

ISSUE. 3 | OCTOBER 2020

FIREBIRD GAZETTE



CELEBRATING THE SPOOKY SEASON

WELCOME BACK FIREBIRDS

BY: GABRIELLA BEHAR

With the first quarter coming to a close, Halloween is inching nearer. This is the day that people can express their creativity while also giving in to their sweet tooth. The circumstances aren't perfect this year but that's no reason to turn in your witch's hat. The spirit lives on as decorations of scary skeletons and spooky mickey's start tainting the city. This year, Doral Academy students will persist in ensuring a safe and fun Halloween season. Anticipating many spooky tricks and treats, everyone's eager to see what they've got in store.

CALENDAR



OCTOBER 5TH
FIRST DAY OF BRICK AND MORTAR (RED
GROUP 6TH-8TH GRADE)

OCTOBER 7TH
FIRST DAY OF BRICK AND MORTAR (BLUE
GROUP 6TH-12TH GRADE)

OCTOBER 8TH
VOLLEYBALL GAME

OCTOBER 9TH
FOOTBALL GAME

OCTOBER 12TH
FIRST DAY OF BRICK AND MORTAR (RED
GROUP 6TH-12TH GRADE)

OCTOBER 13TH
VOLLEYBALL GAME

OCTOBER 14TH
ANTI-BULLYING DAY
EESAC & PTSI
4:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 16TH
NATIONAL BOSS DAY



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Back to School

By: Isabella Vega

Ever since the opening of our school, Doral has managed to maintain a safe environment for the students at Doral Academy. Due to covid, everything in the school has changed and the school has started a little bit later this year than all the years before. Whether students are at home or school, Doral has provided them a safe learning environment. Things have been a little different this year but the students have managed to do just fine in coming back to virtual learning or physical school. The students that attend physical school in Doral have to maintain their distance and always stay safe from the students around them.

They are required to wear masks and to always clean up after themselves when they are switching classes. This has made Doral a safer environment so the students can prevent themselves from getting sick. The faculty at Doral has been a great help through it all. They are always there telling us what we should do and what we shouldn't do. They have provided us stickers in the hallways that say, "One Way" leading us students in the other direction so we won't have contact with other students when switching classes. This has been very beneficial to a great number of students that are attending physical school at Doral.

The students that chose to stay at home still have to stay safe even if

they are not attending school; the first week of school was just right. Everything worked smoothly, the students at Doral seem to have taken care of the new rules that were set up in Doral and the faculty were a big help to the students that were first attending Doral and have seen to be lost. Doral continues being a safe place for the students and ever since the opening of Doral, the school wouldn't have been better.

October 2020



Doral Academy Preparatory

Red & Blue Team Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5 A DAY RED TEAM Grades 6-8 Only Blue Team and Grades 9-12 RLI	6 B DAY RED TEAM Grades 6-8 Only Blue Team and Grades 9-12 RLI	7 A DAY BLUE TEAM Grades 6-12 Red Team RLI	8 B DAY BLUE TEAM Grades 6-12 Red Team RLI	9 A DAY RLI Grades 6-12 In School Specialized Instruction for selected students	10
11	12 B DAY RED TEAM Grades 6-12 Blue Team RLI	13 A DAY RED TEAM Grades 6-12 Blue Team RLI	14 B DAY BLUE TEAM Grades 6-12 Red Team RLI	15 A DAY BLUE TEAM Grades 6-12 Red Team RLI	16 B DAY RLI Grades 6-12 In School Specialized Instruction for selected students	17
18	19 A DAY RED TEAM Grades 6-12 Blue Team RLI	20 B DAY RED TEAM Grades 6-12 Blue Team RLI	21 A DAY BLUE TEAM Grades 6-12 Red Team RLI	22 B DAY BLUE TEAM Grades 6-12 Red Team RLI	23 Teacher Planning Day	24
25	26 A DAY RED TEAM Grades 6-12 Blue Team RLI	27 B DAY RED TEAM Grades 6-12 Blue Team RLI	28 A DAY BLUE TEAM Grades 6-12 Red Team RLI	29 B DAY BLUE TEAM Grades 6-12 Red Team RLI	30 A DAY RLI Grades 6-12 In School Specialized Instruction for selected students	31
1	2	Notes Students will follow regular bell schedule as follows: Red Team: In-School- Monday & Tuesday, RLI- Wednesday, Thursday & Friday High School: 7:30am-2:30pm Middle School: 8:30am-3:30pm Blue Team: In-School- Wednesday & Thursday, RLI- Monday, Tuesday & Friday				

