A Great Start for Our Seniors, Our New Students and Our Moms

Charlotte Lignowski ‘22

On Friday, September 17, our community had the pleasure of welcoming our mothers and special guests to campus for our annual Mother-Daughter Liturgy and Picnic. While the forecast threatened cloudy skies and rain, that did not stop students and guests from enjoying the wonderful pair of events officially welcoming all of ND’s new Middle and Upper School students to campus. [For more opening-week memories, see p. 11.]

Noccer is Flying High

Molly Hughes ‘22

ND Varsity Soccer competed in their first-ever PAISAA state championship game on November 17! For more details on Soccer and our other fall sports, see our coverage starting on p. 11.

The Doctor Is In (Dr. Hotchkiss, that is!)

Rachel Swan ‘23

On October 6, 2021, the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur installed Dr. Laura Hotchkiss as the 5th Head of School. The whole school was present and some special guests. The induction liturgy and ceremony were held on the Mansion lawn. Dr. Hotchkiss used to work as the Associate Head of Academics at Marlborough School in Los Angeles, California. She received her B.S., M.Ed., and Doctorate in Education from UCLA. The liturgy service was led by Rev. Peter M. Donohue O.S.A., Ph.D., President of Villanova University. Following the liturgy was an induction ceremony. Student Council president Kyleigh Calvert started the installation ceremony with a beautiful speech. After Kyleigh’s speech, Notre Dame’s Board of Trustees Chair Anne Schoemaker Vazquez ‘99 officially installed Dr. Hotchkiss as Head of School. (Continued on p. 2)

Above: Dr. Laura Hotchkiss, flanked by Dr. Priscilla Sands (Head of School at the Marlborough School) and Megan Murphy, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Girls Schools. At left: Mrs. Miller and her wonderful Women’s Chorale.

Below left: Middle School students and their teachers enjoy time to wind down after the Installation.

Spirit Day: The Fall Remix

Jordyn Williams ‘22

Didn’t we just have Spirit Day? Why yes. That would be correct. In fact, it was this past May. Then what makes October 29th so special? Well, we can start with the liveliness and complete enthusiasm that erupted in the gymnasium beginning at 8 am, culminating in the absolute joy expressed by the students while performing their skits. There are of course more reasons for such a remarkable Spirit Day, but you must keep reading. (Continued on p. 3)
Installation of Dr. Hotchkiss
Rachel Swan '23 (Continued from p. 1)

Afterward, Dr. Hotchkiss was kind enough to let me interview her. I asked her what she loved about the installation ceremony. She said she loved having the students there, as the students are the reason for what she does. Dr. Hotchkiss admires the students and faculty, how much love and dedication everyone has for this school. Dr. Hotchkiss enjoys the students being together, especially since COVID-19. For this school year Dr. Hotchkiss wants to focus on “the heart of the institution,” building relationships and getting to know the students and faculty. Dr. Hotchkiss is still new to Notre Dame and believes that “listening and learning” is the best way to help the school. Building relationships is very important, how to build each other up and how to deal with conflict. Dr. Hotchkiss loves the responsible freedom in the Notre Dame Honor Code. To her the Honor Code is “a value of action.” The students know the Honor Code and they have the obligation to honor it and have their peers honor it. Actions speak louder than words, but it can be hard. As sisters of ND, each of us must try to actively be a good sister.

Something you may not know about Dr. Hotchkiss is that she loves animals. Growing up she had many pets like dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, cats and horses. A fun fact is that when she was in high school she was on the equestrian team. Dr. Hotchkiss and her husband, Dwight, have two sons and 4 dogs. In fact, Notre Dame knows one of her dogs, Coco, very well. Dr. Hotchkiss brings Coco to campus almost every day, bringing plenty of joy to the students.

A Day in the Life of Dr. Hotchkiss
Helen Coogan '25

Dr. Hotchkiss has been pretty busy since her installation on October 6, but she still made time to sit down with me so I could learn about our new Head of School. We discussed her transition from California to Pennsylvania, along with the daily tasks that are part of her position. Dr. Hotchkiss felt she belonged here when she first visited, and she knew ND was a place where the faculty and staff cared a lot about their community and their work.

