

CONTENTS

Letters	2
News	5
Features	8
Sports	12



Delran High School

March 2023

Chase Matthews reminisces about his time in the DHS Theater Program

BY MICHAEL CRAMER
Managing Editor

Chase Matthews was preparing for his center stage moment during last year's production of *Bye-Bye Birdie*, but despite all his rehearsal and discipline on stage, nothing could've prepared him for what came next.

"One of my most embarrassing moments on stage would be last year during *Bye-Bye Birdie*, when a friend of mine, Colin Covington, accidentally tripped me into a camera and I fell in front of everyone in the middle of a song. Everyone saw me fall but I had to pick myself up and keep going along with the scene and the song," said Matthews.

Matthews, while embarrassed in the moment, reminisces with a slight fondness about his most embarrassing moment on stage, and now as a senior uses it as a reminder that anything can happen on stage but it is important to keep going and never let the audience know something has gone awry.

Despite minor malfunctions on stage, Matthews has been known for his supporting, hardworking, and overall positivity whether auditioning, rehearsing, or performing. Katherine Drachowski, Delran High School's Musical Theater Director and Choir Instructor, has worked
Continued on Page 6.



Gokdeniz Haliloglu, Halil Gungor, Arda Yilmaz, Tuana Yilmaz, and other volunteers helping with the donations. Photo by Brian Stolarick.

Junior Elif Ozbay spreads awareness of the earthquake tragedy in Turkey to local areas

By ETHAN CASALE & CHRIS ROCCA
Sports Editors

On February 6th, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey and the northern border of Syria. Just nine hours later, another earthquake, this time with a magnitude of 7.5, hit Turkey again. More than 50,000 people have died due to these earthquakes.

Although Delran is over 5,000 miles away from Turkey, students and staff at Delran High School are voicing their opinions and support on the matter.

Elif Ozbay, a junior here at Delran High School, was one of many Delran students to quickly jump on board and start helping.

"I lost a lot of family members, this is my way of honoring them," stated Ozbay.

Just days after the earthquakes, Delran High School, along with neighboring high schools, began to donate clothing, food, blankets, and anything else you can imagine.

Ozbay said, "People lost their homes, beds, all the food, their valuables, and most importantly, their loved ones. Although we can't bring everything back, we are trying to help them get back on their feet in the meantime."

Ozbay hasn't just kept her voice in Delran, she has traveled throughout towns in New Jersey and even New York a couple of times to spread awareness.

"I went to New York and got to speak in front of a lot of people. People
Continued on Page 2.

DHS committee comes together to help Turkey in time of crisis

Continued from Page 1.

need to know the physical and emotional impact these earthquakes have had on people of Turkish descent,” Ozbay stated.

Like Ozbay, many students of Turkish descent still have family members living in Turkey. Students such as Gokdeniz Haliloglu, Halil Gungor, and Tuana Yilmaz are just three of the Turkish students here at DHS who immediately jumped into action after the news broke out.

“Gokdeniz has been very impactful,” stated vice principal Brian Stolarick,

“Once the news broke out, he was one of the first students I saw trying everything and anything to help.”

Delran High School ran a fundraiser for Turkey that lasted a little over a week.

“I think our initial step was a good one,” stated Stolarick. “I am very proud of what we have done here. We raised over \$1,000 and filled 35 bags worth of food, sleeping bags, blankets, diapers, and more important items.”

Similar to Stolarick, Ozbay believes more can be done.

“We’ve done a lot so far, but hopefully this is just the beginning. I am very proud of everyone who participated in the fundraiser, but Turkey needs even more help,” Ozbay

said.

Surrounding High Schools such as Moorestown have also heavily contributed to the cause.

“I know Delran has a high Turkish population but I was pleasantly surprised with Moorestown’s involvement. This earthquake impacts all of us,” stated Ozbay.

The people of Turkey and Syria still need lots of help to get back on their feet. With the death toll rising everyday, Ozbay, along with other Turkish students, are looking for help anywhere they can get it. Donating a blanket or bag of food can impact a family’s life tremendously.

If you are interested in donating to the cause you can contact your local mosque and see what they can use to help all those who were affected by the earthquakes. Other charities you can donate to are the Syrian-American Medical Society, the UN Refugee Agency, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, the White Helmets, and the Turkish Red Crescent.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

Crazy to think that we are halfway through the school year with winter soon turning into spring, with activities such as the musical and spring sports coming in the very near future. The journalism team has been working very diligently to get *The Bear Facts* out to you.

In this edition, we focused on individuals who have stood out in the DHS community, whether that be teachers such as Ms. Kalick and Mrs. Como, or students such as Matthew Jones and Chase Matthews. Others include Mya Jackson, Jack Falton, and Sadie McKinnon. Their stories were interesting and we hope that you are captivated by them as much as we are.

Coming up, expect articles about the spring musical *Chicago* and the start of spring sports, such as baseball, softball, and lacrosse.

We hope you enjoy this issue and the stories inside. Go Bears!

Sincerely,
Jacob Rodriguez
Features Editor

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Contact the staff or submit an article through e-mail at bearfacts@delranschools.org.

