

ISSUE. 6 | JANUARY 2021

# FIREBIRD GAZETTE

NEW YEARS EDITION



## WELCOME BACK FIREBIRDS

BY: MARIAN NAVARRO

With 2020 in the past and 2021 up to and kicking, firebirds are anxious to see what's next. 2020 was a turbulent year and everyone hopes that this new year will be better. As exciting as it is, SATs and ACTs are quickly approaching. Nevertheless, students are willing to put their best foot forward and ace it. There are lots of amazing things already in the works like class shirt sales, the curriculum fair, and senior activities. This year is starting right with these great updates and will be covered in this month's newsletter. Also important to note, articles about Martin Luther King Day and Signing Day! As we start the third quarter, these important events and articles are starting us off right.

## CALENDAR



JANUARY 18TH  
• MLK DAY

JANUARY 20TH  
• BOYS VARSITY SOCCER GAME  
• WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAY

JANUARY 21ST  
• BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL GAME  
• BOYS JV SOCCER GAME  
• TELEMUNDO ACADEMY LECTURE  
• UNDERCLASSMEN PICTURE DAY

JANUARY 25TH  
• BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL GAME

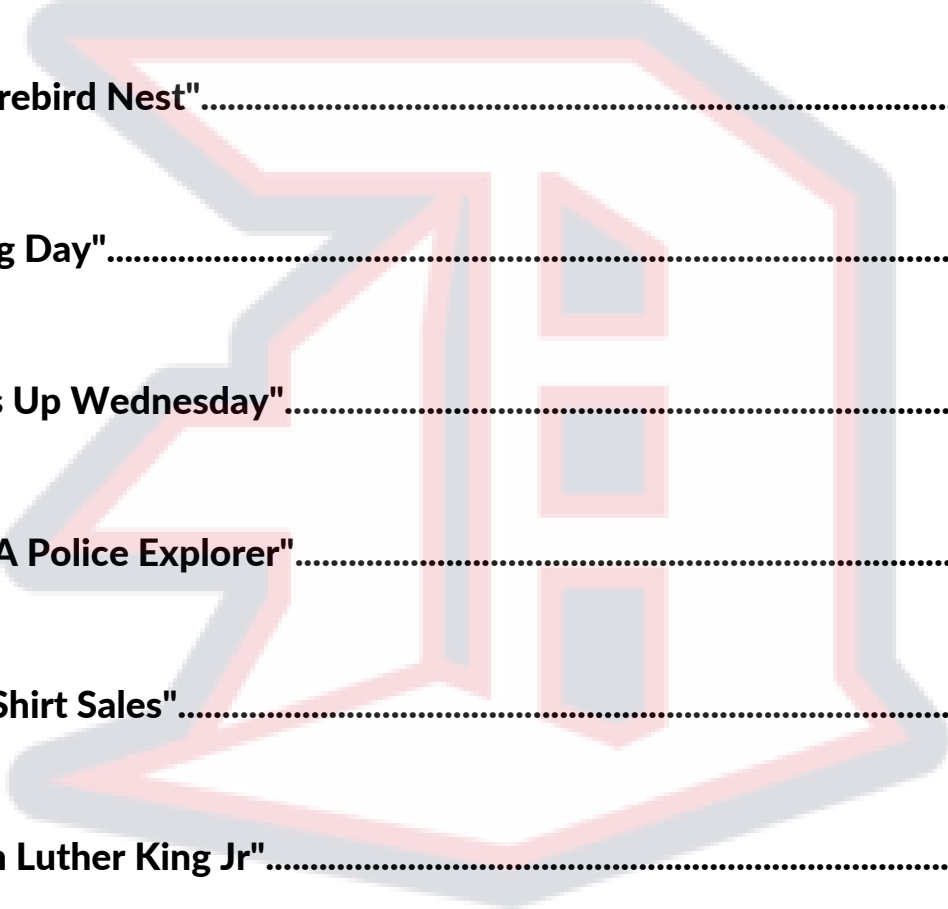
JANUARY 26TH  
• GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER GAME

JANUARY 27TH  
• GIRLS BASKETBALL GAME



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## Changing the World of Music

By: Paola Baez

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Music is one of the most encouraged and beautiful forms of expression at Doral Academy. With hundreds of students that play at least one instrument and hundreds more that are Performing Arts students, Tri-M was a society that would become home to many. Providing endless opportunities for exposure and practice, Tri-M, which stands for Modern-Music-Masters, has enabled various students to be their very best at their preferred art form.

