

Principal's Newsletter

May 30, 2016

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.
We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream.
It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."
Ronald Reagan

On May 30th, we observe Memorial Day and say thank you to all of the many Americans who have fought and died to defend our freedom. As we enjoy our three day weekend and time with family and friends, let us not forget those patriots on active duty, those who returned home safely, those with health concerns, the retired, and ones who have made the ultimate sacrifice to keep us safe and secure.



God Bless them all!

This is a bittersweet time of the year. We celebrate the accomplishments of our senior class. Please see the showcase in our Main lobby: thank you, Ms. Stevens! But we also need to say good-bye and God speed! The Class of 2016 earned over \$150 million in merit scholarships with 99% going to a two- or four- year college. During their last two days, May 18th and 19th, they received their senior yearbook, Class of '16 t-shirt, and an alumni association hat. They were dismissed on the last day with a chocolate chip cookie (another Prep tradition). At their final assembly of the year on the 19th, they all sang a rousing rendition of the school fight song, "On For 'Ol St. Francis!"
[Click HERE to see the videos!](#)

God Bless the Class of 2016. "High School is 4 Years, the Prep is Forever!"

The very next day, May 20, our 11th-graders celebrated Junior Day with Liturgy and the blessing of class rings and key chains, culminating with the semi-formal. It was a day to introduce our Juniors to the responsibility they take on as the new student body leaders of the school. Congratulations to all

Juniors. May you make the most of your new leadership position at SFP. As we make our way into the month of June, the last two weeks of classes, final and Regents exams, and the anticipation of a very much-loved summer vacation, it is important for us to remain diligent in our studies and finish strong! End well.

Mr. McLaughlin

From the Desk of Bro. Lawrence Boyle, O.S.F., School Registrar:

SENIOR DIPLOMAS

Graduating Seniors who successfully completed all academic requirements and financial obligations are entitled to receive their diplomas. Diplomas will be mailed by the Registrar's Office in early July. A notice will be placed on the School's Web-Site on the day mailing commences. Students receive the only copy that is printed. As a legal document it should be kept in a secure place.

WITHDRAWAL FROM ST. FRANCIS

Students who decide to leave St. Francis during the summer should notify the Registrar's Office when they make that decision. Parents are expected to complete a Withdrawal Form when this decision is made to facilitate the release of student's academic and medical records to the new school.

All financial obligations must be met before records are released. Current Freshmen and Sophomores must return the iPad and charger given them along with their passwords. The iPad must be in working order.

From the desk of Mr. Castellano:

COURSES and CHANGES FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Students will receive their course verification forms in the next few days. This form lists all the classes for which the students are registered for next year. Please review your child's course selections carefully. We will have days to request course changes throughout June. Changes cost \$40 and are based on space availability and qualification for the course. Students must receive approval from a departmental chairperson to add or change a course. The last day to request course changes is **Friday, 24 June, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.** There are no course changes in the Summer or September. Please direct questions about your child's program to his or her guidance counselor. You may also call Mr. Castellano at ext. 209 with questions.

Campus Ministry:

On Tuesday, May 24th, fifteen soon-to-be seniors were commissioned to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion here at Prep. Gathered with them were their families, friends, representatives from their home parishes, Brother Joseph Bach, Brother James McVeigh, our school President Brother Leonard Conway, and our Principal Mr. Patrick McLaughlin.

Our Mass was celebrated by Fr. Mark Simmons, and Samantha Palermo and Mrs. George Kotowicz were our leaders of song. During this Mass the students were blessed and received a symbol of St. Francis.

The following students will be Extraordinary Ministers here at Prep next year:
JENNA ALMA - MARCELLA BOTERO - MELANIE CHAMORRO - RENEE GRASSO
AMANDA HARDARDT - DOROTHY MATINALE - VICTORIA MATIATOS - KATHRYN PENDER

MICAELA PRISCO - REBECCA RODRIGUEZ - KATHERINE SCHILLAT - JOSEPH SHEA
HABBYGAHELLE ULYSSE - ALEXA WARE - ERICA VISCOVICH

We thank them for their willingness to serve in this important ministry.

