

SEASON KICKS OFF FOR KNIGHTS

BASKETBALL TEAMS START STRONG



Sophomore Jaslyne Medina, Coach Isaiah Williams looks on
Photo by Coty Peterson

The Knights Take First Wins, But Can They Keep The Lead?
By: Edem Messanh and Keyahn Schand

BRONX - The basketball season has begun, and all teams have started strong in their debuts. The Lady Knights dominated 76 to 27 against Great Oaks Lions. Sophomore Monica Barros, junior Layla Suazo and Senior Jailene Mejia scored a combined 42 of the 76 points for the team. This win keeps the team's undefeated season alive and well.

With 2:30 left in the second quarter, the Lady Knights caught fire, scoring eight straight points and cutting the deficit down to 16 going into halftime (8-24).

Throughout the second half, the Knights were able to keep a comfortable lead and show off their depth outside of the starting five. The most stand out players during the 43 minutes of play were new transfers - freshman center Kadiatou Salla and junior point guard Anaya Llerandez.

Jaslyne Medina went for a combined 29 points and 25 rebounds.

The Lady Knights have now improved to 1-0 very early within their season. Stay in tune with their progress by checking their schedule on the Earl Monroe website.

As for the other varsity squads, they have been looking elite. The Earl Monroe Boys Varsity Basketball team is undefeated in league play standing at 2-0, but this is not just any 2-0 for the boys. These two games have consisted of irregular blow outs.

The 1st matchup of the season against Great Oaks was an 88 point blowout with varsity point guard Devin James going for a whopping 43 points. This year's Earl Monroe team seems to be unfazed and unbeatable. This Monday the boys faced up against rival school Broome Street Academy which led to a 28 point victory. Star shooting guard Dajhon Green described the team as "a 'free rec' now that we are older and have seniors of our own."

Written for The Dwyer

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College Football Sees Big Changes, New Players

NCAA MVPs, True Freshmen, and New Coaches Make This Season A Must Watch



Photo Courtesy of NCAA

By Keyahn Schand

BRONX -The 2024-2025 college football season is poised to be an exhilarating and transformative year, characterized by crazy narratives that will unfold throughout the sport. To add to that is the ongoing development of dominant programs, standout quarterbacks, and the increasing significance of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) agreements. Traditional powerhouses such as Georgia, Michigan, and Alabama continue to assert their status as elite competitors, while the emergence of teams like Colorado, under the leadership of head coach Deion Sanders (alongside other unexpected challengers) is likely to disrupt the established order of the college football playoff hierarchy.

The introduction of the expanded 12-team College Football Playoff format amplifies the excitement, paving the way for potential upsets and unforeseen matchups, thereby enhancing the overall unpredictability of the season. As teams prepare for their championship pursuits, the national focus will shift to big time players, strategic systems, and influential coaches that will shape the course of the season.

Entering the 2024-2025 season, Georgia stands as the reigning national champion and is widely regarded as the frontrunner for another title. Under the guidance of head coach Kirby Smart, the Bulldogs have crafted a dynasty characterized by exceptional recruiting, a great defensive system, and a well-rounded, effective offense. Georgia's offensive lineup will experience some changes, particularly

with the departure of quarterback Stetson Bennett. New starting quarterback Carson Beck is anticipated to uphold the program's high standards.

On the defensive front, Georgia showcases yet another collection of future NFL prospects, highlighted by potential first-round selections such as linebacker Jamon Dumas-Johnson and edge rusher Mykel Williams.

Amongst this great talent, one of the most interesting stories for the season will be the ongoing emergence of Shedeur Sanders, quarterback for the University of Colorado. Under the mentorship of his father Deion Sanders, the Colorado Buffaloes are rapidly becoming the team to watch. The dynamic of Shedeur's innate ability, composure in high-pressure situations, and proficiency in executing a wide range of throws has established him as a threatening player, with his performance likely to be pivotal for Colorado's success in 2025. Sanders possesses the physical attributes of a future NFL quarterback: swift release, arm strength, and precision enable him to deliver deep passes accurately while also executing quick, short throws in confined areas. His remarkable command of the offensive scheme and his exceptional aptitude for reading defenses further enhance his potential impact. Many expect Sanders to be the #1 pick in April and contribute to an NFL team immediately. This season is expected to be one to remember!

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WINTER COAT DRIVE

Donate your gently used coats
to the counseling office
(See Ms. Woods)

Support your community!
All sizes/ages accepted





What is Christmas?

- A holiday?
- A smell?
- A feeling?
- Christmas?

