



# FIREBIRD GAZETTE

FIREBIRD NATION

JAN 2023 • VOLUME 4

## HAPPY NEW YEARS!

BY: LAUREN CORDERO

Welcome back Firebirds! As 2022 comes to an end and 2023 begins, our fellow firebirds are more motivated than ever to finish off the year with the same excitement and enthusiasm as they commenced the year with.

With pending college admissions and graduation requirements to take care of, seniors, make sure to stay up to date on the latest news regarding the 2023 senior class and allocate your time to ensure a smooth end of the year. Do not be afraid to seek help from our faculty and staff if needed as well.

Upon returning to the classroom, it is important to remember to follow the uniform policy and wear your school-issued IDs at all times.

We are ready for what this year has in store, and we hope to make this year as memorable as the ones that came before. Make sure to stay informed on the Doral Academy website and our pertaining social media accounts such as our Instagram @doralacademyprep.



## CALENDAR



**January 1**  
New Years Day

**December 26 - January 6**  
Winter Break

**January 16**  
Martin Luther King Jr Day

**January 20**  
End of Second Grading Period

**January 22-28**  
National School Choice Week

**January 23**  
Teacher Planning Day

**January 24**  
Start of Third Grading Period

**January 26**  
Second Annual Talent Show

**January 27**  
Spirit Shirt and Jean Day

**January 28**  
Class of 2012 10 year reunion

**January 28**  
Curriculum Fair

## DORAL'S ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

BY MELISSA RUIZ

Be it through dancing, singing, doing magic tricks, or performing a comedy skit, talent shows allow people to express their talents in any way they want. Talent shows are all inclusive and allow anyone to participate. The Firebird Thespians first started the Doral Academy yearly talent show tradition in 2022. With appearances from Doral very own students, faculty, and staff the talent show was a success. Some familiar faces who showed their talents were Mr. Bichel, Ms. Bermudez, Mrs. Tamargo and many more! The 2023 talent show is set to include

many more talents and showcase many more students and staff!

A key aspect of talent shows is the audition portion. Auditions allow the Firebird Troupe to make sure they are able to provide the best show possible for the talent show. The 2023 auditions were held on January 12th and 13th in room 607H after school and were open to all faculty, staff, and students. Auditions can also be beneficial for those who want to participate in the talent show for numerous reasons: being able to see the stage and feel what it's like being up there can ease any

nerves and uneasy feelings, auditioning lets you see who else might be in the talent show, and they can help you focus in on the show.

This year's talent show will take place on January 26th at 7 pm on the 6th floor in the Doral Hall Auditorium. Appearances from Mr. Sirven and Mr. Bichel along with many other faculty and staff and many students will make up the talent show. Make sure to come out and support our amazing Firebird Thespians and everyone participating in the Talent Show so it can be the best one yet!



## “FOR THE LOVE OF ART!” A LOOK INTO DORAL PERFORMING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY

BY ISABELLA BELLO

For many, the weekend of January 20th was one filled with countless jitters, an overwhelming sensation of nerves that likely left them restless or desperately biting their nails to distract from the all-too-present anxiety.

Doral Performing Arts & Entertainment Academy, Doral Academy Prep's Performing Arts Magnet, held their auditions this last weekend. Already an established program, the auditions for it are a highly selective process, and students from each branch are highly skilled in what they do, so the competition is both fierce and all-too-prevalent.

Friday, January 21 is the callback date for photography, dance, film & broadcasting. In terms of auditions, this is what those said programs entail:

Dance auditions include submitting a video to Ms. Claudia Florez and Ms. Keline Suita, our dance instructors at our school.

Dancers must adhere to a dress code of:

- Black Leotards, or colored if there is a black background.

- Black/pink tights, black leggings, form-fitting pants, or shorts.
- A bun hairstyle, particularly for ballet, or one where their hair is not obstructing their face for dance styles such as modern, jazz, etc.

Dancers are asked to submit an introduction to themselves, a professional resume, perform ballet barre and center exercises, a modern combination, jazz progression across the floor, and a professional one-minute video including a performance or a compilation of performances.