When Dr. Hotchkiss left California, she said goodbye to her extended family and a place she called home for many years, but she felt very excited to get to explore and learn about a new place. Dr. Hotchkiss comes to school excited every day, because every day is very different for her. The morning I interviewed her, she had a meeting at 7:30 and got here at 7 to make sure her computer was working. Mrs. Ford, her assistant, tells Dr. Hotchkiss where she needs to be and at what time. Dr. Hotchkiss’s day is spent face-to-face with people talking about ND - what they like and what they don’t like. Every day is about figuring out how she can make the best impact on the ND community as a whole.

Dr. Hotchkiss was always a leader, but from the time she was young, she tried to find creative ways to do it, leading her to assume many different roles. She believes the roles without the title can test you even more and better prepare you to lead. In college, she was president of her sorority and learned what it means to be a servant leader. In fact, she never specifically wanted to be an administrator growing up. She worked at the same school for 30 years, first as a math teacher, then department chair, middle school director, upper school director, and so on.

Dr. Hotchkiss didn’t plan each step of her career, but went for opportunities as they arose, adjusting her skills to suit the different jobs she held. She saw each as a new “adventure” and an opportunity to lead and problem-solve. Her adventure at ND is still just beginning, but even though she admits she still can’t find places on campus sometimes, Dr. Hotchkiss is settling in great!

Chicago: An ND Production
Charlotte Lispowczyk '22

Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of Chicago: The High School Edition. On November 12 and 13, Notre Dame students and the Notre Dame theater program put on two sold-out shows that blew us all away. Both nights were full of fun, laughter, and the performers truly gave us “the old Razzle Dazzle.” Amazing job to everyone who was a part of this production, both on and off stage!

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The Met Gala: Gates Edition

Jordyn Williams '22

The First Monday in May, well the second Monday in September was the biggest night in fashion at the MET Gala. This year’s theme was In America: A Lexicon in Fashion. Do I know what that means, no, and some (closer to a majority, if we are being honest) of the guests were unfamiliar as well. The night was supposed to celebrate the achievements of American designers and celebrate the fashion styles of which America has originated or elevated. A diverse array of bedazzled, over the top outfits graced the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. While watching Vogue’s livestream of the event, I noticed something was missing or even off. Of course, it is the MET Gala; there are going to be really great and excellent looks following the theme or outfits simply pleasing to the eye, but this year it was lacking in the good. (Please be assured that this piece is being written by a seventeen year old who wears a uniform 90% of the time, so all opinions should be taken with a grain of salt.)

Reflecting on the night, I kept asking myself what was missing. I came up with this list: the absence of MET Gala icons such as Zendaya, Blake Lively, Beyoncé, Harry Styles, and Ariana Grande and a basic understanding of the theme.

Nonetheless, the stars who brought excitement and life to their outfits outdid themselves and I would love to show you my favorite looks of the night! Without further ado:


Quannah Chasinghorse in Dundas
For Vogue, Quannah details how she wanted to compliment her Dundas Gold dress with jewelry native to the Navajo Nation which she does beautifully. Additionally, her outfit is the best interpretation of the theme because it showcases the true and original people of America, the Indigenous peoples.

Debbie Harry in Zac Posen
Yes, this is a great take on the theme! I appreciate how ambiguous the meaning of the skirt is; is it ripped because America is truly a divided and exclusive nation or is it simply a style choice? I do not have the answer, which I love!

Anok Yai in Oscar De La Renta
This is the route I would have taken with the theme: old Hollywood Glamour. The dress is absolutely stunning fashioned with intricately designed stars and additional shape accessorized with a chic boa and or “fur coat”. 10s across the Board for Anok!

Upcoming Trends

Eva Acosta and Arianna Nekoumandk '26
2021 has been a big fashion year, with COVID-19 slowly going away and fashion statements and runways coming back. The fashion world is rumbling with excitement and new ideas...

Flare: Flare is back! Among all the different jean styles, flare jeans have always had a special place. Flare jeans and leggings are coming back and this is why. We love flare jeans because they can fit any figure and go with any top. Whether it's an oversized cotton t-shirt or a comfy sweater, anything works! Even fashion models Gigi Hadid and Hailey Bieber are showing their love for flare jeans in public.

Checkered Prints: Checkered prints might be one of the biggest trends right now! Checkered prints were on the fall/winter 2020 runway but have carried into spring and fall of 2021 because people just can’t give it up. Not only is it pants, shirts, socks, and even dresses that show off the beautiful checkered pattern, but it only keeps on getting better!