Dr. Yanes, the founder and current sponsor for Tri-M, encourages all students who are taking a Music class to join the Honors society.

He ensures that there will always be people that share the same passion for music as you, as well as an infinite amount of opportunities to put yourself out there and step out of your comfort zone.

He pushes for small concerts and shows for the students to be able to truly showcase their talent to the public. Prior to quarantine, Tri-M occasionally held spill out jams. This was one of the best opportunities for all of the branches to work together and create something fantastic. For instance, a singer will sometimes be accompanied by one of the Violinists or Keyboard players or even the occasional drummer.

All four branches [Orchestra, Band, Keyboard, and Choir] are normally brought together in hopes of making the society more inclusive and to hopefully influence others to continue doing their best at all times.

Students in the board speak out about the upperclassmen always trying to engage with the younger students in order to, not only promote proactivity but to hopefully stir up the same passions they feel in others. Tri-M is considered to be the 'recharge' of musical energy outside of regular classes for the majority of students as well as a second family.

"I started the society almost 20 years ago. Everything we do is completely voluntary and I don't have to be here. The officers and the board don't have to be here either. We all stay and participate because we love what we do and we love to work and collaborate together. I'm very proud of the success and progress I've seen in all the students and what I'm most proud of is knowing that we're giving our students the possibility to do everything they should be getting out of their high school experience."



# January Sports Update

By: Nicole Suarez

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As we begin this new year, here's our January sports recap of all our Doral sports this month:

Congratulations to our Doral Varsity Cheerleaders for qualifying for State Finals at Regionals this past weekend. Our Firebird ladies continue the hard work as they work hard to bring home a State Champion title.

As for our Varsity Basketball players, they continue bringing in the hard work in a great game against Homestead with a score of 58 vs. 24. As well as our JV Basketball players winning against Homestead as well with a score of 73 vs. 25. Keep up the great work Firebirds!

Our Varsity Girls Soccer team brought in a win for

the Firebirds as well, against Lourdes with a score of 2-1. As for our Varsity Boys Soccer team having a great game against Mater Academy with a score of 8-0.

As there are still many more updates to come throughout the school, keep up the great work Firebirds!





# The Firebird Nest

By: Folukemi Olufidipe

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Four hosts, an exciting guest every week, and a number of editors and producers who work day in and day out on Doral Academy's student-run podcast, The Firebird Nest. What began as a small student project in 2019, has now grown into a podcast with over 30 episodes. The Nest has become a way for Doral students to be a voice for other students, featuring a range of topics from human trafficking to college prep.

The Nest started with Doral Alumni, Cesar Sanchez, and his passion for telling other people's stories. Each episode, which ranged from 20-35 minutes, featured a guest from our community and highlighted their unique life story.

This year, the Nest has expanded its topics from not just people but important discussions. A personal favorite of mine is Season 2 Episode 2, Into the Teenage Mind, an episode focused on the "taboo topic of teenagers' mental health." In a school of 4,000+ students, it can be easy to feel drowned out by your peers. For host Gabriela Suarez, the podcast is an opportunity to speak on behalf of the Doral community.

If there is one message that Gabriela wants the audience to take away from each episode it is that "there is always someone there ready to listen and speak up for you even when it feels like you're just another student [or] teacher."

For anyone who is interested in working on podcasts, whether it be editing, hosting, or producing, it is never too early to start.

Think about topics you would want to bring to light or creative elements that would add a nice touch to the Nest's weekly episodes. As the only non-senior on the host team, Maria Macias has the honor of building the Nest brand far beyond the 2020-2021 school year. For her remaining years, she hopes to "include more topics that will attract different audiences and get [the podcast] on student's radars." Maria has the "awesome opportunity to help The Nest's newcomers" and is eager to welcome fresh voices and perspectives for the next school year. Be sure to check out all episodes of the Firebird Nest on Spotify, iTunes, and Soundcloud.



