



Dear Parents and Friends of Santa Fe Girls' School,

We hope this year's annual letter finds you well. Please read about our work and plans, and consider making a year-end gift.

How well does SFGS prepare its graduates?

Our 2011 graduating class chose Santa Fe High, Desert Academy, New Mexico School for Arts, Santa Fe Preparatory School, and St. Michaels, entering with 11-12th grade equivalencies. Here's what Chiara Brandi, a ninth grader at Desert Academy, writes of SFGS: "I learned how to nurture the strong, opinionated woman inside of me."

CONGRATULATIONS to Santa Fe High Super Scholars Emma Ensign-Church, Kaitlyn Horpedahl, and Sonja Dangler, former SFGS students from the class of 2007! These three were among 57 students honored by Century Bank for being in the top 10% of 2011's high school graduating classes.

Tuition covers approximately 80% of the full cost to educate each student. Fundraising makes up the rest. This year, 25% of our student population are on tuition assistance, amounting to \$28,500.

How do we know if restoration is working at PRESERVE?



Now in its seventh year on a 9-acre parcel of the Santa Fe River downstream of the city's wastewater treatment plant, 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. And it's now part of SFGS' 501 (c) (3)!

SFGS' 7th and 8th grades are examining trophic cascades, or the effect of changes in vegetation to determine if the ecosystem is undergoing recovery in the context of what it looked like and how it behaved historically. As a result of the growing cottonwood and willow bosque, the students are looking for new

and/or uncommon, sensitive animal and plant species and new kinds of relationships. This year, the students found and documented: A willow flycatcher (an endangered species), a marsh wren nest (first time in Santa Fe County according to the state ornithologist), a northern leopard frog (very surprising considering the bullfrogs), a band of elk (likely traditional residents, but not witnessed so close to the City center), a moth called Schinia Guarae (a Santa Fe County record), and a large predator, likely a cat, just above the mesa.

Environmental Science Director Mr. Barnes has been wearing a related hat as Outreach Coordinator! His work in this role has made the students' river restoration experience even richer, in evidence most recently when the classes teamed up with local organization River Source to test water quality as part of World Water Monitoring Day. The data collected by SFGS and 79 other schools in New Mexico, Texas, and



Mexico on that day is used by Game and Fish, and other land agencies and watershed groups. Read more in the [New Mexican](http://santafenewmexican.com/Local%20News/Testing-the-water) article: santafenewmexican.com/Local%20News/Testing-the-water.

Bring your bags when you shop at Whole Foods Market on Cerrillos. Through 2011, when you donate the bag credit, PRESERVE gets your 10 cents. These funds will help support SFGS' outdoor classroom, but not entirely—taxes and maintenance on PRESERVE land, and the Outreach Coordinator stipend cost more than \$22,000 annually.

SFGS intern is trained in culture as much as pedagogic practice.

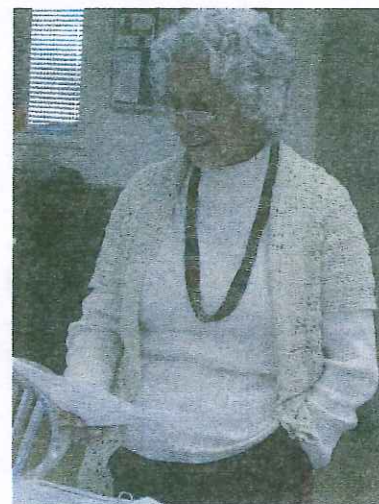


We are delighted to have Darya Peterson, past elective cooking teacher and environmental science assistant, now with us as an intern! Through her internship, Darya is mentored 1.5 days a week, observes/assists in the classroom, and is out at PRESERVE on Thursdays doing river restoration work with the 7th and 8th grade environmental science classes. She applies her skills and strategies in her ever-popular elective cooking class. Of SFGS, she writes, "Teaching here is equal parts passionate subject knowledge and ability to engage each girl in that subject."

SFGS' internship program is the only reliable strategy for our sustainability and future success. Long-time staff mentors new teachers using their profound knowledge about the culture and pedagogic practice of SFGS. And it is this knowledge that has shaped more than 190 middle school girls, giving them the academic experience needed to test in the nation's top 15%; the drive to be leaders in and to graduate from the high schools they choose; and the passion for learning that motivates them to attend college. *Next year's internship salary will likely be more than \$20,000.*

¿Quién es nuevo y absolutamente esencial en la escuela?

SFGS warmly welcomed Consuelo Walker this fall. Consuelo is a native Guatemalan, and received her License and Teaching studies at Escuela Normal Casa Central, an all-girls' school. With a BA in education from Highlands University, she has taught kindergarten, third, and fourth grades in the Santa Fe Public School system. For seven years, she has taught Spanish to adults at the Santa Fe Community College Continuing Education program. She is active in civic affairs, and volunteers teaching Basic Spanish Literacy and ESL to adults with Santa Fe Literacy Volunteers. Of working at SFGS she says, "At first I was afraid, never having taught at a middle school. Now I feel extremely comfortable and glad I teach here. The staff and teachers are very good, supportive, enthusiastic, and caring to the students and each other. The girls are 'funtastic' and I truly like and enjoy their spirits and love for learning. Especially Spanish!"



