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IN THE NEWS

New York's Recent Climate Change and How It's Affecting Us

By Victoria Smajlaj '24

New York's climate has changed dramatically. This has caused a rise in temperatures, precipitation, sea levels, flooding, and decreased drinking water quality.

The average temperature is rising so much that it is starting to slowly become the new normal. The average annual temperature in the state has risen an additional one to three degrees Fahrenheit. There is a predicted temperature increase of five degrees Fahrenheit by 2100. Stagnant summer air has increased across the U.S., and New York City has had 11 more of these days since 1973. Stagnant air is different from normal summer air because it means that air pollution and heat are trapped in the lower atmosphere. This affects us because humans live in the troposphere (the lowest region of the atmosphere).

Pollution, sunlight, and heat create ozone, which is harmful at ground level and can create smog. Polluted air in our atmosphere due to heatwaves is a health risk to us because the air we breathe is from our atmosphere. This affects wildlife. For instance, from 1980-1989 mosquito season

lasted for an average of seventy days, and it has increased by an additional twenty-nine days on average since 2006; this is caused by the higher number of warm and rainy days.

This summer New York has faced several floods. *States at Risk*, a climate change movement to show Americans how climate change is affecting our lives, claims that New York has over 240,000 residents in areas of elevated risk of inland flooding. Sea levels in New York are estimated to rise to 3 ½ feet by 2080. Climate change has caused more rain than snow, as well as heavy precipitation. On September 1, 2021 the remnants of Hurricane Ida traveled to New York City, causing an insane amount of rain. The National Weather Service announced NYC's first Flash Flood Emergency, and NYC was declared a disaster area. Within one hour, Central Park recorded 3 ½ inches of rain. In total, the city got seven inches of rain from the storm. City buses were forced to drive through several feet of water, hundreds of cars and trucks were abandoned, and subways were submerged. This caused almost every subway line to shut down. Over fourteen New Yorkers died in basement floods.

The city faced another major flood on October 25, 2021, with NY, NJ, and CT facing over three inches of rain, winds traveling at 35 mph, and over 100 power outages. Brooklyn experienced 4.3 inches of



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rainfall, and Sussex County experienced 5.3 inches. Rockland County and Orange County New York faced extreme flooding on highways, and many rivers overflowed in NY and NJ. The NYPD reported flooding in Midtown Manhattan stations and on the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway. The New Jersey Transit and Metro-North were delayed due to flooding in certain areas. Many schools in the area, including D.A., shut down for safety reasons.

If current greenhouse gas emissions aren't curbed, New York might be underwater by 2300, due to rising sea levels from hurricanes. The Atlantic Shorefront Project is a sea wall being built to help protect the Rockaways from storm surge, but even this wall may be too low. Even though the future is unknown, it is better to take action in support of our environment. During Climate Week NYC 2020, (September 20-26) New York City businesses and leaders discussed ways to help our community before it's too late. Because 40% of NYC buildings produce greenhouse gas emissions, the Built Environment Program shows how building infrastructure can affect us. New buildings are being built as net-zero buildings and are being powered by renewable energy. Other topics mentioned at this conference include: cutting greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, net-zero steel, electric vehicles and transportation, and much more.

The scary thing is that this is affecting our lives and putting the general public at risk. If this continues, the Northeast will likely face extreme conditions in each season, which means that there will be intense flooding in winter and spring. Meanwhile, in summer and fall, NY will face severe droughts.

On a positive note, we can all make a difference in our environment. In NYC, there have been many walkouts, litter clean-ups, planting sessions in parks, and pop-up stores that D.A. students can attend. For example, Ecology Park, Idlewood Park, Queens Botanical Garden, and Randall's Island all host planting sessions open to many age levels. The EcoArt Project made a variety of pop-up art galleries featuring collages, paintings, and sculptures all relating to climate change. "Bags and Wallpaper" by Barry Rosenthal is a collage of chips and candy wrappers that were picked up from NYC Harbors and illustrates that litter is a huge problem in NYC. Visiting pop-ups, performances, and even competing in local art competitions are fun ways to spur action. Even small things, such as being aware of the energy we use and using less water, can make a huge difference!