# Signing Day

By: Nicole Suarez

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As our Senior Athletes prepare for their future many have been allowed to continue their passion to the next step in their life. Here's an update on the Seniors of the Class of 2021 who have signed as of now:

- **Guiliana Gomez:** Has committed to Barry University for Golf
- **Amanda Ramirez:** Has committed to the University of Pittsburgh for Division 1 Softball
- **Gabriel Gutierrez:** Committed to the University of Miami for Baseball
- **Renzo Gonzalez:** Has committed to the University of Miami for Baseball as well
- **Evan Demurias:** Has given a verbal commitment to North Carolina A&T for Baseball
- **Marcus Franco:** Is the first baseman Baseball player committed and signed with NOVA University
- **Eduardo Villeagas:** Has verbally committed to the University of Miami for Baseball as well
- **Andre Vidal:** Has committed to Hillsborough Community College for Baseball
- **Anthony Bordone:** Has committed to Hillsborough Community College for Baseball

As this is simply just the beginning of many more Seniors to be signed Congratulations to these Athletes for their hard work.



# What's Up Wednesday

By: Lauren Cordero

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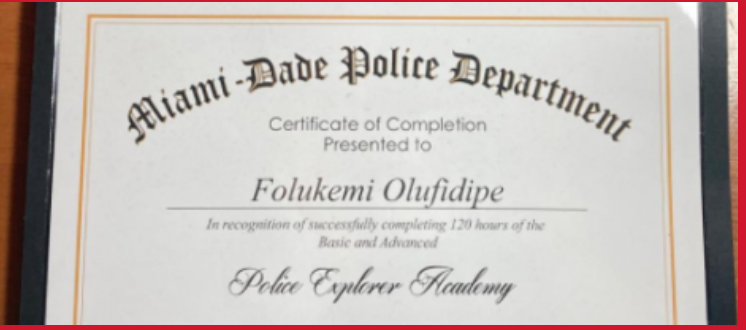
As online school has become the most prominent way of learning, it is important to maintain healthy habits that allow you to work on your mental health. Practicing self-care and building these habits can make this time of isolation feel more comfortable and enjoyable.

What's Up Wednesday is a zoom meeting led by Ms. Bianchi and Ms. Camejo, and they go over subjects concerning self-care, mental health, social climate, and more, for middle school students. In times like these, it is easy to feel lost, or fall into a negative mindset when things don't go your way. Especially now since most students are not attending school in person. However, keeping a healthy diet, working out, and staying productive during these times

can make your day seem a bit better and get you more energized. It is important to know that you are not alone, and everyone has bad days. Although when you find yourself having bad days more often, it is always helpful to speak to someone you trust. Whether it's a friend, family member, or school teacher, and/or counselor. Mental health is extremely important as it affects your relationship with others, how you learn, your concentration, and more.

There are different routes you can take when it comes to taking care of your mental health. Meditating, journaling, yoga, walking, and exercise overall are all things that help reduce stress and anxiety.





# Meet a Police Explorer

By: Danielle Gelpi

Since the introduction of the Police Explorer Program to the City of Doral Police Department, a few of our fellow firebirds have had the privilege of becoming a part of the team. The Police Explorer Program is one that gives high schoolers the opportunity to work alongside the Doral Police Department.

Throughout the program, the police explorers work with officers in learning the variety of fields within law enforcement while aiding the community. This program expands leadership and self-discipline skills that are a vital part of one's educational journey.

Folukemi Olufidipe, a senior at Doral Academy, has been a police explorer for 4 years now.

Despite Folukemi's already overflowing schedule with managing student government historian and her various honor societies, she dedicates a portion of her time to this rigorous program. In the span of her time with the program, she has obtained over 1000 community service hours.

She states, "whether it's competition training or a physically taxing day at the Academy, Explorers teaches me that life is about serving the needs of the people around me." Besides the responsibilities bestowed upon her as a police explorer, for over a year and a half she has taken on the role of Administrative Lieutenant of the Doral Police Explorers Post 1211.

As Administrative Lieutenant, she assists in recruitment, creates power-points for weekly training, and manages the paperwork of 30+ explorers. Through the program, her expertise in many areas has developed exponentially.

