



THE TRUMPET



March 2011

Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, NJ

FREE

St. Dom's Shows Its Pride

By: Marlene Garzona '11

Every year, during the first week of February, school spirit arrives decked out in vibrant versions of blue, red, green and purple. Spirit isn't a person, but rather the Blue Devil pride everyone at SDA shares as sisters and students.

This year's Spirit Week was a bit different, as a snow

day cut the celebration a bit short. Nonetheless, SDA spirit couldn't be stopped, and despite the interruptions, all students shared in Blue Devil pride by

dressing up, chanting, shaking the bleachers and raising money for various charities.

On Monday, the freshmen got groovy with their 80's themed attire. The next day, the sophomore class did not disappoint, showing up in Midwestern inspired cowgirl clothing. Thursday was the

day both the juniors and seniors dressed up, and the hallways were filled with "twins" and "celebrities."

By the time Friday rolled around, school spirit was truly present in all students and faculty. Everyone headed to St. Peter's

College and was introduced to the members of the various sports and

dance teams who represent the very Blue Devil pride and spirit that the week is all about.

During the festivities, Mr. Corbo presented Senior Bria Smith with a special basketball celebrating her

wonderful achievement of scoring 1,000 points in her Blue Devil career.

The highly anticipated student-faculty soccer game did not disappoint. While Mr. Hawthorn was forced to watch from the sidelines due to an injury, Mr. Corbo gladly stepped up to the



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Not the Usual Lunch

By: Shaunte Farthing '11

The current freshmen are very lucky. This year they have a fabulous cafeteria lunch unlike any from previous years. Although everything is a bit more expensive, the freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors all agree that the quality of the cafeteria has definitely improved.

Four Seasons, the catering company that began working at Saint Dom's this fall, provides a hot breakfast that includes bacon, egg and cheese sandwiches and hash browns, among other great choices, as well as a variety of delicious foods for lunch.

Besides the different kinds of pasta dishes every day, there are also chicken strips, paninis, pizza and even sushi on special days. Students even have the choice of buying one, all, or some of the foods in different combinations.

If hot foods aren't your

thing, there are always sandwiches that can either be on white or wheat bread and various kinds of delicious salads. Even the choices for ice cream and vending machine snacks and drinks increased from previous years, much to the delight of the hungry young women of Saint Dominic Academy.

For an extra treat, there are always scrumptious cookies, fresh-baked everyday right there in the cafeteria. Perhaps the best addition (at least the most popular one) is the French fries that go great with any of the main dishes.

The only problem that this great new lunch has presented is the long line that forms at the beginning of every lunch period, and, of course, the increased tendency to eat more. Just be careful though, since too much of a good thing can sometimes be bad.

One Busy Holiday

By: Janine Ganapin '11

The Christmas season of 2010 turned out to be busy as usual for the Dominoes. Besides the many performances for the fall, their schedules were filled with several seasonal events, including singing as the opening act to the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall.

They were particularly enthusiastic as they stepped onto the stage and stood before the full concert hall and sang a couple of songs from their Christmas repertoire. Senior Mariah Ralph was even able to sing her solo for "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)." After the performance, the Dominoes went to their seats and got to enjoy the rest of the show as part of the audience.

As they do every year, the Dominoes sang at Liberty House Restaurant for the elementary school children participating in the Annual Snow Flake contest. Santa Claus made an appearance this year too, and it was particularly

exciting for both the kids and the Dominoes as everyone joined in to sing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

Unlike their other annual performances, the Dominoes were also invited to sing at Carnegie Hall again. Tim Janis, who had been amazed by the Dominoes' singing many months before, specifically invited the Dominoes to participate. For weeks, they practiced Janis' whimsical arrangements of familiar secular and sacred Christmas music, making them completely prepared and confident once they stepped on stage and blended their voices in with the other choirs.

This performance was a wonderful experience for the



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A Very Good Nightmare

By: Miss Gilbert '89

There was standing room only in ELAN as the nervous performers prepared to tackle the first musical in recent Drama Club history. By the time the cast finished the first song "This Is Halloween" to thunderous applause, most of their nerves were gone and they knew it was going to be a success, and it really was.

On Friday, December 4, 2010, The SDA Drama Club put on a stage production of Tim Burton's wildly popular movie *The Nightmare Before Christmas* adapted for the stage and directed by President Katie Scarpa '11.

