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**History of the School St. Dominic Primary School: A Brief History**

In June 1987, the contract was signed for the construction of a new primary school in St. Maarten. The first cornerstone was laid by the Commissioner of Education, Mr. Joe Richardson. The Catholic School Board decided that the school would have English as the language of instruction and that it would be named after the patron saint of the Sisters of the Dominican Order, who were the pioneers of Catholic education in St. Maarten.

On Monday, August 15, 1988, the first school day of the academic year 1988–1989 commenced; however, the new school building was not yet completed. Consequently, classes began at the Sr. Magda Primary School in the afternoons, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. This arrangement lasted for nine days. Finally, on Friday, August 26, 1988, the school building was completed. Teachers and school board members dedicated the long weekend to moving in and setting up classrooms, allowing classes to begin at the new facility on Monday, August 29, 1988. At that time, the school had an enrollment of 123 students.

During its first year, only grade 1 had English as the language of instruction, while the other grades continued with Dutch. By 1993, the entire school had transitioned to English as the primary language of instruction, with Dutch taught as a second language.

**Leadership Through the Years**

* **Mr. Frans van Veghel,** the first principal, led the school until 1992 when he returned to the Netherlands.
* **Mrs. Judith Halley** became the second principal in August 1992 and served until her retirement in June 2003.
* **Mrs. Althea Barry-Richardson** assumed leadership in August 2003 and retired in 2013.
* In the school’s 25th year, **Ms. Janice Mussington** became the fourth principal in August 2013, serving until 2021.
* **Mrs. Jaya Nair-Sewlani** was appointed School Manager from August 2021 to 2024.
* The current Location Manager is **Ms. Shanirah Illidge.**