



Nardin Academy Elementary Newsletter

February/March 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER

February/March 2012Parent Presentation on
Internet Safety**February 2, 6:30 pm, RSC**Music, Dance and Play
Experience for Prospective
Students**February 4, 9-10:30 am**

Ski/Adventure Club

**February 3, 10, 17 and
March 2**NO SCHOOL-February
Break**February 18-26**NO SCHOOL-Staff
Development**March 9****Fortune Auction and Gala
March 10**The Forum-panel event
March 14, 7 pm, HS gymCamp Weona Grade 5
Parent Meeting**March 20, 6 pm, RSC**Terra Nova Testing-Grade 2
March 26-30

**Please check our
calendar to make
sure your children
are in school and
on time for class on
testing days.
Thank You.**

Message from the Principal, Maggie Abels

Dear Parents,

We are so busy and there is so much going on in the elementary school.

Academically, the second semester is under way, and the faculty is working hard to prepare our students for the Common Core Curriculum, a blending of national education and NYS standards. Basketball is more than past the halfway mark, and our six teams are developing competitively and having fun. We are hosting a presentation with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for both you and students in grades 5-8 on Internet safety. And we are learning about long division, persuasive writing, Super Bowl geography, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We have welcomed a new science teacher for grades 7 and 8. Elizabeth Dann comes to us with 20+ years teaching science. She is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Grant and has earned a Siemens Award for excellence in AP Science instruction. She has a BA from Tufts and an MA from Lesley University. We are delighted to have her!

Our PE department has purchased a transverse climbing wall. Students in all grades will use it to develop upper body strength, as well as ways to strategize. Part of the funding for this project was a grant from Independent Health's Fitness for Kids Challenge.

During the Sabres' games, both on the Jumbotron and on TV, watch for anti-bullying public service announcements featuring Ryan Miller, Tyler Myers, and *Nardin students*. It was filmed at Nardin, and some of our after-school students helped us out. The message of these spots is "Think About It."

We are into the heart of the year—almost Valentine's Day in fact, and we love getting into the tasks before us. Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm, and for all that you do for us.



**Maggie Abels
Elementary Principal**

THANK YOU!

Heartfelt thanks to all of the families who contributed to the Parent Partnership Christmas Fund. We appreciate your great generosity.

**Nardin Academy
Elementary School
135 Cleveland Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222**

(716) 881-6262

Main Office	x1010
Absence Line	x3050
Admissions	x1030
Clinic	x1250
Principal	x1120

After School Program

Grades 1-3	x1340
Grades 4-8	x1360

Staff

Maggie Abels, Principal
Victoria Boreanaz, Admissions
Colleen Enright, Admin. Asst.
Karen Shivinsky, Secretary

Faculty

Kelly Africano
Gaile Amigone
Joann Balistreri-Anderson
Theresa Baker
Nicole Beahan
Callie Burke
Kari Colangelo
Mary Crawford
Kathleen Daly
Elizabeth Dann
Rosanne Davis
Amy Doerr
Christa Farah
Andrea Faden
Maureen Feeley
Jennifer Fritton
Carol Shelby Gill
Theresa Haim
Cynthia Hanna
Laurie Kullman
Linda Lates-Nelson
Bridget Lucey
Mark Mazur
Timothy McGee
Kellie McRae
Mary Beth Neary
Susan Ostroff
Anthony Piccolo
Mark Piwko
Lisa Marie Quinn
David Ricchaizzi
Patricia Schanzlin
Denise Seeley
Maria Siepel
Catherine L. Sirianni
Marie Stevens
Mary Swart
Jaclyn Twichell
Joanne Vile
Catherine Wadhams
Nicole Wright
Colleen Zimmerman

Common Core State Standards



We began the New Year with a staff development day devoted to the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects.

This initiative is the result of a collaborative effort between state departments of education, and represents a move toward national standards. The Common Core in ELA establishes specific K-12, grade-by-grade standards in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language, with a steady progression of development leading to college and career readiness. There are six “shifts” in both ELA and math that the Common Core requires to align curricular materials and classroom instruction.

