



YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO PROM. 2



DR. KOEHL LOOKS TO NDA'S FUTURE. 5



BEHIND THE SCENES OF 'LITTLE SHOP' 3

THE GAVEL



Chicks & Chucks serves up smiles, success

The Notre Dame Academy tennis program's annual two-day Chicks and Chucks tournament drew some of the state's very best programs and raised more than \$2,000 and plenty more awareness for breast cancer. No wonder Panda players (from left) Maryann Meadows, Sarah Frisch, Francie Case, Abigail Kennedy and Emma Hughes are smiling. **Story, Page 6**

PANDAS TAKE PROM!

Your Ultimate Guide To A Memorable Night



Necessities for the Notre Dame Academy prom, April 24 at the Hilton Netherland Plaza downtown

- **The perfect dress:** You can't go wrong with a long beautiful gown, but feel free to rock the short dress. Remember no cut outs, open backs, or plunging neck lines! Dillard's, Macy's, and JC Penney are a few great stores or there are various stores online that have cute dresses. If you order online, make sure you order in advance so you know that it fits properly.
- **Shoes:** You can never go wrong with a 2-3 inch heel or even a cute flat!
- **Jewelry:** Dress up your look with a chunky necklace, some bold earrings and bracelets.
- **Hair:** There are so many directions you can go with your hair. You can go with the elegant up-do, bouncy curls, chic straight hair, a modern high ponytail, or even some type of braid.
- **A date or a group of friends:** Bringing a date is always fun, but going with a group of your friends is just as memorable!
- **Purse:** You will most definitely need a small clutch to hold your ticket and money.
- **Boutonniere:** If you choose to bring a date, make sure you get him a boutonniere, which can be found at your local florist.
- **Money:** Don't forget money. You'll need it for parking at the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel.
- **Tickets:** Don't forget your tickets to the dance because that would really be a shame! They're not sold at the door.
- **A charged phone:** You will want to take many pictures throughout the dance of you and your friends. But, don't play on your phone the whole time because it will not be as fun!
- **No tears or stress:** Remember prom and the getting-ready process is supposed to be fun. Prevent these things from happening by giving yourself plenty of time in advance to get the prom look you want.
- **Dance moves:** Get up and dance! Don't be afraid to embarrass yourself and just let loose!

- Abby Thelen and Avery Warner

Spring play

Getting 'Little Shop' ready to horrify

Notre Dame and Covington Catholic's production of "Little Shop of Horrors" is drawing near to its opening night, and the crews are on crunch time to get everything done. What really goes behind a production? What are the things that need to be done but most people don't realize happen, such as hanging the lights or designing the set?



What most people don't realize is every single light in the theatre was hung and adjusted for that specific show. Each time you see a cast member lit up, or a black out, a crew member had to hang and focus that light specifically for that cast member. The level of brightness, the angle, and the color was chosen for that scene. The colors were chosen specifically to symbolize something happening. Lighting designers are to be aware of the way certain colors affect people. Some examples would be red invokes anger and symbolizes evil, blue symbolizes night or calmness, or green means greed or money. A certain color choice in the lighting can change the whole meaning of the show. For "Little Shop," the aesthetic was a comic book out of this world theme.

Another one of the most important and longest commitments behind the production is designing and building the set. The set is made to the director's vision of the show and designed by a set designer. It can also play a big role in the meaning of the show. In the case of the NDA theatre the set is built usually a month and a half in advance and painted three weeks before the show opens. An average set takes 12 or more hours to finish depending on the amount of detail work and size. Various crew members come in on weekends to paint on days called "build days" that are usually 5 hours along. The set usually isn't

set up onstage until two weeks before the show. It's built in the shop then rolled out onto stage.

The most important time for a show is tech week. Tech week happens a week before the show and is the time to make any last minute adjustments for cast and crew. Tech week is filled with countless hours in the theatre each night, some practices as long as 6 hours. By this time, the lights are hung and focused and the set is onstage and ready for use for the actors. Props are taken accounted for and placed in specific spots backstage on prop tables. The show is run through countless times to ensure the overall quality is good. The lighting designer checks for any "dark spots" on stage. The set designer makes any last-minute adjustments needed to enhance the show. The director watches to make sure everything is as planned. Everybody has a job during tech week, and it's a long and tiring week, but it's worth it.

So the next time you're in a theatre, take a look up and around. There are bound to be many small things you didn't notice before happening. There's so much going on that I didn't get to mention, such as sound design, stage management, and of course the acting, but for now I'll leave you with these secrets going on behind the scenes. Join us for "Little Shop of Horrors" Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

- *Kylie Kanter*

Lent

Students focused on simplicity, service

Lent is a season of the Christian year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. It is a time to make a lot of different opportunities to reflect on our faith. Here at Notre Dame Academy we provided many chances to reflect during this time. There were 7:15 a.m. Masses during Lent, and all students also were given the opportunity to go to reconciliation with their religion classes. We also had Holy Week prayer service where we all came together to celebrate this special time.

Lent is also a time for alms-giving, and the school participates in this with Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl project that we have been

doing for at least the past 20 years. We all come together at the end to gather what we have all collected for the less fortunate.

Lent is a time for fasting as well. At the beginning of Lent, students were asked to write down what everyone gave up and then the slips of paper were hung in the chapel for all to see. Service is especially focused on during this time and this is where the students thrive the most.

