

Principal's Newsletter  
February 28, 2015

"God doesn't require us to succeed; he only requires that you try"  
Mother Teresa

SFP Community Mourns Coach Vince O'Connor



*God bless this wonderful man. May he rest in peace. His legacy will endure!*

[Coach O'Connor Tribute Page](#)

**From the Desk of Dr. Castellano:**

**JUNE REGENTS EXAMS**

Students are automatically registered for Regents exam associated with all courses they take at St. Francis Prep. For many classes, the Regents exam serves as the final exam for the course; the Regents exam grade can count for as much as 20% of the student's final grade. Regents exam grades appear on the transcripts of students. It is important for students to prepare well for these exams and to do their best. All teachers will do Regents exam review in class, and many teachers offer extra review classes after school. Please encourage your child to take advantage of all these review opportunities.

Some students may have missed or not passed a Regents exam from past years. Students who are missing any of the required Regents exams (Algebra 1, Biology or Chemistry, Global History, U.S. History, and English) will automatically be enrolled for the appropriate June Regents exam.

Students who wish to re-take any of the other Regents exams must see Mr. Castellano by **Friday, 6 March**. St. Francis Prep allows students to re-take an exam if the student failed it; students may not re-take an exam they passed in order to raise their score. Parents and guardians with questions about Regents exam matters may call Mr. Castellano at ext. 209.

**From the Desk of Mr. Woods:**

**Emailed Report Cards**

We have "Gone Green" this year with our Quarterly Report Cards, and it has proved to be a very successful effort.

Each quarter, we now email a copy of the student's Report Card to ALL the email accounts on file for the parents/guardians of that student. This includes the Prep-issued Guardian email account (the one that begins "g-").

**Some things to note:**

1. The emailed Report Card was not designed to be opened on a smart phone, so **trying to open it on your phone may not work**.
2. If you run into a problem opening the Report Card on your desktop / laptop, **try using a different browser**; sometimes older versions of a browser can cause problems.

3. If you are trying to open the Report Card at work, **the firewall at your place of business may not allow you to open that type of document.**
4. Remember: your student's grades are always available in Historical Grades at the Parent Portal.

If you are experiencing problems accessing the Prep-issued Guardian "g-" Email account, or accessing the Parent Portal, visit the Prep website and click on "SFP Tech Help" (upper right side of the page). There are instructions and videos that should help you.

### Franciscan Immersion Experience: FVP 2015

**FVP 2015: Rebuilding the Church!** The Franciscan Volunteer Program, sponsored by the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, brought together 40 students and chaperones from three Franciscan High Schools to spend the Mid-Winter Recess, February 15-20, 2015, promoting our Franciscan Gospel Values in service to the greater Long Island and NYC communities.

Brother Joseph Bach, O.S.F., and Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Jr., along with 10 students from St. Francis Prep joined students from St. Anthony's High School (South Huntington, NY) and Notre Dame Regional High School (Cape Girardeau, MO) to respond to the Franciscan call that Jesus gave to St. Francis to *Rebuild My Church*. The participants of **FVP 2015** served the Poor, the Homeless, the Elderly, and the Young at the following locations:

**St. Joseph's Home for the Aged (Huntington, NY)**  
**Miraculous Medal Outreach (Wyandanch, NY)**  
**Youth and Family Services (Huntington, NY)**  
**The Mary Brennan Inn (Hempstead, NY)**  
**Midnight Run NYC (New York City)**



We are excited to announce that **FVP 2016** will be hosted by St. Francis Prep.

### Bio Tech:

Mrs. Ashkenazy's Biotechnology students: George Galanis, Stacy Kang and Reggie Sterlin have discovered a novel sequence of nucleotides for a hybrid strain of Witch Hazel DNA that has never previously been barcoded. A DNA barcode is a DNA sequence that uniquely identifies each living species.

As a result of their outstanding work, they have the honor of publishing their findings in GenBank – an international genetic sequence database, which is part of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). Their DNA barcodes will also be published in the International database at the Barcode of Life Data System at the University of Guelph, ON.

They are the first Biotechnology group from Prep to enter the prestigious NYC Urban Bar Code Competition. In addition to discovering a new DNA sequence this is the first group in the competition to formulate their own forward and reverse primers. DNA primers are used to determine the DNA fragment to be amplified during the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) process.

Way to go, we are so proud of your tremendous achievement!!!

### Science Olympics

On Saturday February 7th SFP competed in the regional science olympiad competition held at Grover Cleveland HS in middle village, NY. We had 27 team members competing in 21 different events involving the sciences from biology to physics. The competition had 58 teams from over 35 different schools. Prep had a great effort that was awarded with 6 medals and numerous top 15 finishes.