Ms. Florez and Ms. Suita work to teach their students about dance techniques within jazz, modern, ballet, and more styles. Dancers work towards developing better flexibility, balance, strength, muscle control, discipline, concentration, and creation. They strive to seek out the creativity within each dancer and thus reveal their inner artist.

As for photography auditions, photographers are asked to create slide

presentations that include their work, such as a self-portrait photo, portrait, landscape, an abstract photo, an action photo, a candid, as well as 3-5 photos of their choosing.

Once their photos are reviewed by our judge, photography instructors Mrs. Jennifer Rizo, Ms. Daniela Barrios, and Mr. Segundo Lezama, then select photographers will have to attend a zoom interview to complete their audition process.

Ms. Rizo, Ms. Barrios, and Mr. Lezama all work towards teaching their students about the inner workings of a camera, photography techniques, editing their photographs, and evaluating as well as creating successful prints. These techniques help create elevated craftsmanship and turn their students into masterful photographers with beautiful portfolios under their belt.

In regards to the film & broadcasting auditions, aspiring FirebirdTV members must submit to the HeartOut App, a live auditioning application

## “FOR THE LOVE OF ART!” A LOOK INTO DORAL PERFORMING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY CONTINUED...

BY ISABELLA BELLO

used by some of our performing arts programs through their virtual audition process.



Students are asked to submit 2-minute demo reels that showcase their work, such as any videos they have edited, filmed, or have appeared in. These works are also required to be submitted through YouTube or Vimeo links. They are also to answer a series of questions prior to submitting their audition via video, as part of an interview process to determine whether a student is fit for the program or not.

Our broadcast teachers, Ms. Elayne Diaz and Mr. Willie Viruet have built an award-winning program with FirebirdTv. Their love for what they do is apparent in their work, as it has been nationally recognized time and time again.

Saturday, January 22, is the call back date for music, theater, visual arts, and more film & broadcasting auditions. Music auditions can include the four branches offered by our school: piano, orchestra, band, and voice. Aspiring Firebird Pianists are asked to submit a video via the HeartOut App, featuring themselves playing a solo piece from classical or pop repertoire, or two pieces with a score. The repertoire performed by the student can be from the Bastien, Thompson, Faber, or standard repertoire courses.



Future Firebird Singers are also asked to submit a video via the HeartOut App. Their repertoire can include popular songs, musical theatre songs, 24 Italian arias, the New Imperial Edition selection, The Singers Musical Anthology, The Young Singer, and Pathways of Song.

These pieces must be performed with a recorded accompaniment or karaoke track as no acapella auditions are allowed. Dr. Adalberto Yanes, the instructor for both of these branches, has strived to form a deep love of music within his students. Through his piano program, he builds strong pianists with the ability to sway the world's feet off the ground.



He achieves a deeper appreciation for music within them, and it is shown in the quality of their playing. Dr. Yanes largely focuses on their musical techniques, and he will also place a big emphasis on music history and theory in order to form his students into well-rounded musicians.

As for his other branch, the Firebird Singers, Dr. Yanes has built an esteem around our school's choral program as his singers have won accolades year after year.

## “FOR THE LOVE OF ART!” A LOOK INTO DORAL PERFORMING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY CONTINUED...

BY ISABELLA BELLO

Most recently, they won the First Place Grand Prize and Rotary Award at the Merrick Festival Caroling Competition this past December, and won Superiors at their last District and State MPA Competition in 2022 for the Mixed and Women’s choir. The voice program largely focuses on vocal technique, as singers will learn to control their pitch, tone, dynamics, breath, and more within the class. They will also be introduced to sight-reading, music history, and music theory, as Dr. Yanes is hard at work every year to instill a passionate love for music within his students.

For those auditioning for the Orchestra, they will also be asked to submit a video via the HeartOut App. Musicians are asked to play G, D, A, E, and B scales with arpeggios (including two octaves when applicable), and any solo selection of difficulty to demonstrate quality and talent in their playing. Any piece may be selected as long as it is not on the pop charts, in movie themes, or a non-classical work.

