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D.A. ALL DAY!

School in the City: A Day Filled with Food and Fantasy

By Caroline I.

Gossip followed by wizardry. To some, a dream, but to the Dominican Academy students, this April 9th day was the annual School in the City. Each year, the juniors and seniors enjoy a lunch at Gossip Restaurant, followed by a Broadway show. This time around, students had the privilege of seeing “Harry Potter and The Cursed Child.” To begin the day, students walked through Central Park to get to the restaurant. Fortunately, we were blessed with a beautiful sunny, crisp day to spend this time

walking. At the restaurant, the pre-ordered selections of each person were served, followed by complimentary ice cream for all. This was well enjoyed by all as a delightful way to prepare for the show ahead!

Upon entering the theater, students walked up the stunning red-carpeted stairs to reach their seats, which gave a bird's-eye view of the stage from the balcony. As the lights dimmed and the show began, the D.A. students were immediately awed by the special effects. From disappearances to ghosts to breathtaking visuals, the show was filled with oohs and aaahs! Within the whispers of D.A. students, you could constantly hear, “How did he do that?!” or “What? Where could she *possibly* have gone?” To many, this was the highlight of the show. Truly, it was unlike any other Broadway experience. Although the entirety of the performance was three hours, one would never know. It seemed to fly by, like a Time-Turner had spun away the hours!

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is also a story well-known to most, if not all, D.A. students. The Harry Potter series was a staple in the childhoods of Gen-Z, especially for our student body, who certainly spent lots of time reading in their childhood! As a result, seeing Harry Potter on Broadway was even more meaningful, as it brought back countless memories. Some students even brought Harry Potter robes to the play to become fully immersed in the experience!

Overall, this spring’s School in the City experience was an unforgettable one. It is a cherished way to leap right into spring



and start the close of the school year off with a relaxing day shared with friends. D.A. looks forward to continuing this tradition for years to come!



Beyond the Books: Sophomores Explore the Stories of the Morgan Library

By Mara L.

On Wednesday, April 9th, Dominican Academy sophomores stepped out of the classroom and into a piece of New York’s architectural history during a visit to the Morgan Library & Museum. The trip, part of D.A.’s School in the City program, was centered around the museum’s “Reading a Building” experience—a guided exploration of how architecture can tell stories of the past.

Walking through its grand entrance, we were clearly stepping into a different world — a world where every wall, ceiling, and corridor seemed to whisper stories of the past. The "Reading a Building" program took place in the museum’s original library

building, built for financier and collector J.P. Morgan. Our guides encouraged us to look at the building not just as visitors, but as detectives, seeking out small details in the architecture and uncovering the stories behind them.

As we strolled through the halls, our guides pointed out details we had completely overlooked at first glance: the classical columns, the faded paintings, and the subtle symbolism hidden in the stonework. The program encouraged us to look closely at architectural details—such as carvings and materials—and consider what these choices reveal about the time period, the building’s purpose, and the people who created it. Inside the opulent interiors of the library, vaulted ceilings soared above us, their arches echoing faint footsteps, while vibrant mosaics of historical figures and mythological scenes glittered in the ambient light like embedded jewels. The wood-paneled walls were lined with glass-fronted bookcases cradling rare volumes and handwritten manuscripts, concealing the mysterious secret staircases behind them. The smell of old leather bindings and polished wood filled the air. Light filtered in through the stained glass windows, bathing the room in warm light. It was the kind of room where you instinctively spoke in whispers, surrounded by centuries of knowledge. Educators emphasized how these elements were not just aesthetic choices but intentional expressions of wealth, power, and intellectual prestige during the Gilded Age.



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One of the highlights was Morgan’s private study, a room filled with rich red velvet, gilded accents, and heavy wooden furniture. As we stood beneath a faded Renaissance ceiling imported from Florence, we learned that the study had been a center of power in its day, where Morgan conducted crucial business meetings and negotiated major financial deals.

The visit offered a rare opportunity for students to experience firsthand how buildings reflect cultural and historical values. Rather than reading about the Gilded Age in textbooks, we stood in the lavishly decorated rooms that once hosted conversations with some of the most influential figures of the early 20th century. We were fortunate to see the Gutenberg Bible, one of only a few surviving copies of the first major book printed using movable type in Europe. This Bible marked the beginning of the age of mass communication and played a pivotal role in the spread of knowledge during the Renaissance. It was hard not to feel a sense of reverence standing in front of such a monumental piece of history. The pages, yellowed with age, seemed to carry the weight of the old book’s history.

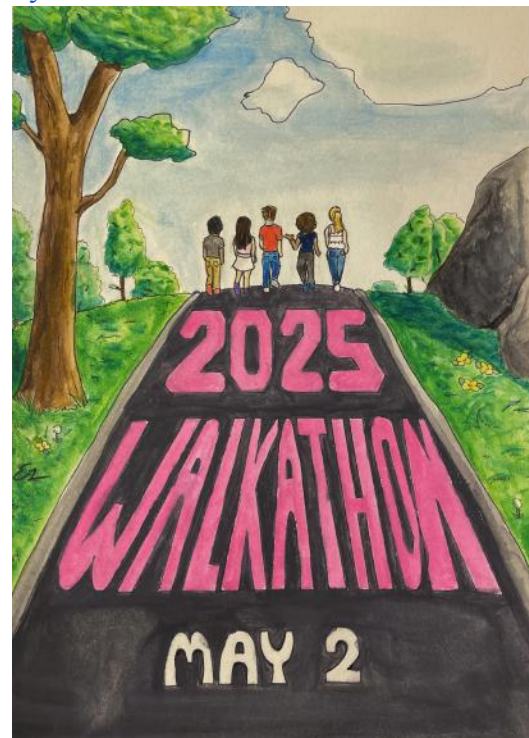
For many students, the day offered a new way of engaging with their city. “It was surprisingly interesting,” shared sophomore Katerina S. “I loved how intricate the building was and how the tour guides pointed out every little detail.”

Buildings that had previously seemed like silent blocks of stone suddenly came alive with meaning, symbolism, and

hidden stories. It was an eye-opening reminder that New York is not only a city of skyscrapers and subways, but also one of layered histories and cultural landmarks waiting to be explored. Trips like these remind us that history is not just something you read about — it is something you can walk through, touch, and, if you pay close enough attention, even hear whispering from the walls.

