

# DHS Press

Vol. 2

Winter Edition 2023-2024

## Fall Fest

By Samantha Baird  
*Staff Writer and Head Technical Advisor*

Fall Fest was an amazingly fun event hosted by DHS on Monday, October 30th from 5-7 p.m. It had many different activities for a range of ages including Trunk or Treat, cake walk, pumpkin painting, and more! The Trunk or Treat was run by Key Club and allowed different clubs at DHS to decorate a car and pass out candy. Not only did children and families enjoy some early trick-or-treating, but they also got to participate in fun games and activities run by the DHS SGA. Many of the games were provided by Mr. Szymanski and included two bean bag toss games, a wooden frog launch game, and a Plinko board. There were even candy prizes for winning games! And of course, you can't have a fall festival without some yummy snacks. Cider, cotton candy, and popcorn were some of the delicious foods sold. The event was advertised to DHS families, local elementary and middle schools, and around Dunedin. All in all, Fall Fest received a good turnout with many families showing up to have some Halloween fun.

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## Mr. Clarke Finds Missing Bird!

By Ava Johnny  
*Staff Writer*

On October 18th, a missing pet parrot owned by a Dunedin local was rescued by Michael Clark. Outside in the Courtyard, the custodian of our school, Michael Clark, stumbled upon a parrot. As Mr. Clark recounts, the Parrot flew towards him and “just sat on his shoulder”. As he began to look more closely, Mr. Clark saw it needed some assistance because it was injured. So, he took in and looked after this parrot. Later, the parrot, revealed to be named Frankie, was returned to his dad, who offered a reward for anyone who found him and brought him home. If you go into Mr. Kippen’s room, the 3DE 10th grade teacher, his home screen on his laptop is a picture of Michael Clark and Frankie the Parrot. The staff and teachers at Dunedin High School care not only about the well-being of the students, but also the well-being of nature, animals, and the community around us!

Pictured right is Mr. Clarke with Frankie the Parrot  
*Photo by: Micheal Clarke*



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## College

By Ameyali Martinez- Peña  
*Staff Writer*

“It feels so scary getting old.” - *Ribs* by Lorde.  
Unfortunately, that is what many of our fellow seniors are thinking as they race toward completing their college applications. Progressing on to secondary school is a choice many graduating seniors choose to make; each college offers a variety of different majors, clubs, programs, and more. Most college applications are due through early January and mid-February; however, most seniors have already gotten a head start and have started applying. Though, what makes people strain when applying is the cost, competitiveness, location, and lack of clarity that goes with it. “Applying to college is REALLY stressful; there’s so many steps that go into it before you can apply,” says our own co-editor-in-chief, Campbell Hudson. Nonetheless, many seniors feel rather bittersweet when they realize that they are graduating and moving to college. “It’s scary as things are all about to change, but change is how people grow,” says senior Serenity McRory. Others prefer to continue and progress into the world already. “I just want to graduate and move on,” states Carolina Correla. Some of our senior’s top college picks are University of South Florida, Florida State University, SPC, and so much more. Many may wish to transfer after getting their associate degree and to a more favorable university after 2 years. Even so, our fellow seniors still have a lot to attain before arriving at college, yet they are still well-prepared for what lies ahead.



DHS Students-  
want your own  
personal  
photoshoot for  
the Yearbook?  
Buy an ad today!  
Ads must be  
either a full or  
half page. Go to  
9-06 during sixth  
or seventh period  
to schedule an  
appointment.



The following are seals of  
colleges some students  
have already applied to.  
*Photo by: Ameyali Martinez-  
Peña*

## Exams

By Ava Johnny  
*Staff Writer*

Exams are right around the corner! Every year, students take the PSAT and midterm exams, and they tend to worry or stress a lot. The PSAT exam is only taken once per year and is a practice version of the SAT exam. However, most juniors get anxious because receiving a high score on the PSAT exam could lead to them being qualified for a National Merit Scholarship. Furthermore, midterm exams are usually given to students during the end of the semester, which builds tension for numerous amounts students. Many students stress over midterms because it is an assessment that has an impact on their overall grades. We wish all students good luck or on upcoming exams and be sure to study!