Folukemi's explains how "the Explorers program allows [her] to pursue [her] interests in social psychology and criminal law by working with the local law enforcement agency." Folukemi describes the impact of this program, stating that the "polished badge and nameplate that sit on [her] desk, reflect the abnormal amount of time [she] has spent in police stations- time that has been instrumental to [her] future career and responsibility as an active leader in [her] community." Folukemi has become a prime example of a dedicated and devoted individual whose motivation will take her far.



# Class Shirt Sales

By: Victor Giraldo

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Hey Firebirds!! This upcoming will discuss your junior class shirt sales. The Junior class secretary, Isabella Rivera, has told me this year's theme for the junior class shirts. It was Junior World, which is a nod to Travis Scott's song Astro World.

The shirts are long-sleeved and are being sold for \$25. The reasoning behind this year's shirt theme was to signify the roller coasters and the fun times. The shirt went on sale at the beginning of Winter Break and finished selling at the end of Winter Break. Thank you, Firebirds, and have a wonderful week!!

**JUNIORWORLD**  
NEW ARRIVALS

**JUNIOR WORLD**

CLASS OF 2022  
THRILLS AND CHILLS  
**WISH YOU WERE JUNIORS**

CUSTOM INK

**PURCHASE YOUR CLASS SHIRTS ON THE CAMPUS STORE!!  
(LAST DAY TO BUY IS: 01/04)**

# Martin Luther King Jr

By: *Kassandra Mirabal*

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To honor the great legend Martin Luther King Jr, every year on the third Monday of January the day is dedicated to him and the sacrifices he made for the greater good of this country. Many schools like Doral Academy give this day off to their students to truly honor Martin Luther King Jr's legacy. Due to recent altercations in the Black lives matter riot and the upcoming election, this day could not have better timing. It can be used to bring people together and stop the violence just like King wanted to do in the first place.

Now 50 years later we are still fighting the same battle our ancestors did, yet with more brutality and hate in our hearts. Doral Academy does their best in offering students forms to express themselves about these issues in clubs such as the Social Reform club.

Students can get together to come up with ways to attack society's issues and provide an alternative way of going about situations. With the Black Lives Matter movement taking the spotlight due to recent injustices to the black community, students are taking the time to make their voices heard and share their opinion hoping to make a difference. This holiday was made as a form of respect to the black community and their efforts in ending all racial injustice, specifically for a man so selfless and passionate about equal rights for all races.

Martin Luther King Jr day is a holiday that deserves more recognition especially with the recent events in society. As citizens of this country, everyone should be treated equally and respectfully.

We should uphold the Constitution and end battles that were started by our ancestors. As the future generation, if we do not put a stop to the same battle we've been fighting for ages, nobody ever will. This discrimination would be deemed acceptable and then, there will be no hope in saving humanity.



# Bygone Summers

By: Ana Garro

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From a pre-teen discovering the world of music through guitar bedroom sessions to an incredible Colombian-Cuban duo emerging from the suburbs of Miami, Bygone Summers has created a sound in the underground South Florida music scene like no other. It all began when Doral Academy's very own alumni, Marco Rodriguez, blended his experimental guitar riffs with senior Ana Sofia Duarte's dynamic vocals. Since then, the two have released their first album, *All We Can See: Quarantine No° 1*, along with various EPs and appearances with other local artists.

By putting all their heart and soul into their art, they continue to increasingly exploit their potential to become successful musicians despite the difficulties this past year has brought.

To describe Bygone Summers' style in just words would be unfair to what their music makes you feel (which is why you should check out their music on any platform right now). Still, in the simplest of terms, according to vocalist Ana Duarte, it would be considered a "fusion of psychedelic, experimental sounds with futuristic electronic elements" influenced mostly by classics from the 60s and 70s. More recognition and successes can definitely be expected from Bygone Summers and hopefully more music as well!

Marcos and Ana give us a sneak peek into the upcoming year and what they plan to do with their career. "I am thrilled to see what's gonna happen in the future, what other crazy ideas we will experiment with, but mostly the future performances we'll have. 2020 was the craziest year of my life, but if it wasn't for the help of Marcos, I wouldn't be where I am right now", Ana reflects. Along with this, Marcos adds, "We're extremely proud of all these accomplishments, and without giving too much away, we're even more excited to make 2020 look like a warm-up". Therefore, you will definitely need to be on the lookout for more upcoming releases from this insanely talented duo, and make sure to check them out if you haven't!