A Tradition of Connection and Collaboration: D.A. and Regis’ Annual Walkathon

By Iris M.



Artwork by Eileen L.



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On Friday, May 2nd, D.A. and Regis held their annual joint Walkathon. D.A. has partnered with its brother school, Regis, to arrange this annual event since 1986, and it has become a highlight of every school year and a D.A. tradition. Organized through the collaboration of faculty and Student Council members from each school, the Walkathon offers students from D.A. and Regis the opportunity to interact with one another during the long walk through Central Park and the light-hearted festivities held at the Regis campus afterwards.

The Walkathon is not only an opportunity for students to take a break from a rigorous school week, but a fundraising event as well. Each student was encouraged to donate \$150 through MyFunRun.com. Through the Walkathon fundraiser, D.A. raised \$26,340 of its target of \$34,000, and a percentage of the proceeds will go towards replacing the signature red carpet in D.A.'s lobby and on the stairs that greets each student as they walk through the school's doors every morning.

All D.A. sophomores attended a mandatory PSAT-prep course in the D.A. auditorium before leaving for Regis to kick off the fun-filled day. Upperclassmen arrived by 10:30 A.M. and departed on the walk at 10:45 A.M., while the underclassmen had a later arrival time of 11:15 and departed at 11:30. Both schools proudly sang their songs at separate assemblies for the upper- and underclassmen that also featured appearances by Dominic and the Owl, the school mascots, and speeches from StuCo members, Dr. Petit,

and Regis's Mr. Mariano before leaving for the walk. Blessed by sunny, warm weather, students entered Central Park at 84th Street and enjoyed a scenic walk through the luscious green foliage and the sweet-smelling flowers that had begun to bloom around the park. While most students stayed with their friends, some mixed and mingled with people from the opposite school as everyone followed a chalked route past various Central Park landmarks like the whimsical *Alice in Wonderland* sculpture and the Great Lawn.

After the refreshing, hour-long walk concluded, students returned to Regis in order to participate in the numerous festivities. As the temperature outside began to rise and all clouds cleared away, Student Council members from both schools prepared and served a scrumptious barbeque lunch of hot dogs and cheeseburgers in the direct sunlight. Fluffy, pink cotton candy made with Regis's very own cotton candy machine was served as a sweet treat. The D.A. girls lost in an intense and chaotic kickball tournament in the gymnasium, but they never gave up. And although the D.A. fans were outnumbered by the Regians, their spirited shouts of "Go D.A.!" never ceased. Mary S. '28 says, "I had so much fun at kickball this year and I encourage more people from D.A. to participate next year!" Another fan-favorite event was the dunk tank in the quad. I laughed with my friends while watching from a window inside the school as Mr. Ponce in his pink swim cap and goggles and Dr. Cagney in his "Pool Security" t-shirt were dunked into the



freezing water. These carefree festivities, which also included spikeball, Just Dance, karaoke, ping pong, and more, encouraged students to interact with existing friends or make new ones. Annie M. '25, Student Council co-president, who was on the board to organize the event, explains how the different festivities of Walkathon help D.A. and Regis forge stronger connections, saying, "It's a little silly when you think about it, but it creates a shared experience that can be really fun if you lean into it. Giving people the opportunity to just relax and have some fun for a day, even if it is awkward because there are so many people you don't know, helps everyone to connect."

The Walkathon reflects the hard work, dedication, and collaboration of both D.A. and Regis' administrations, Student Councils, faculties, financial departments, and D.A.'s Spirit Team. Before the event, D.A.'s Walkathon board participated in weekly Zoom calls with Regis to organize the event's details. Ms. Reardon and Dr. Serpagli were the main faculty organizers from D.A. On the collaboration and communication necessary to orchestrate the Walkathon, Annie M. says, "Everyone brings different ideas and skills, and the intersection of these visions makes the Walkathon the best it can be."

As I reflect on my second of four Walkathons I will experience at D.A., I think about how lucky I am to go to school in an environment that allows for events like these and for all of the hard work put towards making the Walkathon a reality. Yes, the Walkathon, at times, can be awkward, but I

know that ten years from now, I won't remember the awkwardness but will think back to the time I spent laughing and exploring with my best friends.

What Hate Has Done: The Freshman School in the City Experience

By Alice M.

On April 9, the freshman class toured an enlightening but appalling exhibit called "*The Holocaust: What Hate Can Do*" from the Jewish Heritage Museum. Since starting *Night* by Elie Wiesel in Ms. Spelman's English class, we have been asking many questions about what led to the Holocaust, why it happened, and what gave it the power to start at all. To answer many of the freshman class's questions and have a thorough understanding of the Holocaust, Ms. Spelman brought us to the Jewish Heritage Museum. There, we would learn that through propaganda, an economic depression, dehumanizing laws, and murder, the Holocaust became one of the deadliest genocides in history.

The first thing seen when entering the exhibit was a tunnel of darkness. It was pitch dark save the light from the black and white photos of numerous people. Every single picture told a different story. I distinctly remember a photo of a four-year-old child on a tricycle. Another was a young girl, around three years old, walking the streets of Luxembourg on vacation. Both of these photos were candid moments in life when children were just starting to find skills and see the beauty of



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an unknown country. The innocence of each photo struck me. I found that my eyes kept going back to them. Every photo on the walls was different, and each photo encapsulated the life of every person featured to show the variety of people and lives affected by the Holocaust. I found myself mesmerized by the different smiles and poses. One was serious, the other laughing. Some showed the picture of a full family and life, while the others showed young children only just starting to explore the world. Our knowledgeable tour guide made sure we all could peek at every photo and take a look at others' lives. Then our tour guide, John, said, "Each one of these photos shows different people in different places around the world leading different lives, and yet they are all connected to each other as victims of the Holocaust."