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## Holiday Vacation

By Andres Rodriguez  
*Staff Writer*

Thanksgiving break is in two weeks! What are you going to do on your week off of school?

There are many things you can do during your time away. Many people love to go on vacation. There are lots of places to go, like the Florida Keys to see the beautiful blue water and the amazing beaches with white (or even black!) sand. You could also travel north to the cold weather. There are nice places to go like North Carolina, where you could see snow for the first time. They also have nice mountains to go snowboarding and skiing.

There are many other things you can do over break, like go to the movies, mini golf, and celebrate Thanksgiving with your family. Thanksgiving is a really good time to spend time with your family and loved ones and reflect on what you are thankful for. What do you have planned; are you going to the cold weather and seeing snow, or will you go to the beach and be in the clear blue water? You have a week with no school, so you better make plans soon! Hopefully, you have a good Thanksgiving break and have a happy holiday!

## Holiday Movie List

By Will Rettman  
*Staff Writer*

1. Home Alone (1990, Chris Columbus). This fun, action packed movie is a classic, and great to watch with family!
2. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000, Ron Howard). This Christmas movie starring Jim Carrey will surely leave you laughing.
3. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993, Henry Selick). A spooky but enjoyable cross between Christmas and Halloween.
4. Gremlins (1984, Joe Dante). Not everyone considers this a Christmas movie, but it definitely has the holiday spirit.
5. A Christmas Story (1983, Bob Clark). This film is filled to the brim with chaos, and lots of snow.

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## Turkey v. Ham

By Will Rettmann  
*Staff Writer*

Every year during November, families gather around the dining table to eat delicious foods such as mashed potatoes, stuffing, baked macaroni and cheese, and the infamous cranberry sauce. However, there's always been the same debate: which meat option is better, turkey or ham? Out of the 75 people we asked, 67% said that turkey was the tastier option, while 33% of people said ham was superior. Some say that turkey is the first food that comes to mind when thinking of Thanksgiving, while ham should be saved for Christmas. However, opinions vary from family to family, and some of our students have decided to share theirs: "I've always thought turkey is gross, but I don't really enjoy ham either," said senior Campbell Hudson. "What I eat during Thanksgiving just kind of depends on what my family wants and our traditions." Another senior, who would like to remain anonymous, says that they've always had turkey and has never had ham for Thanksgiving. Despite the differences between everyone's preferred main meal, Thanksgiving is a time to bring people together in the best ways possible, and that's at the dinner table.

## Is Santa Real?

Serenity McRory  
*Staff Writer*

Santa Claus is the iconic face of Christmas with his well-known red suit and unforgettable beard. With the help of his sometimes mischievous elves, he is also known for his most famous act of delivering thousands of presents to kids all around the world. No one has yet to spot Santa, even with Rudolph and his nose so bright, but there are other ways we all know that Santa Claus is real in the spirit of Christmas. His spirit truly shows in the person who donates their new bike to a person who is less fortunate than them, or the people always ready to help another person in need with no questions asked. Santa is real in every joyful emotion felt, like a child who can't stop giggling. Santa is real in every holiday memory that everyone's inner child will never forget. So yes, Santa Claus is real; there may not be any visible proof of him, but we feel him around all Christmas long. So be good and make sure to leave him a plate of cookies and a warm glass of milk for Christmas this year!

Students- need help  
in any of your  
classes? Stop by  
tutoring Tuesdays  
and Thursdays after  
school!



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## Turkey Trot

By Sellylynn Albert  
*Staff Writer*

Every year in the area of Tampa Bay, FL we have a Turkey Trot. A Turkey Trot is a foot race, held around or on Thanksgiving Day. This day consists of families gathering together to eat and have fun while walking or running a long distance, typically dressed up in a group or family costume. The name “Turkey Trot” is derived from the use of the Turkey as a common centerpiece at Thanksgiving dinner. Up to 7,000 people register for this race and there are two different distances: the 5k Faster and 1 Mile Gobbler. The 5k Faster is when you run the whole way until the finish line and the 1-Mile Gobbler is where the participants walk to the finish line. This day symbolizes giving thanks; while families are racing, they recognize the less fortunate, so they encourage others, as well as themselves, to give back to others that don’t have as much as they do. By giving back, they donate to charities and buy canned goods to fill up the local food pantries. During this time of year, it gets cold and the homeless are out trying to find food and shelter, causing local food pantries to empty out. The community tries to help and buy canned goods to fill up the shelves or they raise money for different charities. Many other cities in Florida like Sarasota and St. Petersburg also do this race and involve aid organizations. This event is a fantastic opportunity for you and your family to spend time with each other and bond.