Mackinnon pushes through hardships in college

By KEIRA SINGER

Managing Editor

Sadie MacKinnon has always had her expectations for herself and future set high. She pushed herself in high school to achieve academic excellence by taking multiple AP classes as well as taking on important leadership roles in extracurricular activities. MacKinnon's dedication paid off when she received her acceptance letter to the renowned Northeastern University in Boston that has just an 18% acceptance rate.

Now 20 and in her sophomore year at Northeastern, MacKinnon is majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Jewish Studies. She is working to establish a successful career with an already impressive resume.

The transition from high school to college is a common struggle among young adults and MacKinnon credits her ability to easily adapt to a variety of things, one of those being her relaxed attitude.

"I would say the most important thing I've learned since I moved away is the ability to go with the flow; things are constantly changing and plans hardly ever work out the way you think they will so it's really important to be flexible," said MacKinnon.

Like many other students, MacKinnon sometimes struggles with the motivation needed to finish challenging assignments, but always manages to push herself and put her time and effort into her work, whether that be a big project or a small five-point assignment.

MacKinnon attributes her success at Northeastern to her close friends Valerie Simoneau and Alexis Mesa, who also attend Northeastern. They have helped her reach her full potential with their support and close

friendship.

"I think the fact that I live with close friends helps me get through the day because it makes me look forward to getting my work done so I can spend time with them at home," said MacKinnon.

By surrounding herself with people that offer their support and companionship, MacKinnon's ability to stay motivated with her challenging coursework and stressful responsibilities has greatly improved.

MacKinnon enjoys learning about the world around

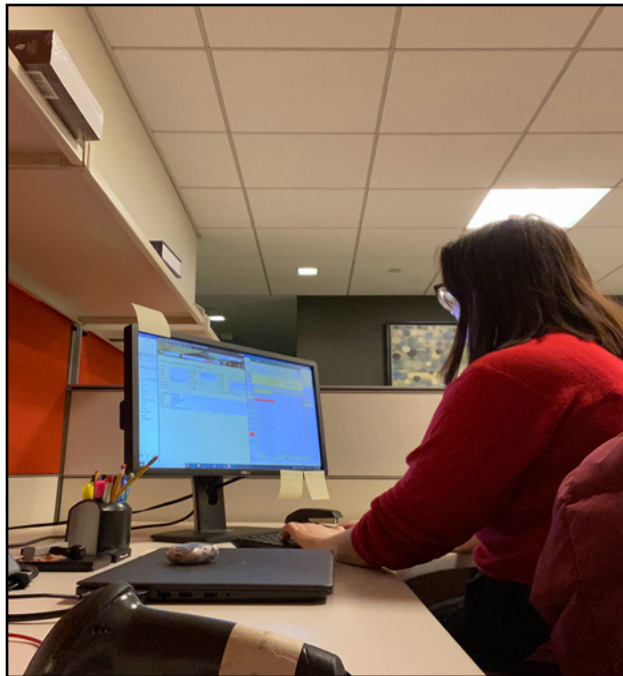
her and hopes to one day work in Israel at the U.S. Embassy. She likes to understand the way people interact and the importance of culture and human difference.

"She values learning things that are beneficial to her future career. She likes to learn and explore new things so school is where she can flourish. I know she enjoys learning about different cultures and people which she does through her Northeastern classes," said Simoneau.

Mackinnon holds great value in knowledge and appreciates the ability and opportunity Northeastern provides her with to learn about something she finds so valuable.

Although Mackinnon has managed to keep an almost perfect GPA as well as adjust to life at Northeastern, she sometimes struggles with the way her relationships back home have changed. The distance from Delran has helped MacKinnon grow as a person and student, but has had some negative impacts on her relationships with her close friends and family back in New Jersey.

"My biggest personal struggle has probably been maintaining relationships with people at home and just



MacKinnon hard at work typing up an upcoming assignment. *Photo Courtesy of Sadie MacKinnon.*

Continued on Page 4.

Students entering college find past relationships harder to keep

Continued from Page 3.

accepting that friendships will fade, but it doesn't mean that you necessarily did something wrong," said McKinnion.

Even though the distance has been somewhat of a struggle for MacKinnon, she also appreciates the independence she gained from the move. She can easily focus on

her work without the distractions from family. The separation has required MacKinnon to strengthen the new friendships and bonds she made in Boston by providing her friends with her help and support.

"Since freshman year, Sadie has let me practice almost every class presentation in front of her. She listens closely and provides feedback on the content on my slides and my

performance," said Messa.

Through the change and pressure of academic success, MacKinnon has managed to form a solid game plan for her future. She has big plans for herself and her friends have greatly helped her with the support and guidance she needs to continue to succeed at Northeastern University.

We asked. You answered.

Who is your favorite teacher in the school and why?

"My favorite teacher is Mrs. Spera because she's nice and supportive," said Robin Rau, grade 12.



"Probably Mrs. Drachowski because she's really understanding if something goes wrong and she's really supportive," said Charlize Marcato, grade 12.



"My favorite teacher is Mrs. McGhee because she's like a mother figure to us and she's always there for us," said Mya Milanese, grade 12.



"I like Mrs. MacFarland because she's fun and easygoing in class," said Andrew Newman, grade 12.



