ZONE Fights Violence
By Rayna Lee

On Wednesday, Nov. 6, the ZONE presented an “Alternatives to Domestic Violence” seminar in the North Building Library of Dwight Morrow High School to classes of students during lunch periods. The purpose of the presentation was to raise awareness about the common and unacceptable occurrence of domestic dating violence.

“The presentation concluded with questions and comments from the audience, including, “I realized that there can be people around me who are in these situations and that I should do something to help...”

Muziam Gerges who organized the event, discussed healthy and unhealthy relationships, and the different types of abuse a person could endure. The presentation also guided students on how to help friends who are victims of relationship violence and how to seek out appropriate help and resources.

“A lot of students do not know that they might be in an abusive relationship if somebody is not telling them that it is not normal,” explained Ms. Gerges, director of Adolescent and School Based Youth Services in the ZONE. “According to statistics over 50 percent of adolescents are in unhealthy relationships,” she said, adding that a high percentage of adults are in unhealthy relationships that children witness every day.

After the presentation, students felt they knew more about domestic violence and toxic relationships and how to identify and report them.

“I realized that there can be people around me who are in these situations and that I should do something to help them if they are in a toxic relationship,” freshman Richard Lopez reflected.

Throughout the presentation, the importance of getting help and realizing that you are in a toxic relationship was emphasized, making it clearer to students how unacceptable such relationships are.

Ms. Gerges also stressed that if a student is in a toxic relationship, it is crucial to get help as soon as possible.

Band Plays for Longhorns & Lobos
By Shelby Rush

From November 21-26, 2019, the Dwight Morrow Marching Band represented the Texas Longhorns and New Mexico Lobos basketball teams for the Empire and Roman Legends Classic tournaments. These tournaments took place at Madison Square Garden in New York City and Barclays’s Center in Brooklyn and were televised.

“It’s a special moment when a student can play at these two major venues and be on ESPN for four nights,” DMAE band director Gary Hollander said. The band was given three songs: the Texas Fight Song, Eye of Texas, and the New Mexico Fight Song. The band played these songs as the teams were entering or leaving the court. But, during time-outs and halftime, the band performed songs they normally play, which are primarily Historical Black Colleges and University (HBCU) based tunes.

“It was different from what we usually play, and it was challenging for me, which was super exciting,” freshman Emily Vargas explained. The band also interacted with the crowd. Students tossed T-shirts to the crowd during time-outs. Band members also met well-known basketball players, such as Kevin Durant and Jarrett Allen.

“It was an opportunity not many other bands could have and I’m grateful for the experience,” junior Neema Ta said.

Earlier in the year, the band performed at the Prudential Center during the Devils Game. The band has already been invited to play at the Empire Classic next year.

Robotics Team Wins “Cliffhanger”
By Sid Somashekhar

“C’est La Vie,” Englewood Robotics team, participated in the Cliffsanger FIRST Tech Challenge competition November 17, 2019. The competition took place at Cliffsanger High School, where more than 30 teams from New Jersey attended, each bringing their own unique robot to compete. The main event took place within a designated arena in the gym, where all the robots were placed. The objective of the competition was for two teams to have their robots place as many blocks as possible on a tray located on the opposite end of the arena to score points for the team.

The competition was fierce, with the changing of metal. Englewood’s drivers Sid Somashekhar and Richard Sawh were accompanied by coach Karina Normal on the front lines, competing for the Finals. The pit crew consisted of Fizar Hossen and Juanito Meneses, who were ready to address and fix any robot problem between matches.

“It was a hard competition and we had problems that we were not even thinking about before! But I am still proud of the effort we made,” junior Fizar Hossen stated.

“C’est La Vie put up a valiant effort but came up short. But, fortunately, Don Bosco’s Ironmen Robotics team selected C’est La Vie and the Millburn team to go to the Semi-Finals, where the DMAE team successfully made it to the Finals and won.