A man dresses up as a turkey to run the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot.

*Photo by: NBC News*

## Holiday Gifts

By David Grote  
*Staff Writer*

Christmas is right around the corner, and these are the best gifts for students this year!

Lots of students who go to the gym would like Apple headphones and a new gym bag. Other students said they wanted new shoes for the sport they play. Students who are into music said they would like a new electric guitar and an amplifier to go with it. Others said they would like gift cards to their favorite stores like Nike, Amazon, or Apple. Some want the new iPhone 15 with a wireless charging station and a phone case. Students who are into gaming said they wanted the new PlayStation or Xbox with games to go with it.

Christmas is the best time for giving or receiving gifts, and many can’t wait for that wonderful morning to arrive!

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## DHS Swim Team Wins Second Place at Annual District Meet

Campbell Hudson  
*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

With another successful year for DHS Swim and Dive, the team placed second overall at their annual Districts Championship.

The Boy's and Girl's Swim and Dive season began in late July, climbing up to the top 8 in the district overall. The team has had a very outstanding year, winning the majority of their events and almost all swimmers making the cut for Districts. Districts was held at the Southwest Recreation Complex on October 21st, and both the boys and girls won second place overall. There were also four District champions, winning first place in their event: Sophia Presby in the 200 IM and 100 Breaststroke, Campbell Hudson in the 500 free, Sean Wallace in the 100 backstroke, and finally, Milena Fix in the 100 Butterfly.

Most swimmers and all relays will be progressing to Regionals, held on October 28th at the North Shore Aquatic Complex. After this, qualifying swimmers will be able to attend the State Championship, going up against some of the fastest high school swimmers in the state. Regardless of the stakes, the team is feeling confident about their chances to advance.

"The team's biggest strength is that they work and practice hard," said head coach Tiffany Rayel. Rayel is a health a P.E. teacher at Dunedin, and she has been coaching swim for 17 years. When asked what the team could do next year to move up and get first at Districts, Rayel said they could "recruit more talented athletes, show up to consistently to practice, and put in the effort!"

Make this year's great memories last!



Buy your 2023-2024 yearbook today before prices go up!



The Girls and Boys Swim teams poses with their District's second-place trophy.

*Photo by:  
Tiffany Rayel*

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## Football

Ameyali Martinez- Peña  
*Staff Writer*

“We’ve won!” That is what our football team could proudly say on Friday, September 15, 2023, when the final touchdown was made by Madden James (22). Football is a beloved sport at our school, with many students always eager to show up, fully supporting our school’s football team.

Nonetheless, this season has been rough for our football team; however, they demonstrate that with their perseverance and determination that they can still bring victory to our school. Though football season is coming to an end, our football players still succeeded in what they do and will continue to show their skills for many more seasons.

## Girls’ Basketball Begins!

Campbell Hudson  
*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

The girls’ basketball season has begun at DHS, and it’s already proving to be a very promising year!

Conditioning for the girls’ basketball team began in mid-October and was held in the gym from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 pm. Official tryouts were on October 30th, and all students who participated made the team. Practice is held every day, usually from 2:00 to 4:00, and includes drills, running, and scrimmages to prepare the team for games. The season officially starts on November 17th, with the Pre-Season Classic at Fivay High School. Home games for the team up until the end of this year are against East Lake, Clearwater, and Osceola to name a few. There are five seniors this year, with a projected twenty girls total on the team.

Leading the team is head coach Tiffany Rayel. In an interview, Rayel stated she loves seeing all the girls play together and improve, and figuring out what their strengths are, and using them to their advantage. Rayel also said that the team’s biggest strength is their defense, which creates the momentum the girls need to win.

“The season is going good so far; we have a decent turn out, so when the season starts, we’ll be in shape”, said coach Rayel. When asked if she had any advice for the team, Rayel said: “You have to put in the work in if you want to be successful, and good things come to those who hustle!”.



