



# FIREBIRD GAZETTE

FIREBIRD NATION

AUG/SEP 2023 • VOLUME 5

## WELCOME BACK

BY: MELISSA RUIZ

Welcome back Firebirds and welcome to all of our new students. As the season's change signaling the end of summer, we come back to school with our hopes held high for the upcoming year. We all know that the beginning of the school year can be scary so here are some reminders to help you overcome any obstacles you may face.

Make sure you stay updated on all school policies and upcoming events by checking our website at [doralacademyprep.org](http://doralacademyprep.org) and our social media instagram page @doralacademyprep.

I know as a new student it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the grandeur of Doral Academy, but making sure that you know the basic policies can help ease these feelings. Middle school uniform policy is blue or khaki pants embroidered with the Doral Academy logo and either a navy or gray shirt also embroidered with the Doral Academy logo. High school uniform policy is blue or khaki pants embroidered with the Doral Academy logo and either a red or white shirt also embroidered with the Doral Academy logo. Wear your ID at all times while in school and make sure that you have the correct lanyard color for your grade. Lastly, Doral Academy follows an "A" and "B" day structure alternating between them every day. If you are unsure what day it is you can check the school calendar on the Doral Academy website.

Seniors, it's our last year at Doral Academy and for most of us it's bittersweet. Some of us have been at Doral Academy since 6th grade and some of us even since elementary school. This has been our home for many

## CALENDAR



### August 12th

New Student Orientation

### August 17th

First Day of School

### August 30th

Senior Parent Night

### September 5th

Volleyball Game Vs Florida Christian

### September 7th

First Green Club Meeting

### September 9th

Open House

### September 12th-13th

Student Picture Day

### September 22nd

Homecoming Football Game Vs South Ridge

### September 23rd

Homecoming Dance

### September 27th

Varsity Football Vs Barbara Goleman

## WELCOME BACK CONTINUED & AUTUMN SPORTS

BY: MELISSA RUIZ

years and the thought of leaving it scares us. Although it is scary, taking this next step in our life is necessary in order to keep advancing. Make sure to focus on applying to colleges and scholarships and plan ahead for testing. If you ever need any help don't hesitate to reach out to your counselor or the school's CAP counselor Mrs. Suarez. The start of the final chapter of our high school experience has arrived, and our anticipation for everything this school year holds knows no bounds. Make the most of your last year of high school and enjoy all of our senior activities to the fullest.

The onset of the new school year also marks the commencement of fall sports, heralding the launch of spirited games and exhilarating sports competitions. This influx of athletic activity injects a palpable sense of excitement into our school community. It provides us with a unique opportunity to display our unwavering school spirit, rallying fervently in support of our school. Equally, it's a time of immense excitement for our student-athletes, affording them the privilege of

representing our school and forging enduring memories with their friends.

The array of fall sports currently in full swing includes football, swimming, cross country, volleyball, wrestling, and golf, all of which have been demonstrating commendable prowess. The impending homecoming game for our football team against North Ridge is eagerly anticipated, promising a spectacle of athletic prowess and spirited competition. On September 21, the girls' volleyball team takes center stage, captivating the audience with their skill and determination. Meanwhile, September 22 marks the cross country team's meet at Spanish River, an opportunity for them to showcase their mettle. The recent success of the swim team at their meet on the 17th is a testament to their dedication and talent. The consistent excellence of our golf team shines brightly, and wrestling's recent Juggernaut Somerset Qualifier saw both varsity and junior varsity teams performing exceptionally well. In conclusion, the onset of the fall sports season is a source of immense excitement and

enjoyment. It fosters a strong sense of community and unity as we come together to support our school. It beckons us to actively engage in the thrill of competition, to bear witness to extraordinary feats, and to raise our voices in thunderous cheers of encouragement.



