

ISSUE. 5 | DECEMBER 2020

FIREBIRD GAZETTE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EDITION



WELCOME BACK FIREBIRDS

BY: GABRIELLA BEHAR

As December rolls in, so does the holiday season but this year is going to be much different. With COVID-19 still around, many families have to make changes to their usual holiday plans. Some family traditions of a big holiday get together will now be altered to a public zoom meeting, being together in spirit. As much as our holiday season will be different, our administration at Doral Academy has tried their best to incorporate holiday spirit in a safe, socially distanced manner. By including a holiday spirit week, they ensured students felt involved in their Christmas spirit even from home. As we say goodbye to one of the hardest years, we welcome the new year with a positive attitude and faith that soon we will be back to a little bit of normalcy. Stay safe and stay strong firebirds, we will get through this together.

CALENDAR



DECEMBER 3RD

- CAROLING COMPETITION

DECEMBER 4TH

- VARSITY BOYS SOCCER GAME
- VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL GAME
- VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL GAME

DECEMBER 9TH

- PERFORMING ARTS APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

DECEMBER 12TH

- VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL GAME

DECEMBER 14TH-18TH

- HOLIDAY SPIRIT WEEK

DECEMBER 16TH

- NATIONAL SIGNING DAY

DECEMBER 21ST-23RD

- HOLIDAY MUSIC FESTIVAL



2020-2021 School Calendar



DORAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR



AUGUST 2020					SEPTEMBER 2020					OCTOBER 2020					NOVEMBER 2020							
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F			
3	4	5	6	7		1A	2B	3A	4B				1A	2B	2B	3	4A	5B	6A			
10	11	12	13	14	8A	9B	10A	11B	5A	6B	7A	8B	9A	9B	10A	12B	13A					
17	18	19	20	21	14A	15B	16A	17B	18A	12B	13A	14B	15A	16B	16B	17A	18B	19A	20B			
24A	25B	26A	27B	28A	21B	22A	23B	24A	25B	19A	20B	21A	22B	23	26A	27B	28A	29B	30A			
31B					28	29A	30B			26A	27B	28A	29B	30A	30A							

DECEMBER 2020					JANUARY 2021					FEBRUARY 2021					MARCH 20201				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	1B	2A	3B	4A						1A	2B	3A	4B	5A	1B	2A	3B	4A	5B
7B	8A	9B	10A	11B	4B	5A	6B	7A	8B	8B	9A	10B	11A	12B	8A	9B	10A	11B	12A
14A	15B	16A	17B	18A	11A	12B	13A	14B	15A	16A	17B	18A	19B	15B	16A	17B	18A	19B	
21	22	23	24	25	19B	20A	21B	22A	22A	23B	24A	25B	26A	22A	23B	24A	25B	26A	
28	29	30			25B	26A	27B	28A	29B						28	29	30		

APRIL 2021					MAY 2021					JUNE 2021				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
					3B	4A	5B	6A	7B		1B	2A	3B	4A
5B	6A	7B	8A	9B	10A	11B	12A	13B	14A	7B	8A	9B	10	11
12A	13B	14A	15B	16A	17B	18A	19B	20A	21B					
19B	20A	21B	22A	23B	24A	25B	26A	27B	28A					
26A	27B	28A	29B	30A										

Days in Grading Period

1—42
2—48
3—43
4—47

Teacher Workdays

- * August 17-21 NO OPT
- * September 28 NO OPT
- * October 23 NO OPT
- * November 3 NO OPT
- * June 10,11 NO OPT

*** NO OPT DAYS ARE CONSIDERED BLACKOUT DAYS**

	New Teachers Report
	Teacher Planning Day
	Teacher Planning Day NO OPT
	Legal Holiday
	Recess Day
	Beg/End of Grading Period
	Black Out Days
	Early Release Days

Blackout Days

September 4, 8
October 28
November 10, 12, 20, 30
December 18
January 4, 15, 19
February 12, 16
March 26
May 28
June 1

Holidays

September 7
November 11, 26
January 1, 18
February 15
May 31

Virtual Schedule

HIGH SCHOOL

"A" DAY

1st Period:

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

3rd Period:

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:33 a.m.

5th Period:

- 10:38 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

Lunch:

- 12:08 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

7th Period:

- 12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

"B" DAY

2nd Period:

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

4th Period:

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:33 a.m.

6th Period:

- 10:38 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

Lunch:

- 12:08 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

Teacher Office Hours Only on "B" Days:

- 12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

"A" DAY

Teacher Office Hours Only on "A" Days:

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

3rd Period:

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:33 a.m.

