus to change a seemingly predestined path of life.

"The girls are a great example to the children of Harlan to see what they can be someday. I remember one of the first years I went, a girl in her early 20's was home from college and we ran into her in one of the local restaurants. She was

talking about how she went to the party quite often as a child and seeing the girls inspired her to go to college and make a better life for herself," Mrs. Parks said.

To the people of Harlan, the trip provides a tinge of hope.

"The trip gives the people of Harlan Christmas joy through presents and reminders that someone does care for them. It reminds them of the love of Jesus Christ," sophomore Maggie Burlingame said.

This experience helps girls to put life into perspective and provide a realization of how fortunate they are.

"I have become a lot more appreciative of all of the blessings that I have. Most people in Harlan truly have nothing, but they stay positive and are such an inspiration! The residents are so appreciative of our gifts because they are the only gifts that most of the children and adults will receive," sophomore Erika Krausz said.

With girls so willing to help those less fortunate, NDA manifests the teachings of Act 20:35.

"I like to say that anyone who worries about the future generation has not met the girls of NDA!" Mrs. Parks said.

NDA

News Briefs

LEXI AUGHENBAUGH

Exam Schedule

Wednesday, December 14:

Period 1 Exam- 8:00- 9:30

Break- 9:30- 9:45

Period 2 Exam- 9:45- 11:15

Lunch- 11:15- 12:00

Period 4 Exam- 12:00-1:30

Thursday, December 15:

Period 5 Exam- 8:00- 9:30

Break- 9:30- 9:45

Period 6 Exam- 9:45- 11:15

Lunch- 11:15- 12:00

Period 8 Exam- 12:00- 1:30

Friday, December 16:

Period 3 Exam- 9:00- 10:30

Break- 10:30- 10:45

Period 7 Exam- 10:45- 12:15

"Do you support the Occupy Wall Street Movement?"

At Open House, the votes were split: 64 for yes and 64 for no.

TRAC-ing NDA Sports

LEXI AUGHENBAUGH

With the first Three Rivers Athletic Conference (TRAC) season coming to a close, it is time to review the results of NDA's sports and prepare for the winter TRAC season.

Many of the fall sports progressed to a competitive level.

"I think our fall sports performed well this season. We had one varsity team win a championship (cross country), two finish second (soccer and tennis) and one finish third (golf).

"Varsity volleyball finished fourth; however, the TRAC was the only conference in the state to have two teams in the volleyball final four (St. Ursula and Findlay), so volleyball is very competitive in the TRAC," Athletic Director Mr. Gary Snyder said.

When the TRAC was first put into play, it was received with both excitement and hesitation. Many girls were nervous because of the new competition and the possibilities of getting their old records broken. However, Eagle athletes, ready to establish new records, showed their eagerness to have a successful season.

"This fall season, tennis was really fun. I look forward to another season," sophomore Samia Harb said.

Junior varsity tennis won the first JV TRAC championship, cross country won NDA's first varsity TRAC championship, and varsity soccer, varsity tennis, and junior varsity volleyball all finished second in the TRAC.

"As a team, we were fun and supported each other. We are a big and happy cross country family," sophomore Sydney Sherman said.

NDA's fall athletes let their eagle success soar far, even with new rivals.

"The majority of our TRAC opponents were also our competitors in the City League so those rivalries continue. Of the three new schools, Findlay has come out as the most competitive.

"There is no doubt that we want to finish at the top of the basketball, gymnastics and swimming and diving TRAC standings," Mr. Snyder said.

With the first fall season ending on a successful note, NDA athletes can only hope to bring home the gold in the following winter and spring TRAC seasons.



Sophomore Taylor Willson practices diving at Sylvania Northview Highschool's Natatorium, so that her technique is perfect when she dives to victory. She is the sole diver on NDA's Diving Team. Photo by Brianne Szymanski

Healthy Holiday Helpings

EMILY THOMAS

The holidays are synonymous with happy thoughts of family, friends, and lots of food.

Holiday parties bring cheese platters, mashed potatoes and a plethora of desserts.

