

August 31, 2016
Principal's Newsletter

I welcome everyone back to the 2016-17 school year!

I will be writing a monthly "*Principal's Newsletter*" to better inform students, parents, faculty, and staff about events, accomplishments, and activities concerning our St. Francis Prep community. A special welcome is given to the class of 2020 into the SFP Family. Our Parents Guild will also host the 9th Grade Parent Welcome Program on Sunday, September 18, starting with a 10:00 am Liturgy followed by a reception in the Cafeteria. Important orientation information will be presented as well as a chance for parents, teachers, and administrators to meet in a casual and relaxed environment.

Our school calendar has been posted on the school website, [HERE](#). Please review for all important dates, deadlines, events, and faculty and staff information. We are going "green!" No paper copies of the calendar will be printed nor mailed.

We are in the process of modernizing our Music Rooms. They will be state of the art areas that feature facilities and equipment that would be found on the University level. These rooms are another improvement so that our students have optimal high school experience.



A look at the week ahead:

- All students must be in uniform for the first week of school.
- Tuesday, September 6: All faculty report
- Wednesday, September 7: Freshmen and Peer Counselors report at 8:30 am. Students should bring lunch.
- Thursday, September 8: Sophomores and Juniors report at 8:30 am. Seniors report at 10:00 am.
- Friday, September 9: First full day of class. All students report to Cor at 8:30 am.
- A reminder to parents to activate your Power School account. This will give you live time access academic progress via the Parent Portal. If you need assistance with any of your Power School needs, please contact Ed Woods, Director of Technology, at ewoods@sfponline.org.

Again, all the best for a highly successful school year!

SCHEDULES

Students' schedules were finalized on Friday, 24 June. Students were able to request changes throughout June. Students may not make any changes to their schedules at this time. Great care

and much time were given to make sure students received the courses they requested and need. Please encourage your child to work hard right from the beginning of the school year and to make it a great year. We wish you all the best for a successful school year.

All the Best, God Bless!
Mr. McLaughlin

From the Desk of Mr. Woods, Director of Technology:

The Parent-Student Portal has been closed for the past few weeks, as we roll over our systems from the previous school year. It will be reopened on or about Monday, August 29.

Remember that the format of the Student -Guardian Email logins has changed from last year. Instead of **firstname.lastname@stfrancisprep.org**, it is now **studentnumber@stfrancisprep.org** (and **g-studentnumber@stfrancisprep.org** for the Guardian email accounts). Note that your password should be unchanged. If you are new to the school, you will be receiving your student number and password information before classes start during orientation.

If you have questions or issues regarding Student- Parent Portal access or Student -Guardian Email Accounts, please start by visiting the SFP Tech Help portion of our website. It can be accessed by clicking on the button "**SFP Tech Help**," just below the Parent Portal button on the right side of the Prep home page. There are a number of documents, videos, etc., that can guide you in setup and management of your accounts, as well as other Prep technology offerings.

If you still have questions, please send an email to: email.questions@stfrancisprep.org
Remember to provide a detailed description of the problem, and make sure to include the student's name and student number. Someone will respond to your inquiry.

Walk-a-thon

On Friday, September 30th, St. Francis Prep will host its sixth annual Walk-a-thon fundraising event. The proceeds of this event will benefit special projects and programs at the Prep, most notably the current Capital Improvement and Modernization Project. As you know, we already constructed new **Physical Education** and **Art Education** Centers and totally overhauled the **Science Classrooms** and **Laboratories**. Additional phases of this modernization program will continue over the next several years, with the construction of new **Music Education facilities** now underway.



This Annual Walk-a-thon fundraising event is very important as we plan for the Prep's financial future and ensure that we are always providing our students with an outstanding education in the Franciscan tradition. With this in mind, we want to bring to your attention the following important information about the Walk-a-thon event on September 30th. This will be a regular school day. Students will come in for a required extended COR beginning at 8:30 AM, and then proceed outside for the event with their COR at the appropriate time with their teacher in charge.

Every student is expected to participate. Just like last year, each student is **required to secure at least \$100 in sponsorships** from family members, friends, neighbors, or local businesses.