DHS Juniors planning to release their EP *So Extra*

By JACOB RODRIGUEZ
Features Editor

The music studio, where a hit can be made, a fun melody can be produced, and having fun with your friends is always a must. This is true for junior Matthew Jones, whose song “Inappropriate” was released in October 2022. With the help of Grace Cascio and Mya Kennedy, Jones was able to produce “Inappropriate” and release it, even if the original plan didn’t include an album or songs at all.

Jones, whose stage name “Matty J” came from people calling him Matty and his last name being Jones, explained that the album was made from him, Cascio, and Kennedy just hanging out.

“Well me, Grace Cascio, and Mya Kennedy originally made these sets of five songs as a joke, including ‘Inappropriate.’ We decided to make the song because so many people in school wanted to see what we were capable of and what our music would sound like,” Jones explained.

Cascio and her father helped Jones create the song.

“Grace and I created the lyrics while she produced everything else. Her father added percussion to the song to give it that boom,” Jones described.

Cascio said that she learned a lot from producing the song.

“I was not very experienced in mixing and producing music

prior to working on this song. I’m very thankful for my father who has provided me with not only his recording equipment, but some of his production knowledge in order to bring my vision for this song to



(From left to right) Mya Kennedy, Matthew Jones, and Grace Cascio pose for the cover of their EP *So Extra*. **Photo by Hannah Cascio.**

life,” Cascio stated.

Cascio, a singer herself, ended up doing the background vocals on the song as well. Her experience with musical theatre, culminating with her playing Roxie Hart in this year’s spring musical, helped her create the song with her father, Jason.

Jones’ inspiration from Beyonce was evident in the song.

“I wanted to make sure we were able to encapsulate her style and

work it into his song. It only felt necessary to pay homage to his favorite artist,” Cascio described.

Jones is proud of him and his friends, and the positive reactions he received from everyone had him feeling proud as well.

“There were so many positive reactions to the song and pretty much all positive; if there was a negative comment I didn’t see it. It meant so much to me for people to be listening and enjoying the song we worked so hard to make, and I can’t wait to release the rest,” Jones exclaimed.

Both Cascio and Jones explained that there are going to be four more songs being released off Jones’ extended play (EP) *So Extra*, which are the four other songs that the group made, originally as “just a joke.” While no music video has been released yet, the group plans to release a video after *So Extra* gets released, just another way for them to show off their art.

“I am so grateful for this opportunity that Grace has granted me. Without her, I would not have been able to do this. I owe everything to her and her amazing family,” Jones rejoiced.

The future for the group and Matty J is bright, and are all excited to see where this career can go. The rest of *So Extra* will be released on streaming platforms soon and they hope the rest of the EP gets just as much positive reactions as “Inappropriate” did.

Matthews' final play at DHS get people buzzing with excitement

Continued from Page 1.

with Matthews over the years and has noticed his dedication to performances and to his cast members alike.

"Chase works exceedingly hard in the roles in which he is cast. Not only does he often spend months preparing for roles, but once he earns a specific role, he spends many hours working to make the role the best it could possibly be. Chase has an exceptional work ethic and shines on the stage. He truly enjoys being on the stage and it is evident through his performance," said Drachowski.

Matthews was initially inspired to join theater after seeing the comradery and the togetherness of the people he saw on stage, as well as how enjoyable and exciting it seemed to him. In addition to a new group of people and a new hobby, Matthews saw theater as a new outlet on which he could be heard and seen, as well as a way to express himself.

"I was brought into the theater by seeing how friendly everyone was and how fun it seemed. It gave me a chance to express myself and have fun while doing it," Matthews said.

Matthews' decision to pursue his personal passion proved to be a life changing choice, since he had

the opportunity to be a part of amazing casts, spectacular productions, and made incredible memories.

"My proudest moment as an actor was getting a lead in my freshman year musical *Mamma-Mia*. I played Harry Bright, one of the potential fathers," Matthews added.

Part of Matthews stellar career is due in part to his ability to envelop himself in whatever character he is cast as additionally he does whatever is necessary to present his role on stage in the best way possible.

"Chase is able to embody the character that he is looking to portray. He is not afraid to take a risk and will use failure to propel him forward. His dedication and commitment to theater is impressive, but also the way he effortlessly works with and supports others on the stage is something I am extremely proud of him for," said Dra-

chowski.

Many are excited to see Matthews go through his process one last time as Billy Flynn in Delran High School's 2023 Spring Musical, *Chicago*. Although he has already completed the process of auditioning, and working on his songs, lines, certain blocking, and choreography, Matthews is still a bit nervous about how it will all come together before opening night.

"I find it frightening because of how much I have to learn and how much time it will take. But mostly I find it exciting and fun. I love to sing and dance in front of audiences of people," Matthews commented.

Despite his slight concerns, the impression Matthews has left on his directors and cast members leave them quite confident with him in the starring role of this year's production.

"For a while, Chase was very good at character type and comedic roles. He worked very hard to take on the more serious role of Billy Flynn for this Spring's upcoming performances of *Chicago*. I think it was definitely a challenge to get seri-

ous in a role for Chase. He is a naturally funny guy who likes to laugh and get the most out of life, toning that part of yourself down isn't always easy!" said Drachowski.

With all the experience and confidence Matthews has gained on stage it is no surprise that his final show at Delran High School will be a starring role. With much more still to come with the production process, Matthews couldn't be more excited for how it will all fall into place come opening night.