Adult First Holy Communion

We congratulate Shawn M. Bendeck '18 and Anthony Ruffin-Jackson '18 on receiving their First Holy Communion celebrated in the school chapel. Shawn and Anthony are two of seven students who will be confirmed on May 22nd as part of the school's Sacramental Preparation Program.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a communal process of spiritual and educational formation for adults who seek to become full members of the Roman Catholic Church through a conversion of mind and heart.

[Click HERE to see the pictures](#)

Seven SFP students in our sacramental prep program received the sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 22, 2016, at 2:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church on 75th Ave and Utopia Parkway in Fresh Meadows.

Congratulations to Emily Greenberg, Tyrique McKie, Jarell Real, Shawn M. Bendeck, Anthony Ruffin-Jackson, Alexander Tejada, and Jessica Rambao.

[Click HERE to see the pictures](#)

Franciscan Youth Movement Assists Mothers and Infants in Need

The Franciscan Youth Movement (FYM) sponsors our annual "Baby Shower" – an annual drive for infants and their needy mothers. FYM honors all mothers and the Blessed Mother by providing baby items for needy infants and their moms.

Thank you to the many classes and Cors, athletic teams, clubs, faculty, and staff who brought in baby clothes, diapers, rattles, layettes, baby wipes, etc.

These items will be delivered to needy infants and moms at a variety of child caring agencies, including Bridge for Life, Our Mothers House, Hour Children, and soup kitchens and thrift shops that help the needy.

[Click HERE to see the pictures](#)

Music Department

April was yet another busy month for Prep's Music department. On Tuesday, April 5th, Prep's Jazz Band was treated to a clinic by three professional musicians: Tony Kadleck, who has recently recorded with James Taylor, Harry Connick, Jr., and the late David Bowie; Shelagh Abate, from Triton Brass, who is currently performing in the Broadway hit, Fiddler on the Roof; and Tony Tedesco, who has performed extensively with guitarist John Pizzarelli and is on the faculty of Hofstra University. The clinic lasted well beyond its scheduled time as our guests were kind enough to stay and talk with individual students.

On Thursday, April 21st, our Chamber Orchestra presented a 40-minute program for Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Catholic Academy's 3rd through 8th grades. In attendance was Bishop Paul Sanchez, who had high praise for the orchestra. Additionally, Principal Anne Zuschlag praised Prep's Academy programs that are offered each winter, spring, and summer.

Then, on April 22nd, the department mounted the first of its two annual spring concerts. All three orchestras, both percussion ensembles, and Concert Chorus performed. A highlight of the evening was Chamber Orchestra presenting the New York premiere of Steven Bryant's "Rise." The Friday prior, the orchestra was able to work with Bryant via Skype on the piece, a rare privilege. We also welcomed special guests: the string students from Prep's outreach program at P.S. 115, and their principal, Kathleen Sciortino, SFP '76. Along with our Chamber Orchestra, they presented Brian Balmages' "Medieval Wars." This is the fourth year Prep has collaborated with P.S. 115, and we now have well over 30 students in the program.

April 29th saw the second spring Concert, featuring all three bands, Prep Chorus, and Chamber Choir, presented to a standing room only audience. To start off the night, we welcomed the Concert Bands from St. Gregory the Great School and St. Luke School and their conductor, Ilya Shteynman. Also joining them were our beginner students from P.S. 115, and their instructor, Katherine Chu, SFP '00. A highlight of the evening's musical selections came from Chamber Choir, who in the middle of Monty Python's "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life," sang the chorus to Prince's "Purple Rain." At the end of the first half of the show, Prep welcomed home members of Prep's Marching Band who are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of performing for Pope John Paul II. In the second half, Prep's Music department recognized three special Music educators who have done great things for the student-musicians of Queens. Their plaques all read, "With Gratitude and Congratulations for the exceptional work you do in training and shaping the student-musicians of Queens." The inaugural recipients of these awards were Jennifer Schecter, band director from J.H.S. 158, and Dr. Peter Archer, band director from M.S. 74. Both of the educators were able to visit with former students, now Prep band members. Laura Saenz, the choral director from I.S. 77 could not attend, but our Chamber Choir performed an assembly concert at her school on May 2nd and presented her plaque to her there. After the concert, our alumni and honorees were treated to a tour of our new Music facilities, which officially went into use on May 2nd.