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D.A. ALL DAY!

Regis Spooktacular Event

By Ivanka Beriwala '25, Eva Raffaele '25,
& Lily Lawler '25

Late in the spooky month of October, Dominican Academy participated in a Spooktacular event with our brother school, Regis, and sister schools, Saint Vincent Ferrer and Marymount. From our perspective, it was quite overwhelming in the best way possible.

The spooktacular event included many activities. When first entering Regis through the side door on the corner of 85th Street, you had to show proof of vaccination, fill out a survey based on your health, and take your temperature. It was comforting to see that COVID-19 precautions were being taken. After this, students were led to the huge auditorium and courtyard where there were a variety of things to do, including a pumpkin carving competition, a movie, table tennis, corn hole, and so much more! Nevertheless, the aspect of the event WE enjoyed most was having the opportunity to socialize with freshmen and sophomores from other schools. Standing from afar, one could see masses of people having conversations, playing games, and watching movies.

It was quite difficult and nerve racking to start a conversation with new



people, which is why many students brought friends with them! In bigger groups the conversation moved more freely, since there was less stress on each individual person to carry it. We were personally able to meet some very friendly Regis freshmen! The fact that most of us were in costume really helped our personalities shine through and made for great conversation starters. This large event, led by Regis' Student Council, was very well organized.

As the event went on, it got easier to travel around the building and add to continuing conversations. In terms of making friends, everybody was very social and was in the same boat in terms of their goals: to know more people from different schools in the city.



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One of the most memorable parts of the event was when one of the D.A. freshmen had a pair of funky sunglasses and asked random people to put them on and pose! The pictures were compiled into one TikTok, which was shared to everyone.

Overall, the event went smoothly. It seemed like everyone who participated had a fun time and had the opportunity to make connections with people from other schools. Regis did a great job hosting the first spooktacular event of the year for the freshmen and sophomores.

The Coming of Fall at D.A.!

By Mariacarla Bettocchi '25
& Eva Raffaele '25

The romanticizing of the coming of fall helps a lot of us cope with the onset of colder weather and darker days. It is finally the time of year to wear knitted sweaters, drink pumpkin spice lattes, and go for a stroll in the park. The holidays are one of the best parts of autumn because of their warm ambiance, good food, and time with family and friends. At D.A., holidays are a time to take our minds off studying and to appreciate our community.



Halloween is a fall favorite. The holiday takes its roots from Samhain, an old Celtic festival from about 2,000 years ago. During Samhain, people would dress up and light bonfires to fend off ghosts. In Celtic culture, November 1 is seen as the marking of a new year, and the day that comes before – October 31 – is believed to be a time in which the dead and living will come in contact with each other. Over the years, Halloween has picked up different characteristics from various cultures, shaping it into the holiday we know and love today.

Halloween has become such a large part of American culture that it is even celebrated at school. For example, Dominican Academy's Student Council organized a costume contest and activities with seniors and freshmen, proving to be a huge success!



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Additionally, Thanksgiving is a fall holiday that can be thought of as the marking period between Autumn and the Christmas season. The history of Thanksgiving dates all the way back to the 1600s when the Native Americans had their first feast with the English pilgrims. Of course, this tradition has changed since then, including the menu (the Pilgrims ate lobster, seal, and swan), but this holiday still brings friends and families together in a similar way.

As life is returning back to normal again, people will be able to spend time with their family and friends during the holidays. This time of year never fails to restore a sense of community, especially when we have been deprived of it for the past year.

Halloween at D.A.

By Anna Genov '25

On October 29, 2021, the Student Council of Dominican Academy threw its first event since March 2020. The Monster Bash was an amazing event that consisted of

costume contests, Radio Bingo, incredibly competitive Kahoots, and lots of candy.

The fun began with pizza, munchkins, and some good old-fashioned Zoom. Homerooms projected the costume contest on the board while the contestants walked down the posh red staircase in the center of the Mezzanine. There were some incredible costumes on display. Keira Eldredge '25 hand-made her own extendable raven's wings and senior Teresa Anderson dressed up as Loki from the new Marvel series on Netflix. There were also quite a few incredible group costumes such as seniors Charlotte Ainsworth, Isabella Marcotullio, and Abby Brisson who dressed up as Chick-Fil-A sauces, and our first place winners Alexandra Harrington and Regina Reisig who dressed up as Alexander Hamilton and George Washington.



