



WE WIN!

PANDAS BEAT ST. URSULA FOR FIRST TIME EVER IN ORANGE & WHITE GAME. 4-5



THE GAVEL



ON OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Fr. Michael Hennigen, Notre Dame Academy chaplain, upon celebrating Ash Wednesday mass with the NDA community, reminded us that the season of Lent is about prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and about putting God first in our lives. **How Pandas are observing the season, 2** (Torie Buring photo)



Senior Kara Brunot receives ashes from Mr. VonHandorf during Ash Wednesday mass in the auditorium. (*Olivia Burns photo*)

Lots of us logged off social media for Lent

BY ASHLEY GRIBBEN and ASHTON HOUSE
Gavel staff writers

The Publications class sent a school-wide survey asking what students were doing to observe Lent this year. The top response: goodbye to Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and YouTube.

“I am giving up social media,” junior Noel Baker said, “and writing a letter every day to someone I’m close to.”

We received 100 responses to the survey. Of those, 60 students said they would give something up for Lent; 40 said they would take something on.

Among girls who gave up something up for Lent, after social media popular responses included sugar, soda, fast food and meat.

The number one thing taken on was more regular prayer or church attendance.

Sophomore Madison Matthews said, “I plan to pray a decade of the rosary each night. It is always

nice to give back to God for the simple blessings we have each day and tell him what’s on our mind.”

Said freshman Rheanna Clark: “I am (dedicating) my morning and night times to the Lord and being more open to Him in those moments.”

Some Pandas planned a combination of an act of sacrifice and one of almsgiving.

Freshman Jodi Lovensheimer said, “I’m giving up sweets, but donating the money I would spend on sweets to the rice bowl.”

Other comments:

Freshman Katherine Wainscott: “I’m trying to tidy my room using the Marie Kondo method so that I may become more organized and ultimately a happier person.”

Freshman Martine Hue: “I want to work on being the best version of myself and always put my best foot forward.”



Faculty and staff members join the senior class for mass April 12 in the new Mary, Mother of the World Chapel. Below: the Mary painting by artist Holly Schapker.

Chapel graced by old and new alike

BY CAROLINE HICKS and MYA HUSER

Gavel staff writers

Notre Dame's new Mary, Mother of the World Chapel was blessed on March 30. Here are five things to know about our newest space.

1. Why this name: Last school year, students, faculty and staff were invited to submit names. Mary, Mother of the World was selected from responses from the whole school and honors the global mission of the Sisters of Notre Dame.

2. What's new (and old): The distinctive, 11-foot Coesfeld cross behind the altar was created for us by Mazzolini Artcraft in Italy. The altar, designed by Mark Warnock, was made to resemble the cross, and its 1,200-pound granite top was taken from the old chapel. The ambo to its left has similar woodwork. The original stained-glass windows are now on the east side of the chapel to see the beautiful colors as the sun rises each morning. The smaller, clear windows on the north side will be replaced by stained-glass windows created by artist Claire Wing, who also is creating the Marian shrine. A painting of Mary, by Marian artist Holly Schapker, incorporates elements of NDA -- our logo is one of them -- into her work. We kept a portion of the honeycomb wall on both sides of chapel to keep a piece from the old chapel because many alumnae asked that it be included.

3. How we'll use it: Morning rosaries. Grade-level masses (the seniors had one April 12). Team masses. Quiet reflections. Reconciliations. Campus minister Mrs. Price laid out some rules at an introductory assembly, among them no food or water bottles, and no gathering just to socialize.

4. Who made it possible: The chapel, the final piece of NDA's Excellence Without Boundaries project, benefited from generous gifts from many alumnae and friends of NDA. Their names are on a plaque at the chapel entrance.

5. When is it open? Now that it has been blessed by Bishop Foys, the chapel can be used for masses, but it's also open to anyone who wants to drop in and enjoy a few moments of quiet reflection.





Victorious players and coaches gather for a photo moments after Notre Dame Academy's 35-14 victory over St. Ursula Academy on Sunday in the annual Orange & White flag-football game.

Team-first Pandas win Orange & White!

Gavel staff report

For the first time, Notre Dame Academy has won the Orange & White Game.

Riley Crawford made three of NDA's six interceptions, running the last back for a touchdown on the final play to secure NDA's 35-14 victory Sunday at St. Ursula's Schottzie Stadium.

The Pandas' victory, their first in five years playing in the annual benefit flag-football game, was made possible in part by their determination and commitment, coach Mr. Strickley said.