Its 11:30 pm

Feels like I drank 5 monsters
 My body is filled with many fires
 Ready to open a pandora box
 Opening milk, opening locks

Its 11:45 pm

I know Santa is always watching
 Naughty or nice list
 Maybe sugar cookies
 will make the sins be washed
 Coal would be like a cyst

Its 11:59 pm

Music is playing outside
 The bittersweet tunes of elves
 The bittersweet candy canes collides
 I'm feeling like this is about to be a winter
 wonderland

It's 12 am

It's snowing like a happy blizzard
 It's a snow globe of the north pole
 It's a place of warm coldness like a wizard
 It's Christmas



The Star of The Tree

Snowman beginnings to whisper
 Unwrapping my joy

The star of The Tree

Pernil lingers in my mouth
 finally no school

The star of the tree

We matching pajamas
 Watching movies

The star of the tree

Fun gingerbread making
 Peppermint candy

The star of the tree

Radio playing jingle bells
 Family is here



POETRY SUBMISSIONS!

The Dwyer is accepting
 poetry, short stories, and prose
 to be featured in our print issue

email your submission to
evasquez@earlmonroeschool.org



Illustrations by Melanie Sonilal
 Poems by Infinity Cortijo

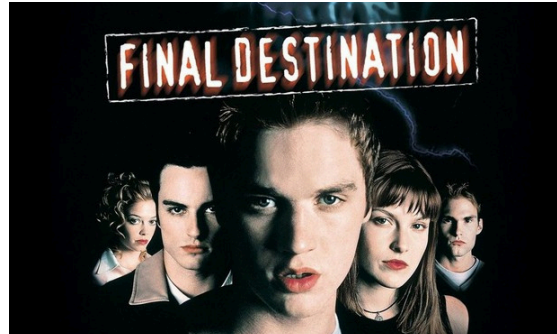
SOME HORROR, SOME HOLIDAY CHEER

The Winter Break is Perfect for Hoodies, Snacks, and Holiday Films. What Should You Watch?

By Ashanti Brown, Denzel Amaniampong

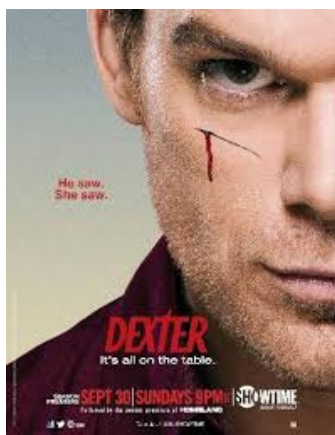
BRONX - Merry Christmas everyone! It is the holiday season, and that means many things for many people, but for New Yorkers? It means cold weather and staying inside.

The reporters at The Dwyer love our TV, so we put a list together of our favorite genres: horror and holiday cheer!



Are you afraid of walking on the subway grates? This movie is for you.

Alex Browning experiences a premonition (a strong feeling something would happen) of his plane exploding moments before take off. Alex insists that everyone gets off the plane including six of his classmates Carter, Tod, Terry, Valerie, Billy, and Clear. They watch as the plane actually explodes in a fireball. They escaped their fate, and now Death is coming after them in unexpected ways.



Dexter Morgan, a seemingly normal forensic blood spatter analyst at the Miami Police Department, is the son of Harry Morgan; a decorated cop. Dexter is a serial killer with a specific code. His compulsion to kill is only those guilty of a crime. Since he has access to crime scenes, he picks up clues and checks DNA to confirm his target's guilt before he kills them. Why do we love this show? It is easy to binge, plenty of seasons and mystery that makes this show an easy late-night watch with your friends.



Whoa, whoa, enough with with the scary! *Miracle on 34th Street* is truly a classic movie. This film is about an old man going by the name of Kris Kringle (Edmund Gwenn) filling in for an intoxicated Santa in Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day parade. A lawyer and a little girl must find a way to prove if an old man claiming to be Santa Claus is the real deal.

Throughout the movie, the character of Kris Kringle (who claims to be the real Santa Claus) teaches the importance of kindness, generosity, and believing in something greater than oneself. It also challenges the notion of materialism and the idea that everything must be proven by logic or reason. A perfect film for the family on a cozy night in.

The Grinch (2018) is about coming to love the things you once hated and despised. Or maybe the hatred is misplaced? The person, or shall we say the Who, hating things in this case would be the Grinch himself, as for what he hates?

Christmas. In the original story it was because he had a "heart 2 sizes small" meaning he is nasty from birth. However, in this movie he has a soft spot for his dog called Max, a choice the other versions do not do!



If you want to talk classics, then *Terrifier* (and *Terrifier 2* and *3*) are your next pick! Just look at this movie poster, how could you not be interested?