As we continued on through the museum, we were shown the rooms that explained the propaganda of anti-Semitism. The first artifacts were three postcards, each putting forth a racial stereotype of the Jewish people. Each postcard would have been designed, manufactured and sold with the explicit purpose and intent of perpetuating these stereotypes. The cards were considered humorous. When our tour guide asked where we believed these cards originated, we all sat quietly considering the question. I found myself first thinking it was Germany, because of the history of anti-Semitism in the country. However, each postcard was created and sold in the United States in the early 1900s. We learned an important lesson before truly learning about

the Holocaust: The hate that was spread in Nazi Germany was not isolated to one place. This antagonism, spread throughout the world, was not a new ideology. Afterwards, we were shown the propaganda from Germany. From postcards to children's books, the Nazis used all sources of literature and entertainment to push their ideologies. While walking through the exhibit, posters, board games, movies, books, and even toys demonstrated the many examples of anti-Semitic propaganda. The two that stood out most to me were a small poster of a monkey playing a saxophone with a yellow star on his lapel and a children's book called *The Poisonous Mushroom*, which had a photo of a mushroom with a big nose on the cover. The first poster was meant to portray an African American and Jewish jazz musician, creating the image that both people of color and Jews were less than human. The children's book, written by an elementary school teacher, was placed in classrooms and homes of German children. This book promoted racist stereotypes, particularly by using the facial characteristics of Jews, and encouraged kids to hate Jewish citizens. To see a book so full of hate presented to young children was frightening. It was chilling how easily everyday items could be twisted to spread hate and harmful words. And the next part of the exhibit further highlighted the isolation and dehumanization of the Jewish people.

The Jewish name law was not something with which I was familiar. So when our tour guide brought us to displays



showing the passport of a young woman, I saw that an edit in black ink had been made on the paper to include the name "Sara" in the middle of the woman's name. The Jewish name law required every Jewish person to have a distinct Jewish name, and if the person did not, then the name "Sara" (for females) or "Israel" (for males) was inserted as his or her middle name. It was another way to permanently separate Jews from the rest of the German population. A timeline displayed an onslaught of German laws to continue to isolate the Jewish people: Jews could no longer be doctors or lawyers; Jews ages 10 and up had to wear an identifying yellow star; Jews were refused service. Soon, the hatred and violence grew.

By then, hundreds of thousands of people had fled or tried to flee Germany. Some were successful while others had problems being accepted into other countries. Many countries denied Jewish people entry or set a quota. The Dominican Republic promised to let many Jewish refugees in, but in the end accepted less than 300. That was still more than any other country. It was horrifying to hear how so many people were unable to leave. However, the most successful exodus saved 10,000 children on the Kindertransport and brought Jewish children to stay in homes in Great Britain. A haunting quote on a video screen that showed children leaving underscored how this initially temporary solution came to be permanent: "I was told I would see my parents by fall, but fall never came."

At the start of the second floor of the exhibit inside the museum, we were crammed into a room the size of the cattle cars the Nazi's used to transport people from the ghettos to the concentration camps. As a group of sixteen, we were already crowded, and yet around 60 people were forced into cars of the same size. As we went through the exhibit, we saw walls of children posing for photos. They were prisoners, many frightened. Six million Jewish people were killed in these camps, many of whom were children, mothers, and the elderly, who were killed upon arrival in the gas chambers. Photos show prisoners moving the bodies of their own friends and families into the crematoria. Although I learned about the Holocaust in middle school and through books, every time I see another picture or learn another story about the people who suffered, it reminds me again of the tragedy that occurred during this time. We walked around the exhibit, reading about people who used their talents in metalworking, art, music, and so much more to survive. As we reached the end of the exhibit, we remembered those who survived and those who did not.

The most powerful display I saw was a pillar with newspaper articles from Great Britain and the United States. These articles were about the genocide of the Jewish people, and were dated during the time it happened. It was shocking to see that other countries had known about the thousands of people being killed everyday by the Nazi party and yet remained silent. Even now, many still insist that they had no idea. This



fact makes it even more important to speak out for others and try to help those who may not be heard.

At the end of the exhibit, there was a tunnel of light. White walls surrounded us as we walked through, looking at both color and black and white photos. The color pictures showed happy families on birthdays, both the young and the old celebrating and posing proudly. These were photos of survivors of the Holocaust as they enjoyed their families and found the good in everyday life. The black and white photos were a remembrance of those who had not survived. It was inspiring to see survivors who found the strength to rebuild their lives after everything had been stripped away from them. It was even more poignant to see the faces of those who could not carry on with their lives.

At the end of the tunnel, our tour guide had told us to remember what hate could do, the harm that it triggers, and how love and respect can make all the difference in helping the world. After we had all left the museum, I found myself reflecting on what I had learned. It sat heavy in my soul, all the sadness and harm that had occurred. I think many of us found ourselves silently reflecting on our morning at the museum. To lead with love and kindness is to change the world for the better, one positive act at a time.

Learning from the First: FIYA's Panelist Event

By Elnaz M.

On April 7th, the First Generation Immigrant Youth Advocacy Club (FIYA) hosted a panel event where guest speakers who are first generation in their respective fields came to enlighten participants on their knowledge and experience. All students were welcomed.

As I walked into Room 4, I saw three women: Mary Hom, Jonaki Singh, and Honorable Betsey Jean-Jaques. Mary Hom, Ms. Oing's mother, is the Chief Risk Officer at the New York Housing Development Corporation. This corporation aims to increase the supply of multi-family housing, stimulate economic growth, and revitalize neighborhoods by financing the creation and preservation of affordable housing in New York. Ms. Hom was born in the Bronx to parents who immigrated from China. Jonaki Singh is a lawyer at Kramer Levin and works in the litigation department. She also enjoys giving back to the community through pro bono work, which is professional work done voluntarily and free to the client. Her parents immigrated to the United States from India. Lastly, the Honorable Betsey Jean-Jacques is president of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Kings County. She was also elected to the Kings County Civil Court, and her parents immigrated from Haiti after Martin Luther King Jr. died. I was about to sit down when I saw that they had brought gifts for the students. I was astonished by their generosity and thankful for what they did.



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Some of the gifts included a hat, a reusable bag, a sack, and pens.

The first question asked of the guests was about the challenges they faced when coming to the United States. Ms. Hom said that when her parents immigrated, they did not speak English, so she was responsible for translating what others said or completing forms for her parents. Chinese children are taught to be quiet and not speak much. I could understand, therefore, why interviews were so difficult for her. Finding a job was also difficult because of the way people perceived her. Ms. Hom said, “When people look at me, I am always a foreigner.” People would judge her based on her looks and ignore her true character.

Ms. Singh told us, “The knowledge gap is definitely challenging.” Both her parents were scientists, and when she wanted to become a lawyer, there was no one to guide her. However, she did not let this discourage her from succeeding as she told us, “Being first generation is a superpower. It makes you empathetic, and you see the world in a new way.” How inspirational! Ms. Singh decided to do pro bono work because she knew many people do not have the means to find a lawyer, and she wanted to help those who could not access legal services.

