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D.A. ALL DAY!

Class of 2025 Finally Wins

Student-Faculty Jeopardy

By Aisling K.

Throughout the week of January 29th to February 2nd, Dominican Academy students got the chance to participate in Student Council's annual Spirit Week. A longstanding tradition at D.A., Spirit Week provides students the opportunity to showcase their school spirit by participating in community-building events and dressing up for various themes. Students may also spend time reflecting on the importance of their religious education, as Spirit Week takes place during Catholic Schools Week. Furthermore,

Spirit Week serves as an enjoyable time to end the month of January, a month typically defined by the stress of midterms and exams.

Around the end of November, Student Council began planning for Spirit Week. The primary focus was the themes for each day and this required a great deal of brainstorming. Student Council representatives were asked to come up with a variety of themes; some were from past years and others were new. After a list was compiled, members voted on which ideas sounded the most appealing and realistic, as the most important factor was student participation. Some ideas, such as "anything but a backpack," seemed like a lot of fun, but ultimately would not work out at D.A., so they were cut from the list. Moving forward, the next issue at hand was running the two events: Jeopardy and Radio Bingo. In an effort to make planning as efficient as possible, members of Student Council split into two separate committees, one for Jeopardy and one for Radio Bingo. The Jeopardy committee developed questions for the game and later sent out a sign-up sheet. As for Radio Bingo, the committee needed to decide what songs to play and how to organize the bingo cards. After these two events were sorted out, Student Council spent time marketing the event through homeroom announcements and posters to ensure the maximum number of people would participate.

Luckily, during the actual week, D.A. students showed their dedication to school spirit and participated in the daily themes. Monday was



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reserved for Pajama Day, so teachers and students alike were able to wear something comfortable, which was a nice change from the uniform. On Tuesday, Student Council representatives came up with a theme that has never been done before at D.A.: “Rhyme Without Reason.” For this theme, students paired up with a friend or group of friends to wear different costumes that have nothing in common besides the fact that the names rhyme. Many students took this day very seriously, with some stand-out pairs like Jesus Christ and Ice Spice and Gospel of Mark and Lewis and Clark. For Wednesday, students were asked to dress as their favorite high school characters and on Thursday the theme was “Throwback Thursday” where students could dress as a picture of themselves from when they were younger. Lastly, Friday was, as always, Color Wars where each grade level had a different colored shirt to wear to showcase both their school and class spirit. Freshmen wore red, sophomores wore green, juniors wore pink, and seniors wore tie-dye blue shirts.

As for the events, Radio Bingo occurred on Tuesday. For this game, participants gathered in the cafeteria to hear some of their favorite songs and see if they had the lucky bingo card. The winners were Samantha M. and Annie B., who took home gift cards. Many students claimed this event was a great way to talk to people from different grade levels and said they would love to see it again next year. For student-faculty Jeopardy, Friday’s main event, teams of four from

each grade and one faculty team gathered in the auditorium to test their trivia knowledge. The teams played in two rounds of five different categories, hoping to have enough money to make it to the final Jeopardy question. Unfortunately, the sophomore team had a negative amount and were knocked out. The final question, to identify a country (Brazil) from the outline, was guessed correctly by the juniors and freshmen, but the seniors and faculty incorrectly guessed Greenland and Germany. Because the juniors had the highest wager, they won the entire game. Junior team member Annie M. claimed, “I have been playing Jeopardy for three years in a row and I am so glad we finally won a victory for the class of 2025!”

Ultimately, Spirit Week was another Student Council success and students are already excited for next year. In the future, some students hope to bring back the door decorating contest and the point system from the previous year, while others are thinking about new themes. Overall, the D.A. community experienced an enjoyable and participatory Spirit Week, continuing an important tradition.

D.A’s Bold Tribute: Unveiling Black History and Culture

By Mariel R.

Black History Month, which takes place during the month of February, is dedicated to remembering and celebrating Black history, culture, and art. Although it is always important to celebrate and acknowledge these things, February



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is a great opportunity to do so. Much of Black history and culture goes unrecognized, and because of that, SOCA has been posting about important, yet often unrecognized, figures in black history. D.A. has also been doing a lot to recognize Black History Month, so let's talk about it!

The first of the figures mentioned on the SOCA Instagram page is Gwendolyn Brooks. Gwendolyn Brooks was the first Black poet to win a Pulitzer Prize. She was also the first Black woman to hold the role of Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress in Illinois. The second of these figures highlighted by SOCA is Jane Bolin. Jane Bolin was the first Black woman to attend Yale Law School in 1931. She was a monumental figure as she became the first Black female judge in the United States in 1939. Alongside this, she worked to insure that employers would hire people based on their skills instead of discriminating against them because of their race. Another Black person whose work should be celebrated is Marsha P. Johnson. Johnson's work played a pivotal role in the fight for LGBTQ rights during the 1960s and 1970s. During her life, she fought for equality and co-founded an organization named S.T.A.R., which served to provide housing for homeless queer youth. Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler was the first Black woman to earn a medical degree in the United States. Not much is known of her career except for the fact that she worked as a physician for the Freedmen's Bureau for the State of Virginia. Lastly, Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman to be elected to Congress. In 1972, she also became the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination.

To further celebrate Black History Month, D.A. and D.A.P.A offered lunch options from DÜNDÜ, a Nigerian restaurant. Choices included a party bowl and a vegan fiesta bowl. The party bowl consisted of peppered grilled chicken, good greens, jollofrice, fried sweet plantains, moimoin, and a signature sweet onion vinaigrette. The vegan fiesta bowl included akara, rice and beans, spring mix, charred carrots, sweet plantains, ata din din, and a mango habanero vinaigrette. Both options were absolutely delicious and an awesome opportunity to introduce students to a different culture. D.A. hopes to do more things like this in the future and expose students to a variety of different cultures thanks to D.A.P.A's generous sponsoring.

We've already covered a lot, but that's not all! This month, SOCA received the wonderful opportunity to attend a Fireside Chat with Martin Luther King III, the son of American activist Martin Luther King Jr. It was held at St. Thomas Aquinas College in Rockland County. It was an amazing opportunity for the members of the SOCA Executive Board who got the chance to attend with Dr. Egler. The talk was extremely influential and very uplifting despite the discussion of topics such as injustice in our world. During his speech, Martin Luther King III called us to act to fix the ills of racism in our world and work towards equality. He also touched on what it was like to grow up with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom he remembers as a very kind man and loving father who always made time for his children. He spoke on what it was like growing up after his father's assassination and how his mother shaped him, explaining that he and his siblings did not cry because they did not see her cry. He went on to say that it was because of his parents that he



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was so keen on education and advocacy. Hearing him speak was honestly surreal. I was stunned to be standing in the same room with the son of such an important figure in American history. His words inspired me to be more thoughtful about the issues that plague our society and actively work towards change. I never would have imagined that I would have met such an important man, and it is an experience that I will always carry with me. We got the opportunity to take a photo with him and shake hands with him. All in all, it was a magnificent thing to witness and such a blessing that it is difficult to express the moment in words.