As for Band, their HeartOut App video will include a performance of Concert B ♭,

E ♭, A ♭, and F Scales in two octaves, as well as an instrumental solo from the Florida Bandmasters Association List that must be of grade 3 difficulty or higher. Mr. Ercilla, the Orchestra and Band instructor also places great effort in forming well-rounded

musicians who value the art and all it entails. His musicians will master musical theory and apply it greatly to their work, as well as having a large emphasis on performance quality and instrumental technique that eventually makes this course as rivetingly enriching as it is. Theatre auditions will also utilize the HeartOut App, as applicants will be asked to submit their audition videos via the platform.

Aspiring thespians must have an introduction within their video stating their name, grade they will be entering, and their current school as well as answering the following inquiries:

- What can you bring to the theatre program?
- Besides performing on stage, what do you like about theatre? Include any interest such as costumes, makeup, design, playwriting, etc...

- What other interests do you have outside of the theatre sector?

Afterwards, they are asked to perform a one minute memorized monologue from a published theatre work that was written for the stage within the applicant’s age range. As for those applying to musical theatre, they are required to then sing a short verse (16 bars) from any Broadway Musical. Mr. Quintero works diligently at making the theatre program as welcoming and immersive as possible. His thespians adore the program, as shown by previous club publicist, Miranda Monzon’s account on the course, “The theatre program is a safe place.

As soon as you join you meet and connect with people that make you feel welcome. One of the things that make theater such an awesome place to be in is the fact that you are in a space with people as passionate and ambitious as you are. You never feel like you are competing, but rather get motivated and inspired by your classmates to improve your craft and technique constantly.

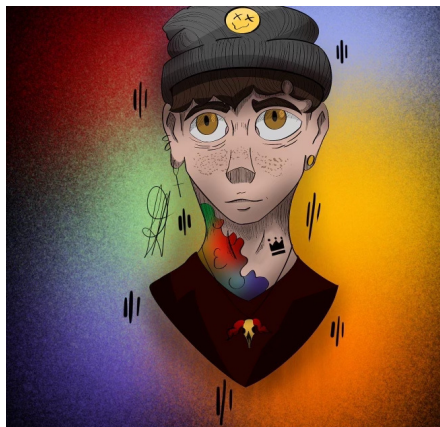
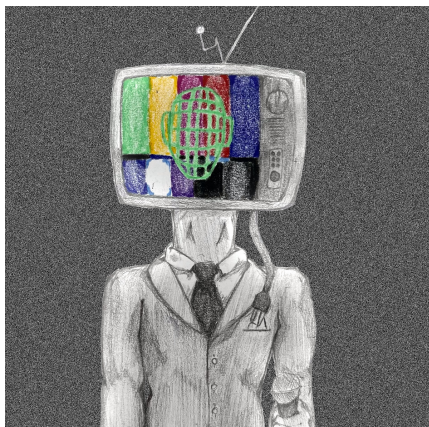
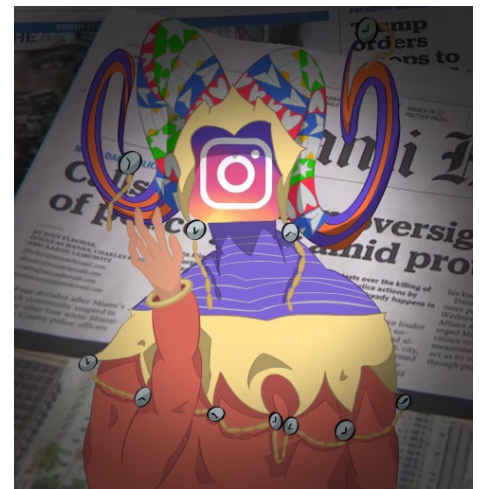
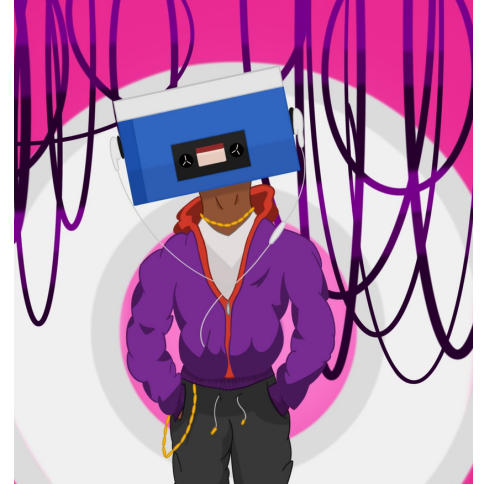
## “FOR THE LOVE OF ART!” A LOOK INTO DORAL PERFORMING ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ACADEMY CONTINUED...

