



Notre Dame Alumni Newsletter

www.ndalumni.org

October 2020

Juggler Field Update

As you can all see, we are excited to witness the progress on the Juggler Field and wanted to provide our community a project update directly from William McCarthy, NDRS Project Team Leader for the redevelopment of NDRS 2008 - present.

Project Summary: The completion of the Notre Dame all-weather sports field; parking facilities and landscaping and final amenities is scheduled to be completed in its entirety by year's end and this will complete the redevelopment of the entire NDRS campus.

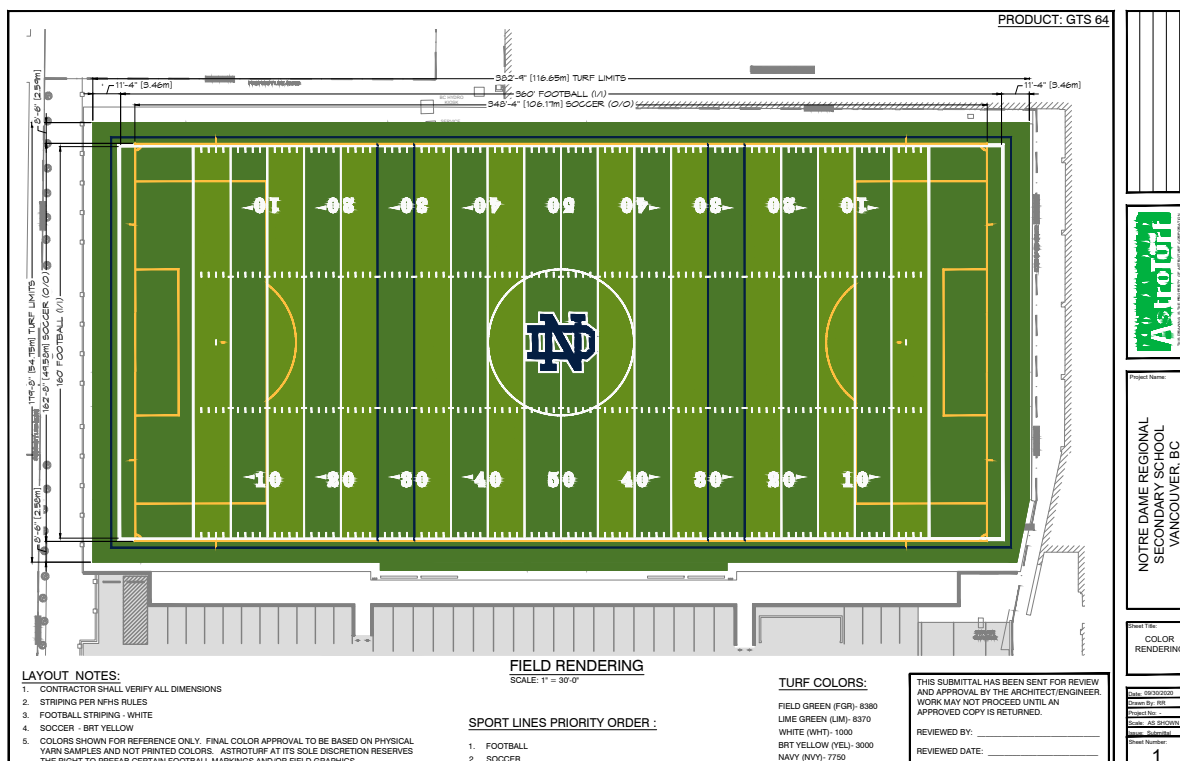
Background: The planning for the redevelopment of NDRS began in 2002 with the initial conceptual plans and development proformas that were completed in 2006. The completion of the



Field construction as of October 20, 2020

Notre Dame redevelopment has been done in three phases. The completions are as follows:

Phase I: Father Joe Ponti Academic Wing; Father Cuddy Auditorium; and renovations and upgrades



to the Alumni Hall (gymnasium and fine arts wing) (2010)

Phase II: Completion of the school's chapel and Ministry facilities; staff room; music and fine arts facilities; and cafeteria and ancillary space (2015)

Phase III: Completion of the all-weather sports field, parking, and landscaping (2020)



Start of construction

A few interesting statistics:

- As of September 15th, The field project is 60% complete
- The all-weather, full size sports field will provide NDRS teams with their first ever home field since the school was first opened in 1953!
- The field seating will provide up to 738 viewing seats
- There is no other high school collegiate campus comparable to NDRS in the province

How you can help: There will be opportunities for the NDRS community to show their financial support for this project and the school through various programs, including the opportunity to “sponsor/buy” a seat. All gifts will be recognized on site. Stay tuned for further announcements and opportunities.

