

## Parent Perspective

Issue No. 4, October 2019

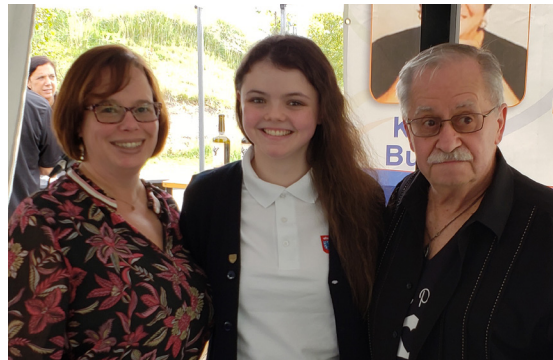


### SDA to March in the Columbus Day Parade!

On Saturday, October 12, SDA students will march in the Jersey City Columbus Day Parade. They are pleased to support honoree, **Felicia Sorrentino**, SDA alumna Class of 2010, named Miss Columbus. Students will assemble at Dickinson High School by noon. The parade stretches from Dickinson High School on Palisade Avenue to City Hall on Grove Street. We hope to see you there!

### Senior Emily Perri Awarded The Kathryn Budinich Scholarship

On Monday, September 16, 15 Fox Place hosted a Golf Outing at Skyway Golf Course in memory of Kathryn Budinich. Monies raised at this event were used to fund scholarships in Kathryn's name for two rising high school seniors who have demonstrated a spirit of creativity, vision and entrepreneurship in their high school careers. The 2018 recipient of *The Kathryn Budinich Scholarship* is **Emily Perri**.

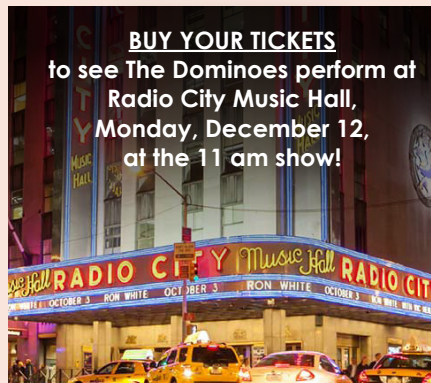


Kathryn Budinich was a scholarship student herself, proudly attending SDA. With her many accomplishments in business, she was the embodiment of SDA's mission of empowering young women for leadership in a global society. She used her creative vision and love of life to spread joy through her businesses. Both Word of Mouth Catering and 15 Fox Place nurtured an appreciation for family, food and friendship in all who had the pleasure of enjoying her hospitality.

## Save the Date

**Save the date now** to "meet the nicest kids in town!" Saint Dominic Academy will present *Hairspray! The Musical* on January 10 and 11, 2020!

**hairspray**



JOIN US FOR

## Upcoming Events!



-  **Sunday, Sept 29**  
Open House
-  **Thursday, Oct 3**  
Financial Aid Info Night  
7 pm, Sienna Hall
-  **Wednesday, Oct 9**  
Open House
-  **Friday, Oct 11**  
**Annual Walkathon**  
Lincoln Park
-  **Saturday, Oct 12**  
Columbus Day Parade  
March
-  **Sunday, Oct 20**  
American Cancer Society  
Making Strides against  
Breast Cancer Walk
- Mother/Daughter Brunch**  
La Reggia, Meadowlands  
Plaza Hotel, 40 Wood Ave,  
Secaucus, 10 am
-  **Friday, Oct 25 –**  
**Saturday, Oct 26**  
**Reunion Weekend**  
Friday: Park Tavern  
Saturday: The Breakers
-  **Monday, Nov 11**  
**College Panel**  
7 pm, ELAN
-  **Tuesday, Dec 3**  
**#GIVING TUESDAY**



## Lights, Camera, Action!

Saint Dominic Academy added a new elective to its roster of classes for the 2019-2020 school year. Open to 11th and 12th graders, the Film Studies class began its "award winning" year on September 6. The major purpose of this course is to examine the culture of film and the effect different film genres have had on society as a whole. Students examine film sources as points of cultural significance in America. Special attention is given to the creative and technical elements essential to visual communication on film. This class provides students with an opportunity to examine in depth the role Hollywood plays in American culture. The genres being studied are: Horror, Sci/Fi- Fantasy, Comedy, Drama, Romance, Mystery and Biography. The movie selections range from 1933 to 2017.



## Saint Dominic Academy Recognizes AP® Scholars

SDA is proud to announce that eight members of the Class of 2019 have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP exams. **Jarrielle Cabalfin '19** and **Hannah Dobronsky '19** have each been named an AP Scholar with Distinction for earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Fellow Class of 2019 member **Alexa Gudiel** has also been named an AP Scholar with Honor. **Meghan Anderson, Skye Archibald, Amanda DeJesus, Cristina Lai-Le** and **Julia Murphy**, all recent graduates, were all named AP Scholars. The Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) administered by The College Board provides students at SDA and other high schools with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.