The Varsity Football Team prepares to enter the field.

*Photo by: Jayda Tucker*

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## Best Christmas Songs

Anonymous  
Staff Writer

As I'm sure many people are aware, "it's the holiday season" (subtle reference, I know!). Ahh, that wonderful time of year in Florida... the air is cooling to the same temperature as my house, and everyone is a happy-miserable mix while still sweating. Be those conditions as they may, this time of the year does have some of the best holiday songs! So, here are my top 10 classic Christmas songs that are sure to induce nostalgia.

1. All I Want for Christmas Is You by Mariah Carey
2. Happy Xmas (War is Over) by John Lennon and Yoko Ono
3. Last Christmas by Wham!
4. If We Make It Through December by Phoebe Bridgers
5. The Christmas Song by Nat King Cole
6. It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year by Andy Williams
7. It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas by Michael Bublé
8. White Christmas by Bing Crosby
9. Silver Bells by Tony Bennett
10. Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas by Frank Sinatra

## Dinner Theatre

By Samantha Baird  
Staff Writer and Head Technical Advisor

Dinner Theatre was open for two nights, Thursday, October 19th, and Friday, October 20th, starting at 6 p.m. The cost for a general admission ticket was \$25.00 and \$20.00 for students and teachers. The event consisted of two One Act shows put on by our DHS theatre program, and a 3-course meal. A One Act is a short-acting play. The two One Acts put on were *Selfie*, an emotional play about the relatable challenges a group of teenagers faces, and *Tuna Fish Eulogy*, which is about the mystery of a young boy's death. These shows were directed by Mrs. Mullholand, Gabe O'Reilly, and Julia Sterz. The delicious three-course meals of the events were made by our DHS culinary program. The foods served were salad, a choice of either vegetable lasagna or pork loin, and salted caramel brownies. Adding to the magic of this event, there were servers who walked through the cafeteria to bring food to each person. In regard to this event, Mrs. Mullholand says "We loved partnering with the culinary program and working with Mr. Vroman. And overall, everyone had so much fun, and we would definitely do it again".



Part of the performance of 'Selfie' at the dinner theatre.

Photo by: Elli O'Neil

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## *The Nightmare Before Christmas: Is it a Christmas or Halloween Movie?*

Anonymous  
Staff Writer

I'm sure by now we've all seen the classic stop-motion film *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, directed by Henry Selick and written by Tim Burton in 1993. Some people watch it closer to Halloween, and some closer to Christmas. But which holiday is it really for? This beloved tale takes place in Halloween Land, but it's all about Christmas and Jack Skellington's obsession with the snow-filled holiday. Releasing it on Wednesday, October 13th makes me believe it was intended to be a more Halloween-leaning film. On the other hand, maybe Tim Burton just wanted to release the spooky stop-motion film sooner so audiences could enjoy it on DVD by Christmastime. I know, that's just my opinion, but here's what the people said:

71% of people surveyed said it was most definitely a Halloween film and 29% said that it was absolutely a Christmas classic; it seems like the general public's opinion is that it is intended for Halloween. However, the dichotomy of the film is what makes it special. Who knows which it was meant to be? One or the other, or both? It's one of the great mysteries of the world, one of the seven wonders perhaps. Really though, the best thing about *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is its duality, its flexibility, and that the occasion it is meant for is in the eye of the beholder.

## Holiday Book Recommendations

By Brinleigh Brittain  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

1. *The Spirit Bares its Teeth* by Andrew Joseph White
2. *The Death of Jane Lawrence* by Caitlin Starling
3. *The Weight of Blood* by Tiffany D. Jackson
4. *This Monstrous Thing* by Mackenzi Lee
5. *Unnatural Creators* edited by Maria Dahvana Headley and Neil Gaiman
6. *Carols and Chaos* by Cindy Anstey
7. *Stay Another Day* by Juno Dawson
8. *The After Party* A.C. Arthur
9. *Love in Winter Wonderland* by Abiola Bello
10. *How to Excavate a Heart* by Jake Maia Arlow



The official poster for the film *The Nightmare Before Christmas*  
Photo by: [IMDb](#)

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be yours!



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website and buy an ad  
today!