Mrs. Price, Notre Dame campus minister, said, "The girls are all very generous during Lent and very thoughtful. They never disappoint us with their outcome year in and year out. They should all be very proud of themselves. I know I am."

- Laura Noll

What is the song of my life? A Holy Week reflection

There's a hymn we sometimes sing that has a word I always change when we come to it. The line reads in part, "...the wrath of God" The word I change? Wrath. We don't have a wrathful God, but a loving God whose concern for us caused the Second Person of the Trinity to take on flesh, live a life of our weakness and die to prove that love. Why settle for wrath when you are offered love?

Interestingly, when a Protestant church authority asked the composers of the hymn to change the word, they refused. That church had it right, and the composers, not so. Unfortunate. Singing the hymn may reinforce a negative image of God in some who sing it. It might have helped if the hymn were not with such a catchy, pretty melody, but, alas, it is.

This makes me think: What image of God does the song of my life convey? Do I say and do things that may seem reasonable or just at first to an observer, but leave an overall impression of a lack of forgiveness or spirit of pettiness? Do I really try to be aware of my own motives for what I say and do? In simple terms, is my song true? Does it reflect my belief in the God whose love compelled him to die on the cross for us? May our song of life be ever true, ever positive, ever of Love.



Sister Dolores Gilpin is Notre Dame Academy archivist and historian.

arouND campus

New chapel, first-floor library part of plan

A recent interview with Dr. Koehl outlined what the strategic plan is for the next few years here at Notre Dame Academy. Among the plan’s highlights are several campus improvements:

- A larger, updated chapel that is a visible part of the campus.
- A new library that would be moved to the first floor of the school to be handicap accessible. The new library would be more contemporary and have more space to create and collaborate.
- A renovated cafeteria that would be more comfortable and have space for student organizations.
- A new elevator toward the rear of the school.

Dr. Koehl’s view/goal of the new projects is to “bring our 20th-century building into the 21st century in a positive way by supporting the learning process holistically.” All of these campus projects would contribute to a common “vision to educate women to be leaders in the community and meet the changing demands of professions,” Dr. Koehl said.

Dr. Koehl hopes for the students to learn “how to be adaptable and think critically, problem-solve, and work with other people and connecting with what it means to be a good person.”

- Hailee Scheper

Career Day showcases options

Notre Dame’s annual Career Day included a Women Making a Difference assembly with



Pandas peruse the Cincinnati Police exhibit at Career Day.

speakers, and then a wide variety of people in different jobs at booths available for questions.

The individuals representing different occupations were very helpful with sharing about their experiences in their job and their experience with schooling for the particular career.

“I really liked going around and asking different nurses and doctors about how rigorous the schooling was and the different types of classes you would take to go in certain fields,” senior Grace Gettelfinger said.

The speakers were inspiring as well. Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen addressed the whole school, followed by sisters and NDA alums Patricia Summe, Kenton County Circuit Court Judge, and Gabrielle Summe, Kenton County Clerk. For students, it was motivating to see women coming from backgrounds similar to ours, truly living out the Notre Dame motto of women making a difference in the world.

- Katie Grefer

HITS FOR CHICKS



Chicks and Chucks, an organization helping breast-cancer patients afford the products and services they need, was started in 2005 by sisters Cathy Halloran and Cheryl Hardin, wife of NDA tennis coach Rob Hardin. Cathy was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001 and fought through this horrible disease.



Notre Dame's tennis tournament, held March 20-21, raised \$2,000 for the breast-cancer group Chicks and Chucks.

“We are a dedicated group, with dedicated supporters trying to make a difference in our local communities,” Halloran said.

On March 20-21, the Notre Dame Academy tennis team held a tournament to benefit Chicks and Chucks. Schools from all around the state, including Christian Academy of Louisville, DuPont Manual, Lexington Henry Clay, Lexington Christian, Louisville Collegiate, Ryle and Sacred Heart, played at Five Seasons, Beechwood High and NDA for an early-season competition.

All together, \$2,000 was raised to help people in our community with breast cancer. “Players and coaches love coming to this event because of the competition, the quality of teams, and the facilities,” Rob Hardin said.

- Abigail Kennedy

MEET MRS. MULLEE



Technology guru Mrs. Mullee (second from left) didn't run off to join the rock band Aerosmith. You can still find her in room 102 to help with your iPad and other tech issues. Remember to keep requests within school policy; Mrs. Mullee says some of her funniest moments are when students ask for things that would be violations of the AUP in the handbook.

How has technology changed since you came to NDA five years ago?

Technology used to be a word here at NDA, an isolated notion. That was five years ago. Now, as the seniors of 2015 ready for graduation, "technology" is embedded into the culture.

How has it been this year with your daughter across the country at college?

I have one daughter, Micaela, in Boston at Tufts University. She has a really neat job aside from being a senior; she works for Dr. Elie Weisel at Boston University's archive center translating his transcripts from French to English. These are works that span from 1948 to now. She has to wear special gloves and a mask to handle some of his

transcripts. So I know she is happy, which makes it easier for me. My other daughter, Annie, is a freshman in California at Chapman University studying economics and her soprano vocal talents. I super-miss her (not more, I'm just not used to her being gone and she is really chatty). When I think of how far away she is, and how far away they are from each other, I do get teary-eyed.

What is an interesting fact that nobody knows about you?

I have been an educator for 24 years and over the last 20, I have never used paper to teach with in any of my classes, spanning from second grade to training tenured professors at Miami University.

- Clare Armbruster, Abigail Kennedy