Bejewel L. (pictured furthest left), Co-President of SOCA, Aaleeah M. (Co-President of SOCA), Martin Luther King III (Center), Dr. Egle, and Mariel R. (Director of Communications for SOCA)

All in all, SOCA and D.A celebrated Black History Month with great opportunities to learn about Black history and culture. The month was full of amazing chances to learn and discover new facts about people who have shaped American history and society. SOCA members are

already excited about expanding their celebration of Black History Month next year in an effort to continue to celebrate and educate. To learn more check out SOCA's Instagram page: [@dastudentsofcolor](#).

Leave No Stone Unturned: A New Way to Experience Lent By Niamh K.

The Dominican Academy community came together on Ash Wednesday for a special Mass at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer to observe the sacred day and receive ashes. The ashes we receive symbolize repentance and the day serves as the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is a period of reflection and introspection that lasts 40 days to symbolize the duration of time that Jesus spent in the desert. It is a time when we are reminded of this sacrifice and encouraged to make one of our own. There are many different approaches to lent such as prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. This makes for a unique lenten experience, whether you choose to pray on your own or say a decade of the rosary on Mondays in the chapel with Campus Ministry.

To close out the Mass, Ms. Gibilaro introduced a unique and meaningful initiative to encourage students as well as all members of the community to embrace the full experience of Lent. Each homeroom was going to receive a selection of polished stones, each with a single word written on it. These words were carefully chosen to serve as sources of inspiration and motivation during moments of reflection throughout our Lenten journey. The concept is that you pick a word that resonates with what you would like to achieve over Lent. The stones are



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intended to help us approach Lent in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

*"Lent is a time of grace, a time for conversion, a time to come home to God."
- St. Maximilian Kolbe*

Each participant can hold onto the stone how they see fit as it is a personal experience. You may choose to place it in a spot where you will see it often such as a bedroom or locker. You may also choose to carry it with you in a backpack or coat pocket. The stones are physical representations of the commitment we make to our relationship with God during Lent. This project not only serves as a unique and interesting way to engage with Lent but also fosters a sense of school-wide solidarity. The stones will become a part of a shared journey of reflection and repentance within the Dominican Academy community during the sacred season of Lent.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

The Hard-Working, Enthusiastic, Indefatigable D.A. Varsity Basketball Team!

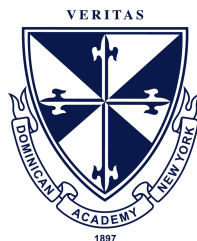
By Tricia R.

The 2023-2024 D.A. basketball season has officially come to an end. Despite a few tough losses, the team persevered. This year's team consisted of three freshmen, (Nora W., Bridget S., and Ysabela S.) four sophomores, (Fiona B., Emily W., Samantha W., and Eabha P.), two juniors, (Jadaily C. and Eileen W.) and four seniors (Mairead P., Audrey M., Samantha M.,

and Katie C.). As a team, they continued to push each other to their limits, all while making the best out of the tough season and creating a supportive and encouraging environment.

This year's captains, Mairead P. and Audrey M., led the team through the season. After last season's championship victory, the varsity basketball team moved up a tier, meaning that they faced tougher competition than ever. This proved challenging, but the team's bonds became indestructible. Additionally, a few players such as Elieen W. had to sit out for the season due to an injury. Freshman Ysabela S. remarked that her experience was much different than she imagined. She feared making mistakes and being judged, yet she quickly realized the team's supportiveness and bond. Even if mistakes were made, Ysabela said, the team captains Audrey and Mairead and other upperclassmen would provide advice for her improvement. This team's constant support, encouragement, and energy is unmatched and was truly shown throughout the season. When asked about her experience, sophomore Emily W. said that everyone on the team made long, demanding practices a gratifying and enjoyable experience. She recalls how her teammates remained positive and worked their hardest. This spirit motivated her and many others to push through and improve their performance throughout the season.

In the face of adversity, this team consistently worked their hardest and fought even harder. The sense of camaraderie during this season was a constant and will continue to be a reminder of the communities that are built at D.A. Congratulations to this hardworking team! We can't wait to see what will happen next season!



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Swimming to Victory

By Annie M.

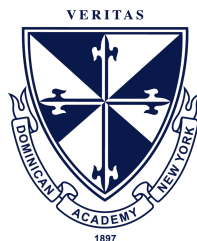
After an admittedly difficult start to the season, D.A.'s beloved aquatic Tigers came back fiercely on February 3rd and 4th to clinch fifth place in the GCHSAA swim "A" Championships in Nassau County, Long Island. The Tigers placed above fierce rivals, behind only the league's historically top teams from Archbishop Molloy, Xaverian, Notre Dame Academy, and St. Joseph Hill. Every single swimmer competing for D.A. swam their personal bests, multiple Tigers earned medals in their races with D.A. having its first-ever triple podium, and two of D.A.'s juniors returned to East 68th with awards. All-in-all, the weekend was a roaring success for the swim team and the entire D.A. community.

This year's season started with tough losses for the swimming Tigers, losing to rivals like St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Joseph By the Sea in disappointing dual meets. Dual meets are the regular season meets where D.A.'s team competes against only one other team. But thanks to the dedication of seasoned Head Coach Kristin Karabees and the team's new, beloved Assistant Coaches Mr. Doyle and James, the team persevered and achieved great success at both the "A" and "B" Championships. The Tigers took second place of all thirteen teams in the league at the "B" Championships. All three coaches worked incredibly hard this year to help make the season a success. They planned sets, attended late-night practices, wrote emails, and even brought donuts to meets. One of the things that makes the swim team such a successful group of athletes is Coach Karabees' emphasis on mental wellness and confidence. She consistently encourages healthy

habits for her athletes such as getting enough sleep, eating a balanced diet, and practicing mindfulness to prepare for races. She understands that swimming is as much mental as it is physical. When asked which area of growth Coach Karabees was most proud of for the team, she remarked, "It was a very tough dual meet schedule and our dual meet results were discouraging, but the team prepared themselves and came back with strength, and resilience and much stronger than the other teams to show the teams what D.A. swim can do!" Without the guidance and support of this year's coaching team, D.A.'s swimmers never could have gotten as far as they did.

