

Partnership News



by the SND National Education Office: www.snded.org

"Those who teach others unto justice shall shine like stars for all eternity." Daniel, 12:3

NDCL's SND Learning Commons - the stars are shining in Chardon

You walk in and feel the vibe immediately.

There is energy, comradery, and a comfortable casualness. The purpose of learning is very evident – students exploring ideas and solutions, challenging each other, supporting each other, shaping each other. Funny, I still felt a need to whisper! It's a very high tech version of a library/media center – but old habits die hard :)

The new SND Learning Commons at Notre Dame - Cathedral Latin School in Chardon, OH was built with a vision of truly transforming how learning occurs. The phrase "built for all kinds of minds" used by many education experts fits here well. Teachers and students work in collaboration using state-of-the art interactive media and a broadcast studio. SND schools in Uganda and India and experts in content across the globe are but a Mondopad connection away. Tucked-in among the diner-like booths with smart TV's, drop-in computer stations, 3D printers, and professional video and audio equipment are quiet pods and study stations that provide places to read in comfort or work independently.



There are a few shelves filled with selective books from the former library. Thus my compulsion to be quiet. But this learning space is designed for information literacy and to invest funds in resources that don't grow stale as a printed book's "published on" date moves back in time.

"Expanding Academic Options" for all students is central to NDCL's educational philosophy and the SND Learning Commons fits perfectly with the approach. A new 7-block schedule option will be available in the 2016/2017 school year with the hope that students will take more responsibility for managing their work loads and personal growth. Freeing up the 8th block provides an opportunity for students to make choices about

on-line college courses, working with academic coaches, and augmenting their day with programs geared to college preparation and service ministry. A new "Academic Success Center" led by Sr. Michelle Kelly will operate in the Learning Commons. Sr. Michelle and a team of master teachers will work with students in specific content areas as well as coach them on time management, test preparation, study skills and stress management. Add to that, the use of the Learning Commons for a new STEM program that will take full advantage of the distance learning technology and the 3D printers. Cooperative learning, research, problem solving and creativity support student built projects that can be printed as prototypes. It's an amazing space for students and teachers alike. Paula Aveni

For more information on the SND Learning Commons at Notre Dame Cathedral Latin School contact Amy Meyers at amy.meyers@ndcl.org or (440) 286-6226 x 1454.

Springtime Prayer

Ralph Waldo Emerson

For flowers that bloom about
our feet,
For tender grass, so fresh, so
sweet,
For song of bird, and hum of
bee,
For all things fair we hear or
see,
Father in heaven, we thank
Thee!



For blue of stream and blue
of sky,
For pleasant shade of branch-
es high,
For fragrant air and cooling
breeze,
For beauty of the blooming
trees,
Father in heaven, we thank
Thee!

Upcoming SND National Education Office Meetings:

- April 26th and 27th - "Building a strong case for "Why a Catholic School?" and creating effective marketing and enrollment strategies". Affiliated schools in NE and NW, Ohio.
- Summer 2016 - SND National Education Office Education Advisory Council in Covington, KY
- November 13th thru the 15th - SND Sponsored Schools and Ministries Leadership Board and Heads meeting.

Please remember to share job postings with us. We'll add them to our website to help spread the word. Visit <http://www.snded.org/submit-a-job-opening> to submit your open position information.

A National Holiday Worth Mentioning ...

Seems like there's a national day for just about everything ...

January 14 is ... "National Dress Up Your Pet" Day

February 16 is ... "Do A Grouch A Favor" Day

May 14 is ... "National Dance Like A Chicken" Day



There's even a "Lost Sock Memorial" Day. A special day when all those orphaned socks are laid to rest. Each crazy day is meant to have fun (and perhaps show a little unexpected kindness to cranky people!). One date on the calendar worth noting, with a slightly more serious tone, is **July 14th, "National Summer Learning" Day**. An article from John Hopkins University entitled "Keeping kids' minds sharp during summer break" cites research that shows "teachers spend a good deal of time in the fall re-teaching skills that were lost during the summer. Students fall an average of almost 2.6 months behind in math" and can experience significant set-backs in their reading ability as well. Fortunately summer "brain drain" can be prevented if students spend at least a portion of their break engaged in meaningful learning activities. The [John Hopkins article](#) and the www.summerlearning.org website have great suggestions that could even be disguised as fun! Please share a few with students and their parents before we lose them for the long summer:

Practice math every day. A trip to the grocery store is an opportunity to review math skills. Cooking is a chance to learn fractions. Measure items around the house or yard, track daily temperatures.