The Honorable Jean-Jacques remarked how it was difficult dealing with American values compared to her own parents’ values. When she started high school, her parents believed that after-school activities were an excuse to hang out with friends. Furthermore, her parents worried

about her speaking English with an accent, so Jean-Jacques only spoke English at home. She often experienced people making assumptions based on her looks. Moreover, when she was a little girl, Jean-Jacques wanted to be a ballerina, but she realized that she did not have good feet. In fifth grade, she watched a video in school about the judicial system, and she knew she wanted to be a lawyer. Throughout her youth, she considered occupations of scientist, engineer, psychologist, and journalist, but law always stuck with her. This was always her passion, and she said, “I make sure I am treating others fairly and that they are being heard.”

To conclude the event, the speakers shared one piece of advice they would tell their younger selves. Ms. Hom said, “Explore anything thrown at you because you never know what you will be interested in.” She grew up in poverty, and her parents wanted her to focus on a career that would put food on the table, so Ms. Hom did not have the opportunity to explore her interests. Ms. Singh said, “Never be afraid to ask the questions you have. That is how you grow and put yourself out there.” Jean-Jacques stated, “The difference between a hero and a coward is that the hero overcomes her fear.” She added to this by saying that in life, people will say no to you, but you should not be afraid to persevere nonetheless.

FIYA’s panel event offered valuable insights from first-generation professionals, and those who attended had the opportunity to engage with them. As a first-generation student myself, I related to what the



speakers said. I found their words to be inspirational and motivating. Similar to them, I have had to undertake more responsibilities, especially recently when I was trying to choose what high school I wanted to attend. My parents were unaware of the exams I needed to take or what schools would fit me best. Sometimes, their traditions and values can make it tough to connect with friends or do what others do. It feels as though there is a gap between my home life and my school life. Hearing the speakers talk about facing similar challenges made me feel understood. We share this unspoken experience of trying to fit in while also staying true to our roots. Their journeys showed me that even though it is not always easy, it is possible to find your way and succeed.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Little Women: From Behind the Curtain

By Sophie N.

It is 3:00 p.m. sharp on April 3rd. For the average D.A. student, it is time to embark on their after-school commute home, but for the Drama Club, showtime is drawing near. Since the beginning of October, the Drama Club has been working hard to perfect their yearly production. From the early days of searching for an ideal show, through the extensive audition process and biweekly rehearsals filled with blocking and recitation, to the moments before open dress rehearsal, the Dominican Academy

Playhouse proves to be not just a routine club but a found family.

The second floor is abuzz with excited anticipation mixed with a healthy amount of nerves. In the Auditorium, crew members and the cast transform the empty stage into a 19th-century cottage. In the MPR, the cast becomes their Civil War era characters by helping each other rehearse lines and scenes. In the center of the action, on the Mezzanine, adoring friends and faculty stay after hours to watch the very first performance of *Little Women*, a six-month-long labor of love.

This stage play of the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott tells the story we all know and love. The play by Marisha Chamberlain follows four sisters: Jo March (Nicole L. '26), Beth March (Mae C. '25), Meg March (Jaida C. '25), and Amy March (Nora W. '27) and the trials and tribulations that come with being a poverty-stricken family during the Civil War. The heart and soul of the show is unconditional love among a community, and the cast and crew have implemented this message into every aspect of this production.

Just as Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth rely on each other throughout struggles and celebrations, the members of the Drama Club have adopted this unwavering love for one another as their respective characters and behind the curtains. Whether it was productive Saturday rehearsals, laughs from doing backstage time lapses and perfecting a scene with a wind-up rat, or lunch breaks at Panda Express and McDonald's, every member had taken their final bow on closing



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night with countless memories and appreciation for their fellow thespians. Nora shared her experience on forming bonds with those in and outside of her grade, saying, “This production has taught me that even though we might not all be the same age and experiencing the same things, when we come to Drama Club we can all be ourselves and just have a fun time together doing what we love.”

Of course, the Drama Club would not be the same without our persistent director, junior Emily Wieler. Although this is her first year directing a large-scale show, she has taken full initiative in both moderating and being a tireless leader. From running scenes over and over again to extending rehearsals to perfect precise details, it is clear that Emily puts her all into her craft and truly wants everyone involved to be pushed to their highest potential. When asked about the directing process, Emily said, “The process was very gratifying for me. I had an amazing cast and crew. Everyone was so talented and supportive, and worked together extremely well. Managing has taught me to be open to new ideas and to trust the process. The cast and crew reminded me every day of their talents and creativity. They had great ideas for action choices and set pieces the whole time, and I am so proud of everyone!”

In her second time moderating Drama Club, Ms. Cerulli has gone above and beyond to expand the cast membership and to involve other D.A. clubs. A notable club collaboration was when the Knitting and Crocheting Club taught the cast how to

crochet, which immersed the audience as well as the actresses into the time period (and was a fun break from rehearsal!). Ms. Oing, as a first-time moderator, brought an abundance of innovation and creativity to the stage. She spearheaded a brand new tech crew, mapped out an impressive diagram of the D.A. Auditorium for set building, and started a sentimental and sweet new tradition: stargrams. She had told the club, “This was a beloved tradition when I did theater in college, and I hope you all will enjoy it too.” Before the show and during intermission, friends and family can purchase a candygram with a handwritten message to any actress or crew member. After every show, the appreciation and gratitude the cast and crew felt for those who love them was unforgettable.

After months of preparation, four excellent shows came into fruition and wowed those who watched - and we could not have done it without each other. A special thanks to Mr. Chen, Mr. Frederick, Sr. Joan, and Mr. Doyle for assisting with set pieces, sound design, and intensive rehearsal schedules. *Little Women* has definitely been the most fruitful and supportive production yet, and there is more to come next year!

D.A.'s International Culture Day

By Nora W.

On April 16th, the D.A. community hosted our annual International Culture Day at St. John's gym. Students and faculty were exposed to the traditions and cultures of many different countries. A day filled with



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performing, dancing, singing, and creativity provided entertainment for all!

As the day kicked off, Campus Ministry led everyone in the Stations of the Cross in preparation for Easter. After each station, students discussed real-world problems today that relate to issues faced during Jesus' time. Next up, we heard from students who had participated in previous Spain and China Exchange Programs. Their experiences provided insight into living in a foreign country with a host family, including some of the culture shock they faced. It was interesting to learn about the close bonds formed between host families and D.A. students. As a French student, the presentation motivated me to consider doing the program next summer.

