

December 20, 2013

Principal's Newsletter

“Let us follow the star of inspiration and divine attraction which calls us to the crib, and let us go there to adore and love the Child Jesus and offer ourselves to him.”

St. Jane Frances de Chantal

Merry Christmas!

Christmas is a magical time when people try to be more cheerful, nicer, peaceful; a time for dreams and wishes. We also see it as a time for buying things, giving gifts, preparing food for celebration and decorating. But let us not forget the central focus of Christmas; it is about God sending his one and only Son into the world, not to condemn but to save us. The birth of Jesus is the most magnificent gift ever given, period!

December Highlights:

On December 7th we had our Christmas Party for Our Friends with Special Needs in our cafeteria from 10am to 2pm. Over 400 Friends attended this wonderful Christmas celebration that included fine food, singing and dancing. Over 100 students, teachers, alumni, and Parents Guild volunteers very graciously gave their time, hard work and energy to make this a great day! Special thanks to our moderators Suzanne Camus and Ann Marie Rich for organizing such a spectacular event!





"What You Say Online Could Hurt Your College Applications"

Link: <http://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2013/12/10/what-say-online-could-hurt-your-college-applications/>

This story featured several interviews with SFP students and staff! Shannan has distinguished herself as a talented journalist earning numerous awards and honors:

AWARDS

2013 Fox News College Challenge National Award Winner

2013 Gracie Award: Most Outstanding Interview or Feature

2013 Women's Press Club of NY State Scholarship Recipient

2013 Press Club of Long Island- First Place- Neighborhood/Community News

2013 Press Club of Long Island- First Place- Segment or Series

2013 Fair Media Council: Best Newscast Award

2013 WRHU Excellence in Leadership Award

2013 Jeffrey C. Kraus Endowed Radio Scholarship Recipient

2012 WRHU Excellence in Programming Award

2010 Women's Club Scholarship Recipient

2010 PHCC National Auxiliary Scholarship Recipient

This year, the Hero Club hosted their first Christmas Candy Gram Fundraiser. Students were able to purchase a regular candy cane with a message or a singing telegram to send to a friend or a teacher. With the help of the chamber choir, the Hero Club delivered the candy grams to the unsuspecting recipients during their Cor classes.

The Hero Club decided to donate their nearly \$1000 raised to a fellow student at St. Francis Prep who is in need of financial assistance for a medical procedure. Mrs. Prokop would like all who donated and made our first fundraiser so successful!

Ms. Mejia reports The Alvernian Drama Society's production of "Play On!" was a hit with the audience. The young actors had everyone laughing during this farcical play. The production was a spectacle of time period costumes from the Victorian era and the set design was hand painted by our own Prep students and alumni. The Alvernian Drama Society will present its next production of "Hairspray" in the spring.



On Friday, December 6, the faculty and staff of St. Francis Prep joined their counterparts at St. Anthony's High School in South Huntington for a day-long retreat. Every year, our faculty and staff take a day for prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal; we find these days enriching and central to our carrying out our Franciscan Mission. This year, we joined with St. Anthony's, another Franciscan school, to further our understanding of the Franciscan tradition and to discuss ways we could better live it out with the students and each other. Our keynote speaker was Fr. James Vacco, OFM, a Franciscan Friar who teaches at St. Bonaventure University. Fr. James challenged us all to continue the important work we do with young people and to help them and ourselves live out Franciscan values in all we do. It was a great day. We continually re-commit ourselves to being good Franciscans.

HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE: During every period of the school day and before and after school, National Honor Society students and peer counselors give up their free time to offer homework assistance to the entire student body. These students station themselves in the East side of the Library and make themselves available for anyone who needs academic assistance. Our teachers have always been most generous with providing extra help before and after school, and our Guidance department continues to set up ongoing peer tutoring. The Homework Assistance program is an additional aspect of our efforts to help every student to achieve his or her best. We thank all the teachers and students who give their time. Please encourage your child to take advantage of all of these programs.

Prep's longtime Chairperson of Music has received another well deserved accolade. He has been selected by "School Band and Orchestra Magazine" as one of "50 Directors Who Make a Difference." This series "shines the spotlight on an incredible array of outstanding music educators from every corner of the United States...Nominated by readers and selected by SBO's editorial staff, this year's report also provides the opportunity for a glimpse beyond the typical school music department..."Dr. Corbino is of course, the architect of Prep's Music Program which was the first to earn the Middle States Association's Music Credential. Under his leadership, the Music Department has flourished to impact not only the lives of our Prep students, but those in the broader Queens community.



Robert Corbino, Ed.D.