SFGS is Sunnier than Ever

SFGS won Positive Energy, Inc.'s first-ever Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System Grant. Valued at \$15,000, the 5kW PV system utilizes 16 Schott 230 watt modules and will be operational by late-November, offsetting more than 50% of the school's energy use.

Once the PV system is installed, the SFGS students will monitor the school's energy use, as well as become acquainted with how they use energy in their own homes. Environmental Science Director Mr. Barnes remarked, "We are incredibly grateful to have been awarded the PV grant. We are always seeking new ways to conserve and educate

ourselves about how to be a better group of citizens. We strive to walk the talk at SFGS, so our own solar array will offer SFGS students an experiential, renewable energy learning opportunity." Beginning in the spring, SFGS will initiate a Conservation Week to become aware of energy use in the school and in our homes. If you would like to participate, call SFGS.

Interested in visiting SFGS?

You are more than welcome to brighten our doorstep at any time. If you would like to participate in or observe a class, we have established the following visiting day and hours to allow you to get the truest picture of our instruction.

WEDNESDAYS

- 10:50-11:30: Greta (6th Language Arts) or Lee (7th Math or History) or Nate (8th Math)
- 11:30-12:10: Lunch
- 12:10-12:50: Consuelo (6th Spanish) or Greta (7th Language Arts) or Will (8th Environmental Science)

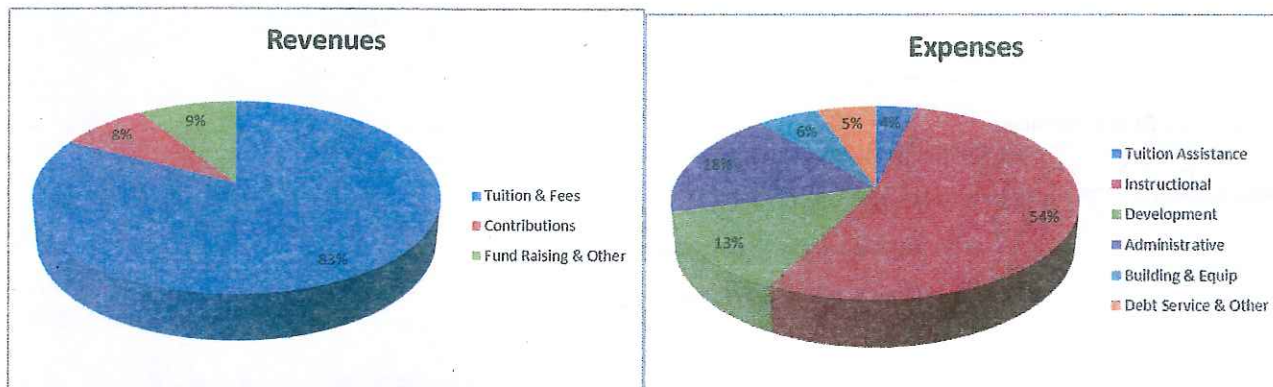
As well, the 7th and 8th graders monitor and collect data at PRESERVE on Thursdays. You are welcome to don some big ol' boots and join.

A little notice with regard to both visits is much appreciated!

How does SFGS manage its funds?

The school's governing tradition of fiscal conscientiousness reflects the thoughtful approach SFGS applies throughout its programming. Even in these lean years with the student population under capacity, the school operates ahead. The Contributions category of Revenue chart demonstrates, in part, the funds raised by the Annual Campaign in the 2010-2011 school year—\$14,025.

2010-2011 REVENUES + EXPENSES



Because tuition (\$9900 for 2011-2012) covers approximately 80% of the cost to educate each student, SFGS seeks funding to make up the remainder. We are currently enjoying support from private donors, Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry, Wells Fargo Foundation, and PNM Energy Exploration.

What does your support mean?

The bottom line is, your support enables us to educate girls to become confident young ladies who can advocate for themselves, resolve conflict, and find success and happiness in the world. Your support helps girls develop and use their voices for a lifetime.

Can we hope for 100% participation in the annual fund?

We promise to maximize any size contribution you feel comfortable making. Enclosed please find a form and envelope for your reply. Please reach out to Development Director Cullen Curtiss at the school, 820-3188, with thoughts and/or questions.

Please enjoy the remainder of 2011! And Like us on Facebook! An invitation to our March 24 auction evening to benefit our tuition assistance program will reach you in the early spring. Our theme is essentially our mission—to cultivate self-advocating, resourceful social and academic leaders who are prepared for young adulthood and beyond. We hope to gather together impactful, visible women in the community to create an inspiring and heartfelt networking evening in which the dialogue focuses on the importance of empowering girls. Hope to see you!

Sincerely,



Craig Barnes, President of the Board



Laura Holt, Board member



Elaine Sullivan, Board member



Bruce Miller, Vice President of the Board



Melissa Benedict, Treasurer



Carolyn Thomas, Board member



Steve Robinson, Board member



Janet Graham

Board member, Administrative and Admissions Director



Joan Brooks Baker, Board member



Lee Lewin

Board Member, Program Director and Cofounder

