From the Editor: Election Day!
Katie Onderdonk ’23

November is a very busy time for the seniors at ND! College applications, sports, the fall musical, and Thanksgiving engulf the whole month. And, for the first time ever, some of our seniors are able to vote in the upcoming midterm elections.

According to the New York Times, most young people do not vote. In the 2016 presidential election, fewer than half of Americans between the ages 18-29 voted, and in 2020 58% cast their ballots (Tufts Circle). The youngest group of voters, 18 and 19-year-olds, do not show as promising numbers in the polls. Only 47% of this group voted in 2020. There are various factors that may result in teenagers not showing up to the polls. Perhaps teenagers see a low opportunity cost in voting. That legislation does not directly impact them. However, the issues overtaking this election may affect the youth more than they seem to. As inflation increases across the country, and many of us plan to attend college soon, the value of a dollar should be of more importance to us now than ever before.

Abortion, another key issue of this election, impacts women’s rights as a whole. Gun violence, an epidemic across the country, has had devastating consequences for Philadelphia in recent years. Student debt, the border, education, identity…the country, has had devastating consequences for Philadelphia in recent years. Student debt, the border, education, identity…the list goes on and on. All of these factors directly affect you. They affect your family. They affect your friends. The Pennsylvania voter registration deadline is October 24. The election is Tuesday, November 8.

Put power in the youth this election. Our voices need to be heard. Your voice needs to be heard. I encourage all of you to get in the habit—the very good habit—of voting now, while you’re young. Celebrate our democracy by honoring one of its greatest principles. Your vote counts!

F A S H I O N: Beauty by Barb
Barbara Fahey ’23

If you look around any classroom, you’ll see a sea of platform sneakers, most of which are Converse hightops! Back in 2016, we were young, and even as a sixth grader just starting at ND, low-top Converse were the only sneakers our girls would wear. At orientation, some of the girls let me know that while they weren’t officially part of the uniform, they might as well be. I made sure to get a few pairs so I could keep up with the upperclassmen. After a few years, they weren’t cool anymore. I wonder why… (see image at left). I threw all of mine out. But now Converse are back! Not the low tops, but high-top Converse and platforms! Make sure you get yourself a pair. Of course, they won’t last you long, because in a couple years, the girls will pick a new brand of sneakers to enhance our uniform. Have a campus fashion idea for my next column? Email me at thegates@ndapa.org

Above: Styling with the seniors

Fall Fling Foto Fest!
Maura O’Reilly ’23

On October 14, ND hosted the annual Halloween-themed extravaganza. (See the gallery on p. 6.) Costumes ranged from Mr. World Wide and Ronald McDonald to an ND-themed car and stoplight (Kara Dougherty and Kathryn Bernstiel). The festivities closed with a fashion show—a tough competition, but Mia McCloskey, as a gorilla, took the win. Asked to name his favorite costume, Mr. Troy Sams (our new Director of Student Experience) praised the creative efforts of Nebula Youakim, Victoria Hiscott, and Rebecca Jackson. Before the dance, Mr. Sams had informed the community that the Patrician Society’s emergency food cupboard, which serves 200 families weekly, was running low on groceries. So Fall Flingers arrived bearing bags and boxes of food items. And of course, courtesy of Mrs. Wlotko and the Five Main, the Harron Lobby and the Aimee Willard Gym were in fine, fearsome form. (Top right: Tiger King, ND style. Bottom: Mr. Sams and Ms. Wlotko)

New Faces, New Friends at ND
Ashley Kelly ’26

This year, ND welcomed new teachers specializing in many different departments, from mathematics to history, religion, and more. We are blessed to have so many eager teachers ready to guide us and connect to the school as a whole. History teacher Ms. Sarah Garcia provides a fun, fresh perspective on ND. “The first thing I noticed about Notre Dame,” she recalls, “was the passion. From the athletic fields and courts to the classrooms and Spirit Days plans, ND girls go at whatever they’re doing with their whole hearts and with so much pride. It’s inspiring.” It is crucial for the student body to feel noticed and that others appreciate the effort they put into extracurricular activities and academics. Ms. Garcia’s other favorite part about our community? “I love how warm and genuine everyone is. Students and my fellow teachers have shown compassion and kindness from Day 1. I feel blessed to be part of such a vibrant community!” We do, too, Ms. Garcia! We’re excited to welcome you and all the new faculty and staff.
ND at Your Service
Anna Diederich ’23

Campus Ministry just released the new service calendar for the year, which includes all upcoming service opportunities, such as our regular visits to St. Francis Inn.