Sequence: Fashion Sequence has always been a big thing. Sequence was in during the ‘90s with fashion icons such as Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell, and the Spice Girls with sequence pieces as a staple in their closets. However, recently it has made a big comeback, especially after Fashion Month 2022 Collections. Designers such as Versace have had glitter make an appearance in their Spring/Summer 2022 collections.

Butterflies: Continuing with the recycled trends that come back every few decades, butterflies seemed to come back. It was one piece guaranteed that every Y2K fashion-obsessed person would have in their closet. Recently, pop stars such as Dua Lipa and Olivia Rodrigo helped bring the trend into the spotlight around the world. And on the runway, Badgley Mischka brought the idea of a cocktail dress and butterflies and put together a masterpiece. Butterflies remain a mainstay of many iconic fashion pieces.

At Fall Fling, CosPlay’s the Thing
A Day in the Life: Middle School
Kiersten Bodge and Emma McNeill ’27

A middle school day is very interesting and full of activities. You start off by going to your locker and getting ready for the day. After getting your items from your locker, you attend your first class. After that, you proceed to your assigned homeroom. During homeroom, we usually watch videos from NDTV, listen to slideshows, or answer questions. After homeroom, we have either community time or community prayer. During community time, you might have a club meeting, or you can complete your homework, get a bite to eat, or just hang out with your friends. In community prayer, we listen to stories from other students, pray together, and learn about issues currently happening in the world. Afterward, we go to periods two and three. The third period is a split period because of lunch, which happens right in the middle of it. Lunch is a time to hang out with friends, eat delicious food, and make a locker stop to get ready for the second half of the day. After the second half of third period, we finish up with the last two classes of our day, and then you are dismissed! You usually stop by your locker to get everything you need before you go home. Even an average day in the life of an ND middle schooler is an amazing experience.

Dance Company Returns
Ashley Kelly ’26

On September 26, 2021, Notre Dame hosted its annual Open House. This was Dance Company’s first live performance inside in over a year! It was so fun for the dancers to perform again. Our choreographer, Mrs. Pam Devenney, worked tireless hours on this dance and her hard work shined through while the dancers performed. Last year the dancers performed outside of the STEM center, so while it was great to be able to perform during COVID-19 it sure felt more at home for the dancers to perform in the dance studio. Now all of us are excitedly anticipating the big winter performance!

Profiling Paris
Lauren Margerison ’23

What would you do if you were wearing a mask—and had been forced to wear it your entire adult life? What if there were no circumstances when you could remove your mask outside of your home? What if millions of women across the world wanted to be you, but in reality you were struggling even to come out of your house?

Paris Hilton is a 40-year-old woman who has remained one of the biggest icons for teen girls since the early 2000s. Not only is she the great-granddaughter of Conrad Hilton, founder of the hotel chain, but she is also a model, singer, actress, socialite, business woman and DJ. Many people see her as a stereotypical Barbie, but there are various inner layers that make her a very complex young woman, someone her fans look up to for rebelling against chauvinist stereotypes. She put her passions front and center and did the things she wanted to do. Before her fame, she faced many challenges as a child. According to the documentary, This is Paris, she attended the Provo Canyon School, nationally known for the harsh way they treat their students. The documentary alleges that she was also physically and mentally abused, compelled to take “mystery pills” and even to endure solitary confinement. All of these things happened while she was still a child. Now as an adult, she continues to be objectified, and she suffers from trust issues that her detractors overlook. Paris is relevant right now because feminism continues to be such a battle in today’s world. Most people probably see her as a pretty, rich, prima donna, but there is so much more to say about her, about the indignities and abuses (emotional and physical) that she suffered growing up. Her issues are as real as anyone else’s, but they are stored well out of the public eye.
Field Hockey
The ND varsity field hockey team has had a strong season, beating top competitors like Villa Maria and making a presence early in the season during a tough game against the Hill School. ND field hockey also participated in the MAX Prep Tournament with the top teams from around the country (see Saylor Milone’s article on p. 7). Unfortunately, the team lost in the PAISAA semi-finals to the Hill School, but they played their hearts out! JV field hockey has also had a strong season, with wins over the JV teams for Hill 7-0 and Episcopal 3-0. Congratulations to Nockey on a great season!

Tennis
ND tennis performed well in matches against Penn Charter and Friends Central, making their way through the season with tough losses to Springside-Chestnut Hill and Baldwin. Even so, the team enjoyed a great season! JV tennis tallied wins against Baldwin and Penn Charter and tied in many of their other matches. The team’s last match took place on November 4.