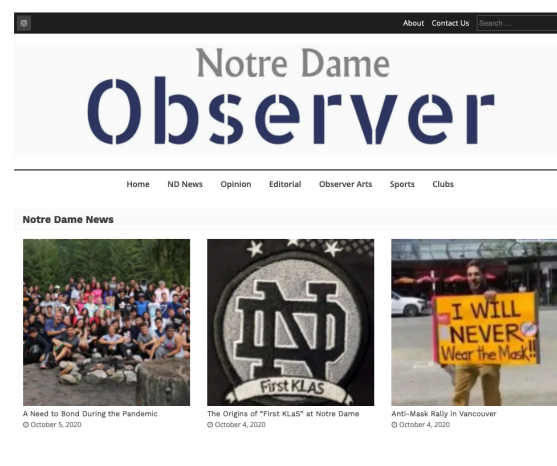
Check out a video of progress on the field as of September 28, 2020 by clicking on the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOy7q24pVf0>

Subscribe and Share

Please forward this newsletter on to any Alumni you think may be interested in the news, and ask them subscribe to get future newsletters by filling in the form on the front page of our website at ndalumni.org.

Online Student Newspaper Launched



The Notre Dame Observer team has been hard at work the past few weeks preparing our newspaper full of articles for the ND community.

<https://thenotredameobserver.com>

Feel free to share with students, teams, and clubs, parents and alumni and other members of the ND Community. Follow the Instagram account @ndobserver.

Maureen Grant Celebrates 40 Years

The Alumni extends hearty congratulations and sincere thanks to Maureen Grant (class of '70) as she marks her 40th year as Office Manager at Notre Dame. A lively member of her graduating



class, Maureen has remained a loyal member of the Notre Dame community over the years, including taking a leading role in the Alumni production of “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” Most significantly, her job became more and more challenging as she helped the school to negotiate the financial complexities arising from business matters with the CISVA and the Provincial Government, as well as all the financial matters involving the construction of the new school building. Throughout it all, Maureen has built a remarkable reputation for being dedicated, efficient, and knowledgeable at a level which no other involved in the Catholic Schools of Vancouver can surpass. Whether it is in dealing with the bank, the staff benefit package, the parents’ questions about school fees, or the daily financial transactions of school life, Maureen is always able to answer questions and resolve difficulties brilliantly. Her dedication to her job often results in her frequently working several hours beyond her contract time as she is

determined always to ensure that every outstanding matter is dealt with satisfactorily. Indeed, the main concern of those involved in the Notre Dame Community is how to replace her when she retires – something which clearly lies in the not too distant future. So it is that, while we know that sooner or later the school will have to face that inevitable challenge, all the Notre Dame community adds to its sincere congratulations on Maureen’s many years of service, a heartfelt wish that she remains as long as possible as an informed guide and leader in the paths of school bureaucracy for many years to come

Note: The Alumni Association, on behalf of all the alumni, presented Maureen with a gift to make this a noteworthy milestone in her life.)



Grad Reunion 1994

On Saturday, November 9, 2019, the Class of ‘94 held their 25th Reunion at Personas Lounge in Burnaby. It was a chance for roughly 50 members of our class to get together and share space while drinks flowed, food was eaten, and stories were exchanged. For some, it was literally the first time getting together in 25 years.

It was suitable that this reunion took place on Remembrance Day weekend, as the Class of ‘94 remembered the passing of one of its own, Maxine Martell (nee Vukic). A nominal ticket fee was collected and there was a raffle featuring various donations from the Class of ‘94. Proceeds of just over \$1400 was donated to an RESP for Maxine's son, Lucas.



Special thanks are due to Stephanie Perko who organized the reunion and has made special efforts to keep the Class of '94 connected. Any 1994 grads that are reading this, please feel free to reach out at sperko@telus.net to have her update your contact info.

We are already looking forward to the next reunion!

Michael Kozdron, 1994

Letters

Dear Notre Dame Alumni Association,

Thank you for awarding me the Notre Dame Alumni Association Bursary Award. I am grateful for the entirety of my last five years at Notre Dame and as this time comes to an end I will transition to the University of British Columbia to further my education under the faculty of applied science. I am more than excited to be pursuing a career in engineering and with my experience from the prior five years to send me on my way with excitement and enthusiasm. As the son of two Notre Dame alumni, I have great pride in being a Notre Dame graduate and I hope to put the scholarship money awarded to good use in my future endeavours. Hopefully in the future I will be a part of the Alumni Association and be able to remain a part of my secondary school's community. I can't wait to go forward into the world with the lessons and values I gained at Notre Dame.

Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Alessio Pizzolato

Dear Notre Dame Alumni Association,

Thank you so very much for choosing me for the Notre Dame Alumni Association Bursary Award. I am pursuing the field of early childhood education at Capilano University. I do not know exactly what my future holds, but whatever it is I will always do my best and reflect on the fact that it began at Notre Dame.

I am so grateful for the last 5 years of my education at Notre Dame. I have grown as a student, a human being and a person of faith. The teachers, administration and all other staff helped in making me who I am today, and the friendships I have made I hope will last forever. Wherever I go in life, I know I will uphold the values taught to me at Notre Dame.

Lastly, I too will soon be a member of the ND Alumni Association just like my dad, James Ballan. My parents love going to the ND Alumni Association Trivia Night! They go with other ND Alumni that they remain best friends with and enjoy seeing other ND Alumni when they are there!

With gratitude and appreciation,

Carmen Ballan

Notre Dame and the Covid 19 Challenge

Just how do you deal with a secondary school population of 750 students when a pandemic hits? It wasn't a question that had occurred to many prior to the spring of 2020, but when it had to be answered, the Administration, Staff, Education Committee, and student body of Notre Dame responded responsibly and positively.

The First Response

When the reality of the Covid 19 infection became known, Notre Dame went into immediate action, effectively shutting down the school the morning of March 11th, before the March Spring Break. Clearly, this posed a number of problems which had to be dealt with immediately. The Administration and Staff instituted an on-line programme, with students being instructed in eight block cycles of classes being given Monday and Tuesday and Thursday and Friday. Wednesday was used as a flex day, allowing teachers to prepare classes, mark assignments, and contact students who needed help. Students enrolled in Student Support were taught at the school in groups of three, each group assigned a teacher to assist them as needed. The result was that all students were able to finish their school year and able to advance to the next year in

September. Generally, parents and teachers reacted most positively to the school's response.

Meanwhile, under the leadership of the Administration, led by the maintenance workers Kevin Gallivan and Richard Bonnett, the school was subjected to a deep clean, students being scheduled in small groups to come and empty their lockers. Of course, certain activities, including Spring sports, were cancelled. Most significantly for the Grade 12 students, this impacted the Graduation functions. The Prom had to be cancelled, much to the disappointment of the students, many of whom had already purchased their prom attire.

Graduation

A virtual Graduation ceremony was arranged by staff members Sue Cirillo, Jessica Isherwood and Roberta Marghetti. Over a period of two days, graduating students were assigned a time slot to arrive at the school with their immediate family. On arrival, the student was presented with a rosary; the mother was presented with a rose. A family photo was then taken by Ms. Schaper-Kotter. The family then entered the gym, where the individual graduate was announced; the student's achievement at Notre Dame was also announced as he or she crossed the stage, receiving a diploma and having a professional photo taken by Artona Studio. The virtual ceremony went well and the result may be viewed on the Notre Dame web site. The families of the graduates appreciated the great effort that had been made, which was recognized as a fine way of making up for that which was lost.

Return to School

While it had been hoped that the pandemic would have ended by the time to return to school in September, as we all know, such was not the case. Preparations for the opening of school were undertaken in the summer. It was determined by the Administration and staff that the school year would be divided into four semesters of ten weeks. In each semester, students are scheduled to take two courses, with on-site class four times a week, school being in session Monday through Friday, with Wednesday as a flex day to allow students to complete and submit assignments,

teachers marking the work submitted and contacting students when necessary.

Of course, a number of precautions had to be put in place. Students move in designated cohorts; they are permitted to enter the school between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. There is no access to lockers. No parents or visitors are allowed into the school. Cleaning stations have been placed throughout the school, with cleaning of classrooms taking place after each class. Students are required to wear masks on entry into the school and are encouraged to wear masks in class. School ends at 3:00 p.m., with two classes of two and a half hours duration scheduled for each student each day. Once the students have been dismissed, Mr. Gallivan and Mr. Bonnett supervise a deep cleaning of the school each day. While far from a perfect system, that which has been instituted meets the Ministry of Education requirements and seems to be the best compromise between no school and regular school, permitting as it does all the students to continue with their education in a satisfactory fashion. It is hoped that a limited number of sports and other extra-curricular activities will be able to be resumed before the end of the school year, depending on the situation with regard to the virus. Meanwhile, the student body is co-operating admirably and dealing well with the difficult situation. However, the entire school population hopes that all these compromises will not have to be in place much longer.