On May 4th, Prep welcomed the Dean Emeritus of the Manhattan School of Music, Dr. David Noon, to speak with our Music History students. On May 16th, our Chamber Orchestra was invited to the Bishop Loughlin Memorial High School's recording studio, laying down five different tracks. On May 21st, our Chamber Orchestra participated in their annual New York State Music Association festival, earning a Silver Medal Rating. Junior Georgia Herrera received an A+ Rating for her individual performance.

And if that weren't all enough, our Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, and Chamber Orchestra will leave for our summer Concert Tour of Rome and the home of St. Francis and St. Clare – Assisi!

Physical Education:

On May 6, 2016, 30 of our seniors ventured to Alley Pond's Adventure Course under the supervision of Mrs. Cappiello, Mr. Colucci, and Ms. Pasinkoff. Despite the inclement weather, the group remained positive and focused on the challenges presented to them. The cold winds and heavy rains did not stop this group from completing low element and high element obstacles. It was a fun and memorable day for all involved.



Valeria Aitken, Isabelle Brenes, Julia Bravo, Ashley Chiote, Tyler Coyoc, Chioke Debrady, Chris Digirolomo, Annabella Doniell, Kaitlynn Hercule, Angelica Hernandez, Sabrina Katsanos, Tommy Katsanos, Anthony Lalicata, Emily Lawrence, Leonard Legagneur, Alexis Martinez, Francesca Marotta, Justin Nee, Zaire Nelson, Hai Nguyen, Antonio Pilito, Anna Prisco, Jack Puleo, Hugo Rojas, Angel Ryan, and Marjorie Thornton.

Art Department:

LaSalle HIGH SCHOOL ART CONTEST



2016 WINNERS

Portrait Category

- 1st – Sun Young Park (St. Francis Prep)
- 2nd – Wilson Ramones (LSA)
- 3rd – Jessica Richardsen (St. Francis Prep)
- Honorable Mention – Emily Guevara (St. Francis Prep)

Still-life Category

- 1st – Alexandra Angulo (St. Francis Pres)

Black & White Category

- 1st – Fotini Mamos (St. Francis Prep)

Spring Arts Festival and NAHS Induction

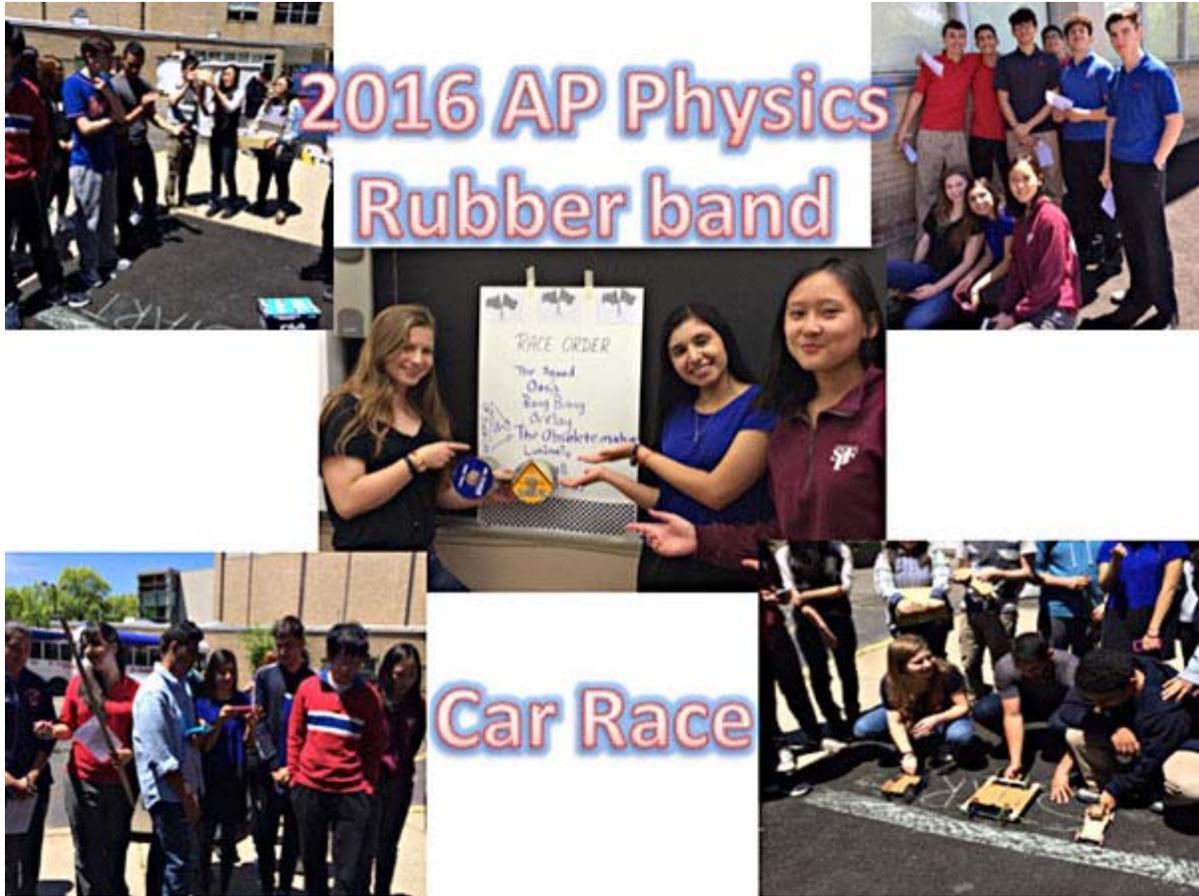
On May 7th, the Art Department hosted its annual Spring Arts festival and National Arts Honor Society induction ceremony. The arts festival featured hundreds of student works, animations, films, digital work, fashion, and performing arts. The show concluded with the induction of 94 new members to NAHS.