After the costume contest, freshmen paired up with their senior sisters and participated in numerous fun activities together. The MPR consisted of a crafts room filled with drawings and little Halloween-themed ornaments that students



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could make while bonding with their school siblings. In the auditorium, Halloween Disney specials were playing, giving us a chance to experience a bit of nostalgia. After interviewing a few students, it was found that the Halloween specials from *Jessie* and *Liv and Maddie* were the most popular.

In the nicely decorated Room One, two juniors were running an intense game of Halloween Kahoot. This gave the seniors a chance to bond with their freshman sisters. They paired up and battled one another for the honor of getting on the leaderboard. Another activity organized by Student Council was Radio Bingo. The game consisted of a monitor that played famous Halloween songs which were listed on bingo cards. It was incredibly amusing and developed into a full-blown dance party and sing-along.

The entire school would like to give a big thank you to Student Council for organizing such an amazing event and giving us an opportunity to spend time with our senior siblings to enjoy Halloween together.

D.A. Open House

By Zhiyi Chen '24

On October 16, 2021, D.A. hosted a fully in-person open house. It's one of the largest events that D.A. hosted since the safety and comfort, D.A. required RSVPs

for the first time which was in response to the COVID-19 protocols. Sessions began every half hour starting at 10 A.M. and with the final session at 2 P.M. There were about 70 people for each half-hour session, and D.A. hosted approximately 120-140 guests each hour. Guests' visits took approximately 90 minutes for the introductory talk and 30 minutes for the student-led tour of the building. There were approximately 500 people who visited D.A. that day, and there were a total of about 175 volunteers that consisted of DAPA, students, NHS (National Honor Society) guides, faculty, and staff for the entire day.



D.A. Student Ambassadors who volunteered for this event played many different roles. Some were greeters, others passed out folders, some organized the stickers, and others served as runners for the tours. The members of NHS served as tour guides and showed the visitors different parts of the building.

The Open House also wouldn't have been successful without the support of Ms. Madeleine Metzler, Mr. Miguel Vidal,



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(Maintenance), Mr. Chen (IT), and Dr. Serpagli & Ms. Reardon, who coordinated National Honor Society tour guides for the day.

My job during the Open House was being a Greeter. I volunteered for both morning and afternoon shifts. I arrived at D.A. at 9:00 A.M. and I stayed until 3:30 P.M. It was also my first time volunteering for a school event, and it was much more fun than I expected. Throughout the day, I met a lot of interesting people and communicated with many families. I got to know a lot of people and I also made many new friends in the school.

“For me, the experience was very rewarding, and I am appreciative of the opportunity to assist my D.A. community.”

- Zhiyi Chen '25

Meet D.A.'s New Faculty & Staff

By Lauren Mlicko '22 &
Quinn Pasmantier '22

Student Prints Senior Editors Lauren Mlicko '22 and Quinn Pasmantier '22 interviewed D.A.'s newest faculty and staff members at the start of the 2021-22 school

year and are thrilled to formally introduce them in the pages of ***Student Prints***.

Mrs. Tara Corby joins Dominican Academy as the new History teacher to the freshmen and sophomore classes. She is spearheading two new additions to the curriculum: Pre-AP World History and AP World History: Modern. She also serves as moderator of the newly formed Political Science Club. Mrs. Corby graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in International Relations and from Fordham University with a Master of Science (M.S.) in Teaching Adolescent Social Studies. She recalls first having an interest in history during her time at BU, and was pushed further by an internship in Washington D.C. Before joining Dominican Academy, Mrs. Corby taught Global Studies 9 and 10, AP World History, and U.S. History at St. Catherine's in the Bronx where she also served as the Student Council moderator. Previously, Mrs. Corby worked as a Compliance Officer in the financial services industry.