"There's lots of good food on the holidays and it tempts me. I actually eat a lot of junk food during the holidays," senior Ali Sellick said.

With all of the tempting dishes, it becomes particularly difficult to stay healthy during the holidays. Balanced meals and exercise routines tend fall to the wayside.

To keep from falling out of their healthy habits, girls should remember one simple mantra: "everything in moderation."

Holiday food comes around once a year, and there is no reason to completely avoid it.

"Cakes and cookies are everywhere during the holidays, and mashed potatoes have lots of salt and butter," Health student and senior Olivia Ruse said.

While all of these foods are delicious, portions should be balanced with healthy options such as steamed vegetables or cranberry sauce with limited sugar.

As a rule of thumb, no more than half of a holiday plate should be a beige or brown color. Foods of these colors tend to be pastries or high in carbohydrates

and starches.

Knowing how to balance one's plate

can help maintain one's health. Diagrams from the website choosemyplate.gov, similar to the one shown in this article, can give girls a visual representation of what their plates should



A diagram of a balanced plate based on information at www.choosemyplate.gov. By Emily Thomas

look like.

"I think there is information out there [about eating healthy], but people do not care enough to access it," senior Ali Sellick said.

Being aware of portion and serving sizes helps girls to stick with healthy eating and avoid overeating, which leads to tiredness and stomach aches.

"In Health, we talk about reading food labels and knowing different serving sizes," Olivia said.

Staying healthy during the holidays also means keeping up with regular fitness routines.

It is important to make time for a quick workout even when busy. Jumping rope, doing yoga, lifting weights or going on a family walk can help girls stay on track.

This combined with healthy holiday eating leads to a great holiday for girls and their health.

Homeless Remain Hungry for Money

Let Generosity Beat the Dollar



Let Caution Beat Addictions

LEXI AUGHENBAUGH

Instead of questioning the reliability of a homeless person on a street corner, think about how desperate and needy their situation could be.

Sometimes giving a dollar or two to a stranger can be irritating when one considers the work necessary to make money and the casualness expected when giving it away. But if one dollar can be so much to someone who works hard for it, think about the value of that dollar in the eyes of a homeless person. They would feel so grateful for the generosity of the benefactor.

How often are there pennies and dimes littered on the ground that fell out of someone's pocket? Even when they are noticed, many people still do not stop and pick them up.

These actions go to show how little the value of coins can be to some. However, to homeless people that fight every day to acquire the tools necessary to survive, every penny can make a difference.

With so many people complaining and inquiring as to why homeless people do not get jobs, they should consider the limited resources available to the poor. Desperately needy people often do not have enough money to afford transportation to their job site, cannot afford presentable clothes for a job interview, do not have the background qualifications necessary to obtain various jobs or have misplaced documentation that certifies they can legally work.

At Notre Dame Academy, students learn about the importance of giving to others, something that is stressed in the Catholic faith. Helping those in need is a perfect way to be a servant of the Lord and exercise the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Rather than finding the reasons not to give deprived people some extra cash, search into the teachings of God and one's own heart to summon up one's generosity.

HALEY DEKEYSER

Passing a homeless person begging on the sidewalk in the city is unfortunately a common experience. Despite the guilt and indecisiveness that waves over good souls like NDA girls, one should not give money directly to a homeless person.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, more than 4 in 10 individual homeless adults have disabilities. These disabilities include drug and alcohol problems.

Because drug and alcohol addiction is a significant problem amongst homeless individuals, people take the risk that they will support a homeless person's bad habits if they give money to someone begging on the street.

Even if giving money to a seemingly desperate person makes people feel good about themselves, there are better ways to help that enable good Samaritans to put their money toward helping the homeless, not toward taking the risk of feeding addictions that keep them on the streets.

There are a variety of charities and organizations that people can contribute to in order to help the homeless in a positive way. Whether it is donating money, food, clothing or time to volunteer, becoming involved in such establishments will ensure that one's donations contribute to a positive cause.

