



Parent Newsletter

From the Head of School

Dear SDA Parents,

I'm sure that all of you (like all of us !) were hoping for an early spring, but it appears that we will have to wait a bit longer for that to happen. But it will – it always does- and this year it will be especially welcome.

During the last week of February the Academy held our Multicultural Day program for the entire school. It was impressive to see the performers come before their peers, dressed in the attire from many other countries, to sing and dance to the music from around the world. The audience was so attentive and appreciative, applauding each act with great enthusiasm. It was truly a celebration of the beautiful diversity that makes St. Dominic's such a special place here in the most diverse city in the nation.

As we move through the season of Lent towards Easter, there are many opportunities for our school community to prepare for Holy Week and the most glorious feast of Easter. Every **Friday** there is a **Lenten Prayer Service** at 7:45 a.m. in the school chapel, and students will have the opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** on the **last Wednesday of March**. On that same day – **Wednesday, March 25- we will once again have Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** I invite any of you who are available during the day to stop in for a visit for even a few minutes. You don't have to sign up in advance – just come.

On behalf of all of us here at St. Dominic Academy, I wish you and your loved ones all the blessings of Easter. Alleluia! He is risen; Alleluia!

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Griffin
Head of School

A message from the Academic Dean

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Although it seems that winter has been never ending, with March blowing in, we at Saint Dominic Academy know that spring is right around the corner. While I sit in my office in a heavy sweater, I am already readying myself for the events of the spring; 4th marking period beginning, AP exams for the 11th and 12th graders, the prom, graduation practices and the end of another school year. With all of this on the horizon, my desk is filled with plans for the next school year, building on what has already been implemented this year.

Our STEM program in Science is moving into the 9th grade curriculum next year, and our Writing Across the Curriculum program will be expanding in all subject areas, with students producing peer edited, formal papers in all classes, not merely in Literature class. Our technology implementation continues to move forward as well, with the addition of our I-Pad program for the 2015-2016 school year. Plans to present this program at recently scheduled Parent Association Meetings were thwarted due to the weather. Subsequently, more information will be sent home.

The faculty has had several professional development workshops centered around technology; with a heavy focus on using the Google classroom and how to grade in Google Docs. As the spring continues, there will be more workshops which will focus on increased use of the Apple TV's when assigning media tasks to students, and several faculty members will showcase some of their exceptional student based learning projects in various areas of the curriculum.

It has a been a busy (and chilly) winter at Saint Dominic Academy, but we look forward to the signs of spring, the blossoms of new flowers and the beginning of the final marking period of the school year. As always, I thank you for sharing your daughters with me and the faculty and staff each day. Their love of learning and their eagerness to embrace new initiatives make each day at SDA a very happy one.

Have a wonderful spring and a Blessed Easter season!

Sincerely,



Sarah Degnan Moje
Academic Dean

Saint Dominic Academy Announces Class of 2019 Scholarship Recipients

Students who performed at the highest level on the Cooperative Admissions (COOP) exam who also had exemplary academic records were invited to take a special Scholarship Examination for the Siena Scholarship, a full, 4-year academic scholarship to Saint Dominic Academy. In addition, the students were asked to submit two letters of recommendation specifically addressing the significance of this scholarship award. The ten top scoring students on the scholarship exam were then invited in for an interview with Head of School, Mrs. Barbara Griffin.

Saint Dominic Academy is proud to announce that the recipient of the Siena Scholarship is **Hannah Dobronsky** of Bayonne. Hannah currently attends All Saints Catholic Academy in Bayonne.

Julia Murphy of Hasbrouck Heights received the St. Thomas Aquinas Scholarship, awarded at the discretion of the Head of School in recognition of her family's commitment to Catholic education. Julia will graduate from Corpus Christi School in Hasbrouck Heights.

Both girls will be part of the Siena Scholars program along with several other members of the Class of 2019 identified for their outstanding performance on the COOP exam and their excellent academic records.

From the SDA Parents Association Calendar Raffle Update

There is still time to sell and/or purchase Calendar Raffle tickets. The first winning ticket will be drawn on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

The proceeds from the raffle will be used to complete the upgrade of the WIFI infrastructure throughout the school.

Assistance from SDA families would be greatly appreciated. The school administration along with the Parents' Association decided that having one fundraiser, the Calendar Raffle, rather than the Calendar Raffle and the Chocolate Candy Sale would be preferable for two reasons. First of all, to eliminate a family's burden of supporting two fund raisers at the same time, and of course, promoting healthy eating habits. Everyone also felt that having 11 chances to win \$500 was much more appealing than buying/selling bars of candy.

