



Parent Newsletter

From the Head of School

Dear SDA Parents,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year at St. Dominic Academy! This marks the 137th September that the Academy has opened its doors to the young ladies who are fortunate enough to be educated in the tradition of the Sisters of St. Dominic.

Thanks to the success of the Parents' Association calendar raffle for the last two years, which paid for our wireless network, this year we are expanding our I Pad program into grade 9. Our teachers are ready to embark with your daughters on a voyage of discovery to explore new ways of using this technology in the classroom.

The Parents' Association has planned a year-long program of meetings and activities to bring parents and students together. **On Sept. 17 they are doing a "Meet-and-Greet" as part of "Back-to-School" Night.** This will be an opportunity for parents to meet or greet the parents of their daughter's friends as well as to hear our teachers talk about their plans to make this a most meaningful academic year for all. During the evening I plan to talk to you about the next project I am proposing to the Parents' Association for funding. I hope to see you there.

Thank you for entrusting your daughters to us here at the Academy for these very important formative years. We are committed to helping each and every one of them become the person she is meant to be with her own unique gifts and talents. As part of a worldwide network of Dominican schools, we are committed to the same core values. Our long history and traditions are a source of strength and encouragement.

It's a wonderful time to be part of St. Dominic Academy – where we believe in girls!

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Griffin
Head of School

A message from the Academic Dean

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school! I sincerely hope that your summer was filled with beautiful sunsets, warm breezes, walks by the shore and exciting vacations. More so, I hope it was full of quality moments with your families, especially with the young ladies who you now return to us on a daily basis this year. I know I speak for the entire faculty when I say we are looking forward to an innovative, creative, and exciting year with your daughters.

As September arrives and a new school year at Saint Dominic Academy begins, I wanted to provide you with several pieces of news from within the walls of Saint Dominic Academy. It is my pleasure to welcome Ms. Charlotte Carr, who will be joining the Math Department this year. It is also my pleasure to welcome back Mr. Joe Babico, who will teach a section of 9th grade Honors English this year. Finally, I would like to welcome Mr. Nicholas Mazzolla, our new Director of Guidance. Mr. Mazzolla will work with students on the 8th, 11th, and 12th grade level, while Ms. McCaig continues to work with students on the 7th, 9th, and 10th grade level.

This year we will be working together to expand the Writing Program, incorporating the Integrated Technology Program in all of our classes, and on having as successful a school year as we had last year. The fall will bring cool breezes, delightfully colored leaves that herald a new season and a challenge to each and every young woman at Saint Dominic Academy to rise to the academic challenges put forth in the classrooms this year.

Sincerely,



Sarah DegnanMoje
Academic Dean

Welcome to the 2015-2016 School Year



LINK Crew did a great job welcoming the SDA Class of 2019



The happy faces of our 8th Grade “Big” Sisters with our new 7th Graders

Welcome School Year continues.....



Current SDA students (not in uniform) welcomed our new transfer students (l-r) Francesca Dell'Acqua '16 with Carolina Guerra, an exchange student from Italy. Amanda Ros '18 with Makenna Waller '18, Jennifer Chandy '18 with Ariel Concepcion '18, Lauren Alcalá '18 with Katie Moody '18, Olivia Lawal '18 with Jessica Diaz '18.

Congratulations Mr. Napoli!

On Sunday, September 27, the Cusack Care Center at St. Joseph's Home for the Blind will host its 12th Annual Generations Benefit Luncheon, "Celebrating Partners in Caring." The Education Awardee is SDA's own Mr. Joseph Napoli, who has over 35 years of dedication to SDA not only as a faculty member, but as the director of the award-winning Glee Club and Dominoes.

The event will take place at the Casino in the Park beginning at noon.

Glee Club alumnae and current members, current and former students and their families who wish to honor Mr. Napoli at this event, can purchase tickets by contacting the Cusack Care Center's Development Office at 201-653-8300 ext. 2454.



Greetings from the SDA Parents Association

We hope you had relaxing and enjoyable summer. As we prepare for your daughter's upcoming 2015-2016 academic year, we would like to invite you to mark your calendar for events/meetings as follows:

- **Back-to-School-Night - "Meet and Greet"** (Sept 17, 2015 at 6pm) Join us for a light supper. Last year this event was quite successful and we look forward to meeting new and returning parents.
- **Mother/Daughter Communion Brunch** (Oct 25, 2015 at 9am) This year we are excited to announce that the event will be held at "La Reggia," 40 Wood Ave, Secaucus, New Jersey (off Meadowlands Parkway). A reservation form for this event was mailed home in August 2015.
- **Calendar Raffle** - 12 weekly opportunities to win \$500. Last year we raised approximately \$30,000 which was used to complete the WIFI in the school facility.
- We will have **General Parents Meetings** on October 1, 2015, February 4, 2016 (snow date February 18) and April 7, 2016 Topics for each meeting will be communicated shortly.
- Plans are also underway for an Art Show in the Spring to be held at our new building, the former Jersey City Women's Club on Fairmount Avenue. More details will be provided.