The relays at a swim meet are some of the most important events as they are worth the most amount of points, so the team's performance in them is crucial. The Tigers did not disappoint. This year's "A" Champs team had some remarkable relay finishes. The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Emilianna G., Elisa C.B., Isabella S., and Anya R. achieved D.A.'s record in the event with a time of 4:02.91 and placed fourth overall. Captain Olivia M. cites this relay as the most exciting part of the meet, stating it to be "some of the fastest swimming I ever saw at D.A." At the team dinner, Coach Karabees credited the success of the relay to the ingenuity of Assistant Coach James who suggested she rearrange her relay lineup, which proved effective.

Aside from the impressive outcome for the team as a whole, many swimmers succeeded personally in and out of the pool. Captain Olivia M. was presented with the All-League Award to recognize her commitment to the team and excellent leadership. Freshman Elisa C.B. placed 6th in the 500-yard freestyle, an incredible



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accomplishment given the intense test of this race's endurance. Sophomore Claire P. placed 6th in the 100-yard breaststroke, an exceptional feat given that Claire is not a club swimmer, but simply an incredibly dedicated, hard-working athlete who has seen the fruits of her labor at this year's championship. In the 100-yard freestyle, three D.A. swimmers placed in the top eight, a first for D.A. Sophomore Isabella S. placed eighth, freshman Anya R. placed seventh, and junior Emilianna Gonzalez claimed first place in the event with a time just three-tenths of a second slower than the league record.

Running to Success: The 2023-24 Indoor Track Team

By Caroline I.

The Indoor Track Team this 2023-2024 season has had a remarkable season. With their participation in six meets, the team's runners saw personal records consistently being set every race. Despite challenges causing the team not to have a head coach this season, our very own Mrs. Sullivan stepped in to save the day! This season, Coach Jen and Mrs. S. split up leading the team, with some runners coached by Mrs. S. in Central Park and others by Coach Jen at the Armory Track and Field Center.

Indoor track is a season of running that presents many challenges, including the weather, the curvature of the track, and the busyness of the conclusion of the first semester and the beginning of the second semester. The D.A. track team ran through the bitter cold, pushed off the

track, attended long practices and meets, and remained dedicated to the team while managing the stress of end-of-term assignments and midterms. Whether it be staying from 10 AM until 4 PM on a Sunday to race in two events far apart, or trekking the hour-long commute to practice on an indoor track, each runner demonstrated their commitment to a team built on the foundation of D.A.'s values. This is no small feat and one to be recognized about any sport.

This year, the team started the season off strong with the Bishop Loughlin Games on December 17th, where 27 runners raced. The team continued to practice diligently, with practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays and conditioning days alternating with individual runs every Wednesday. These practices improved each runner's speed, as individual performances at every meet steadily became quicker and quicker! At the Stanner Games on January 14th, D.A.'s runners competed in several relay races, including the sophomore 1600-meter sprint medley relay, where the relay team came in 7th of 21 teams! They ran this race in a speedy time of 5:02.33. Coaching a relay team can be quite challenging, a task that Coach Jen did wonderfully with a team of four sophomore runners each running their leg of the race and mastering the skill of passing the baton efficiently to achieve this feat.

At the following meet, the CHSAA NY/BQ Varsity Sectionals, the team had an amazing performance. Juniors Claire S. and



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Caroline I. scored for the team, meaning that they placed in the top 5 in their events and earned points for the team! Claire took second place in the 3000-meter race, one that is the longest offered in indoor track and the most challenging test of endurance. Enduring 15 grueling laps, Claire ran an incredible time of 10:58.61, a personal record and a medaling performance! Caroline took 3rd place in the 1000-meter race, a race testing speed and endurance all mixed into one with a time of 3:17.30, also a personal record and medaling performance.

At the Ocean Breeze Invitational one week later, the D.A. track team saw its most impressive performances. This meet is notorious for its size, as teams from several states in the Northeast including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York compete against one another. At this race, we saw incredible performances in several races, including the 200-meter race as almost every single runner ran a personal best! Freshman Keren P. ran this race in just 29.94 seconds, with runners Neena O., Vincenza C., and Genevieve M., running it in 30 seconds! D.A.'s 200-meter school record is 29.84, so we are excited to see what will be achieved in Outdoor Track as these runners become more and more seasoned. Additionally, junior Claire ran the 2-mile invitational race with a time of 11 minutes and 40 seconds. This time, unprecedented in D.A.'s history, placed her in an elite performance time, an honor only achieved by a select few runners at each meet for their

outstanding times. Claire continues to make personal records at each race, achieved only by her dedication to running and the team. At the final meet on February 17th, the CHSAA Intersectional Championships, select runners qualified to run based on their previous times. Nine individual runners and three 4-person relay teams attended this meet. Six runners raced their season-best times! Most notably, junior Claire ran the 3000-meter race in an elite performance time of 10:42.28, advancing her to the Ocean Breeze Elite Invitational as well as the New York State Federation Championships! We are so proud of Claire and her continued progress. At the Ocean Breeze Elite Invitational on February 24th, Claire raced against the top runners in the state and beat her previous record of 10:42, running an outstanding time of 10:40. We look forward to Claire's upcoming performance at state championships and wish her luck!

The incredible progression and fortitude shown by D.A.'s indoor track team fosters great promise for the upcoming outdoor season, where we hope to see many returning runners!

***Our Student Prints' Illustrator Wins
Sports Illustrated Kids
November/December Art Gallery Award
By Victoria S.***

We have a winner! Eileen L. '27 is named the deserving winner of *Sports Illustrated Kids*



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November/December Art Gallery. Additionally, she can be seen in the magazine, alongside her magnificent artwork, in her D.A. student uniform. Eileen is also our talented D.A. Student Prints' illustrator. *Sports Illustrated Kids* is a respected children's sports magazine which reports on headlines breaking news in the sports industry, fitness and lifestyle recommendations, and interviews with star athletes.



Eileen submitted an action picture of tennis champion Carlos Alcaraz competing at Wimbledon. In the image, you can see the large audience in the background, with Alcaraz' body extended and twisted as he hits the tennis ball.

Eileen expresses her emerging passion about tennis, “Over the summer I was really interested in tennis. I was playing it twice a week, and when Wimbledon came on in July, I watched it with my family.” In the summer, Alcaraz won a show-stopping championship against Djokovic during Wimbledon, one in which he broke news headlines with his quote about his victory being “the happiest moment of my life.” Eileen describes how she felt moved to illustrate the great talent and aptitude of Alcaraz' skills on the tennis court. She reveals that as she watched his swift moves on the court, “I was like oh my goodness! I've never seen anyone play tennis like this before! It was like the first time I truly sat down to watch a full tennis match!”

