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to see & see again

SAINT DOMINIC ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 49 SPRING 2011

Saint Dominic Academy Welcomes New Leadership

The top two leadership positions at Saint Dominic Academy were filled this year by two people who together bring a wealth of academic and administrative ability to the helm at SDA.

With a combination of 70+ years experience in education, Mrs. Barbara Boyd Griffin, Head of School, and Mr. Thomas Corbo, Principal, are leading the Academy in its 133rd year of existence.

After a comprehensive, national search for a visionary leader, the Caldwell Dominican Leadership Counsel headed by Prioress Sister Arlene Antczak, O.P., approved the recommendation of the SDA Board of Trustees to hire Mrs. Griffin as the Academy's new Head of School. Mrs. Griffin is entrusted with developing a long-range strategic, operational, and financial plan to advance the school through marketing, development, and enrollment management while overseeing an innovative academic program.

A native of Jersey City, Mrs. Griffin grew up on Duncan Avenue and attended St. Aloysius Grammar School. During those years she became aware of the presence of the impressive building on the Boulevard that housed a very special girls' school. Although her own path led her away from Jersey City for many years, she always followed the news about her hometown and came back to visit family members. Today, when she drives past Lincoln Park on her way to school or accompanies the faculty and students to liturgies in St. Aloysius Church, she often thinks of the words from an old John Denver song – "It's good to be back home again."

After earning a B.A. in Latin from the College of Saint Elizabeth, Mrs. Griffin later received an M.A. in History from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and an M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Rutgers University. She began her career in education as a Latin and



New administrators, Principal Thomas Corbo and Head of School Barbara Griffin, are happy to join the leadership team at SDA.

History teacher at private and public high schools in northern New Jersey. She served as Assistant Principal for Instruction at the Academy of Saint Elizabeth and then moved on to become Principal of Paramus Catholic High School.

In 1998, Mrs. Griffin was appointed President of Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, Delaware, a girls' Catholic K-12 private school. Some of her notable accomplishments at Ursuline included the acquisition of a neighboring building which became a performing arts center, and the renovation of existing structures.

Five years later, Mrs. Griffin became President of Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Luralton Hall in Milford, Connecticut, a girls' Catholic, private school for grades 9 – 12. During Mrs. Griffin's six-year tenure at Luralton, she oversaw the creation of three new science labs, two new fine art studios, and the preservation of an historic carriage house for use as a performing arts center. She solicited more than \$2 million dollars in gifts in the leadership

phase of Luralton's capital campaign.

After working in neighboring states for over 10 years, Mrs. Griffin decided it was time to go home to New Jersey for good. In 2009 she retired from her position at Luralton Hall and spent a year enjoying being close to the beach at the Jersey Shore and volunteering in her local community. But she soon discovered that she missed the energy and excitement of being in a school every day. When she heard that Saint Dominic Academy was searching for a new Head of School, she felt this was the opportunity she was looking for – to be back in a girls' school and still be close enough to her own children and their growing families.

Mrs. Griffin's focus at the Academy will revolve around strengthening all operations of the school. One of her first initiatives involves broadening the Academy's reach by recruiting from the surrounding suburban areas. Working with Director of Admissions Barbara Vergel '04, Saint Dominic Academy's incoming freshman class has students traveling from Aberdeen, Piscataway,

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From the Head of School's Desk

April 7, 2011



Dear Friends of Saint Dominic Academy,

It is my pleasure and privilege to be

writing, as Head of School of Saint Dominic Academy since last July, to all of you whose generous support helps to keep the Dominican spirit alive here at SDA.

As you will see from the summary of our Annual Report for the last two years, SDA is blessed with countless loyal supporters from our alumnae, current parents, alumnae parents, corporations and foundations. That support enables us to enhance our programs by adding more technology to our classrooms, provide bussing to away games for our award-winning sports teams, or deepen our students' spiritual life by their participation in annual off-campus retreats.

Your generous response to our annual requests for contributions to the Annual Fund also makes it possible for the Academy to offer academic scholarship and financial aid to promising applicants.

These past two years have been particularly challenging for schools like SDA who look to outside sources

of revenue to help them keep their tuition at an affordable level for middle-class families. Given that reality, we here at SDA cannot begin to express our gratitude to you for continuing to say "yes" when we come to you yet again with another request for support.

I hope that you experience a deep sense of satisfaction in knowing that your investment in the education of the young ladies of SDA makes an immeasurable difference in their years here. Although they may not know all of you personally, they are very much aware of your generosity and give thanks for you every day.