5th Period:

- 10:38 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

Lunch:

- 12:08 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

7th Period:

- 12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

"B" DAY

2nd Period:

- 7:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

4th Period:

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:33 a.m.

6th Period:

- 10:38 a.m. – 12:03 p.m.

Lunch:

- 12:08 p.m. – 12:40 p.m.

8th Period:

- 12:45 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Natalia Perey

By: Marian Navarro

It is not rare for a Doral Academy alumni to reach their goals. With amazing facilities and staff, this process is even easier.

The latest example of this, though, is senior Natalia Pérey. She is a Quest Bridge scholar who has recently been accepted to Rice University.

Rice University is a private university in Texas with much reknown so getting in is no small feat. So congratulations to Natalia Pérey for achieving such a major accomplishment and with many more to come.



Bringing in the New Year

By: Lauren Cordero

2020 has been a crazy year, to say the least, which we are all aware of. As this year comes closer and closer to an end, let's reflect on everything that has happened thus far. From the Australian Bushfires to Covid-19, the death of basketball star Kobe Bryant, the death of George Floyd sparking the Black Lives Matter movement and protests following that, the loss of various figures in the entertainment industry, and the presidential election. And this is just a broad overview of these events. This has been a year full of chaos and confusion, but we have persevered and made it nearly to the end. Adjusting to the new online education system, and Coronavirus protocols have been difficult, however, we as a society have done well in adapting to our new normal.

If this year made us realize anything, it would have to be our appreciation for the lives we live. Many of us are extremely fortunate to have the lives we do, and it was eye-opening to see how numerous people aren't as fortunate as most of us are. For these holidays, we can all do our part to help those in need. We welcome 2021 with open arms, in hopes of having a year filled with joy, and liberation from the chaos. From all the Firebirds on the Newsletter team: Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays.



Winter Show

By: *Kassandra Mirabal*

With this year's holiday season being much different from what we're used to, our Doral Academy Orchestra and Choir had to adjust to the new normal by presenting their holiday show virtually. The Holiday Music Festival is an event our orchestra and choir prepare every year to bring their own taste of Christmas spirit while showcasing their talent and skills they learn throughout the year. It's an event to look forward to and bring family and friends to enjoy live Christmas music from our very own students. This year the event will be held throughout a span of three nights. Starting off the festival is our Middle School choir on December 21st at 7:00pm. Continuing the festivities on December 22nd is our High School choir and orchestra at 7:00pm and bringing them to a close will be the Middle School and High School keyboard students at 7:00pm.

Although they were still able to put on a performance virtually, not having an in-person concert is hurtful to the program. Like other performing arts programs such as FirebirdTV, they use the proceeds earned from the selling of the tickets towards the program for things like equipment and entries to competitions. Unfortunately, with the concert being virtual, the program does not gain any proceeds they can use towards the program for other virtual competition submissions. This is an issue that is being faced all over the country due to this awful pandemic but all we can do is make the most of it. Luckily, other resources such as gofundme.com are being used to raise money for sports programs and performing arts programs that way our students still hold the same opportunities as previous students.

At the end of the day, all that matters is that our students still get the opportunity to do what they love and are passionate about. This Holiday Music festival can be served as a distraction from all the craziness going on lately and time to sit down with your family and heighten that holiday spirit we all so desperately need in times like these. While watching the show, take the time to appreciate all the little things in life and get that Christmas spirit pumping. Although we are not in the best possible conditions, we have to make the most of what we have and appreciate our dedicated students for providing us with such a wonderful, cheering show in these dark times.



Congrats to the Thespians

By: *Lauren Cordero*

Congratulations to our Firebird Thespians! The Firebird Thespians took center stage and won various awards including 1 Superior for an Ensemble Scene, 2 Superiors for Duet Acting Scenes, 2 Superiors and 2 Excellent for Playwriting Submissions, 1 Superior and a Top Honors for Original Choreography, 4 Superiors for Monologues, 2 Superiors for Make-Up design, 1 Excellent for Costume Design, 1 Superior and 3 Excellent for Solo Musicals, 2 Superiors and 1 Excellent for 3-Duet Musicals, and 1-Superior and 1 Excellent for 2 Pantomime. In total, that is 16 Superiors and 9 Excellent!

The Thespians deserve a huge congratulations for their amazing work towards their passion. Their work is truly incredible and we praise them for putting their all into their passion and succeeding with flying colors.