Next, the Culture Day performances began! Glee Club sang "Siyahamba," a Christian Zulu song from South Africa, and "Ikan Kekek," a Malaysian traditional folk song. Seniors Olivia C. and Cindy C. - fan favorites - sang "逆光" or in English, "Against the Light" by Stephanie Sung, a song about maintaining perseverance no matter what struggles come your way. Even though they sang in Chinese, I felt and understood the strength and emotion conveyed. I felt transported to China and felt sad when it ended. Another great performance included the Senior Ensemble's rendition of "Edelweiss" from "The Sound of Music" written by Rodgers and Hammerstein. An edelweiss is a white flower found in the Alps. In German, "edelweiss" means "noble and wise", and this flower represents courage and noble

purity. The song is an Austrian hymn that acts as a protest song in the movie's characterization of the Nazi annexation of Austria. This beautiful song was perfect for an A Cappella group, and its performance was magnificent.

Not to be outdone by the vocalists, the dancers brought it on Culture Day! Ysabela S. and Enza C. '27 performed a Filipino dance called Tinikling. Tinikling is a folk dance originating during the Spanish colonial era that copies the movement of birds as they walk on grass or dodge the bamboo traps. I was on the edge of my seat as I watched. They moved like birds: quick on their feet and fast-paced, but at the same time elegant and free. As birds move and work together in nature, Ysabela and Enza worked together to make the dance beautiful and fun. It was breathtaking to witness. In another rousing performance, Izzy P. '26 introduced us to Ska, a dance originating in Jamaica and eventually migrating into England. She led a group of volunteers in a circle as everyone waved their fists back and forth and jigged to the music. Everyone cheered and smiled at the fun and joyful celebration of Jamaican culture.

D.A. Green '97 performed the Irish songs "Sean South" and "Foggy Dew." These songs depict the struggles of Irish people during times of violence and war. However, it is a message of faith and hope for one's country. Green '97 included Lily S. '25 and myself as vocalist, Eileen W. '27 on the violin, Helen O. and Izzy P. '26 on the tin whistle, Mary S. '28 on the viola, and Eabha P. '26 on the Irish flute. I'll admit that



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it was a little nerve-racking to perform in front of such a huge audience, but the D.A. community's encouragement and support made it much easier.

Last, but certainly not least, was the S.O.C.A., or the Students of Color Alliance, fashion show. I was amazed by the beauty of all the traditional styles of clothing from around the world. There were many amazing outfits, but Jarisbel E. '25's representation of the Dominican Republic stood out to me. As she modeled her gorgeous white dress, played her hand-held drums, and waved the Dominican Republic flag, she expressed pride and love of her culture which made the fashion show captivating to watch.

Thank you to all the performers for an amazing International Culture Day! If you would like to share your culture, I encourage you to perform next year to share your knowledge and traditions with the rest of D.A. Our cultures are a part of who we are, and I am thankful that we get to share them together.



Le Grand Concours Medal Winners

Congratulations to all our French students who participated in the National French Contest, also known as Le Grand Concours. This is an annual competition where French students in grades 1-12, in all 50 states and abroad, take a written exam and compete against students of similar educational background for prizes. This year, sophomore Camila Martinez Valencia won the coveted Platinum Medal, the highest award in Le Grand Concours.



Platinum Medal Winner, Camila, with the beloved Little Prince.

Platinum Medal
Camila Martinez Valencia



Gold Medal

Melissa Barbuit
Fiona Brennan
Emilianna Gonzalez

Bronze Medal

Zoe Bloor
Jaidaly Cruz
Nailah East
Lucy Packer
Eileen Serton
Noreen White

Silver Medal

Veronica Aliaga Vanderdys
Giada Brigode
Giovanna Buoninfante
Olivia Chin
Maya Faughnan
Nina McAfee
Helen O'Sullivan
Stella Pyrovolakis
Hailey Rodriguez
Vivienne Sercaru
Nora Wagner

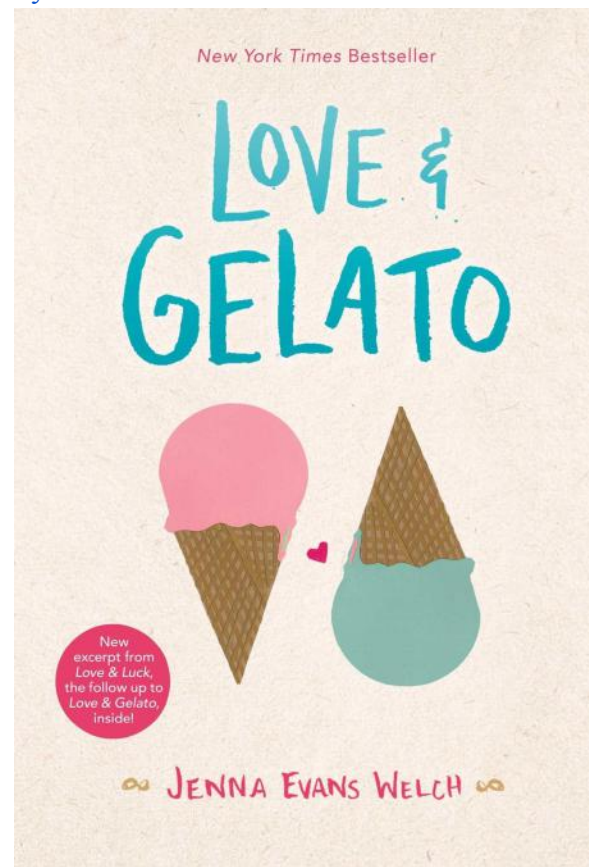
Honorable Mention

Elizabeth Bright
Siena DiNardo
Dominique Flordeliza
Katharine Kalandadze
Margarethe Kelly
Tammy Lee
Genevieve Mechler
Keira Unger

COLUMNS

Book Review: A One-Way Ticket to an Italian Summer Adventure

By Ana D.



Book of the Issue: *Love and Gelato* by Jenna Evans Welch

Rating:

As the temperature rises and students enjoy a relaxed environment during Easter Break, summer seems increasingly closer on the horizon. Itching for a light summer romance book, I decided to give *Love and*



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Gelato a chance. I must admit that every time *Love and Gelato* was recommended to me, I was instantly put off by its seemingly cheesy nature. But I have certainly learned not to judge a book by its cover.