Mr. Byron Ramirez holds a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Mathematics from the Pontifical Catholic University and a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Applied Mathematics from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico. Originally from Puerto Rico, Mr. Ramirez has extensive experience teaching an array



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of Math courses in both high school and college. Currently, Mr. Ramirez is teaching Algebra II/Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and AP Calculus AB. Mr. Ramirez also serves as the moderator for the newly formed Music Club. Since moving to New York City, Mr. Ramirez has been both adjusting to the fast pace of city life and taking the time to reflect. He enjoys being surrounded by so much activity, and he already senses some personal growth in the short time he's lived in the city.

Mrs. Annie Sullivan, P '20, serves as D.A.'s new Athletic Director. Mrs. Sullivan first joined the D.A. community as a parent and later as the President of the Dominican Academy Parents' Association (DAPA). As the proud mother of twin graduates who were co-captains of the 2019 CHSAA Tier 3 Soccer Championship Team, Mrs. Sullivan looks forward to sharing her love of athletics with D.A.'s growing number of student-athletes.

Dr. Harrison Troyano is the new Latin and Spanish teacher. He takes on the impressive task of teaching Latin 2 and Spanish 1 to sophomores, Latin 3 and Latin Poetry to juniors, and Latin 4 and AP Latin to seniors. Additionally, he is the new moderator for Latin Club. Dr. Troyano graduated in May from Fordham University with a Ph.D. in Classics. He also holds a M.A. in Classics

from Fordham and a B.A. from Hunter College where he double majored in Ancient Greek/Latin and Interdisciplinary Honors with a minor in English Literature. Dr. Troyano hopes to show his students that languages can be a powerful gateway to understanding both literature and history. He would like to encourage others to use what they have learned in his class to communicate and learn in a more scientific way.

ATHLETICS

D.A. Soccer

By Aisling Kelly '25



This soccer season has been one of the best Dominican Academy has seen in a long time. Although we did not win the playoffs, it is important to acknowledge all of the hard work that was put in throughout the season. The turnout at tryouts was one of the largest in D.A. history, and it is clear that soccer is becoming a popular sport at D.A. Many talented players joined the team this season, and in total twenty-four players were



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put on the team, which is quite a lot when only eleven players are on the field at one time. However, everyone was still able to play during games.

The season began at the end of August with practices on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturday mornings. Games began once school started. The team consisted of players from different parts of the city, in addition to New Jersey and Westchester. They all traveled to Central Park for practice. Many of the players knew nothing about each other, all coming from different schools and different club teams, but eventually, with enough practice, we began to work as one team rather than individual players. Our school is not like many others in terms of athletics. We don't have our own field, making practice difficult. Nevertheless, every player pulled their weight, practiced at home, kept up with running, and when the games began, we were prepared.

We did not just accomplish this on our own; we had the help of three wonderful coaches: Coach Pat, Amy, and Lev, as well as our senior captains, who are sadly leaving next year, Blair Brennan, Teresa Anderson, and Alessia Coluccio (pictured L-R).



Winning almost every game, with only one tie, the Dominican Academy varsity soccer team successfully secured a place in the playoffs, but unfortunately lost to Saint Jean Baptiste with a score of 2-1. Even though we did not win in the end, we all grew as a team, know what to improve on, and hopefully, next season will be just as good, if not better.

Cross Country Championship Race

By Lily Lawler '25

Early on a cold Saturday, November 6, Cross Country teams gathered at Van Cortlandt Park for the freshmen and sophomore Cross Country race. Freshmen arrived promptly at 8:30 A.M. to find the whole grass field of Van Cortlandt Park covered by a thin layer of frost, which made sense considering the cold temperatures of the morning. The team first stretched, then incorporated some jogging to get the blood flowing before the big race. Many Catholic schools, including Notre Dame, Sacred Heart, Marymount, and McClancy, were at



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this event making the competition very intense for D.A. freshmen and sophomores.

Just after the sophomores arrived and started their warm-ups, the freshmen were called to the start line to assume their starting positions. Nerves were high at this



moment, partly because freshmen wanted to beat their personal record as it was their last 1.5-mile race, and also because of the general atmosphere that characterized the starting point. Last-minute warm-ups and stretches were done by each school and sweaters and sweatpants were soon taken off.