Mrs Griffin has offered an extra day off from school with 100% participation by a class.

The Parents' Association has asked each family to support the raffle with the purchase of 3 tickets (\$60). On the bright side, if a family sold \$200 or more of tickets, they have been entered into a separate raffle to win the payment of their 2015-2016 student fee of \$750.

Send your request for tickets to pintoms@optonline.net.

SDA Celebrates Community Diversity

Multicultural Day

February 27, 2015





Multicultural Day Photos continue....





News from the Seventh and Eighth Grades

It is hard to believe that the third quarter is almost over. Seventh and eighth grades students continue to be very busy with their studies. **Mrs. Arguelles** reports that her eighth grade students have been working diligently in two areas: written and verbal communication. After finishing a dramatic reading of the play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, the students are now giving their own dramatic presentations in class. While this is key to the development of presentation skills, dramatic readings also offer an ideal opportunity to focus on enunciation and grammar.

In support of grammar and tone, the vital art of letter writing has been revitalized with letters written to favorite businesses. A majority of the class now have received correspondence (and a few unexpected gifts) from the food, fashion, and entertainment industries. Many business leaders wrote back to the students with words such as “kind,” “articulate,” and “important.” The young ladies were thrilled to communicate directly with their favorite companies.

Seventh grade students in **Ms. McLean’s** history class recently completed a study of the Bill of Rights. As a final project, the class was presented with a fictitious takeover of the United States by Aliens. The leader of the Aliens informed the students they would only be able to keep five of their rights. They had to work together to determine which rights they would give up. If they could not agree, they would lose all of their rights. This proved to be very difficult for them. The result of the project was an understanding of just how important the Bill of Rights is for all Americans.

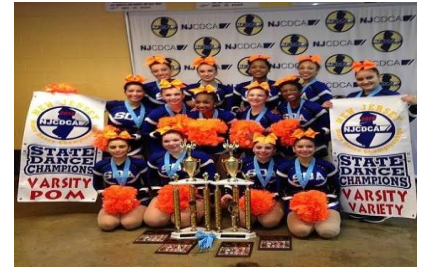
Currently several seventh and eighth graders are preparing for the forensics tournament sponsored by Hudson Catholic. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to develop poise and confidence in public speaking.

Congratulations to Guidance Counselor **Mrs. Jessica McCaig** and her husband Kevin on the birth of their son, **Nolan William McCaig** born on December 30, 2014. Nolan weighed 5lbs, 14oz and was 17 ³/₄ inches long. According to his mom, Nolan “is definitely growing fast. He's almost 10 lbs now! He's been sleeping pretty well at night lately, so we're feeling a lot better and can actually see straight now!” God bless the McCaig family!



SDA Students Making Headlines

Congratulations to the **Saint Dominic Academy Dance Team** who took First Place in both the Varsity Variety and Varsity POM competitions at the New Jersey Cheerleading and Dance State Championships on Sunday, March 1, 2015. The event was sponsored by the New Jersey Cheer and Dance Coaches Association.



SDA senior **Kaitlyn Quinn** has been awarded the Presidential Bronze Award for Service for attaining 100 community service hours through the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Program (HOBY). Kaitlyn remains involved with HOBY having served as an ambassador to the program in June 2013, while a sophomore at Holy Family Academy.



SDA freshman **Grace Patrick** was nominated to attend the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Washington DC on November 14-16, 2014. The Congress is sponsored by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists. Grace's name was submitted for consideration by SDA Science teacher, **Cristina Manuel**. She was then officially nominated to the Congress by Dr. Connie Mariano, the Medical Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent Saint Dominic Academy. The nomination was based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

Similarly, **Dana DeCastro**, a junior has been selected for recognition as a Delegate representing Saint Dominic Academy and the State of New Jersey at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders to be held on June 28-30, 2015 in Boston, Massachusetts. The Congress is a highly selective national program honoring academically superior high school students dedicated to careers in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM.) Dana was first identified to the Congress through the College Board Student Search Service. The Congress is an academic honors program with strict requirements, including a minimum GPA of 3.5 (or equivalent.)

