

Principal's Newsletter
February 29, 2016

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

From the desk of Mr. Castellano:
JUNE REGENTS EXAMS

Students are automatically registered for Regents exams associated with all courses they take at St. Francis Prep. For many classes, the Regents exam serves as the final exam for the course; the Regents exam grade can count for as much as 20% of the student's final grade. Regents exam grades appear on the transcripts of students. It is important for students to prepare well for these exams and to do their best. All teachers will do Regents exam review in class, and many teachers offer extra review classes after school. Please encourage your child to take advantage of all these review opportunities.

Some students may have missed or not passed a Regents exam from past years. Students who are missing any of the required Regents exams (Algebra 1, Biology or Chemistry, Global History, U.S. History, and English) will automatically be enrolled for the appropriate June Regents exam. Students who wish to re-take any of the other Regents exams must see Mr. Castellano by **Friday, 4 March**. St. Francis Prep allows students to re-take an exam if the student failed it; students may not re-take an exam they passed in order to raise their score. Parents and guardians with questions about Regents exam matters may call Mr. Castellano at ext. 209.

COURSE SELECTION

From 7 January through 4 February, students, teachers, and guidance counselors were working together to help students to select their classes for next school year. All students have now made their selections. From now until mid-May, we will be working to schedule all students for their courses. In mid-May, students will receive a program verification listing all the courses for which they are scheduled. (They do not receive their actual schedule until September.) There will be days in May and June when students may request changes. Changes are granted based on space availability and the student's qualification for the class; we charge a \$40 fee for course changes. The last day to request changes is **Friday, 24 June**. We do not make changes in the Summer or in September. Please be sure to discuss with your child his or her selections and make sure his or her classes are correct and appropriate. Please contact your child's guidance counselor or Mr. Castellano with any questions or concerns.

NASSAU & SUFFOLK RESIDENTS

We remind you that transportation requests for students who reside in Nassau or Suffolk County school districts are due by March 31st. If your district provides bus service, please contact your district to secure that service for the School Year 2016-2017. Especially in light of the early Easter Vacation this year, please contact your district soon.

Recognition:

Congratulations to Maggie Cappozzoli-Cavota from *The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers* and *Parsons School of Design at The New School*. She was informed that she has been recognized by the New York City Region 2016 **Scholastic Art Awards**. Well done!

FVP 2016: Making Christ Present by Rebuilding His Church!

The Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn sponsored the annual Franciscan Volunteer Program from February 14-19, 2016. This year, the FVP was hosted by Notre Dame Regional High School in Cape Girardeau, MO. Nine students from St. Francis Prep, accompanied by SFP teachers Br. Joseph Bach,

OSF, Ms. Nicole May, and Mr. Rob Johnston, and students from St. Anthony's High School in South Huntington, NY, traveled to Missouri to join students from Notre Dame Regional High School in a week of service to the poor. This year's Franciscan Volunteers served at the following locations in Missouri: The Southeastern Missouri Food Bank (SEMO), Birthright, Catholic Charities, Cape Girardeau Senior Center, Habitat for Humanity, and the Ugly Quilters Project. The students enjoyed the opportunity to be of service to those who are less fortunate in Southeastern Missouri. Brother David Migliorino, OSF, Principal of Notre Dame, and the entire NDHS family warmly welcomed us and made the week such a great experience of Franciscan Service!

Brother Joseph Bach, O.S.F.
Religion Department



Campus Ministry Update

Lenten Collection: \$1.00 per week x 4 weeks x 2,500 students = \$10,000.00

Lenten Collection
for
St. Francis Secondary School in Lare



Needed: 1 New School Vehicle Goal: \$10,000
\$1 each Friday = \$4 per student
\$4 * 2500 students = \$10,000
It's that easy!!!

Our student body has been challenged to raise badly needed dollars to help our twin school in Kenya replace their broken down school vehicle. Please ask your son or daughter to give at least \$1.00 each Friday.

Lenten Tee-Shirts

Each Friday during Lent, students, faculty and staff demonstrate their global solidarity with our friends at St. Francis Secondary School in Kenya by wearing a special shirt designed by Santino Ferrara, '17. Every shirt purchased equals \$5.00 toward desks and chairs for the school. Shirts are available for purchase in the Campus Ministry Office: short sleeved \$10, long sleeved \$15.

Lenten T-Shirt Sale **ORDER NOW!**

Wear on Fridays in Lent!
2/19, 2/26, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18

\$10 Short Sleeve T-Shirt
\$15 Long Sleeve T-Shirt
\$5.00 from every shirt we sell
goes directly to
St. Francis Secondary in Lare, Kenya

Click [HERE](#) for Order Form

**TEE SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER IN THE
OFFICE OF CAMPUS MINISTRY**



Franciscan Immersion Experiences-Serving here and abroad!