**2023-2024 STUDENT GOVERNMENT & STUDENT COUNCIL**

BY: ALEXANDRA CRUZ

The time has come to introduce the dedicated leaders of our student government and student council who will be inspiring change and innovation throughout the upcoming academic year as we begin a new school year full of new chances and exciting possibilities. As seniors, we understand the importance of leaving behind a legacy on our wonderful school, which is exactly what our student government and council plan to accomplish this year. Our student leaders have organized many exciting events and projects to make sure that our senior class has the best year yet! From planning a memorable prom and homecoming to advocating for changes that will benefit the student body.



*“I like having a voice in the decisions we make as a team to further the senior experience.”*  
 - Veronyka Briceño

Student Government  
 Sarah Zuluaga: President  
 Stephania Acosta: Vice President  
 Camila Ruiz: Secretary  
 Gabriela Valdes: Treasurer  
 Maria Sanches: Historian

Student Council  
 12th grade  
 President: David Cifuentes  
 Vice President: Veronyka Briceño  
 Secretary: Maria Bueno  
 Treasurer: Olivia Rueda  
 Historian: Amanda Andrade

11th grade  
 President: Anthony Cabrera  
 Vice President: Alessia Blaschitz  
 Secretary: Ariana Guillen  
 Treasurer: Daniella Pineda  
 Historian: Amanda Sibello

10th grade  
 President: Karina Villamizar  
 Vice President: Mariajose Zuluaga  
 Treasurer: Gioia Gentile  
 Secretary: Ainnara Lazzaro  
 Historian: Fabio Vasquez



*“Becoming elected Student Government President is an honor and it comes with great responsibility. Being on the board has given me many opportunities in order to provide for my school. I try to create a fun and involved environment for the students of Doral Academy. I am very grateful to have this position and hope to inspire future Firebirds”*  
 - Sarah Zuluaga



## REMEMBERING 9/11

BY: VALERIA VELARDE

On September 11, 2001, the world witnessed a tragic event that would forever alter the course of history. As we mark the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we are reminded not only of the heart-wrenching loss of innocent life but also of the tremendous impact it had on our country. The U.S. had never been more united than on the morning of September 11th. We grieved as one, but we also became stronger as one. Even though it's been a long journey of healing, our country has improved beyond measure. With an anniversary like this one, it's important to remember the lives lost and its significant role in history.

First responders, passengers, crew members, and many more people were killed by the actions of Al-Qaeda. Their deadly mission resulted in the devastation of families and communities all over the globe. However, each year we celebrate the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to save others in need. Firefighters chose to run into a burning building to save lives, knowing that they would most likely lose their own. We also honor the people who unfortunately suffered



and were innocent victims of the planned attack. They were put in a terrible situation where they knew their fate and had to accept the fact that their time on this earth was about to come to an end. All of the 2,977 people who died that day will forever be remembered. Their stories will be passed on for generations and will exhibit the strength shown on September 11th.

Many believe that this year's anniversary was the most special because of the double rainbow that arched across New York City on September 11, 2023. It was very emotional for those who were able to see the rainbow in person. They felt as if the people who died were looking down on them. Overall, 9/11 serves as a motivator for our country. We have improved beyond belief and will continue to do our best to make sure no event like this occurs ever again. Twenty-two years ago the United States faced a horror we never thought imaginable, but twenty-two years later we are stronger than ever before.

## HOMECOMING GAME & DANCE

BY: CATALINA FERNANDEZ

The week of September 18th- September 22nd marked Doral Academy's Spirit Week for the 2023-2024 school year. Students dressed up on theme everyday, ranging from dressing up as beloved childhood characters to outfits that are out of this world! On Thursday, September 21st, The football team played against Miami Southridge Senior High School in their annual Homecoming game. As well as being the homecoming game, it was also senior night for Doral Academy Cheerleaders. Parents brought flowers and other goodies to celebrate the graduating cheerleaders. During the game, the upperclassman's homecoming princess & princes were announced. Although our Firebirds lost, students showed up and out in support of their team dressed in red & white.