**MAKING STRIDES**  
**Against Breast Cancer®**

### "Fight like a Girl"

On October 20, the SDA Student Council team, "Fight like a Girl," will take to Lincoln Park in Jersey City and join The American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. The American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks raise awareness and funds to save lives from breast cancer. Each event is a noncompetitive three- to five-mile walk that brings people together to make a difference for everyone who has been touched by breast cancer. The events raise money to fund innovative research, provide free information and support and help people reduce their breast cancer risk or find it early when it's most treatable. [Click here](#) to join the walk or to help support our school.

## SDA Creates Chapter of the National Art Honor Society

SDA is pleased to announce the creation of the Saint Dominic Academy Chapter of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS). The National Art Honor Society is sponsored by the National Art Education Association, a professional organization for art teachers, college and university art personnel, art supervisors, museum art educators and others concerned with the quality of education in the visual arts.

A goal of NAHS is to recognize students who have shown an



outstanding ability in art. The organization also strives to aid students in working toward the attainment of the highest standards in art areas and to bring art education to the attention of the school and community. Members are eligible for scholarships and special recognition and awards.





# SDA Parents Association News

The Social just prior to Back to School Night had wonderful attendance. We hope you enjoyed meeting SDA parents, as we did catching up with old friends and making some new friends.

The Mother/ Daughter Brunch will be held on October 20, at La Reggia in Secaucus. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets for the event. Anyone interested in donating or wrapping gifts for the Tricky Tray, please contact Kristen Martin (201.725.7918).

On October 3 at 7 pm the Guidance Department will host a Financial Aid Information Session for seniors and their parents.

On November 11 at 7 pm the Guidance Department will host a College Panel for juniors and seniors and their parents.

Anyone who is not receiving emails from the SDA Parents' Association, please email Ms. Maria Sasso at [pintoms@optonline.net](mailto:pintoms@optonline.net).

Fall athletes (volleyball, soccer, tennis and cross country)—the form to purchase warmup suits is attached [here](#). See Ms. Mary Murphy for samples so you can determine your size. No returns or refunds are accepted. Please complete the order form and send it to Ms. Maria Sasso via email ([pintoms@optonline.net](mailto:pintoms@optonline.net)). We are aiming to place the first order by October 6.

Don't forget to purchase your calendar raffle tickets; they will be mailed shortly to all families.

## 2019-2020 OFFICERS AND THEIR LEGACY

MARIA SASSO '78  
*President*  
(MARISSA '16,  
DANIELLE AND NATALIE '20)

JANE MATTIELLO  
*Vice President*  
(REAGAN '22)

KRISTIN MARTIN  
*Treasurer*  
(COURTNEY '21)

# Welcome to SDA!



Saint Dominic Academy would like to welcome our new 7th grade class, the Class of 2023 and transfer students to our family this fall! We look forward to getting to know you!



## Students Participate in the IBM Academy of Technology STEM Live Simulcast



The 7th, 8th and 10th grade STEM classes joined the IBM Academy of Technology STEM Live Simulcast on Thursday, September 19th, 2019. IBM's STEM events focus on innovation, creativity and motivating young minds to explore new problem-solving opportunities.

This September, IBM's Academy of Technology hosted its annual public live stream STEM Event, led by IBM Fellow Rhonda Childress. It was the biggest event yet, with a live high school audience of 500 and over 20,000 connections expected over the public live stream! It was again held in Austin, Texas, at one of IBM's P-TECH high school partners, Juan Navarro High School.

The theme this year was "THINK and Create the Extraordinary." The

event was filled with passionate speakers, engaging demos and lively calls to action that cover motivational technical topics including: Watson, IoT, Artificial Intelligence, circuits, cyber security and more!



### STEM Careers in Aviation Take off



7th and 8th grade STEM students have been invited to participate in a day of aviation events at the Bloomberg Hangar in Moristown. Bloomberg family pilot Tammy Fein will host the event with the goal of exposing students to careers in aviation. Guests include keynote speaker, Congresswoman Mickie Sherrill, a former helicopter pilot, as well as panel guests including an air traffic controller, an FBI pilot and a Sikorsky 76 Helicopter pilot. Activities include meet and greets, talks and a Q&A session.