Sports

By: Cassandra Miraball

This year, our fall sports were not what we anticipated. With the delay of the opening of schools through in person learning also came the postponing of the fall season. At first, many were skeptical if there was even going to be any fall sports at all this year. Luckily, our teams were able to have a season, even if it was cut short and delayed a bit. Our fall sports teams consist of golf, football, cross country, volleyball, and swimming. Most teams were able to play a couple of games before districts while others only got to play in districts, regionals, and states.

Due to the Coronavirus, sports rules have been altered in order to abide by the CDC guidelines. At many games, there are no fans permitted; only staff and players are allowed on the field. Because players are so used to the crowds, it's a big transition from playing with bleachers full of screaming fans as opposed to walking into an empty field. Some players (like volleyball players) are required to wear masks while playing against certain schools that require them to. Since they are athletes, they are not allowed back to campus and must stay in a bubble in order to keep other players and staff safe.

Many schools are losing money due to the lack of fans that are present at the games. Before Covid-19, the bleachers were always filled which meant lots of tickets were being sold. Now, schools aren't getting that extra income from the selling of the tickets or selling of food at the concession stand leaving them in a bad spot financially. Of course the main goal and worry is to let these students have a fun activity to look forward to while also keeping it as safe as possible. How the rest of the years seasons play out will definitely be interesting to see.



Halloween Spirit

By: Lauren Cordero

From ghouls and ghosts to vampires and werewolves, Halloween is the one time of year when you can be anyone or anything you want to be. Whether it's a hilarious or terrifying costume, the night of October 31st is nothing short from electrifying and thrilling. There is no better feeling than indulging yourself in king-sized candy bars and feeling the adrenaline that rushes through you when watching a scary movie with friends and family. But then came 2020.

As we know, Halloween this year will be

from conventional. Although, that doesn't mean we can't find other ways to celebrate and keep the Halloween spirit alive! There are various ways to celebrate this year that don't involve going out and putting your health at risk. Carving pumpkins, having a scary movie marathon, having a costume contest with items you can find at home, and making Halloween themed desserts are all ways to celebrate this year without having to go out. Although this year will be different for us all, it does not take away from the exciting night. Still make sure to be cautious, and gear away from large crowds to ensure your safety, but to all Firebirds, stay safe and Happy Halloween!



Anti-Bullying Day

By: Isabella Vega

Bullying can be a hard topic to talk about. People can get very sensitive when it comes to bullying. Cyberbullying is a big one too. Every year, the stats go up and up. Kids all over the internet start coming after one another and start saying hurtful words that can cause someone's life or put someone's life at risk. Bullying is not good whatsoever. It can also mess the kid's mental health and it can end very badly for them. It can mess with people's heads and other kids can put things inside of it and it won't turn out good for the kid.

That is why we all have to be careful with what comes out of our mouths because we never know who can get offended and hurt themselves.

At Doral, the faculty have taken good care of bullying. They have set up clubs and many other kinds of ways to help students who are in the need of help. Counselors at the school always offer to help if a student is in big trouble or if he or she is getting bullied and they have no idea who to report it to. It can be very hard for the students and very difficult to deal with. Bullying happens almost every day and some students don't have the blame for it and in the end, they can't do anything about it. Faculty at Doral are always open to any student that

willing to go and talk about absolutely anything they have in mind. It can be about cyberbullying or about how kids have been coming at that one student, they are always offering their help. Students should be extra careful online or in-person and if you see someone getting bullied at school, then contact someone immediately or stop the bully and report him to the office. That way students feel safe in coming to school and not having to worry about their bullies. The Bullying ends now!

Voting

By: Nicole Suarez

The time has come again...