Science Department

The 18th Annual Science Research Symposium will take place on Thursday, June 2nd, at 6 pm in the Cafeteria. Please come and see our student showcase for all of our sophomores, juniors, and seniors. From 7-8 pm our seniors will be giving oral presentations of their award-winning independent research projects. Semi-formal attire is requested.

On May 18th, Ms. May's AP Physics class put the rubber to the road in their end of the year design challenge. They were asked to design a car that would have all of its energy supplied by rubber bands. The students were given an option of designing a car from household materials or using self-designed and printed 3D parts. Thanks to Mrs. Istrico's AP Biology class for judging the event and Mr. McLaughlin for his guest visit!



In the end, team "Obsolete Machine" won, designed by Kaitlyn Dantuono, Saudia Baksh, and Rebecca Zhang. Congratulations on a job well done. It was a great end of the year competition that brought together some of SFP's most scientific minds.

Mr. Ganci's honors biology class took a Sunday afternoon field trip to the American Museum of Natural History on May 22, 2016. Students were very excited to attend and designed their own T-shirts for the event. The day consisted of an open schedule of discovery, where the students could meander and visit the exhibits of their liking. Some of their favorite exhibits included the dinosaur exhibit, the Hall of biodiversity, and the origins of humans exhibit. Mr. Ganci, Ms. Palma, and her husband volunteered to participate in a study which tested human bacteria and viruses in a random sample of New Yorkers. It was a great day of education and enjoyment. A fun time was had by all.



Ms. Istrico's G period AP Biology class had the unique opportunity of experiencing upper level AP Science classes and participating in their lab activities. On May 18th, they got to judge Ms. May's AP Physics Car Race. The participating cars were designed and engineered by the AP Physics students themselves. Mrs. Istrico's student's judged the cars based upon their design, function, and distance traveled.



On May 24, Ms. Istrico's students got to observe various projects and lab experiments in Dr. Bennett's AP Chemistry class. They were able to watch a virtual lab report, look at the design of a 3-D printed car, and read student concept maps. This "blended science experience" is one that the students will never forget.

Social Studies

Two students, seniors Jessica Eduoard and Ojani-Pierre Walthrust, are two of the 6 representatives from Brooklyn- Queens to compete in Student Congress at the National Catholic Forensic League national championships in Sacramento, CA, this Memorial Day weekend. Under the coaching of Ms. Laura Ramirez, SFP Alum, and Mrs. Haussermann, Department Chairperson of Social Studies, they have worked tirelessly to achieve many victories.