2015-2016 Parent Association Officers and Chairpersons

Maria Pinto – President

Lori LoCascio – Vice President/Secretary

Flora Heun – Chair, Back to School Night

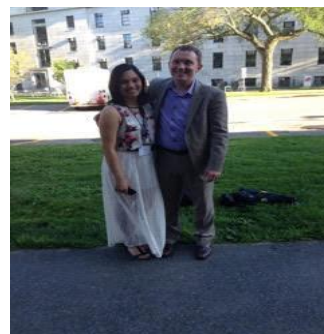
Jennifer Bailey – Chair, Communion Brunch

Mary Dowden - Chair, Calendar Raffle

Saint Dominic Academy Students' Successful Summer Experiences

SDA is proud to acknowledge the successful summer experience of five of its students.

As an alumna of the Presidential Inaugural Conference “Envisions” program, senior **Dana DeCastro** was invited to participate in the Global Young Innovators Institute (GYII) held in late June at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. As a result of her contributions to this program, she has now been invited to participate in the International Business Alliance Program, sponsored by the GYII.



Another SDA senior, **Carolina Creamer** participated in the six-week Summer Academy for Math and Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. This pre-college program is part of the CMU effort to support STEM education. Carolina submitted an application, transcripts, PSAT/SAT scores and three letters of recommendation. Not only was she one of only 30 participants selected for the program from among over 900 applicants, she also received a full scholarship to attend.

Lauren Kelley, a junior, was selected to represent SDA at the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Seminar held at Monmouth University. The three day event included activities, workshops, reflective time, group time, a dance, a parents program, and several keynote speakers.

SDA junior **Aolanie Vargas** received a full-tuition scholarship to attend the 2015 Summer STEM program at the Cooper Union Albert Nerken School of Engineering. She was assigned to the program: “Genetically Engineered Machines: The iGem Competition.”



Students' Successful Summer Experiences continues.....

Another SDA junior **Purnima Prasad** was selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference, "Mastering Leadership" program held at Northwestern University in Chicago, from August 9-14. Highlights of this pre-college program included a focus on Interactive Community Development, Pillars of Effective Leadership, Leadership Challenge Courses, and the opportunity to meet and hear from some of the country's outstanding community leaders and government officials.

SDA 17th Annual Leadership Awards Gala

In preparation for SDA's 17th Annual Leadership Awards Gala to be held on Wednesday, October 28 at Nanina's in the Park in Belleville, SDA will be hosting its first ever **"Gift Gathering" Party**. The event will be held on **Sunday, September 20 at 3:00 p.m.** in Madonna Hall. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

The Gala committee is in need of gifts and donations for the Silent Auction which will be held at the Gala.

Come to SDA for a nice afternoon with friends and please bring restaurant gift certificates, sports or theater tickets, jewelry, vacation timeshares, movie or spa vouchers, quality bottles of wine or spirits, collectible memorabilia, etc. Monetary donations to purchase auction items are also greatly appreciated.

If you are unable to bring items, they can be sent to SDA, Attention: Gala Committee.

Please RSVP to Carol Gaffney at cgaffney@stdominicacad.com or 201-434-5938, ext. 42, no later than September 15.

Thank you!

Blue Devils Fall Sports Preview

Cross Country - The team has had an excellent summer of running four nights a week since late June, a race in Bradley Beach on August 15, and Horse Farm Running camp in Eldred, New York. The program which has dominated local competition for years hopes to keep that tradition alive as it journeys through a challenging schedule that began with the 21st Annual S.D.A. Invitational in Lincoln Park. The meet typically hosts close to thirty schools from all over New Jersey, some of whom are among the states best. On Columbus Day weekend the team will compete for the third time at the DISNEY Cross Country championship. This year the Blue Devils will be vying for their 100th Jersey City title and 50th Hudson County title as well competing in the state's Parochial B division.

Soccer - Coach Jorge Hernandez's team has been working hard to improve on last year's standing. The team opened play on September 11 vs. Ferris and tangles with many of the better teams in Hudson County.

Tennis - After a stellar 2014, the team, under the direction of coach Marilyn Wilson is primed for another good year. Last year our netters had one of the top winning percentages in New Jersey. They opened play in Lincoln Park on Tuesday, September 8 versus Kearny and are competing in the top division in Hudson County. They will be challenged throughout the season.

Volleyball - Coach Michael Kushnir's Blue Devils have a new home and a new outlook for S.D.A.volleyball. The team will be practicing and playing home games at Primary Prep (the former St. Aedan's) which has been freshly painted and prepared for volleyball competition. S.D.A. has a full roster which is excited about the prospects for a fine 2015 campaign.

