



November 2017

*"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."
Thomas Edison*

From the Desk of Mr. McLaughlin:

Thank you to all parents, students, staff, and faculty for contributing to our Thanksgiving Food Drive! A special thanks to the members of our Campus Ministry Team for organizing this great event! Once again our true Franciscan spirit came shining through for those who need the help most. As we enter the season of Advent and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we continue with the theme of Gratitude is an Attitude. We enter December with great anticipation of the Christmas season here at SFP and with our families at home. The season begins on Friday, December 1, with our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting in the Library at 7:00 pm, followed by the Alvernian performance of The Phantom of the Opera at 8:00 pm. This year we are starting a new tradition called Prep the Halls, with our students, staff, and faculty members decorating all of our hallways and lockers for the Christmas season. Our Christmas concerts will take place on December 8th and 9th in our school auditorium as well as the Christmas Party for our Friends with Special Needs on Saturday, December 16th from 10am – 2pm. There will be a special Christmas Liturgy this year for all students on Thursday, December 21 (see Dr. Castellano's note below).

From the desk of Mr. Castellano:

CHRISTMAS LITURGY

Thursday, 21 December, is the last day of school before the Christmas vacation. This year, we are doing something a little different. That day is still a regular school day. We will begin at 8:30 a.m.; dismissal is at 11:35. The day will begin and end with Cor. In between, there will be several different activities. As part of the day, all students will attend Mass with their Cor. We are implementing this program to foster Christmas Joy, a great Franciscan tradition. Please make sure you child attends school that day: it is a regular school day and will be a great way to begin our celebration of Christmas.



DRUG and ALCOHOL PREVENTION PROGRAM

St. Francis Prep sponsors a Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program that works with students to increase awareness and promote living a life that is drug- and alcohol-free. This year, we have 100

seniors who have taken a pledge to be drug- and alcohol-free and serve on the team. These students give presentations in Religion 9 and 10 classes to discuss the program and their choices. We thank these students for their commitment and service.

We are all aware of the prevalence of drugs and alcohol in our society. Please continue to talk about these concerns with your child. Encourage them to speak with you about these matters. Please feel free to contact your child's guidance counselor, either of the Deans, or Joseph Castellano if you have any concerns or questions. The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids has a web site with great information: www.drugfree.org.

Campus Ministry - Thanksgiving 2017

On Wednesday, November 22nd, members of the Prep community gathered together at Mass to give thanks for all we have been blessed with.

Fr. Nicholas Zientarski – a proud Alumnus, Class of 1990 – was the principal celebrant at our liturgy, which was attended by some of our students, parents, alumni, administration, faculty, and staff. Fr. Zientarski delivered a moving homily that gave the entire congregation the chance to consider our many blessings this Thanksgiving.

We had a successful Thanksgiving Donation Drive benefitting these organizations: Hour Children's House, Incarnation Parish Food Pantry, Queen of Peace Residence, St. Aloysius Parish Food Pantry, St. Francis Table at St. Matthias, St. John Bread and Life, and Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen. Representatives from these organizations were on hand to join our celebration and pick up their donations, which totaled over 250 boxes of goods for our neighbors in need.

The students of the Liturgical Ensemble welcomed present alumni, teachers and staff to help lead song for our celebration.

Thank you to all who made our Drive successful and our Liturgy special.

We look forward to and invite all of you to our Christmas Liturgy which will take place on Thursday, December 22nd.

SF Principal's Newsletter





Model UN

St. Francis Prep's Model United Nations attended a conference at Patchogue-Medford High School. The conference was attended by over 200 delegates from 10 different high schools. Our delegation of 18 won 5 awards.

Steven Boehm 102

Joseph DiGiacomo 105

Olivia Fratangelo 107

Daniel Hodurski 109

Mark Moritz 112

Athansios Dilos 204*****Best Delegate in the Security Council

Abigail Bossa 302

Joanne Gotanco 307

Shubin Gong 307

Penda Martin 311

Amy Mwai 312

Katie Zahner 317*****Honorable Mention in UNICEF

Charles Carlin 403

Joe Hili 408

Kayla Keenan 409*****Honorable Mention in UNODC

Andrew Lee 409*****Honorable Mention in the World Health Organization

Chritina Lino 410

Nicole O'Connor 412*****Honorable Mention in the Historical Security Council

Principal's Newsletter



Senior Halloween Dance

Mr. Ganci sends out a huge thank you to all who participated and helped out at the senior Halloween Dance! Great times were had by all!

