

Principal's Newsletter

March 31, 2014

"It's not what happens to you, it's what you do about what happens to you."

The 3rd quarter report cards will be mailed out this week. Teachers will be available on Wednesday, April 9th from 6-8 pm to discuss your son or daughter's academic progress. If you are unable to attend the conferences, please contact the teachers by phone to discuss failures or other academic problems. Please continue to monitor your student's academic progress during the 4th quarter and contact his or her teacher if there is a problem.

Highlights:

After growing her hair out for two years, Alexis Capponi, Cor 304 donated 13 inches of hair to the Locks of Love Foundation. Her hope is that her donation will help someone undergoing Cancer treatments. Great job Alexis!

Sarah Starace Cor 216 in her Girl Scout troop is working towards her Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can achieve; it involves many hours of work and the creation of a self sustaining project that will help a community, country, or the planet. For her Gold Award she is planning on making a seed shed and vegetable garden in her town's bird sanctuary. The idea of the project would be that families in the town would donate seeds from their gardens and the seeds would be placed in the shed. The seeds would then be used in the vegetable garden that she would create and the vegetables would be donated to the Mary Brennan INN and other food pantries. Great work Sarah!

Mrs. Ashkenazy's Biotechnology class successfully transformed bacterial DNA, which is an example of genetic engineering. Genetic engineering allows scientists to use bacteria to mass produce medically important proteins, such as insulin, human growth hormone, etc. Our students introduced two new genes - the ampicillin resistant gene (AMP) and the green fluorescent protein gene (GFP) into a strain of E. coli bacteria. The GFP gene is found in the bioluminescent pacific jellyfish - *Aequorea Victoria*. The GFP gene is inserted into the DNA of cancer cells as a more efficient and less harmful tracer. The GFP gene was removed from the jellyfish and together with the AMP gene was transferred into a plasmid (DNA) of E. coli bacterium. The transformed cells were then grown in different culture dishes, so the students could compare and analyze the colonies.

On Tuesday March 18th, the following students were inducted into the National History Scholar Society. Each of these students has met the requirements for membership, which includes superior work in college preparatory Social Studies classes. Their work has consistently demonstrated the qualities of industry, initiative, and reliability which essential in being a student of history.



Kristina Catalfamo, Alex Seyad, Natalie Correa, James Cotumaccio, James Della Rocca, Kevin Diaz, Justin Eldemire, Amanda Gagliano, Dongho Kim, Minjae Kim, Sophy Martorrel, Mary Millus, Victoria Pascullo, Alberto Parente, Adam Viscovich, Moses Xie, Kristen Yost, Brittany Zaita, Spiridoula Zolatas.

St. Francis Prep hosted Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and Reverend James Rodriguez, the Associate Vocation Director for Mass, and a conversation about vocations on Friday, March 21, 2014.

Mass was celebrated by the Bishop for the Junior Class and was concelebrated by Father Bill Sweeney, the Chaplain, and Father Rodriguez. The Bishop challenged the juniors to respond to God's call for each of them, whether that be as married people, priests, sisters or brothers. Father James asked the juniors "To give God their youth." After Mass, vocations were the topic of discussion with the priests as well as Sister Mary Walsh, C.S.J., Sister Marenid, O.P., and Brother Louis Miritello, O.S.F. Our juniors asked many questions about religious life and all aspects of it, and then lunch was served in the Brothers Friary. Brother William Boslet, Superior General of the Franciscan Brothers, and Brother James McVey, SFP Franciscan Mission Coordinator, joined us and shared in this special time. After lunch, the discussion continued with many of the classes in the school Chapel. The idea of God's calling each one of us was the center of the presentation.

On Sunday March 2nd, 14 of the seniors in the Science Research program competed in the New York City Science and Engineering Fair (NYCSEF) at the City College of New York. Three students: Jacqueline Heffner, Katie Angielczyk, and Kimberly Rosal were named Finalists. On Tuesday March 25th they

competed at the final round of competition at the Museum of Natural History. We are very proud of all of our research students and their accomplishments!



Hairspray – the Spring Musical, Friday, April 11, 12, and 13 in the SFP auditorium. All welcome! The Alvernians have dedicated all performances to and will be raising money for the Children's Cancer & Blood Foundation at all performances.

The St. Francis Prep Art Department
and the Alvernian Drama Society
proudly presents

hairspray
• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •

8pm, FRIDAY, APRIL 11th
7pm, SATURDAY, APRIL 12th
2pm, SUNDAY, APRIL 13th

TICKETS:
Available in the Art Office anytime.
Students: \$5
On sale at the door before the
show:
Adults: \$12

Illustration by Mary Milos

A stylized illustration of a hairbrush and a hairbrush. The hairbrush is on the left, and the hairbrush is on the right. There are small starburst symbols around the hairbrushes.

Our 21st Annual International Night took place on Friday, March 21st. There were foods from around the world served and outstanding talent displayed in our auditorium stage! A truly wonderful night for students, parents and faculty members! [See the Slideshow here!](#)

The St. Francis Prep's Model UN attended a conference held by Schreiber High School in Port Washington on March 28th and 29th. Our delegation of 13 met with 6 other high school and 150 delegates in attendance. Our students had a challenging, but wonderful time resolving world issues. Two of our delegates earned top honors:

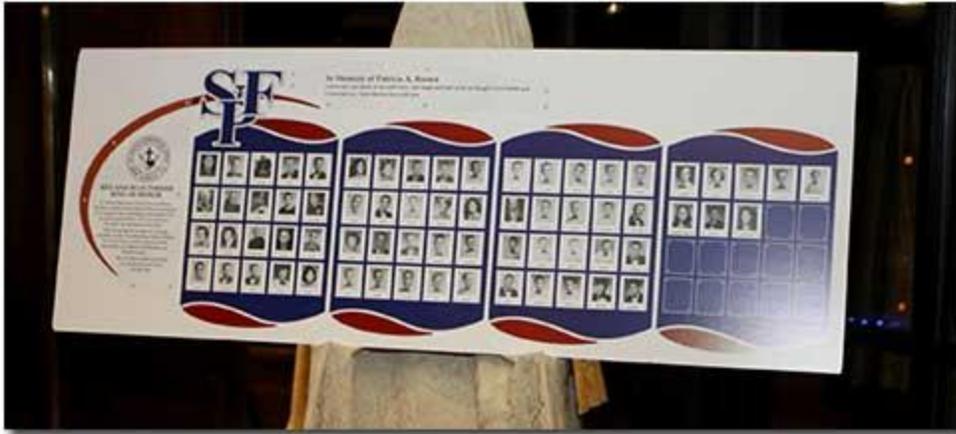
Alex Seyad (416) who represented the United Kingdom in the Security Council and

Steven Romanello (415) who represented Australia in the Human Rights Committee both earned "Best Delegate" in their respective committees.

Congratulations to them and all those who attended!



The Inaugural Red and Blue Terrier Ring of Honor Gala on Saturday, March 15th was a wonderful evening that highlighted our honoree's great achievements, their devotion to St. Francis Prep and their Terrier spirit! More than 700 alumni, family members and friends of the Prep were in attendance! We are very grateful to our major sponsors, journal advertisers, table sponsors and dinner guests for their generous support!



Our Parent University took place on Saturday, March 29, 2014 and was a huge success. The goal was to provide workshops for parents to learn about topics related to the high school life of their adolescent children. The workshops were led by SFP faculty members and area professionals.