"Theater has changed my life in so many ways. It helped me discover who I was as a person and gave me lifelong friends and memories, which is why I am so excited for this year's show which I think may be one of our best ones yet," said Matthews.



Chase Matthews as Mr. MacAfee in Bye Bye Birdie, alongside Grace Diehl, Olivia Jones, and Grace Cascio.

Photo courtesy of Chase Matthews.

AP Teacher helps juniors prepare for college

By Dominique Cameron
Staff Writer

Junior year is considered to be a challenging year for all, as that is the year where students start to think about their future paths, like their college choices and careers.

One course that is available for Juniors at Delran High School to take is AP United States History II (APUSH), taught by Beth Kalick. This class covers content about the history of our country beginning with the growth of industry. By taking this course, it is possible to cover the history requirements needed in order to graduate college. However, the student must pass the AP exam.

In order to pass the AP exam, you must receive a score of three or higher (out of five possible points). For many juniors, this is their first time taking the exam.

"I do feel nervous about the AP exam because I'd like to do well on it for college credit. The exam is so long and I don't imagine it to be easy so I am nervous about it," said junior Hailey Rookstool, a student who is currently taking APUSH.

Kalick is doing her best to prepare her students to take this exam in May. Kalick explains certain strategies she uses while teaching in order for the students to get the most out of the class time and lessons.

"The terms and textbook are the best way to cover all the content," Kalick says.

Students who take this class are expected to complete work in and out of class. The students are given a set of terms for each chapter which they fill out as they read the *American Pageant Textbook*. The students eventually get quizzed on a specific set of terms decided at random. The amount of reading quizzes given have changed over the years.

"The content hasn't changed, but I have changed some of the strategies I use. I used to give the students

a reading quiz after every section of the chapter and use much longer primary sources," said Kalick.

There are many other activities done during class time. Kalick posts multiple choice questions to the class Canvas page which are similar to the multiple choice questions students will see on the AP exam. The questions are known as MC questions, which students generally find very helpful.

"I do find the MC questions helpful because it challenges us and lets us get used to what the college board is looking for in our answers," said Junior Samantha Pappas, a student who is also currently taking APUSH.

While many courses available in our school consist of working independently, this course involves a lot of partner work. Generally, students tend to enjoy working with partners rather than alone.

"I do like the class a lot because there is a lot of collaboration and discussion," said Pappas.

During class time, discussion questions are given which relate to the current topic of study and students are expected to answer amongst themselves. The answers are then presented and discussed between the whole class.

There is a process that must be followed in order to teach an AP course at any school. You must hold a bachelor's degree in the field you would like to teach at an AP level and then you must pass the AP Audit Exam. Kalick explains that the process to become an AP teacher was not hard, however the beginning of her journey teaching APUSH was difficult.

"It was full of unknowns and I really felt like I was learning how to best prepare the students as the students were learning the content," Kalick explained.

Overall, students find this class to be very helpful in regards to the courses they anticipate to take at college.



*Juniors Maddie Speigel and Azra Talic read through the APUSH textbook.
Photo by Dominique Cameron.*

DHS Senior works hard at Flagg's Garden Center

By JULIE BRENNAN
Visual/ Designing Editor

When walking into Flagg's Garden Center, the first things you may notice are the smell of fresh flowers and the small black cat that greets you. From the outside, it's only a small building. However, it holds a great family history for Kylee Brotz, a senior at DHS.

What was started by Brotz's great grandparents as a flower cart on the side of the road has now become a very successful family-owned business, a business that impacts Brotz in many ways.

"Since Flagg's is owned by my family, it provided me with a job where I am able to learn a lot, both about plants and about how jobs and society work," Brotz said.

There are many DHS students who also work at Flagg's alongside Kylee. Robin Rau, for example, has worked at the business for eight months.

"I like that I get to work with some of my closest friends and I get to work with plants, since those are two of my favorite things," said Rau.

Although Brotz works for her family, things are not much different for her compared to Rau in the workplace.

"I am obligated to take on a bit more responsibility, but it's pretty normal when it comes to actually working there. I'm given the same

tasks as my peers. I ring people in, answer any questions I can, clean up, price items, and more," Brotz clarified.

Although Rau thinks Flagg's is an overall enjoyable place to work, Rau would change one thing if able. "I would change the fact that Flagg's closes at five. With lacrosse

saving me a lot of time, money, and effort on transportation," said Brotz.

Working at a business owned by your own family can have a social impact on your work environment, especially when the business is older. Regular customers get to know the family and workers.

"Because my grandfather owns the place, he knows a lot of the customers that come in, and he talks about me so the customers also talk to me. It's pretty welcoming, and I have met a lot of people because of this," explained Brotz.

Outside of working at Flagg's, Brotz has had a very impressive academic career. She recently was granted a full ride scholarship to Lafayette College, which has been her dream school.

"If I could use one word to describe Kylee, it would be responsible. She is very good at juggling the job with her schoolwork," Rau said.

Running a business is not easy and can be very challenging, but in the end it pays off to see the success.

"My family likes owning the business. While it's a lot of work and comes with its problems occasionally, it's very rewarding. It also means a lot since it was started by my grandfather's parents and has been run by my family ever since. It carries a lot of memories, and it's amazing to see how it turned it into what it is today," said Brotz.