BY ISABELLA BELLO

Entering the classroom is so unpredictable since our theatre director always has new ideas and lessons to teach; you truly never know what you'll be doing next class. The lessons vary. Some days you walk into class and you'll be doing improvisation, other days you learn about famous systems and techniques such as the V-effect or the Stanislavski system. There are even classes where it's all about connection and intuition, helping us express our desires in a scene better and also connecting you deeper with your inner self. One thing that is for sure is that you are constantly laughing. And not only your peers but our theatre director, Mr. Quintero, cares for each and every single one of his students. As soon as you meet him you build this trust that assures you you will learn

and you will outgrow your comfort zone. The work, with the artwork in the center of the slide. There must be a total of 11 slides, all saved as a jpg.

Our visual art teachers, Mr. Jose Pita-Vazquez and Ms. Dayamí Alvarez work to make our artists' creativity soar to new heights with every new class period. Their students go through classes in fine arts, design, videography, and art history while creating a portfolio with a variety of media and other subjects in order to prepare for any university arts programs within animation, graphic design, fashion design, architecture, or advertising. They are actively involved in extracurricular exhibits and are encouraged to further pursue artistic ventures in their careers.



## EARLY COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

BY BRANDON MARTIN

After endless hours of studying and infinite effort into their extracurriculars, our firebird seniors are finally receiving their long awaited college decisions. From Miami to Rhode Island and many other locations, the Class of 2023 will be taking their firebird legacy to represent Doral Academy all over the country next year.



Valeria Mejia, who has gained acceptance to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is a well rounded senior who truly believes there is no limit to what she can do. Valeria has demonstrated a high level of academic excellence, excelling in her studies and earning top grades in a challenging course load. Additionally, she has been heavily involved in extracurricular activities, from scientific research at a local university to even being involved with board

positions in our very own school, demonstrating a passion for learning and leadership outside of the classroom. Whether it be leading a club, volunteering in her community, or participating in very competitive events, Valeria has shown a commitment to making a difference and contributing to the world around them. Through her hard work and dedication, Valeria has earned a place at one of the most prestigious and respected universities in the world.

Camila Vasquez has achieved a very great accomplishment by getting accepted into the University of Miami through the early decision application process. This is a testament to her hard work and dedication both in and out of the classroom. Camila has been highly involved in her high school community, participating in a variety of extracurricular



activities and taking on leadership roles from president of Italian honor society to student council secretary. This shows that she is a well-rounded student who has a passion for learning and making a real difference in her community. Additionally, she has excelled academically, earning high grades in rigorous classes. This combination of high



school involvement and academic excellence has made her a strong candidate for the University of Miami. Camila's achievements is a reflection of her determination and ability to balance multiple responsibilities ultimately making her a great addition to the hurricane family.

Brianna Paliz has successfully exceeded expectations by getting admitted into Brown University, which is one of the most prestigious and highly-ranked universities in the country. This is a testament to her hard work, dedication and

## EARLY COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES CONTINUED...

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BY BRANDON MARTIN

academic excellence. Brianna is ranked near the top of her class and has shown a strong commitment to her studies, earning high grades. Furthermore, she has shown a strong involvement in student government, which showcases her leadership skills, communication and ability to work with others. She has taken on key roles in honor societies, clubs, and other organizations, demonstrating her ability to lead and inspire her peers.