The Science Olympic medals:

#### **Air trajectory**

Michael Chan and Isaiah Galarza 6th place

Jeffrey Sun and Jonathan Chen 2nd place

#### **Cell Biology**

Sebastian Mendez and Brendan Zhang 7th place

#### **Compound Machine**

Matthew Lee and Sunwoo Lee 5th place

#### **Disease Detective**

Sebastian Mendez and Yao Xu 10th place

#### **Write It/Do It**

Lily Ng and Bryant Kim 4th place

Congratulations to all of the students who participated, moderator Ms. May and all of the Science Department Faculty who helped!

### Speech, Debate, and Student Congress

On Saturday, Feb. 7th, Prep hosted the first annual Maurice Braithwaite Memorial Tournament in Speech, Debate and Student Congress. Mr. B., as he was affectionately called, served as the team's coach for 25 years prior to passing away in July 2013. Mr. B promoted the idea of winning individual goals as opposed to trophies. At the Feb. 7th tournament, the team harnessed Mr. B's lessons and spirit and was able to take home many victories. In public forum, sophomores Delmont ruiz and xavier rolando placed 2nd.



In declamation, sophomore Yasmeen Qureshi placed first while Kayla McBride placed third.

In student congress, Ojani-Pierre Waltrust won 1st place; Isabel Casares won 4th place and Jessica Eduoard won 6th place. The student congress team's effort was rewarded with a first place trophy.

The entire team came in third for the tournament. Thanks to Moderators Mrs. Hausserman and Ms. Brizicky for their Coaching and Guidance.

### Poetry Out Loud

On February 5th at the Poetry Out Loud New York City Final, junior Maggie Capozzoli-Cavota won 2nd place, and sophomore Yasmeen Qureshi made the final round. They competed against 21 other students at F.I.T.'s Katie Murphy Amphitheatre in Manhattan. On March 9th, Maggie will be competing in Poetry Out Loud's State Final for a chance to win \$200 for herself, \$500 for Prep's library to purchase poetry books, and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for her (and a teacher chaperone) to compete in the National Final for \$20,000. We wish her the best of luck on this incredible achievement!



### Art Department

Field Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with A.P. Art History Ms. Shmerykowsky



On January 30th, 2015 the Advanced Placement Art History class visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. We recently finished learning about the Greek and Roman civilizations and thought it best to see their history come to life with a visit to the museum. Our tour was entitled "Ancient Greece and Rome: Art of Heroic Ideals." In two groups, the students learned how the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome used visual art and mythology to understand concepts like beauty, death, and heroism. As they traveled through the Ancient Greek and Roman Wings, students were mesmerized to see sculptures, paintings and ancient artifacts from so many years ago. They were truly amazed how their perceptions of the art work changed when they had the chance to see everything in person compared to on a Smart Board! Afterwards, the students were allowed to explore the museum to see a variety of other art historical topics we were currently covering, such as Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic and Early Renaissance. Overall, the students had a wonderful experience at the Metropolitan Museum, gain better insight as they prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam and hopefully gained more appreciation of the past!

### **Three Saint Francis Prep Students Receive President's Volunteer Service Award**

Kristen Cournane, Jean-Pierre Tenesaca and Kristen Yost have been honored for their exemplary volunteer service with a President's Volunteer Service Award.

The award, which recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country, was granted by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program on behalf of President Barack Obama. This award is in cooperation with the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, sponsored by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, recognizes middle level and high school students across America for outstanding volunteer service.

"Demonstrating civic responsibility through volunteerism is an important part of life," said NASSP Executive Director JoAnn Bartoletti. "These honorees practice a lesson we hope all young people, as well as adults, will emulate."

Special Thanks to Dr. Sullivan and Mr. Sempowich for their help and assistance during the application process.



### **SFP Supports Saint Francis Secondary School in Lare, Kenya**

The office of Campus Ministry is proud to announce our Lenten tee-shirt sale and donation drive to benefit our brothers and sisters at St. Francis Secondary School in Lare, Kenya. This relationship is an important part of what makes SFP all that it is today. Through it, we are able to strengthen our Franciscan identity and be an active part of our international community.

The Franciscan Brothers of Galway, who sent two of their own to start St. Francis Prep in Brooklyn in 1858 is the same religious community that started St. Francis, Lare in 1980's.

Lare is a small village and most of people who live there do so with very limited means. Through our support St. Francis Secondary has been able to purchase bicycles for students who live a considerable distance from school, new computer equipment, a photocopy machine and several desks and chairs. Finally, we have provided many students with scholarships, books, and meals. Like ours, their futures are much brighter with the blessing of a Franciscan education.