Above: DMAE Marching Band with Jarrett Allen at Madison Square Garden where they represented the Texas Longhorns and New Mexico Lobos basketball teams for the Empire and Roman Legends Classic tournaments by invitation. Right to left: band members on jumbobaton, playing, gawdling players, and on the court.
Aronson Win
By Dekyi Tsotsong

On Wednesday Oct. 23, 2019, the Community Chest of Englewood recognized Judy Aronson for the Community Advocate Award to recognize her generous work in the Englewood community. The annual Fall Fest was held at the Englewood Field Club.

The three-hour event honored Ms. Aronson as a student advocate and caring educator who created the Dr. John Grieco Scholarship Fund. The event featured English, Idol and other events that bridge Dwight Morrow High School and the Academies @ Englewood.

“The best part was seeing Ms. Aronson recognized,” saidwood students and community. Approximately 160 teachers, alumni and community members were present.

“I was honored to be there, not just for the Community Chest, but for our school and for Ms. Aronson to be recognized for all that she does,” French teacher Amanda Maunder said.

Prior to the honoree, guests mingled and enjoyed the venue. Community Chest Executive Director Shelly Wimpheimer introduced Ms. Aronson and thanked her for presenting her with the award. Ms. Aronson was recognized by Shelly Wimpheimer with students and family to the Community Chest, Bergen PAC and alumni.

It was a nice event and opportunity to see the people involved in the community. It was fun networking with everyone. The best part was seeing Ms. Aronson recognized,” senior Brian Lee said.

Because the theme for the Fall Fest was education, the planning committee wanted a well-respected educator from the area. Ms. Aronson stood out.

“It’s always awkward to be awarded for doing your job. I think that because a lot of the things I do are high profile, people have a perception that I’m doing everything, but a lot of teachers do many things to advocate for others, big and small,” Ms. Aronson said.

Wimpheimer commended Ms. Aronson for giving credit to others.

Grieco Games Score Larger Crowd
By Danny Liu and Timmy Zhang

An excited buzz filled the air on Friday, Nov. 15, 2019, when the John Grieco Scholarship Club held its annual Grieco Games in DMAE’s gymnasium. The Games featured the usual competitive sports and even more competitive students. It was a way for all students to meet new people in a friendly competition.

“It was a good opportunity for students to unite and have fun and do something different in the school instead of work,” freshman Majia Foster commented.

Students had fun together playing sports offered at the Games, volleyball, basketball, and dodge ball, instead of worrying about the pile of work they had to do. This gave many students the opportunity to expand their outreach and relax.

“This campus is a special place. I looked at that basketball court and saw kids that don’t hang out with each other during the day playing basketball and there having a lot of fun together,” organizer Judy Aronson said.

“I wish we can do this every Friday afternoon. I think it will be so great, socially,” she added.

The Dr. John Grieco Club organizes events such as Grieco games in order to earn money for scholarships are given to DMAE students in June. Club members spend time and effort each week planning and setting up events like Grieco Games in order to reach a $26,000 fundraising goal for the year. This year approximately 150 students participated in the Games, more than last year, making the event both monetary success and a Friday night of fun.

“Honestly, I think this year was the best it’s ever been because it was the most organized, we got less complaints, and everyone had fun and played lots of games. So I think this year was actually pretty solid,” senior Caleb Kim said, a fourth-year member of the Club.

DMAE Club Fair Hosts 25
By Jaslyn Tu

On November 22, 2019, DMAE’s Student Council proudly hosted this year’s Club Fair in the south building Common Area during all three lunch periods. The Club Fair was a chance for students to explore what Clubs are offered and a way for Clubs to recruit new members.

“I didn’t realize how many Clubs were actually at our school,” junior Saki Koga wa said. “I think the Club Fair is a nice way for everyone, especially freshmen, to get a bearing on how many resources we have,” he said.

The Club Fair included more than 25 tables, each decorated to show Club highlights and motivate people to join.

“It was very exciting to see all of the Clubs that this school has to offer, and to see all of the efforts our students put in,” math teacher Anthony Buzzetto said.