A SUPER SPECIAL THANKS to the Foreign Language dept., under the supervision of Marianna Ruggieri, for such a strong presence with the most number of chaperones! Great work!



Music Department

Recently, our Music Department earned a very special honor. They are being recommended to receive the Middle States Association's "Program of Distinction" in Music. According to Middle States, "Schools attaining the Music Program of Distinction foster within students a deep appreciation for music as an expressive, creative art form. Music education is recognized as an essential component of the social and cultural fiber of society and the school." When asked about his experience at Prep, William Crist, the Middle States visitor, spoke at length about the Music Program, the broader school community, and everyone's dedication to the Franciscan charism.

Prep was the first school ever to earn the Program of Distinction in Music and is now being recommended to be the first school to be renewed. Prep has also earned the Programs of Distinction in Art and Guidance. Congratulations to Dr. Corbino and the faculty and students from our Music department!

Coming up, we have our Annual Christmas Concerts on December 8th and 9th, both at 7:45PM, in the Brother Ralph Clifford Memorial Auditorium. Friday night will feature all three orchestras, both percussion ensembles, and our Concert Chorus. Saturday will feature all three bands, Prep Chorus, and Chamber Choir. A highlight of the evening will be our annual "Hallelujah Project": we will be

joined by choruses from Our Lady of Hope, St. Gregory the Great, St. Andrew Avellino, and Intermediate School 77 in Handel's ever-popular "Hallelujah Chorus." Doors open at 7:15PM, and general admission tickets are \$5, available in the Music office in advance, or at the door the nights of each concert. Hope to see you there!!!

Art Department

POUR YOUR ART OUT!

Students in Mrs. Buccino's Advanced Drawing and Painting class experimented with fluid acrylic painting techniques. They learned three techniques to create a fluid acrylic painting. Students created three small fluid acrylic paintings using each method. The class then created a collaborative painting. Each student created a large scale fluid acrylic of his or her own for their final project. It was a wonderful experience for the class to explore creative abstract art!



The Saint Francis Prep Art department hosted admission counselors from Parsons School of Design, SCAD, Lesley University, PRATT, School of Visual Arts, and the Fashion Institute of Technology. Art students had the opportunity to speak to the counselors and receive portfolio feedback. Students had their art work critiqued and received one-to-one portfolio reviews. The art college

Principal's Newsletter

representatives were impressed with the student art work and offered invaluable advice. A fabulous afternoon was had by all who attended!



Students in the SFP Chapter of the National Arts Honor Society had the opportunity to participate in a landscape painting workshop. Art Faculty Member Anthony Biondolillo, experienced paint night instructor and artist, conducted the workshop. Students learned how to paint an autumn birch tree-lined road landscape just in time to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Biondolillo demonstrated the painting and blending techniques to the class. They followed him step by step and individualized each painting. Students enjoyed the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and paint!

Science Department

Mrs. Rich's Marine Biology class visited the Mystic Aquarium on Monday, November 13th, 2017. The students participated in a Hematology workshop where they analyzed blood samples from fish, reptiles, and mammals. They took blood samples from a beluga whale and determined the ratio of red blood cells to white blood cell. The students visited many exhibits (indoor and outdoor) and viewed a movie on the Great White Shark.



Fall Drama

On behalf of the Alvernian Drama Society, I am honored to invite you to see our production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, showing December 1st at 8 PM and December 2nd at 7 PM. I have been an Alvernian for 4 years running, and it makes me proud to have the opportunity to do what I love once again: collaborate with a peerless director, Ms. Mejia, and perform with an amazing cast. I couldn't have asked for a better or more hardworking group of people to spend my afternoons with. It is a popular point of view in the Alvernian circle that we are a second family, and after everything I've been through with these guys, I would have to agree. Therefore, with love from our big happy Alvernian family, I (and the rest of our cast) can't wait to see you at our little labor of love: *The Phantom of the Opera*. -Johnny Sullivan, Senior.



