Safety Focus Take Two
By Arlene Garcia and Katie Sudil

Last month we wrote about school safety from the students’ stand-
pov. This edition, we focus on DMAE Security’s standpoint.

As students, administrato-
rs, and faculty walk into school every morning, their eyes first come across the secure-
ry personnel at the entrance. Hundreds of people step foot in DMAE everyday, and it is secu-
ry’s job to keep it safe from any and all external threats.

Over the past year, many changes and advancements to DMAE school safety were made to ensure a safe learning environment for students.

Students previously reported, unlike these measures because they feel a loss of free-

dom. Yet, according to Barry Harris, DMAE head of security, the threat level on school sites has changed.

“We don’t have the security personnel in any of the hallways, only in the areas that are constantly monitored,” Mr. Harris explained. “We have ID scanners that everyone has to carry at all times to enter the building. In addition, we have security guards who are there to keep students safe, not to restrict them.”

“Everything we do is to make sure that your learning experience and the teachers’ work is safe,” Mr. Harris added.

Having teachers stand out-
side of their classrooms until classes start is also an important element of safety to make sure that the classroom is occupied with people who belong there.

The recent addition of cameras throughout the school is another example of an in-
crease in security. These cam-
eras are located near doors to allow security to better scan the campus because of its many entrances and exits.

“By no means are the cam-
eras there to observe students and penalize them if they do something wrong. They are there to keep an eye on places where security guards are not present. We’re protecting you guys from the outside in,” Mr. Harris concluded.

Winter Formal Draws Crowd
By Deryl Tetzlaff Tatsong

Students who attended the DMAE Winter Formal walked into a gym transformed into a glittery party room, and they were greeted by Student Coun-
cil members, a glass of spar-
icke apple cider, a photo sta-
tion, and a walk down “memory lane.” The memory lane was a walkway decorated with lights and posters of important icons from the 2010s, such as One Direction, Twilight, Big Time Rush, and Justin Bieber. It was a “2010s Rewind” to celebrate the decade past and the future of a new one.

“Student Council worked seamlessiy to provide a positive experience for the students here at DMAE,” adviser Jamie Chang said. “The dance was a huge success.”

Ms. Chang said, “Kids from all grades attended, more than 300 of them. They sat at tables, grabbed buffet-style catered food from Popeyes, Barboles-
no’s, Playa Bowls, and Noches de Colombia. And they danced, danced, danced to the music played by the professional DJ.”

“I’m genuinely amazed at how successful our dance was this year. It just demonstrates the kind of growth that the Council experi-
enced in the last four years, and it’s a testament to its newly elevated status on campus.”

“We’re not just a small club of kids anymore, but a representative student body of DMAE,” remarked Student Council co-
president Brian Lee proudly.

Two additions to the Win-

ter Formal that Student Council worked hard to make possible were the location of the dance and the inclusion of students from other high schools. These had never been allowed before. The location changed from the North Cafeteria to the gym, and non-DMAE friends, boyfriends and girl friends were able to attend. Consequently, attend-
ce increased, from approximately 120 attendees who were mostly underclassmen in past years to a whopping 335 atten-
dees this year, many of whom were upperclassmen.

“The dance was thorough-
ly organized compared to previ-
ous years, and there was a good mix of students from all grades, which was partly because of the new addition of outsiders. I honestly had a lot of fun,” senior Solema Jacob said.

The Student Council mar-
ceted the dance on social media and school announcements during the month prior, with tickets going for $15, but to push up sales, they came up with a $10 three-days flash sale. The Council thought of everything, including safety, as all attendees needed to bring their school issued IDs and non-
-DMAE had to bring a pre-
filled form signed by their par-
ents. Security guards guarded the exits throughout the night and only allowed entry from the main entrance.

“I was amazed by their willingness to take this project on and step into leadership roles without requiring acknowledg-
ment and credit from anyone,” Ms. Chang said.

To support the ventures and artwork of DMAE’s art sector, follow @DMAEAts on Instagram.
There is widespread homophobia on the DMAE campus. Every day, people on our campus use homophobic language to communicate with others. It seems as if the use of such terms has become normal in our school. In an era when the LGBTQ+ community is portrayed in the media as established, and with the legalization of same-sex marriage through the 2015 Supreme Court case, these displays of homophobia and ignorance on this campus are unacceptable. We need to combat these blatant bouts of homophobia.

At DMAE, those most fearful of homosexuals are heterosexual males. They seem to not understand the magnitude of the word “f****t” when using it with their friends. Throughout my years of school, whether it be a joke or to offend me, people have called me a “girl” and a “f****t” interchangeably. Such charged language and the actions people take because of stigmas around homosexual people can be detrimental to teenagers just coming to terms with their sexuality.