Applications are available for two more Franciscan Immersion Experiences occurring this year. **FIE: Camden** takes place April 20-23. The team of juniors and seniors stays at the Romero Center in East Camden, NJ, and works at different service sites each day. **FIE: Peru** will take place from July 13-21. This team will assist with caring for severely disabled and neglected children who live at Hogar de San Francisco de Asis. The Hogar is a hospital and home for Peruvian children with serious medical condition who cannot pay for care. This experience is open to current sophomores and juniors. Interested students can complete an on-line application on the Campus Ministry webpage and will be evaluated through a group interview.

Sacraments Program

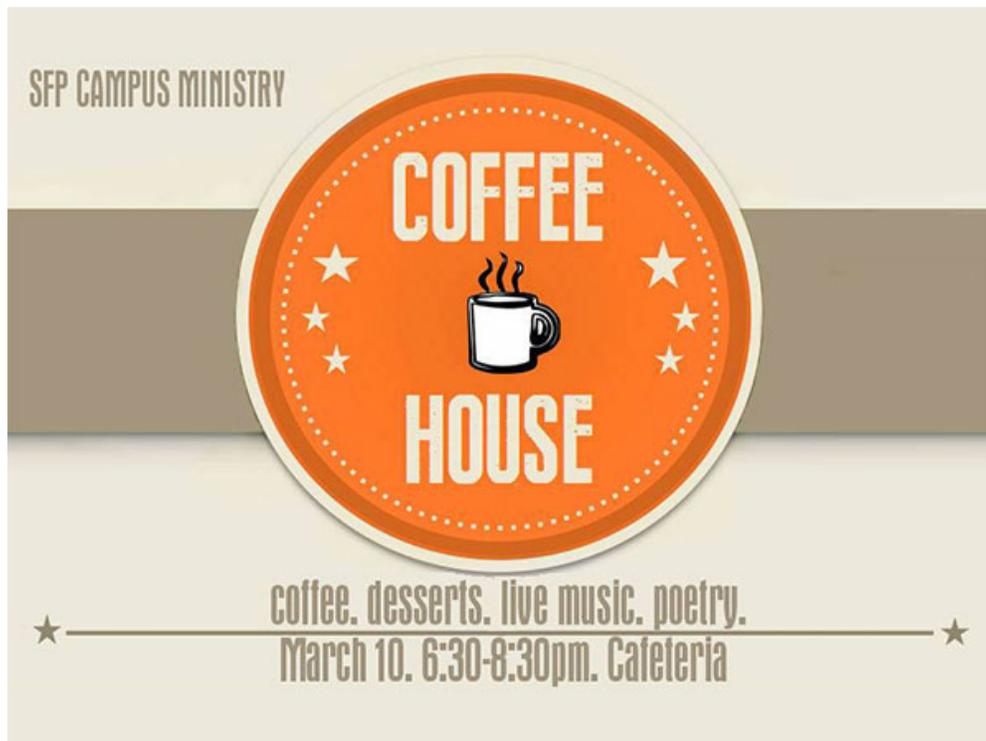
Students are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 22nd. If you are interested in receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Communion, and Baptism, please contact Fr. Mark Simmons, ext. 248, or Mr. Leone, ext. 237, to join the sacramental preparation program.

Upcoming Lenten Activities

Please encourage your son or daughter to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during the Lenten season. Students have the opportunity on the following days: **Wednesday, March 2nd** – *Juniors* attend prayer service; *Freshmen* may receive the sacrament after the juniors are finished; **Wednesday, March 16th** – *Sophomores* attend prayer service; *Seniors* may receive the sacrament after the sophomores are finished.

Each Friday, the opportunity for **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is available from 7:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. in the school chapel.