Cross Country
Notre Dame’s Cross Country team won Inter-Acs for the first time since 2015, earning second place at PAISAAAs and third at Delcos. This season, the team ran in 8 meets, facing off against Germantown Academy, Episcopal, Agnes Irwin, and Penn Charter, and they maintained a strong presence in the league by going undefeated in the dual meet season. Congratulations to the entire cross country team on a great season!

Volleyball
ND Volleyball started their season strong with wins over West Chester, Rustin, Marple Newtown, and Carroll. They continued their dominating play throughout the season and went on to win the PAISAA championship yet again—an 8th victory!—after a strong match against Agnes Irwin (to whom they had lost earlier in the season). Congratulations to Nolleyball on your awesome season!

Soccer
ND Soccer opened their season with a tie against Friends Central, but the team quickly showed their strength and ability with wins against O’Hara, Hill, Westtown, and Merion Mercy. The team fell to Baldwin in October, but when faced with a rematch in the PAISAA semi-finals, ND took home the win 2-0 to move on to the PAISAA championship—a first ever achievement for the team. Congratulations, Noccer! You made ND history!
Not Just a Game
Charlotte Lange ’26
After more than a year of empty arenas, courts, and playing fields, Philly sports is back with fans in attendance. The Eagles, led by head coach Nick Sirianni and quarterback Jalen Hurts, welcomed almost 70,000 people to the home opener on Sunday September 19, 2021, the largest crowd since the 2019 season. The 76ers representing Philadelphia basketball are led this season by head coach Doc Rivers. The 76ers welcomed more than 20,000 fans to their home opener on Friday, October 22. Lastly, the Flyers led by head coach Alain Vigneault and MVP candidate Claude Giroux welcomed close to 20,000 visitors on October 15, 2021. With all these people returning to these stadiums, tensions are high not only on the field, but also in the stands.

Imagine studying for a big test all week, that will count for half your grade. Next thing you know, it’s the day of the test and 70,000 people come to watch you take it. Pile that on top of your nerves and pressure, and you will then know how professional athletes feel every time they compete. Mental health has taken center stage during this pandemic and Philadelphia sports has helped bring attention to the matter. Lane Johnson, an offensive lineman for the Eagles, opened up just this Sunday about the anxiety and depression he’s been struggling with since college. During an interview with FOX Sports, Johnson made it clear that whether you play a gladiator sport like football or are taking a quiz on linear equations you are not alone when you feel anxious. “You have a lot more in common with everyone else around you than you think.” -Lane Johnson.

Win or lose, there is always one constant in Philly that never ceases to disappoint: the fans. Philadelphia fans are known around the world for their passion and love of sports. Their enthusiasm, and sometimes criticism, comes from the years of joy and agony from the rollercoaster of sports. Philly fans have been through thick and thin with their teams, from the 2018 Superbowl win with the Eagles to many unsuccessful seasons by their teams. But they are always there next season.

Have an idea for an article you’d like to see in The Gates? Have an amazing photo or cartoon you want to share? Email the editors at thegates@ndapa.org

MAX Field Hockey Tournament
Saylor Milone ’24
On Friday, September 24, 2021, thirty-two high school field hockey teams from all across the nation gathered together in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania at the Proving Grounds for the 2021 MAX Field Hockey National High School Invitational. Many of the invited teams to this tournament were nationally ranked, and it was an honor for the Notre Dame varsity team to receive an invitation. Nevertheless, the competition was tough and the stakes were high.

On the first night of play, Notre Dame competed under the lights at 7:30 p.m. versus Kingsway Regional High School in New Jersey. Unfortunately, the Irish fell 1-0 in a down-to-the-wire game. At the time, Kingsway was ranked No. 5 in New Jersey, while Notre Dame was yet to be state-ranked. Not twenty-four hours later, ND faced off against the talented Sacred Heart Greenwich team, ranked No. 16 in the nation, in the morning. In a hard-fought battle and a very back-and-forth game, the Irish came out on top with a score of 2-1, a remarkable feat. Saylor Milone tallied both goals on the Notre Dame side, with assists coming from Emma Steel and Reese Czajkowski. This victory proved to be monumental for the Irish.

Although the team did not end up winning either of the games, they were able to prove themselves as a strong and talented team that never gives up. In general, the MAX Field Hockey tournament was a huge success and a great experience for all the participating players and teams. Also, at the conclusion of the tournament, two sophomores from Notre Dame, Saylor Milone and Maeve Seeger, were named Additional Top Players by MAX Field Hockey.