Eileen has always had a passion for drawing. She says, “Ever since I was young, I've always liked to doodle and it wasn't until at my middle school, St. Ignatius Loyola, where Mr. Meador (the art teacher) really inspired me. The way that he was able to draw and how he taught it- I thought it was so amazing. So that really pushed me to keep drawing.” She also is anticipating illustrating a playbill cover for the musical *Clue* which will be featured in Student Prints.

Eileen always wanted to submit something for the *Sports Illustrated Kids* Art Gallery and after witnessing that incredible match she decided to draw Alcaraz. It took Eileen about a month of dedication to finish and perfect her illustration. Submitting artwork can be frightening. After all,



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illustrating in such a competitive pool means that the artwork on which one invests immense time, emotion, and commitment is compared to so many others. In short but dreadful words, not everybody wins. However, Eileen still took a risk and tried her best and up against the talented competition, she won! Eileen advises other D.A. students strive to achieve their dreams, even if it means taking a risk to try something new. She says, “Just go in with confidence. If you go in with confidence, you are probably more likely to achieve it than if you are doubting your abilities,” and to always “push yourself to be the best that you can.”

Eileen’s winning illustration goes to show the remarkable talent which D.A. students possess. At 14 years-old, Eileen managed to achieve her goals by using her artistic talent to depict a historic moment in tennis history.

Beyond the Endzone: The Story Behind the Chief’s Bowl Triumph

By Sofia S.

The crowd erupted into cheers as red and gold confetti poured down Allegiant Stadium, leaving Super Bowl LVIII as a massive triumph for the Kansas City Chiefs. The NFL’s “modern dynasty” became the first to win back-to-back Super Bowls in 19 years and have been put in the position to win a third consecutive Super Bowl—something even Hall of Famers Joe Montana and Tom Brady have not achieved. Yet one question puzzled football spectators around the world:

How did the Chiefs manage to win without even scoring a touchdown in the first half?

Although this is Super Bowl LVIII, the game’s roots can be traced back further than 57 years. The American Football League (AFL) emerged as a more universal brand of football in 1960, beginning an intense rivalry with the National Football League (NFL) that made football the most watched spectator sport by the end of the decade. Six years later, both leagues agreed to unite but allow the rivalry to endure at the end of each season in a playoff against both champions called the Super Bowl. Eventually, both leagues split up into individual conferences (AFC and NFC), however the annual game remained. This year, the Kansas City Chiefs (AFC) and the San Francisco 49ers (NFC) played each other in an intense competition that extended into overtime. The Chiefs, already having two Super Bowl wins in the past five years, were largely favored this year. The 49ers, however, were somewhat underdogs despite being ranked higher than the Chiefs this year as they have not won a Super Bowl since 1995.

Throughout the game, the 49ers proved themselves to be fierce competitors. They finished the first quarter with a seven point lead and had a three-point lead with two minutes left in the fourth quarter. However, the Chiefs were persistent and pushed the 49ers into overtime—occurring for only the second time in Super Bowl history. Despite being in the lead for the majority of the game, the 49ers’ winning streak quickly came to a close when Coach Kyle Shanahan chose to receive the ball first in overtime. After the 49ers went for a field goal, the Chiefs countered with a touchdown, securing their Super Bowl win. Although there is no clear decision for Coach



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Shanahan, it is still debatable whether or not he could have made a better call.

Many wonder what brought the Chiefs their success this year. The overall consensus credited two stars of the game: MVP Quarterback Patrick Mahomes and 14 time Grammy winner Taylor Swift. At only 28 years old, Mahomes is claiming his third Super Bowl MVP Award. Despite only being drafted in 2017, Mahomes has been at four Super Bowls and won three. This year, he definitely earned his MVP title as he now owns the record for most career rushing yards in Super Bowl history. After halftime, Mahomes had 210 yards passing and 59 yards rushing, followed by 13 plays and 75 yards in overtime- his latest masterpiece. Another Kansas City star (although not on the field) Taylor Swift remained the Chiefs' good luck charm throughout the season. Her relationship with Travis Kelce has been a constant buzz, and she has influenced many of her fans to follow her lead and begin rooting for the Chiefs. The "Swift bump" has led to a 20% increase in NFL sponsorship and a 53% increase in viewership amongst teenage girls- including some of our very own D.A. students! Junior Berlin R., devoted Swiftie, was thrilled to have both her favorite singer and sporting event on screen and said she was, "even more excited to watch the Super Bowl this year!" This kind of support is crucial for the League as it builds a wide variety of viewership and creates more diversity in their fanbase.

Overall, Super Bowl LVIII once again reaffirmed the game's status as the most watched sports event in the nation. With incredible displays of athleticism, strategy, and entertainment, audiences were delivered the

captivating experience that remains largely anticipated throughout the long football season.

COLUMNS

Side Hustles for Students

By Anna G.

Living in New York City is expensive. As a student the constant Chipotle after school, textbook costs, Quizlet subscriptions and \$7 coffees can add up quickly. The pricey lifestyle of New York City can be overwhelming for high school and college students to manage. A method to alleviate the costly burden can be a "side hustle." A side hustle is urban slang for a job that an individual does in addition to their primary occupation (for the sake of this article that primary occupation is school). There are a variety of fun and safe options for students to make a bit of money. Babysitting is always an excellent choice for highschool students. The hours are flexible, the pay is good, and the food is free. There is an abundance of websites to sign up for babysitting jobs. If you aren't comfortable with that, you can always ask around and offer to babysit the children of neighbors, friends, and family members. Chances are pretty high that someone you know has young children, and in need of a few hours away from the whining.

Tutoring is another great side hustle option. Knowledge is always better when it is shared, and what better chance to do that, than to tutor. Similarly to babysitting, tutoring hours are flexible and accommodating to your busy student schedule. Additionally, thanks to the internet, there are plenty of tutoring options where you



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don't even need to leave the comfort of your own home. Websites such as [SuperProf](#) and [Remotask](#) have few requirements to become a tutor. Students are able to sign up to be tutors, and can make between \$20 and \$80 per hour.

A third option to make a little extra pocket money is through surveys. While it may sound slightly preposterous, it is worth a shot. There are websites where you can get paid at least \$5 an hour to fill out surveys. The surveys vary on subject, but normally cover topics such as brand products, and opinions. Some websites that offer these deals include, [Prime Opinion](#), [Inbox Dollar](#), and [Survey Junkie](#). (Keep in mind that you should never put your personal information into these websites. Consult a trusted adult before clicking on any unfamiliar links).

One final option is being a dog walker. According to *New York City Economic Development Corporation*, more than 600,000 people have dogs in Manhattan alone. Walking a dog everyday is a big commitment for a lot of people. The average dog walker makes \$20 an hour. Dog walking is a low commitment job, and it gives students the opportunity to get some fresh air.