The long rehearsals paid off for the whole cast most especially for the stars of the play, Drama Club Vice-president Meaghan Perieras '12 who made Jack Skellington come to life as did Laurie Engelhardt '11 who played Jack's rag doll girlfriend Sally. The song they sang to each other in the finale even elicited some tears and aw's from the audience.

Other noteworthy

performances were the ever hysterical Meghan Ianiro '11 as the Mayor of Halloweentown, Toni-Anne Fajardo '11 as the creepy Dr Finklestein, and, in this humble author's opinion, Khadijah Danielian '11 who stole the show as the evil Oogie Boogie. During her performance of "Oogie's Song," the audience erupted with laughter.

With that said, their performances and the whole cast's performances would not have been as convincing without the excellent scenery and sound of the stage crew led by Renee Lago '11 and Janine Ganapin '11.

The play was well attended and received. Miss Gilbert '89 would like to thank the cast and crew for all the hard work they put in to make this play the most successful to date and would like to extend a personal invitation to everyone reading this to our Spring Production on Friday, April 29, 2011.

Meet Mr. McDonnell

By: Sarah Sanchez '14

Mr. McDonnell is one of the newest teachers at SDA. Teaching classes for both freshmen and seniors in the Math Department, he has been a wonderful addition to the school. *The Trumpet* recently sat down with Mr. McDonnell to get to know him a little better.

Q: What made you decide to become a math teacher?

A: When I was in high school and college, math was always my strongest subject, so I decided to major in it. I always enjoy the challenges that numbers present. So, it seemed like a natural fit.

Q: Did anyone in particular inspire you to become a teacher?

A: The reason I became a teacher is because I have a passion for learning and educating. In high school, my AP Statistics teacher inspired me. I wanted to bring that same love of learning mathematics to other students.

Q: Have you worked at any other schools?

A: No, Saint Dominic Academy offered me my first teaching job and I have loved every minute of it. The students and faculty have been so nice in helping me adjust

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Moderator: Mr. Seborowski

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seniors of the group, which for some became their third time in Carnegie Hall, but also for the freshman members who were very excited with these opportunities.

On December 8, during the Feast of Immaculate Conception, which earned the St. Dom's students a day off from school, the whole Glee Club performed a mini-concert in Newport Mall much to the delight of the Christmas shoppers.

Among all the Christmas season performances though, the most important one is the Glee Club's Christmas Concert. This year, Mr. Napoli arranged a sophisticated repertoire for the choir, including "A Ceremony of Carols" in which the Dominoes processed into the church singing, holding candles and gathering together to sing another ten minutes of memorized music

accompanied only by a harp. This was followed by the Glee Club's many familiar pieces, like "Panis Angelicus" and "O Holy Night," with solos by Renee Lago '11 and Carly Heard '13 respectively.

There were also some new but unforgettable songs such as "Stille Nacht" and "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day." Sisters Kacey Loaiza '11 and Alexandra Loaiza '13 accompanied the choir with their violin duet for "The Snow" and "S'Vivon." As a finale, the Glee Club performed the arrangement of "I Believe" quodlibet with the Bach-Guonod "Ave Maria."

This concert marked the end of the choir Christmas season, but the Glee Club has returned this year and has begun preparing for a competition in April and the Spring Concert.



Another Successful Competition For the Dominoes

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challenge and kept everyone on the edge of their seats. The teachers won 1-0 as Ms. Lenaghan scored the only goal of the game and Mr. Seborowski's goaltending was once again on point.

After the spring sports teams were announced, students from all grade levels participated

in the Crazy Olympics, leading to even more laughter throughout the gym.

Even though the exciting week eventually came to a close, the spirit certainly lives on in the hallways of Saint Dominic Academy.



Seniors Show Their Spirit

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to the rigors of teaching. The young women of the Academy are a true pleasure to work with.

Q: Did you have any jobs prior to becoming a teacher?

A: I was a data analyzer for a short time and after that I sold insurance, which I did not enjoy at all. Right before I became a teacher

though, I worked as an accountant for a record label, which was actually very enjoyable.

Q: We hear you like to play video games and listen to music in your spare time. What are some of your

favorite games and music?

A: I like the band Brand New. As for video games, I have been known to play a little Call of Duty as well as John Madden Football.