In Toledo, Cherry Street Mission Ministries serves the poor and homeless all hours of the day for every day of the year. It is easy to donate money online, drop off items at the shelter and find time to volunteer.

Another alternative to directly giving money to homeless people is handing them money in the form of a restaurant gift card. The gift card can be from a place as simple as McDonald's, but they will appreciate the ticket to a fresh, warm meal.

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Editor's Corner

To my anxious-for-Christmas-break Eagles,

It is that time of year in Toledo again...winter. Snow is always more enjoyable during the holiday season as it gets us into the Christmas spirit! If we are blessed with a White Christmas, enjoy the glistening snowfall before we are all sick of shoveling our driveways, scraping off our cars in the NDA parking lot and driving in the slush (unless it gives us a snow day, of course).

Make sure you make it to some basketball and hockey games over break! Also, the Lights at the Zoo is always a must, even if you do not have a special someone. Stay strong for these next few days of exams because 17 days of relaxation is totally worth it!

Haley

Impact of Alumni Giving

Many talk of their alma mater in the past tense, a sense of nostalgia lingering in their voice.

They speak of how great the times were in their high school days.

However, they may never give a thought to where the school may be or what the school may need now.

Alumni donations are very important to schools.

Many schools often get a lot of their funding from donations.

The impact of donating to one's alma mater reaches out to each and every student who is currently enrolled, and those who will be in the future.

Donations are always welcomed and always needed.

No matter what size of donation, any donation is welcomed with open arms.

At schools that require tuition, these donations are especially important.

Beginning a scholarship fund could help countless students achieve their goals by attending the school that is right for them and their education.

Many students cannot afford tuition, and these donations would go to help with financial aid.

Another benefit of donation is the bettering of the school.

From new textbooks to new auditoriums, bettering of a school is something that is often greatly needed.

Alumni donations help contribute to the bettering of the schools, even if it is one person contributing.

Selflessly giving back to a school where one once attended gives one a

good-feeling and knowledge that they have truly made a difference and helped those who need it.

Donations truly touch the hearts of everyone they help.

Seniors graduating from their high schools are often reminded of the importance of alumni donations.

This is an important thing to be reminded of, before moving out to college, and moving on with life.

Statistically showing, those who typically donate are students who have much alum involvement, highly value their previous education and those who have a generally good place of employment.

But alum donators do not have to fit this stereotype.

Anyone, anywhere can help a school, and that is what is encouraged.

Ten, twenty or thirty years from now one may fondly look back on their high school years and think: "What can I do to give back to my school? How can I help?"

That answer is donating.

Donating will help the students who are now in the exact same seats that previous students occupied, and future students will sit.

While those graduated move on with their lives, they must not forget their treasured alma mater, and how much was given to them and their fellow classmates in high school.

But most importantly, they must not forget to give back to the school that gave so much.

An Eagle's View

Dirty Pictures Capture Concern

EMILY THOMAS

"It's just one little picture, what's the harm?"

This is just one of the thoughts running through the mind of a girl who is snapping inappropriate pictures of herself with her phone and sexting.

It is just one little picture, but one little picture can have huge consequences.

Sexting is the sending of inappropriate or revealing pictures through the use of a cell phone. While at the time sexting may seem fine as just a "present" for a boyfriend or a picture showing a boy how good you look in the long run, it rarely works out well.

Guys promise to never show the picture, send it out or post it anywhere, but few ever keep their promise.

In reality, most show pictures or brag about them to several of their friends. This means that when many of your boy's friend's look at you, they begin to see you as an object and not as a gift.

Once they see you in a sexual way, it is hard to get that image out of their head.

If for some reason the recipient of your picture posts it online and potential employers see it, the picture can ruin your chance of being called back for an interview or job offer.

Even if your man never shows your revealing pictures or posts them, you can still get in huge trouble.

Let's say he gets his phone taken away at school for texting his friend. To check when he was texting to prove he was doing it in class, a teacher checks his messages. What's at the top of his inbox? Your "sexy" picture from last night.

Both you and your guy can now get in trouble for the possession and distribution of child pornography, and that is nothing to laugh about.

