

Principal's Newsletter November 2021

THE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



I hope you had a blessed and restful Thanksgiving enjoying family and friends. I am very proud of our students, faculty, and staff for giving so generously to our Thanksgiving Donation Drive. Many thanks to our Campus Ministry Team for their spectacular leadership. We saw the 1st marking period come to an end and the second quarter begin. Many of our students are doing very well. Those who feel they can improve on the first quarter results are digging in, knowing there is a long way to go and ample time to improve. The students understand that their parents are making a tremendous sacrifice giving them a Catholic education at SFP and that they must take advantage of it. We all know it is a tremendous investment in their future.

As we enter the Advent season and prepare for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on December 25th, please check our school calendar for important dates and events that will mark the season.

God Bless!
Mr. McLaughlin

PSAT

Juniors and sophomores took the PSAT in October. The College Board, the organization that oversees the PSAT and SAT, has informed us that students will receive an email from the College Board around 7 December. Score reports are all digital this year; students will not receive a paper copy of their score report. Please ask your child to look for an email from the College Board in the coming days. We will send home further information about understanding the score report once students receive them. Students will also receive their test booklet in Cor. Students should contact their guidance counselor with any questions.

Varsity Boys Cross-Country



Congratulations to the varsity boys cross-country team who traveled to Wappingers Falls for the New York State championship. The team finished the season ranked 18th in all of New York State and 4th out of all the CHSAA teams.

SFP Christmas Concerts

Prep's Music Department is excited to announce that our Christmas Concerts will be pre-recorded and available to view in mid-December. All eleven of our performing groups will

be appearing. We are excited to showcase our students' work, as they have thoroughly enjoyed making Music together in person this year.

Our Chamber Orchestra had the pleasure of performing for Prep's National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on October 27th. In fact, 40% of the orchestra's members are members of NHS as well!

The Music department presented our annual Tri-M induction ceremony on November 5th. This included a pre-recorded concert of newly-admitted students performing individually or in small groups. These performances can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2KfHuiUJiE&t=56s>. Congratulations to all our members, past and present, as well as to our Moderators, Ms. Corwin and Dr. Silvagni!

Finally, our own Dr. Corbino and Mr. Johnston will be featured as clinicians at the 75th Annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago on December 17th. According to the Midwest Clinic website, "With more than 18,000 attendees, 400 exhibitors, 700 booths, 50 performances, and 120+ clinics, The Midwest Clinic seeks to provide educators and musicians of all skill levels with the opportunity to learn and grow in their field while also networking with other artists. Over the last six decades, guests have arrived from all 50 states as well as more than 30 foreign countries, making each conference unique and diverse in the talent and knowledge it contains. With such a wide variety of skill level and experience, The Midwest Clinic brings together all levels of talent and expertise to guide and grow each participant."

Girls Cross-Country Varsity Team



The varsity team finished third in the Catholic State Cross Country Championship and competed in the NY State Champs Saturday, November 20, at Bowdion Park. Congratulations - Grace Hughes, Cristina Stanescu, Sydney Morgan, Anaya Raymond, Morgan Donaldson, Theresa O'Connor, and Kaelyn McNamara

Girls Cross-Country



The Girls Cross-Country finished out their season by competing in the NY State Championship

Campus Ministry

In the Catholic Church, November begins with the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. Throughout the month, students and faculty alike were invited to Our Lady of the Angels Chapel to write the name of a loved one who has passed away in our community book of remembrance. We prayed for these loved ones each morning during morning prayer. November 15th kicked off our annual food drive for our local partners. Cors were assigned to one of eight agencies. We were so blessed to distribute over 40 boxes of food or hygiene supplies to each of our agencies. It is evident that when we all work together we can do amazing things. Thank YOU so much for your generosity!



November 17-19, we took 36 juniors and seniors to West Hartford, Connecticut, for our Journeys Retreat. Over the three days, students were able to reflect on how God works in their lives and what their own journey looks like. We were so excited to bring our upper-level students on retreat following the difficulties of the last year and a half.



On November 22 and 23, all of our students went to Thanksgiving Mass. In his homily, Fr. Ralph reminded everyone of the importance of spending time with family during the holiday season. We wish you a blessed Thanksgiving and a wonderful start to the Advent season!

Guest illustrator visits the SFP Art department!

Guest illustrator visits the SFP Art department! Jashton Gieser, Saint John's University Student and Illustrator, visited the Saint Francis Prep Art department. Jashton amazed Mrs. Buccino's Advanced Drawing and Painting class with a live demonstration of his amazing illustration skills. Using pen and ink embellished with water colors, he drew before their eyes. Jashton discussed his creative process and assigned the SFP art students a poem to illustrate. He critiqued their illustrations and collaborated with them to create an illustrated book of poems. The Advanced Drawing and Painting students were delighted to welcome Jashton to their class!

FOLLOW UP - Drawing and Painting Art retreat at Camp Alvernia FINAL GLASS FUSED ART PIECES

The Saint Francis Prep Art Department journeyed to Camp Alvernia for a special Art Retreat day. Campus Minister Mr. Sempowich, Father Ralph, and Mrs. Buccino and Ms. Shmerykowsky from the Art department led the art expedition. It was a gorgeous fall day in October. The weather was perfect. The art students started the day with a reflection; they also had time to get to know each other with activities. The young artists had time to create paintings on the beautiful property grounds. The sky was blue with wispy white clouds; the sun was shining bright; there were sailboats floating by. Students sat and sketched the scene with watercolors in the fresh sea air. The day concluded with a special jewelry

exchange between the juniors and seniors. Father Ralph blessed the handmade glass-fused jewelry that the senior students made to pass down to the rising juniors. The art students celebrated Mass together and then headed back to school. It was a truly special day. Art work from the retreat day is displayed in West Lobby. Nature scenes were fused in glass and entered in this year's Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Competition.

Photos attached include some of the final glass fused landscapes inspired by Camp Alvernia created by Mrs. Buccino's Advanced drawing and Painting class for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Competition.