The cost of living in New York can be pricey, especially for students, but with the right jobs, it can be manageable. Try out a few ideas, not only will you make some extra pocket money, a job can give you great real world experiences, fun times, and can look exceptional on your resume.

Upper Eats Side - Blenior French Creperie and Cafe

By Vivienne S.

Rating :

(Rating Guide is at the end of the article.)

Welcome back Upper Eats Siders, your favorite mouth-watering column is back- and this time with the closest and sweetest location yet. A short three-block walk from our red-carpeted academy will find you at the glass storefront of



Blenior French Creperie and Cafe, where you can get your fix of caffeine or indulge in a sweet treat. The Upper East Side has no shortage of cafes, however Blenior is new, close, and absolutely delicious. No doubt Bel Ami is reliable and



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proximate, but it's 2024 and everyone knows the saying "*new year new cafe spot*"...right??

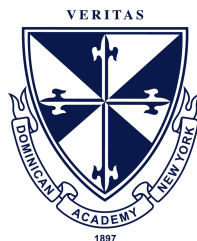
This winsome cafe opened late last year and is decorated with French-style decor consisting of blue and white wicker chairs, wooden round tables, hanging pots, French signs, and stripes all around. The small room was beautifully lit as its glass walls allow for natural light to enter all around. Stepping in, a sweet chocolate scent mixed with the smell of roasting coffee floods your senses in the best way possible. The entire place was spotless and the service was one of a kind. My food was made right in front of me and came out quick and warm. I felt spoiled, although perhaps reviewing these food spots has made me forget what the bare minimum is.



The menu was short and sweet, but my stay was not. The options included different crepe choices, gelato and sorbet, coffees, teas,

smoothies, and galettes (buckwheat crepes paired with savory fillings). I ordered a crepe with hazelnut spread and strawberries and one with raspberry jam. They definitely did not have a shortage of their fillings because each bite was generously coated in either warm chocolate or jam. The store description simply said, "You will remember it," and it rings true because I don't think I could ever forget my experience. It is not easy to find places that make traditional and homemade French crepes, especially in our vicinity, so their crepe component sets them apart from the cafe crowd and shows they're not another ordinary place to get a cup of coffee. The only possible complaint I have with these crepes is that they were on the thicker side for what I would consider a perfect crepe and too soft for my personal liking. I wish they had left them on the griddle slightly longer for a little bit of browning and a difference in texture and noticed that this was a common comment among other reviews. The iced latte I enjoyed with my French sweets was delectable as well. The freshly roasted coffee flavor stood out and reminded me that I wasn't just drinking another generic chain-brand cup of coffee. Their gelato and sorbet menu had the classic flavors like vanilla and raspberry but I was surprised to see some very interesting flavors such as fuji apple, dried fig, and pear. As for the price, a crepe ranges from \$9-15 excluding tax and a small iced caramel coffee hits the eight-dollar mark. Compared to the competing prices in the area, my wallet was not bleeding but it certainly was left with a little bit of pain. However, my stomach most certainly walked out in a very good mood.

Overall, I highly recommend Blenior for a quick savory or sweet bite or a drink and if you



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don't wish to go far. It is also a very aesthetically pleasing place to get some work done and review those Quizlets. I will be visiting frequently from now on, so until next time, you know where to find me. Enjoy!

Legend

- 🏆🏆🏆🏆 - extraordinary food, brilliant service, top tier interior design, close location, and clean
- 🏆🏆🏆 - tasty food, good service, pleasing interior, accessible location
- 🏆🏆 - subpar food, mediocre service, harder to reach area, and little originality
- 🏆 - disorganized and uninspired food selection
- 🏆 - inedible food, unclean environment, and discourteous service

A Dash of Happiness and a Sprinkle of Gratitude

By Melissa B.

After all the stress and cram-studying for midterms and the celebrations once they were finally over, all I could think about nearing the end of January was turning the page and forgetting that month. February presents the perfect opportunity to settle down, reestablish routines, and strive to make this month the best possible. This February, the start of the liturgical season of Lent will help us get closer to God and focus on bettering ourselves for Holy Week and Easter. Additionally, the February break gave us time to recharge and prepare for the next month of school. Even better, a message from a certain groundhog from Pennsylvania of early spring brings a newfound sense of excitement for the season.

Welcome to this month's issue of *A Dash of Happiness and a Sprinkle of Gratitude*! Here is

one piece of good news from the D.A. community:

"I passed all my midterms and my sports team at the moment is undefeated! We're going to Disney World in May for about a week."

-Madison (Ella) C., '26

If you have seen Netflix's shows *Cheer Squad* or *Cheer*, Ella lives that life. She has been doing cheer for about 10 years and has become an all-star cheerleader. She is a base, which if you don't know cheer, is a person who holds the person who flips and does tricks in the air. This season has been a bit tumultuous, with good and bad practice days and scary moments during competitions, but all her hard work has led up to this point. Her upcoming competition is one of the most revered and biggest national competitions. She is super excited to compete and hopefully raise her championship banner in her gym!

This February, I'm looking forward to sunnier weather and the beginning of spring sports. After a long winter, my golf season is returning so I can finally perfect my swing! I am also grateful that the sun is finally shining after a long two weeks without it. Finally, I was excited to rest up and hang out with my friends during the long-anticipated break at the end of the month.

February break was a perfect time to reflect on the past month, and how you can improve March. During my break, in between reading and spending time with family, I was thinking about all of the things for which I am grateful. But most importantly, February break is a time to reset and recharge, hopefully coming back rejuvenated and ready to learn again.



Thanks for reading this month. I wish you an amazing February and the beginning of March! I hope you made your February break even more restful by considering what you are grateful for. Be on the lookout for another email in April with a link to submit your good news. As always, make sure to add a *Dash of Happiness and a Sprinkle of Gratitude* to your life!

ARTS & CULTURE

D.A. Goes Elizabethan: Annual Shakespeare Monologue Competition By Lily L.

On a cold winter day in early February, students and faculty gathered in the auditorium for D.A.'s annual Shakespeare Monologue Competition. Judged by teachers Christine McLaughlin and Sr. Joan, the Shakespeare Monologue competition challenges students to memorize and perform a one-minute-long Shakespearean monologue. These students must rely solely upon their speech to convey their monologue, as no costumes or props are permitted. This feat is not an easy one, yet ten students rose to the challenge.

After a brief introduction by student Annie M. '25, the competition commenced. Senior Margaret S. started off the competition strong with her pick as Viola from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. In this contemplative soliloquy, Viola, who is disguised as a man, wrestles with the fact that Olivia is in love with her fake identity. The competition also saw many monologues from D.A. student favorite, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the timeless classic *Romeo and Juliet*.