And then, finally, a gun went off in the air signaling the start of the 2500 meter freshman race. Runners ran through the middle of the green frosted field at a strong pace and then went around the dirt path to the woods. By the time runners came to the woods, at about the 0.5-mile mark, everyone was starting to get a bit tired. The D.A. freshmen runners, however, kept a good pace until the end. They ran up and down steep hills and through muddy terrain until the race finally came to an end. It was

definitely helpful to have other D.A. teammates (and even other schools) cheering the freshmen on through the end of the race. The D.A. nine freshmen girls who raced finished very strongly. Claire Story even placed 4th out of all 116 runners! The D.A. freshmen girls placed 8th out of 29 teams for the race overall!

Next was the Sophomore Championship Race, which started promptly at 10:15 A.M. Representing the D.A. sophomores were Frenzy and Katie. This race, unlike the freshmen course, was a 2.5-mile course, which requires great stamina to run through. Plus, this course has more hills and steeper ones than the freshman course, which demands a lot of strength. Both these girls showed undying



strength while running this course and made it to the finish line with confidence and speed.

Sadly, this was the closing race of the 2021 cross country season for many

girls. However, this season fostered great improvement for nearly every team member. Katie McGraw especially showed improvement with nearly a three-minute difference between her first and last race of



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the season! This season is definitely one to remember!

Volleyball Recap

By Alessia Coluccio '22

Our Volleyball team finished the season with a 3-3 record, making it to the semi-finals against tough competitor St. Joseph Hill who went on to win the Championship. Seniors Deirdre Devine, Alexandra Harrington, Hannah Kilduff and Fiona McAllister led the team by setting a fine example of character, sportsmanship and ability. Special thanks to coaches Kieran Kilduff, P '22 and Antoinette Quatela, P '21 for their ongoing commitment and dedication to D.A. athletics.



POP CULTURE

Red (Taylor's Version)

By Sofia Sherer '25



If you haven't heard of Taylor Swift's re-recording of her album *Red (Taylor's Version)* that came out on Friday, November 12, then I will catch you up. *Red (Taylor's Version)* was announced on June 10 (Scooter Braun's birthday) and includes all of the 19 original songs on *Red Deluxe*, an additional nine vault songs (unreleased songs), and a few others including "A Message from Taylor." The reasoning behind Taylor's re-recordings is because of her previous manager, Scooter Braun, who took all of the rights to her music and sold them, leaving Taylor with no profit from every album between, and including, *Debut* to *Reputation*. Because of Scooter, Taylor had to re-record *Fearless* (which was released back in April) and even though she has finished *Red*, she still has four more



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albums to re-record. I don't think we can be expecting her on tour for a while.

Anyways, onto *Red (Taylor's Version)*. I am so excited about all of the songs on the album, specifically "All Too Well (Ten-Minute Version)." "All Too Well" was about Taylor Swift's relationship with Jake Gyllenhaal and was originally released with *Red* in 2013. However, for the re-recordings, Taylor added a few verses and made the song ten minutes long. The ten-minute version was accompanied by a short film featuring Dylan O'Brien and Sadie Sink that is a must-see.

"The film beautifully portrays Taylor Swift's relationship with Jake Gyllenhaal in an ultimately heartbreaking way."

- Sofia Sherer '25

Taylor Swift also collaborated with Phoebe Bridgers on a song called "Nothing New," which is another vault track. Their voices together on the song sound angelic as they sing about getting older in an almost fearful way, similar to how Lana Del Rey does in her song "Young and Beautiful." Both Phoebe and Taylor have a unique style so it is fascinating to see how their voices combine when they are together.

Every single vault and regular song on *Red (Taylor's Version)* is absolutely incredible and definitely worth listening to. Two of my favorites are "Treacherous" and "Come Back... Be Here." They were on the original album (one of them was on the deluxe version), but I love them both so much.

All in all, I was not disappointed with *Red (Taylor's Version)*, although Jake Gyllenhaal *definitely* was. I'll conclude with one thought, John Mayer should definitely watch out.

