

**November 30, 2016
Principal's Newsletter**

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." William Arthur Ward



I am so proud of our entire school community during the month of November as we came together for our Thanksgiving Food drive for those less fortunate. A special thanks to the members of our Campus Ministry Team for organizing this great event! Our students once again were examples of character, integrity, care, and charity.

As we begin the Advent season, it is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds leading up to the celebration of Christmas. The lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. Let us use this holy season to continue the great work we do at SFP!

Mr. McLaughlin

From the desk of Mr. Castellano:

GRADE POINT AVERAGES

QUARTERLY GPA

At the end of each marking period, we calculate averages and post a quarterly honor roll. The quarterly average is not listed on the student's transcript. The quarterly GPA is located on the bottom of the Grades and Attendance screen on the parent portal.

- This is the method by which we calculate the quarterly Grade Point Average (GPA):
- The grade for every class is included in the GPA.

We add the grade for every class and divide by the number of classes. Every course carries the same weight; quality points for honors or A.P. courses are not included.

TRANSCRIPT or YEARLY GPA

At the end of the school year, we calculate a final GPA for that year that is listed on the student's transcript. The transcript GPA changes only when a course is completed. The transcript GPA is located at the top of the Grades and Attendance screen on the parent portal. This is the method by which we calculate the final GPA:

- The grade for every class is included in the GPA.
- Each grade is weighted by the number of credits it carries. For example, English 9 is a 1-credit class, so the grade for that class carries its full weight: $90 \times 1.0 = 90$. Physical Education 9 is a half-credit class, so that grade is counted half: $90 \times 0.5 = 45$.
- Every honors class receives 4 quality points added to the average for that class; each A.P. class receives 6 quality points. These extra points are reflected in the GPA but do not appear in the final grade on the report card or transcript. For example, a student who earns 92% in English 9 honors will have 96% added into the calculation for his or her GPA; 92% will appear as the final grade for English 9 honors.
- We add all these numbers and divide the sum by the number of credits to compute the student's grade point average.

DRUG and ALCOHOL PREVENTION PROGRAM

St. Francis Prep sponsors a Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program that works with students to increase awareness and promote living a life that is drug- and alcohol-free. This year, we have 125 seniors who serve on the team; they have taken a pledge to be drug- and alcohol-free. These students give presentations in Religion 9 and 10 classes to discuss the program and to advocate for the students to make good choices. We thank these students for their commitment and service.

We are all aware of the prevalence of drugs and alcohol in our society. Please continue to talk about these things with your child. Encourage them to speak with you with questions. Please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor, either of the Deans, or Joseph Castellano if you have any concerns or questions. The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids has a web site with much great information: www.drugfree.org.

Two SFP events on Friday, December 2nd!

THE ST. FRANCIS PREP ART DEPARTMENT AND THE ALVERNIAN DRAMA SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS



The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe

ILLUSTRATION: MARGARET PANOTI

8PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2ND
7PM, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

TICKETS:
AVAILABLE IN THE ART OFFICE ANYTIME.
STUDENTS: \$5
ON SALE AT THE DOOR BEFORE THE SHOW:
ADULTS: \$12
SENIOR CITIZEN: \$5

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL THE ART DEPT. OFFICE:
718 423-6810 EXT. 218
OR EMAIL JBUCCHINO@SFPONLINE.ORG



**SFP ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
TREE LIGHTING**

Friday December 2nd 7pm
St. Francis Prep Library

Carols, Cocoa & Cookies
Crafts, Santa and
Story Time

Bring an unwrapped toy
for the SFP
toy drive

Upon lighting of the Tree,
all are invited to proceed to
the Auditorium to see
the Alvernian Drama Society's
production of
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Tickets available at the Front Door

Thank you – Well Done!

We would like to commend the following students for going above and beyond the call of duty for student volunteers this weekend at the Brooklyn Diocese Event.

- Jasmine Mclean
- Dayanne Gomez
- Anthony Marchini
- Shawn Chacko



You have the excellence in character and compassion we as a school we are striving for.

