

October 30, 2016
Principal's Newsletter

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."
Colin Powell

Our first full month in school was event-filled and busy. The end of the first quarter is upon us on November 10th. As we experience the ups and downs of the school year, we keep in mind that hard work needs to be the common denominator for all of us.

October brought with it many accomplishments and celebrations within our SFP Community, starting with the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. On Tuesday, October 4th, at 8:30 a.m. in the school Auditorium, the Prep celebrated the ***Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*** with a liturgy celebrated by Bishop Paul Sanchez. Following the Mass was the distribution of our Canticle Citations for faculty and staff members who were celebrating significant years of service to our school. I congratulate and thank those committed members of our community for their dedication and hard work:

Brother Adrian Fannon, O.S.F., on the occasion of his **60th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee)** as a Franciscan Brother.

The **Canticle Citation Award** for their years of service was presented to:

40 Years of Service

Robert Corbino, Ed.D.
Robert Gutherberg
Stephen Marino, Ph.D.
Sr. Mary Ann Napier, C.S.J.

15 Years of Service

Jean-Patrick Devesin
Joseph DiSomma
Laura Hassett
Gregory Madama
Xenos Novoa
Lorna Pietryga-Park

Also at this liturgy, the **President's Award** for years of service was presented to:

15 Years of Service

Vesna Vulin

Congratulations to all and well done! Mr. McLaughlin

From the Desk of Mr. Castellano:

PSAT

On Wednesday, 19 October, all our sophomores and juniors took the PSAT. The PSAT is a practice exam for the SAT, a widely-used standardized test for college admission. PSAT scores are not used for college admission. Based on their scores, juniors may qualify for the National Merit Scholarship and some other scholarships and recognitions; for sophomores, the test is completely for practice. Students will receive their scores from the College Board in December. We will hold assemblies in January to explain the score report and to discuss ways to prepare for the SAT. The best preparation for college entrance exams is for students to work hard in all classes; reading from a wide range of

sources is also crucial. Once we have held the assemblies, students may speak with their guidance counselors if they have any questions.

NINTH-GRADE PROGRAMS

On that same day, 19 October, our 9th-grade students were involved in two special programs. The boys participated in Project Adventure. This is a Physical Education program that promotes communication, cooperation, and understanding. The goals of the Project Adventure program are to increase cooperation, respect, and support within a group and to increase one's sense of personal confidence. The students were challenged to go beyond their comfort zones, try new activities, discover new ways of thinking, deal with frustrations, and be willing to accept help and support from adults and peers. The challenges presented were Name by Name, Birthday Line Up, Human Treasure Hunt, Group Juggle, and Hoop challenge. The 9th-grade boys enjoyed participating in this program, which was led by the Health and Physical Education teachers and 40 faculty members of the other departments.

The girls were involved in Beautiful Me, a program sponsored by the Hance Family Foundation. The girls worked in small groups on self-esteem, self-respect, and acceptance of others. We thank all the teachers who helped to run and facilitate these programs. We thank the Hance Family Foundation for their support of our students.

From the Finance Office

When you submit any check to school for any purpose, please be sure to include your child's name and his or her ID number and Cor on the memo line. Doing this allows us to properly credit your account. Thank you.

From the desk of Ed Woods, Director of Technology

If you as a parent/guardian have signed up at the Parent Portal for periodic Progress Report emails, you may be experiencing a problem where the grades portion of the email is blank. PowerSchool, our Student Information System vendor, acknowledges that there is an issue that has been corrected in the latest version of PowerSchool. We are scheduled to implement the new version of PowerSchool in December.

We apologize for this inconvenience and are working to make sure we get this repaired with the new version. In the meantime, logging into your Parent Portal account will provide you accurate grade information.

Also, if you have not yet accessed your guardian email account, or created your Parent Portal account, please send an email to email.questions@stfrancisprep.org and we can assist you with this.

Congratulations

Stephen Smith of Cor 116 was our top fund raiser for the 2016 Walk-a-thon collecting over \$1500.



