

September 30, 2015 Principal's Newsletter

Welcome Back to the 2015-16 School Year!

"It is beautiful to have dreams and to be able to fight for them...Don't stop dreaming."
Pope Francis

We greet our 9th-graders for the first time and wish our Class of 2015 all the best in college! Our Sophomores and Juniors are ready for the new challenges of the next year of high school and the students of the class of 2016 are busy with completing their high school education and preparing for the next step! All of this is in knowing that nothing replaces hard work and effort.

This past summer was an incredibly busy one at SFP. We continue to upgrade our facility and provide students with an enriched learning environment. We completed work on the east and west bottom corridors and continue our progress with the Music department classrooms. These improvements will benefit all of our current students in a very significant way by being engaged in their studies in 21st century facilities.

During the week of 31 August, our newest 9th-graders participated in 3 events to get them well prepared for the beginning of high school. On Monday, 31 August, 9th-graders and new transfer students came in to receive their iPads. They set up their accounts and downloaded the necessary apps.

On Tuesday, 1 September, these same students participated in our Strategies for Academic Success program. They had a brief introduction to our Franciscan values and traditions, given by Br. Joseph Bach of our Religion department. The students then went through a full day of workshops on setting up and using the iPad; they also talked about using technology with integrity. The goal of this day was to have the students come to the first day of classes feeling competent with using the iPad. While the students were in the classroom, many parents and guardians stayed in the Auditorium for an orientation to life at St. Francis Prep.

On Wednesday, 2 September, 9th-graders participated in SFP Follies – a long-standing Prep tradition. Students met the students in their Cor (homeroom), worked with senior peer counselors, went on a scavenger hunt to learn the building, and participated in a fun field events program. By the end of the day, the students were building the camaraderie and community that is so essential to their experience at St. Francis Prep. All three days were very successful.

The students received a good introduction to Franciscan values, technology, and our community. They got to meet many students and to prepare themselves for the first day of classes. These programs were successful thanks to the generosity and sacrifice of so many of our faculty members. Special thanks go to Ms. Nicole May, our iPad Coordinator, who coordinated both iPad days. We thank all administrators and faculty and staff members, particularly Mr. Castellano, who coordinated and scheduled all activities, for their commitment to the students and the school and for giving of their time to help the students to start the year well .



As with all New Yorkers and Americans, St. Francis Prep celebrated Pope Francis' visit to our great city. Mrs. Kardon and Mrs. Torreblanca viewed the Pope in Central Park, while Bro. Joe Bach attend the service at St. Patrick's Cathedral and Fr. Bill concelebrated the Mass with the Pope at Madison Square Garden on Friday, September 25th. Shannon Ferry, a graduate from the class of 2010 and reporter from NY1, visited SFP on Thursday, September 24, and posted the following story: [NY1 Story HERE](#)

Make it a great year!
Mr. McLaughlin

News:

Advanced Placement Scholars: The following seniors have been recognized for their achievement in the AP Program for the 2014-15 school year.

AP Scholar with Distinction: granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

1. Kaitlyn Dantuono
2. Philip Murtha
3. Eric Rojas
4. Adham Zaatri
5. Brendan Zhang
6. Rebecca Zhang

AP Scholar with Honor: granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

1. Kelly Adams
2. Saudia Baksh
3. Margaret Capozzoli-Cavota
4. Donna Episcopio
5. Zetong Jia
6. Keith McManus
7. Jared Sanchez
8. Samantha Zdesar

AP Scholar: granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

1. Christopher Andreou
2. Alexander Bracco
3. Autumn Brown
4. Olivia Bullaro
5. Erica Cooper
6. Marianna Cortes
7. Jessica Edouard
8. Emily Greenberg
9. Xinhua He
10. Bridget Jandovitz
11. Nicholas Mastrogiannis
12. Luciano Michelli
13. Peter Reichert
14. Lauren Talty
15. Rebecca Urena
16. Gabrielle Vennitti
17. Ariana Winter

Campus Ministry:

This past July, as a part of the Franciscan Immersion Experience (F.I.E.) program, 15 S.F.P. students and 3 faculty members offered up a week of their time to help those in need. Their journey took them to the Hogar San Francisco de Asis, a home and hospital for poor children in Lima, Peru. The Hogar is run by an incredibly selfless man, Dr. Tony Lazzara. His hardwork and generosity have helped hundreds of children live full and joyful lives despite any number of maladies. There are currently 48 young people being healed at the Hogar. You can find more information about Dr. Tony and the Hogar at www.villalapazfoundation.org.