## SDA to Host Fall Open House



Saint Dominic Academy will host its next Fall Open House for those interested in grades 7-12 on **Wednesday, October 9, from 6-8 p.m.** The event will feature club and athletic demonstrations, presentations by academic departments and the administration and tours of the school, along with complete information about the application for admission process for all grades, including transfers. Anyone specifically interested in a tour should arrive no later than 7 p.m.

Girls in 8th grade are also encouraged to sign up for "**Freshman for a Day**" and "**Don't Stress the Test.**" Information can be obtained by calling the Admissions Office at 201-434-5938, ext. 14.



# BLUE DEVIL PRIDE



## Cross Country Team Competes in the Woodbridge Cross Country Classic

The dream of visiting California is luckily a reality for some of our outstanding track team members! The SDA Blue Devils were invited to compete in the prestigious Woodbridge Cross Country Classic presented by ASICS America in Silverlakes Sports Park in Norco, California. The meet took place on Friday, September 20, and Saturday, September 21. Congratulations to Mr. John Nagel on yet another achievement for the team. The following young ladies competed:

**Shuayla Johnson**  
**Olivia Aidukas**  
**Tea Baramidze**  
**Milani Bethel**  
**Amanda Diaz**  
**Charlotte Hennessey**  
**Caroline O' Donnell**

**Avery Sullivan**  
**Madison Cortes**  
**Liv Lekovich**  
**Alexa Janeczko**  
**Mia Martinko**  
**Lainey Nguyen**

## Blue Devils Basketball Participate in Kyle Anderson Celebrate Life Day Annual Basketball Tournament & Clinic

NBA basketball player Kyle Anderson of the Memphis Grizzlies hosted his annual Celebrate Life Day Basketball Tournament & Clinic in the North Bergen Recreation Center on Saturday, August 11. The Celebrate Life Day Basketball Tournament & Clinic was established to honor Mr. Anderson's childhood friend, Mr. Paul Kim, and to raise awareness of suicide prevention. Proceeds from the event will benefit [Ericka's Lighthouse](#). Erika's Lighthouse programs educate schools and communities about teen depression to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and to empower teens to take control of their mental health.



## Volleyball Updates

Head Coach Mr. Michael Kushnir reported that the team has added assistant coach, Ms. Jennifer Fargo, to help with the development of the junior varsity players. The volleyball team has implemented a number of strategies and skills over the summer and are now excited to put them into action. The second half of the season is approaching and the team is anticipating their matches against county teams. While we started the season at 1-3, there is a lot of potential! The team celebrated their victory against Marist, with scores of 25-9 and 25-11. Come out and support the SDA Blue Devils!

## Soccer Updates

SDA soccer is led by seven returning seniors: **Addison Pentz, Erin Murphy, Natalie Pinto, Danielle Pinto, Sofia Fragiacom, Elyse Sanchez and Logan Hart.** With a tough start to the season against Bayonne and last year's Hudson County champion, Kearny, the team rebounded quickly. Several great underclassman, joined by some dynamic freshmen talent, aided the seniors in back-to-back shutout victories over North Bergen and Hoboken for a 5-4 record thus far. Expectations are high for a big second half of the season.



# LETTERS

## A Message from the Head of School

My Dear Parents:

Welcome, welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! With September already under our belts, we are off to a wonderful start. Here in this newsletter, I just wanted to take a moment to share with each of you our Theme for the Year at Saint Dominic Academy. I announced it to our young ladies at our Opening Mass on September 13 and now it is my pleasure to share it with you:

***Good morning, ladies, and welcome to the 2019-2020 school year. Those of you who are not new to SDA will well remember that each year, we have an overall theme for our teachers, as well as our students. Last year, we took inspiration from the film, Moana, and made our theme "Find Happiness Where You Are." And what a joy-filled year it was!***

***This year, I want our theme to springboard off that idea and celebrate the mindset that Saint Dominic Academy is a place where we come together with friends, teachers and administrators and find ourselves, at different moments on varying days, being truly happy.***

***It is easy to arrive on a Monday morning or depart on a Friday afternoon feeling as if we carry the weight of the world on our shoulders. You and I both know well how bogged down we can get in issues both great and small and on those days, our happiness is diminished.***

***And, if we cannot be happy, truly happy, for just a few moments each day, then after awhile that has an effect on our relationships: with our friends, our loved ones, our parents and yes, even our teachers! What we want, each and every day here, is to be filled with joy, to forget our troubles and to just celebrate whatever happiness, great or small, comes across our desks each day. And so...our theme for the year is quite fitting and even set to music. Each one of us has chosen to spend the upcoming school year together, with each other at Saint Dominic Academy and so, together, we are going to do the following:***

***Forget your troubles, come on get happy!***

***I'd now like to invite Rachel Perrie, Class of 2020, to the front to truly get us in the spirit of the theme for the year. Rachel will sing this iconic song for us, and very soon this year, I hope you'll all learn to sing it too!***

It is my hope that you, as parents, will embrace our theme as well and "sing" with us all during the year as we "Get Happy" about all the wonderful things Saint Dominic Academy has to offer!