If charged, you both could have to register as sex offenders, something that will stay with you for your entire lives and jeopardize your futures.


Sexting degrades women and contributes to low self-esteem.


Girls must realize how incredible and beautiful they are. Seeking male approval through inappropriate pictures can contribute to emotional damage in the long run.


When it comes to sexting, don't send, just don't.


Cheers and Jeers


It's important for NDA girls to keep on top of what's happening today, so here are the best and the worst of some of the most recent current events.


 Cheers to new evidence of a lost civilization in the Sahara.

 Jeers to pediatricians writing over 10 million unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions per year.

 Cheers to an 85-year-old great-grandmother catching an 850-pound marlin on a charter fishing trip.

 Jeers to foreign nations selling counterfeit military parts to the US.

 Cheers to Operation Homefront, a new organization that supports wounded warriors with financial needs.

 Jeers to an island of debris spanning 69 miles floating towards the U.S. from the Japanese earthquake.

Exams

Ultimate Guide for Preparing, Relaxing and Surviving

EMILY THOMAS

As December comes around each year, one word strikes fear into the heart of every NDA girl, exams.

Be it Pre-Calculus, English II Honors or Latin, almost every class brings exam stress, but study and relaxation tips can help to bring holiday joy back into the season.

Every girl learns differently, and as a result, every girl studies differently too, but common study tips can help girls of every learning style.

Making flash cards, reviewing past tests, creating study guides, studying in groups and talking through material can all help girls to retain the test information.

"Before my exams, I make flash cards for all key terms, and I review my past tests," senior Cipriana Gonzales said.

To help information stick, girls should take time to review exam materials frequently.

Instead of trying to cram the night before, girls should spread out studying

throughout the weeks leading up to exams and do brief reviews the night before.

"The night before, I study the subjects of the exams I have the next day. Before each exam, I review for that subject," junior Libby Harms said.

While NDA girls are diligently studying, they must make sure to take time to relax emotionally and intellectually.

For every hour spent studying, ladies should plan to take a fifteen minute break.

This time can be spent in a variety of ways such as watching tv, baking, playing Wii, having fun in the snow or even napping.

"To relax before exams I play with my doggy and watch holiday movies," Cipriana said.

Spending time with friends, going shopping, napping, or grabbing a bite to eat can help to alleviate girls' pre-exam stress.

"I drink a lot of Starbucks, eat some

cookies and take naps before exams," Libby said.

The night before exams, girls should make an extra effort to relax and get a good night of sleep.

Getting to bed early the night before a test has been proven to better test results when combined with studying.

The morning of an exam, girls should eat a healthy, balanced breakfast and pack some mint flavored snacks for the day. Both have been shown to improve test scores.

Even with all the stress of exams, girls have a lot to look forward to during the holiday break.

"I feel relieved and happy when exams are over. I look forward to the long break and throwing away my flashcards and study guides."

With family, friends and fun lighting up the Christmas season, break is the light at the end of the exam tunnel.

"I look forward to break, relaxing, and not needing to worry about school at all," Libby said.

NDA Girls Embrace the Christmas Season

BRIANNE SZYMANSKI

It is that time of year again. The courtyard is closed, Netty's has transformed into a Christmas tree farm, cookies are baking, the tree is ablaze with twinkling lights and "Jingle Bell Rock" is playing on the radio.

But how do NDA girls know and welcome the Christmas season?

"You can just smell it in the air. When I think of Christmas, I think of all of the Christmases in the past. All of the smells come back to my memory, all of the wonderful things I have received, but mostly how people just reach out to each other during this time," junior Hannah Rine said.

The cliché traditions, snow and celebratory sweets put us in the mood of joviality.

"Christmas music, movies and snow. Lots of snow. What more can you ask for on Christmas Eve? With all of the lights on the trees outside, it makes things beautiful. I love the whole atmosphere of Christmas," freshman Madysson Parks said.

These decorations are quintessential to setting the spirit of the upcoming



NDA prepares for Christmas festivities with a new tree from Executive Student Council. By Brianne Szymanski

Christmas season.