SFP students spent their time in Peru doing all manner of service at the home. They provided comfort and attention for the residents and lived among the poorest of the world's poor. SFP Campus Ministry is proud to be a part of the mission of the Hogar and looks forward to a continued partnership in the summer of 2016. Please visit or call SFP Campus Ministry to learn more about this experience and other opportunities to serve.



The office of Campus Ministry will be offering 3 F.I.E trips this year. We will travel to Camden, New Jersey, and the Romero Center, to our Franciscan sister school in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and back to the Hogar in Lima, Peru, in July. To apply for one of these experiences, check the Campus Ministry website or see Mr. Sempowich in the CM office.

Students (in alphabetical order): Valeria Aitken, Simran Bahl, Courtney Baur, Victoria Bonelli, Alex Bracco, Isabelle Brenes, Autumn Brown, Michael Brusca, Kiean Coba, Lauren Digregorio, Alexa Jakacic, Sydney Thompson, Rebecca Urena, Taylor Virone, Anthony Viscovich Faculty: Becky Barell, Kevin Leonard Also Pictured: Hogar Residents

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." -Albert Einstein

SFP Campus Ministry is off to a strong start and is proud to offer a number of service opportunities for the new school year. The "Campus Ministry" tab on the left of the SFP homepage offers a link to online sign-ups for the Presentation Parish Soup Kitchen, Clothing and food donation delivery to Manhattan's homeless population in conjunction with Midnightrun.org, and Cunningham Park clean-ups. The Campus Ministry team offers a full line-up of retreat programs and also features opportunities to get involved with the prayer life and liturgies of our community. Check out the website or stop by the Campus Ministry office to get involved.

Prep Technology

Don't understand the difference between the Parent Portal and the Guardian Email account?

Having problems setting up your Parent Portal account?

Can't remember your email password?

You want to set up email forwarding on your email account but you don't know how?

Go to "**SFP Tech Help**" at the Prep website!

It's on the upper right, just below the Parent Portal button.

There are explanations, information pages, videos, screen shots, etc., explaining the "how-to" of SFP Technology. When in doubt, send an email to: email.questions@stfrancisprep.org

American Heart Association

Last June, Ms Gammello, one of our teachers, tragically lost her dad to a massive heart attack. On Sunday, September 20, members of the SFP Varsity Tennis team joined the fight against heart disease by participating in the American Heart Association Walk at Jones Beach. They walked with Mr. Gammello's company, WeiserMazars, and his family and friends. Together they raised \$6,650. Ms. Gammello and her family were touched by the outpouring of support during this difficult time and thank the Prep Community.



Paris Trip:

During the first week of July, the Art department took its first international field trip to Paris. Mrs. Buccino, Mr. Biondolillo, and Ms. Shmerykowsky, accompanied by additional chaperones Ms. Prohaska and Father Bill Sweeney, led a group of 33 students and six of their family members to the City of Light for eight days. While touring the city, the group visited many famous sites, including the Eiffel Tower, the Palais Garnier Opera House, the Arc de Triomphe on the Champs Elysee, and Notre Dame Cathedral. They also attended several of the world's most renowned museums, including the Louvre, the Picasso Museum, and the Musee D'Orsay, and some of the key tourist attractions surrounding the city, such as Disneyland Paris, the Palace of Versailles, and Monet's Gardens at Giverny.



The trip, which focused on art, was an opportunity for the students to see some of the most famous art ever created and to create some of their own. Students were encouraged to draw in the Louvre, sketch the architecture at Versailles, and attend an Impressionist painting class, to name a few things they did. The Art department hopes that this was just the first of many educational and exciting art trips in the future.

Trip to Cuba

Ms. Donovan and students visited three cities, Havana, Varadero and Vinales, and had an amazing once in a lifetime trip!



