



Parent Newsletter

From the Head of School

January 2016

Dear SDA Parents,

After enjoying record-breaking warm temperatures in late December, we were all surprised by the cold snap that finally arrived in January. However you feel about the cold weather, I think we can all agree that we are very glad not to be dealing with the hazards of winter driving – yet!

Our faculty and students are busy preparing for midterm exams and the start of the second semester. Everyone is also looking forward to our Father – Daughter Dance at the end of January – a highlight of the winter for us. The Parents' Association is getting ready to mail the calendar raffle tickets to all of our families and alumnae. The profit from this year's Calendar Raffle will go towards air conditioning in our auditorium – ELAN – on the second floor. It is a very worthwhile project and one which will be enjoyed by many families for years to come. I urge all of you to support this year's raffle to make it the best ever. Our goal is 100% participation by every family in the school. If we reach that goal, the project can be done this spring. I hope we can count on each and every one of you.

This spring we are planning some exciting events at the Woman's Club building to officially open it for use by the Academy. I will be reaching out to you in the next few weeks to ask for volunteers to help with these events at the end of April. I know that many of you will want to be part of the opening festivities for this addition to our campus.

Wishing you every blessing in 2016.

Sincerely,

Barbara C. Griffin
Head of School

A message from the Academic Dean

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we return from the hustle and bustle of Christmas and swing back into the education setting, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year and all the best that 2016 has to offer. Here at Saint Dominic Academy the focus for the next few weeks will be on midterm examinations and then, the successful beginning of the second semester of the school year.

The integration of the Writing Across the Curriculum program has progressed to full use in each of our departments, with students writing Type I through Type V on all grade levels in all classes. All midterm examinations will include a writing section, and all Math and English examinations on the 9th - 11th grade levels will contain a section focusing on the new PSAT and SAT.

All fall, we have seen evidence here at SDA of new and exciting curricular ventures. The Kindle Fire program has been integrated into the 9th and 10th grade Honors English classes and the use of IPADS has been fully integrated into the 9th grade classes as well. Students on the 10th, 11th and 12th grade level are seeing increased technology use in their classrooms as well. Partnering with Liberty Science Center right before Halloween, our 7th and 8th grade students were able to participate in a Cow's Eye Dissection through a grant program. Although squeamish at first, they eventually really enjoyed the experience. Some of our English and History classes partnered with the Library of Congress to participate in their Story Corps project, and all Math and English classes have started to use the Khan Academy website, in conjunction with The College Board in order to prepare for the new SAT, coming in March 2016.

In the coming months, we will be hosting a College Admissions Panel for our 10th and 11th grade students and parents, on the evening of February 4th and will be welcoming the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in March for a production of Romeo and Juliet. It will be a semester full of surprises and fun and I am thankful daily that I am able to share in these educational endeavors with your daughters!

Sincerely,



Sarah DegnanMoje
Academic Dean

Glee Club Celebrates New Year in Rome

As members of *Pueri Cantores*, the official student choral organization of the Catholic Church, many members of the Glee Club participated in Pueri Cantores' 40th International Congress held recently in Rome, Italy. They left for Rome on December 26 and sang on four separate occasions while there. During the Opening Ceremony, they marched from the Castel Sant'Angelo down the Via Conciliazione to Saint Peter's Basilica where they marched through the Holy Door which has been opened for the Jubilee Year. They then sang with all American and Irish choirs for the *Mass of Nations* at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day were the climax of the trip. On December 31, the Glee Club sang at Sala Nervi in a performance in honor of the Holy Father, "*Christmas Around the World*." The international choirs serenaded Pope Francis with the Argentinean Carol "*El Nacimiento*."

At 10:00 A.M. on New Year's Day, the Glee Club sang in the World Peace Day Papal Mass and then gathered for *Angelus* in St. Peter's Square. The girls returned home on January 2nd with memories to last a lifetime.

Later in the year, on April 25, 2016, members of the Glee Club will join the Dominoes in a performance of Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria" in Carnegie Hall.





News from SDA Parents Association

The SDA Parents' Association annual calendar raffle tickets will be mailed home the week of January 18, 2016. The raffle will run for 12 weeks from March 9, 2016 to May 25, 2016. Each week you will have the opportunity to win \$500 (the first and last week's prize is \$750). Also, the seller of each winning ticket will receive \$50. Mrs Griffin has stated she will grant **an extra day off with 100% participation by all the students.** The funds raised by the raffle will be used to install air conditioning in ELAN. The calendar raffle is the sole fundraising event sponsored by the Parents Association, please, we need your support!