Dune: Yesterday and Today

By Aisling Kelly '25 &
Mariacarla Bettocchi '25

This past year has produced numerous compelling films, with *Dune* being one of the most recent. Directed by Denis Villeneuve, *Dune* features an impressive cast, including Timothée Chalamet (Paul Atreides), Rebecca Ferguson (Lady Jessica), Zendaya (Chani), Jason Momoa (Duncan Idaho), Oscar Isaac (Leto Atreides), and others. Based on the 1965 science fiction novel by Frank Herbert, *Dune* follows the story of Paul Atreides, a young man born into a complex destiny, who must travel across the universe to save an oppressed people. Set twenty thousand years into the future, the demand for the world's most important resource, the Spice,



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is rising, and only the brave will survive. This film, which is part one of a two-part series, has proved to be a major success at the box office, making about three hundred million dollars worldwide.

The movie in itself was a masterpiece. From the acting to the ambiance, *Dune* managed to be phenomenal all-around. The film was pleasing to the eye, accompanied by impeccable special effects, and magnificent settings. The background music was loud, but engaging, and made it feel like you weren't just watching the film, you were experiencing it. The visuals, storyline, cinematography, and almost everything about this movie were incredible. I am already counting down the days for the release of *Dune: Part 2* in 2023. In short, this captivating 2021 release is definitely worth your time.

This is not the first attempt to film a movie for Herbert's dramatic sci-fi epic; a few directors tried and failed until, in 1984, David Lynch's *Dune* was released, featuring Kyle MacLachlan (Paul Atreides), Sean Young (Chani), Sting (Feyd-Rautha), and Max von Sydow (Dr. Kynes). Lynch's *Dune* had a cult following but was not a mainstream success, becoming one of Lynch's least-known films. The aesthetic is highly different from the 2021 version; compared to the new *Dune*, some of the designs and scenes throughout the movie are crude and even displeasing. However, this is

a defining characteristic of the movie and it illustrates the essence of some characters. A true artistic revelation is the way that Lynch portrayed Paul's visions. The mix of the 80's sci-fi color palette and graphics blend wonderfully with the mysterious prophecies that accompany it. The images of windswept deserts and far-off moons have something primal yet magical within them and stick with the viewer long after the movie has ended.



A MARVELous 2021

By Damaris Lindsay '23

There is no doubt that 2021 was the year of Marvel. With six projects released this year, and two more on the way, Marvel fans have been reveling in all the new content this year brought. If I were to review every single project released this year, this article would be about five pages long, so I am going to briefly focus on the movies of 2021 in chronological order.



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First up we have *Black Widow*, the powerhouse original Avenger whom girls all over the world look up to. After years and years of begging for a Black Widow movie, Marvel fans finally got one, and I believe it's safe to say it was worth the wait. Starring Scarlett Johansson as the titular character, the movie follows Natasha Romanoff, aka Black Widow, as she confronts her dark past. The movie brought amazing new characters such as Yelena, Natasha's sister, and Natasha's father, Alexei, who provided much of the comic relief throughout the film. *Black Widow* brought in the action that Marvel fans missed over the drought of the pandemic. I saw the movie opening night, and the excitement in the theatre as Marvel fans got ready to see the first Marvel movie since 2019 was incomparable.



Then, only two months later, came *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. *Shang-Chi* brought a new marvel character to the universe and people were excited to see where his story would lead us. *Shang-Chi* follows the titular character, who is played by Simu Liu, as he confronts his past (I think we are starting to see a pattern here with the Marvel movies). The movie was praised for its representation of Asian culture and well-choreographed action sequences. The movie also featured an unexpected cameo from Wong, a character from *Doctor Strange*. Overall, watching *Shang-Chi* was a wonderful experience, and I'm excited to see how his character evolves.



Finally, we have *Eternals*. *Eternals* surprisingly received many negative



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reviews, but I personally enjoyed the movie (and not just because Harry Styles was in the post-credit scene). Directed by Oscar award-winning director, Chloé Zhao, *Eternals* was an amazing movie with a star-studded ensemble cast and incredible cinematography. The story follows a group of immortal superbeings and their goal to protect the world from these creatures called Deviants. The movie shows the rise and fall of relationships, while also providing commentary on the mistakes the human population has made over the years. Watching this movie left me entranced in the beauty of each and every relationship portrayed on the screen, and though critics may not have liked it, I had a *marvelous* time watching.