Principal's Newsletter



SF *Principal's Newsletter*

College Board – National Hispanic Recognition Program



Pictured – Isabel Leon; Not Pictured Isabel Casares and Mark Milian

National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Students



English Department

On November 8th, Ms. Jessica Cozzi (daughter of Experience Group teacher, Mrs. Leslie Cozzi) packed the library conference room with over 30 students who wanted to learn more about the international off the cuff writing sensation that takes place every November known as NaNoWriMo-- National Novel Writing Month. Jessica gave the students all of the highlights of the program, as well as hundreds of writing prompts for them to get started. Her enthusiasm was both fun and contagious. All who attended, including English teachers Ms. Jane Lynch and Mr. Eric Hafker, left with several pages of writing they were proud of!



On Wednesday November 15, students in Dr. Marino's senior Drama course attended a matinee performance of Arthur Miller's tragedy *A View From the Bridge* at John Jay College in Manhattan. This was an exciting opportunity for the students to see a first-class production of a play that they read and discussed in class. After the performance, the students participated in a "talk back" in which they discussed the play and asked questions of the cast and the director.

E-Sports Club

The St. Francis Prep E-Sports Club is dedicated to teamwork between individuals in video games of their choice. The members all come together to form teams, not only to play games together, but also to play in a competitive environment in tournaments to win prizes: money, scholarships, and devices such as headphones, keyboards, and other gaming equipment. Members of the E-Sports club take games very seriously and spend much time on trying to get better, becoming the best they can be in their respective field. For example, the League of Legends team has spent many hours playing the game and watching videos of professionals, dissecting their play and reasons they do certain tasks. This work helps the Prep E-Sports teams to get better as individuals and as a team. The League of Legends team has won 3 tournaments in Evo Gaming, an internet cafe in Flushing, because of the countless hours they have dedicated to the game. Another tournament they have competed in, the High School Star League, is a nationwide tournament consisting of high schools from around the country. Last year, the League of Legends team managed to place 33rd out of 600 teams entering the tournament. The members of the club feel that this is a very impressive feat, considering that at the time their players were low ranked; the reason they got as far as they did was the hard work, blood, sweat, and tears they

poured into the game spending. The E-Sports Club promotes playing video games, having fun, and building teamwork and team synergy. Mr. P.T. McLaughlin is the moderator of the club.

SFP Cybergirls Club

On November 9th, the SFP Cybergirls club went on a field trip after school to NYU Tandon School of Engineering at MetroTech center in Brooklyn. We were invited to the 2017 Cyber Security Awareness Week opening ceremonies. The night began with an introduction to the other cybergirls club in the area. Then the group attended an engaging and thought-provoking keynote presentation by Andrew Tannenbaum, the Chief Cybersecurity Counsel at IBM. The girls left so inspired that they want to compete next year in the HS Forensics Challenge. Ms. May is the moderator.



Alumni News

Great news! Markos Papadatos was inducted to the Class of 2017 Hellenic News Hall of Fame, which honors Greek-Americans as part of its 30-year anniversary. He thanked SFP in his acceptance speech!

Girls Basketball

Emily Engstler signs with Syracuse University!



Principal's Newsletter

Girls Softball

Sarah Williams signs with St. Thomas Aquinas!



Girls Track Team



At the Brooklyn-Queens Championship, the Varsity Race was won by Chiara Cinquemani for the second year in a row. The Varsity Placed second. At the Intersectional Race, Chiara qualified for the NY State Cross Country Championships for the second year.



The JV Race was won by Raquel Ramirez. The JV team was victorious. The Freshman Team placed Third in Brooklyn-Queens.

Boys Track Team



On Saturday, November 18th, senior Zalen Nelson represented St. Francis Prep over the challenging, rain-soaked 5K course at Bowdoin Park in the prestigious New York Federation Cross Country Championships in Wappingers Fall, NY.

Girls Swimming

VARSITY GIRLS SWIMMING

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GIRLS VARSITY SWIMMING TEAM ON PLACING 4th AT CHAMPIONSHIPS AND WINNING THE SPIRIT AWARD!!!!

Special shout out to Coach Andrew Meditz Coach of the year 2017!!

Principal's Newsletter

Coach of the Year Andrew Meditz and Julia Courtney class of 2019, state qualifier for the 500 free style.



Loading up on carbs the night before champs, the pasta party was hosted by Mrs. Brattoli, mother of Ava Brattoli on the swim team.

Principal's Newsletter

