

Thank you, parents, friends, and volunteers, for your support of Santa Fe Girls’ School. We hope for 100% participation in the annual fund this year. We could not offer our programming without you and we promise to maximize any size contribution you feel comfortable making. Enclosed please find an envelope for your reply. (Also enclosed is our recent brochure.) If you have any questions about this letter or about fundraising, or have suggestions for additional ways to raise revenue, please reach out to Development Director Cullen Curtiss at the school, 820-3188.

May you enjoy the rest of 2010 and may you join us in continuing to create an environment of hope and learning for young women in 2011 and beyond. An invitation to our April 2 auction evening to benefit our tuition assistance program will reach you in the early spring. With the date falling near April Fools’ Day, you can expect some serious fun. May you join us then, too!

Sincerely,

Craig Barnes, President of the Board

Joan Brooks Baker, Board member

Bruce Miller, Vice President of the Board

Janet Graham
Board member, Administrative and Admissions Director

Melissa Benedict, Treasurer

Steve Robinson, Board member

Lee Lewin
Board member, Program Director and Cofounder



Dear Parents and Friends of Santa Fe Girls’ School,

We hope this year’s annual letter finds you well. New Mexico’s only all-girls middle school is having a great year. Please take a moment to read about Santa Fe Girls’ School’s work and plans, and consider making a year-end gift.

How well does SFGS prepare its graduates?

Our tenth graduating class chose Santa Fe High, Desert Academy, New Mexico School for Arts, Albuquerque Academy, the North Carolina School for the Arts, Santa Fe Preparatory School, and St. Michaels, and entered with 11-12th grade equivalencies. We like to check in with graduates to find out how SFGS has prepared them for high school. Here’s what two students said:

Alexandra Gentsh, a ninth grader at Santa Fe High, writes: “Santa Fe Girls School’s standard for excellence is what prepared me most for high school. The most important thing the staff does is teach their students about work ethic. Among other things, they stress that the only one who can learn for you is you. And if you want your teachers to respect and help you, you must understand that they expect you to behave respectfully and help keep the classroom a place to learn.”

Moriah Major, a ninth grader at Santa Fe Prep, writes: “Santa Fe Girls’ School over-prepared me for any school, if there is such a thing. Even more important, they gave me the confidence to excel.”

How is restoration going on one of America’s most endangered rivers?

Now in its sixth year on a 9-acre parcel of the Santa Fe River downstream of the city’s wastewater treatment plant, Project PRESERVE (Protecting the River Environment, Stopping Erosion, and Restoring the Vital Ecology) continues to offer an astounding outdoor classroom environment for SFGS’ environmental science program. With the remarkable data collected over the years, SFGS



eighth-grade students testified before New Mexico's Water Quality Control Commission in December 2009 (where they stood toe to toe with lobbyists from Peabody Coal, Exxon, and Los Alamos National Laboratories) about their discovery of high phosphate levels in the Santa Fe River—levels that are more than 20 times the federal levels for cold-water fisheries and more than 200 times higher than the federal recommendation for "unpolluted water." The eighth graders asked the commission to consider setting a standard for phosphates and to ban products, such as detergents, that

contain it. Their testimony caught the attention of the local media, and is now featured in a recently published book (July 2010) titled *Going Blue: A Kid's Guide to Saving Our Oceans, Lakes, Rivers, and Wetlands*, written with Philippe Cousteau and EarthEcho International.

In response to community demand, we plan to share our outdoor classroom model with Santa Fe youth by training teachers and creating new relationships with local schools. We seek to fund a Community Coordinator to develop training programs, organize collaborative teaching projects, complement the work of other non-profit restoration organizations, and facilitate the growth of outdoor classroom sites throughout the Santa Fe watershed. We imagine a watershed restored in collaborative stretches by schools, students, and teachers.



Lastly, we are thrilled that the landowner of our 9-acre outdoor classroom is now enthusiastic to transfer her property to SFGS. The PRESERVE property will be an enormous asset to the Girls’ School and, once our vision for a Community Coordinator is realized, SFGS expects that owning the property will be a great benefit to not only SFGS students, but others community wide.

For more about the acquisition plans, please contact SFGS’ office. To learn more about the students’ work, visit santafegirlsschool.org/project_preserve_videos.html to view the eighth graders’ short documentary films about beavers, phosphates, and Russian olives.



SFGS’ poetry teacher of the last 11 years is also Santa Fe’s third poet laureate.

Joan Logghe, now Santa Fe’s poet laureate, has been SFGS’ poet-in-residence for 11 years. Joan says: “I imagine that the poet laureate review committee considered my 11-year teaching residency at Santa Fe Girls’ School—consistently funded through Witter Bynner—unique and highly positive. For inspiration, I truly depend on working with young poets, which is partly why I have chosen the youth as a focus for my two-year tenure as poet laureate.”

Each SFGS student will write at least 20 poems. The seventh and eighth grades read their poetry at a public gallery event in April. Poetry from all classes is featured at graduation.

Who are those exciting new faces?