Over the last few years, our partnership with St. Francis Secondary School has evolved. In the beginning, we collected funds and sent what we could to Lare. Then, we began a Lenten tee-shirt drive for the students at SFP and allowed them to wear their shirts in lieu of the normal prep uniform shirt on Fridays throughout Lent. Last year, we commissioned shirts to be made by the St. Clare School in Lare, a technical school that is an offshoot of St. Francis Secondary. This gave students there an opportunity to practice their craft and make extra money simultaneously and to join us in wearing the shirts on Fridays during Lent.

This year we will accept donations to buy a student in Lare a desk or chair and we are opening tee-shirt sales up to the parent and alumni communities. We are excited about this opportunity to give, and recognize that it truly is "in giving that we receive". Please consider purchasing a shirt for yourself and for an extra \$5, donating one to one of our brothers or sisters in Kenya. Or, join us in our effort to provide all of the students at St. Francis Secondary with proper desks and chairs.

**THE SFP LENTEN TEE SHIRT SALE HAS BEGUN!**

**STUDENTS MAY WEAR THIS SHIRT IN PLACE OF THE SFP POLO ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT AND DURING HOLY WEEK**

**LOVE**  
ANAYETOA ATOPOKEA  
IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE

**TEE SHIRTS ARE ON SALE NOW IN THE OFFICE OF CAMPUS MINISTRY  
\$10.00 TO PURCHASE ONE FOR YOURSELF  
+ \$5.00 TO ALSO DONATE ONE TO A STUDENT IN LARE (OPTIONAL)  
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. FRANCIS SECONDARY SCHOOL IN LARE, KENYA**

The shirt is available for order online through the alumni donation page and in-person at the Office of Campus Ministry.  
\$10 – Tee-shirt purchased in the Office of Campus Ministry or the SFP Bookstore.  
\$15 – Tee-shirt purchased online (includes shipping.)  
\$25 – Donate one desk or chair.

#### **Hero Club**

The SFP Hero Club's mission is to serve, or "be heroes" in our community. This year, The Hero Club hosted a Valentines Day Teddy Bear sale that was very successful. Students and faculty were able to purchase a teddy bear that had a personalized note attached for \$2. The bears were delivered to friends or favorite teachers during the week before winter break. It took a lot of hard work and required a large time commitment from all Hero Club members, but in the end, the

excitement on faculty and students' faces when they received a teddy bear made it worth it! We raised over \$800 during this fundraiser and it allowed The Hero Club to make financial donations to a few of our favorite philanthropies. We will continue to be Heroes in our community in whatever ways we can, and we thank all who have participated in our fundraiser!



#### **Boy's Soccer**

Senior soccer player Leo Dalesandro signed his official letter of intent with FDU in New Jersey. He is receiving both soccer and academic scholarships. He was being recruited by FDU and Ohio Wesleyan.

#### **Girls's Basketball**

Congratulations to Varsity Basketball Senior and Co-Captain Brianna Foreman. Brianna has been selected by the league Coaches to receive The John Moran Sportsmanship Award. It will be presented to Brianna at the league Championship game at Molloy on March 1st.



Congratulations also to freshman JV basketball player Madison Reichert who was chosen to receive the Junior Varsity Division 1 Sportsmanship Award. Madison will also receive her award on March 1st.

Congratulations to our Junior Varsity Girl's Basketball Coach Caitlin Kennedy who has been selected by her peers as JV Division 1 Coach of the Year! Well deserved honor!!!

### Boy's Basketball

**Congratulations** to Boy's Basketball player Shane Herrity on being named to the CHSAA All City 2nd Team. This is the second year in a row Shane has been selected as an All City Player.



### Girl's Soccer

National Signing Day! Congratulations to Sophia DeLeon, Samantha Cobic, Teresa Coletti, and Angela Careddu.



Girls Varsity Soccer Slideshow

## **Bagpipe Band**

From the founding of St. Francis Academy until now, The Prep has had a tradition rooted in Irish heritage. SFP boasts a multitude of different cultures and traditions, and one of those traditions is participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan every 17th of March. For years, alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of The Prep have marched and celebrated the two Franciscan Brothers who founded this great institution. In the past few years, SFP has marched with the St. Anthony's Pipes and Drums band, and it is time that Prep created their own band. Mr. McLaughlin Jr., has been working with a small group of students to create the first ever St. Francis Prep Pipes and Drums Band, and he needs your help. By this time next year we would like to see a fully functional and furnished band. If you or anyone you know is able to help our cause, in ways of donations of equipment (bagpipes, snare drums, bass drums, tenor drums), or funds, it would be greatly appreciated.

In addition, if any of our alumni know how to play bagpipes or drums and would like to donate their time to play in the band or teach the band, it would be much appreciated.