



Notre Dame Alumni Newsletter

www.ndalumni.org

June 2023

Back in Business!

Now that we have managed to survive the epidemic, it feels good that we can resume our activities. Your ND Alumni Association is still in business and have lots of news to share.

We also hope to send another newsletter in the fall which will include a full treasurer's report, profiles of two Alumni who are pursuing unusual careers, and any other news of which we have learned.

To that end, we ask you to let us know of any Alumni activity of which you know (together with photos if possible), to bring us up-to-date on any information which will be of interest to fellow Alumni.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this one. Please send in your subscription renewals as we have received very few \$20.00 membership fees. Apologies for once again asking for money, but, after all, we are a Catholic organization!

Staff Changes

Life continues to unfold for all of us. It is with great regret that the school is saying "Farewell" to the following teachers, who will not be returning to the Staff next year:

- Giovanni Calderwood
- Stephanie Chan
- Joe Garcea
- Martin Pagcaliwagan

We wish to thank these teachers for all that they have contributed to the school and to the lives of their pupils. We wish them well in their future endeavours and assure them that they will always be welcome and hope that they will find occasion to revisit the school when they can.



NOTRE DAME TURNS 70 LET'S CELEBRATE!

At the beginning of the next school year, Notre Dame Regional Secondary School commences its 70th Anniversary year.

Among the events marking the occasion, the school will host a Gala Dinner Dance on November 18th at Notre Dame.

Since many reunions were cancelled or reduced in size because of Covid, this is indeed a great opportunity for Alumni to book tables, not only to celebrate the occasion, but also to reunite with friends and share memories of high school days at Notre Dame. Even if you cannot make up a complete table, you will be certain to reunite with many acquaintances, so make plans now to attend.

The doors will open at 6:00 with guests enjoying a charcuterie spread, followed by dinner and dancing (no host bar).

Tickets are \$100, with all proceeds going toward the Notre Dame Foundation to assist the school in meeting the challenges that lie ahead as the school moves towards its centenary.

It promises to be a truly rewarding and memorable event, so book your table now and celebrate your Alma Mater, availing yourself of what promises to be an enjoyable evening. For ticket information contact Susan Cirillo: scirillo@ndrs.org.

ND Bands Win Gold at Whistler Music Festival

All four instrumental music ensembles from Notre Dame travelled to Whistler to take part in the Con Brio Whistler Music Festival. The Grade 12 Wind Ensemble, the Grade 10 & 11 Concert Winds, and the Grade 9 Concert Band all received the highest rating of gold at the event under the directorship of Mr. Greg Passmore. Band Students took part in their first band trip and festival in over three years and represented their school well. Each band performed twice and had two masterclasses each that were critically acclaimed by adjudicators from around North America. In the Spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, they also visited the Squamish L'ilwat Cultural Centre and learned more about local first nations cultures. A good time was had by all! The band department is looking forward to a trip further afield in 2024!

Greg Passmore



All four ND music ensembles received highest gold rating at Whistler Music Festival!





ND Choir Success in NYC

The ND Choir Trip was a great success. The students were there to compete in the World Strides Heritage Festival Music Competition. We achieved 7 Golds, 2 in Concert Choir and 5 in Show Choir. The top show choir was ND Platinum Girls who scored a total of 95% from the 3 judges. ND Dynamo scored the single highest mark with a 96%. It was an exciting day of making music.

We also had the opportunity to see the sights, from the Twin Towers Memorial to Central Park. We took in 3 shows: the dinner show at Ellen's Diner, Wicked, and Aladdin. Aladdin was especially entertaining as we were able to workshop with the stars before the show. We were taught a dance routine from the show by Dance Captain, Ariel Reid, and longtime cast member Bobby Pestka. We sang from the show with the musical director, Annbriitt DuChateau, and we were entertained and talked about Broadway with Sonya Balsara, who plays Jasmine in the show.

Simon Isherwood







ND Journeys to the Land of Dr. Seuss!

This year ND Productions journeyed to the magical world of Ted Geisel, a.k.a. Dr. Seuss!

The plot of *Seussical the Musical* combines many of Dr. Seuss's stories and life lessons. They teach us to be: kind: "A person's a person no matter how small"; imaginative: "Oh, the thinks you can think if only you try!" and grateful: "How lucky you are".

Who could ask for more?