"I love driving around the neighborhoods at night and getting to see all the Christmas lights and decorations. I know it is time for Christmas when the snow starts to fall. Eating candy canes and decorating the Christmas tree are also a great ways to get into the Christmas spirit!" sophomore Meghan O'Brien said.

As much as Christmas is about its picturesque qualities and festivities, it is even more so about the bonds bolstered

within families.

"I enjoy spending extra time with my family because sometimes it gets hard during the school weeks. I love baking cookies, snuggling up and watching movies, being able to be carefree and spending time with the people I love most," Hannah said.

Above all, Christmas provides the utmost opportunity to strengthen one's faith.

"When I think of Christmas, I always try to remember the real reason for celebrating, the birth of Jesus Christ. God loves us so much that he sent us his only Son. Christmas is a time to spread that love God gave us by giving gifts, caring for others and spending time with the ones we love," Meghan said.

For Notre Dame girls, Christmas is truly one of the most wonderful times of the year.

"My favorite part about the Christmas season is when my whole family comes to our house. We all celebrate Christmas together by having a huge dinner, opening presents and playing games. It is a day that is filled with love and laughter!" Meghan said.

Cuddle Up with Hot Holiday Beverages

HALEY DEKEYSER

The holiday season is not the same without a tasty, hot beverage in hand, steaming in the chilly winter air.

Popular coffee shops around Toledo are offering a variety of seasonal drinks that will toast people right up!

Tim Hortons

Tim Hortons is putting a spin on classic hot chocolate with their Candy Cane White Hot Chocolate.

This beverage consists of a white hot chocolate base with a hint of refreshing mint flavor.

It is topped with whipped cream and red, white and green candy cane crumbles, which add a festive touch and a minty burst.



This is the holiday drink for those with a sweet tooth, and it is reasonably priced compared to similar options at other coffee shops.

Biggby Coffee

Many NDA students may find themselves studying for exams or relaxing with friends on Christmas break at Biggby Coffee, so get in the holiday spirit by trying the Peppermint Stick Mocha Latte.

This holiday latte is good for people who do not like a strong coffee flavor, as the chocolate and peppermint flavors tone down the coffee base.

The hint of mint flavor in this chocolate-y coffee drink is not as strong as the peppermint taste in the Tim Hortons option.

Topped with whipped cream, chocolate sauce drizzle and sprinkles, this warm cup of flavored coffee not only looks delicious, but the taste follows through as well.

Although satisfying on a cold winter day, this beverage is the priciest of the three.



Starbucks

As Toledo transitions from fall into winter, Starbucks' Pumpkin Spice Latte is highly recommended for this time of year.

If its aroma of warm pumpkin pie does not lure someone in immediately, its taste certainly will do the trick when one wants to be toasty amidst the frigid winter wind.

It has the strongest coffee flavor of the three drinks. However, the addition of the pumpkin flavor along with the cinnamon, nutmeg and clove spices balance it out well.

For those fans of pumpkin pie, and for those who do not want a super sweet beverage to warm themselves up, this hot holiday drink will be sure to please their taste buds.



Mission Decorating No Longer Impossible

BRIANNE SZYMANSKI

Christmastime is here again and everyone knows what that means. It is time to tackle decorating and let those creative juices flow.

But for those whose creative juices are totally drained or sterile, this is easier said than done.

Nevertheless, if there is ever a season to embrace interior decorating skills—no matter how inferior they may seem—it is Christmas!

“Be true to yourself. I think decorations vary by person and express your personality,” sophomore Molly Wells said.

One of the best ways to do this is by creating some decor on one's own. Crafting napkin rings, color schemes and classy centerpieces that all tie in together are simple and impressive ways to elicit holiday cheer.

“Improvise with what you already own.

It is more fun, and it will make you think out of the box!” junior Carey Anne Dodd said.

Have an image in one's head; one never



Members of Art Club decorate Christmas ornaments, engaging their festivity. Photo by Brianne Szymanski

knows when one will discover the perfect item while trekking through the mall.