Flagg's, the business owned by Brotz family, is temporarily closed for a seasonal change in products. Photo by Kylee Brotz

season coming up I'm not going to be able to work as much, but I'm trying to save up for college," Rau explained.

The house located just beside the business is also Brotz's family's property, which has made things for Brotz much easier.

"Because my family owns the property, we also own the house on the property, which I live in. This helps because I only have to walk a few steps to get to work every day,

DHS Executive Board holds a successful blood drive

By RUBY VASQUEZ
News Editor

In Delran High School, there are numerous teachers that have done tremendous things for the community, or have impacted the students in their high school years. However, one teacher, known for her passionate, determined, and organized personality, has achieved many aspiring things that deserve praise.

History teacher Caitlin Como has done many impactful actions for DHS, and one of her most recent ones was the Red Cross Blood Drive, which occurred on December 12, 2022. She and Jaclyn Carey, a math teacher at DHS, both helped organize and advertise for volunteers to give blood to those in need.

“This is a beloved Delran tradition and a very important service project for Delran,” Como explained. “So I’m always honored to run it.”

In her own life, both professionally and personally, this event stood as a very important goal for her, as she wanted to take it seriously in order to overcome setbacks, such as Covid-19. Coming from the pandemic had faced its difficulties, and the faculty and students of DHS worked hard to ensure a positive and successful event.

“So, the process is very daunting and a lot to manage,” Como said. “The hundred or so students and faculty, and Ms. Carey and I, have to schedule all of the blood drive appointments by hand, so it’s event planning to the max.”

On top of the vast amount of paperwork needed to be manually done, Como mentioned while doing the Red Cross Blood Drive that she and Carey had to also focus on their professional careers as history and math teachers.

“We also have to do our own teaching jobs, making it like two jobs for two months,” Como expressed.

However, the biggest struggle in Como’s opinion would be time. Even with organizing, getting help from others, and preparing the most they could for the event, more time was still needed. But Como was glad that so many people helped create this event, one of them being the student volunteers who helped get their peers to sign up for the blood drive.

Though they were obstacles in Como and Carey’s way, they both, with the help of student volunteers, staff members, and nurses, were able to have a successful event and are hoping to surpass their goal in the future.

Others also thought that the event was a great achievement, such as the President of the Executive Board, DHS junior Billy Arthur.

“I think that the atmosphere at this event was fantastic,” Arthur stated. “Everyone that showed up was there to help others and that is a really special thing.”

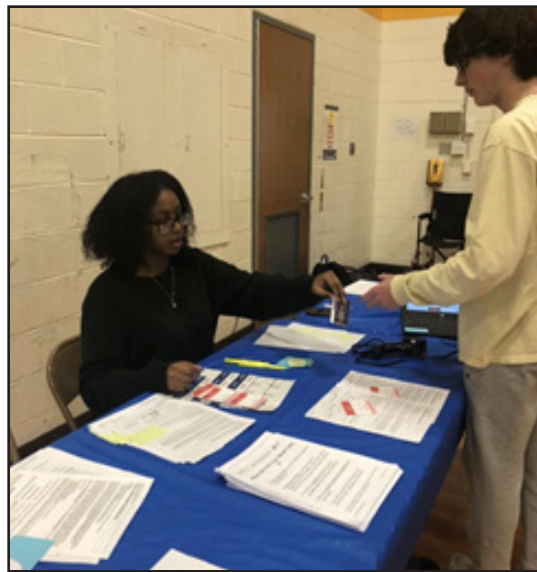
Being a part of an event such as this one was very special for Arthur, and with the help of the Red Cross, it made the process much easier to deal with.

“We collected 63 units, which would be about 200 lives saved,” Como proudly stated.

For every unit of blood that had been donated, that would go to help save three lives. With this positive outcome, the units will go to help those in the Delran community who may need it.

Como explained that from these past few years, the urgency for blood donating, as well as the decline in blood donating in the country, has turned into a major crisis. To try and stop this problem, she is also finding ways to help get more participants who may feel nervous to donate blood for next year.

“I think getting information to the students to dispel myths of blood donations,” Como stated as something
Continued on Page 10.



Aailiyah Hicks is seen helping a Red Cross Blood Drive donor. Photo by Jamar Gauda.

Blood drive participant numbers decrease

Continued from Page 9.

to work on for next year, “because most students are scared and uninformed.”

Due to the misconceptions that students have from blood drives, it poses hardships when trying to get people to volunteer.

Arthur, as well, noticed how the decreasing numbers of volunteers affected the process of the blood drive quite a bit.

“Piquing peoples’ interest can sometimes be difficult,” Arthur admitted, “but advertising this as a charity opportunity, as well as an

opportunity to earn service hours, went a long way in encouraging people to donate.”

Both Como and Arthur are trying to find different ways to advertise the event next year even further. Como also explained how the student council and her were working to find different methods in order to take away the misconceptions that students have.

Arthur is also thinking of starting preparations such as the announcements and putting up posters even earlier, to ensure an increase in donors. Hopefully finding other

ways to inform students can help ease the nerves and fear of students volunteering.

Even with these obstacles that may have seemed impossible to overcome, Como and Carey, as well as Arthur and the help of others, were able to push through to have an impactful and successful event. With this blood drive, the blood donated is able to go to those in need both in the Delran community, as well as others who may be struggling and need help.