MS Field Hockey
Abbie Hanway ’28
The Notre Dame Middle School JV Field Hockey team has had a great season so far. As of October 27, 2021, the JV team’s record is 9-0-2. Coach Mary Packer is the coach for JV and Coach Natalya is the coach for Varsity. On October 6th, Notre Dame played Episcopal Academy, the final score was 1-1. Notre Dame’s goal was by left inner Kate Bruder less than one minute into the game. Addie Drexelius played great defense on EA’s best players. No one could get past her, until the last 9 seconds of the game. It was a very hard game but the whole team had so much fun.
The Lounges are Back!

**Ava Pastore ’22**

One of Notre Dame’s favorite traditions is back: the junior and senior lounges! Due to COVID-19 last year, students lost their beloved lounges, those intimate spaces they could visit during any free periods and community time, until the senior lounge was restored late last year. This year, both the juniors and seniors were ecstatic to find that both of the lounges had returned! The senior lounge, located next to the Admissions Office, is a fun place where the green class can unite with friends, eat lunch—or occasional snacks provided by the generous Parents Association—or simply visit to get some work done!

Not only is there an assortment of couches and chairs, but there is also a microwave, a sink, a ping-pong table, and a coffee station. As a current senior, I think a lot of my day is spent in the lounge, and I believe that my classmates can say the same.

The same goes for the junior lounge, which is located across from the Learning Center. The junior lounge gives the yellow class a great hang out spot to either be productive or to enjoy time with friends. Says my fellow senior, Jillian Hart, “I think the lounge provides me with a great spot to see my friends who I don’t have classes with. It gives me a nice escape from the stress at school and offers me a comfortable environment where our class can be brought together.”

I think we can all agree that the addition of the lounges this school year has been a delightful surprise for the classes of 2022 and 2023.

Congratulations to our 10 Commended Students from the Class of 2022! Back row: Kelly McGlinn, Samantha Smoot, Natalie Stuart, Andrea Wat and Abigail Rowley. Front row: Olivia Friess, Claire Chaplin, Kyleigh Calvert, Paige Shelton and Brooke Husar.

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Campus Ministry

**Mary Kate Daniel ’25**

Campus Ministry is a crucial part of the Notre Dame community and our spiritual journey as young women. Campus Ministry is split up into five leaders and their committees. Through the help of leaders and their committees, they help portray the attributes that make Notre Dame unique. The leaders consist of Emma Oyakhire for Service and Social Justice, Andrea Wat for Spiritual Life Committee, Kate Ranaudo for Mission, Regan Kelly for Sisterhood, and Paige Shelton for Outreach and Publicity. Our Campus Ministry leaders and their committees are hard at work planning special events that cater to the spirituality of the women of Notre Dame.

The Spiritual Life Committee along with the help of volunteers are working on an advent prayer book that will help our community come together during Advent. “Seeking With Courage” includes prayers and reflections created by our community that address the themes of Advent. Another important event that was planned was the Social Justice Movie Night featuring the movie “Get Out.” Students in high school were able to attend. Their donations helped an organization called the “Loveland Therapy Foundation.” The Loveland Therapy Foundation provides young black women with financial aid and therapy.

Campus Ministry is planning many events that help women around the world while also helping young women inside of the gates. Big Sister, Little Sister is just one example of how Campus Ministry impacts the women inside of the gates. Students find either their big sister or little sister and they guide each other through Notre Dame and all it has to offer.

Through these many events planned during the year, Campus Ministry helps all of us come together as a community.
Notre Dame Summer Travels

Madison Frank ’22

The summer of 2021 presented an opportunity for Notre Dame students to once again travel and explore the country and world. The ND community shared their travel locations and pictures of the beauty they encountered during the summer.

ND traveled to 40 states and D.C. this past summer.

ND traveled to 9 other countries this past summer.
The Best of Monstober
Quinn Carpenter '27

1. *Jessie* Season 2 Episode 1: “The Whining” → In this episode The kids go to the 13th floor after hearing what spooky things have happened. Tony has to work a Halloween party. This episode is perfect, with just the right amount of Halloween and spookiness.

