



# FIREBIRD GAZETTE

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## VETERANS DAY

BY: MELISSA RUIZ

Veterans Day, observed annually on November 11th, holds a special place in the hearts of Americans as a day dedicated to honoring the courageous men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Originally known as Armistice Day, it commemorates the end of World War I, signifying the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 when the armistice was signed. Today, Veterans Day is a solemn occasion for the nation to reflect on the sacrifices made by military personnel throughout history, acknowledging their unwavering dedication to preserving the principles upon which the United States was founded.

This day serves as a poignant reminder of the diverse tapestry of American military service. Veterans hail from various backgrounds, encompassing a multitude of races, ethnicities, genders, and religions. Despite these differences, they unite under a common cause, showcasing the strength that arises from such diversity. Beyond their uniforms, veterans bring unique skills and experiences, contributing to the enrichment of our society. Many continue their contributions long after their military service has ended, becoming leaders, entrepreneurs, educators, and valuable members of their communities.

While Veterans Day is a time of celebration and gratitude, it also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the challenges faced by those who have served. Veterans may confront physical and mental health issues, difficulties in transitioning to civilian life, and other hurdles. As a society, it is crucial to provide ongoing support and resources to help them overcome these challenges and successfully reintegrate into civilian life.

## CALENDAR



### November 1st

Enrollment for New School Year Opens

### November 2nd

Green Club Member Meeting

### November 3rd

FSPA Districts

### November 8th

Signing Day

### November 10th

Girls Volleyball State Championships

### November 10th

FBLA Member Meeting

### November 14th

Sophomore Presentation

### November 14-16

Junior Ring Ordering With Herff Jones

### November 18th

Thespians Competition

### November 30th

IB Program Lab

## VETERANS DAY CONTINUED & SPORTS RECAP

BY: MELISSA RUIZ & NOELLE NAVARRO

Expressing gratitude on Veterans Day can take various forms, from simple acts such as thanking a veteran for their service to more substantial efforts like volunteering time with veteran support organizations. Additionally, supporting policies and initiatives that prioritize the well-being of veterans ensures that the nation upholds its commitment to those who have served. Veterans Day serves as a powerful reminder to create a society that not only honors the courage and resilience of its veterans but also actively works towards providing the care and respect they deserve for their invaluable contributions to the nation.



Our Junior Varsity Swimming team is one to remember, placing in many of their meets. They have done exceptional this season, our expectations are high for them next season. Our girls and boys Swimming team have been doing exceptional, beating Ransom Everglades, Key West HS, and Coral Shores HS. Their senior night was on October 14th, leaving the meet with a great victory, some of our senior

swimmers Priscilla Custodio, Leandro Rutigliano, Kiara Lequerica left feeling accomplished. During the Mater Lakes meet, our girls had a successful win but unfortunately our boys lost. Coming back from a loss, the meet against Coral Shores HS resulted in a huge win for boys 220-46 and with the girls taking the lead 164-125.

Running to victory our girls and boys runners have placed at every meet they attend, making their mark. At the FSU Pre-State Xc invitational, girls placed 23rd overall with Julieta Baudini getting 20th place and boys placed 17th overall with Jonathan Alvarez placing 43rd. Another meet was at the Park Vista Cobra invite, placing 2nd overall with 2 guys in the top 10. Senior Augustin Muyl placed 2nd overall and junior Johnathan Alvarez placed 6th overall at the-meet. All of the hard work and practice led our Cross Country team to placing 5th overall at the Class 4A District 8 Championship. November 17th is the start of their journey in Tallahassee, FL at the 2023 Cross Country State Championship, our firebirds need all the strength possible to bring home a state title. Lets go runners!

PHOTO CREDITS: USA TODAY

## DORAL ACADEMY THESPIANS

BY: JENNIFER GIRALDO

Florida Theatre Conference and Middle School Troupe Competition

This first weekend of November, our Doral academy theater troupe traveled to Orlando to partake in an exclusive weekend event hosted by the Florida Theater Conference. Over this weekend our students were able to engage in many activities, including workshopping, meeting with different colleges, discussing job opportunities in theater, and most importantly, bonding with one another to grow stronger as a team. By the end of the event, our students came home with a plethora of awards, including best Ensemble, Best Writing, Best Directing and of course, All-Star Cast Member. One of our winners, Kristen Agudelo, who won the best ensemble and special distinction for writing award, recalls "It was truly a surreal experience."

Her one act play, *Ángeles Maracayeros*, explores the struggles faced by Venezuelan refugee Gabriela Valencia. Previously living an idyllic life, her character's world is torn apart when she moves to the US and struggles with not only the loss of her home, but also the loss of her grandfather.

Agudelo beautifully captures Gabriela's longing for comfort, as well as a divine intervention that captivates her audience using lights, music, and carefully selected dialogue. "I started writing it towards the end of the last school year, and we started rehearsals for it during summer."

30 rewrites and many months later, the play was brought to life by talented student actors and met with great appraisal from the judges.