Congratulations to Michael Chan Cor 403 and John Fauvell Cor 406 for being recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as Commended students. They both placed among the top five percent of the 1.6 million students who have taken the PSAT. Well Done!



Art Department

Drawing From Life and Drawing I draw in the Museum of Natural History



On October 26th, students from both Drawing From Life and Drawing I came together with their teachers, Ms. Shmerykowsky and Mr. Duplessis, to spend the whole day in the Museum of Natural History to draw in the Dinosaur exhibit. The students were highly motivated and excited about their drawings. The quality and attention to detail was a wonderful thing to observe. Drawing from observation is a key component of a portfolio and majority of art colleges require this. Both of these classes are now in the process of learning keen observation and drawing skills. Drawing From Life students, in particular, have recently learned the skeleton and muscular system and developed them into detailed drawings. The Drawing I students have been developing their observational skills to capture the likeness of a still-life from its line drawing to developing all the values seen. Their stellar drawings can now be used in their collection of work for their portfolio.



On October 28th, during a day blessed by sunny skies, Mr. Biondolillo's Fashion Design class and Mrs. Buccino's Digital Photography class embarked on a trip to the Bronx Botanical Gardens. The fashion students were charged with a single, broad subject: Autumn Foliage. After a seminar on the styling profession and having created an inspiration board full of thematic ideas, the students styled themselves as models in the theme of their choosing. Once at the Botanical Gardens, the group took a tour of a conservatory and the grounds. At the completion of the tours, Mrs. Buccino led the photography students in a lesson on shooting fashion and in outdoor spaces, while Mr. Biondolillo's fashion students prepared themselves for the shoot. The students were then paired for the remainder of the trip to complete the fashion photo shoot. The results of their work will be displayed in the near future. A fulfilling day was had by all!

Programs of Distinction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2016

MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES SAINT FRANCIS PREP FOR PROGRAMS OF DISTINCTION IN VISUAL ARTS, SCHOOL COUNSELING

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — The Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS) recently recognized Saint Francis Preparatory School in Fresh Meadows, NY, for Programs of Distinction in Visual Arts and School Counseling.

The Middle States Programs of Distinction initiative provides external validation of an accredited school's accomplishments in specific areas of expertise and enables schools to take accreditation to the next level.

"Programs of Distinction are models for other academic programs throughout the world," said Henry G. Cram, Ed.D., president of MSA-CESS. "I congratulate Saint Francis Prep for its commitment to a

robust visual arts program and for recognizing the important role school counseling plays in overall student growth and achievement."

The Programs of Distinction review process helps already accredited schools identify strengths and areas for growth and provides inspiration and recommendations for attaining a high quality program. MSA accredited schools are eligible to apply for Program of Distinction recognition for outstanding programs in 21st Century Skills, Global Literacies, World Languages, Visual Arts, Music, Early Childhood Education, Service Learning, School Counseling and STEM Education.

The Visual Arts Program of Distinction identifies programs of superior quality that are clearly articulated and comprehensive, led by qualified and talented instructors using research-based instructional techniques and strategies, and that allow all students to develop an appreciation for and an understanding of the visual arts as a valuable and expressive fine art form.

The School Counseling Program of Distinction recognizes schools with a comprehensive and coherent school counseling program that features counselors who advocate for ensuring equity in student access to all the school's educational opportunities.

"Recognition from the Middle States Association is an honor and is a validation of the work we do here at Saint Francis Preparatory School to educate the whole person," said Principal Patrick McLaughlin. "We strive to provide a learning environment that enables all students to develop and broaden their spiritual, intellectual, creative, emotional, social, and physical abilities."

German Exchange Program

The German Exchange Program is planning another exchange during the summer of 2017 with our partner school, the Albert Einstein School, in Maintal, Germany. Prep students will spend three weeks in Germany in August 2017 attending classes with their German partners and staying with German host families.



A number of excursions, including a trip to Berlin with a visit to the German parliament, are also planned. The German students will spend three weeks at the Prep from late September to early October 2017. A few spots are still available for Prep students interested in participating. Contact Mr. Kruger at gkruger@sfponline.org for more information.