2. *Suite Life of Zack and Cody* Season 1 Episode 19: “Ghost of 316” → In this episode Maddie, London, Zack, Cody, and Esteban all go to the haunted hotel room. This episode is nearly perfect, even though I think it could be even better if it were more Halloween-themed.

3. *Austin and Ally* Season 2 Episode 1: Costumes & Courage → In this episode, Austin and Ally write a song for a Halloween party for Austin and Taylor Swift to sing. Taylor gets hurt and Austin has to make Ally sing with him. This episode is very good, though it could be spookier.

4. *Liv and Maddie* Season 3 Episode 5: “Haunt-a-Rooney” → In this episode, Liv runs into Holsten in New York at a Halloween party. Best Friends Whenever are also with them. Johnny Nimbus dies and the ghost haunts them. They get locked in the school. This episode is one of my favorites because it covers all of the things you can do on Halloween.

5. *Liv and Maddie* Season 4 Episode 3: “Scare-a-Rooney” → This episode is about how Liv and Ruby are stuck in a haunted restaurant. Parker and Joey try to make Booms celebrate Halloween. Karen and Maddie hand out candy. This episode is very good and spooky.

6. *K.C. Undercover* Season 1 Episode 23: “All Howls Eve” → In this episode, KC has a party at her house, and Ernie spills wolf serum on him, turning him gradually into a wolf. This episode is very good and spooky and includes the characters Emma and Zuri from the show *Jessie*.

7. *Jessie* Season 3 Episode 23: “The Runaway Bride of Frankenstein” → This episode is about Brooks proposing to Jessie and Jessie struggling to say yes. This episode is very good; however, I wish it were a bit less plot-heavy.

8. *Liv and Maddie* Season 2 Episode 3: “Helgaween” → In this episode, Maddie wishes she were not a twin—and an evil triplet Helga comes and changes her whole life. This episode is really good and spooky.

9. *Wizards of Waverly Place* Season 3 Episode 2: “Halloween” → This episode is about the Russo family’s haunted house being shut down if they don’t make it more scary. To make it more scary they decide to get real ghosts and put them in the haunted house.

10. *Hannah Montana* Season 1 Episode 17: “Torn Between Two Hannahs” → This episode is about Miley’s cousin Luan, who comes to visit. I love this episode; however, I think it could be more spooky.

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The Gates Asked... You Answered!
Fall Edition
Charlotte Lignowski '22

What is your favorite fall treat?
304 responses

- Pumpkin bread 17.2%
- Candy corn 16.5%
- Caramel apples 11.8%
- Pumpkin spice latte 11.8%
- Apple crumble 10.4%
- Pecan pie 8.0%

What is your favorite Halloween movie?
304 responses

- How I Met Your Mother 20.3%
- Halloween 18.8%
- Beetlejuice 16.7%
- It's the Great Pumpkin 13.4%
- The Nightmare Before Christmas 13.4%
- Coraline 2.3%

What is your favorite candy to get while trick-or-treating?
304 responses

- Kit Kat 23.2%
- Reese's 20.3%
- Twix 15.0%
- Tootsie Roll 13.5%
- Sour Patch Kids 13.5%
- Milky Way 11.8%

What is your favorite fall activity?
304 responses

- Going apple picking 18.8%
- Carving pumpkins 18.8%
- Walking through a haunted house 16.1%
- Making wreaths 11.8%
- Going on a hayride 10.4%
- Taking a walk to enjoy the fall weather 3.9%

What is your favorite fall candle scent?
304 responses

- Pumpkin spice 32.2%
- Cinnamon 17.8%
- Maple 16.1%
- Cranberry 11.8%
- Apple 10.4%
- Campfire 4.3%

her a voice to fit. This voice giving out instructions for the death game is terrifying and extremely unsettling for the players and the audience. These elements masterfully bring the audience into the terror of this world and these games.
**REVIEWS**

*Squid Game: Why did the series break the charts?*

*Squid Game* is a South Korean Netflix thriller series that has taken the world by storm. The nine-episode season follows Seong Gi-hun, broke, desperate, and willing to do anything for money. Seong Gi-hun chooses to enter a competition where he could win 45 billion Won ($38,393,239.20 USD). What Seong Gi-hun doesn’t know is that in this competition, he will be fighting for his life, engaging in six simple children’s games that have turned into deadly challenges. The show aired on September 17, 2021, to massive praise. Its twisted concept, creativity, gory action, and great performances from the main cast have captured the attention of audiences all around the world. It has been No. 1 on the most popular Netflix productions for weeks. Numerous Notre Dame students have expressed their enjoyment of the series. Maia Salas ('23) remarks, “I thought that it was messed up, but really good.”