During the Club Fair, some Club members told stories of their talents or showed them off. One prime example was the Robotics and TSA Club with members proudly driving their remote control robot around the Common Area. Robot 4328 was a sight for all to see as it managed to pick up colorful blocks and avoid obstacles. Another sight was the green stand of Mission Green, decorated with plants, reminding people to be kind to the environment.

“I visited a lot of the tables to look around and a lot of them looked very nice. The tables had many decorations that made me want to join,” junior Gabby Faioli said.

Ultimately, students learned there is something for everybody.

Teen Pep Prep
Helping Freshman Learn about Sex
By Angie Gonzales

DMAE freshmen awkwardly shuffled into the North Library, perplexed with their attendance at a Teen Pep workshop Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019. After all, the freshmen were unaware of what the Teen Prevention Education Program was, however,

“If you aren’t ready to talk about it then you definitely aren’t ready to do it.”

They would walk out smarter at the end of the period. The workshop focused on the societal pressure teens have to engage in sexual activity and the benefits of abstaining from them.

“If you aren’t ready to talk about it then you definitely aren’t ready to do it,” were wise words offered by senior Gianna Scarpa.

The main skit, “Am I Ready to Have Sex?” dove into the doubts teens themselves have about sex and encouraged them to realize such hesitation as a warning sign, a cue to stop themselves before it’s too late.

“It helped me understand the importance of safe sex and communication between two people” freshman Eunice Lee said.

Teen Pep Director Maria Buckley was overjoyed with the leadership shown by the Teen Pep members and had high spirits for the program’s future.

“Kids learn best from other kids, especially for a topic this sensitive,” Ms. Buckley stated.

Teacher Nicholas Serpejo

“It helped me understand the importance of safe sex and communication between two people.”

who was at the presentation explained that it was a different way for the kids to learn about sex. “They don’t always want to hear it from a grown-up. This makes it fun for them,” said Serpejo.

By the end of the period, the freshmen group had gained a new understanding of abstinence and the responsibility that comes with sex.
Coach Harris Honored
Proud Mentor to Englewood’s Youth
By Devin Kim

The Bergen Family Center webpage features quotes from its Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a journalist and a mentor who is DMAE’s own Barry Harris.

“We are placed on this earth to serve each other, and Bergen Family Center is all about serving families who need our help. I’ve tried to do that through coaching, and helping with coaching. Helping teens is one of the most important things we do,” he said.

With this statement, Coach Harris sums up his work, beliefs, and his connection to the Bergen Family Center (BFC). Mr. Harris is the director of football at Englewood Public Schools, but he is a mentor first and foremost. Learning and helping young people are things he has been doing all throughout his life. Similarly, the BFC’s objective is to strengthen Englewood by giving aid to all those who need it. Due to his outstanding work for the BFC and the community, Harris was honored by the BFC and its president Mitch Schoenfeld on November 6, 2019, at the annual fundraising Gala held at the Rookledge Country Club.

“We honor Barry Harris, former Dwight Morrow High School football coach, because he is a tremendous role model for local youth and helps BFC improve our youth development programs. Barry’s additional expertise in campus security affords greater safety within our facilities,” said Mr. Schoenfeld.

Mr. Harris was passionate for football from a young age. He was on the Dwight Morrow football team in the early 1980s and even played in the NFL. He became Dwight Morrow’s head coach from 2012 to 2015.

Mr. Harris has also been recognized by the state of New Jersey for advocating for the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in recent years.

“It’s about giving back to the community,” Coach Harris said. “And what better way to give back than to guide students on the right path?”

“I have been able to create positive change and long-lasting impacts on the students…”

School Safety Crisis
Are Students Safer with More Rules?
By Ariannne Garcia and Katie Sudol

On the minds of educators, administrators, principals, and especially school security staff is keeping students safe. Safety is of utmost importance, especially now in times of school violence and lack of security training. DMAE Principal Benjamin Suro ranks school safety as the number one most important factor for DMAE, featuring the importance of education and community.

To ensure the safety of students, Mr. Suro has enforced rules, particularly wearing IDs, and implemented new protocols and tactics to protect students at school.