Most sincerely,

Ms. Sarah Degnan



# LETTERS

## A Message from 7th and 8th Grade Coordinator

### Welcome September

**New Month  
New Day**

**New Chapter  
New Page...**

September is a beautiful reminder that the days are growing shorter as we prepare for a burst of color that ushers in those cooler autumn days. It reminds us too of beginnings. A new school year full of promise awaits us. Swimsuits and sand are replaced by uniforms and books. These are exciting days because the year ahead is full of opportunities: new classes, sports, clubs and service activities.

Sometimes the anticipation of welcoming the school year is mixed with feelings of unease. It is natural to wonder how well you will meet the challenges that lie ahead. Perhaps it would be helpful to consider these words by an unknown author: "Don't be afraid to start over. It's a new chance to build what you want."

Set goals, be determined and, when necessary, begin again. Sometimes Plan B or even Plan C is an excellent alternative!

### Welcome September

**...New Wishes  
New Dreams**

**Anonymous**

Blessings and best wishes to all as you continue your academic journey to excellence.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Ann McLean  
Coordinator for 7th and 8th Grades

# LETTERS

## A Message from the Academic Dean

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I have never been more excited in starting a new school year as I am now! And, for good reason. It will be my 20th year in the US of A, my 10th year with SDA and my 4th year as Academic Dean. I am driven by the confidence that the experiences of all these years have taught me, and by the ever-growing love and concern I have for the young ladies of this institution, whom I have considered family.

There's nothing like working with a team that you know you can trust and depend on and this year, especially, that is what I have! In addition to the proven reliability of last year's faculty, staff and administration, we have:

- ✓ Welcomed five new teachers to our fold. They are Dr. Rosalia Humphreys for Science, Ms. Nicole Placencia '13 and Mr. Renzo Flores for Mathematics, Ms. Kamila Pawka for Physical Education and Health and Ms. Stephanie Vargas '10 for Religion.

I am also thrilled to let you know that, apart from Ms. Placencia '13 and Ms. Vargas '10, we have two more alumnae on the faculty, Ms. Caitlyn Angrosina '11, who is our new Mathematics Department Chair, and Ms. Jaimee Laurie '12, who is with the English Department and is very ably taking on the challenge of teaching AP English this year. I had the privilege of teaching Caitlyn, Jaimee and Nicole, and to have them as colleagues now, and to see them giving their best at what they do, gives me such joy!

- ✓ Ms. Kristen Mallon and Ms. Eryn Lewis, with their boundless energy and fresh perspectives, are at the helm of our recruitment and marketing pursuits. We are looking forward to the many exciting updates and innovations that they both have in store for the year.

SDA currently boasts of five honor society affiliations: National Honor Society, Math National Honor Society of Mu Alpha Theta, La Societe Honoraire de Francais, Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica and the International Thespian Society. This year, we are proud members of the Art National Honor Society! That brings our count to six!

This year, we will be giving particular attention to our students' participations in intra- and inter-school academic competitions. Apart from our participation in the annual Jersey City Medical Center/Barnabas Health STEM Challenge, we will now be joining the High School and Algebra I contests of the NJ Math League, of [mathleague.org](http://mathleague.org), the largest network of local and state Math competitions at the elementary, middle and high school levels in the United States and abroad. We will also participate in the Stevens Math Olympiad.

In our continuing efforts at beefing up our Fine and Performing Arts program, Ms. Degnan will be teaching a Film Studies class this year, we will be staging a production of *Hairspray* in the fall and our Art, Music and Drama classes are in full swing.

Our Science Department, under Mrs. Cristina Manuel, is off to a busy start. On September 19, our 7th/8th grades STEM Design and Modeling class and our 10th grade Introduction to Engineering Design class participated in a live simulcast of an IBM Academy of Technology STEM event. On October 4, we are taking our 7th/8th graders and select high schoolers to a Bloomberg Aviation event at the Morristown Airport.

Ms. Violeta McKenzie, last school year's Teacher of the Year, has added a Spanish Heritage Honors class, a "speak-Spanish-only" environment for select students who have a good command of the language and would benefit from a curriculum that is strong in cultural content.

We have quite a list of "new" and "firsts" for school year 2019-2020, and we're just getting started. You know how those infomercials go: "But wait, there's more...?" Yes, I leave you with just that...Wait, there's more. I shall keep you updated!

Here's to our best school year yet!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Guen Farrales