Deadly competitions are not exactly new in the world of East Asian television. In fact, they are quite common. For example, *Alice in Borderland*, a Japanese production released on Netflix in 2020, also has the main character playing various games in order to stay alive. What makes *Squid Game* unique is the artistry behind each game. Each game’s set is specifically designed to make the game evoke childhood. For example, for the marbles challenge, a maze of alleyways was set up to make players feel like children playing outside. The Dalgona candy game unfolds in a room filled with playground equipment. For the tempered-glass challenge, the room and the platform were made to look like a twisted circus. This artistry is what really caught my attention when watching this show.

One of my favorite aspects of the production was the sound design. Director Hwang Dong-hyuk did a wonderful job of making the soundtrack for each episode extremely unsettling. For example, for the first game, “Redlight, Greenlight,” they play cheerful jazz during the death montages. The contrast makes the entire scene so much more unsettling. A giant doll acts as the “seeker” during “Redlight, Greenlight.” Hwang Dong-hyuk designed the doll to look like a little girl and gave

Because of its massive popularity, *Squid Game* is most likely going to have a new season sometime in the near future. Fans have been trying to recreate some of the challenges to see if they could survive (without actual death, of course). The praise that this new series has received is well-deserved and I cannot wait to see the future of this twisted tale.

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*More Scenes from September*  
*(Continued from p. 1)*
THE ULTIMATE LIST OF

PUMPKIN SPICE LATTES

By: Katie Onderdonk '23

I tried Pumpkin Spice Lattes from Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, McDonald's, and Gryphon's. Here's what I came up with...

Starbucks

Coming in at number one on the list is the Starbucks PSL. I ordered a tall which got 12 ounces and 300 calories for $5.15. The aesthetic is illustrious (don't lie, you know that's important) and the service is always great. This PSL is a perfect ratio of pumpkin to coffee; not too strong and not too sweet or overpowering. One sip has different stages. There is a touch of cinnamon in the latte that compliments the pumpkin and maximizes the fall vibe (that's important too whether you want to admit it or not). Starbucks is definitely pricey, but with the Starbucks app, customers can quickly rack up points to earn discounts on their coffee. I'm a sucker for the Starbs PSL.

Dunkin Donuts

At number two is the notorious Dunkin Donuts. A small PSL from Dunkin is 16 ounces and 300 calories for $3.70. It's a bargain from a cost standpoint. It's the most ounces out of the PSLs on this list. The first sip of the Dunkin PSL hits you right away. The pumpkin pretty much reaches out of the cup and smacks you in the face. Now, for those who only drink flavored coffee (wimps), this drink is perfect for you. I'll be honest, I have always been fond of the Dunkin PSL, but side by side with Starbucks, it's like The Rock and Kevin Hart. As many coffee drinkers know, Dunkin Donuts is a lottery and you never know what you will get, so the PSL can be risky. This is a great option if you are looking for an average latte for a good price, but be prepared for major pumpkin flavor.

McDonald's

I know. Not where your immediate thoughts go when you think PSL, or even when you think coffee in general. I figured I would test it out to see if the cheap prices would reflect the latte. I paid $2.33 for 16 ounces and 240 calories. The second I took a sip of this (after I had to wait 15 minutes for it to cool down), I was honestly confused. It went down really smoothly, which I enjoyed. I had an issue trying to decipher the flavoring of the latte. There was a small taste of pumpkin, but it tasted more like plain sugar. It's definitely one of those drinks that you can feel traveling right to your gut. I hadn't gotten through half of it when I realized my stomach did not feel great. I don't think I would be able to drink a full serving in the morning.

Gryphon's

As much as I wanted Gryphon's to be on the top of the list, this didn't do it for me. I paid $4.88 for 8 ounces. Gryphon's is a really cute place to get work done and grab a quick drink or bite. I have been there before and will tell you how good the avocado toast is. When I took a sip of their PSL, I was surprised. At first, I didn't get much flavor, then I was hit with a surprise. It tasted like I was eating straight out of the inside of a pumpkin. I didn't love it, I didn't hate it. My problem is that it's not what I expect when I order a pumpkin spice latte. It was all pumpkin, with no real spice of latte feel. It tasted more like a chai tea latte. If you love pumpkin pie, this is your order!