The 2016 Advanced Placement United States History Trip (APUSH) was a wonderful event. Students enjoyed their visit to the National Constitution Center. The Center provided a play on important Supreme Court Cases that have had an impact on our lives. The interactive displays on the Constitution in the museum provided a fun time learning about the impact of the Constitution on our lives. Once outside the Center, they visited the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and the U.S. Mint.



Yianni Papageorgiou '17, Anthony Gambino '17, James Mantone '17, and Colleen Petrere '17 visited our State Capitol in Albany sponsored by the Queens Bar Association. They witnessed voting on a bill in the Assembly that seemed like organized chaos, but was just business as usual for our lawmakers.

They had an opportunity to speak to representatives, interns, and spectators to get an inside look on how a bill is passed.

English Department

"The Little Portion" Annual Reading (2016)

The Little Portion is St. Francis Prep's literary arts magazine and it has been in existence since 1957. English teacher, Mr. Eric Hafker (SFP Class of 1986) is the moderator and leads a staff of approximately 20 students who meet on Tuesdays to discuss and evaluate student-submitted poems and short stories. Artwork and photographs from Prep's art students are also submitted for review and inclusion.

On Tuesday, May 17th, at 3:00 p.m. in the Prep library, *The Little Portion* held its 16th Annual Poetry Reading and Open Mic. Mr. Hafker presented its literary award, The Canticle of the Sun Prize, to senior Rosemary Wolf, and presented achievement plaques to the two Editors-in-Chief, senior Maggie Cappozoli-Cavota and senior Luciano Michelli. It was a wonderful afternoon of very moving poetry from many talented students!

[Click HERE to see the pictures](#)

Prep Students Celebrating Shakespeare's Birthday and Work

Dr. Stephen Marino (SFP Class of 1971) is now in his 40th year as a faculty member in the SFP English teacher. He has organized this wonderful festival for Prep students for many years in honor of William Shakespeare's birthday. According to tradition, the great English dramatist and poet was born in Stratford-on-Avon on April 23, 1564. There was fun and food for all! Thanks to all of our students for contributing to this wonderful day! And, thanks to all of the faculty and staff for stopping in to be part of it.

[Click HERE to see the pictures](#)

Congratulations to junior Ronan Murphy who won first prize in the Martin J. Kelly Writing Contest sponsored by the Irish Cultural Society. Ronan was in a group of 588 talented student writers who wrote an analysis of the rhetorical strategies used by the writers of the Proclamation of Irish Independence read aloud at the Easter uprising in Dublin 100 years ago. Ronan received his \$200 prize at the awards ceremony at the Garden City Library on May 4. Congratulations also to Ronan's English teacher, Mr. Nicholas Paccione, who edited Ronan's essay for submission.

Sports

Boys' Track and Field

On Saturday, May 21st, the Boys' Track Team won the Varsity Brooklyn-Queens championship at Ichan Stadium. The team was led by Senior Gyasi Morris, who was named the meet MVP for winning both the long jump and the high jump. The victory capped off a tremendous year that led to three team titles on the Varsity and Sophomore levels and numerous school records on both the individual and relay levels.



Girls' Track and Field City Championship

Marian Wright won the Triple Jump. Stephanie Zovich won the Freshman Javelin at the Freshman Catholic State Champs.



Softball

Late rally powers St. Francis Prep to Diocesan title

One of the major storylines for St. Francis Prep this season has been trying to get the offense heated up when a ballgame starts. It took six innings for the Terriers to finally generate the bats against the stellar pitching of Fontbonne Hall's Bianca Marletta on Wednesday and it was well worth the wait.

Miranda Cintron and Sarah Williams each recorded what could arguably be called the two biggest hits of the season to help the Terriers rally with three runs in the bottom of the sixth inning and defeat Fontbonne Hall, 3-2, to win the CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens Class AA softball Diocesan title at Preller Field in Bellerose, Queens.

"It was mostly for us just to be patient. She [Marletta] was just pitching a lot inside so we just had to make a mistake. She's a great pitcher," Cintron said. "I just saw the fastball and it was inside and it jammed me a bit but I hit it."