We asked. You answered.

What are you looking forward to the most this upcoming year?



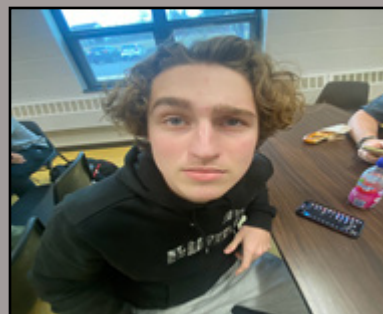
“I can’t wait to hang out with my friends all summer,” said Campbell Willard, grade 11



“I am trying to get healthier and work out more. I’m excited to see how I do,” said Sue O’Leary, secretary at DHS.



“I’m looking forward to see what life brings to me,” said Ray Grabert, grade 12



“I’m getting my license in June so I’m excited to see where the road will take me,” said Trever Muc-ciolo, grade 11.

Harper White gives back to those in need

By BRANDON LASH
Staff Writer

Whether it was the numerous charity drives she had participated in with her family in her childhood, or Christmas gifts she would get for classmates that had them dying of laughter, it's evident giving back to the community is synonymous with tradition for ninth grader Harper White.

Her interest towards charity began as a young child, as her parents taught her the importance of donation and helping others. Eventually, the concept stuck for her.

"I was raised to be generous," White explained. "My parents were always generous and encouraged me to give back by donating clothes and toys when I didn't need them anymore."

It was no surprise, then, when she decided to participate in Adopt-A-Family, a charity program her freshman seminar class sponsored in late November. Though the program has been running for years at DHS, it is certainly a timeless event that brings joy to participants and recipients alike.

"Giving someone the chance to have a good Christmas is very meaningful to me, which is one of the reasons I decided to participate in Adopt-A-Family."

The occasion struck a chord in White, who had gone through rough times not long before her freshman year. During the height of the pandemic, both of her parents had lost their previous jobs, and their family fell on hard times. As a result, they could not donate to other households. This only brought her closer to families tight on resources.

White explained "[It] definitely shifted my perspective on how sometimes families are less fortunate, especially around the holiday season,"

Even before the pandemic, however, she was always known as a generous and kind-hearted person. Ryan Shanahan, a ninth grader at DHS, fondly remembers a time where her generosity mixed with her sense of humor.



DHS Freshman were implored to participate in Adopt-A-Family if they could. Harper White, a participant, bought some items for her designated family member. Photo by Harper White.

"In sixth grade she gave me a ton of gag gifts for a Secret Santa our reading class organized. That's definitely my best memory with her because of how funny it was opening the gift and finding more and more silly stuff," Shanahan recalled.

DHS freshman Jake Namnun acknowledged White's character, saying, "She's super great, and can really lift up some people's moods after, maybe, a bad grade."

Although Adopt-A-Family was highly encouraged as a means to earn extra credit hours, it was not made mandatory if your own family was struggling financially at the time. Though some students could have used this as an excuse to not spend on others, it speaks to White's character that she still chose to do it.

"I think it's awesome that Harper participated," Namnun said. "But also not very surprising that she did."

Once Adopt-A-Family ended, White had some time to reflect on how participating impacted her and possibly changed her views on charity work.

"It definitely changed my perspective on giving back to the community as something that is important...keeping in mind the importance of giving back and being grateful for what you have...allows me to not take for granted all that I've been given, and to keep in mind that others might not have the same circumstances as me."

Helping others in need has been a staple for her throughout her life, and it's rubbed off on those close to her. She may not be friends with everyone, but she is most definitely the kind of person you would want to be around, her charity work being just one of many reasons for it.

"[She] looks out for other people around her," Namnun said.

While the holiday season may be a sense of motivation for some people to exhibit generosity when they otherwise wouldn't, for White, it was simply another opportunity to give back to the community she loves.

Sophomore Mya Jackson blew away the competition this soccer season

By Brooke Kakowski
News Editor

Delran High School is full of student athletes within many different sports. Mya Jackson, a sophomore, has been recognized for her ability to juggle all honors classes and three sports: soccer, basketball, and track & field.

Jackson started her freshman year at DHS with taking all honors classes and academically succeeded very well in all of her classes to remain in all honors her sophomore year. As a freshman, Jackson has accomplished many great milestones. Her first year of high school soccer she made varsity with a starting position as a striker.

While managing varsity soccer and honor classes, Jackson still was able to shine on the field, ending the season with seven goals and 11 assists.

"Mya's speed and her shots are definitely what stands out the most. Whenever she gets the ball her speed is unmatched in soccer and basketball. Also her speed for sure stood out since she went to states for track as a freshmen," said Nida Gunay, a junior.

Gunay is a fan of Delran's athletic program and attends many of their games. To say she is impressed with Jackson's ability to handle school and sports is an understatement.

"It is shocking to me that she is able to handle all honors classes which is already a lot to manage and being an athlete is a lot. Especially since Mya is so good, she has to put in a lot of hard work," Gunay said.

Jackson continued on her freshman year with transitioning into basketball season. Jackson started off on the freshmen team but ended on junior varsity (JV). Being able to handle playing at least one sport every season and balancing school work leads up to

the question many people have: how does she manage to do it all?