Sophomore Jeffrey Guardado agrees. “Homophobia isn’t uncommon. And I’ve seen and experienced quite a bit of it on this school campus; from hurtful comments being made to the way people stop and stare,” he explained. Jeffery added that when he hears “gay” being used as an adjective, such as in the commonly used expression “bro that’s so gay,” he feels disgusted.

“I don’t understand why guys feel the need to use those words. It just makes me see the school as such a low environment because people can say and express such careless actions,” he said. “Every negative action has a negative outcome. Homophobia fights to break a person. And I can say that with all the homophobic encounters I’ve had in Dwight Morrow High School, I will always struggle to gain the full confidence I’ve been striving for because of the constant bad pull people take me down with,” he added.

Others might say that we all fear what we do not know or understand, but this is a cop out. Though it seems understandable for someone to have a prejudice against gay people if he or she has never met anyone from the LGBTQ+ community, such ignorance today is not tolerable on a campus as diverse and pro-active as ours. Even though a student may not have had any experiences with gay individuals, blindly forming judgments on gay people is not acceptable. Yes, there may be social pressure, misinformation from parents, or even the influence of false or negative biases promoted in social media against homosexual people, but these are not excusable.

Additionally, we have the ZONE actively educating our community on healthy masculinity and the GSA Club. Thus, the anger from people like me stems most from heterosexual students meeting people from the LGBTQ+ community yet continuing to hold these biased beliefs and use language that is hurtful.

There’s power in your words and actions, and making the right choices will make DMAE and the world better. Being aware of the world around us is an important choice we must make regardless of our individual preferences. So, hesitate before you speak and respect our diversity.

Sports

Raiders Push for States

By Moe Dalla and Sean Moravsky

DMAE’s Boys Varsity Basketball season started on December 20, 2019, with a sensational home game against Fort Lee. Though the Brigadiers were able to pull off a 24-point comeback in the fourth quarter, the Raiders, playing in front of perhaps one of the largest home crowds in recent years, won in this nail-biting game, 66-65. However, following the successful season last year, with then senior Owen Roberts as the star player and 1000-point scorer, the basketball team had large shoes to fill.

Nevertheless, with that strong start to the season, the team got attention as an upcoming State tournament competitor, with a first round win in the Single Bells Holiday Tournament against East Orange High School. The Raiders also had a winning streak in Big North “When we saw that he was ranked in the state for threes, we knew he deserved every bit of credit he gets.” Conference play.

This year’s star player, senior Andre Fulgenzio, is living up to expectations on and off the court. He has been ranked as one of the top three-point shooters in all of New Jersey High School Basketball, and hopes to continue performing at the collegiate level. “The team was really excited when Andre got his offers, and when we saw that he was ranked in the state for threes, we knew he deserved every bit of credit he gets,” senior captain of the team Isaiah Dolphy said.

However, the team has faced injuries, like that of junior and former starter, Christopher Dark Luskey, Darius Boucher, a senior transfer, was a huge addition to the team; showing no trouble scoring or sparking a late-game comeback.

“When the team found out Chris got hurt, we had no idea how the season would turn out, but our other players, especially Darius, stepped up because reason we won a lot of games,” Andre said.

Despite a tough loss to Paramus Catholic in the second round of the Bergen County Jamboree, the Raiders hope to be an underdog quirter in the State tournament. Recently, they won the section championship after a blowout win against Bergenfield, with a final score of 81-41.

Lee Jones, the head coach for his third year, believes the team has a chance at States.

“The 2020 season has been a somewhat tumultuous season thus far. We have the highest group 3 State playoff seed since the mid ’70s,” Coach Jones explained.

The State tournament begins Monday, March 2, 2020, against Teaneck, and Coach Jones is hopeful for a win.

“Our guys have worked extremely hard throughout the year and I’m looking forward to having a nice run in the States to close out the year.”

Freestyle Design Winners

Pre-Eng Class Turns 2D into 3D

By Danny Liu and Timmy Zhang

Contest winners | Top: Patrice Abdou, diamond; German Mier, nucleus horn; Siemoe Ahmed, ice cream cone; Julian Suero, fidget spinner.

In the second week of December 2019, the DMAE Pre-Engineering freshman in Anthropology Dinallo’s class had a chance to compete in a week-long Freestyle Design Competition. Out of the 20 students who participated in this event, four designs were voted up 3D printed, and these students got to witness their designs come to life from the computer screen to becoming tangible in their hands.

“The best part of the competition was seeing what everybody else made...”