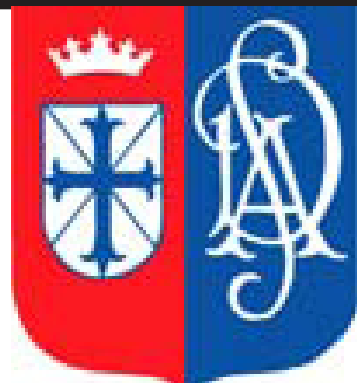


# THE TRUMPET



November 2011

Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, NJ

FREE

## A Beautiful Day for a Walk

By: Elle Rose '12

This year's long awaited Walkathon was certainly one for the ages. After being postponed due to poor weather conditions,

the sunny skies of October 21<sup>st</sup> were a happy sight for the sore eyes of SDA. Even though there was a bit of a chill in the air, the student body,

faculty, and administration of SDA displayed their school spirit.

The classic games played each year at Walkathon, such as the doughnut eating contest and three legged race, were as fun as ever, and a tear filled rendition of the Alma Mater by the seniors was filled with emotion and a sense of appreciation for the time spent here at SDA.

There was no lack of creativity in this year's shirt and banner themes. Some of the many creative groups at Walkathon this



year were the Freshmeat Freshmen, C14ssy Sophomores and 13oss Juniors.

This year was also the first time a class ever attempted to have a common theme among the entire class. The Senior Unity Project was something that asked all the seniors to use the quote "The world's not ending, we're just taking over" anywhere on their

*Continued on Page 2.....*

## No Time for a Siesta

By: Christina La Bruno '12

This past summer the annual Saint Dominic Academy

European trip was an extensive tour of Spain. The tour included the cities of Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Costa de Sol, Granada, Cordoba and Seville.

For many of the girls that attended, it

was their first experience outside of the United States and it was an experience they'll never forget.

The sights of the Spanish country side were breath taking and the hustle and bustle of the metropolitan areas left everyone mezmorized. The group explored



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## Going for the Goal

By: Catherine Policastro '12

With every fall comes a new school year, but perhaps more importantly for some girls, autumn marks the beginning of a new soccer season. The SDA Blue Devils have been working hard since late August to prepare for all the challenging teams on their schedule, and their successes clearly show it.

After suffering two difficult losses the first week of the season, the soccer team managed to pull everything together and win the remainder of its regular season games. Led by seniors Ali Esposito and Nina Giacchi on offense, the girls outscored their opponents 47-7.

Senior goalkeeper Julie Lipyanka collected over 80 saves, and had seven shut-outs,

demonstrating why she is one of the best in Hudson County.

Along with the seniors, the efforts of the talented underclasswomen helped the Blue Devils power through many tough games.

One of these victories came against rival Holy Family for the fourth match in a row. On what was a rainy night filled with SDA school spirit, the Blue Devils scored just minutes into the second half to produce the only goal of the game. The hard work of the defense allowed SDA to keep its lead, and end the game with a 1-0 win over its arch rival.



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# Getting Adjusted

By: Elizabeth Doody '15 & Brooklynn Langston '15

On the first day of school, the class of 2015 was suprised to meet new friends, new teachers, and even new big sisters. So far freshman year has been an exciting, yet very different time.

From the first day at orientation, to the big sister-little sister ice cream social, and even the clubs fair, SDA has already provided the new kids on the block with some great experiences and some unforgettable memories.

When we first came to orientation, everyone was nervous and shy. We became more comfortable at SDA thanks to our Link Crew leaders (evidenced by the picture above). Together, we played games and our leaders gave us advice on how to handle the next four years of school.

The Freshman 101 classes have been very beneficial and a lot of the freshmen have put the leaders' tips to good use both in the classroom and out.

Our teachers have been

..... *Continued from Page 1*

shirts, thus uniting the class with a single quote. The Senior Unity Project was a great success this year, and has inspired several other students with ideas for their themes next year. This year's Walkathon was a memorable one filled with laughs, smiles, and fond memories that will be cherish forever,

so nice. On the first day of school they explained what we would be doing during the year. Although the curriculum first seemed scary, they did their best to ease us into the upcoming school year. It is hard and sometimes confusing since we all come from various grammar schools, but our teachers have been

gracious in helping us transition into the students they want us to be.

The clubs fair was a great chance for the freshmen to get involved

in a different way with the school. Many girls have joined a variety of clubs, from Math Club to Dominican Youth in Action. The school spirit that the upperclasswomen possess has already trickled down to the ninth graders.