Continuing Challenges

In addition to the obvious challenges, the school faces other problems. Most notably, there is the financial problem. Happily, school enrolment has been maintained, with many parents making enormous sacrifices for their students to attend Notre Dame. However, as with many schools, both public and private, the absence of International Students results in a significant loss of fees. At the same time such fund-raising activities as have in the past aided the school in funding its building programme have had to be cancelled. There will be no Uncorked Wine Tasting event and no Pub Night. And, of course, the Alumni Trivia Night has also had to be cancelled. However, it is hoped that a new form of

the annual Parent Association Lottery will take place. In the past, families were each asked to pick up and sell a book of tickets. Since this is now not permitted, it is hoped that an On-line Lottery will take place, similar to that of the PNE Home Lottery this year. It is hoped that the entire Notre Dame community will support this endeavour as the school continues to finance its debt and to pay for the soon to be completed Athletic Field.

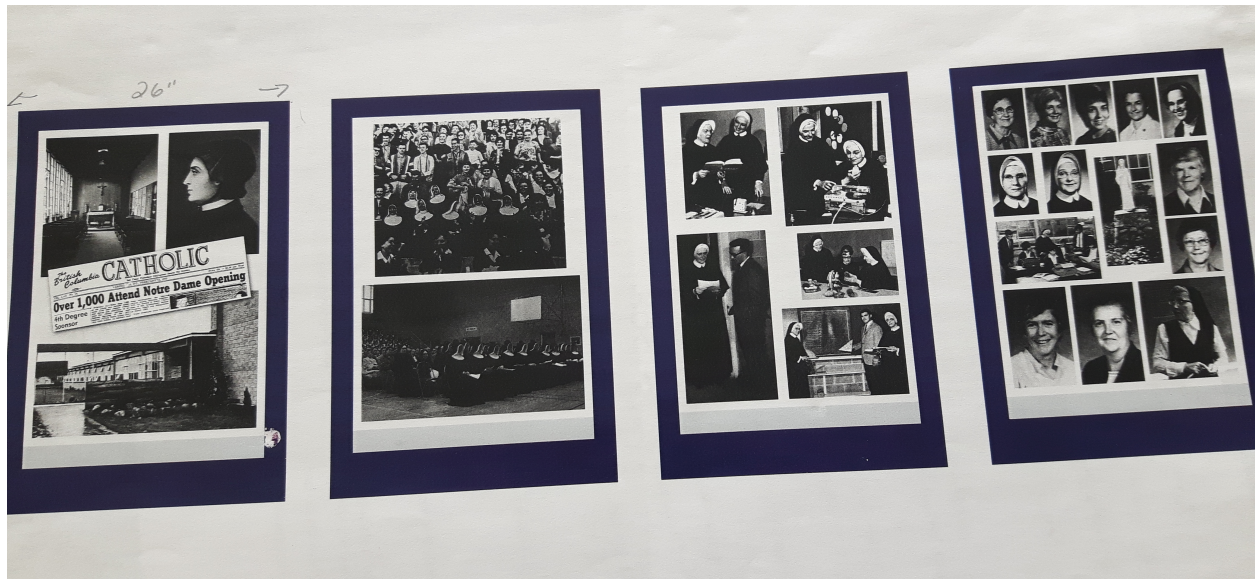
Meanwhile, the school continues to deal with the challenges of the pandemic, doing its best to ensure that the students receive as much as possible a happy secondary school experience. As

at the best solution to a difficult and unexpected problem. Way to go, Notre Dame!

Finances at Notre Dame

It is reported elsewhere in this letter that fund raising is still a necessity at Notre Dame. Many may question this, but the fact is that it is truly essential.

In the early years, the school fee was \$10.00 per month which was, at the time, a significant amount. The only reason that the school was able to function was that the Sisters of Charity staffed the school with a staff of ten Sisters whose total salary for the year was \$5500. Notre Dame owes



Photos for Display of History of ND. From left to right: 1953 Notre Dame High School opens; staffed by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax; early 1960 laity joins staff; sisters on staff from 1960 to 2001

the year progresses it is hoped that some sports and extra-curricular activities will be set in place, while the staff continues to make every effort to provide the students with a worthwhile educational experience. With the help of the community and the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, this will be possible.