A Portrait of Ada Lovelace from  
1836.

*Portrait by: Sarah Margaret  
Carpenter*

## Ada Lovelace

By Brinleigh Brittain  
*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

Countess Ada Lovelace (1815-1852) was born on December 15th, 1815. Tutored by some of the most brilliant minds the 19th century had to offer, Lovelace's mind grew strong. At the age of twelve she could perform magnificent calculations in her head and attempted to build a flying machine.

Lovelace's fate in history would be cemented when she went to a party hosted by the inventor Charles Babbage. Babbage showed Lovelace his Analytical Engine, a machine designed to calculate a long series of mathematical equations.

Lovelace begged Babbage to let her work on it. He refused, but that wouldn't stop her. Over the next two years Lovelace translated Babbage's notes on the machine into English, adding her own commentary as well which doubled the length of the original documents.

Babbage was impressed and invited Lovelace to work with him. They became close friends, and as time grew on, Lovelace began to suggest improvements for the Analytical Engine. Stating that it could play music, store knowledge, as well as perform its calculating duties.

Lovelace was suggesting the modern computer.

The Analytical Engine was never finished in Lovelace or Babbage's time, but it did help inspire the phones, computers, and other devices used today.

Towards the end of her life, Lovelace developed cancer. She died at the age of thirty-six from her illness. She was buried at the Church of St. Mary Magdelene next to her father, whom she never met.

In 2009, in order to raise awareness for women in STEM, it was declared that the second Tuesday of every October would be Ada Lovelace day. A time to remember the mother of modern computing. "Forget this world and all its troubles and if possible, its multitudinous Charlatans--everything in short but the Enchantress of Numbers." Charles Babbage on Ada Lovelace.

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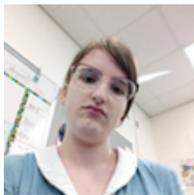
## Appreciation for Miss Kuerzi

By Samantha Baird

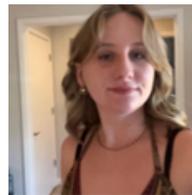
*Staff Writer and Head Technical Advisor*

There is a lot of work that gets put into creating and running the yearbook and newspaper at DHS, yet Miss Kuerzi manages to do it phenomenally. Supervising all the various parts of her journalism classes requires effective communication and organization skills. It also requires a strict classroom rule, yet she still finds a way to make class fun. Not only does she oversee the yearbook and newspaper, and the sales, marketing, and photography that go along with them, but she also teaches AICE Gen English Paper. Even with all of that in her impressive schedule, she also owns her own real estate team outside of school! So next time you see Miss Kuerzi, whether it is in class or the halls, make sure to appreciate all the hard work that she does for DHS.

## DHS Press Staff New Year's Resolutions!



Brinleigh Brittan- *Co-Editor-in-Chief*:  
"Read more classic literature."



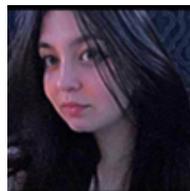
Campbell Hudson- *Co-Editor-in-Chief*: "Get into multiple colleges and pass all my exams."



Samantha Baird- *Head Technical Advisor*:  
"Write more and make more memories."



Andres Rodriguez- *Staff Writer*:  
"Get a girl."



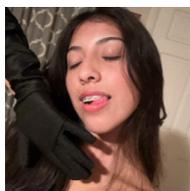
Serenity McRorey- *Staff Writer*:  
"To have better spending habits."



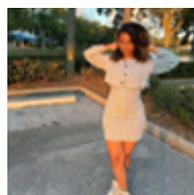
Ghost of DHS- *Staff Writer*:  
"Haunt more Freshmen and curse more simpletons."



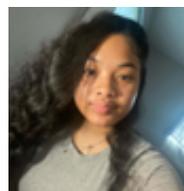
David Grote- *Staff Writer*: "Eat more chicken."



Ameyali Martinez-Pena- *Staff Writer*: "Live happier."



Ava Johnny- *Staff Writer*: "Live life to the fullest."



Sellylynn Albert- *Staff Writer*:  
"Enjoy life more."



Will Rhettman- *Staff Writer*:  
"Set more boundaries."

 This icon was used for students who did not wish to provide their photo.