FROM THE OFFICE OF CAMPUS MINISTRY

Thanksgiving Liturgy & Donation Drive

The office of Campus Ministry has been very busy in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. The culmination was on Wednesday, November 23, when the St. Francis Prep community gathered for a beautiful Thanksgiving Mass. This event is an annual capstone to our season of gratitude and giving.

The event reaches all of the St. Francis Prep family, moving beyond the student body to the faculty, staff, and administration. All are asked to participate, and the community's response this year was an outpouring of generosity.

Prep's Campus Ministry Team organized and marshaled each Cor along with the academic and administrative offices to collect donations of food products, household goods, and baby supplies. At the liturgy, representatives from seven different community partners were present to receive the donations. Special thanks go out to the folks at Saint Francis Table, The Queen of Peace Residence, The Hour Children's House, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, St. Aloysius Parish, Incarnation Parish, and St. John's Bread and Life. The focus of this year's drive was on a line from the Prayer of Saint Francis: "It is in giving that we receive." This line is meant to be a reminder that there is great joy in generosity and in gratitude. The drive this year saw unprecedented success. As a community, we surpassed the number of donations from last year's drive. Thank you for your support in this endeavor.



Service

In addition to the Donations drive, you may have recently seen St. Francis Prep students participating in a number of service activities. Six students each week have been serving meals at the Presentation Parish Soup Kitchen. The Varsity Football Team has joined forces with Campus Ministry and made a major impact on our community so far this year. After a strong showing this past October participating in a Team Midnight Run, our Varsity Football Team got the nod from Campus Ministry once again and on November 17 jumped at the chance to make its 2nd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Presentation Soup Kitchen in Jamaica. The boys made us proud preparing a Thanksgiving feast for over 100 people who were in need of a hot meal. Special thanks to the members of the team who served and prepared the meal (pictured below) and to the members of our community who worked to provide food and donations for the dinner.



Additionally, both students and parents have collected and distributed many donations to those living on the streets of Manhattan through our partnership with MidnightRun.org. Finally, our students have taken their call to stewardship seriously and have run four separate Cunningham Park Clean-ups. This work is on-going and we urge you to visit the Campus Ministry Office if you would like to participate.

Retreats

The retreat program is in full swing. Junior and senior retreat leaders have been leading each sophomore class on retreat at Camp Alvernia in Centerport. These retreats occur three times per month and will eventually serve every sophomore student at SFP. The focus of this experience is on growing our relationships and focusing on God. You can learn more by reaching out to Campus Ministry or any Sophomore Religion teacher.

The Junior retreat was a remarkable experience this year. This immersive retreat experience program was designed for and available to juniors only. Centered on the theme of "journeying," students took time to reflect, discuss, and pray about their life and the many new responsibilities and pressures associated with junior year and college preparation. The retreat was held at the beautiful Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT. Thirty students attended the retreat and are pictured below in front of the retreat center's prayer labyrinth.



Sacrament Program at SFP

Any student who wishes to receive the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, or Confirmation can contact Fr. Mark or Mrs. Kotowicz. Classes for Confirmation will start in late February 2017.

Model UN

On November 18 and 19, the St. Francis Prep Model United Nations delegation of 23 students attended our first conference of the season at Patchogue-Medford High School's Model U.N. conference. Over 300 high school students from 13 schools participated. Our kids had stellar performances. Some took home awards for their great work. We would like to recognize all of the hard work our delegation put into this conference. In particular, we would like to recognize the following students:

- Rohan Shah 416 Best Position Paper in the Security Council
- Kayla Keenan 309 Best Delegate in the General Assembly
- Abigail Bossa 202 Best Position Paper in the IAEA
- Joanne Gotanco 207 Best Position Paper in the African Union
- Zhamia Nunez-Simon 212 Honorable Mention in the African Union
- Andrew Lee 309 Honorable Mention in the European Union



Music Department

October and November were busy months for our Music department. Three of our ensembles, Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, and Chamber Orchestra, were featured at Open House, performing for prospective students and their families. These were the three ensembles that toured Assisi and Rome last summer. Our Jazz Band also performed at our annual Walk-A-Thon, with our Chamber Orchestra performing at a reception that hosted educators from our partner schools.