“My ideal tree would be a huge fir tree with white lights, different red colored ornaments and a bow on top with ribbon coming down the tree. I like the

simplicity of the image in my head,” senior Francesca Veluscek said.

Decorations are a prime way to manifest personality variances.

“My ideal Christmas tree would be a 100 foot tall pink one. It would have white lights and be blinged out with stringed jewels. It would have feathers sticking out. All the neighbors (except for the guys) would want it,” Carey Anne said.

Most importantly, do not over-complicate things.

“Keep it simple and traditional. It looks classy and sophisticated and is easy to clean up,” Francesca said.

This year, do not fret about Christmas decorating. Simply create memories that will last a lifetime.

“I love reminiscing when you come across your favorite ornaments. The decorations make the house really feel like home for the holidays,” Molly said.

Holy Toledo!

EMILY THOMAS

What's Happening at Catholic Schools around Toledo?

Who is your hero?



"My dad, because he is always there for me."

Abby Schweitzer, SUA Freshman



"My brother, Matt, because he is a good guy and I can look up to him."

Peter Nichols, SJJ Sophomore



"My mom, because she always knows what to do. She is the best mom ever!"

Abby Forrester, NDA Junior



"Mr. Conry, the campus ministry director, because he views everyday as a gift from God."

Matt Kirian, SFS Senior

Alum Spotlight

LEXI AUGHENBAUGH

Graduating in 1999 from NDA, Mrs. Katie Maskey is still roaming the halls as Director of Alumnae Relations.

As a student at NDA, she was involved in Broomball and Student Council, serving as Class Treasurer both her junior and senior years.

After graduating from Notre Dame, Mrs. Maskey attended Lourdes College and later attended Heidelberg University.

She is married to her husband of almost eight years, Russ, whom she supports in his business building race cars.

Placing third in the Mrs. Galaxy International Pageant with women from all over the world, Mrs. Maskey currently holds the title of Mrs. Midwest Galaxy.

Her involvement in pageantry has sparked her interest in community service as she volunteers at local organizations.

"I loved every minute of my high school years. It is nice to be back at a place that gave me so much, and I am proud to serve as your Director of Alumnae Relations!" Mrs. Maskey said.



Mrs. Katie Maskey '99

Jan. 1 Not Only New Start

BREANN MCDEDE

New Year's Resolutions: vows that people make to themselves, promising to make a change in their lives for the better, and keep it.

This tradition is one that many NDA girls continue to participate in year after year.

The question of what resolution to make is one that either comes easily, or one that takes long, agonizing hours figuring out.

The real question is why; why do we make these promises to ourselves?

One reason people make New Year's Resolutions is to stick to tradition.

The tradition of New Year's Resolutions is thousands of years old, and when everyone around is doing it, why not join in?

It may be as simple as a following of the crowd, but it could have a deeper meaning for some.

That deeper meaning is a hope for a positive change.

The idea of bettering oneself is a

motivator to make a resolution.

At one point or another, everyone encounters a time in their life where they know it is time to make an important change.

What better time for a change than the start of a New Year?

Whether it is a change in diet, exercise, attitude, work ethic or time management, this faith in a new-found change summons people into the annual tradition.

They make their resolution, and believe they will stick to it.

Making a New Year's resolution on December 31st is something that has never changed, but that does not mean it cannot be changed.

If one truly wants to make a change, there is no stopping them from doing it any other day of the year.

So, why wait? If there is a chance to change for the better, start now.

NDA girls do not have to wait for New Year's Eve to roll around to make a positive change in their life.



EAGLE SHOUT OUT

HALEY DEKEYSER

Seniors Lexi Aughenbaugh, Tara Orzechowski and Jocelyn Uchic received the CYO Outstanding High School Athlete Award.

NDA's varsity basketball team joined in the holiday spirit by requiring one canned good for admission to their game against Sylvania Southview, donating all food to St. Paul's Community Center.

Dana Rollison, '09, helped construct a massive exhibit of plastic water bottles on University of Michigan's campus through "Program in the Environment" to help make people more conscious of water bottle usage.