Campus Ministry

SFP Received the Diocesan Special Mission Award for Efforts in Kenya

On Sunday, October 23rd, SFP was presented with a Special Mission Award from the Office of the Propagation of the Faith, responsible for supporting international mission and evangelization efforts. At the special mass celebrated by Bishop Massa, the diocesan office recognized the outstanding work being done in Catholic schools of the diocese to support the missions. SFP was the only high school to receive an award. Deacon Louis Panico highlighted the \$10,000.00 raised last Lent for St. Francis Secondary School in Lare. Bro. Leonard Conway, OSF (President), Mrs. Ellen Schuler (Mathematics), Mr. Ed Woods (Director of Technology), and Dr. Christian Sullivan (Director of Campus Ministry) accepted the award on behalf of our generous school community.

The Women's Volleyball Team on Retreat and The Breast Cancer Awareness Walk



Volleyball slideshow [HERE](#)

Citation

Hyun Jeong Chang was recognized for her leadership and community service in promoting Korean community issues in Nassau County.



Recognition

This past June, Junior Candace McPherson represented St. Francis Prep and the State of New York at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston, Massachusetts.



Candace was surrounded by many fellow high school students from around the country who share her passion, ability, and potential in Medicine. Well done, Candace!

Social Studies Department

On September 23, 2016, Forensics Criminology students from Mr. Jardines class conducted a Skype session with Forensic Linguist, James Fitzgerald. Mr. Fitzgerald is a retired FBI Agent who profiled cases such as the Unabomber and D.C. Sniper cases.



Recently, he appeared on the CBS show that analyzed the evidence in the JonBenet Ramsey Case. He authored a book called "Journey to the Center of the Mind." Part II will be released soon. The students learned what it takes to become a criminal profiler and how high profile cases can be solved with the aid of a profiler.

Open House

Thanks to all who volunteered for our Open House on Saturday, October 15th!



If you missed it
schedule a tour!
admissions@sfponline.org

Sports

The St Francis Prep **Girls Tennis Varsity A team** won the State Catholic High School AA Tennis Championship by defeating in straight sets the team from TMLA (The Mary Louis academy) - the 3rd in the past 4 years and 19 years overall. An outstanding accomplishment for the girls, SFP, and Coach Brennan!



Track

Varsity won Brooklyn-Queens Cross Country Championship and placed Third in the City Championship.



Chiara Cinquemani won the Varsity Brooklyn-Queens Race.



JV won Brooklyn-Queens Champions and placed Second in the City Championship.
Amaya Okogeri won the JV Brooklyn-Queens Race.

The Freshman Team placed Second in the Brooklyn-Queens Championship.

Boy's Basketball

Congratulations to the Boy's Basketball Program for winning the championship in the first Nazareth High School Fall League.

Gymnastics

Congratulations to our Gymnastics for winning the League title this fall.



Music

On Friday, October 21st, the Music Department had a special ceremony. Prep's Chaplain, Fr. Mark Simmons blessed a portrait of our late friend and colleague Mark Teofilo in our new percussion room just after morning prayer.



For those of you who don't know, Mark was the percussion teacher at Prep for over 25 years, but passed suddenly in December of 2011. He spent literally half his life at Prep and was widely regarded as one of our vocation's best percussion teachers.

The new percussion room is W001B, or the old W001.

This work was performed over the summer as part of Phase III of St. Francis Prep's Modernization Program. It includes the redesign and re-construction of the Music Education facilities. This music project will be completed in phases over the course of two years; the end result will be highly advanced learning, practice, and performance spaces for our award-winning music students and a new dance studio and renovated student locker rooms.

Check out our new Music Department Video

9th Grade Activities Fair

Huge success! Thanks to all who worked the event or had students run tables. Great turnout for the clubs and activities coordinated by Mr. Ganci



Foreign Language

Italian Club at the Columbus Day Parade



Two years ago the travel company Explorica asked if they could videotape our students on our trip. We finally received it and would like to share it with you!

European Video - Explorica from [John-Paul Panelli](#) on [Vimeo](#).