On November 6, our Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra presented a concert at St. Luke's in Whitestone at the invitation of the Music Commission of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Then, on November 15, our Chamber Orchestra had the opportunity to work with Susan Davis, Assistant Professor of Music Education at Queens College's Aaron Copland School of Music. This was followed up by a Skype workshop with award-winning composer Brian Balmages on two of his works: "Wood Splitter Fanfare" and "A Solitary Wish." The latter was the result of Maestro Balmages' helping a homeless person. He was able to speak with the orchestra about the emotional connection between his experience and his composition.

Our Christmas Concerts are coming up on December 9 and 10. The concert of Dec. 9 features all three orchestras, both percussion ensembles, and Concert Chorus. The concert of Dec. 10 features all three bands, Prep Chorus, and Chamber Choir. The second concert will also feature our annual "Hallelujah Project," when we welcome guest choirs to perform Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" with our Concert Band and Prep Chorus. This year, we welcome student singers from IS 25, MS 74, IS 77, St. Andrew Avellino Catholic Academy, and Queens College's Center for Preparatory Studies in Music. We will also have parish choirs from Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Athanasius. In all, well over 300 people will be playing or singing in this piece! Both concerts begin at 7:45PM. We hope to see you there as we play for a packed house!

Art Department

Top Art schools Visit West Top Top!

Over 12 art colleges visited the Saint Francis Prep Art department this October and November. Art students had the opportunity to explore college and career options and have individual portfolio reviews. College representatives from SCAD, PRATT, FIT, NYIT, Art School of Pasadena, Lesley University, and many more made their way to West Top Top. Art students also took part in a college information session and received portfolio advice and guidance from the SFP Art faculty and guidance department. Art school, here we come!

Visiting Artist

The art department took part in a rare and auspicious event at St. Francis Prep when Italian artist Roberto Andriolo visited for a week-long in-house field trip on mask making. Each day, a different class (including Mr. Biondolillo's Advanced Studio in Art I honors, Mr. Duplessis' Sculpture, Mrs. Mejia's Theater Design, and Ms. Shmerykowsky's Art History classes) got to take part in the experience. The field trip also served as a mixer of sorts on another day for many of the students attending the Art department's trip to Italy in summer 2017. While mask-making and facial sculpture is covered in each of these classes to varying degrees, the students got to be a part of a process that was brand new to them. Roberto, an actor and artist, explained the Commedia Dell' Arte and the functions that masks serve in those productions. Together, the classes worked on creating head molds of some of the students, embellishing them with clay to add animal-like features, creating a negative mold and covering it with the soft leather that would become the mask, and painting and waxing the finish product. It was a wonderful experience for all that took part: it was incredible to be involved in an art-making process that has been around since the Renaissance.



A.P. Art History participates in Commedia dell-arte Mask Making Workshop.

On November 15, the A.P. Art History class had a wonderful opportunity to work with Roberto Andriolo, an Italian Actor and Artist. He is an expert authentic Italian mask maker as well as an accomplished performance artist in Italy. Students learned about the history of these theater masks and the process of making an Italian style mask out of leather and other materials. Students were broken into four groups and each had the responsibility to make his or her own mask. Although the process of making a mask takes longer than our workshop allowed, the students gained a lot of new experiences and were able to try the various steps of the mask making process. They learned how to create positive plaster bandage molds of the face, create negative casts in plaster of paris, work with plasticine (a clay which will not dry out), stretch leather, beat and mold leather, sew segments of leather for additions on the masks, and paint it with leather dyes and apply a wax coating. They all had the opportunity to try aspects of the mask-making process and see how masks are made from start to finish. This alone is an amazing once-in-a-life experience to work with an artist from Italy on an art form which involves physical creational skills. Each student was able to have a chance working on a part of the process, which gave them a new appreciation for the art form and style.