Her achievements are a reflection of her intelligence, hard work and passion for learning, which will serve her well as she continues her education at Brown University.

The college admissions process can be a challenging and stressful time for high school seniors, but the excitement and accomplishment of receiving that acceptance letter makes it all worth it. Camila Vasquez, Brianna Paliz, and Valeria Mejia are examples of the hard work

and dedication that is required to get accepted into some of the most prestigious universities in the country. They have excelled academically, shown leadership potential and been actively involved in their communities. They are proof to the fact that with determination, hard work and a passion for learning, anything is possible. As these students embark on the next chapter of their education, we wish them all the best in their academic and personal endeavors.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

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BY ARYANNA RODRIGUEZ

Martin Luther King Jr Day is a federal holiday celebrated in the United States that commemorates the birthday of the famous civil rights activist and his efforts to demolish any sort of racial segregation/ discrimination through his peaceful and nonviolent protests. While Martin Luther King Jr's birthday is on January 15th, the holiday is observed on the third Monday of January every year. Many celebrate the

holiday by attending marches or parades that remember the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr as well as the awareness and changes he brought to the topic of racial discrimination and the civil rights movement. These parades and marches are commonly attended by civil rights and political leaders that give speeches to honor the work of Martin Luther King Jr and how his efforts have

impacted the United States regarding equal rights for all. Martin Luther King Jr Day also allows organizations and individuals to volunteer in several communities and give back to those in need as the holiday is often referred to as the MLK Day of Service.

While Martin Luther King Jr Day honors an important historical figure and his role regarding the civil rights movement, it did take some time and hardships before it was recognized as a federal holiday.



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BY ARYANNA RODRIGUEZ

Immediately after the sudden and tragic passing of King, many called for a national holiday that remembered him and his struggles to help fellow African Americans receive equal and fair treatment from everyone around them. In 1968, legislation for a federal holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr was introduced to Congress, but the passage of it was continuously blocked and received much disapproval from many that did not support Martin Luther King Jr and his activism for civil rights. Despite this, in 1970, several states and cities made his birthday a holiday even though it was not yet considered a federal holiday. In 1983, legislation to allow Martin Luther King Jr Day become a federal holiday was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate, allowing president Ronald Reagan to sign the bill, marking the third Monday of January as the day of celebration and remembrance. The first observance of this newly added federal holiday was celebrated nationwide in 1986 and all 50 states made it a state government holiday by 2000.

Every year, Martin Luther King Jr Day brings recognition to the activist and shows how much change can come from nonviolent protests and actions. Martin Luther King Jr advocated for peace amongst those protesting for alterations regarding how people of color are treated and how the United

States views them for who they are rather than the color of their skin. Through his famous and motivational speeches, King was able to inspire so many around the world, especially in the U.S, to fight for themselves and fight for greater change in hopes of a better future for the generations to come. King was successful in allowing people



of color the opportunity for a better life as his troubles payed off in the end since his work in the civil rights movement allowed people of color to finally gain equal rights and protection under the law and put an end to the inhumane treatment/segregation they unfairly received and dealt with. MLK will always serve as a day to honor the powerful legacy of Martin Luther King Jr as he continues to be an inspiration for people of all races.

*"Without justice,  
There can be no peace."*

DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR



## AP ART SCHOLASTICS

BY JENNIFER GIRALDO

This year, high schoolers taking Advanced Placement 2D Art were offered the opportunity to apply for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Encouraged by the Doral Academy Art Program, this was made a part of their final grade for the semester, resulting in an impressive total of 80 submissions this year alone. From September 1st, 2022, to January 13th, 2023, Doral Academy students were able to create, question, and cultivate their artistic creativity for the chance of winning scholarships and nationwide recognition from the most prestigious programs in the United States. Not only does this improve morale, but it opens a world of opportunity to disadvantaged students whose passion for learning can change their lives.