You might be thinking, “Wow. Three movies. That’s a lot.” Well. There is still one more on the way, *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, and you can bet I am excited to see where Marvel takes Spider-Man’s character next.

FOR FUN

A Day in the Life at Camp Anchor

By Ava Filocamo ‘23

I had a long three weeks ahead of me and I was excited to volunteer for special needs kids. It was going to be a challenging start but I was confident that I was prepared to the best of my ability. I knew this would be my best summer yet. Going into these three weeks, I thought that it was my job and responsibility to ensure that the campers have a good time. While they certainly

“When I stepped into Camp Anchor’s signature colorful tents, I immediately knew that this was going to be ‘the happiest place on earth’”.

- Ava Filocamo ‘23

needed help in some instances, they were perfectly capable of having a blast! I was ready to help, inspire, and entertain. Funny enough, it turned out that the campers helped me adjust to their needs and wants. They entertained and inspired me. They taught me about inclusivity, transcending physical limits, and that our differences are



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nothing in comparison to the similarities we share.

A typical day at Camp Anchor would begin with the volunteers and staff arriving at 8:00 A.M., before the campers. This gave the volunteers the opportunity to see which camper they were paired with for the day, the list of activities planned, and a chance to talk with everyone. I specifically worked with kids from the ages of five to ten, but the camp included everyone from young children to adults. One by one the campers would start to trickle in and look for a way to be entertained. As soon as the campers were accounted for, the fun began. Each day the schedule changed, planned from a varied list of activities. Arts and crafts, music, cooking, drama, and gym were just a few of the activities to do. My personal favorite was spending time in the pool.

Since the camp was fully outdoors, everyone was pretty much in direct sunlight all day. The best way to cool off was splashing and playing games in the pool. My campers loved to play with the pool noodles and have noodle fights, some days pretending to be pirates swashbuckling as we crossed the ocean. After the pool, we'd make the walk over to the sprinkler park. This was about a half-hour of the campers repeatedly getting the volunteers to stand under a bucket full of water, waiting for the moment that it spilled right onto our heads.

The campers had us wrapped around their little fingers—we were eager to never say “no” to something that would bring a smile to their faces. There were some campers who were opposed to certain activities and needed a little nudge from the volunteers. To me, this was a lesson in anticipating their reactions, learning how to calm nerves, and trying to find alternatives, if necessary.

Friday mornings were our typical beach days. Luckily, the beach was a five-minute walk away which allowed for easy access. During my first week, I had a camper who hated the sand. Even though I assured him it was OK to go on the sand, he refused to take his shoes off and go play at the shore with the other kids. So, I grabbed his beach towel, laid it down farther up the beach, and we played a game of twenty questions. I quickly recognized that we were able to create our own fun by simply understanding and respecting his desires! This ended up turning out to be one of my favorite days.

During the last week of the camp, I dreaded that the end was near. I had made so many connections with each camper; I did not want to let go. I was also having a blast myself because the camp wasn't just inclusive for the campers, but also for the volunteers! There was no judgment, only joy. The three weeks definitely tested my patience and calmness, but with that, I



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learned how to listen to the campers, make them feel secure, and break down barriers.

7 Things Every D.A. Student Should Know

By Demetra Chudley '24

Dominican Academy is an old school with a rich history. In fact, beginning in January 2022, D.A. will celebrate its 125th anniversary! And whether you've been at D.A. for one year or twenty, there are a few things about our school that every D.A. girl should know.

1. Dominican Academy was originally a co-ed school that ran from kindergarten through 12th grade. D.A., as we know it today, is an all-girls high school, but 125 years ago, it was open to everyone. This is part of the reason we have the building we reside in today. One of the board members who worked with Colonel Michael Friedsam (the prior owner of our building), was responsible for finding a school to inhabit the building after Friedsam's death. And coincidentally, he knew of D.A. because he attended as a child. He was the one to suggest that they offer the building to the Dominican sisters.
2. If you remember freshman year Technology class, you'll also remember that Dominican Academy has occupied a few different locations since it was founded in 1897. Only the keenest notetakers, however, will remember that we moved through four locations before the sisters bought 44 East 68th Street for only a dollar in 1936. One dollar! That's less than my bus ride to school costs now.
3. Speaking of Michael Friedsam, he was quite the art collector. His art collection covered the building during the years he lived there, and upon his death was donated to the Metropolitan Museum and the Brooklyn Museum. One painting, however, remained. Lady Wellesley has watched over everyone who has passed through D.A. since the school moved into the mansion. D.A.'s "silent witness" has been at the school longer than anyone else (except Michael Friedsam's ghost, of course).
4. D.A. is covered with works of art like Lady Wellesley. One of the most remarkable is the stained glass on the third floor. Everyone at D.A. is familiar with these beautiful windows, but not everyone knows that they date back to the Middle