Voting is an American civic duty that allows the people to voice their opinion in electing who will be representing office and public laws at the state and federal level. Today, to vote in the United States there are certain requirements you must fulfill to participate. To our Firebirds, while a majority of us cannot Vote in these intense 2020 elections there is always something you could do to participate and fulfill your duty as an American Citizen. The most important factor is to be informed. It's always great to be properly informed of what's going on in your own Country. Some ways you could do that is by reading up on unbiased political issues at both the local and national level and grasp a general idea of the nations current

issues in all areas. Additionally, it's extremely important to voice your opinion no matter what age you are. Talking and encouraging your parents to vote will help increase the chances of your perspective on the political aspect of the country being heard and counted. Spreading your opinion on social media, the local newspaper, and or any type of public area will give you a chance to speak out on what you believe in because someone will hear you and will encourage others to voice their opinion. Lastly, the best way to participate is by Volunteering. You could volunteer by writing postcards to encourage others to vote, in phonebanks, door-to-door interaction, and even at the polls. While a majority of us cannot participate in the voting criteria of the elections it's important to always

voice your opinion in what you believe is right, but most importantly always remember to respect others' opinions and point of view on situations. As these 2020 elections are approaching on November 3rd, remember to spread your opinion, talk to those who are of age to vote, and remember to treat everyone with kindness regardless of their beliefs



If you'd like to volunteer in these upcoming elections you could sign-up using the QR code provided up above. Please note that you must be at least 16 years old to participate.

Breast Cancer Awareness

By: Cassandra Miraball

For women all around the world, breast cancer is a serious life threatening disease that can genuinely arise out of the blue. All women are advised once they hit puberty to always check your breasts for any odd lumps that bring discomfort or pain. Usually, grown women will have a yearly mammogram to ensure everything is in order and there isn't anything there that is not supposed to be there. When caught early enough, the usual "cure" for breast cancer is a mastectomy (single or double depending on where the cancer is located). This is a process where the breast tissue is completely removed in hopes of ridding all the cancer from the area. In most cases, it is successful; but in others, unlucky.

Due to the Coronavirus, sports rules have been altered in order to abide by the CDC guidelines. At many games, there are no fans permitted; only staff and players are allowed on the field. Because players are so used to the crowds, it's a big transition from playing with bleachers full of screaming fans as opposed to walking into an empty field. Some players (like volleyball players) are required to wear masks while playing against certain schools that require them to. Since they are athletes, they are not allowed back to campus and must stay in a bubble in order to keep other players and staff safe.

The month of October is dedicated to breast cancer awareness month to inform people on the impact a disease so strong has on a person and their family.

Many sport organizations show their awareness of this disease by incorporating pink into their uniforms for the month of October. There are also 5ks and other events held in order to raise money for the research of the disease and medical care for those who can't afford it. It is also important all females are well informed on the topic since it is dangerous to their health. For more information on how to get involved with breast cancer awareness, check out nationalbreastcancer.org.



▶ SCAN ME



The Senior Plan

By: Marian Navarro

With the lasting impact of the pandemic, the pressure falls onto the seniors- who are faced with upcoming deadlines and decisions. Despite this, they are doing an amazing job and are an inspiration to their peers. Juniors and underclassmen also want guidance about how to prepare for the future. They are curious about things like good schools and tips for taking the SAT. Fortunately, they don't have to look far. The answers lie within the seniors and their resilience to persist through the challenges

College is a difficult topic and varies from person to person. When looking at the numbers, though, popular schools include the University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida State University, and Florida International

University. Though they seem to be the most popular, there are also universities like the University of Miami that call students' attention. Aside from the hectic application process, the acceptance letters are worth the wait. Seeing the start of so many futures unwind is an unreal experience. This is the embodiment of "trust the process" because the result is so rewarding to witness. SATs are also a major concern for high school students. A helpful tip from a senior who has taken it already is to start studying 10 weeks in advance so the day doesn't creep up on you. This is very helpful advice that could help time management in other areas

Regarding the high school experience, Celeste Delgado- a Doral Academy senior- has a

few very useful pieces of advice to help make the most of it. First, she feels that regardless of the challenges, a positive attitude and participation in activities allow for seniors to "take advantage of your high school years because it is something you can never get back." These words of wisdom ring true to students feeling down from quarantine. She also feels that "joining all your favorite clubs and being involved in a multitude of extracurricular activities can enhance one's high school experience..."