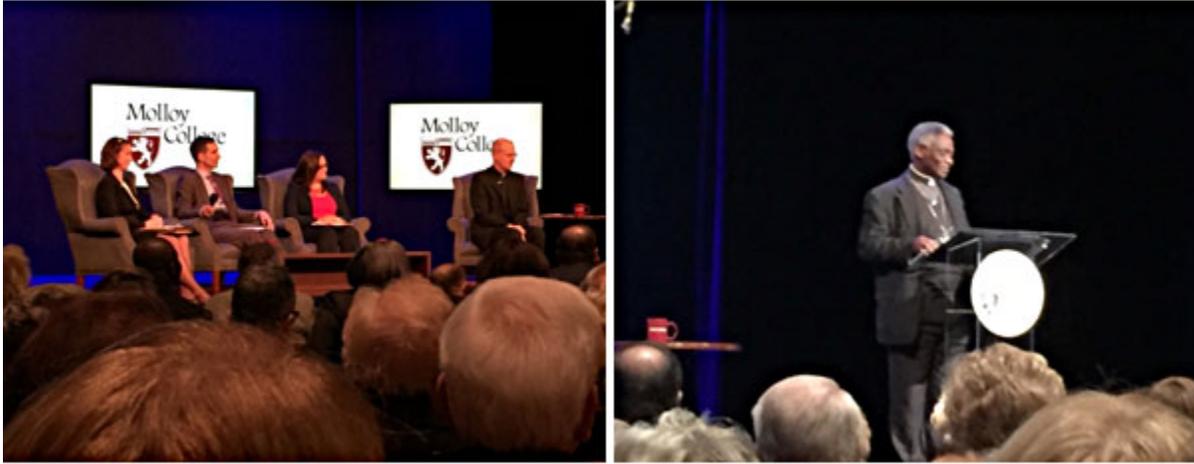
Join us for our first **Campus Ministry Coffee House** on **Thursday, March 10**, from **7:30-9:30 p.m.** Evening includes prayer, live student music, and poetry! Donation at the door benefits St. Francis, Lare, Kenya.



On **February 17, 2016**, **Molloy College** hosted a lecture and panel discussion entitled "**Catholics, Capitalism and Climate**" as this year's **Joe & Peggy Maher Leadership Forum**.

SFP Juniors **Ashley Henry, Annamaria Leal, and Gabriella Mopon** represented St. Francis Prep as part of the Care for Creation club, accompanying Peggy Bergin of our Religious Education department to this event. The featured speaker was **Peter Cardinal Turkson**. **Cardinal Turkson** is a native of Ghana and is President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. He was instrumental in the preparation of the recent papal encyclical, **Laudato Si'** (*Praise Be to You: On Care for Our Common Home*). The lecture was followed by a lively panel discussion featuring Meghan Clark, Ph.D. (Asst.

Professor of Moral Theology at St. John's University), Erin Lothes-Biviano, Ph.D. (Asst. Professor of Theology at the College of St. Elizabeth), and R.R. Reno, Ph.D. (Editor, *First Things*) and was moderated by Fr. James Martin, SJ, of *America* magazine.



All speakers focused on important awareness and how individual and corporate local, national, and global efforts are needed -- and already happening -- to work in harmony with God's created world for the benefit of all humankind. How wonderful for these students to spend a day of their February recess witnessing how the concerns of their club are part of the work of these important academic and spiritual leaders with worldwide reach!

Academic Bowl

Five seniors participated as a team in the College Advantage Academic Bowl at St John's University on Saturday, February 6, 2016. This was the first time St. John's sponsored this event. This event consisted of teams from Archbishop Molloy, Bayside, St. Francis Prep, and Xaverian. It was a fun competition of trivia questions in the Jeopardy Style Formal.



Each participant received an SJU Rally towel, tickets to the SJU basketball game, and a modest monetary scholarship toward tuition if they attend SJU in the fall. A delicious buffet lunch followed the