Why do we love this series? It is one of those "so gory it is funny" kind of movies. The series will overexpose you to such ridiculous scenes you will laugh instead of pee your pants.

Art the Clown targets and stalks 3 women, Tara, her sister Victoria, and Sienna. On Halloween night, he kills them one by one while the two sisters hop from party to party.



The horror movie that kicked off so many spoofs, spinoffs, and created an entire genre of horror. *Scream* is one of those movies that you just have to experience firsthand. You may have seen this mask but never the movie.

As a masked, knife-wielding unknown person hunts down high school students, Sidney aims to stop him. Can she stop the killer before all her friends are dead? This movie is inspired by real-life serial killer Daniel Rolling's horrific murder sprees in 1990.

Opinion: Trump's Fans Will Be The Ones Most Affected

An Investigation Into The New President's Platforms

By Melanie Sonilal

BRONX - Donald Trump's plans for America are no good for the country. His main point of view is eradicating economic issues within the states, the issues that were, in Donald Trump's words, "Biden's fault." His main solution to balance out the economic issues would be to eradicate federal taxes on tips and overtime pay and raise the tariffs on imported goods. These plans would both hurt and help the economic funds of all people by eradicating federal taxes that will get rid of Medicare and social security benefits. On the other hand, he states that social security recipients would not have to pay the added taxes on their monthly benefits. If any of these ideas were enacted, this could cause a 30% cut in social security benefits for new enrollees if the revenue is not replaced. This proposal will affect families of low to middle income homes. Getting rid of this sort of government help will cause a riot.

Elderly people who rely on Medicare will be hindered as well because their source of medical support will be cut off. People who are about to retire will have no funds to support themselves, and they will be working until their last breath or worse, an injury or death.

Trump's idea is to raise the tariffs to around 10-20% on every imported good that is coming into the United States. This idea also includes a 60% upward tariff on all Chinese imported goods. Many of his supporters come to think that this will decrease inflation and ease the economic crisis, but others believe this will actually cause an increase in the inflation rate immensely and increase the economic crisis to the point of economic decline. These imported goods will be nearly triple the original prices.

Many people believe that Kamala should have been elected president because she is a Democrat who will fight for the people.

She is one for women's health, helping out the economy, and balancing equality. "Kamala Harris is for the people; she advocates for women's rights, stating that it is their body to do so. She is also advocating for the economic issues for lower-income families," Ashly Araujo Garcia, a student at Earl Monroe, said. Some people have come to say that our country as a whole is doomed for a crisis with Donald Trump's supposed project called "Project 2025." This is a plan that will have many diminishing factors - such as destroying lower and middle income homes - in hope of improving the lives of the upper class and corporations. Another key point on the Project 2025 agenda is the removal of women's abortion health access. It plans to reverse the USA's twenty-four-year-long aid for Plan B. Many believe that access would be made much more difficult if this project gets put in place.

In my opinion, this project, as well as this presidency, will destroy the United States from the inside out.

Written for The Dwyer

Voices in Harmony: An interview with Earl Monroe's Talented Students

By Emma Alvarado

BRONX - Earl Monroe High School does not lack in students with skills beyond the classroom. In this article we will meet students with musical talent and the drive to pursue their dream. Madison Colon is a junior who has been singing for most of her life, and Jonathan Urena is a senior interested in rapping and music production. Although Urena did not get back to the Dwyer in time for publishing, Colon's drive is to be admired.

What made you want to focus on music?

Colon: I have always had a passion to sing and for music in general. I have been singing since I was five. I feel really drawn to it and always have fun singing and progressively improving.

Urena: I remember when I was growing up I would always freestyle at the table. I listened to a lot of rap and I like to recreate it with my own flow. I started coming up with stuff off the top of my head and would go up to people so they could hear. When I started actually coming up with my own music I decided to start creating.

Then with producing I was at a producer studio and someone said that the producer wasn't there. So I took over, tried it out, and I continued since then.

As a musician what music do you listen to?

Colon: I listen to more pop and R&B, my taste is kind of what I sing the most. I sing a lot of pop songs or slow music.

Urena: I listen to hip-hop, rap, and some R&B. I also create a lot of music like this.

What has been the highlight of your music career?

Colon: Starting now I guess when I joined a class for the music industry, I learned the ins and outs of it and the good and bad. The stuff I am learning is really interesting and motivates me to work on a music career. Also the performances for the school choir are nerve-wracking but also a really nice chance to show off my skill.

What would tell someone getting into singing?

Colon: Don't get into your head about how you sound or what you are singing or writing. Other people want it just as much as you do so make sure to really chase it.

What is your favorite song to perform?