Get outside and play. Intense physical activity programs have positive effects on academic achievement, including increased concentration; improved mathematics, reading, and writing test scores; and reduced disruptive behavior.

[Quick Math Jr.](#) – Geared towards beginning mathematicians, this app improves number recognition and counting through game-play.

[NRICH](#) – This website keeps kids interested in math by presenting fun problems for them to solve. Games are available for kids of all ages.

[Numbers League](#) – This fun iPad app places users in a superhero role that must use math to save the city. Kids can play alone or against one another. For ages five and up.

[Math Shack](#) – This website offers activities that are aligned to the Common Core Math Standards. Kids can track their progress, and if they need help, an integrated help station will move things along. For middle and high school students.

[The Joy of Reading](#) – this app promotes basic reading skills such as phonemic awareness and phonics. For ages 5 and under.

[StudyCat](#) – the apps get kids involved in reading through entertaining and engaging games. Perfect for children 3-10 years of age.

[Mindsnacks](#) – This app tests kids' understanding of vocabulary and helps sharpen their reading and writing skills. For children in 2nd through 7th grade.

[SAT Word Slam](#) – Focusing on vocabulary skills, this app helps teens prepare for the language arts section of the SAT and ACT.

With a few tweaks in how time is spent, summer could be even more fun for our students :)

From "La Reina Today"

Hannah Robinson, La Reina High School & Middle School Science Department Chair, was recently awarded the Outstanding Educator of the year by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Region 6. Hannah was selected by the IEEE to receive this honor for her remarkable vision to set up educational programs that enhance STEM education for the students of La Reina. She is thrilled with how La Reina's students are responding to the STEM program sharing, "I am convinced that my students are learning better and more deeply. This is evident to me in the classroom daily as they are asking questions about the scientific universe that are more in depth and original."



Ms. Robinson wins this recognition over candidates nominated from 17 western states. Hannah received her undergraduate degree from the University of Reading, England, and continued her graduate studies at Golden Gate University, California. She conducted field research in the rainforests of Costa Rica and Australia.

Congratulations, Hannah!!

Bits and Pieces

Students Artists are hard at work (hopefully!)

We're really looking forward to turning off our computers and pulling out the big white sorting table that is normally stashed away in the corner of our office. Colorful artwork will replace spreadsheets and order forms and we'll settle in for a great week of reviewing inspirational drawings.



To celebrate Foundation Day on October 1, 2016 we are trying something new that will showcase the creative talent of students throughout the partnership. One of the SND Education Principles (<http://www.snded.org/snd-educational-vision-principles>) will serve as the foundation for art pieces created by students of all grade levels using 8.5" x 11" white cardstock and colored pencils, crayons or water-based paint.

We'll narrow down the submissions into ten choices each from four groups: pre-school, K – grade 4, grades 5 – 8, and high school students. A group of Sisters from each of the four SND Provinces will select two pieces from each group that will be used to create vibrant notecards. Then we will showcase the winning artwork on 2016 Foundation Day and celebrate the students' creativity with a special thank-you gift.

Your help would be greatly appreciated! Please share this news with your colleagues and encourage participation in the project. The back of the art work should include a label that lists the Educational Principle depicted, the student's name, age/grade, and school name or SND ministry. Art work should be mailed to the SND National Education Office **no later than May 25th, 2016**. Our mailing address is 13000 Auburn Rd., Chardon, OH 44024. Questions? Contact the SND NEO staff at 440.279.1102 or office@snded.org.

Website Postings

Checkout the interesting items recently posted under the "News and Events" and "In the Spotlight" menu tabs on our website. These pages highlight programs under development, shine on a light on successes happening within our member schools and ministries, and share "What's new at ..." stories to support best practice opportunities that might be of value to you. We've also added new Board of Trustee resources to the "Resource Hub". Be sure to visit <http://www.snded.org/news-events> and <http://www.snded.org/in-the-spotlight> for the details on these stories:

- Installation of the Coesfeld Cross at Clearwater Central Catholic High School
- Building a strong case for "Why a Catholic School?" and creating effective marketing and enrollment strategies
- Global Forum on Girls' Education
- Partnership Schools with a special edge
- Julie Billiard School wins a national "Innovations in Catholic Education" Award
- Sr. Maureen Burke: Ashtabula County (Ohio) 2015 CEO of the Year Award
- January 29, 2016 Governance Meeting convenes in California

Summer Reading



Not long ago we came across a list of books published by TES that we found to be very interesting. TES Global (<https://www.tes.com>) is a digital education business supporting teaching and learning with over 7.3 million registered users.