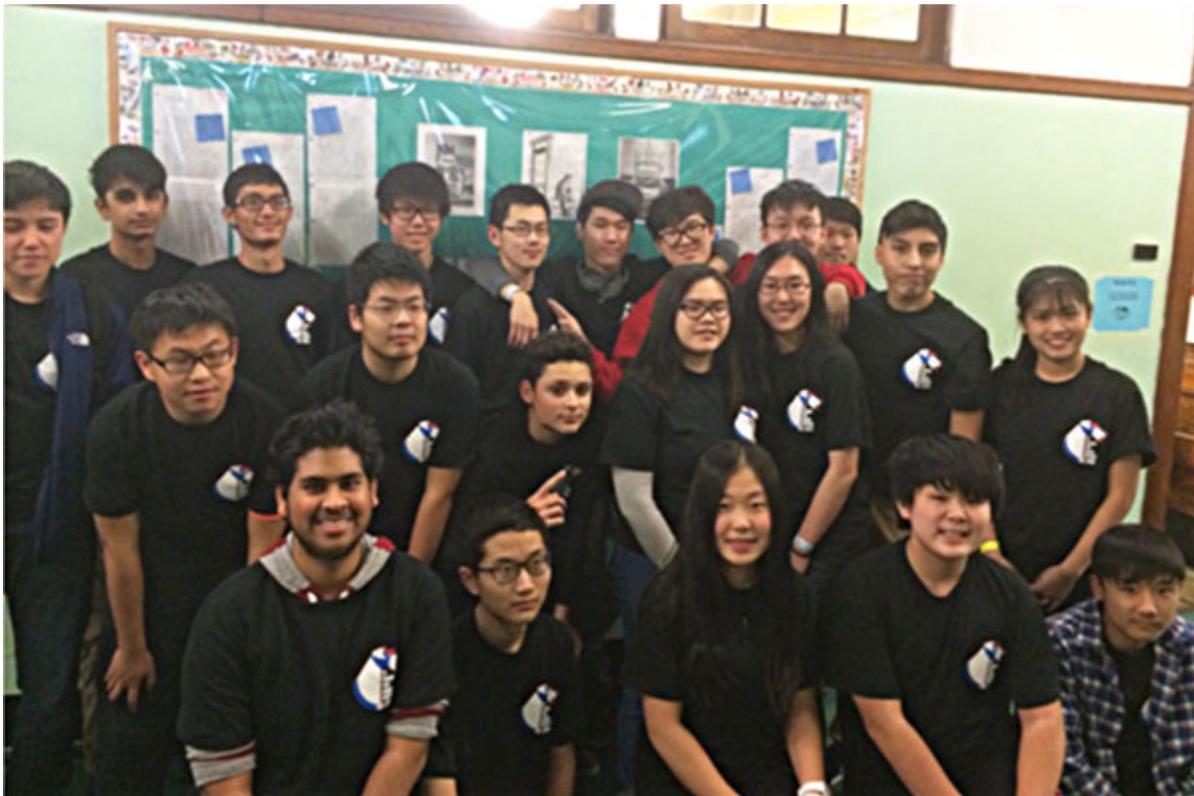
competition. All who attended this event enjoyed it, including parents and family members. This opportunity was organized by Ms. Coccia, Mrs. Forte, Mrs. Williams, and Ms. Schaefer.

A special thanks and congratulations to the SFP team of 5 seniors: Tash Illiparamil, Christopher Polloni, Hyenah Shim, Anthony Skoros, and Shivani Devi Singh. We are very proud of Tash, Christopher, Hyenah, Anthony, and Shivani for their positive enthusiasm during the competition. You each represented SFP as true Franciscans. Well done!

Science Olympics

The SFP Science Olympic Team competed at Grover Cleveland HS in the NYC Metro Regional Competition on Saturday February 6th, 2016. SFP brought 25 students competing in 20 events covering a wide array of scientific challenges.

We are proud to announce that our students had a great day and we received 8 top ten medals for our performance. The winning teams were Sunwoo Lee and Jeffrey Sun for 4th place in Robot Arm; Michael Chan and Matthew Sultana for 6th place in Air Trajectory; Brendan Zhang and Michael Chan for 2nd place in Write It/Do It; XiangHe Huang and Jonathan Cen for 8th place in Wind Power; Vincent Smedile and Zhengang Liu for 10th place in Astronomy; Ching Pang and Zetong Jia for 8th place in Green Generation; Jeffrey Sun and Michael Chan for 8th place in It's About Time; and Huan Yang and Zhengang Liu for 10th place in Hydrogeology.



We had a great day. We also placed just out of medal contention in many of the other categories. Our students went to all lengths in the month leading up to the competition to make the Prep proud. One example is the design, engineering, and computer coding behind the electric vehicle designed by Matthew Sultana and Michael Chan (pictured below with their vehicle).

This day would not have been possible without the time and talent of the coaches. Thank you, Dr. Bennett, Ms. Picht, Mr. Cohen, Dr. Mac, and Ms. May. We would like to commend all of the Science Olympic students and coaches on their efforts and enthusiasm this season!

SFP Works with DNA

Biotechnology students Marianna Tzirani, Kimberly Mayo, Angelica Hernandez, Theodore Tsiolas, Thomas Deliso, and Christopher Polloni.

The Biotechnology course at St. Francis Prep is super interesting. We are able to do experiments using the awesome new lab equipment and take trips to learn more about science. One of our recent trips was to the lab at the Lake Success DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor, L.I.

There we began extracting our own DNA by obtaining a sample of our cheek cells and tested it for a gene associated with certain geographical locations in the world. Through this lab activity, we acquired useful skills and found out more about our cultural heritage.