In addition to performances, students were actively engaged in workshops hosted by professional actors/coaches. "We got to meet wonderful teachers and people that have been working in the theater world for years, and they taught us techniques that made us better actors" says student actress Luisa Alvarado. These workshops consisted of sound-storytelling, choreography, and quick-thinking games, all of which provided guidance and practice for the big goals our theater troupe aims for this year.

The award winners were announced at the end of this eventful weekend; Best

Ensemble for *Ángeles Maracayeros*, Special Distinction in Writing for Kristen Agudelo, Special Distinction in Kristen Agudelo, Special Distinction in Directing for Estefania Cuervo, and All-Star Cast Member for Sofia Graterol. We congratulate our thespians on these outstanding achievements, and cannot wait to see what they have in store next year!

Meanwhile, the middle schoolers of Troupe 8989 were preparing themselves for the district's annual competition. Guided by their chaperone, Dr. Yanes, these small thespians poured their hearts into perfecting their roles and exceeded far beyond anyone's expectations. From acting to singing, each member gave a unique touch to the performance. Thanks to continuous coaching and hours of practice, as well as a shared love for the stage, they were able to leave with 2 scores of Excellence, 4 scores of Superiors (with Top Honors), 2 scores of Perfection, and an invitation to attend the State Competition later this year! Congratulations Thespians!



## FLORIDA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

BY: ALEXANDRA CRUZ

FSPA also known as The Florida Scholastic Press Association is an organization that strives to expand journalism and broadcasting in the state of Florida. Its mission is to involve student journalists and their educators with training and resources in order to prepare them for their future careers. Florida student journalists can showcase their work in a range of categories, including writing, design, photography, art, broadcast, and multimedia journalism, by participating in digital contests. Recently some of our very own firebirds involved in social media, tv production, yearbook, and photography competed in this competition and attended the educational workshops this organization hosted in the Miami Dade College Kendall campus! All of us are incredibly proud of our students for receiving all of these awards and we strive to continue succeeding in the future competitions to come. Congratulations Firebirds!



### FB Digital

#### STATE AWARDS

ALL FLORIDA: 6  
EXCELLENT: 4  
HONORABLE MENTION: 10

#### DISTRICT AWARDS

1 SECOND PLACE  
1 THIRD PLACE

### Firebird TV

#### STATE AWARDS

ALL FLORIDA: 5  
EXCELLENT: 6  
HONORABLE MENTION: 1

#### QUICK TURNS

1 FIRST PLACE: SHORT FILM  
1 SECOND PLACE: COMMENTARY  
4 THIRD PLACES: FEATURE PACKAGE, COMMERCIAL, PSA & NAT PACKAGE

### Firebird TVMS

#### STATE AWARDS

ALL FLORIDA: 1  
EXCELLENT: 1  
HONORABLE MENTION: 3

#### QUICK TURNS

2 FIRST PLACES: SHORT FILM & FEATURED PACKAGE  
1 SECOND PLACE: COMMERCIAL

### Photography

2 EXCELLENT  
1 SECOND PLACE  
22 HONORABLE MENTION (HIGH SCHOOL)  
5 HONORABLE MENTION (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

### Yearbook

3 EXCELLENT  
1 SECOND PLACE  
1 THIRD PLACE  
1 BEST OF THE BEST (MIDDLE SCHOOL)  
5 HONORABLE MENTION (HIGH SCHOOL)  
5 HONORABLE MENTION (MIDDLE SCHOOL)



## THANKSGIVING

BY: MELISSA RUIZ

Thanksgiving, a revered American tradition observed on the fourth Thursday of November, transcends the boundaries of a simple holiday and becomes a tapestry woven with gratitude, unity, and diverse cultural threads. The hallmark of this celebration is the grand feast, a communal gathering where the table overflows with a bountiful spread. The iconic roasted turkey, a symbol of abundance, takes center stage alongside an array of side dishes, creating a culinary symphony that embodies the spirit of gratitude and the joy of sharing. However, Thanksgiving is more than a feast; it is a time when heartfelt expressions of thanks resonate around dinner tables nationwide. This cherished tradition fosters reflection, appreciation, and connection, creating a meaningful tapestry of shared gratitude that reinforces the importance of thankfulness in our lives.

Family traditions play a significant role during this holiday, as each family brings its unique rituals to the table. Whether it's an annual touch football game, a post-dinner walk, or special recipes passed down through generations,



PHOTO CREDITS: THE PIONEER WOMEN

these traditions create lasting memories and strengthen the bonds that tie families together. Thanksgiving is also a reflection of the nation's cultural diversity, with families incorporating their unique cultural heritage into the celebration. Some infuse their feasts with traditional dishes, while others engage in parades, community events, or volunteer activities, enriching the collective experience of Thanksgiving and emphasizing unity amid diversity.

Beyond individual households, Thanksgiving extends its spirit to the broader community. Acts of kindness, such as volunteering at local charities or participating in food drives, become integral components of the holiday. These gestures underscore the essence of giving thanks by ensuring that everyone can partake in the joy of a Thanksgiving meal. As we gather around tables laden with food, surrounded by loved ones, Thanksgiving becomes a moment to appreciate the beauty of these traditions—a celebration of gratitude, unity, and the enduring spirit that defines this remarkable holiday.