“We need to know if the right people are in the right place. All it takes is the wrong person being in the wrong place for a disaster to happen,” Mr. Suro said. The Principal explained that enforcing the ID policy is necessary for a safe school environment. IDs and yellow tags make it easier for administration to identify those that should be at school. However, students do not share the same views.

“I understand that the mandatory IDs are for our safety, but I feel as though it gives us a false sense of security. If someone who had bad intent wanted to get into our school, then the ID’s wouldn’t stop them,” explained junior Khushi Panchal.

Mandatory IDs, locked doors, the 10-minute rule, and clear halls along with more realistic lockdown drills and new fire drill procedures are all have been enforced by students and teachers this year. On top of these policies, there are new protocols.

One new protocol is monitoring students. This is a new way to prevent a student from breaking rules or being violent in the future.

“Students are often misunderstood... we channel it into something good.”

Chanel 12 for Happiness
Is happiness something that can be cultivated? Do happier people get better grades and are less stressed and quarrelsome?

The people at Life’s Good: Experience Happiness and Inner Explorer programs have proven that mindfulness training leads to increased happiness, and better grades and relationships. These programs serve over a million students across the US, including DMAE’s own, and they intend to teach ways to reduce stress and increase happiness.

“More than half of Americans can teens are stressed,” said Christine Ackerson, director of Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility for L.G. Electronics USA in Englewood Cliffs.

“We want to raise awareness that happiness skills can be learned, taught, and practiced,” Ms. Ackerson said. Since 2019, DMAE teachers have been tasked with using Inner Explorer each day in homeroom: soothing podcasts centered on different themes of relaxation and mindfulness. Principal Benjamin Suro is convinced that daily mindfulness practice works in positive ways and had the chance to speak out in support of the practice with Chanel 12 New York along with junior Joseph Liberti and Carolina Quintero.

“I think the interview went really well. It was great to have students there to give testimonials,” Mr. Suro said. “Having a newscast seriously helped to promote how Dwight Morrow prioritizes students’ mental health, community, climate, and culture,” he added.

They discussed the program with News 12 host Della Crews, Laureen Grossman, the director of Social Justice & Educational Equity for Inner Explorer, and Ms. Ackerson of LG who joined the interview.

Ms. Ackerson, whose companies have collaborated, explained the program’s benefits: less fights, stress, higher scores.

Mindfulness, “awareness of the present moment without judgment,” according to Ms. Grossman, is a central component of the program.

“Last year in my sophomore year, I felt like I was in control of my mind,” said Carolina. “When we walked into class, we would know how we were going to feel that day. Just by writing things down I felt like I was connecting with myself, my emotions, and finding out what I was really feeling that day,” she concluded.

UConn: Best Delegate Win
By Soojin Kim

Dressed in fashionable business attire, students from high schools all across the northeastern United States engaged in heated debates at the annual University of Connecticut Model United Nations conference November 8-10, 2019. These delegates, including DMAE’s formidable Model UN team, discussed real and trending global issues, such as improving HIV/AIDS education worldwide, in their respective committees.

“The high point for me was watching people who had never been on an overnight trip grow out of their comfort zone,” advisor Mindy Roachman said.

New and returning delegates refined their speaking skills as they articulated arguments and allowed for compromises in ways that would benefit their countries. They also learned how to cooperate with their committees and other delegates.

Though it takes confidence and daring, these students are always up for a challenge. The freshmen and newcomers admitted to having butterflies in their stomachs both in the debates and when meeting new people.

“At first, it was intimidating because everyone was dressed formally and I was nervous to talk,” freshman Woozoong Han said.

The DMAE team worked hard to be leaders, such as Senior Brian Lee who was named Best Delegate for his committee. In the end, all had a very fruitful experience.
Imagine coming home from work and suddenly being put behind bars for an unknown period of time. On September 20, 2019, DMAE graduate Angie Leiva was arrested by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) under the same circumstances. Angie has been denied bail and has had several court dates postponed including the most recent one in January delayed until Feb. 10, 2020, at which time she is expected to be released. Her employer, Monique Villanueva, organized a GoFundMe page to finance Angie’s bills and a potential bail, as well as to support her younger brother.