National Boss Day

By: Victor Giraldo

Dr. Ferralls has been the principal of Doral Academy for the last 4 years. Under his guidance, Doral Academy has flourished and become one of the most reputable charter schools in Miami today. He leads the school with an amazing organization, structure, and care for his faculty and students. The last 7 months have not been easy given the COVID-19 pandemic, but Ferralls has kept our school under complete control and made sure this year would be calm and run as smoothly as possible during these times. Dr. Ferralls has an amazing influence on all of his students and staff.

He is strict when it comes down to it, yet he also doesn't mind letting loose and having fun and making jokes. His light-hearted humor and behavior are seen on the school's TikTok page. Not only does he participate in a TikTok dance or two, but he also loves to interact with all of his students. He helps guide students from the moment they walk into Doral and makes sure they thrive. He has made sure that Doral has a class, program, club, or sport for everyone's interest. No student feels excluded because Doral has everything for every type of child. He has helped Doral grow immensely and has helped Doral become such an amazing school. Listening to everyone's words about Dr. Ferralls was such a beautiful thing. People talked about his wonderful leadership, influence, and inclusivity that he has offered over the last 4 years for Doral academy.

He has done an amazing job, and Doral will keep growing with his wonderful leadership, influence, and inclusivity that he has offered over the last 4 years for Doral academy. He has done an amazing job, and Doral will keep growing with him.



Scan our QR code using your smart phone's camera to see some of Mr. Ferral's best moments captured on film by Doral's Firebird Digital



Scan our QR code using your smart phone's camera to read up on how Mr. Ferralls grew to become the principal we know and love



Red-Ribbon Week

By: Lauren Cordero

Many may ask what Red Ribbon Week is and question its importance. Red Ribbon Week is an alcohol, tobacco, drug, and violence prevention awareness campaign observed annually in October in the United States. It is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention program. The campaign was established after the death of a Drug Enforcement Special Agent, who in 1985 was brutally murdered by drug traffickers while investigating in Mexico. In response to the murder of Enrique Camarena, angered residents in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons

it is effective because it introduces the danger of drug use to children and teens around the world. Every year teachers can communicate the importance of living a drug free life by using a theme to help bring awareness in school. Doral Academy brought awareness by implementing a different theme every day Monday was "Proud to be drug-free", where you were able to wear a red shirt and/or mask. Tuesday was "Sock it to drugs" where students wore wacky socks. Wednesday was "Team up against drugs" wear team shirts to emphasize you are proud to be drug-free. Thursday was "Don't Let Drugs Sneak upon you: wear sneakers. Lastly, Friday was "My Future is Drug-Free" students wore

college shirts.

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Counselor Sessions

By: Samantha Alvarez

Many believe that school counseling is not effective, that there's no way talking about what is going on whether at home or in school to an adult can help. However, Doral Academy has made it a priority for students to be able to confide in their counselor with any issues they deem difficult. Counselors in Doral Academy are very welcoming, they never judge but always support. They help all students in the areas of academic achievement, career, and social/emotional development, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow.

By working alone with students or teaming with classroom teachers, school counselors help students build the curiosity and academic skills needed to be the best learners possible. For example, counselors are often responsible for overseeing individual student planning. Counselors in Doral Academy are equipped with patience, confidentiality, empathy, and knowledge.





Volunteering In Doral

By: Samantha Alvarez

Amidst the deadly pandemic, Volunteer clubs in Doral Academy have found a way to turn their stress into a drive for the sake of their community. Key Club has already commenced virtual events along with physical events meanwhile still maintaining safety precautions. Some in-person events were Food distributions, Beach clean-ups, Halloween goodie bag making,

etc. Still, for students who felt uneasy returning to physical events, Key club organized virtual events such as Card making for NICU mothers, Letters to foster children, Letters to patients and doctors who have been affected by the virus, and dog toys made from recycled materials.

Builder's Club has also taken off, they scheduled meetings and interviews recently to conclude the student board. Interviews were a way for students to express the reasoning as to why they wanted to take on a leadership role and

what they do with it if granted the opportunity. After many interviews, a full student board was selected and the future for Builder's club shines brig



@doralkeyclub
@doralacademybuildersclub