The late inning heroics were indeed the right time as Cintron's two-run single was St. Francis Prep's first hit to tie the game at 2-2. Williams followed with a line drive RBI hit to centerfield that gave a lead for pitcher Monica Zhivanaj, who held off a strong-hitting Fontbonne Hall lineup to record a complete game performance while scattering six hits.

St. Francis Prep clinched a berth to the Catholic state tournament semifinals against the Diocese of Buffalo representative on May 31st at Preller Field. The Terriers are also scheduled to play the CHSAA Class AA city championship game on May 30 against the winner of the Archdiocesan title matchup to be held tomorrow afternoon between St. Joseph by-the-Sea and Cardinal Spellman.

"We've had so many games like that where we have been cold in the first few innings and for some apparent reason we have to wait too late to be able to get on base, lay a bunt down and jump on them and get a run," said St. Francis Prep coach Ann Marie Rich. "We've able to get the upper hand in the end at least."

Zhivanaj had missed last year's diocesan best-of-three series with an injury and was motivated to get her team a win. But Fontbonne Hall was also determined to keep their title hopes alive after getting to the championship game via the double-elimination losers bracket and needing to win twice.

Bonnie's second baseman Alexa Bertelle walked to load the bases with nobody out in the top of the second inning, but the Terriers pitcher retired the next two batters and induced Sam Marletta to line out to first baseman Jazmin Andrews to keep the game scoreless.

Fontbonne Hall broke through in the top of the third inning as Natalie Lacognata singled with one out and came home on an RBI double by Emily Manti to give the No. 3 seed a 1-0 advantage. Bertelle doubled to left-center with one out in the top of the fourth inning and later scored on a Cintron throwing error to make it 2-0 Bonnie's. But Fontbonne Hall failed to capitalize on critical scoring opportunities to extend the lead and left 8 base runners in a game decided by the closest of margins.

"It's very frustrating. We've been hitting pretty well and we keep fighting non-stop. It is frustrating when you see the bases loaded or two runners on base, second and third," Bianca Marletta said. "It's frustrating when you know you could have scored something or just squeezed something in."

Lacognata reached on an infield error with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning, but Manti popped out to first base to end Fontbonne Hall's season.

"I'm not going to say we fell short of our goal. I'm not looking at it as an excuse but we are a Brooklyn team that plays in the toughest division in softball," said Fontbonne Hall coach Frank Marinello said.

"I'm extremely proud of them and I hope they feel good about themselves when they walk off the field today."

Zhivanaj will enjoy a few days off, go to the school prom, and try to keep St. Francis Prep's season going as long as it can.

"I knew that every senior on this team and every other girl wanted this as much as I did," Zhivanaj said. "In the beginning, we were a bit shaky because we were just not used to playing with each other yet. And then after the energy started coming, we just got closer and closer in the end."

[Click HERE to see more](#)

SFP JV and Varsity Softball at St. John's University



Faculty News:

Our Director of Guidance, Robyn Armon, will be a presenter at a Wagner College Professional Development Symposium.

"The Benefits of the Onsite Decision Day " *Robyn Armon, Director of Guidance and College Counseling, St. Francis Preparatory School; Lisa Sayo, Assistant Director of Admissions, St. John's University*
Learn why the onsite decision day is the most successful adaptation of the application process that is offered to students and families. All applications are fee waived, saving families hundreds of dollars and allowing seniors to be accepted and receive scholarship money. By December, students have acceptances, scholarships, and personal connections with the college they applied to.

San Fran Yearbook

Another Outstanding job with the 2016 Yearbook! Congratulations to the San Fran yearbook Moderator-Jill Verdi



Ashley Wilkinson, Ryann Betty, Dominique Price, Jada Dominguez, Cortney Baur, Sabrina Blaskovic, Stephanie Blaskovic, Amanda Chavez, Eleni Guardado, Sasha Stopanjac, Sydni Hicks, Natasha Campbell, Gina Cabrera, Meghan Beckford, Dominique Berrouet, Tianna Moore, Amanda Nandalall, Adriana Pardo, Jeanette Lemur