"I have managed sports along with all my honors classes by working hard and making sure to stay on top of things," Jackson said.

Jackson finished up her freshman year with her very first year of track. Jackson became a sprinter and took the events of the 100 and 200 meter dash along with the 400 meter run. Jackson has had many accomplishments but track is definitely where she stood out most. Jackson not only went to sectionals as a freshman but won sectionals for both the 100 and 200 meter run. Jackson holds the school record for the 200 meter dash and is currently number two for the 400

meter. Jackson has also made it to states as a freshman for the 100 meter dash.

"My biggest accomplishment is winning sectionals for the 100 and 200 meter last year during track," Jackson said.

Jackson is passionate and hardworking about the things she does and it does not go overlooked. Girl's soccer coach Scott Brody acknowledges Jackson and her work ethic.

"Mya's ability to do well in school and excel as an athlete is impressive, but not surprising. She puts 110

percent effort into everything she does. Putting that kind of effort into school in and out of the classroom and sports on and off the field, is the reason she is successful in both," Brody said.

Jackson will have her choice on what she decides to continue her academic and athletic careers in. She has already been seen and noticed by many colleges for both soccer and track.

"I think Mya has an extremely bright future. As only a sophomore, she excels in the classroom and in multiple sports. If she continues to work hard as she has day in and day out, she will have her choice of
Continued on Page 13.



Jackson battling for the ball against Cinnaminson this past fall soccer season. Photo by Elizabeth Rocco.

Jackson shares some advice for success

Continued from Page 12.

where to go to college,” Brody said.

Jackson has been a star player in many sports, and to know that she still has two more years of high school, Jackson has been someone for many people to look up to.

Her teammates, friends, and younger rising athletes can have a takeaway from Jackson. Jackson

shows that hard work does pay off.

To maintain being a student athlete it is important to stay positive and to always work hard but to still give you and your body what it needs. Having a positive mindset and a schedule to help stay on top of things and stay organized is key to helping you succeed. Jackson is a person many should be inspired

by, especially rising student athletes.

“My biggest advice to rising student athletes would be to remember to take time for yourself and not just slowly focus on sports and school work all the time,” Jackson said.

We asked. You answered.

What are you most excited about for your senior year? Why?



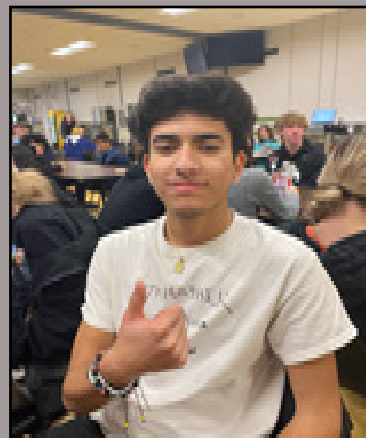
“I will be excited about graduating, moving out the house, and going to college then finding a job,” Nevaeh Riggs, grade 10.



“I’m excited for the senior activities and graduating,” Faith Williams, grade 10.



“I’m most excited to meet new people and leaving,” Nicole Ramos, grade 11.



“Leaving Delran because I’m excited for college,” Ezekiel Cruz, grade 11.

Fallon's dedication has gained praise from teammates

By ETHAN CASALE
Sports Editor

Inside the walls of Delran High School, you can find plenty of seniors ready to lead, both in and out of the classroom. Senior lacrosse captain, Jack Fallon, always picks his teammates and classmates up and tries to help them to the best of his ability.

With lacrosse starting up, Fallon, along with fellow seniors Matt Wissman, Jack Williams, and Jordan Curzie are all gearing up for one last ride with the Delran Boys' Lacrosse team.

"I'm excited to be one of the captains this upcoming season. I'm hoping in the off season we get to work and show the other teams that we are here to win," Fallon stated.

With plenty of talented seniors leaving after last season, the boys team are looking for replacements. After last year's seniors such as Seamus Schofield, Aidan Schreder, and Justin Smith all graduated, there are some big shoes to fill this upcoming season.

Fallon, who became a starter last season, has risen up above the rest of the players with his passion and positive energy.

Varsity goalie Chase Aleszczyk stated,

"Fallon always tried his hardest and put his body on the line every time he stepped on the field."

Fallon has attended Delran schools his entire life and is willing to give it all for the Bears. Fallon works hard on and off the field. Whether it is running and training during the off season or working hard in the classroom, Fallon continues to impress.

"Fallon always tried his best even at the low points of last season. Even though he was a junior, Fallon fit right in with the starting lineup," said sophomore Shane Williams.

With the team consisting of mostly underclassmen,

seniors such as Fallon and Wissman are working hard to make sure that the boys' lacrosse team is not seen as a joke.

"Our biggest strength going into this season is definitely our commitment. Even when we face tough opponents, we always try until the end," said Fallon.

In the past two seasons, the Bears have had disappointing exits. In the 2021 season, the Bears were on a roll, winning the majority of their games. With seniors such as Dane Sabarese, Kenny Howley, and Jack Pappas, the Bears looked like a serious threat. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the senior trip was

late in the season, leaving the juniors, sophomores, and freshman to fend for themselves. They were eliminated in the first round of playoffs, losing even more talented seniors.