Sponsorships can be as little as \$10 each—and sponsors will receive a commemorative decal and will be recognized by their giving level. Once again, there will be a competition among the students for the highest sponsorship total by a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior COR. In addition, all students who secure **\$200 or more, \$300 or more, and \$500 or more** in sponsorships by September 23rd will be entered into 3 drawings to win special prizes. There will also be a grand prize awarded to the top overall fundraising student.

Please note: students and families who do not secure the required \$100 in Walk-a-thon sponsorships must provide the difference to St. Francis Prep. **It will be added to the January tuition bill.**

Every student will be required to return to the classroom with his/her COR at the conclusion of the Walk-a-thon. Bottled water and snack items will be available. **Attendance will be taken again!** The prize winners will be announced, and everyone will then be dismissed at approximately 11:45 AM. The Walk-a-thon Permission Form (which must be returned to the student's Cor by September 23rd) and copies of a Sponsorship Form to be used by the students when they secure their sponsors can be downloaded by going to www.steps4prep.org.

Class of 2017

There is still time to sign up for this year's senior trip to **Disney and Universal!** Spend Easter vacation with your friends and classmates. Click on the Senior Trip slide on the SFP homepage for more information and to check out some pictures of all the fun we had last year. \$100 deposits are still being collected and the rest of the cost is made in 3 easy payments in October, December, and February. Don't miss out on the fun! Contact Ms. Ramsey at kramsey@sfponline.org if you have any questions.



Summer News

From the Desk of Brother James, Franciscan Mission Coordinator

This summer, we have already had many in our Prep community experience the beauty of our Franciscanism. The Music Department's trip to Assisi and Rome gave them an opportunity to enjoy the culture and Franciscan spirit but also to lift people's hearts to joy by their performances. St. Francis loved music and sharing it with others. Well done SFP Music Department. Ms. Monica Robertson and Mr. Joe Sciame were our Assisi Pilgrims this year and had the blessing of spending extended time catching the Franciscan spirit in Assisi and Rome.

Dr. Christian Sullivan, Mr. Ed Woods, and Ms. Ellen Schuler visited St. Francis Secondary School in Lare, Kenya, further solidifying our relationship with this mission conducted by our Irish Franciscan Brothers. Joe Pantaleo, DDS, an alum, accompanied them and did dental evaluations and dental education at the schools they visited conducted by the Brothers. All at St. Francis, Lare, are always delighted to have the support of their American sisters and brothers. As usual, the Prep was very generous to them from our Campus Ministry projects.

FYM continues to distribute our various collections to Bridge for Life, Hour Children, etc. Our FYM Eye Glass Project has sent several hundred pairs of eye glasses to be recalibrated and made available to the poor for free through a non-profit organization that John Siano '12 SFP and FYM alum, volunteers with at NUMC.

Our Service Academy and the Lima Peru Franciscan Immersion Trip attest to Our Franciscan Mission and Charism being alive internationally and locally. The Notre Dame University program brought our students to an awareness of how we put Mercy into action by reflecting on many of the role models we have in our faith.

With a grateful heart we commend all in Our Franciscan family (named and un-named) students, parents, alumni, faculty, staff, administration, and campus ministry who LIVE OUR FRANCISCAN VALUES. May each of us reflect a bit on how we can be involved in modeling and mentoring others in our Franciscan mission and charism.

Faculty Pilgrimage

"Over the summer I was given the opportunity of a lifetime. I, along with my husband, Dave, had the privilege of traveling to Italy as Franciscan Pilgrims alongside Joseph Sciame and his lovely wife, Laura. While we had read articles, spoken to other pilgrims, and even imagined the experience, we could never have been prepared for the journey on which we were about to embark.

For those of you who do not know, the Franciscan Pilgrimage is a program sponsored through the generosity of the Franciscan Brothers. It allows Franciscans from all around the world, both lay and ordained, to walk in the footsteps of Francis and Clare. This process makes real the visions of our patrons and helps us embody the true mission of Christ. To guide us through this process, we had three wonderful leaders: Br. Thomas Barton, Brooklyn Diocese; Sr. Linda Vanno, Lourdes University; and Fr. Greg Jakubowicz, St. Joseph University.