The Pandas began practicing with weekly indoor workouts in January and stepped up their practices to six days a week for the two weeks prior

to the game. Several players said the extra preparation made the team better organized and more of a unit.

That teamwork showed at halftime. With the score tied at 14, coaches asked how the players wanted to approach the second half.

"We made sacrifices," Clare Butler said. "We all came together as a team to agree to use our best players the most. We wanted to win."

Added Crawford, "The fact that we all had the same goal led to the win. We didn't let whether one person was better than the other get in the way of winning."

NDA scored three second-half touchdowns,

(story continued on 5)

Seniors take NDA's 1st Orange & White win



Clockwise from left:
 1. Quarterback Rosemary Schuh was in command of the playbook all day with four touchdown passes.
 2. MVP Riley Crawford gets a high-five after an interception (she had three).
 3. Abby Dressman stretches for a catch-and-run touchdown to put NDA in command, 28-14.
 4. Gabbe Tate makes her point clear in the defensive huddle.

(continued from 4)

on Crawford's pick-six and touchdown passes from Rosemary Schuh to Danielle Rennekamp and Abby Dressman. Schuh also connected with Rennekamp and Emmy Ayres for touchdowns in the first half.

Equally important was NDA's defense, which shut out the Bulldogs in the second half. Brooke Watts intercepted two St. Ursula passes and Brooke Ziegler picked off another. Crawford's three interceptions earned her game MVP honors.

"Winning MVP was very surreal, because I felt like so many people deserved it," Crawford said. "There were so many people who played a big role in the win."

After Crawford's game-ending TD, Panda players and student coaches from Covington Catholic rushed into the end zone to join her and to celebrate.

NDA has participated in the Orange & White game for five years now, with SUA and NDA alternating as host. Previously, St. Ursula had played rival Ursuline in the game, played in honor of SUA alumna Natalie Bradley, who died from leukemia.

Proceeds go to Cincinnati Children's Hospital for leukemia research. NDA had lost its previous four games in the rivalry, including 21-7 last year at NDA.

"It doesn't matter if we win or lose," NDA senior Sally Smith said. "All that matters is that we're supporting a great cause and having fun."



Signs of excellence

Taking part in athletics signing day ceremonies were (from left): Shannon Gormally (Florida International, volleyball, beach volleyball); Belle Morgan (Villanova, volleyball); Maya Decker (Marian, soccer); Morgan Spivey (Spring Hill, soccer); Abby Noll (Eastern Kentucky, volleyball); Ashton House and Anna Holt (Bellarmine, swimming); Allie Piccirillo (Florida, swimming) and Jenna Cayze (Thomas More, cross country, track, swimming). *(Lily Dorning photo)*

Nationals next for state champ Mock Trial team

BY MEGAN LEONARD

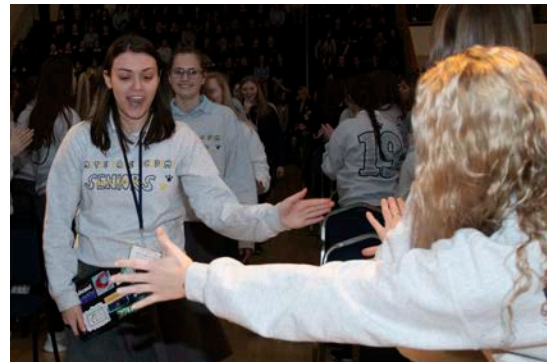
Gavel staff writer

In November 2015, students Ellie Kathman ('17) and Hannah Hammond ('17) asked Ms. Johnson if they could start a Mock Trial team. Now, NDA's team is state champions and going to Athens, Ga., in May for the national competition.

Back in February, NDA's "A" team took first place in regionals and at state, defeating reigning state champion Dixie Heights and becoming the first all-girls Mock Trial team to win state. Competition was held at the Kenton County Courthouse in Covington. The team was honored at an assembly the following Monday.

"When they said Notre Dame Academy won, I couldn't believe it," said junior Mara Schutt of the "A" team. "Everyone in the courtroom erupted. It was awesome to see all our hard work and practice pay off. I will never forget this and can't wait to take on Athens with my team."

When Ms. Johnson was asked about starting a team, she asked NDA alumnae if any practicing lawyers could help coach. Katelyn (Conner) Mollett, class of 2008, stepped up.