Caroling Competition

By: Marian Navarro

In addition to academics, Doral Academy excels in its performing arts program. On December 3rd, our Firebird singers took part in the Merrick Festival Caroling Competition, an event that took place virtually this year via Facebook. They competed against schools like St. Brendan High School and Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in this contest. They practiced rigorously and their efforts were not in vain.

Though facing off against several other talented schools, Doral's singers did an amazing job. They performed Earnemen Vuilie, There is Faint Music, and Light of a Clear Morning as their songs and blew everyone away. In the end, they won the Rotary award, got runner up for the general award, and tied for the Soloist award. For the soloist award, Isabella Betancourt from Doral Academy tied with Nicole Suarez from Florida Christian.



Though faced with many skilled opponents, the Firebird singers overcame and won the Rotary award and Soloist award. Their work is not yet over, however. They are also looking forward to competitions next year such as the MPAs in 2021. If the Merrick Festival Caroling Competition is any indication of the results to come, Doral will be bringing home many more wins in the future.



Holiday Decor

By: Marian Navarro

The most wonderful time of the year is almost here and we need it more than ever. For many, the holidays are a way to relieve some of the stress the year has brought and spend time with family. This year will not be celebrated how it has in years before the arrival of COVID-19. One thing that has remained, however, is people's love of decorations around this time. Aside from the traditional tree decoration, there are many ways to sprinkle some holiday cheer around the house.

To start, there are many ways to decorate the outside of a house for Christmas. For example, there are huge ornaments that can be hung along the roof that come in a wide variety of patterns. There are also the classic inflatables to be put in the front of the yard- featuring classic characters like Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Since we live in Florida, there is always the option to wrap a palm tree in Christmas lights. There are a lot of ways to decorate the outside of the house for the holidays.

Shifting gears to the inside of the house, there are even more ways to decorate. Firstly there is the classic Christmas tree, which can be decorated in infinite ways- like the traditional lights, ornaments, and a star. More classic ways to spice up the interior is by hanging up stockings, putting up wreaths, and getting red and white-colored pillows. A more functional addition to the house during the holidays is a hot chocolate station. It provides holiday colors and flavors in the kitchen. These are simple, yet effective ways to get into the holiday spirit from right at home.

Essentially, the holidays are a time to spend with friends and family in good spirits and decor is one way to spark that joy. Though simple and traditional, these decorations add a touch of cheer to the home and in 2020 we need it more than ever.

Decorating for the holidays is one of the traditions that has remained through the years and it is a key part of the holiday season.



Congrats to Firebird Singers

By: *Samantha Alvarez*

The Firebird Singers are one of the most advanced groups at Doral Academy Prep. With that being said, Firebird singers were thrilled to compete in the Merrick Festival Caroling competition. It is of Doral Academy's honor to proudly say the firebird singers placed in all categories they entered. Came in second place in their category, won best carol (Rotary Award) for all schools including the middle schools and magnets - They won and tied for best soloist for all schools including the middle schools and magnets.

And to top it all off, one student, Isabella Betancourt will receive a scholarship to study with renowned Master Teacher Manny Perez. Prize money totaled \$1200.



Performing Arts Auditions

By: *Samantha Alvarez*

Performing Arts in high schools allow young actors to practice and develop their craft in a vibrant and creative atmosphere. Doral Academy serves over 400 students enrolled in specialized classes within their inclusive Fine Arts curriculum. All students have access to enroll in challenging AP/Honors curriculum within their core classes and must take two classes devoted to their Art Form per year. However, due to this world wide deadly pandemic performing arts has been moved completely online via Colegia - platform utilizing Zoom, Edmodo, and several other programs that help us facilitate the learning.

Students have however continued to flourish creatively to their given talents. As for requirements, some have changed while some remain the same. Artists are painting, sculpting, designing, and working on projects. Dancers are showcasing their choreography during online classes. Theatre students are writing scripts and performing monologues. Musicians are engaged in virtual choirs and fine tuning their theoretical skills practicing at home their techniques. Photographers are capturing the images of their loved ones around them. Film & Broadcasting students are creating insightful works of journalism for our school community. Online applications have been open and available as of November 1, 2020 for the 2021-22 Academic year.



2021 School Year Update

By: Nicole Suarez

This Monday, January 4th, 2021 has been the commencement from school after the winter break. As we begin this prosperous year here are some updates and reminders to continue for this 2021 school year until further notice:

Our Firebirds will continue to follow CDC Guidelines throughout the campus by maintaining their 6 feet distance at all times, as much as possible.

Students must have their mask on at all times and can only be removed when eating or drinking water, water fountains will remain off so please bring a water bottle.