Senior Margaret S. at the English Speaking-Union's semi-finals

When asked about the competition, audience member and student Juliette S. '25 said the competition, "Illuminated [her] understanding of Shakespearean language in a fun and entertaining way." Many students have a love-hate relationship with Shakespeare as his language can be hard to grasp, but once understood it is very rewarding and engaging. The competition affirmed many students' love for his works. Student Olivia C. '25 explained, "Seeing students perform Shakespeare monologues definitely allowed me to truly understand the beauty of his language in a way I never had before! I really enjoyed watching my fellow classmates act them out, and it gave me a whole new perspective on Shakespeare."

After listening to all ten wonderful monologues, the judges stepped out of the room to decide who would take home the prize. They announced the top three winners. In third place



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was freshman Caroline F., who performed as Cleopatra in the tragedy *Antony and Cleopatra*. In second place came sophomore Julia M. as Cassius from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. Finally, in first place was senior Margaret S.

The D.A. Shakespeare competition is part of a larger national competition in which students nationwide perform sonnets. As the winner of D.A.'s competition, Margaret competed among students in the English Speaking-Union's semi-final competition with Sonnet 116, where Margaret brought D.A. to a first place victory. She will now advance to the finals on March 7th. We wish Margaret much luck (or rather to "break a leg")!

We are so proud of our D.A. thespians and a special thanks to Shakespeare connoisseur, Ms. Spelman, for making this all happen!

Drama Club's Production of Clue is in Progress

By: Iris M.

D.A.'s Drama Club has been hard at work since October in preparation for its upcoming production of *Clue*. Directed by Julia C. '24, who is assisted by Eva R. '25 and Ms. Cerulli, the cast of sixteen will be performing the show from March 21st to 23rd.

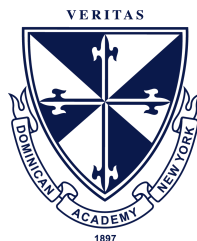
From the start, director Julia C. knew that *Clue* was the obvious choice as she was set on directing a mystery. "It isn't only something people will want to see but something that people will be a part of," she explained. Based on the 1985 movie adaptation of the fan-favorite Hasbro board game and set in the 1950s, the play takes place in a mansion on an eerie, stormy night when six blackmailed party guests arrive after being sent an anonymous invitation. After multiple murders occur, it grows obvious that at least one of the protagonists is a killer, and the play shifts into a thrilling, suspenseful, and wackily comical whodunnit that is sure to have the audience on the edge of their seats.

The cast and crew meet on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays to rehearse and prepare. A typical rehearsal usually begins with a warm up or improv game, and continues with the cast reciting their lines and pausing for critiques in between scenes. The cast and directors are assisted by a prop and tech team and Mr. Frederick is helping the crew build sets.



Shakespeare competitors holding certificates of their participation in the competition.

Overall, the Shakespeare competition is an amusing way for students to display their talent as performers while alluring the D.A. community members in the elegant language of Shakespeare. Uniting the D.A. student body over something artistic and thought-provoking is very inspiring.



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CLUE - SHOW DATES

Open Rehearsal: 3/21, 4 pm

Shows: 3/22, 7 pm, 3/23, 2 pm and 7 pm

D.A. Auditorium

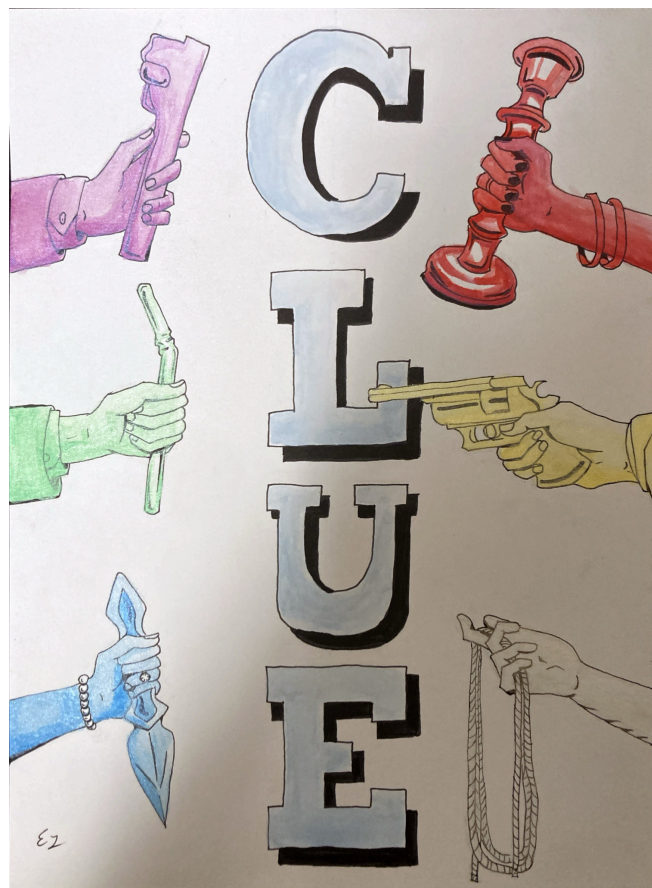
Free of Charge

All are welcome! Bring your friends!

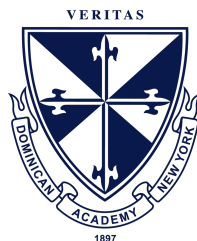
The Drama Club works to foster a supportive and educational environment for any student interested in the world of theater, regardless of acting experience. The audition process for this year's production was accessible and simple: Students chose excerpts from the play and recited them to the student directors privately, who then selected roles with Ms. Cerulli. "This is my first time acting and I think rehearsals are so fun," says freshman and first-time actress Nora W., who plays Miss Scarlett. "I've learned a lot from one of our directors, Julia C., on how to present myself and look more human-like while I'm standing and waiting to read my lines."

With much help from Ms. Cerulli, Julia C. '24 is once again taking the reins as director of the club's production after directing last year's play, along with assistant director J. Eva R. '25. Together, they make creative decisions in collaboration with the prop and tech team regarding costumes, sets, and prop placement, and guide cast members in line delivery, spacing, movement, and character development. Eva, who is in charge of the play's musical soundtrack, has been part of Drama Club since her freshman year and has been singing and acting for most of her life. Although it is not being performed this year, Eva has authored her own play that the club will potentially produce next year. Julia, who has directed other plays outside of school, sees directing in her future: "I want to pursue this and I

want to learn and grow as both a script writer and director. I'm not saying that one day I'm going to be the next Martin Scorsese, Neil Simon, or Johnathan Larson, but I do want to be the first Julia C. In an industry dominated by men—notice the writers and directors—I want to carve out a space for women in writing and directing for the stage and screen."