Julia Hughes, named the "A" team's top attorney and No. 6 in the state, gets high fives on her way into the assembly. *(Mrs. Benkert photo)*

With little preparation going into their first state competition in 2016, the Pandas still finished 11th. Over the past couple of years, the team has expanded, enlisting the help of more coaches, Amy Hebbeler ('09) and Emily Cooney Couch ('10) and forming a "B" team, which finished ninth at state this year.

"Hopefully one day, the two teams will compete against each other in the championship round," Ms. Johnson said.



Senior Ellie O'Hara as Beatrice in the NDA fall production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. (Dan Ledbetter photo)

'Without theatre, I wouldn't be me'

BY EMMA SHEELY

Gavel staff writer

Senior Ellie O'Hara winds up her four-year run in the Notre Dame Academy Theatre program this weekend by appearing as Mae Tuck in Tuck Everlasting, the NDA/CCH spring play. She told Publications what theatre means to her.

The word "theatre" is known to many as a term where people simply put on performances of a show; whether that be two people pretending to eat ice cream when they are in fact holding styrofoam, or someone doing a dramatic five-minute ballad on how their best friend, Becky, got the part in the school play they wanted while they were left in the ensemble. Either way, theatre can mean so many things to so many people and that is why I cherish it so much.

When I perform, I am given a limited amount of time where I can let go and breathe. Although I'm

Tuck Everlasting

Performances: 7 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday

Tickets: \$5 students, \$12 adults

thinking of all the things I have to say, all the lyrics I have to sing, and all the dances I have to remember, I am able to finally show the world who I am as an artist. Theatre helps me express the feelings I so utterly want to share with the world, but don't know how. Theatre gives me those special, crucial moments in which I am one with the stage and myself. As cliché as it may seem, theatre has defined me as a person because it has given me comfort, love, and a family in which I don't have to pretend to be someone I'm not.

Overall, I love theatre because it lets me showcase my charisma, energy, emotions and love, all in the span of two short hours! Without theatre, I wouldn't be me.

Meet the teacher: Mrs. Garrett

Third-generation Panda loves knitting, Netflix

BY ARIA CARTWRIGHT AND LEXI REZELJ

Gavel staff writers

Lauren Garrett, who's winding down her first year teaching English at Notre Dame, is a third-generation Panda (she graduated in 2006) and came across the street from CovCath to teach at NDA. Here are five things you might not know about Mrs. Garrett:

1. Before teaching at Covington Catholic for five years, Mrs. Garrett went to the University of Louisville, like many of her family members. After graduating with an English degree, however, she did not want to continue in education; instead she took a job in non-profit work. Only later did she become a teacher. As a student at NDA, Mrs. Garrett said she was always told she would make a great teacher and wanted to use her talents to help students.

2. The fruit sale was something Mrs. Garrett always remembered from high school because she was a swimmer, and she said she's sad that it is no longer a fundraiser here. Some other memories of NDA: all-school masses and the praying of the rosary every morning, both that are traditions at NDA that are still in practice to this day. The consumer science program that no longer exists was a favorite to Mrs. Garrett. English department here at Notre Dame that was so special to her in high school. She hopes to have special bonds with her students and impact their lives in a positive way.



3. When the NDA job came open, Mr. Eckerle dropped an application on her desk. Covington Catholic has a special place in her heart and she greatly enjoyed her time there, Mrs. Garrett said.

However, when a teaching position here at NDA opened up, she just couldn't pass it up. Her family and friends supported her decision to transfer schools because of the great experiences she had here once before and wanted to be back in the NDA environment. The main difference she has seen so far between an all-boys school and an all-girls school, she said, is that she doesn't have to repeat herself as much at NDA.

4. Teachers have lives outside of school! In her free time, Mrs. Garrett enjoys watching Netflix; her favorite shows include *Father Brown* and *The Great British Bake Off*. A hobby of hers is knitting, as well as spending time with her two large dogs, Crosley and Wrigley. If she could be any character from literature, she would be Jane Eyre because of her relationships with other characters.

5. Mrs. Garrett is close with many teachers here already. Mrs. Litmer was Mrs. Garrett's neighbor growing up; Mr. Greife taught her as a student; Mrs. Phillips introduced Mrs. Garrett to her husband!

Prom



NDA held its prom March 22, 2019 at Cincinnati's Music Hall. Below, clockwise from left: Prom princess Anna Holt. Prom duchess Jordan Brown after receiving her crown. Claire Talkers and Jenna Schmall on the dance floor. Abby Noll and Julia Hughes smiling with their dates. Juniors Phoebe Boyle and Allie Weidinger, and Tori Clark, Claire Cullen, and Ellie Hellmann at their first NDA prom!