Mr. DesLauriers expressly wishes to thank for all their support and cooperation, all the stakeholders in the community: Deacon Boreham, the Education Committee, the parents, the staff and the students. Together they have worked to arrive

an enormous debt, both financial and spiritual, to the Sisters of Charity of Halifax for all that they did to make the school a reality. At that time, there was one part time office worker. Lay teachers were paid approximately 60% of Public School teacher salaries. For many years, the school was kept running by Bingo. Gradually school enrolment increased from approximately 300 in 1963 (including the addition of a grade 8 class in 1973) to 750. A major leap forward was made in 1979 when the NDP government agreed to pay one third of Independent Schools' operating expenses; ten years later, this was increased to one

half of the operating expenses. It is noteworthy that the capital costs (building and furnishing) are still the financial responsibility of the school. Of course, the school was no longer able to rely on the Sisters of Charity, while the entirely lay staff size increased from 13 in 1962 to 70 today, with salaries much closer to, but still less than those paid in the Public School. At the same time, operation expenses have increased enormously thanks to the increased demands of dealing with increased enrolment; a hugely expanded course offering to meet the educational needs of an ever-more complex world; and the addition of a large Student Services sector. Similarly, because of more complex school business, including payroll, health and pension benefits; and transactions with the CISVA and the Government, office staff has been increased from one part time receptionist, to four full time and one part time worker. Because of all this, despite Government funding, there has been a steady increase in the school fee, which today is \$4250.00 per student. In addition, each family is required to pay \$400.00 annually to help service the school debt. It is obvious therefore that the parents alone cannot be asked to contribute more than they already are to finance the school.

With no Government assistance, many millions of dollars were spent on building the new school building, with a considerable sum now being spent on completing the project with the nearly finished Athletic Field. The Vancouver Archdiocese did contribute 11 million dollars to the project, and the feeder parishes contributed another \$11 million, while welcome support from many Alumni and friends of the school has resulted in the donation of generous sums of money. However, the school still has a large debt to pay. Many alumni have fond memories of their years at Notre Dame, a school where they truly enjoyed their high school experience, often forming life-long friendships. It is hoped that they will remember this and give back to the school. Most educational establishments seek financial assistance from their Alumni. It is hoped, therefore, that pleas to donate to the Notre Dame Foundation or to support other fund-raising activities at the school will not be ignored by the Alumni. Their continued assistance is vital to the financial well-being of the school.

Historical Display

The Alumni Association and the school are in the process of completing a display of the opening of the school with photos of the Sisters.

These four designs will recognize the years the Sisters were on staff at the school. The display is on the wall leading to the chapel.

Rest in Peace

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of:

- Paul Miller (Class of '76)
- Fred DiSpiritu (Class of '78)
- Matt Steffich (Class of '76)

Note: While we try to acknowledge the passing of all alumni, we are not always informed of such sad events. If you wish to have any deaths noted in the Newsletter, please contact any member of the Committee.

ND Videos Online

This year was an interesting year to graduate, to say the least! Check out the grad videos online by clicking on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLioo4s6-ogHrB5xvATWm2jgUPxG7_SMx2

Some of the artwork created during the COVID-19 lockdown:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19S3xRcr8-GofW2nG4OXDyg6F8-SvHfWF/view>

Fundraising Events

The school is in the midst of a major fundraising campaign that is open to everyone! Please feel free to pass this attached link to friends, co-workers, family.

All proceeds will go directly to Notre Dame – all the information is in the link from our website: <http://www.ndrs.ca/content/view/fundraising-about>

- Progressive Gift Cards
- Meat Sale (Columbus Meats)
- Purdy's Chocolates

NOTRE DAME ALUMNI ASSOCIATION						
FINANCIAL REPORT						
BALANCE FORWARD as of August 17, 2018						\$ 5,635.47
REVENUE						
	Annual Trivia Night-April 5/2019			\$ 1,131.00		
	Registrations			\$ 1,720.50		
	Donations			\$ 2,247.30		
						\$ 5,098.80
EXPENSES						
	ND Alumni Scholarships May 2019			\$ 1,000.00		
	ND Alumni Scholarships May 2020			\$ 1,000.00		
	Peter Vogel/Retirement gift			\$ 500.00		
	Sympathy Mass cards (2)			\$ 75.00		
	ND Alumni Domain			\$ 80.00		
	Bank chq/dep order			\$ 188.96		
	Bank charges			\$ 198.00		
						\$ 3,041.96
BALANCE as of August 19. 2020						\$ 7,692.31

**Notre Dame Alumni Association
Membership Form**

Address:
Notre Dame Alumni Association
C/O Notre Dame Regional Secondary
2880 Venables Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V5K 4Z6

Please provide the following information
with your \$20.00 cheque:

Name _____
Grad Year _____
Address _____
Province/State _____ Postal/Zip _____
Country _____
email _____