On Friday, January 2, 2015 at the Scholarship Fund for Inner City Children Basketball Festival held at Kean University, senior **Casey McIntyre** was awarded the Investors Bank Academic Excellence Award. The award is presented to one student-athlete from each participating team who has achieved academic excellence in the classroom as a member of the Varsity basketball team. Casey is also the Secretary of the Student Council and a member of the National Honor Society.

Malia Gray, a sophomore has been named First Violin in the Greater Newark Youth Orchestra (GNYO). According to their website, qualified middle and high-school students audition to make up GNYO's three tiered ensembles, which perform two full concerts each year, as well as a chamber music concert and participate in other performance opportunities.



Saint Dominic Academy Winter 2015 Sports Wrap-Up

Basketball - The Blue Devils were 11-14 as they prepared for their Parochial A state tournament matchup at Paramus Catholic. In the recent county playoffs the team played well in defeating Harrison before losing to top seed and eventual tournament champion, Secaucus. The team was led by seniors **Hannah Johnson** and **Shannon Hester** who provided leadership and solid play throughout the campaign. **Toni Giacchi**, despite missing the season due to knee surgery returned to sink her final shot, a three pointer during the senior night win over Hoboken. Junior **Gabriella Fortune** and sophomore **Mary Kate Cannito** were solid contributors as well.

Indoor Track & Field - Our team has continued its tradition of excellence with another banner season. The team which travelled to and performed well at the Rhode Island Invitational, Dartmouth and Yale Invitational's, earned four sets of medals at the Parochial A State relays. **Ayanna Patterson** finished the winter undefeated in Hudson County and qualified for and participated in the state Meet of Champions and Eastern States (March 3, 2015) championships in the Shot Put. The team led by unselfish team oriented junior **Camille Bertholon** extended their record streaks in winning a 12th straight Hudson County relay title, 97th Jersey City championship and 49th Hudson County championship (19th Indoors). Senior **Emily Mernar**, juniors **Jianna Bustamante**, **Destiny Foster**, **Brenna Nadrowski**, and sophomores **Aliya Perry**, and **Malia Gray** all were key cogs in the team's success. **Mariel Teschlog'07** who developed a cache of fine throwers and **Kristina Jimenez'09** were excellent coaches for the Blue Devils. The Outdoor season, the program's 110th begins practice on March 11th.

Swimming - Trey McGraw's Aqua Devils worked extremely hard to improve upon their recent standing and practiced vigilantly to return the program to past glory. They cut back the number of dual meets and focused on the invitationals, focusing on the season ending county championship. First year coach McGraw ably assisted by **Alexandra Sison'11** kept the girls' eyes on the target and the results were encouraging. Led by county champion **Keely Armitage** and **Amanda Gaccione**, both juniors, the team finished the league and county season in third place. Seniors **Estefany Loaiza** and **Elizabeth Boyle** and junior **Paige Zarembo** made key contributions to the team. With the majority of the core returning, the future is bright for the SDA swimmers.

Spring Thaw - The 18th Annual Run is again set for beautiful Liberty State Park on Saturday, March 21, 2015. The event, which features a 5,000 meter run, mile health walk/run and kiddie race begins at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend and as always sponsors are being sought. Contact John E. Nagel at 201-401-7394 for details or go to springthawrun.com this fun-filled morning of fitness benefits the entire SDA sports program, so please lend a hand.



Saint Dominic Academy
EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR LEADERSHIP SINCE 1878