I invite you to come and visit anytime you are in the area to see first-hand the wonderful things your support makes possible. We welcome an opportunity to say "thank you" in person and to assure you that your investment in the future of SDA strengthens our commitment to the work begun by the Dominican Sisters over a century ago.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Griffin
Head of School

SDA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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- Stacy DeGirolamo Biancamano, Esq. '88
- Silvana Bucciatti P '03
- Sister Rita Calabrese, O.P.
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SDA LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Barbara Boyd Griffin
Head of School
- Thomas Corbo
Principal
- Sister Mary Lou Bauman, O.P. '65
Vice Principal
- Sharon Buge
Director of Finance
- Kate Lillis-Magnus '83
Director of Advancement
- Barbara Vergel '04
Director of Admissions

SDA ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

- Staci Zegler '83
President
- Tracey Morley '80
Vice President
- Stephanie Barbi '64
Secretary

Endowed Scholarships

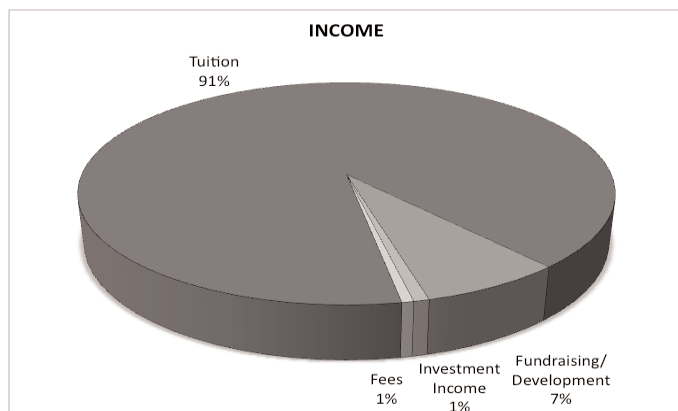
- The Fred and Alexandria Arrigotti Memorial Scholarship
- Mary Cunningham '30 Scholarship
- Diana Daly Ralston '56 Science Scholarship

Annual Scholarships

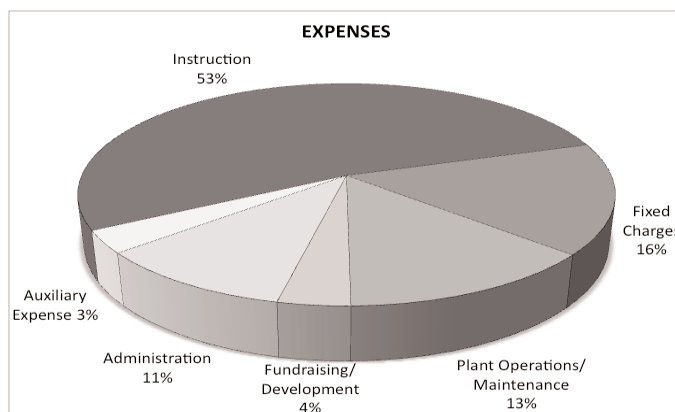
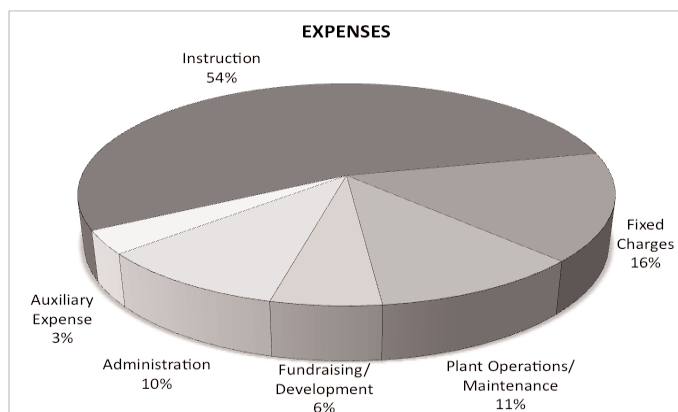
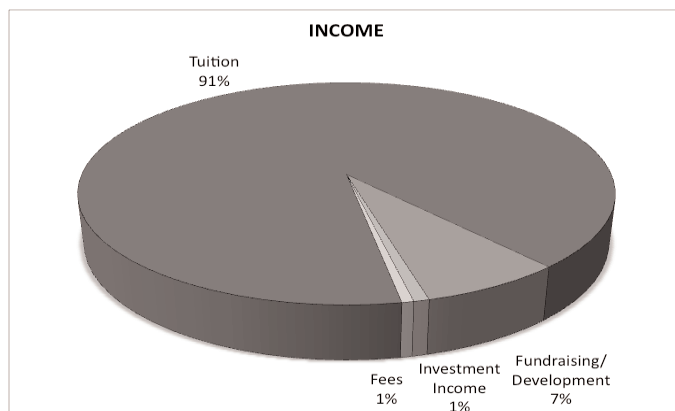
- Patrice Scerbo Lanni '68 Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Laura Nieves Kravantka, Esq. '90 Scholarship
- Kathleen Keenan Demytrk '57 Science Scholarship
- Peter Weiss Scholarship Fund
- Maureen Drake Corrigan Nursing Scholarship
- Isabelle C. Wolfe Scholarship
- Church of the Little Flower Scholarship
- Turrell Fund Scholarship
- William E. Simon Scholarship
- Inner City Scholarship Fund
- Provident Bank Foundation Scholarship