Far too often, there is a misconception held around the arts: that the debt gained by investing in an art-based education outweighs its monetary gain. In other words, the phrase "Art majors make no money" is a phrase that most art students know all too well. It's heard from authority figures when a child wants to draw;

it comes from family members during Thanksgiving dinner; and it even manages to slip from a parent's tongue when their kids change their major from medicine to design. Doral Academy is a school that takes pride in its vibrant Hispanic community, with the majority of students being first or second generation Americans. However, this results in massive pressure from parents for their children to succeed, leaving the great voices of the American dream silenced under high expectations.

However, Scholastic Corporation has made it their mission to change that. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, a nonprofit organization whose aim is to find students with great artistic and literary potential and showcase their work to the world. Through the Awards, students are given job opportunities, exhibitions for their work, publishing, and scholarships. To give an understanding of the amount of exposure this brings, hundreds of students and their mentors are honored in The National

Ceremony in New York City, a television-broadcast event featuring A-list guests and trailblazers that shaped the face of education today. This once-in a lifetime opportunity reaps rewards like international recognition and scholarships covering up to \$12,500 worth of tuition. All regional entries in Miami Dade were considered for Gold Key, Silver Key, Honorable Mention, American Voices Nominee, and American Visions Nominee awards.

So how did we do this year?

With about 320,000 total entries across the US and Canada, Honorable Mention Awards are given to works that show innovative potential and exceptional talent.

This year, 9 entries from sophomores to seniors at Doral Academy were recognized and received their esteemed spots, using photography and drawing as their selected media.

The more prestigious Gold Keys are awarded to the top 1%, or only 3,200 students across the continent. Out of the 80 students in AP 2D Art who applied to the Scholastic Awards, it's statistically likely that not even one student at

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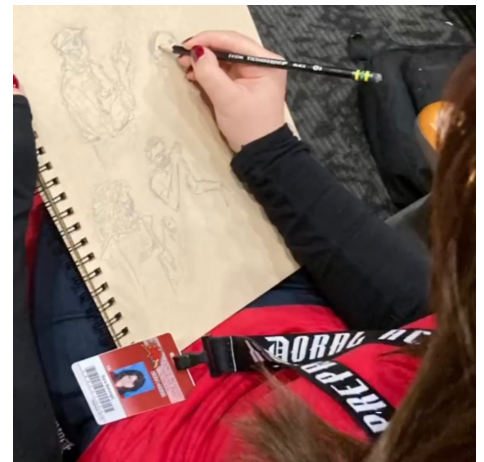
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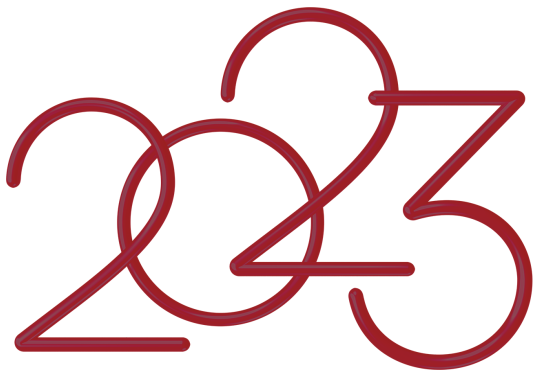
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Scholastic Awards, It's statistically likely that not even one student at Doral Academy would earn this achievement. Ashley Berestycki, Alexandra De La Torre, Alejandra Saturno, and Grace Wong would disprove the statistic this year, making Doral Academy's Scholastic Gold Key accumulation five times the national average at 5%. While it may not sound like much, these 4 representatives prove Doral's ability to succeed in the arts program, turning a scholarly honor into more of a common occurrence here at our school. Despite the odds being stacked against them, these four artists pushed past the stereotype and

displayed the highest levels of excellence in their respective fields. Now eligible for National medals, we at Doral are thrilled to see what our blooming arts program can accomplish next. Doral's ability to succeed in the arts program, turning a scholarly honor into more of a common occurrence here at our school. Despite the odds being stacked against them, these four artists pushed past the stereotype and displayed the highest levels of excellence in their respective fields. Now eligible for National medals, we at Doral are thrilled to see what our blooming arts program can accomplish next.



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