Academic Dean's List

Semester I

First Honors

Grade 7

Mary Atchley

Sarah Jowett

Valentyna Simon

Gabriella Szpala

Skylar Wazinski

Grade 8

Skye Archibald

Ya'hyness Berry

Paraskevi Iordamlis

Cassidy LoCascio



Academic Dean's List

Semester I

First Honors

Grade 9

Kateri Arano

Gabriella Davila

Emily Gill

Amna Khan

Amanda Ros

Grade 10

Lauren Kelly

Bryanna Mendez

Purnima Prasad

Aolanie Vargas

Grade 11

Sara Angrosina

Taylor Brzozowski

Jianna Bustamante

Teresa Cartagena

Carolina Creamer

Dana DeCastro

Francesca Dell'Acqua

Destiny Foster

Amanda Gaccione

Melissa Jaikissoon

Nina Magdaraog

Barbara Jean McNutt

Elinor Mokaya

Olivia Pease

Jade Perez

Marissa Pinto

Chelsea Ramdat

Alyssa Roaquin

Christina Trinidad

Christine Valbuena

Jennifer Valencia

Grade 12

Brittany Angrosina

Elizabeth Boyle

Precious Braswell

Verrgne Khloe Cabalfin

Anamaria Carrasco

Maira Choudhary

Mariana Gomez

Shannon Hester

Mira Ibrahim

Shannon Kelley

Emily Lugo

Sarah Marks

Nicole Metro

Alexis O'Callahan

Kaitlyn Quinn

Dana Reynolds

Toniann Seals

Falak Shahid

Shannon Ward



Academic Dean's List Semester I Second Honors

Grade 7

Amy Arce

Gianna Farulla

Grade 8

Caitlin Aristizabal

Maia Bustamante

Amanda DeJesus

Sneha Hariharan

Courtney Malden

Maxine Rieder

Gabriella Swope



Academic Dean's List

Semester I

Second Honors

Grade 9

Jessica Breitfeller

Madison Calbi

Jennifer Chandy

Megan Dowden

Sophia Feijoo

Joelle Francisco

Francesca Guido

Alessandra Izaguirre

Mackenzie Johnson

Simran Kaur

Raquel Lekic

Kathryn Moody

Stefanie Osorio

Grace Patrick

Nicolette Racz

Grade 10

Erin Bailey

Brianna Colletti

Carolyn Delaney

Danielle Dompore

Alexandra Duran

Maegan Duran

Marina Ghobrial

Christina Little

Aliya Perry

Pamela Reinoso

Maria Rivera

Emily Torres

Grade 11

Kimberly Arana

Chelsea Cancino

Marlene Da Cruz

Rachel DeVoursney

Kaylee Dunlap

Gabriella Fortune

Madison Galvin

Katherine Gomez

Enelisse Hernandez

Leanna Hernandez

Grade 11 continued...

Rose Heun

Geraldine Lai-Yee Ho

Michelle Huertas

Alexis Jimenea

Anjali Kumar

Jennifer Leon

Jacqueline Mabalo

Daniella Magcalas

Kathryn Marano

Brenna Nadrowski

Kelly Oseguera

Zarina Rivera

Natalie Rodriguez

Mariel Santos

Erin Schoch

Gianna Tanner

Brianna Thomas

Daria Trusova

Cassidy Wolleon

Paige Zaremba

Grade 12

Rhea Ansay

Ariana Calle

Maritza Cruz

Shannon DeLuco

Lea DiPietro

Elizabeth Doody

Vanessa Esposito

Monica Feijoo

Toni Giacchi

Arianna Howard

Gillian Johnson

Kadira Johnson

Alyssa Kennedy

Camille Llewellyn

Tara McDonough

Casey McIntyre

Grade 12 continued...

Melissa Mercado

Emily Mernar

Miquelle Montalvo

Meagan Nilan

Genesis Placeres

Onjasne Rodgers

Sabrina Stampe

Jennie Torres

Natalie Torres

Karen Vallo

Jasmine Watkins

Campus Ministry News

We are excited about the changes and growth that has taken place within the Campus Ministry Department over the last three years. As our mission statement reads, students have truly been “empowered for leadership roles in our global community.” Over the past three years, the students’ faith has been deepening and growing in the charism of St. Dominic by their practice of the four pillars: prayer, study, ministry and community. They have attended workshops on how to talk about their faith, practiced speaking in front of large audiences, learned how to share their faith stories and have been open to the truth of our Catholic Faith which is part of our goal: “to provide an appreciation for the teachings of the Catholic Church and awareness of their applications in daily life.”

Peer ministers have set the tone of Christ and His truth by their example, the sharing of their individual stories and leadership roles in planning, organizing and speaking at all the retreats. This past week Senior Peer Ministers gave witness to their faith to the Senior Class on a retreat in Long Branch, New Jersey. You could hear a pin drop as **Brooklyn Langston** spoke about Jesus’ love for us. Using the scripture story of the woman who was hemorrhaging and reached out to touch the hem of Jesus’ garment, she told her peers that Jesus loves them so much that He would stop and turn around for them because they are that important in His life. It was amazing to see so many students attending the Sacraments of Reconciliation. The witness of these young women has helped to plant the seeds of faith for our entire student body here at St. Dominic Academy.

Words are not enough in modeling our faith, as we well know. Our actions must speak in accordance with the words we utter. Just ask the seventh and eighth graders about their reflection day and they will tell you how kind and caring were the Peer Ministers who led their Reflection Days. Faith in action was seen by the youngest among our student body.