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008-2009 & 2009-2010

FY July 2008 - June 2009



FY July 2009 - June 2010



**Development Office Income Breakdown
2008 - 2009**

Alumnae	\$200,456.00
Parents (Current and Past)	\$21,420.00
Business Contacts	\$18,196.00
Foundations	\$48,750.00
Friends	\$37,066.00
Trustees (Current and Past)	\$22,570.00
Matching Gifts	\$16,041.00
Students (Walkathon)/Spirit Day	<u>\$42,190.00</u>
	\$406,689.00

**Development Office Income Breakdown
2009 - 2010**

Alumnae	\$167,664.00
Parents (Current and Past)	\$27,975.00
Business Contacts	\$15,110.00
Foundations	\$47,000.00
Friends	\$54,800.00
Trustees (Current and Past)	\$27,100.00
Matching Gifts	\$15,128.00
Students (Walkathon)/Spirit Day	<u>\$34,851.00</u>
	\$389,628.00

To save money on both printing and mailing costs, a detailed Honor Roll of Donors for fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 is available on the SDA website under the Giving tab.

www.stdominicacad.com



SAINT DOMINIC ACADEMY

Empowering Young Women for Leadership
Since 1878

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Principal Thomas Corbo helps coordinate the Thanksgiving Food Drive with students from the Dominican Youth in Action Club.

Nutley and Maplewood.

While the academic side of the Academy is also under Mrs. Griffin's responsibilities, she is delighted that there is an experienced administrator in the role of principal. "I was impressed by Mr. Corbo's experience in some of the best school districts in New Jersey, combined with a solid background in academics and curriculum," said Mrs. Griffin. In August of 2010, Mrs. Griffin hired Mr. Thomas Corbo after his retirement from the New Jersey public school system.

Mr. Corbo comes to SDA after more than 30 years of various teaching and administrative positions in New Jersey. After receiving his B.S. in Early Secondary Education at Cortland SUNY, Mr. Corbo started his career as a Mathematics and Computer teacher in 1978 at Southern Regional High School in Manahawkin, NJ. He later earned his M.S. in Mathematics Education from the University of New Hampshire and his M.A. in Urban Administration,

Curriculum, and Instruction from New Jersey City University.

From 1987 to 1999, Mr. Corbo not only taught at Mountain Lakes High School, but also served as the school's athletic director. Since 1999, Mr. Corbo has held assistant principal positions and served as dean of students in northern New Jersey high schools. He retired as principal of the Wood-Ridge School District in the summer of 2010.

There have certainly been some adjustments coming from the public sector to the private, Catholic forum, but Mr. Corbo seems to be taking it all in stride. "The transition from public to private is something that I have thought about making for some time," Mr. Corbo said. "SDA is a special opportunity for me allowing personal and professional aspirations to come together."

Mr. Corbo is no stranger to Catholic education. While growing up in Mineville, New York, he attended Saint

Joseph the Worker School and has many fond memories of his days with the Josephite Sisters. "These first months at SDA have brought back great memories of my days in Catholic school," he said. "Witnessing the wonderful traditions at SDA, I find it refreshing and renewing for me to be part of an environment that truly addresses educating the "whole" student."

With an extensive background in curriculum and instruction, Mr. Corbo was quite surprised and impressed with SDA's academic program already in place. "For a small school to offer such an extensive curriculum in math, science and the arts is truly a testament to the dedicated faculty and administration," he said. "SDA offers a strong, college-preparatory program, it's no wonder this school has been around for more than 130 years."

Mr. Corbo has always believed his role in education has been to provide the best and most positive learning environment for the students and he looks forward to doing just that at SDA. "My academic goals are to increase our course rigor across the board, improve standardized test scores through strong curriculum and maintain high expectations for all our students. I'm excited about areas where we can enrich the overall experience of our students," Mr. Corbo said. "I have always been committed to professional development and hope to instill that commitment in our faculty. Thus far, I'm enjoying the collaboration with our devoted faculty in preparing our students as best we can for the complex and changing world in which we all live."

SDA is fortunate to have both Mrs. Griffin and Mr. Corbo heading the Academy in these challenging times. While their backgrounds couldn't be more different, they share the same vision – to lead Saint Dominic Academy to an even higher level of excellence in its second century.