Student Council Leadership Workshop

On Wednesday, September 26, Shelf Leadership, LLC a NJ-based leadership training team was at SDA to conduct a Leadership Workshop for Student Council, Spirit Committee members and members of Student Ambassadors.

The four-hour workshop focused on identifying individual leadership styles and also how to positively create change in “your” community.

The girls participated in skits, brainstorming sessions and group discussion.

STUCO Vice President **Sara Angrosina** said, “I really enjoyed this workshop. I think it helped everyone with how to be a good and strong leader. I thought it was a fun and amazing experience that should be an annual thing for all the leaders of SDA. I also really liked how helpful they were with teaching us how to write the proposals.” Concurring, was **Christina Trinidad**, Treasurer: “The Leadership Workshop was an amazing experience. I learned many new things. For example, I learned that there are different types of leaders and learned what type of leader I am. I even got to write a proposal. If I got the opportunity to attend another Leadership Workshop I would not hesitate at the chance to attend. ”





SPREAD THE WORD

SDA Open House

Sunday, October 4 from 1-3 p.m. and Thursday, October 8 from 6-8 p.m.

Information Sessions

Hoboken

Tuesday, September 22 ~ 7-8 p.m.
McIntyre's Home – 1229 Bloomfield Street

Hasbrouck Heights

Thursday, September 24 ~ 7-8 p.m.
Home of Dina Ryan Pomarico '86 – 264 Baldwin Avenue

Bayonne

Monday, September 28 ~ 7-8 p.m.
St. Vincent's Parish Robinson Hall - 979 Avenue C

SDA will also be participating in the Archdiocesan High School Expos
on

Tuesday, September 29 at Primary Prep Elementary School, Jersey City
Wednesday, September 30 at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark



Referral Program

How would you like to receive a \$500 credit posted to your tuition account?!?

The WOM Referral program is growing! In its first year, 14 families enjoyed the referral bonus benefit. This year, we're up to **22** SDA families! Won't you join them? You've already received your referral cards. Now, it's this easy...

- Tell a relative, neighbor, friend, co-worker, etc. about Saint Dominic Academy. (Please try to reach out to those who might not already have an interest in SDA.)
- Encourage them to visit our Open House on October 4 (1-3 p.m.) or October 8 (6-8 p.m.)
- Complete a referral card and give it to the prospective family. This card must be turned in any time before January 1, 2016. It can be returned by the prospective student via mail, at Open House, at Freshman for a Day, at the COOP exam or most preferably, it can be attached to the student's application.

In any case, it MUST be returned to SDA before a letter of acceptance is sent in January 2016. Any forms returned after that date, will not be eligible for the Tuition Bonus.

If the student registers and attends Saint Dominic Academy, the referring family (you!) will receive a **\$500 tuition credit** in January 2017. The new student's family will receive a **\$250 tuition credit** in January 2017. If you are a current senior family, your \$500 credit will be posted to your college tuition account, provided we have that information on file. Please note: you can refer family members, but you will not receive a tuition credit for a sibling.

BONUS: If the new student comes to SDA from outside of Hudson County, you will receive an additional \$250 for a total tuition bonus of **\$750!!**

It's that simple and so easy to recruit for SDA, and earn a little tuition bonus as well!

More info: Contact Andrea Apruzzese in the Admissions Office:
aapruzzese@stdominicacad.com or 201-434-5938, ext. 14 for referral cards.

SDA to hold annual Walkathon

On Friday, October 9, 2015 Saint Dominic Academy will hold its **29th Annual Walkathon**. This annual spirit building tradition began in 1986 and is the Academy's biggest student fundraising activity of the year.

In the weeks prior to the walkathon, grades will be assigned their team colors: pink, 7th graders, orange 8th graders, purple freshmen, green sophomores, red juniors and blue seniors. Surely the students will plan their matching outfits and classes will create their team banners. On the day of the Walkathon, the entire student body and faculty will walk down to Lincoln Park where, for three hours, they will celebrate **SDA Spirit and Sisterhood** with an open air party.

There will be a DJ and dancing and games, contests, and refreshments.

It is very important that every student bring in their \$75 to walk (sisters are \$50 each.) The hope is to exceed last year's figure!!

SDA Walkathon

Make a
playlist for
the DJ

Raise \$75.00 to participate
Cash prizes for students raising
the most money for our School
Pizza Party for Top-selling Homeroom
Grade !

Fun and
games
for all!



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Empowering Women for Leadership



We're on the Web!
www.stdominicacad.com

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Newsletter is archived on schools website:
www.stdominicacad.com

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Need to know what's happening?

The SDA school calendar is easily accessible
on the schools website:

<https://www.stdominicacad.com/calendar/>

Visit here anytime for up-to-date information