The club's members have experienced the benefits of acting both inside and outside of rehearsals. Acting in a group creates a close-knit community and lasting friendships. Nora says, "My favorite thing about being in the play is all



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the laughs we have. Everyone always makes rehearsal fun, and we have such a good time together.” Acting has made Ella C. ‘25, who plays former psychologist Professor Plum, a stronger speaker outside of school. “I find that drama is a great way to become more confident with public speaking. Not only do actors have to deliver lines in front of crowds, but they also have to put themselves out there by really getting into a role.”

The cast of *Clue* is optimistic about their upcoming show and warmly invites anyone who wishes to attend.

“I think the play is going to be amazing because all of our actors are so passionate and funny and work well together. Even if they miss a couple of lines it will be a wonderful and enjoyable performance for all,” says Ms. Cerulli.

Making a Difference One Treat at a Time: FBLA Whisks Up a Fundraiser “K9s For Warriors”

By Julia F.

Dominican Academy students are always eager to find ways to contribute to the community. Recently, the members of the Finance Club decided to raise funds for “K9s For Warriors” by making and selling dog treats.

D.A. has introduced a new organization to the school - the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). FBLA is the largest global business Career and Technical Student Organization, which prepares students to become community-minded business leaders. Members participate in competitive events and simulations to gain career preparation and leadership experiences. FBLA was first introduced to our school in the fall of 2022 as an extension of the

Finance Club, with Dr. Dziwura as the moderator. I had the chance to see the club grow in numbers and maturity over the past two years. Last year, the club participated in its first round of submissions, winning a first-place prize in New York State. The Finance Club endeavors to bring more wins to D.A. by taking the chapter to the next level. With Dr. Dziwura's guidance, members are motivated to work towards being better businesswomen, acquiring financial skills and understanding, and being more active participants in competitive events.

Our most recent competition was fundraising for FBLA's chosen charity - “K9s For Warriors”. Members participated in this collective competitive event that required participants to generate and execute a creative fundraising idea for the charity. The team settled on the idea of selling homemade dog treats. The process started after school in the teacher's lounge, where members of FBLA gathered to begin the first phase of the fundraiser. After mixing eggs, oat flour, applesauce, and a pinch of cinnamon in the bowls, members kneaded the dough with care and precision. Once the dough was ready, they ripped off pieces and put them into different-shaped molds. The members enjoyed creating different shapes, such as hearts and dog bones, and even experimented with a few new shapes. They worked together with laughter and conversation, making the process more fun. After baking the dough, they cooled the treats in the refrigerator, with the sweet smell of the treats filling the room. Finally, the members packaged the treats into plastic baggies and sealed them with twist ties. The aroma of the treats lingered in the air and was so tempting that some teachers even came to the lounge to ask for a taste.



Are you looking to improve your business skills and navigate the world of finance? Become a member of this renowned business organization and gain extensive knowledge about finance, including skills to utilize in the stock market. You will have the opportunity to demonstrate your skill in competitive events to win awards. Mark your calendar for this fall and join the Finance and FBLA Club to unlock your potential to become a future businesswoman!

The next day, the members set up tables at the school's mezzanine to sell the homemade dog treats. They crafted signs and greeted everyone with a smile. They managed everything, from setting up the tables to handling the money, with responsibility and attentiveness. Members were thrilled with the turnout of their fundraiser, as we raised \$122 from selling \$2 per bag of dog treats. Members were excited to have the chance to participate in this event and make a positive impact on the lives of veterans.

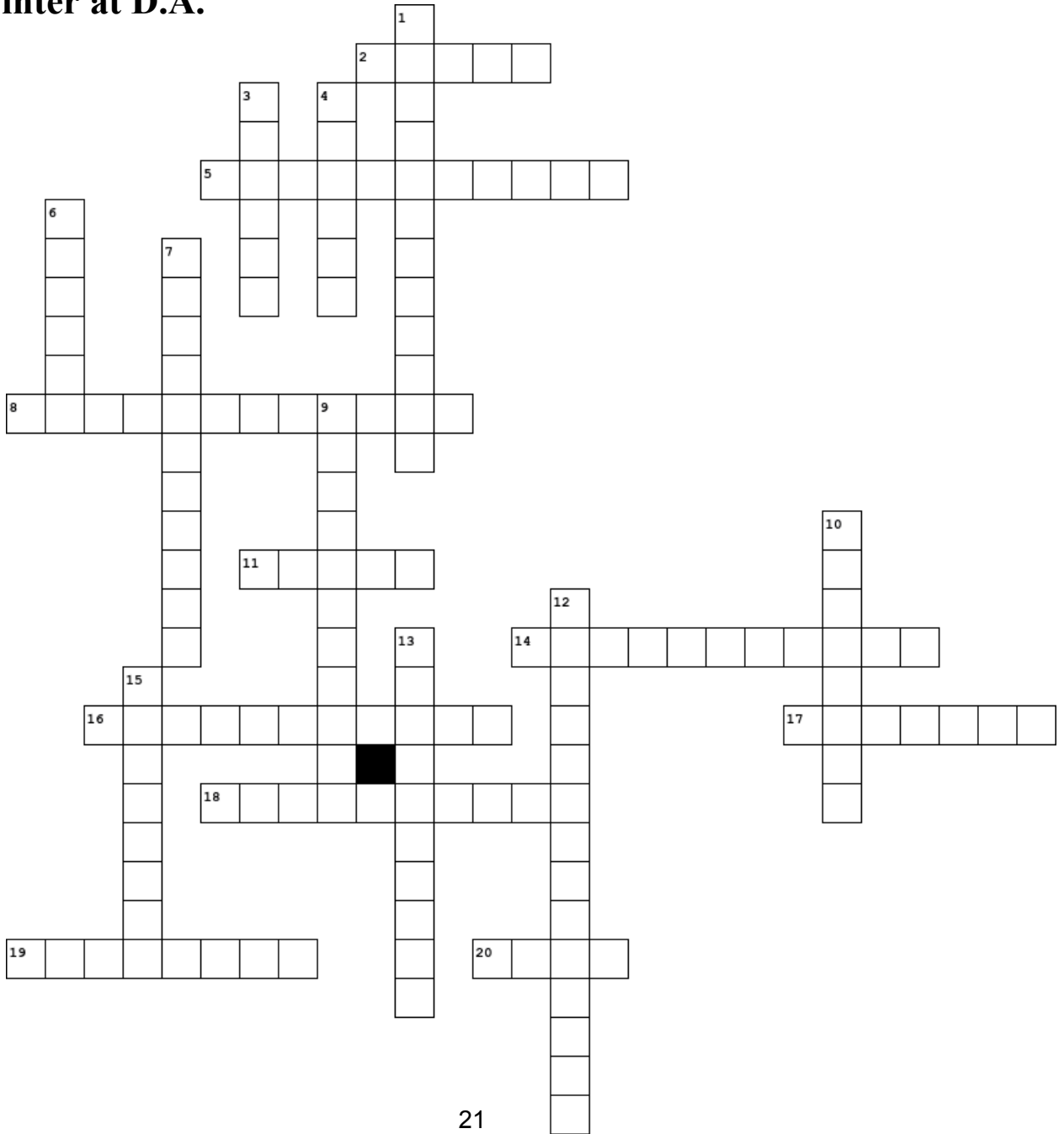


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Crossword- Midwinter at D.A.

| By Lily L.