Although *Love and Gelato* is a romantic fiction, it is first and foremost a story about a 16-year-old girl who longs to uncover the mystery of her mother's adventurous past. Lina, the protagonist, is presented with an opportunity to relive her mother's life-changing experience in one of the most picturesque cities in Europe through a journal her mother had left her. While Lina learns more about her parents, she meets charming Lorenzo, who helps her explore Florence and experience Italy as her mother did. To make matters more intriguing, the jaw-droppingly beautiful Thomas Heath, the British love interest, enters the picture. As Lina learns to love Italy through the eyes of her mother at a similar age, she also gains a sense of adventure as she explores the city with her new friends.

Love and Gelato is an excellent novel for any reader who prefers not to commit to lengthy and intense books. It is the perfect work of fiction for people who are looking to jump back into reading regularly but are unsure where to start. Author Jenna Evans Welch does a phenomenal job of setting scenes; at times, it felt as if I was zipping through the streets of Florence on Lorenzo's moped and eating a gelato with Lina for the first time. By the end of the book I was reading twice as fast at the edge of my seat to discover the

ending. As exam season creeps upon us, a laid-back and easy-to-read fictional work set during an Italian summer is a sure way to ease nerves. *Love and Gelato* may seem like another predictable love story, but the complexity of Lina's personal struggles to understand her mother whilst enjoying the landscape of Florence and the Italian countryside makes it a worthwhile read. If you enjoy reading *Love and Gelato*, you have the opportunity to indulge in more stories like Lina's, as it is the first book of a trilogy.



Do you have any favorite fun romance novels? Let me know your comments or recommendations by emailing me at adelgado2026@dominicanacademy.org.

Summer Book List

By Ana D.

Whether your summer plans include taking in the sun on a bright tropical beach or bed-rotting at home, I hope that you have a restful summer with at least one incredible literary adventure. Here I have listed a few books that may help on your scholastic summer escapes.



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Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins

The second prequel to the Hunger Games series, this dystopian fiction novel takes a closer look at Haymitch Abernathy, the year he participates in the 50th Hunger Games. I've heard wonderful things about this novel; though, for the past month, it has been impossible to get a physical copy. From what I've read, *Sunrise on the Reaping* seems like an immersive read with impeccable imagery, just like the rest of the Hunger Games series.

The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han

Though it is against a personal rule of mine, I must admit that I watched the Netflix show before I realized there was a book trilogy. *The Summer I Turned Pretty* is a drama-packed story about Belly, a 16-year-old girl who visits her family friend's beach house every summer and reconnects with her childhood friends Conrad and Jeremiah. Only this summer, Conrad and Jeremiah may want more than just friendship. This light and easy read is perfect for summer, though it has been mentioned that the novel can't get overly cheesy and predictable.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

Set in the marshes of North Carolina in 1969, the rumored "Marsh Girl" is suspected of murder. Kya, the alleged murderer, tells us the story of her life before the murder and how she came to grow up, love, and live in the beautiful but violent swamp alone. I read this thought-provoking novel two years ago and believed it was a

great story. But occasionally, one that makes you skip a few pages to get to the good part.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

A classic well-known for its emotional nature, this semi-autobiography, written in 1943, follows Betty Smith's life in the slums of Williamsburg. I've only heard spectacular recommendations for this book, which has been on my to-read list for quite some time.

The Pachinko Parlor by Elisa Shua Dusapin

Another phenomenal book on my to-read list, *The Pachinko Parlor*, explores the fictional life of Claire, who visits her grandparents living in Tokyo for the summer. The novel has proved to be quite an eye-opening story that explores deeper themes such as loneliness and unspoken histories of families.

***Upper Eats Side - Food Review:
Green Kitchen***

By Vivienne S.

Rating: 

The Pantone Color of 2017 was Greenery — a fresh, zesty, yellow-green shade that screamed springtime. While D.A. mostly stuck to its familiar blue and gold favorites, the announcement sparked a trend: Decorators everywhere embraced the nature-inspired color in the cook's room. Kitchens across the country suddenly featured new green tiles, cupboards brushed in olive tones, and lighting fixtures glowing with emerald hues. Unfortunately, they were



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a little late to the party. Turns out, this kitchen has been green since 1931.

Green Kitchen was established by an Irish immigrant who decorated the kitchen in bright green tiles, giving the diner its name. The restaurant has been continuously operating since then, and the current owners took over about twenty years ago. Green Kitchen now boasts not one but two locations on the Upper East Side. Once the bell rings at three o'clock, you can decide whether to venture north or south. One spot sits on the corner of 84th Street and Second Avenue; the other, at 70th and Second. Growing up, I thought being stuck in the corner was a bad thing, but this pair seems to like it there.

The place is an upscale version of a diner, maintaining a traditional, comfortable, and friendly atmosphere while incorporating modern, more refined elements. The open kitchen area and counter seating harken back to its diner roots, while the clean lines and contemporary touches bring in the urban feel. From the moment you step through the doors, there is a warmth to the place that's hard to come by in this busy neighborhood — whether it is the friendly greeting from the host, the hum of conversation in the background, or the comforting aroma of baked bread and hearty soups. You are welcomed into a clean, well-lit space with large front windows that flood the interior with incredible natural light. The color palette leans into soft neutral tones, dark wood finishes, and subtle green accents, from pine-colored tiles to pastel throw pillows and scattered plants, a nod to the

restaurant's name and health-conscious ethos.

There is a mix of cozy booths and well-spaced tables. The seating is comfortable, and everything feels thoughtfully arranged to keep the space open yet intimate. Overhead is soft lighting. All around are framed vintage prints and small potted plants, which add personality without cluttering the environment. It is the perfect spot for a relaxed breakfast on a late-arrival morning, a fun lunch with friends after school, or a quiet dinner following a long week of tests.

The menu is extensive without being overwhelming, and the prices are surprisingly affordable for its location. It is a great choice if you're indecisive or afraid of commitment and not quite sure what cuisine, course, or meal of the day you're craving. Whether you want a classic New York diner breakfast, a healthy salad, a light sandwich, or a satisfying burger, you'll find it here. The portions are generous and the ingredients fresh.