Years at Current School: 38

Total Years Teaching: 39

Instrumental Music Students: 506

Proudest moment as an educator: My proudest moments as an educator are: Having the St. Francis Prep Music Department become the first ever to be awarded the Music Credential from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; having the school's ensembles perform for three Papal

visits; having the band perform for (the American) hostages who were released from Iran (1982); and having our ensembles perform on tour in England and Italy.

Making a difference in students' lives: Each day in my prayers, I ask that I can do some good for my students by making sure that each and every musical experience they have is a special one, and that they feel their ensembles are a second family.

Key to a successful career in music ed: The key to a successful career in music education is that you must enjoy working with young people. You must have the passion, enthusiasm, and energy to make sure your students, of any level, are constantly engaged and that every experience provides them with a closer connection with our discipline, whether it be building instruments in a music appreciation class or improvising in a jazz band. We teach students to have an abiding love of music, and ultimately become active consumers of the arts.

The last few weeks were busy ones for Prep's Music Department. On November 23rd, our Chamber Choir performed at the Barnes & Noble on Union Turnpike in a weekend event that also included art and poetry from Prep students. On December 7th, our Chamber Orchestra lent their talents and some Christmas cheer to Prep's Party for Our Friends with Special Needs. On the 11th, our Jazz Band and Chamber Orchestra visited P.S. 254 in Richmond Hill to present assemblies to the young students there. This is the second school we've visited this year the first was St. Kevin Catholic Academy. That day, the Chamber Orchestra performed for students interested in our beginner string program as well as newly appointed Vicar General, Bishop Raymond Chappetto.



Then on December 13th and 14th, Prep presented our annual Christmas Concerts that featured all three orchestras, all three bands, all three choirs, and both percussion ensembles...almost 500 student-musicians, nearly 20% of our student body! Friday night's concert featured Prep's Chamber Orchestra presenting the American premiere of "Idillio Sinfonico," by noted composer Victor Kioulaphides. After the concert, Dr. Kioulaphides spoke of the "most wonderfully rewarding performance of my Idillio

Sinfonico."These two nights of Music were capped off by a Prep tradition, a performance of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus," by Prep's Concert Band and Prep Chorus. These 200 plus musicians were joined by Prep alumni and faculty, as well as special guests, the Chorus of St. Andrew Avellino School, directed by Kimberly Larkin, '94, and the Music Ministry of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, led by Music Minister Elena Brandt, '00



The Model UN, under the direction of Mr. Jardines, did a fantastic job at the 42nd annual Plainview Old Bethpage John F Kennedy High School Model UN conference held Saturday, December 14th. This conference was attended by 300 students from 15 high schools. Our delegation of 13 did a spectacular job and won the following awards: Donna Episcopio (206) "Honorable Mention" as China in the International Labor Organization committee

Alex Seyad (416) "Best Delegate" as Brazil in the UN Human Rights Commission

Steven Romanello (415) "Best Delegate" as Luxembourg in the Security Council.

The MSG Network announced this week awards for our Volleyball State Champions: Coach Kevin Colucci- Coach of the Year; Jaclyn La Forgia- Girls Volleyball Player of the Year; Nicole Tong-1st Team All-City; Caroline Gorecki- 2nd Team All-City. They also announced their Boys Soccer selections. Seniors Brandon Silva and Joseph Lobosco selected to the MSG varsity all-city first team. Junior Chris Kilcarr selected to second team all city. Coach Franco Purificato awarded NYC high school soccer coach of the year.

Mrs. Robyn Armon reports the following from the College Office: We write this with great excitement as we share the outstanding success of our college bound students who attended the many on-site decision days here at SFP. The following are the immediate results by college with more scholarship money available as the year progresses. The money awarded is strictly merit scholarship for one year. These scholarships are renewable for four years. As an added bonus our students were all able to file fee waived applications at these schools saving each family hundreds of dollars.

St John's : 210 students awarded \$2,618,000

LIU CW Post: 73 students awarded \$1,025,000

NYIT: 60 students accepted with scholarship TBD

St. Joseph College: 28 students awarded \$274,500 including 6 Full

Hofstra University: 55 accepted, \$1,030,500

Adelphi University: \$ TBD

St Thomas Aquinas: 8 students \$97,000

The students from the Filipino Club and the moderator Mrs. Becky Barell worked on getting the word out to the students by going from cor to cor, using social media and distributing flyers about the disaster relief effort in the Philippines. Their efforts produced \$1800. We thank the officers of the club, all seniors, who were instrumental in this effort: Angeline Rivera, Katherine Virgino and Kevin Cheng.

Bro. James McVeigh, O.S.F. and students from the Franciscan Youth Movement bring joy to the elderly in Queen of Peace Nursing Home.



We want to thank Betty Pietromonaco and our school volunteers for the tremendous work they do for the school. We recently recognized them at their Christmas luncheon.