Summer Enrichment Course:

Prep students enrolled in "The Common Cents" program took a trip to the NYSE with program founder and instructor, Jim Gannon '83, in order to get a glimpse of activity on the trading floor and to better understand the securities industry. Along the way, they met a few Prep graduates and gained invaluable insight into the industry. Offered as part of Prep's Summer Academy, the "Common Cents" program is a financial literacy workshop, designed for a pre-college teenager, that focuses on teaching its participants personal finance, investment knowledge, and critical-thinking skills. The mission of the program is to simplify the complexities of the financial industry by breaking down financial concepts into easy to understand ideas. The students are exposed to numerous topics, including but not limited to personal finance, economic principles, stocks, bonds, derivatives, commodities, hedge funds, private equity, venture capital, and a history of major financial events and trends. This knowledge base provides an individual with the necessary tools to better understand the financial world and make sound decisions regarding their own personal financial future.



Fall 2015

Workshop I: Understanding Finance Dates & Time: Tuesdays, 3:15 - 4:15 pm (Oct. 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1, 15) * The date and details of field trip to a financial institution to be coordinated with school and announced ASAP. Cost: 10-week workshop is \$500

SFP Students in Summer Program Visit the Floor of the NYSE

Summer Enrichment and Camps for Elementary School Students

During the summer, we offered a variety of sports camps such as baseball, cheerleading, basketball, football, soccer, volleyball, and softball. Our academic enrichment offerings in our Summer Academy included English, Math, Science Research, Music Technology and Production, Computer and Fine Arts, Musical Theatre, SFPTV production, and Dance. It was a pleasure to open our campus up to such young, motivated learners to work with our outstanding coaching staff and faculty for several summer weeks!

College Office

Saint Francis Preparatory School hosted its annual College Fair on Tuesday, September 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the school Cafeteria. The evening was a great opportunity for parents and students to meet with representatives from over 140 different colleges and universities. These meetings gave them first-hand information about specific schools and their requirements. Planning for and executing life after high school is filled with both anxiety and expectation. Our Guidance Department is ready to assist you and your child for a satisfactory completion of this process. Please encourage your child to meet with his or her counselor soon and to move forward in a strong and positive way. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's guidance counselor. Have a great year.

Faculty News

Congratulations to Mrs. Jeanne Buccino who was recognized by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers as an outstanding educator whose dedication, commitment, and guidance are represented by student work selected for national honors.

Congratulations to Mr. Michael Hernandez who was recognized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as making an important impact on his students; MIT thanked him for his time, patience, expertise, love, and discipline. Anthony Colangelli, SFP class of 2015, is attending MIT and recommended Mr. Hernandez for this prestigious honor.

Alumni

Three of the varsity girls on Hunter's XC team are Prep girls (Debbie Ramirez, Bianca Rey, Mayra Perez). [Photos HERE](#)

At the beginning of this year, Julia Bak was awarded a partial academic scholarship to the University of Arizona. In addition, she applied for the University of Arizona Alumni Association Scholarship. This year they were offering one merit based scholarship valued at \$3,000 and a paid membership to the Student Alumni Ambassadors to an entering freshman based on the following criteria: academic excellence, leadership, and service. Congratulations to Julia!



Education Tax Credit: [Click HERE for information](#)

Alumni Homecoming Weekend

Thursday, Oct. 1st is the Jimmy Prendergast '79 and James Prendergast H'11 Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament Friday, Oct. 2nd is the Danny Apicella '00 Golf Outing and Night at Sullivan's Saturday, Oct. 3rd: We will have A Day at Belmont Race Track Sunday, Oct 4th is the 5K Fun Run in honor of our September 11th Heroes, and Terrier Football Game @3pm Mitchell Field

Art Department

This past July and August, St. John's University hosted "The Third Annual High School Art Exhibition," a diverse showcase of the many artistic talents of New York City's up and coming youth. These works are exemplary of the skills being taught in our high schools – ranging from painting, drawing, digital photography, and various forms of mixed media. This exhibition has helped nurture the relationship between St. John's University students, professional faculty, and local high school students interested in pursuing art at the college level by extending our outreach to numerous communities and boroughs throughout New York City. This exhibition has received upwards of 100 entries from a variety of local high schools including St. Francis Prep. We had over twenty students participate in the gallery show.



Social Studies Department

Diane Hausserman, Chairperson of the Social Studies Department, arranged for the C-SPAN bus to visit SFP. The C-SPAN Campaign 2016 Bus is an interactive, multi-media learning center that brings C-SPAN coverage of public affairs to communities nationwide and teaches the public how to follow Washington Your Way. Students in the AP Government and Politics class and Contemporary World Issues class benefited greatly as did Student Government and members of the Congress and Debate teams.