And "the cherry on top" is that *Seussical* does what any good musical should—it entertains! I could lay out all of those intricate lessons in great printed detail but, like Dr. Seuss, I will refrain from "overexplaining" and just let them unfold.

One of the GREAT pleasures of being a teacher is watching the young people in our cast and crew grow in confidence and skills, day by day and rehearsal by rehearsal. The philosophy of our performing arts program here at ND is simply,

"It is better to know how to learn than to know." This initially takes longer, but the results are limitless. Thank you, cast and crew, for embracing your potential.

BIG THANKS to our production team, who helped the cast discover this magical world with their creative collaborations. Much of the director's job is to engage and combine these great minds into a cohesive whole. My uber talented "multiple-hat-wearing" wife, Jessica Isherwood, brings a wealth of ingenious set, costume, props, and lighting knowledge to our productions. The third member of our day-to-day team, ND Grad and teacher Chantal Thorburn, brings her innovative and entertaining choreography to our production, along with late-night skills at painting, costuming, and propping. We are blessed to have our man of many skills, another ND Grad and Teacher Brian Briones, controlling the backstage. Our inspired and inventive hair designer Rina Busse and gleefully creative make-up team of Sharon Sullivan and ND Grad Michelle Luongo inspire the Green Room with their witty banter and savvy skills. We feel very lucky to have the return of ND Grad Justin Rugge, who manages the sound with a professional ear and attention to detail. We are graced with the presence of the Perizzolo Brothers, Denis and Christian, both ND Grads, as our amazing set designers and builders. This





incredible team loves to teach, as well, and they have a myriad of students and grads whom they mentor along the way.

Simon Isherwood

43rd Annual Physics Bridge Building Contest

Recently we held the 43rd annual Physics Balsa Bridge Building Contest, nowadays slightly rebranded with the name of its founder. Widely sponsored, the contest has become known for its dramatic testing of bridges in the ND Auditorium. It has also become known for a livestream with play-by-play of bridge testing that has run since the early days of the internet.

This year's event had a big finish as Adriano Pizzolato's high-arch structure blew past 200 kilos on its way to a finish that placed it third-strongest of all out of the nearly two thousand bridges tested over more





than four decades. Adriano's father, Michael Pizzolato, was a contest winner all the way back in 1987, with a bridge supporting just over 106 kilos.

Given that this year's win brings to four the number of Pizzolato victories, it is fair to say this marks the second dynasty for the contest, equalling the four successive top place finishes by the two Circo brothers more than a decade ago.

Here then is a summary of the various top finishers and winners of this year's event.



Most Attractive:

1. Gabe Alcayde, Lance Soliman and Helene Tran
2. Ana Goluza and Klaudija Mustapic
3. Vanessa Montemayor

Most Unusual:

1. Niza Manalili
2. Gabe Alcayde, Lance Soliman and Helene Tran
3. Ana Goluza and Klaudija Mustapic

Workmanship and Design:

1. Gabi Raffele



2. Angelica Abijero and Robert Suganob
3. Marco Iacobucci

Strength

1. Adriano Pizzolato - 238.80 kg
2. Katia Krumpak - 169.30 kg
3. Anthony Chau and Julian Kyle - 126.10 kg

As in years past the contest allocates a variety of prizes, both in cash for positional finishes but also in scholarship form for students proceeding on to further education in physics and engineering.

Sonia Prasad, Peter Vogel,

Clement Law, Gio Calderwood

Juggler Cup Soccer Tournament Success

The inaugural Juggler Cup Girls Soccer Tournament was held on May 9th at Juggler Field and from all accounts, was a huge success! We hosted six elementary schools from, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Helen's, St. Pius, Holy Cross, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Francis of Assisi; bringing their best players to compete in an exciting and competitive tournament. The atmosphere was electric, with enthusiastic parents, coaches, and supporters cheering on the girls as they showcased their skills on the field.

The weather was fantastic, adding to the enjoyment of the event. The girls displayed impressive skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament, making it an unforgettable experience. The tournament was organized by our Development Office and Athletics Department which did a fantastic job



managing the event and ensuring that everything ran smoothly. With so many schools expressing interest in participating, next year's tournament promises to be even bigger and better. Overall, the Juggler Cup Girls soccer tournament was a fantastic showcase of talent and a celebration of sportsmanship and teamwork, leaving lasting memories for everyone involved.

Joe Garcea



Notre Dame Alumni Association Membership Form

Address:

Notre Dame Alumni Association
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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 _____