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Ages, and were shipped here upon Michael Friedsam's request. Next time you are passing through the third floor, remember to stop and appreciate the windows and the connection they give us to people from hundreds of years ago and thousands of miles away.

5. Like the building itself and Lady Wellesley in the auditorium, Dominican Academy has been given many gifts throughout its history. However, it has also faced tragedies. One of these was the chapel fire in 1956. A fire began from candles that were left unattended in the chapel, almost leading to its destruction. After the flames were put out, D.A. installed new safety precautions to ensure that an event like this would not reoccur.
6. Dominican Academy produces dozens of remarkable students every year. When we think of the legacy that each D.A. student may leave, we should also remember the legacies of those who came before us. One of D.A.'s most notable alumni is the First Lady of American Theater, Helen Hayes. She attended Dominican Academy in 1912 and was a devout Catholic her whole life. She is one of only fifteen people to win an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and

Tony, and left a mark on the world in a way many D.A. students hope to replicate.

7. Dominican Academy's building must be home to a school if D.A. were to ever leave. The Dominican sisters were given this building on the condition that should the school ever close down or move locations, the next occupants of the building would also have to use it as a school.

Dominican Academy is home to a vibrant, caring community of amazing teachers and intelligent students. If you are at D.A., you are cared for, and you contribute to its history. When I spoke with Sister Margaret about this article, she told

"What I marvel at to this day, and every year I see it... I am so impressed with the commitment on the part of the students... Their care for each other is extraordinary... It's a very special grace."

- Sr. Margaret Ormond

me that Dominican Academy is a place unlike anywhere else in the world. This is reflected in its history with our beautiful



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building, our accomplished alumnae, and the things we have endured. As we all contribute to the D.A. community today, we must also record our history for D.A. students of the future.

How Gilmore Girls Motivates Students to Do Better in School

By Anna Witek '24

Everyone knows about the show *Gilmore Girls*, made from 2000-2007, and created by Amy Sherman-Padallino. This heartfelt show is about a young mother named Lorelai and her 16-year-old daughter named Rory. They live in a small town in Connecticut named Stars Hollow and have a close relationship with each other. The show demonstrates the growth of Rory, Lorelai, and Lorelai's parents, by depicting the tough situations they're in and how they overcome them.

The show starts with Lorelai seeking help from her parents, Richard and Emily. Even though she has a bad relationship with them, she needs their financial support to pay for Rory's new school called Chilton. Chilton is a very prestigious private school in Hartford, CT. It has amazing educational opportunities that would help Rory get into her dream school: Harvard. Lorelai's parents agree to lend her money under the condition that she and Rory go to dinner at their house every Friday night. Because of this, Rory

receives a great education at Chilton and later attends Yale University.

Many fans of the show try to embody the hard-working qualities of Rory in the hope that they too will be just as successful as she is. Rory is very driven; she did everything in her power to get perfect grades so that she could attend her dream college.



Gilmore Girls has motivated me to work a lot harder, especially since the show demonstrates that with high academic achievement comes academic validation. This validation makes one feel better about

themselves, motivating them to work even harder. Although Rory had a rough patch which led to her dropping out of Yale, in the end, she ended up back at Yale and graduated with an impressive job offer. This illustrates to viewers how working hard puts you on the path to success. Additionally, seeing Rory have amazing friends, family, and boyfriends leads the audience to want to emulate her lifestyle even more.

Even though Rory was very privileged, she still worked very hard in high school resulting in a great job as a journalist by the end of the show.