This pilgrimage was an unforgettable experience. While the sites, Masses, and meals were wonderful, our journey was made complete by the companionship of our fellow pilgrims and leaders. These individuals from around the globe brought new perspectives but, more important, brotherhood and sisterhood. We were so blessed to go on this journey and are grateful to our benefactors for affording us this once in a lifetime opportunity. We will truly never forget the journey. Thank you."

"It is no use walking anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching."
- St. Francis of Assisi

With thanks,
Monica and David Robertson

Kenyan Exchange Program

For two weeks in July, Mrs. Ellen Schuler, Mathematics teacher, Mr. Ed Woods, '73, Director of Technology, Dr. Christian Sullivan, Director of Campus Ministry, and dentists, Dr. Joseph Pantaleo, '03, and Dr. Meredith Gantos visited our twin school in Lare, Kenya. Their mission was to deepen our relationship and cooperation with St. Francis Secondary School through the newly established Kenyan Exchange Program.



Each day the team learned about a different component of Kenyan culture, the Diocese of Nakuru, the educational and medical systems, and daily life for the students and staff at St. Francis Secondary School. Our visiting dentists spent several days providing dental education and screenings to the students and staff. Schuler, Sullivan, and Woods, observed classes, dialogued with faculty members, visited local public and Catholic feeder schools, and answered endless questions about SFP, New York, and the United States.



The team was transported around in the new school vehicle which was purchased with the help of our Lenten donations. Our global partnership is a great example of Franciscan solidarity!

ND VISION EXPERIENCE 2016

For the past 8 summers, a number of our students have traveled to South Bend, Indiana to attend an amazing program at the University of Notre Dame called ND VISION.

This year 6 students, Marcella Botero, Amanda Hardardt, Benedith Loiseau, Kathryn Pender, Charlize Ruiz, and Joseph Shea, accompanied by Mrs. George Kotowicz, travelled with students and teachers from Fontbonne Hall, Mary LouisAcademy, and Sacred Heart Academy to participate in this unique program.

A week of talks, music, discussions, games, prayer experiences, and good food helped our students bond with 300-plus other high school students from around the country who were open to finding out more about themselves and their God. This time allowed them to look deeply and see the gifts that they have been given and have to offer to the world. This year's theme was one of MERCY - its importance in our lives and how we treat other people.

In the words of our students:

- "This was an experience I will never forget."
- "I learned more about the trans-formative nature and beauty of faith."
- "I am a more thankful person now" and "it changed my life."

We were "gifted" with an extra 2 days together due to difficult weather, but all told it was a most enjoyable experience and one that will most definitely be offered to our students next summer as well.

College Symposium

292 students attended the college symposium. Those 292 seniors have completed 90% of the application process by completing the common app, essay, resume, college search, and several career and personality assessments.

History Day Winners

Jenna and Robyn Alma were two History Day State Finalists being honored along with other competitors at Yankee Stadium. They were given tickets to the game and brought out on the field. It was great to have Prep represented at this event and up on the big screen.



Alumni

Congratulations to **Allison Ferraris, SFP Class of 2013**, who was recently named as part of the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association (ICSA) **2015-16 All-Academic Sailing Team**.

Allison is the sister of **Tara Ferraris, SFP Class of 2015**, and the daughter of **Nancy Zollner, SFP Class of 1980**. She is attending Boston College (Class of 2017) and studying Political Science and History.

The All-Academic Sailing Team recognizes collegiate sailors who have achieved excellence in national and inter-conference competition as well as excelling at the highest academic level for the 2015-16 academic year. The criteria for the honorees are that he or she must be a Junior or Senior, have at least a 3.3 cumulative GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale, and be a starter or key reserve in at least seven university sponsored regattas.

Congratulations and best of luck to you, Allison!

Westchester County Association Women In Tech Winner- **Jean Coppola**. This recognition honors women innovators and visionaries who are improving our lives and moving our country forward; at the same time, recipients encourage the next generation of women scientists and mathematicians to reach for the stars. Congratulations.