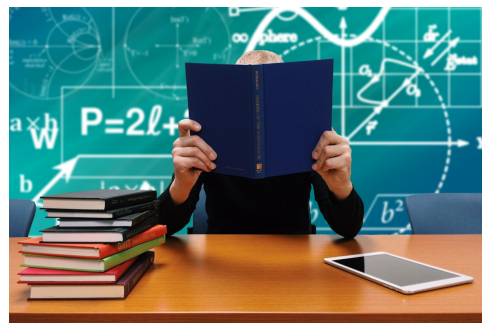
There will continue to be directional arrows throughout campus to ensure our students are being properly distributed throughout campus

As these are just some updates and reminders to begin the year please reach out to your specific attendee for updates such as any new changes. As this school year has come with unprecedented plans for everyone it's important to maintain a positive mindset and continue to work hard for the end goal.

After school activities will continue to be limited varying from the specific activity, club meetings will continue to remain online and sports will continue as social distanced as possible

In-person learning will continue as scheduled as the same goes for the online learning students. The school hours and office hours will continue to be as it's currently set.

For our students with parking spots, those who choose to continue and or decide to come back to In-person learning will have to register once again along with the parking fee.



Orange Bowl Valeria Ray

By: Isabella Vega

As the Doral tennis team ranks number #1, sophomore, Valeria Ray, advanced to the finals of the junior orange bowl international tennis championship! That is crazy and she is just a sophomore! Hard work and dedication pays off! Let's just keep on working harder and harder day by day!

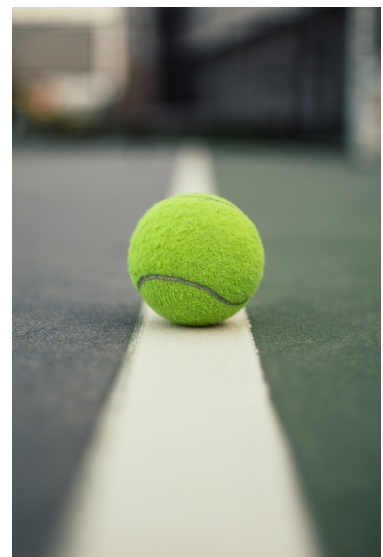
As she advanced to the finals, she ended up being champion and won the orange bowl. She must have worked so hard! It was not easy for her but she believed in herself and made it happen! That means that anything is impossible, keep on working hard! Congratulations Valeria Ray on winning the junior orange bowl international tennis championship! Keep it up.

Doral ranked #1 in tennis

By: Isabella Vega

As the Doral Tennis team practices hard to get to where they want to go, they had ranked number #1! After all the hard-working each player had put in each game and practice, they ranked top. It's never really easy to just rank #1, they must have practiced so hard and made it to their goal. The Doral tennis team has the best players and they will continue to work harder day by day to get to where they want and for the players to have a good time.

Each player has to work hard and always keep their head up high. It wasn't easy to rank number 1 but the firebird tennis players managed to do so. Each player puts their all in every single game and it has gotten them to a good path! Firebirds never let us down and they keep on getting better day by day. Now it's time for the players to keep on practicing hard and to show determination so they can continue being #1 and to be on the top. So, congratulations to the Doral Tennis team!! Keep up the great work!



Sophomore Valeria Ray, Doral Tennis Captain, and winner of the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championship

At-home Holidays

By: Victor Giraldo

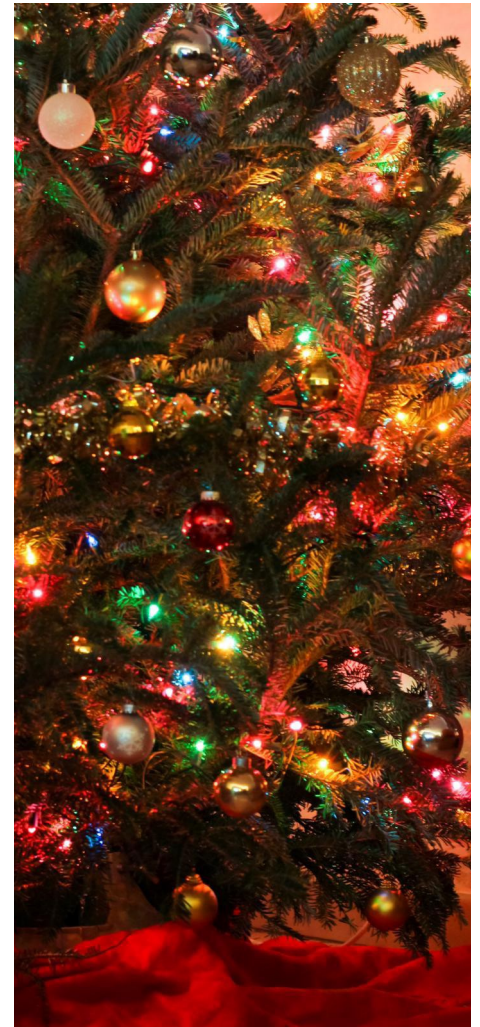
Hey Firebirds!! Happy holidays from your Firebird Newsletter Team!! We wish you an exciting Christmas and New Years' with your friends and family!! So as we all know, we're in a pandemic that causes us to stay home. It's been very tough on all of us, but I think there's a couple of ways to make it easier. Here's a couple of activities to make the holiday quarantine just a little bit easier:

1) Stay home and watch all of your favorite holiday movies. This is an easy way to stay home, stay safe, and just relax and get into the holiday spirit. I don't know about you guys, but one thing that gets me into the spirit is watching some of my favorite holiday movies.

2) Go to your local supermarket and buy ingredients to make your favorite desserts. Baking is a really fun, sometimes messy, delicious way to get into the spirit. Go out and buy some premade cookie dough and frosting and decorate them!

3) Decorate your house or room. The final thing on our list is decorating! Help your parents decorate the house. You can set up the lights, take out the ornaments and tree, and help your family build and organize the Christmas tree! Not only will your parents appreciate your participation, but you get to spend quality time with them.

That is all, Firebirds!! Thank you and have a wonderful, safe holiday break!



Holiday Gallery



Several members of our Firebird Choir singing a multitude of holiday songs.

December Sports

By: Nicole Suarez

Our Firebirds are slowly beginning their new season of sports are commencing as others are coming to an end. Here's an update on the sports for December:

-Soccer- Our Soccer athletes are consistently continuing their season. One of their last games was with Belen with a tying score of 1.

-Golf-After a successful season, our Golf team has come to an end this 2020-2021 school year

- Softball: Our lady firebirds have yet to commence their season, but are working extremely hard for a prosperous year of many victories.

- Baseball: For our baseball players their season is set to start. As they approach their season in 2 weeks our firebirds have been working continuously around the clock in the hopes of a state title

- Cheer- Our lady firebirds have continued their season regardless of the obstacles faced as they approach their Regional competition on the 16th in hopes for a state title as well.

- Basketball- Our athletes are currently at a record of 5-3 as they continue to work for a title, our Baseball players are also working extremely hard every day with of course following CDC Guidelines

As for our Seniors, it's still early to tell for all. Signing season has officially begun here are some athletes that have officially signed:

- Softball: Amanda Ramirez: University of Pittsburgh
- Anthony Bordone: Hillsborough Community College
- Andre Vidal: Hillsborough Community College
- Nicholas Fragnals: North Carolina State
- Renzo Gonzalez: University of Miami
- Gaby Gutierrez: University of Miami
- Marcus Franco: Marcus Franco
- Evan Demurias: North Carolina A&T

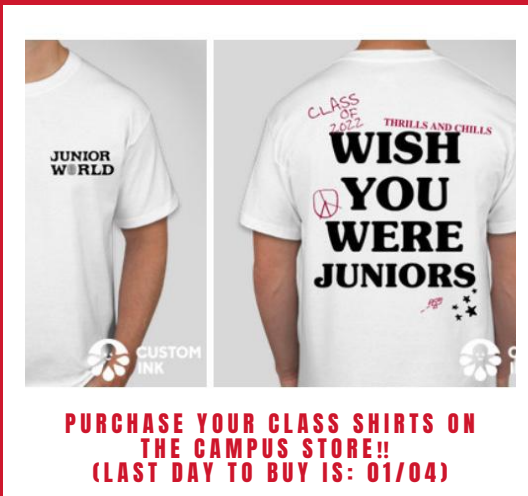
Congratulations Seniors on your accomplishments, keep up the Good Work.



Softball player, Amanda Ramirez, signs to the University of Pittsburgh



JUNIORWORLD NEW ARRIVALS



**YOU NEED YOUR CLASS SHIRT TO ATTEND
JUNIOR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE JUNIOR CLASS TRIP**

ATTENTION SENIORS

January
7

THE DEADLINE TO PURCHASE THE SENIOR SHIRT WAS EXTENDED TO JANUARY 7TH

You can purchase the senior shirt on the school's website through the campus store.

**CLASS SHIRTS
MAKE GREAT
GIFTS FIREBIRDS!**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
DECEMBER 2020**