The first chapter of our high school journey has begun, and hopefully it will end happily ever after.

evidenced by the picture below of the spirited juniors.

Perhaps the best part of the event is that most of the money raised goes back to the student body, through sports, clubs and other extra-curricular activities. Thank you for participating ladies!



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# Upperclass at Last

By: Courtney Major '13

On October 20, 2011, members of the class of 2013 received their rings which symbolized becoming upperclasswomen. The class rings have come to represent the bonds that continue to be formed among classmates.

The Ring Ceremony took place at St. Aloysius church. Before the ceremony, the juniors awaited anxiously wondering what their rings would look like. Shortly after everyone was seated in the crowded church, Mr. Cramer, the speaker chosen by the juniors, read his extremely funny speech. He started by very poetically saying hello to each junior and then gave examples of how the junior class is unique. He ended by officially "Cramerizing" the juniors.

After his speech, the rings were blessed by Ms. Moisewicz,

and each student was called to receive her ring and a rose. From that moment on, when the juniors look at their rings, they will remember the memories they made on that special night.

After the class song, "I'll Be There for You," the juniors exited the church, and showed everyone their rings. The juniors know that with their class ring comes the responsibility of becoming upperclasswomen. They also know that the ring dance is just a few short weeks away.

The junior class would like to thank Mrs. Griffin, Mr. Corbo, Sr. Mary Lou, Ms. Moisewicz, Mr. Cramer, Ms. Lenaghan for her help on the guitar, and Ms. Ivey for organizing the event. With everyone's help the juniors will remember the Ring Ceremony for the rest of their lives.



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Even though the Saint Dominic Academy soccer team achieved so much success during the regular season, it was even more successful in the playoffs.

Having finished in third place, the girls qualified for the playoffs and made it past the first round with a 7-0 victory against Ferris High School.

The team was then involved in one of the more bizarre soccer matches in Hudson County history, when the semifinal game against Bayonne was called

at halftime due to snow, with SDA winning 1-0.

This set up a showdown for the county championship, SDA vs. Kearny. Although SDA did not come out on top, the students, faculty and administration could not be any prouder of the girls.

The players and fans of the team would like to give a special thanks to the Hudson County

Soccer Coach of the Year, Colette Lenaghan. Without her hard work and dedication to the girls on the team, this season would not have been possible.

When asked for her thoughts on the incredible season, Coach Lenaghan (pictured bottom right with her team captains) said, "A coach is only as good as the

players she has, and I have an amazing team!"

SDA would also like to congratulate the following players who received First Team All-County

individual honors for the season: Naima Gustafsson (Forward), Sarah Kelly (Midfield), Courtney Major (Defense), and Julie Lipyanika (Goalkeeper).

Every soccer fan in Hudson County cannot wait to see how the Blue Devils will top themselves next season. Congratulations to Coach Lenaghan and the entire team!





# The Doctor is in

**By: Jeselle Padilla '12**

Since the start of the new school year, many students have walked down the hallway wondering who that tall man standing by Room 106 is. Well, wonder no more! Dr. Santora, the newest addition to the History Department, graciously sat down with *The Trumpet* to answer a few questions.

**Q: Where did you attend college?**

**A:** I graduated from Rowan University with a degree in elementary education and taught junior high for 10 years. I then got a Master's in social studies and was certified to teach social studies at the high school level from William Patterson University. I received a Master's degree from Montclair State in American History, and I recently went back to school and got a Doctorate in administration from Seton Hall.

**Q: Why did you decide to come to SDA?**

**A:** I retired from public education, but I wanted to continue teaching in non-public education.

**Q: What is your impression of SDA so far?**

**A:** Obviously this is my first



time in non-public education and an all-girl's school, but so far I have enjoyed the difference in the perspective and the various backgrounds of the students.

**Q: We hear you were once on a game show – any truth to that rumor?**

**A:** I was on Jeopardy in 1992 when the dollar amounts were half of what they are now. I was on 3 times and won twice, which was approximately \$16,000.

**Q: What are your hobbies?**

**A:** One of my interests is that I serve as the president of my local school board. I also enjoy working on classic cars.

**Q: What are some things you would like to be involved with at SDA?**

**A:** I have coached mock trial for ten years and had two state championship teams from two different high schools, so I am looking to start an introductory club this year, and probably compete next year. I am also looking forward to working with the AP program because I have a great deal of experience teaching the course.

## A Special Breakfast

**By: Elizabeth Boyle '15**

The annual mother-daughter communion breakfast took place at Puccini's on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event kicked off at 10:00 am with the Saint Dominic Academy choir's performance of *The Canticle of the Sun*.