Playing a game of Madden Football on XBOX is a perfect way to unwind after a long day at school.

Q: What has been the best part about your

experience at SDA so far?

A: This is an easy answer - the students! Everyone is eager to learn and that makes my job as a teacher that much easier.

Reflecting on Community Service

By: Catherine Policastro '12

Throughout the course of the last year, the juniors have been hard at work doing community service. As a requirement for junior year, each student must complete 40 hours of service, doing something that involves working with other people.

Many students volunteer at hospitals, day care centers, senior centers, and various other places. Through these experiences, we learned a lot about ourselves, as well as what it means to serve as Jesus did.

Working with others helped us to realize things we may not have necessarily seen before. Renee Antonio spent time each day at the Harbor View Health Care Center reading to and encouraging senior citizens. We learned that there is not much difference between an SDA student and someone who needs her help, except for some unfortunate circumstances. Talking to the people we were volunteering with made us realize that we all have some things in common, regardless of age or health.

In some cases, people opened up to the students that were serving them. Amaris Rodriguez spent time at the Cusack Care Center and was quite moved by the daily interactions. Volunteering also helped us improve on important qualities, such as

patience, respect, and perseverance to complete the tasks we were assigned. Volunteering allowed us to see first-hand the impact our work can have on someone as well.

Not only did our volunteer work teach us everyday qualities, but it also taught us the importance of serving through God. As followers of Christ, we must love our neighbors, and treat them as we would like to be treated. Helping others helped us to realize that Jesus lives within each of us as long as we are doing the work he set out for us to do. Meagen Pereiras realized this while volunteering at the Gospel Roads retreat house in New York State. Experiences like this allowed Meagen and many more of us to spread the Good News through our actions.

Through our community service, many of us gained new insights on the way we look at ourselves, as well as others. We changed in ways that we may not have if we had not been given this assignment. The work may have gotten tough at times, but in the end we came to realize that helping others makes a person feel good about herself, and no matter how small the assignment may seem, it makes a big impact on someone else's life.

NHS Sponsors a Senior Social

By: Shubhangi Shukla '11

On December 7th the National Honor Society hosted its annual Senior Social in which senior citizens from nearby senior centers as well as relatives and friends of faculty and students were invited.

Attendees were greeted by NHS members, and were given the opportunity to socialize with one another. The senior citizens quickly hit it off with the students, the faculty, and each other, and it was interesting to listen to the differing conversations from table to table.

The entire audience became silent and captivated by the magnificent performance of the Dominoes, who performed some of their most popular songs such as "The Rose" and "Carol of the Bells." The performance lasted about 30 minutes after which everyone was served delicious pastries and appetizers, such as brownies and empanadas.

The crowning moment of the evening was when Mr. Hawthorn began bingo. Fortunately, most of the attendees were bingo enthusiasts, and several people happened to bring their own chips. When the game began, a wave of competitive spirit was apparent among the guests, and it was certain that each person intended to win.

Since all the participants were so heavily interested in the game, several rounds had to be played. The game continued until late in the evening with some people winning two or three times. After the last game, as a small parting gift, Mrs. Criaris distributed tickets for the Glee Club's Christmas Concert to all the participants.

After saying their goodbyes, the attendees departed happily saying that they would love to come back next year.

REACH OUT! (To Bantay Bata)

By: Felisa Velasco '11

On November 19, 2010, SDA's Asian Interest Club hosted a charitable event called Reach Out! (To Bantay Bata). The goal of Reach Out! was to raise money for a great organization called 'Bantay Bata.'

Bantay Bata is a child welfare program that helps children who are homeless, hungry and without proper medical care in the

line dancing, the delicious food, and the talented performers. I'm very happy with the turn out."

Also, it was great to see so many young people attend because it shows that youth today are indeed taking action to help those who are in need.

A special message of gratitude goes out to the Asian Interest Club moderators, Mrs.



Philippines. With much preparation and planning, the night turned out to be even more successful than the Asian Interest Club had expected.

Over 200 people attended this event, including more than 30 volunteers from both Saint Dominic Academy and Saint Peter's Prep. Asian Interest Club Vice President Julianne Francisco praised the event saying, "It was a fun night! Everyone enjoyed the

Lingat and Mrs. Valbuena for helping to organize this special event from the very beginning.