So far this year, the Half a Million Kids club devoted their time to serving kids in the foster care system through a “Duffle bag project.” Club members were sponsored by large companies, including Costco, as well as members of the community. They spent time over the summer packaging duffle bags filled with gift cards, pillows, and blankets. All of the bags will be delivered to CB Community School in Philadelphia, which specifically serves children in the foster care system. Join clubs like Half a Million Kids to stay on top of more Upper School service opportunities this school year! Our Middle School students, meanwhile, have plenty of service opportunities of their own. On the morning of October 17, Middle School students made PB&J sandwiches for the Patrician Society. Follow Ms. Julia Tully and her Campus Ministry team for updates on service opportunities throughout the year via email or the service calendar.

In each issue of The Gates, service columnist Anna Diederich ’23 will promote local opportunities to get involved and do great things. If you have an idea for something Anna should cover in her column, email her at thegates@ndapa.org. Meanwhile, there’s no time like a chilly week in October to start thinking about good works you can do this holiday season. Senior Writer Lauren Margerison ’23 describes one such opportunity below. If Lauren’s story inspires you, contact the CSS helpline at 267-331-2490 to learn about donating or being involved with this year’s party.

Last Christmas...
Lauren Margerison ’23

Last year on December 20, I volunteered to help at the Catholic Social Services Christmas party that my aunt runs every year. There were more than 350 kids scheduled to attend. I arrived in Philly at 8 am and helped set up the 50 tables. I blew up balloons, distributed coloring books and crayons, and picked up stuffed animals for each chair. It was also superhero-themed so I put superhero masks on the stuffed animals and capes on the back of the chairs for the kids to wear.

Each kid at the party had a sponsor who purchased the one gift that they most wanted for Christmas. I handed out all of the gifts to the children and got to help them unwrap them. The reactions on their faces were priceless as they were filled with joy. Also, I set up a fake snow blower and got to do the honors to blow the snow as the kids walked in. It really is the little things. Although most of the kids are homeless, barely have food on their plate, and barely have enough clothes to keep them warm, they were mesmerized by the snow. It really made their day—and watching them made mine.

I learned a lot from this service project. I danced with the kids on the dance floor and had small conversations about their favorite dolls that I will hold onto forever. Although these kids don’t have a whole lot of material things, not one of them wore a frown.
September Gallery: 
*Mother-Daughter Mass and Picnic...*
*New Student Pool Party...Senior Tailgate*

Top left: Dr. Hotchkiss and Coco welcome the whole community at Opening Mass. Scenes from the start of the school year, including the new-student pool party, freshmen enjoying their St. Julie medals, and lunchtime at the Mother-Daughter picnic.

New Faces (Continued from p. 1)
Tell us about a new teacher you’re fond of so far:

“Mrs. Pratt has such a positive attitude—she is always smiling when you see her and she seems genuinely happy to be here.” (Anna O’Neill ‘24)

At left: our new principal, Mrs. Erin Pratt, with junior Audrey Gonzalez (inset: Anna O’Neill).

“I really like my math teacher, Mrs. Miller. She told me she’s enjoying everyone at ND, especially 'teaching 6th grade because we have something in common: being new.' Her favorite lunch is Fiesta Friday and the wraps.” (Abbie Hanway ‘28) Below: Mrs. Miller with 6th graders Ummayiah Smith, Hannah Friedman, and Finley McGuiness (inset: Abbie Hanway with Mrs. Miller).

“At left: our new principal, Mrs. Erin Pratt, with junior Audrey Gonzalez (inset: Anna O’Neill).