Dakota Cary and Gentrell Sessoms were chosen to perform the readings. After the Gospel, Father Richard J. Berbary spoke of relationships shared among one another in the room. In this one room there were relationships between mothers and daughters, sisters, new friends, and old friends.

Not only were individual relationships evident, but everyone was also aware of the relationship between the members of the Saint Dominic Academy family. The atmosphere that day was one full of love and friendship.

After the Liturgy ended, Frankie Riccardi, President of the

SDA Mother's Club made a short introduction. She talked about how fast time flies as people advance through high school. At this point, some people started to discuss how this breakfast wasn't just about bonds with God, mothers, or friends, but it also symbolized new beginnings.

As the start of a new school year, and career for the freshmen, is here, everyone has to create her own path no matter how different it may be from what was expected.

After the introduction Mrs. Griffin, SDA's Head of School, said grace before the food was unveiled. The rest of the event consisted of raffling off generously donated gift baskets.

To end the afternoon, the seniors, graduating class of 2012, sang the SDA alma mater which served as a beautiful conclusion to a very special event.

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the country's rich culture by visiting various art museums and historical sites such as the Sagrada Familia (pictured right), one of the world's most famous cathedrals located in the heart of Barcelona. This unique piece of architecture was started in the early 20th century, but still is not complete today due to a lack of funding.



Another part of the tour included the Oceanographic Museum in Valencia. This aquarium is home to more species than any other in the world and is the largest aquarium in Europe.

In Madrid, the young women from SDA visited the Royal Palace which is the official home to King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

During the group's stay in Seville, the lure of the Flamenco dance, a staple of Spanish culture, was irresistible, as everyone took part. In Costa de Sol, everyone

had the opportunity to relax on the beach and take a refreshing swim in the Mediterranean Sea.

The trip truly was an experience of a lifetime. Even though many of the girls were completely submerged in a foreign culture for the first time in their lives, they managed to relate to many different people and places.

In fact, a major lesson learned on the trip was how universally connected people are even if they speak a different language and live thousands of miles away from each other.

The beauty and history of Spain will remain in the hearts of the participants for the rest of their lives.

Next summer's trip is an extensive tour of Eastern Europe, including Berlin, Krakow and Prague. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity - see Madame Scholz for details.

## Welcome Ms. Armea

**By: Maritza Cruz '15**

Saint Dominic Academy is pleased to welcome one of its newest members to the Religion Department. *The Trumpet* recently sat down with the new face in room 103, Ms. Armea.

**Q: Where did you teach before you came to Saint Dominic Academy?**

**A:** I taught at Saint Mary's High School with another SDA faculty member, Ms. McKenzie.

**Q: Why did you decide to come teach at SDA?**

**A:** To be honest, one of the reasons I found myself looking for a new teaching position was because my old school, Saint Mary's, unfortunately closed. I am very excited though to have the opportunity to teach here at SDA.

**Q: What made you want to become a teacher?**

**A:** Well, there are several things that played into my decision. The

biggest one is that my mother was a teacher. When I was younger, I always admired the hard work and dedication she demonstrated.

**Q: Do you have any hobbies?**

**A:** Other than teaching, I have two loves. The first one is cooking – I enjoy making different types of meals. My other love is my family.

**Q: What has been the most difficult part of moving to a new high school?**

**A:** Overall, this has been a rather easy transition.

I think getting used to the new rules and regulations has been the biggest adjustment.

**Q: Has SDA met your expectations so far?**

**A:** I expected it to be a fun and challenging place based on things I heard in the past. So far, they have more than met my expectations, and I am really looking forward to many upcoming events.





## Proud History Continues

By: Shannon DeLuco '15 & Jasmine Watkins '15

Saint Dominic Academy's cross country track team has once again proven to be one of the elite teams in Hudson County. This team not only includes the qualities that an SDA student has but the determination to break records and have an amazing time doing so.

Throughout the last three decades, the Saint Dominic Academy cross country track team has won numerous county championships and individual awards. The 2011 team is proud to carry on that winning tradition.

Recently, the cross country team traveled to Disney World in Florida and represented the Saint Dominic Academy community very well. The team had fun practicing and racing but also made time for some fantastic sight seeing. Some might say the actual track event was the best part there, but many of the girls really enjoyed the sights and fun Disney and the Magic Kingdom have to offer.

The defending county champion cross country team ran locally for the last time on Saturday, October 21, 2011 in the Hudson County Championship. As

expected, the team won and every member played a crucial role in repeating as champions. The girls on the team all agreed that it was "an amazing day that will stay in our memories for a lifetime."