The person I dined with ordered the "All American Burger" (American cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomato & fried onions, served with French fries), and I chose the steak frites (sliced ribeye steak, au poivre peppercorn sauce, hand-cut Cajun French fries). A burger is a standout comfort food, and Green Kitchen did not just play it safe; they went above and beyond. First of all, it was enormous. I could not tell if it was lunch or a challenge. You get your money's worth: stacked high with toppings and served on soft yet sturdy buns to hold it all



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together. The patty itself was thick, juicy, and flavorful, cooked exactly as requested, with simple but intentional seasoning that brought out that rich, savory beefiness. If you like to be extra with your beef accessories, they offer creative versions and add-ons (like avocado, bacon, or mushroom-swiss).

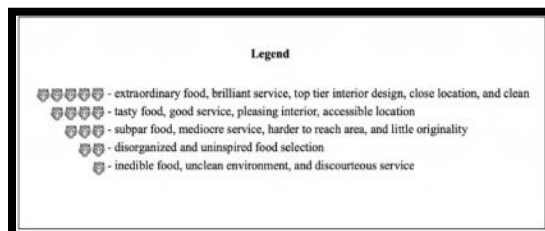


Similarly, the steak was exactly what I look for when I am craving a substantial meal without heading to a formal steakhouse. Cooked to your preference (and yes, they *actually* get it right, as anyone who has eaten meat cooked by someone who can't read a thermometer will feel my excitement), it was juicy and flavorful with a nice sear on the outside for that fan-favorite

char. It is served with crisp, golden fries dusted in Cajun seasoning, or a side salad if you're watching your summer body. The steak's seasoning was simple but effective: salt, pepper, and a sprinkle of parsley for a touch of flair (and because they really love green accents). I believe there is no need to overdress classic steak frites when just a helping hand in seasoning and cooking precision will allow the quality of the meat to shine. The peppercorn sauce on the side added a special, exciting twist to the flavor profile that I really enjoyed.

Service is another major highlight. The staff was attentive, polite, and efficient without rushing me as I read each description of the many options, shamelessly imagining myself eating each one as part of my foolproof decision process.

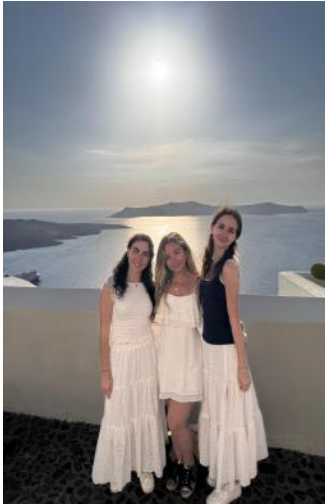
According to Upper East Side friends of mine, this restaurant is their go-to spot in the city, and for good reason. It is not very often I deem a location worthy of five tiger tokens, but Green Kitchen's ensemble of good prices, amazing food, thoughtful design, and comforting service convinced me. In a neighborhood that's constantly evolving, it is refreshing to find a place that feels grounded, reliable, and genuinely welcoming. It is a cornerstone of the Upper East Side dining scene, and two corners definitely worth visiting.





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D.A. IN PHOTOS
Easter Break Trip to Greece



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International Culture Day



Last Day of Classes - Senior Video



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Athletic Banquet and Awards Ceremony





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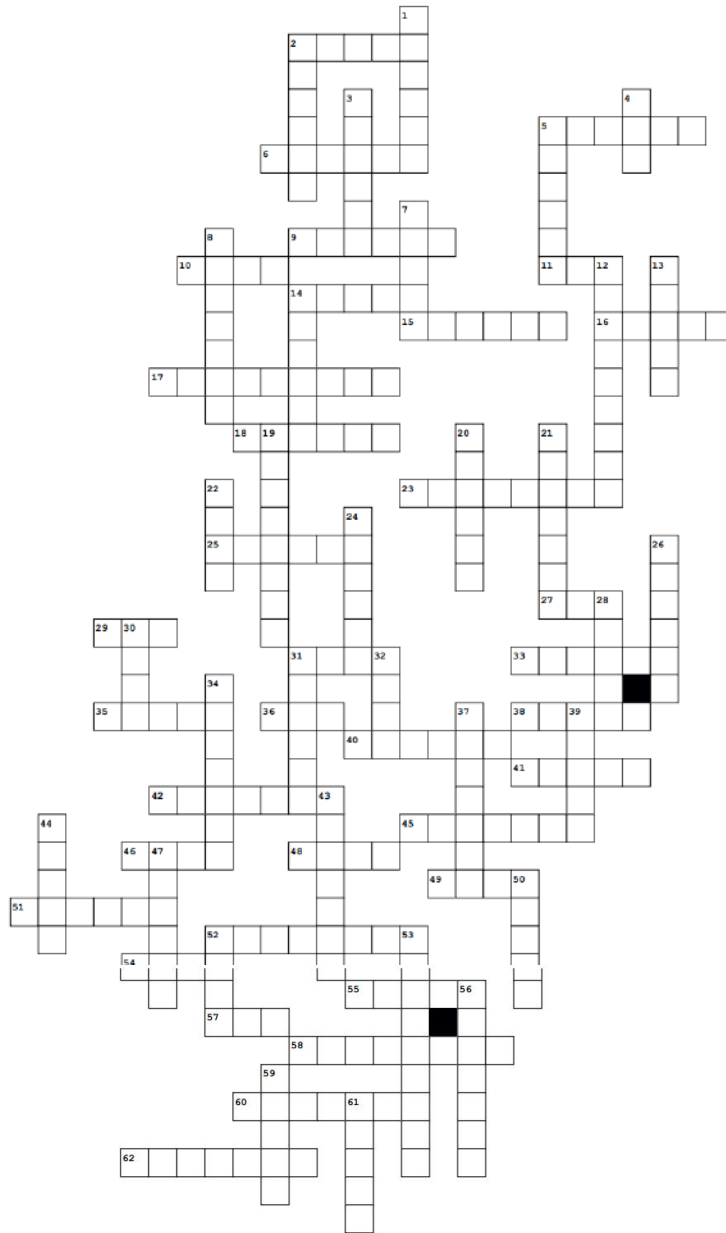


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Crossword - A Class of '25 Fun Fact Special