Through our internship program, we bring fresh ideas into the school, and mentor prospective teachers. SFGS is enjoying and learning from three new teachers this year. *Greta Nelson* follows in the footsteps of our language arts teacher Rebecca Wolle, and assists with Project PRESERVE. Greta has a BA in English from Rutgers University, Douglas College and an



MA in the Teaching of English from Columbia University’s Teachers College. *Nate Fuhrman*, a SFGS intern in the 2009-2010 school year, is now teaching sixth and eighth grade mathematics and assisting with Project PRESERVE. Nate is K-8 certified and has an undergraduate degree in elementary and adventure education from Prescott College, with which SFGS has an agreement to mentor intern teachers. *Kim Bear* is teaching Life Education to all grades. Her classes creatively explore adolescent issues, including anatomy, physiology, and related social concerns. Kim is a Family Nurse Practitioner, and, since 1995, has taught part-time at Santa Fe Community College as adjunct faculty in the nursing and the health, physical education, and recreation programs.



Mayor David Coss visits SFGS to explore Santa Fe’s “sanctuary law”.

After weeks of discussion about the US Constitution, and in particular the Bill of Rights, the 14th amendment, probable cause, and due process, the eighth grade class raised issues about the Arizona immigration law. After months of studying New Mexico history, the seventh grade had similar questions. Looking around at one another—some of whom are from immigrant families—they wondered: How can you know someone’s citizenship by their looks? What does this mean for New Mexicans going to Arizona? Can a law like this be passed here? How does our city feel about immigrants?

To help answer the questions, history teacher Lee Lewin presented Santa Fe’s “sanctuary law,” Resolution no. 1999-6, signed by former Mayor Larry A Delgado. After much discussion, the seventh and

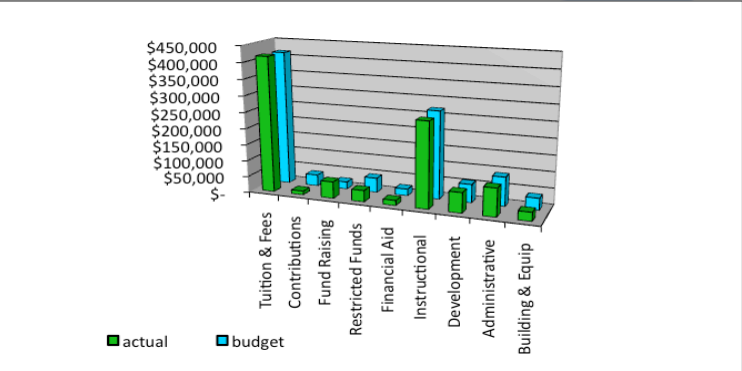


eighth grade classes were hungry for more information. Lee reached out to Mayor David Coss to help the students explore the language embodied in the resolution. The students gained a richer understanding of the meaning of sanctuary law in the context of the overriding reach of federal law, as well as awareness that public officials are accessible to the public.

How’s the economic downturn affecting us?

SFGS remains fiscally healthy in tight financial times because we are small, and each member of our staff is devoted, collaborative, and cross-trained in a variety of disciplines. We have considered what we can do without while still offering an exceptional learning environment for middle school girls. In a remarkable demonstration of commitment to the students and the school, the core staff agreed to freeze wages and retirement catch-up for the 2010-2011 school year.

To demonstrate our fiscal conscientiousness, here’s a graph showing SFGS’ operating budget versus actual for the year beginning 7/1/2009 and ending 06/30/2010.



Because tuition (\$9700 for 2010-2011) covers 82% of the cost to educate each student, SFGS seeks funding from private donors, grant-making foundations, and fundraising activities to make up the 18%. Through these relationships, SFGS creates partnerships that help it remain vital. We are currently enjoying support from Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry, Wells Fargo Foundation, The Frost Foundation, New Mexico Community Foundation, and PNM Energy Exploration. Through these partnerships and with the response to our fundraising activities, we have met approximately 27% of our fundraising goal for the year.

What does your help mean?

Your help means a lot. Your help means we can keep tuition at half the cost of other private middle schools in Santa Fe, and still provide tuition assistance to those families who qualify (this year, 20% of our families are taking advantage of our tuition assistance program). Your help means we can offer a safe, intimate, personalized setting for adolescent girls to thrive and develop into critical thinkers. It means we can help girls explore their interests in fine arts through exposure to well-respected artists. It means we can remunerate passionate and skilled teachers with good salaries, restore a riparian environment to its natural state, and pay the bills. Your help means better citizens and a better community, and we appreciate it deeply.

To get a sense for how we spend and hope to spend our funds, please review the list below:

- \$9200 is the cost of teachers and supplies for 8 electives
- \$5550 is the cost of heating the school for the year
- \$2000 is the cost of a year of landscaping
- \$900 is the cost of a year’s supply of toilet paper, paper towels, and tissue
- \$450 is the cost of a new set of books
- \$450 is the cost of copier and printer paper for the year
- \$200 is the cost of a year of biodegradable soap
- \$6,000 buys a new sewage pump
- \$1000 buys a new set of history maps
- \$800 buys a flat screen television
- \$500 buys an outdoor bench for seating and sports’ equipment storage
- \$300 buys a wet/dry vacuum