The December issue of TES featured the reading choices of 33 leading international figures in education and the books they recommended every teacher read. Here's the first three titles and authors. For a short explanation of why each book was chosen and the other 30 titles please visit the Resource Hub on our website <http://www.snded.org/resource-hub>

1. *"How Children Succeed: grit, curiosity and the hidden power of character"*, by Paul Tough
Chosen by Nicky Morgan, secretary of state for education and minister for women and equalities

2. *"Leading in a Culture of Change"*, by Michael Fullan
Chosen by Sir Tim Brighouse, former schools commissioner for London, education author

3. *"Children, Their World, Their Education: final report and recommendations of the Cambridge Primary Review"*, edited by Robin Alexander
Chosen by Dame Alison Peacock, executive head teacher at The Wroxham School.

#s 4 through 33 on our website



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Mailing List

Please help us stay in touch!

This newsletter is mailed primarily to Presidents and Principals of SND National Education Office Partnership schools and ministries. As we collaborate on projects throughout the upcoming year, it will be helpful to connect with assistant Principals, Campus Ministry Directors, Religion Teachers, Guidance Counselors, and Communication Directors. Please email their names and contact information to us at: office@snded.org.

Please add us to your newsletter mailing as well! Many newsletters on schools' websites are password protected so we're not able to access news about noteworthy events and special programs. We'd love to include information about your milestones and celebrations in an issue of the SND National Education Office's "Partnership News" and ensure you are receiving good value for your membership.

Thank-you!

Three SND Sisters join Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Oxnard, CA



In 1924 eleven pioneer Sisters of Notre Dame went to Los Angeles, California from Cleveland, Ohio. Since then, the Notre Dame charism has flourished through the lives and ministries of the Sisters of the Rosa Mystical Province in Thousand Oaks, California.

Like the general population of Southern California, the sixty Sisters currently with the California Province represent a variety of nationalities and cultures and serve in Italy, Uganda and Southern California. Three SND Sisters recently accepted

teaching positions at Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Oxnard, CA. Sr. Shawn Marie Doyle is working as a kindergarten teacher with Sr. Mary Frances Wahl teaching middle school and Sr. Florette Marie Adams teaching music to students of all grade levels.

Established by the Archdiocese in 1906, the school was created with the support of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet to meet the needs of the growing Mexican population of Oxnard. Today Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish School serves about 250 students and is an award winning, nationally ranked school in Math and Reading. Principal Julio Tellez is thrilled to have the Sisters engaged in the life of the school. "You walk on campus and feel like family after being here for a few minutes", he notes. He attributes part of that atmosphere to the presence of the Sisters. "Their presence contributes to a strong sense of spirituality. The faculty and students are affected by that", notes Principal Tellez.

Welcome to the SND National Education Office family!

An innovative partnership that will create stronger connections with SND educational ministries in other countries is being explored with [Catholic Relief Services](#) (CRS). Founded in 1943, CRS provides assistance to 130 million people in more than 90 countries and territories across the globe. In addition to programs that respond to major emergencies and development issues, CRS has a rich library of educational resources designed to actively engage school administrators, teachers, students and parents in social justice and global solidarity matters.



The "CRS Global High School" initiative helps students begin a hopefully life long journey to living their faith. First introduced in 2011, the CRS Global High School's lesson plans, prayer services and school-wide events have been designed and tested by 14 pilot schools across the country. A very appealing benefit to a partnership with CRS is their willingness to adapt the program to a specific religious community's charism and mission.

We recently gathered a group of high school teachers and campus ministers for a CRS "Think Tank" meeting. The informal brainstorming session provided direction on how to develop a living, thriving program for active, high-impact student engagement across schools and borders. The participating teachers and ministers spent time thinking through levels of commitment, practical considerations, and how to encourage school participation. After filling ten pages of flip chart paper with great insight and ideas, we had the foundation for crafting a partnership program with CRS that would uniquely tie to the SND charism and mission.

Stay tuned for information on how we hope to implement Phase One of a new SND/CRS program in the spring of 2017.