Midwinter at D.A.



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Across

2. To celebrate the many cultures of D.A. students, D.A. is offering lunch from different countries, beginning with this Nigerian restaurant.
5. In the auditorium one can currently find 3D monuments honoring MLK made by this elective course.
8. Along with celebrating Valentine's day on February 14th, the D.A. community also gathered to celebrate this special day.
11. The week of February 19-25 was a _____ for D.A. students.
14. Though this was not able to happen this year due to the snow day, D.A. celebrates Valentine's day through an annual tradition involving this food.
16. Many animals that do this during the winter months may begin to wake up soon.
17. D.A.'s ice skating night was held at this rink.
18. February's most popular holiday, celebrating love.
19. The shortest day of the year is also known as this.
20. This groundhog decides whether or not winter will continue by seeing his shadow.



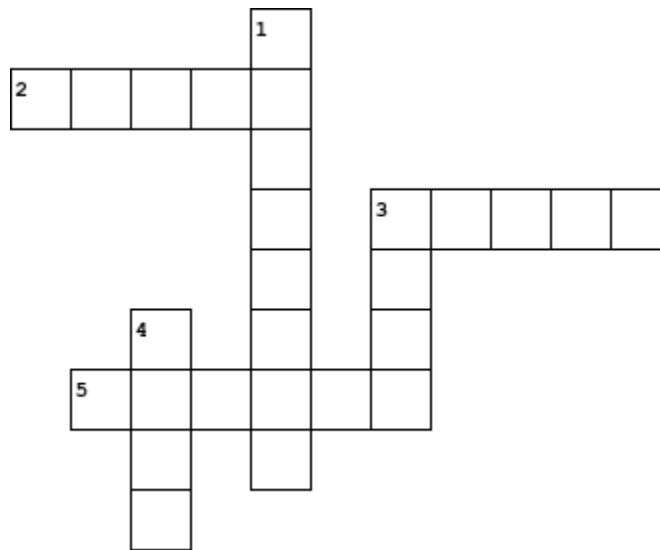
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Down

1. This February holiday is often celebrated by wearing red for good luck.
3. After a tough midterm season, this week of school pride and celebration was just what we needed! (_____ Week).
4. Popular winter sport
6. February 18th marked the end of Aquarius season, now beginning the season of this zodiac.
7. This annual D.A. event, a call to performers, will be held in early March this year.
9. Competitors of this annual competition at D.A. may use words like “thou” and “art” in conversation (_____ Competition).
10. Recently, D.A. students’ Homeroom times have been cut short due to club photos taken by this student led club.
12. This club launched D.A.’s very first ice skating night this winter.
13. Along with most other NYC schools, D.A. had off for a snow day on this day in February(February _____).
15. Biggest topic of stress for a D.A. student during the winter.



DoMINIcan Crossword: Spirit Week!



Across

2. ____ without reason
3. Hosted by Student Council on Tuesday after school
5. Type of shirt worn by the seniors every year on color wars.

Down

1. The Juniors were victorious in this Spirit Week activity.
3. The seniors celebrated spirit week by decorating the school in this color.
4. This year, the juniors were represented by this color.



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Midwinter at D.A. (Answer Key)

1. Biggest topic of stress for a D.A. student during the winter.
 - a. MIDTERMS
2. Competitors of this annual competition at D.A. may use words like “thou” and “art” in conversation (____ Competition).
 - a. SHAKESPEARE
3. Along with most other NYC schools, D.A. had off for a snow day on this day in February(February ____).
 - a. THIRTEENTH
4. Along with celebrating Valentines day on February 14th, the D.A. community also gathered to celebrate this special day.
 - a. ASHWEDNESDAY
5. This club launched D.A’s very first ice skating night this winter.
 - a. CAMPUSMINISTRY
6. D.A’s ice skating night was held at this rink.
 - a. WOLLMAN
7. This annual D.A. event, a call to performers, will be held in early March this year.
 - a. COFFEEHOUSE
8. Recently, D.A. students’ Homeroom times have been cut short due to club photos taken by this student led club.
 - a. YEARBOOK
9. In the auditorium one can currently find 3D monuments honoring MLK made by this elective course.
 - a. CIVILRIGHTS
10. Though this was not able to happen this year due to the snow day, D.A. celebrates Valentine’s day through an annual tradition involving this food.
 - a. CANDYHEARTS
11. February’s most popular holiday, celebrating love.
 - a. VALENTINES



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12. After a tough midterm season, this week of school pride and celebration was just what we needed! (_____ Week)
 - a. SPIRIT
13. The shortest day of the year is also known as this
 - a. SOLSTICE
14. Many animals that do this during the winter months may begin to wake up soon.
 - a. HIBERNATION
15. The week of February 19-25 was a _____ for D.A. students.
 - a. BREAK
16. Popular winter sport
 - a. SKIING
17. This February holiday is often celebrated by wearing red for good luck
 - a. LUNARNEWYEAR
18. February 18th marked the end of Aquarius season, now beginning the season of this zodiac.
 - a. PISCES
19. To celebrate the many cultures of D.A. students, D.A. is offering lunch from different countries, beginning with this Nigerian restaurant.
 - a. DUNDU
20. This groundhog decides whether or not winter will continue by seeing his shadow.
 - a. PHIL



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DoMINIcan Crossword: Spirit Week! (Answer Key)

1. Type of shirt worn by the seniors every year on color wars.
 - a. TIEDYE
2. _____ without reason
 - a. RHYME
3. Hosted by Student Council on Tuesday after school
 - a. BINGO
4. The Juniors were victorious in this Spirit Week activity
 - a. JEOPARDY
5. The seniors celebrated spirit week by decorating the school in this color
 - a. BLUE
6. This year, the juniors were represented by this color
 - a. PINK