Introduced in 2001, the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) is a legislative proposal in the U.S. that gives residency status to underage immigrants under specific conditions. In this process, conditional residency is first given. Opportunities for permanent residency are then available if certain qualifications are met. Angie was covered by the Dream Act when she was 16 years old, but since then, the Trump administration has implemented harsher policies on naturalized citizens.

“Dream Act is a very big victory, but unfortunately, it seems what happened to Angie shows we need to do more so that the spirit of the Dream Act is stronger,” art instructor and GoFundMe sponsor Mauricio Rodriguez commented. “Although she was qualified as a Dreamer, she still fell into this unfortunate situation, and it just seems unfair and so harmful for young people, like a betrayal of this agreement with the Dream Act,” Mr. Rodriguez added.

Angie came to the U.S. at the age of three and is of Costa Rican and Colombian heritage. She graduated from the Academies @ Englewood program in 2014. After high school, Angie contributed to the Englewood community as a TD Bank employee. She has been described by many to be friendly, positive, and full of life.

“I think this is an unjust issue people are forced to deal with because Angie Leiva was part of a community in America for practically her whole life. She also worked hard as a student like any other citizen, yet all of that was unfairly taken away from her,” sophomore Julie Jang said.

Angie’s GoFundMe has garnered immense support, but the goal of forty-thousand dollars is yet to be accomplished. It is kindly asked of the DMAE and Englewood community to continue to donate and bring awareness to this horrendous immigration reversal. Angie is eternally grateful and emotional over the community’s support through these difficult times.

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Cross Country Raiders
Bright Future for Team
By Moe Dalia and Sean Moravsky

The 2019 Cross Country season for Dwight Morrow High School started in September at a meet in Darlington County Park with just 11 members. However, by the time they competed in the Big North event in October, the team had 19 active members including freshman Gavin Lam who is already making his mark. The team competed in the Big North League-Patriot Division, led by varsity captain and veteran runner senior Moussa Myrtle. Other returning players included senior David Gutierrez, juniors Adrianne Garcia and Katie Sudol, and sophomore June-Soo Lee.

“June-Soo Lee was proud to be on the team again,” Angela Gutierrez commented. “It was the friendships and the people, that I wouldn’t have met otherwise, that mattered most.” Each other. We also had great freshmen that hold a lot of potential for next year,” June-Soo said. The team trained hard both on and off the Dwight Morrow campus and that training coupled with freshman standouts, Gavin Lam, Takakori Kogawa, and Elif Ozdemir, raised their standing. Each participated in the 5K races and brought home top 25 medals in multiple meets as well as the Bergen County Championships. Gavin Lam and Elif not only boosted the team, but also got used to medaling on a weekly basis. Some awards included medals from top track meets in Bergen County, like the Doc Braver Invitational in which Gavin Lam was medaled.

“Members Elif Ozdemir and Moussa Myrtle received Big North Honorable Mention for their contribution to the team’s overall success,” explained Cross Country head coach Lisa Oden.

Despite the vigorous training and results, members of the team admit to having truly enjoyed their time as Cross Country members, and being proud to have formed a family-like bond.

“It was the friendships and the people, that I wouldn’t have met otherwise, that mattered the most” said June-Soo Lee.

A majority of Cross Country members continue in winter track because it is also coached by Ms. Oden and they appreciate her positive attitude and comprehensive training.

“I enjoyed the trip very much. I found it informative, fun and important to the fight against climate change.”

Environmental Science class trip to the Great Swamp, which is a 7,860-acre national and state park established in 1960. Fortunately, there will be another opportunity for students interested in wildlife and climate change to go on this trip in April when the weather is warmer. Mrs. Nettick will open the trip to all interested students who want to take part in understanding ecology, not only Environmental Science students.

“I enjoyed the trip very much. I found it informative, fun, and important to the fight against climate change,” said Joey thoughtfully.