As Stella Marie Gomes, a junior at SDA, stated "I joined my junior year and I love it. cross country is not only hard work but fulfilling as well. It has also allowed me to make new friendships I might not have if I did not join the team."

She also said, "Cross country isn't about competition with other teams or players. It's a competition with yourself. It's a challenge every day to better yourself in what you love. It also doesn't hurt that it's really fun and allows for plenty of social interaction with friends!"

The practices and meets prove to be an enjoyable routine, and everyone involved feels truly blessed to be part of a program with such a rich history.

Be sure to listen for announcements in the very near future regarding the indoor track team for the winter season.

## Bump, Set, Spike!

By: Brianna Encarnacion '14

As the conclusion of volleyball season approaches, the Blue Devils have done a truly phenomenal job. The team never gave up and put a tremendous amount of time and effort into making this a memorable season.

In just a few short years, the excellent coaching staff and dedicated players have been able to turn the Saint Dominic Academy volleyball team into a competitive contender for the Hudson County crown.

There have been quite a few additions to both the varsity and junior varsity teams, bringing the girls a lot closer together. With the help of Coach Mary and Mrs.

Valbuena (pictured below with her team), the girls have improved dramatically since last year. Varsity currently holds a record of 8 wins and 7 losses, and the junior varsity holds a record of 8 wins and 4 losses.

Each day, the girls go to practice and work extremely hard on becoming a better team. Their coaches are determined to end the year as champs, and hard work is the only way to achieve that goal.

Although the end of the season is near, there is still a lot of volleyball left to be played. Good luck to the players and coaches in the playoffs.



## Advantage: SDA

By: Sarah Sanchez '14

Saint Dominic Academy has an excellent reputation of producing intelligent young women who will become tomorrow's leaders. The Academy is also getting a reputation for having a strong and dedicated tennis team. Many of the team's opponents have been surprised by their tenacity and dedication on the court. The following is an interview with the team's very own tennis captain, Sara Riccardi:



**Q. How many girls are on the tennis team?**

**A.** There are 15 young ladies on the team who exhibit SDA pride.

**Q. How many wins and losses has the team had so far this year?**

**A.** The team has Won 12 matches and lost only 2.

**Q. How often do you meet to practice before your games?**

**A.** We meet every day for practice from 3-6pm at the Lincoln Park tennis courts. Before our games we warm up by practicing our serves, volleys, overheads, and ground

strokes. We actually play some intense matches between members of our own team. This prepares us very well when we play other teams.

**Q. What has been your toughest competition this year?**

**A.** This season our toughest competition as a team was Kearny, but with the teams support and energy we think we can beat them in the Hudson County Tournament.

**Q. What was the most memorable moment so far this season?**

**A.** Our most memorable moment so far was when our 2nd singles, InTyhe Crawford and 3rd singles, Tania Malik won First place in the individual Hudson County tournament. We were also proud of beating Bayonne twice during the regular season.

Based on the team members success so far, it is clear that they have a very good future ahead of them.

## Honors Assembly

By: Casey McIntyre '15

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, the students of Saint Dominic Academy gathered together for what turned out to be a wonderful Student Council Induction and Awards Ceremony.

Ashley Hector, the STUCO President, started off the ceremony with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Following this was the presentation of awards by Mr. Corbo, including awards in the areas of World Languages, Crop Walk, Service, Perfect Attendance, Science, Math, Social Justice, Academics and Leadership, as well as the generous alumna awards.

After the awards were given out, Vice President Toni-Anne Fajardo introduced the class speakers. Up first was freshman Onjasné Rodgers, who gave a beautiful speech on community. Next was a speech about leadership by sophomore Breanna Perez. Third was the unforgettably bubbly speech on service by Jacqueline Malabanan. Senior Traci Searls

was the final speaker, and she gave an inspirational speech about spirit.

Once the speeches were given, Emily Ambrosio, STUCO Secretary, presented the Student Council Members, who gave their pledge and accepted their certificates. When they finished, the Class Historians and Spirit Committee Members were presented by Treasurer Zainab Khan. The Historians and Spirit Committee Members gave their pledges and received their certificates as well. Mr. Corbo then gave a motivating speech, which lead into Ashley Hector's conclusion of the ceremony.

The inspiring ceremony ended with the singing of the Alma Mater. Congratulations to all award winners, Student Council Members, Class Historians, and Spirit Committee Members. It's going to be a great year with all of these new leaders!