Fallon stated, "These past two seasons have been eye openers for me along with the rest of the team. We've worked hard and deserve to move farther than playoffs. We put our body on the line everytime we step on that field."

Despite the past two seasons, returners are still

very excited to return to the field.

"I've noticed that lacrosse in Delran isn't just another sport. Like soccer and football, we are a brotherhood who always try to improve," Williams stated.

Along with his fellow captains and teammates, Fallon is set on making it past the playoffs.

"Our biggest strength going into this season is definitely our commitment. Even when we face tough opponents, we always try until the end," said Fallon.

Like any other sport in Delran, captains are chosen based on their commitment and dedication, something Fallon has expressed throughout his time in the program.

"You don't have to be the best on the field to be a captain," Aleszczyk stated.



Jack Fallon looks to receive a pass during warm-ups. Photo by Mark Silver.

Jon Repece makes a big impact on DHS

By RILEY CRISTELLA

Features Editor

From winning state championships to teaching the *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*, Mr. Repece has done it all for Delran High School. The alum and freshmen soccer coach is now taking on the position of girls' basketball head coach.

Jon Repece is our well-known freshmen seminar teacher, soccer coach, class advisor and Delran enthusiast. He strives for involvement in activities throughout the school.

Repece always had his two cents on the girls' court, coaching alongside former head coach Pete Miles.

Previous seasons you

could find him coaching junior varsity with Coach Miles and freshmen coach Bobbi-Jo Gormley. It's safe to say that Repece has had his fair share of experience for his new title.

In the 2023 season, Repece will be taking on the court with the girls' basketball team alongside coach Brenna Cloud and Coach Gormley.

Mr. Repece isn't one to shy away from school spirit, and he takes pride in Delran through sports and leadership. He's the face of homecoming pep rallies and class fundraisers. He leads the Class of 2023 as an advisor alongside Mrs. Rau, and can be found on the mic commentating. Repece is a classroom name around our building. He is known to amplify a room's

volume by 100.

Senior Riley Ahrens has been a four-year varsity player with the girls' basketball team. Repece has been a part of her coaching support since she was a freshmen, and is now starting her fourth year with him as her head coach.

"On the court, he always has our back and will fight for us every play, but his support goes much

further than just basketball practice and games. Since he's taken over as head coach he's become someone we all trust and feel open to talk to," Ahrens said. Throughout this team, Repece is a large support system. His encouragement and aid from the sidelines cre-



Coach Repece smiling at his players as they come off the court to finish the second quarter. Photo by Luke Arcaini.

ate the success of the program.

Basketball itself is an energy enticing sport, and can create hostile court environments in big games. Good teams create a supportive setting for their players, coaches included. This season, Delran girls basketball players have honed into teamwork, encouragement, and communication for success.

You can dribble the ball as much as you want, but team chemistry and connection on and surrounding the court is what really helps the girls' basketball team strive.

"We want to win a division championship, reach the sectional finals and, as cheesy as it is, create memories that will last a lifetime. Life is more than

Repece helps the girls basketball team grow together

the game of basketball so I wanted to set up different experiences for my girls on and off the court,” said Repece.

It's evident to see the enthusiasm and energy that is brought by this team, as well as the support, encouragement, and push from these coaches.

As a high school teacher, encouragement is a strategy that Mr. Repece is fond of. In the classroom, halls, and anywhere else around this building, you can find his words of motivation. His spirit is visible for all sports, clubs, and school teams. Mr. Repece is a friendly face to find to tell about your big accomplishment. Encouragement, spirit, pride—three top qualities of a well renowned coach and teacher.

This is only the beginning for Repece and the basketball team under his influence. From underclassmen to future high schoolers, Repece has started his journey

into refreshing the girls’ basketball program.

“Yes, absolutely. We have three freshmen who are playing JV and earning some really solid minutes. We also went to watch the middle school team and the sixth grade travel team to cheer them on and show them support. That link to the younger kids is going to allow them to feel a part of our program before they even arrive at DHS,” he said.

Repece has been around for many of this team's highlights. This season, Riley Ahrens earned 1,000 points in her high school basketball career. A huge milestone for high school players, and another big win for a first year coach. Coaching is something that goes hand and hand with dedication and commitment for Repece.

“For the past four years Coach Repece has been the most supportive coach, no matter what level of the program you are on and it

doesn't go unnoticed,” Ahrens said.

These are just some factors of Mr. Repece’s influence as head coach. Students have seen the hard work brought to the court by our basketball players. This season's seniors hold four-year varsity players, and players who have been under Repece’s lead for a majority of their high school careers.

“I keep telling them it’s THEIR TEAM and they’re starting to believe that. To that end--it has been so much fun to watch them grow on and off the court and I’m so unbelievably thankful to coach this group of seniors during my first year as head coach,” Repece declared.

A community is growing around the foundation built by these teams and these coaches. This season is a stepping stone in Mr. Repece’s career, and what looks to be a great leap for the girls’ basketball program.

We asked. You answered.

Do you prefer the Hartford Deli or Vid’s Deli? Why?

“Vid’s because it’s classic Delran culture,” said Sienna Weaver, grade 10.



“Hartford Deli because it’s more convenient from where I live and they have caffeine-free boost,” said Andrea Dunlap, grade 11.