In preparation for next year’s implementation, teachers will include elements of the Common Core in their lesson plans. In addition, an instructor from Erie 1 BOCES will work with a group of math teachers to prepare them for changes in math.



On Tuesday, December 13, a number of Nardin 7th and 8th graders attended the National Federation for Just Communities Middle School Youth Leadership Conference at Temple Beth Zion. The topic was



Understanding and Supporting Targeted Groups of Bullying.

Ariana Revelas said, “I learned how to respond to a bully whether I was a bystander or victim.”

Edmond Sayegh was encouraged that “a lot of people are doing more about bullying.”

Tim Raab was glad to have been chosen to attend. He noted that “some people cannot get the bullying out of their minds—it stays there and continues to hurt them.” He also reflected on the fact that “when you say something to someone and then say ‘I’m kidding,’ it just doesn’t cut it.”

Emma Zurowski said that hearing all of the stories made her realize “how fortunate we are at Nardin to have teachers and students who want to help instead of adding more fuel to the bullying fire.”



REMINDERS

NYS ASSESSMENTS – The NYS Department of Education revised the 2012 test dates in December. The new dates are indicated below.

Test	Dates
Grades 3-8 ELA	Tuesday, April 17-Thursday, April 19
Grades 3-8 Math	Wednesday, April 25- Friday, April 27
Grade 4 Science – Performance	Friday, June 1
Grade 4 Science – Written	Tuesday, June 5
Grade 8 Science – Performance	Wednesday, May 30
Grade 8 Science – Written	Tuesday, June 5

Please avoid making appointments on these testing days.
We really do appreciate it.



GRADE 5 PARENTS
Camp Weona Meeting
Tuesday, March 20
6:00 pm
RSC



LAST CALL FOR
2012 EUROPEAN TRIP
If you are still thinking about our trip to the French and Italian Riviera, now is the time to sign up as space is still available. Dates are June 26-July 3. Contact Maria Siepel at 549-4891 for more information.



GRADE 8 GRADUATION DATE
The actual date and time is FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012
at 6:00 pm at the Canisius College Montante Center.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Nardin Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sex, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

THINGS TO KNOW



REMINDER: If your child will need bus transportation to Nardin from a district outside the city of Buffalo for the 2012-2013 school year, you must contact the transportation department in your school district to make arrangements. Transportation requests must be renewed in writing each year by April 1 directly with your school district's transportation office.



Kindles, Kindle Fires, Nooks and iPads

These devices are appropriate in school for reading purposes. We ask that they not be used for games or internet usage. As always, responsibility for loss or damage rests with the individual student.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPELLING BEE CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to Elizabeth Galbo (on right) who placed first, and runner-up Ariana Revelas, pictured with moderator, Ms. Lucey.



FOR NYS Pesticide notification information, see the Nardin website.

Nardin Academy Mission Statement

Nardin Academy is a Catholic, independent school which prepares the individual for life by providing a well-rounded education, by helping each student realize his or her potential, by developing a love for learning and by instilling moral values in the Judeo-Christian tradition.

THANK YOU TO OUR CARING NARDIN STUDENTS



Thank you to everyone who helped to make Christmas a little brighter at Baker Academy. Our student council organized our first ever Christmas Spirit Week. It was a smashing success; many students and teachers were motivated to participate in this project. Together we raised over \$1,200 to buy gifts from the students' wish lists. The gifts were wrapped by the student council and sent to Santa for delivery.

Here are some pictures and a letter of thanks from their principal!



January 10, 2012

Dear Mrs. Abels,

Words cannot convey my gratitude for the ongoing generosity of the staff, students and families of Nardin Academy in support of Baker Academy's tradition of gift-giving to our students and their families.

To see the smiles on the faces of our children and hear their gasps and shouts of joy as they opened their gifts and played with their toys was truly heart-warming. Thanks to your generosity, many of our students and families were able to experience the joy of receiving and opening gifts during the holiday season.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Ibarra
Principal, Baker Academy



Photo Gallery



Mr. Mazur accompanies the 1st grade reading of Jan Brett's *Berlioz the Bear*



New Climbing Wall



Girls Varsity Green Team



JV Boys Team



Second Grade PE