The perfect way to wrap up Spirit Week is with the Homecoming Dance. On Friday, September 22nd, was Doral Academy's Annual Homecoming dance. The theme was " An Enchanted Night", and students, as well as teachers perfected it! Food and drinks were served, which were quoted by students as "the best part



of the whole night."At the end of the night, Homecoming King and Queen was announced, accompanied by a slow dance. For seniors, this is their last homecoming dance, and it couldn't have been better.



## CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

BY: CAMILA BLANCO

As the leaves begin to fall and colors get warm, we step into an inspiring celebration: Hispanic Heritage Month. From September 15th to October 15th, we join a journey to honor the Hispanic community's history and culture. This month holds special importance as it represents the independence days of several countries in South America, including Mexico, Chile, and Costa Rica.

Hispanic Heritage Month invites everyone to explore and inform themselves about Hispanic traditions,

history, and achievements that have impacted our world. This is the time to recognize all of those of Hispanic descent who made a long-lasting impact on art, science, literature, and politics in today's society. Starting with poetic gifts demonstrated by Pablo Neruda to the incredible artwork of Frida Kahlo, their legacies continue to live on and inspire us all.

Hispanic Heritage Month is all about celebrating diversity, which is why during this month we take more time to reflect on and embrace different cultures

as a form of overall unity. We used this wonderful celebration as an opportunity to listen to voices that have been ignored, to share stories that deserve to be heard, and to honor the many attributions in our world made by Hispanics. Join us Firebirds in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with open hearts and minds. Let all worship and appreciate the vibrant attributions this beautiful culture offers.



## DORAL HALL: 3RD FLOOR SPOTLIGHT

BY: NOELLE NAVARRO

"Technology is going faster than colleges can keep up" says Mr. Santa Cruz when asked about the benefits of all the new technological advancements done to the 3rd Floor of Doral Hall. All the new equipment is not just for looks, it comes with so many advantages in teaching the young generations how to prosper in the future. The possibilities of a student's creativity is endless, "think outside of the box...and tackle that problem" is the encouragement Santa Cruz gives his students to

broaden their minds. The new mechanics on the floor allows for 3D printing, metal cutting, robotic buildings, and so much more. Everyday new innovations and ideas come about, with all the new resources provided it allows for students to manufacture whatever they feel.

Not only does the new technology incorporate machine building, but it also teaches students usage of cybersecurity, how to deal with marketing, artificial intelligence (AI),

and video game design. All these emerging tools help students get a taste of the career paths they'd like to continue in, "give them a chance to see what do you actually like about technology, let's go there..." says Santa Cruz. There are no limits when it comes to technology and fresh minds, that is something the STEM department challenges students with. Mr. Santa Cruz shares that, "Everyday is something new and exciting and that is fun and scary."



## NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

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BY: MELISSA RUIZ

National Suicide Prevention Week 2023 is an important annual observance dedicated to raising awareness about suicide prevention and promoting mental health support. The week, which runs from September 10th to September 16th, serves as a reminder of the critical need to address the emotional and psychological well-being of individuals across the nation. During that week, various organizations, mental health advocates, and communities come together to offer resources, support, and education to help those in crisis and to prevent suicide.

The theme for National Suicide Prevention Week 2023 is "Hope, Healing, and Resilience." It underscores the importance of fostering hope, providing healing spaces, and building resilience in individuals facing mental health challenges. Through public awareness campaigns, educational events, and outreach initiatives, this week aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues, encourage open conversations about suicide, and ultimately save lives. It serves as a reminder that, with support and understanding, we can work together to prevent suicide

and promote a world where mental health is a top priority for all.

If you ever need anyone to talk to don't hesitate to reach out to your counselor and schedule a meeting. Below are the counselors by corresponding last name:

Ms. Jimenez - last names: A-C  
 Mrs. Bercande - last names: D & F-H  
 Mr. Perez - last names: E & Q-U  
 Mrs. Papas - last names: O & P  
 Mrs. Prado - last names: I-N  
 Mrs. Sarduy - last names: V-Z & Scholars