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Across

2. This senior's last name involves a certain season...
5. This senior has gray hair
6. This senior is co-captain of the varsity soccer team
9. This senior is Greek
10. This senior is an avid hockey player
11. This senior has a fake tooth
14. This senior loves danny phantom
15. This senior is the lead singer for D.A.'s very own band: DaCapo!
16. This senior is obsessed with Tetris.
17. This senior loves milk
18. This senior has a younger sister who attends D.A. as a current sophomore
23. This senior committed to run at Hamilton!
25. This senior loves Takis and Sprite.
27. This senior was stranded in London for two weeks
29. This senior is an avid dancer and fashionista.
31. A This senior loves Mexican food
33. This senior lives on Long Island
35. This senior has performed two original songs at DA coffee houses
36. This senior did a summer program at Sloan Kettering
38. This senior lived in Canada for around a year
40. This senior has an older sister who graduated from D.A. in 2023
41. This senior can put her foot behind her head
42. This senior has been interviewed by the New York Times

Down

1. This senior lives in West New York
2. This senior plays the fiddle
3. This senior loves Blank Street.
4. This senior plays Volleyball both for and outside of D.A!
5. This senior is an editor on the school newspaper
7. This senior loves matcha
8. This senior was a child chess prodigy
12. This senior is about to become Hollywood's biggest screenwriter!
13. This senior hates running, so she joined the swim team freshman year
14. This senior has lived in both NJ and NY in her time at DA
19. This senior organizes D.A.'s blood drives!
20. This senior was Colonel Mustard in the Clue Play
21. This senior is performing at Gov Ball
22. This senior has been crocheting since the 6th grade
24. This senior is a star catcher for D.A.'s softball team.
26. This senior is the co-president of FIYA
28. This senior's diet is 90% Cheez-Its and coffee
30. This senior can list every US president from memory
31. This senior is a competitive figure skater
32. G This senior speaks three languages
34. This senior is an avid curler
37. This senior is French and lives in Brooklyn
39. This senior photographed the Athletic Banquet for 4 years



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45. This senior often sails in her free time
46. This senior is a team manager for volleyball, basketball, and softball
48. This senior is always first in line
49. This senior attended a Dual-Language elementary and middle school
51. This senior is an Irish citizen
52. This senior learned how to juggle this year
54. This senior speaks Greek
55. This senior plays drums!
57. This senior had a pet chicken
58. This senior is the president of Culture Club
60. This senior learned how to play lefty bass because someone left one on the sidewalk, they took it, and then couldn't be bothered to exchange it for the right one
62. This senior has been to 40 national parks
43. This senior is the co-captain of the track and cross country teams
44. This senior played Professor Plum in Clue
47. This senior is French
50. This senior is in the National Children's Choir
52. This senior is always Citibiking
53. This senior is an altar server
56. This senior's turtle ran away when she was a child
59. This senior works on a skiing slope in the winter!
61. This senior does Irish step dance



Crossword - Answers

1. Aisling - This senior's turtle ran away when she was a child
2. Alex - This senior is an avid hockey player
3. Amanda - This senior has a younger sister who attends D.A. as a current sophomore
4. Amaka - This senior loves danny phantom
5. Amelie - This senior is French
6. Ana - This senior did a summer program at Sloan Kettering
7. Angie - This senior is in the National Children's Choir
8. Anna A - This senior loves Mexican food
9. Anna G - This senior speaks three languages
10. Annie - This senior hates running, so she joined the swim team freshman year
11. Annika - This senior is a competitive figure skater
12. Asha - This senior can list every US president from memory
13. Aurora - This senior has lived in both NJ and NY in her time at DA
14. Bela - This senior attended a Dual-Language elementary and middle school
15. Berlin - This senior is co-captain of the varsity soccer team
16. Caitlin - This senior learned how to play lefty bass because someone left one on the sidewalk, they took it, and then couldn't be bothered to exchange it for the right one
17. Cara - This senior is always first in line
18. Caroline - This senior committed to run at Hamilton!
19. Charlotte - This senior loves milk
20. Cindy - This senior is obsessed with Tetris.
21. Claire F - This senior is the co-captain of the track and cross country teams
22. Claire S - This senior often sails in her free time
23. Delilah - This senior has been to 40 national parks
24. Eileen - This senior plays the fiddle
25. Eleni - This senior's last name involves a certain season...
26. Lizzi - This senior does Irish step dance
27. Ella C - This senior played Professor Plum in Clue
28. Emilianna - This senior is an altar server
29. Emily - This senior's diet is 90% Cheez-Its and coffee
30. Ella O - This senior can put her foot behind her head
31. Galhia - This senior has an older sister who graduated from D.A. in 2023
32. Iana - This senior is a team manager for volleyball, basketball, and softball



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33. Ila - This senior had a pet chicken
34. Ivanka - This senior is the co-president of FIYA
35. Ivelisse - This senior is the president of Culture Club
36. Jaida - This senior has performed two original songs at DA coffee houses
37. Jari - This senior is always Citibiking
38. Jordan - This senior was Colonel Mustard in the Clue Play
39. Julia F - This senior loves Blank Street.
40. Julia K - This senior lives on Long Island
41. Juliette - This senior learned how to juggle this year
42. Kat - This senior is an avid dancer and fashionista.
43. Keira - This senior plays drums!
44. Kelly A - This senior loves Takis and Sprite.
45. Kelly J - This senior is the lead singer for D.A.'s very own band: DaCapo!
46. Lauryn - This senior is a star catcher for D.A.'s softball team.
47. Lila - This senior speaks Greek
48. Lily I - This senior lived in Canada for around a year
49. Lily S - This senior photographed the Athletic Banquet for 4 years
50. Mackenzie - This senior is about to become Hollywood's biggest screenwriter!
51. Madeline - This senior organizes D.A.'s blood drives!
52. Mae - This senior was stranded in London for two weeks
53. Maisie - This senior is an Irish citizen
54. Maya F - This senior works on a skiing slope in the winter!
55. Maya K - This senior loves matcha
56. Niki - This senior has been crocheting since the 6th grade
57. Olivia C - This senior has been interviewed by the New York Times
58. Olivia M - This senior is performing at Gov Ball
59. Olivia O - This senior was a child chess prodigy
60. Sabrina - This senior is an avid curler
61. Sam - This senior has a fake tooth
62. Simona - This senior has gray hair
63. Sofia G - This senior is Greek
64. Sofia S - This senior is an editor on the school newspaper
65. Vivian - This senior lives in West New York
66. Viviane - This senior is French and lives in Brooklyn
67. Zoe - This senior plays Volleyball both for and outside of D.A!