Reach Out! was such a fun, fruitful, and blessed event because all of the talents of the special young women in the Asian Interest Club were on hand to help those less fortunate. Continue to listen to morning announcements for the club's next big activity!

Splashing Around

By: Felisa Velasco '11

Looking for a team that finishes fast in a 200M Freestyle relay? Well, look no further than the wonderful swimming team at Saint Dominic Academy.

SDA's swim team has worked extremely hard this year. The swimmers have given so much of their time to a rigorous practice schedule. This is the second year for Coach Melanie and Coach Ashley and they have inspired their swimmers so much.



In the recent Bee's Classic, with ten of the top teams from Hudson County participating, SDA was able to capture second place overall. Not only is this a championship team, it is a team of sisterhood and harmony where

each swimmer supports all others through both wins and losses.

As this year's captain of the swim team, I want to personally thank all of the swim team members for their hard work and dedication. Coming to the pool everyday never seemed like a chore – it always was the best part of the day. This truly has been a season to remember, and future swim teams will have

a difficult time recapturing the awesome spirit displayed by this team.

With so many talented underclasswomen on the current roster, the SDA swim team is ready to make its mark in Hudson County.

Consistency is Key

By: Raeleah Siocha '11

The Indoor Track Team is having a stupendous year, appearing in several meets throughout the northeast. The team participated in the Brown Invitational for the 24th year in a row, as well as a trip to Dartmouth in Hanover, NH for the 14th time.

The team also went to Yale and performed well in two relays. St. Dom's won four sets of medals at the state relays. This was also the 28th time in the last 30 years that SDA won the Jersey City meet.

SDA now holds the crown in all of the local meets in all three seasons. Freshmen and sophomores have performed much better than expected and are getting better with each passing day. Naima Gustaffson, Kara Wheply, Raygine Crespo, Sabrina Campos, Jessie Martinez, Briana Encarnacion, Cara Keating,

Victoria Rediger, and Tatiana Williams placed in the top 3 in all of their events in the Frosh/Soph division.

Cecilia Sabbers had the 3rd best time in the county for the 800 meter run. She also now has a county title and took over the meet record that was set in 1999. Sarah Sisk and Leandra Boney also scored personal bests in the County Relay.

Taylor Allen and Madeleine Feeney each won county titles, and Madeleine Feeney became the 16th 30 foot shot putter in SDA history.

The outdoor track and field season is quickly approaching and if you haven't joined, you should think about joining and stop missing all the fun. In particular, the team is really looking for young throwers. So come to sign-ups in March because it doesn't hurt to try something new.



Blue Devils Hit the Hardwood

By: Natalia Ortega '11

The Saint Dominic Academy Blue Devils basketball team has enjoyed a successful season so far. At press time, the team held a record of 13 wins and 7 losses, good enough to place as the seventh seed in the county tournament.

The start of the season actually began the day after Thanksgiving with intense practices leading up to the first game of the season. For the most part, the team practiced six days a week, certainly not an easy thing to do; however, this practice time on the court allowed for the team to grow a special chemistry that propelled them to a winning season. It also allowed the young women on the team to get to know each other better off the court.

Seniors Bria Smith and

Natalia Ortega served as the team captains and always tried to set a good example for the underclasswomen. Early in the season, Bria Smith scored her 1,000th career point at Saint Dominic Academy, a very special achievement.

Another highlight of the year was the team's victory at the Leonia Winter Tournament at Leonia High School over the Christmas break. This early season victory undoubtedly gave the team the confidence necessary to have a winning season.

The team looks to be successful in the county tournament, followed by the state tournament which begins in early March. Good luck and best wishes to the entire team!



SDA Word Search

H A W T H O R N L Y H U S W H
 L G H E S H B O L U R T R S C
 S C I E N C E B E L R U O F N
 Y I M N H W Q R W F S A F O U
 P L N O C C U O D F E W R A L
 J K U Y R B G C L F E D A W R
 M H G K U P R O A I Y T S D A
 F R E S H M E N C D A I H L M
 U N S O P H O M O R E S M D O
 P U I H J T Y N B R E T E L B
 I L A L G J U N I O R S N W O
 R L S R O I N E S W T R H S O
 O J Y H N E S R I V E Y L O K

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| Hawthorn | Corbo | SDA |
| Caldwell | science | seniors |
| lunch | Juniors | Prom |
| Piro | sophomores | freshmen |
| book | Wade | Ivey |