Colon: I would say Billie Eilish, probably "Wildflower".

How do you feel when doing music?

Colon: I feel happy and at peace. My worries go away and all I'm focused on is music. It's a good coping mechanism and interest that fully immerses me into singing and listening to the way music sounds. It is beautiful and I really do appreciate it for what it is.

These two students have taken a special journey along their musical career. We hope to interview them once again in the future when they are established artists.

Written for The Dwyer

Christmas Gifts For The Frugal and Sentimental

In The Age of Indulgence and Materialism, Gifts with Heart Are Valuable **Baked Goods**

By: Cliff Cooper

Christmas gifts have become a part of the holiday spirit, for better or for worse. But for those of us who want to participate in gifting without spending a large amount of money, we put together a list of crafts that can mean a lot more than any pre-packaged, store-bought product.

Framed Collage

Go to your local library and print out pictures of you and that person (bonus points if they are funny pictures of them). Email yourself the pictures, copy/paste to a Google Doc and print (public libraries charge 20 cents to print if you do not have a printer). Glue the pictures out next to other pictures of their favorite things from magazines.

A Handmade Card

Maybe we are just sentimental, but a handwritten note from our loved ones is just as special as a gift from them. Nothing shows more love and care than a note. Every feeling you wanted to express with a gift can be said in the message!

Something Of Your Own

Give away something you own that is significant and give it to someone who is very important to you. And yes, I know it is hard to let go of stuff you love but giving away your stuff can carry on your legacy if you think about it. For example, I am giving away a pair of my boxing gloves. I will go to the hardware store and get wrapping paper. Then I will wrap my gift and give it to that person.

I would tell you more, but our other reporters Elijah Torres and Jeremiah Arce have done the legwork below!

Phone

A lot of us have old charging blocks, cases, or phone accessories. A little charm or keychain is perfect to gift for someone who used their phone 24/7! Stickers, Pop-Sockets, a loop for them to hold it all work great.

Plants

Plants bring life into the home, and some (like succulents) are very hard to kill. A plant can make the air more clear in your house, And give you a better look in your room. My suggestion for a house plant is a rubber plant or a cactus for the least amount of care.

Written for The Dwyer

Three-Ingredient Holiday Desserts

Tasty Treats Without Being a Master Chef

By Elijah Torres and Jeremiah Arce

BRONX - These recipes are the cheat codes to tasty treats for your holidays. None of us are master bakers, so we limited this list to no more than three ingredients.



Oreo Truffle Pops

Oreos, cream cheese (sub Greek yogurt for less dairy) and chocolate (to melt).

1. Crush Oreos in plastic bag, add to bowl of cream cheese/ yogurt. Mix well, add more/less Oreo crumbs to your taste.

2. Spoon ping-pong sized lumps to a plate and set to freeze/chill for minimum 1 hour.

3. Melt chocolate (microwave or in a pan) and smother pops until coated. Pick up with fork and transfer to a plate. Sprinkle Oreo crumbs for garnish. Chill again and they are ready to serve!



Sweet Potato Cakes

A two for one! Sweet potato is insanely easy to make into a dessert. The one pictured above is just a sweet potato roasted at 425° until you can stick a fork in it, topped with whipped cream (or honey) and nuts. Easy-peasy!

This next recipe will turn those same roasted (or steamed in microwave) sweet potatoes into a cake:

1. Poke holes in potatoes, wrap in wet paper towel, and steam sweet potato until soft.

2. In a bowl, mash the potatoes, add cinnamon and sugar to taste.

Grease a baking pan, put mash in, and bake at 350 for 30 minutes or until a toothpick/ knife comes out clean when the cake is poked.

Bonus Sweet Potato Recipe

This is a recipe from our healthy vault. Steam the sweet potatoes the same way in steps 1 and 2, but mash a banana in as well as the potato.

Crack an egg into the mash, mix well, and grease a frying pan exactly as you would a pancake. Congrats, you just made sweet potato pancakes!

Peanut Butter Oat Balls

The beauty about these is that they can be made in bulk and frozen. A jar of peanut butter and oats will make so many. Like, almost too many. But better more than less right?

1. In a bowl, combine 1 cup of oats and half a cup of peanut butter. Mix well.

2. Add honey (or chocolate chips, or any other addition you can come up with!) to the bowl and mix well.



3. Once everything is mixed, store in the fridge for at least 20 minutes.

If you are feeling daring, dipping these in melted chocolate or white chocolate will make these more complex in flavor.

All these recipes were pulled from Instagram/ Tik Tok reels. There were way too many genius ways to eat well, so if these did not hit the spot then any one of the hundreds of videos out there will be your taste!