DANBURY GRASSROOTS ACADEMY
EDUCATION - CHARACTER - TENNIS - HEALTH

SEPTEMBER 2017

COLLEGE : Class of 2017

Our graduates of 2017 have begun their first year in college and seem to be off to a great start! Stephanie-Fairfield University, Maria -NVCC, Felipe- NVCC, and Nathaniel- NVCC. Three of the graduates have been in DGA for 9 years and the fourth for 7 years. They have worked hard, persevered through challenging times, and are role models to our younger students. This is a very exciting time for each of them, and we are looking forward to assisting them through their transitions to the next stages of their lives! They will be missed a great deal here at DGA!

SUMMER EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT

Our office was buzzing 4 days a week with all of our students keeping their minds active and engaged in preparation for the upcoming school year. Our younger students came every day between 9:00 and 11:00 and then older kids from 11:30- 1:00. All of our students worked hard on their mandatory summer assignments from school; DGA Summer Reading Program; daily reading logs, daily grammar workshops; Khan Academy; math calendars, computer coding and website design, and extra work we assigned.. *All* of our high school students wrote practice essays using the College Board prompts and did SAT prep with Khan Academy and SAT workbooks.

SUMMER TENNIS & FITNESS

We had another productive and eventful summer on the courts, 5 days a week for 2-4 hours daily. This included tennis practice and workouts, plus a 21.1 mile walk from our office to the tennis courts. Coach Boucher, and his armada of on-court volunteers, equipped with high energy and positive attitudes kept the kids moving with various tennis drills, games, 1 mile/5K training, and matches versus Norwalk and Wilton Riding Club. Paul Masters helped out 2 days a week with all kids and spent quality one on one time with the TT kids honing their skills. Our Tournament Training group successfully completed another annual Boot Camp. They endured two full days of tennis from 8:30am- 5:00, running and fitness activities, hill training, sprints, and more. They were rewarded with a swim and BBQ! A huge thank you to Coach Boucher, and all volunteers!

ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

What has become an all-around favorite event of the year, our students, families, volunteers, & staff enjoyed another exciting evening at Hatter's Hall. Recognition for performance during the school year included awards for: perfect attendance, grade improvement, Honor Roll, Student of the Month, exceptional report cards, & overall excellence in school. On court prizes were given for Sportsmanship; Most Improved; Heart; and the highly coveted Coach's Award. Trophies were given for the DGA Tournament for singles and doubles champions and runners up. Race medals were awarded to the top 3 boys and girl finishers of the 5K and 1 Mile races. Each family brought a healthy side dish and we feasted on grilled chicken from Elmer's Diner. The event is always a well-deserved celebration and provides an opportunity to reflect upon and acknowledge another successful school year and summer program!

3rd Annual 'ACE OF A RACE'

After cancelling due to rain, we had another sunny day for this year's 5K/1 Mile race at Tarrywile Park on August 10! All DGA students are required to run a race each year and did really well after training all summer. Congratulations to DGA 5K first place female, Sierra, and first place male, Tiago. For the 1 mile race, Lizzie won the girls and Carlos the boys. Please visit our website for results. We would like to thank our generous sponsors: United HealthCare, Bailey & Beatty Financial, Power Nutrition/Monika Nowak, COSTCO, the Ancient Mariner, and Stop & Shop. We really appreciate your support!

** CAP MENTORS NEEDED **

We are looking for more mentors for our CAP Program (College Acceptance Program). Mentors are paired one on one with a DGA student and help prepare, advise, and help maximize the success of the student for college *or* career. Mentors would play a similar role to a parent in the college prep role and work as an additional support with DGA and school counselors. Please contact Lauren or Lynn if you are interested or if you know someone who might be interested.

IN OFFICE WORKSHOPS

ASML: A group of energetic and kind employers from ASML in Wilton will continue working with our students on the love of technology, intellectual curiosity, inquisitiveness, logical reasoning, creativity, problem solving, teamwork, open mindedness, and communication skills.

COMPUTER CODING & WEBSITE DESIGN - This summer Tejasvini and Sonal came in 4 days a week for 7 weeks and worked with our students on computer coding and website design. They will continue this schoolyear as well. Our kids loved working with them and are extremely fortunate to have their help.

FIELD TRIPS

CT OPEN: We took 25 kids to the CT Open in New Haven on August 21 and watched some of the world's best women players battle it out on the courts!

MATS WILANDER/W.O.W. CLINIC: Junior, Luis P., was chosen by the CT Alliance to participate in a tennis clinic given by the legendary Mats Wilander at the Yale University tennis courts. With a guest appearance by Nick Bollettieri, it was a once in a lifetime experience!

ENGLISH LESSONS with LVG

Ten DGA parents have begun taking English classes with the Literacy Volunteers on the Green. They meet one on one with a teacher, once a week for 1.5 hours per week. The program is free of charge and helps them become independent readers, writers, listeners, and speakers of English through classes as well as through natural, authentic, real-life activities and experiences.

APPRECIATION BOX

- **Our volunteers**- A huge thank you to our 40+ loyal, kind, and patient volunteers who help our students grow in so many ways. This program cannot operate without you all!
- **CAP Mentors**- Thank you all for spending so much time getting to know your mentees and helping them set goals and explore their interests.
- **The Crotty Family-** Thank you for donating U.S. Open opening day and night session seats. Our very hard working volunteers were able to see some of the world's best compete live!

www.danburygrassrootsacademy.org

203-797-0500

SCHOOL YEAR WORKSHOPS

MS. PRESIDENT US:

Five of our female students are very fortunate to have received a scholarship to participate in the Ms. President US Program this school year, one Friday each month at the Ridgefield Library. They will focus on civic engagement and leadership skills, public speaking, diplomacy and listening skills, local/federal/state government and women's history. What a great opportunity this is for our young girls!

YOUTH & GOVERNMENT:

This fall our high school students will be taking part in the Youth & Government Program with ESCAPE to the Arts. They will write legislative bills, practice debating and public speaking, and participate in a youth- led government process. The program wraps up with a State Legislative Convention at the State House in Hartford where 300 other high school students debate their bills.

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Thanks again to everyone who is involved with DGA. You are always welcome to stop by and watch our kids in action in the office or on the courts. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Carl Bailey — Carl Bailey, President

Lauren Bailey — Lauren Bailey, Director

DGA is a federally recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

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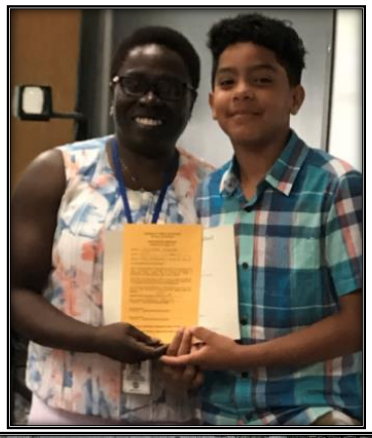
Today's 99.9 STATION
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