Kindle Pilot Program

Earlier this year, SDA put in a pilot program of 25 Kindles with 50 classic titles. They are being used for supplemental reading in 9th and 10th honors classes. The program will be expanded next year.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our School Nurse, **Mrs. Donna Butto** who was awarded a Nurse Excellence Award at the 14th Annual Nurse Excellence Awards Ceremony held at Jersey City Medical Center on November 20, 2015!

Spirit Week

Students should be gearing up for the Student Council's Spirit Week scheduled for January 25 - 29. While the event will culminate in a "DOMination" competition, the week will see many events geared toward friendly competition among the grades. Some activities are change wars, hallway decorating, and a paper chain competition. All money raised during Spirit Week will support various charities adopted by each of the grades. The senior class is supporting "Defenders of Wildlife," the juniors along with the 8th graders have adopted the "Make a Wish Foundation", sophomores and 7th graders are competing for "Pennies for Patients," and the freshmen have adopted "St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital."

Campus Ministry News

This past December, Campus Ministry, ran the Toy Drive for the students of Sacred Heart in Jersey City. For SDA students, they ran "Rack" Random Acts of Christmas Kindness, prepared an Advent Liturgy and also an Advent Prayer Service for the last day of school.



Upcoming events include a Baby Bottle Fundraiser sponsored by the 7th and 8th grades raising money for The Magnificat House in Jersey City. From February 1 through February 19, they will be collecting cans of soup for the Dominican Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows. The Sophomore Retreat is scheduled for February 5.

Blue Devils Winter Sports Update

Basketball- The team opened the season 2-0 with road wins at Snyder and St. Anthony before competing at the Union Catholic Christmas tournament. (They are currently 2-4 which can be avoided). The team which is paced by senior and student council president **Gabriella Fortune** has two promising freshmen which makes for a bright future for the Blue Devils. S.D.A. played the first of ten home games at St. Peter's Prep when they battled Dickinson.

Indoor Track & Field- Coming off a Cross Country season highlighted by a meet at Disney's Wide World of Sports and a 33rd city title in 37 years the team has competed at three meets thus far. The team led by first team all state parochial performer **Camille Bertholon '16** performed well as the team traveled to Providence, Rhode Island for the Rhode Island Invitational. S.D.A. which was the only New Jersey team in attendance competed in Providence over the break as they have each year since 1987. The team traveled to the Ivy League's Dartmouth College (Hanover, New Hampshire) where SDA first competed at in 1985. The team recently won the Hudson County Relays for an astounding 13th year in a row and the 18th time in 21 year since the meet was reinstated in 1993.

The team will vie for the Parochial B State Relays 100th City team title in the Jersey City Armory on January 19. The defending county champions will try to earn that title on January 31 and have state, eastern and National meets later in the season.

Swimming- The vastly improved Aqua Devils under the direction of second year coach Trey McGraw have practiced and competed well thus far. With veteran leadership and an infusion of exciting new comers the team finished second at the Swimming Bees Invitational which was SDA's best finish there in more than five years. The team which trailed only Union City has already defeated the Soaring Eagles in a dual meet. Things are looking up for our revived and flourishing swim team.

Dance Team - Congratulations to seniors **Teresa Cartagena** and **Barbara Jean McNutt** who have been named to the New Jersey Cheerleading and Dance Coaches Association prestigious All State Team. These seniors are two of only four dancers who are part of the 16-member All State Team. The 16 members of the team were chosen from over sixty applications. The girls were recognized at a brunch at the Marriott Forrestal in Princeton held on December 6, and will be presented with a plaque at the NJCDCA State Championship in March. This is the 8th consecutive year that SDA has been represented on the NJCDCA All-State Team.

Open House for our 7th and 8th Grade Program

Please spread the word to anyone who might be interested in attending SDA starting in the 7th or 8th grade.

Saint Dominic Academy will host an **Open House** for anyone interested in its **7th and 8th Grade Program** on **Tuesday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m.** The events will feature complete information about this accelerated program for young girls, including Shadow Day opportunities, curriculum review, project presentations, tours of the school and details about the application process for Grades 7 and 8 for **September 2016**. Information can also be found on the website (www.stdominicacad.com). Questions can be directed at any time to Andrea Apruzzese, Director of Admissions at [201-434-5938, ext. 14](tel:201-434-5938) or to aapruzzese@stdominicacad.com

Let's Be Social (*Media, that is*)

Visit our webpage (www.stdominicacad.com) We hope you like the new look!

Be sure to regularly check the school calendar for up to date information about SDA events.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @SaintDomAcademy

Friend us on Facebook: Saint Dominic Academy, Jersey City, NJ

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Empowering Women for Leadership



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

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