“I love learning ukulele with Mr. Lowry. He has a lot of patience and he laughs with our class. We sound great!” (Cayden Smith ‘28) Below: Mr. Lowry strumming with 7th graders at Period 3.
**Our Famous Amos:**

**Fiona’s Fall Preview**

Fiona Amos ’23

This year, the Upper School is putting on the production of *Legally Blonde the Musical*. Auditions took place in May, and rehearsals are in full swing after a long, restful summer. The show, which will take place in the evening on November 11th and 12th in Cuvilly Gym, is sure to be amazing! The talented 10th grader Sadie Lock, who is playing the lead in the show, Elle Woods, says, “I am very excited for this production because I love performing and being with my friends. The theatre is such an amazing community.” More information about the production will come in the next few weeks. Support our fantastic theater program!

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**Big Plans for Campus**

*Cameron Landers ’24*

On September 27, our Head of School, Dr. Hotchkiss, invited several focus groups made up of Notre Dame students to give their input on campus space planning. The students met in the Global Conferencing Lab with WRT, an architecture firm, who guided them through a discussion about the future of ND. Each group added a unique perspective, focusing in particular on the redesigning of St. Julie and Cuvilly. Among the many suggestions offered: an upgraded Launfal and the converting of empty classrooms into useful study spaces. In the words of Anya Dunn ’25, participation in the focus group offered all the girls “an open environment that gave us confidence to express our opinions and influence the school in a positive way.” Thank you, Dr. Hotchkiss and WRT, for inviting students to be part of the decision making!

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**Senior Tailgate!**

*Sydney Dalton ’23*

Every new school year, the seniors celebrate the first day of senior year with a tailgate. This year, the weather was not in our favor, so the tailgate was moved inside, into the Cuvilly gym. Although this was not the way the seniors wanted to celebrate, the class moms made it possible for the seniors to enjoy. Seniors continued the traditions of making class t-shirts and putting fun nicknames on their yellow backpacks! The senior tailgate is a great way for the seniors to start their last year at ND and get excited for what is to come this school year!
FALL SPORTS
by Sydney Dalton ’23

Field Hockey
ND field hockey is having a great season so far. Nockey went 2-0 for the first time ever in the MAX Prep Tournament. In the MAX Prep Tournament, Nockey played Assumption, a school from Kentucky, and pulled out the close win, 5-4. Nockey also played Garrison Forest and pulled out a 5-2 win, further making the 2-0 record. Nockey strives to win the Inter-Ac this year with the strong team, including three starting freshmen, on Varsity. Pictured at right: Upper School Varsity Field Hockey. At far right: Upper School JV. Here’s a fun fact about Field Hockey this season: There are six pairs of sisters just on the Varsity team.

Tennis
ND tennis is also enjoying their season so far. The matches in the Inter-Ac are tough but Nennis continues to keep their energy up for the upcoming games this season. Nennis had a great win against Cardinal O’Hara 5-2. The ND tennis team has upcoming matches against tough teams, so come out to support your ND tennis team and cheer them on for their matches at the neighboring Overbrook Golf Club!

Cross Country
For a second consecutive year, ND won the Inter-Ac Cross Country Championship! Congratulations to Therese Trainer ’23 (1st), Mary Rossano ’25 (3rd), Kara Sweeney ’26 (7th), Ava Del Vescovo ’23 (8th), Maura Brady ’23 (9th), and Chloe Calvert ’25 (17th). Also congrats to Laura Neary ’26 who placed 7th for JV. At left, top: Inter-Ac Cross Country champions! At left below: Delco Championship top scorers

Volleyball
ND volleyball is going for a ninth consecutive PAISAA win this year. They are 6-4 overall in the conference and recently played in New Jersey’s Cherokee tournament, winning the championship after defeating the two teams they had lost to in pool play earlier that day. Volleyball plans to come back stronger the next time they play Agnes Irwin after a tight loss to them earlier this season. Come out to support volleyball and cheer them on in their upcoming matches! At right, clockwise from top left: Volleyball seniors Megan Dougherty, Kayla Hemphill, Laney Agolino, and Margo Kemp.

Soccer
The ND soccer team is off to a great start this season, with an 11-5 record at press time. Noccer pulled out the win against Penn Charter on September 30th in overtime. Natalie Maye ’23 scored the winning goal, cross from Audrey Cain ’23, to pull out the win in the close scoring game. Seniors Sophie Cappello, Allison Eck, Kayla Young, Natalie Maye, Audrey Cain, and Maura O’Reilly (all pictured at left) marked Senior Day with a win against Agnes Irwin, 3-1.