Our **Service Program** has also grown. We have given our students many more opportunities to serve others in keeping with the Pillars of St. Dominic. We have added a service component for each class. The seventh and eighth graders collect money to send to a Homeless Shelter for unwed mothers. Through the Dominican Youth in Action Club, all students participate in a food drive at Thanksgiving, a toy drive at Christmas and soup and monetary collection for the Dominican food bank at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Jersey City. Yet, there are so many more areas of service our students are involved in. We have students who monthly give out food at the Church of the Incarnation (Food Bank) in Jersey City. They see first-hand how our neighbors struggle to feed their families and have been saddened by the turning away of a family when the food is all gone. Some of our students work at Jersey City Medical Center by handing out snacks to the sick or just stopping by to say hello. Other students are making weekly visits to senior citizens homes to check up on them or do a little shopping for them. We are now running a drive for students to offer their hair to make wigs for cancer patients. Our own freshman, **Francesca Guido** is the first to do so by donating her hair! Students are working at homeless shelters, daycare centers, their parish CCD programs and animal shelters. Our students are meeting the challenge of today’s society and reaching the goals set for by our Dominican charism.

Our Peer Ministry program has expanded to include freshmen this year. **Francesca Guido and Grace Patrick** have given talks to both our seventh and eighth graders. Campus Ministry also trains our students, who meet the age requirement of the Archdiocese, to become **Ministers of the Eucharist**. Our Peer Ministers and Dominican Youth in Action plan our liturgies, prayer services, retreats, days of recollection, food drives, bake sales, mission collections, Advent and Lenten services, and clothing drives. They are “empowered women in leadership roles!”

Dates to Remember

Saturday, March 21– 18th Annual Spring Thaw

Thursday, March 26– World Language Honor Society Induction

Friday, March 27– Career Day

Sophomore Sock Hop

Wednesday, April 1 – Sunday, April 12 – Easter Recess

Thursday, April 16 – Easter Liturgy

Friday, April 24 – Sunday, April 26 – Alumnae Reunion Weekend

Sunday, April 26 – Glee Club Spring Concert

Wednesday, April 29 – National Honor Society Induction

Saint Dominic Academy Glee Club and Dominoes Set Busy Spring Performance Schedule



The Saint Dominic Academy multi award-winning **Glee Club and Dominoes** have begun what is sure to be a very busy spring performance schedule.

The Dominoes, the Academy's acclaimed treble choir, was invited by *Schola Cantorum on Hudson*, a prestigious local choir, to join them along with the VOX Choir from Saint Peter's Prep, in a performance of *No Greater Love*, featuring *Pieta, a Chamber Oratorio* composed by John Muehleisen. The concerts took place on Saturday, March 7 at 8:00 p.m. at the Church of Saint Joseph in Greenwich Village, New York City and again on Sunday, March 8 at 5:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church in Montclair, New Jersey.

On Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29, the Dominoes will again collaborate with VOX, as well as with the Philippine-American Choral Project, the St. Peter's College Schola and the Sanford Park School Choir in an Ignatian (1st Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam Choral) Festival to be held at St. Aedan's Church on Bergen Avenue in Jersey City.

On Sunday, April 12 at 3:00 p.m., the Glee Club has been invited to present a concert at Holy Rosary Church in downtown Jersey City.

A few days later on Wednesday, April 15, the Glee Club and Dominoes, under the direction of **Mr. Joseph Napoli**, will head to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for their participation in the Fiesta-Val music festival for band, orchestra and chorus (www.fiestaval.com) where they are traditionally multi-award winners.

Shortly after the group's return from Myrtle Beach, they will present their annual Spring Concert on Sunday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church, located at 691 West Side Avenue in Jersey City.

They will conclude their spring performance schedule with an appearance at New York's famed Carnegie Hall. For the tenth time and the seventh consecutive year, the Dominoes have been invited to sing in Carnegie Hall as part of a Treble Choir concert conducted by Tim Shelton of Westminster Choir College. Other invited choirs include the Sumner Hill Junior High Girls Ensemble from Clinton, MS, the Young Voices of the Carolinas from Charlotte, NC, the Greensboro Day School Choir from Greensboro, NC and the Princeton Girlchoir from Princeton, New Jersey. The concert will be held on Saturday, May 23 at 8:00 p.m.

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Empowering Women for Leadership



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

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