St. John's University Art Department Lunch

On Thursday, November 10, Stephanie Karalis, Gianna Medici, Isabella Perna, and Clinton Suanico took a trip with the Saint Francis Art department to St. John's University. The students had a tour of the art facilities. They had the opportunity to see the current art exhibition, **Mexico at the Hour of Combat: Sabino Osuna's Photographs of the Mexican Revolution**, in the Sun Yat Sen art gallery. Our students gathered together with other Catholic high school art students from the local area. The St. John's Art Department provided lunch with faculty members and the chairperson of the St. John's University Art department, Belanna Lauto. They had the option for portfolio reviews. A wonderful experience was had by all!



Congratulations to our Dance Team who was selected to perform at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade.



English Department



Dr. Marino's class at the Broadway play "Something Rotten"

Freshman Fiesta

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the administration, faculty, staff, and maintenance crew in helping to make our first annual freshman fiesta an ENORMOUS success! The students had the best time ever. They were all well behaved and danced the whole night through. We have created a new SFP tradition. The students are so happy to have been part of this moment. They are waiting for another freshman dance in the spring!

Big thanks to our Parents' Guild and the faculty chaperones who kept everything in perfect order. – Mr. Ganci

Sports

Volleyball

Congratulations to the Girls' Varsity Volleyball team on a great season. Regular Season Champions, Brooklyn-Queens Champions, and City Champions with a 10-1 record.



3rd Place at State Championships!



CONGRATULATIONS to the 2016 GIRLS' GYMNASTICS TEAM!!!

On October 29, 2016, the Girls' Gymnastics Team competed in the Individual Championships here at St. Francis Prep against 30 other gymnasts. Junior gymnast Eden Lutchmedial is the 2016 Gymnastics Champion. She placed 1st place on Vault (9.175) and Floor (9.2) and 2nd place on Bars (9.075) and Beam (9.0). She won All-Around with a total score of 36.45. Sophomore gymnast Jules Kapovic placed 3rd on Vault, Bars, Beam, Floor, and All-Around. Sophomore gymnast Marisol Samaniego placed 4th on Vault, Bars, Beam, and All-Around. Senior Jackie DeFalco placed 4th on Floor and 5th on Beam and All-Around. Saint Francis Prep also took home the Team League Championships this year. We finished undefeated!



Baseball signings



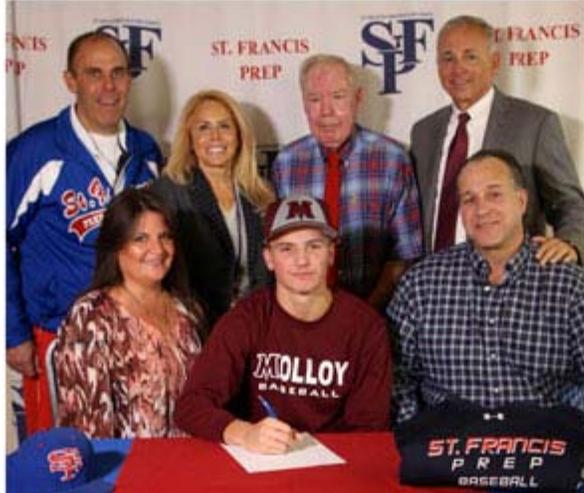
Preston Milano signs with Queens College to play baseball.



Iset Maldonado signs with St. Michael's to play baseball.



Shane Epps signs with St. Michael's to play baseball.



Michael Nacinovich signs with Molloy to play baseball.

Swimming

The St. Francis Prep Girls' Varsity Swimming team placed 4th place overall at the CHSAA championships at Eisenhower Park. The team was led by standout Sophomore Julia Courtney who qualified in the 500 yard freestyle in the NYSPHSAA State Championship Meet at Ithaca College on November 17.



Julia Courtney, Cor 204, and Girls' Varsity Swimming Coach Andrew Meditz