We tested for the presence of the Alu gene, a small stretch of DNA that “jumps” between certain populations. The gene copies itself and then reinserts itself into new chromosomal locations. After entering our results into the PCR machine, which creates many copies of the DNA to allow us to study it better, we spent an hour touring the Clinical Core Laboratory. We analyzed our DNA using a Chip Analyzer and produced an electropherogram. We saw the genotype each of us has for the Alu insertion.

We then entered the Clinical Core Laboratory, which is “home to one of the largest robotic machines involved in diagnostics,” according to the dnalc.org website.

We all wore disposable aprons to avoid contamination and were required to wear closed-toed shoes. We followed our tour guide in single file, staying away from the walls.



The lab itself was a small and very hectic room where it seemed that too many things went on at the same time. It was not like in movies where the lab is a white sterile area where scientists quietly place substances into tubes. The roaring of machinery and stuffiness of the air only added to our excitement!

Most of the hospitals in the area send their test samples to this lab to be studied. Our tour guide explained the complicated process of labeling and color coding tubes and placing them into the correct machines. It seemed so easy to make a mistake as the tubes look almost identical! However, they have a barcode for each patient and barcode readers to avoid confusion.

What is truly special about this lab is that it functions entirely on robotics. All of the processes were done by machines!

We were shown a large assembly line of machines where blood samples are tested. Every process we did by hand in the lab was done quicker and more efficiently by the machines.

In fact, we were told that the lab produces a million test results per month and it has the ability to produce as much as four million results.

We are very thankful for the unique opportunity to visit this lab. It was incredibly interesting and confirmed the great work the students had done all semester.

Art Department News

Great news - We entered the Scholastic Writing and Arts Awards - a number of our students were recognized with Gold, Silver and Honorable mention awards!!!!



Winners -

- Alysia Boodram: What is Self-Respect?- Photography Silver Key
- Ashley Chen: Mushroom Research - Digital Art Silver Key
- Kristina Ciklic: Flower Cat - Digital Art Honorable Mention
- Emily Guevara: Love the Skin You're In - Drawing and Illustration Honorable Mention
- Emily Guevara: The Birth of Creativity - Drawing and Illustration Silver Key
- Hanna Kim: Melancholy - Painting Honorable Mention
- Jennifer Paredes: Spray Paint City - Mixed Media Gold Key
- Sunyoung Park: Waste Never Dies - Design Gold Key
- Sunyoung Park: Silhouette - Painting Silver Key
- Sunyoung Park: Red Door - Painting Silver Key
- Sunyoung Park: Reflected - Painting Gold Key
- Sunyoung Park: Back to the nature - Art Portfolio Silver Key
- Eden T. Lutchmedial: Serenity - Digital Art Honorable Mention

Field Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with A.P. Art History - Ms. Shmerykowsky

On February 24th, 2016, the Advanced Placement Art History class visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. We are currently learning about the High Renaissance of the 1500s; the students realize there is a strong connection to the Greek and Roman civilizations. We thought it best to see their history come to life with a visit to the Museum to recall what we have learned in the Fall

Semester of the two civilizations and to see the connections to our current topic. Our tour was entitled "Ancient Greece and Rome: Art of Heroic Ideals."

The students learned how the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome used visual art and mythology to understand concepts like beauty, death, and heroism. As they traveled through the Ancient Greek and Roman Wings, students were mesmerized to see sculptures, paintings and ancient artifacts from so many years ago. They were truly amazed how their perceptions of the art work changed when they had the chance to see everything in person compared to on a Smart Board!

Afterward, the students were allowed to explore the Museum to see a variety of other art history topics we have covered and will see soon, such as Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic, Early Renaissance, Impressionism, and Expressionism. Overall, the students had a wonderful experience at the Metropolitan Museum, gained better insight as they prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam, and gained more appreciation of the past!



On January 6th, 2016, students from AP Art History, C.A.D., and Mechanical and Architectural Drawing ventured into Manhattan for a divine experience of religious art work. First we visited St. John the Divine, a modern day Gothic Cathedral on 110th Street. To see such a massive structure, which is still under construction, among the modern construction was breathtaking! For them to see the high vaulted ceilings, the stained glass and rose windows, the massive piers, and the vast nave was an experience in itself!

After the students walked around the Cathedral's main floor, we all took part in a vertical tour. On this adventurous climb, we went up 124 feet through spiral staircases. On each level, the students learned about the stained glass windows and sculpture and were able to study the architecture of the Cathedral while standing on a buttress! The tour ended with a beautiful view of Manhattan from the roof. Our next stop was to the Cloisters. There we viewed a variety of religious icons, statues, tapestries, relics, paintings, and manuscripts of the Middle Ages. AP Art History students were able to witness first hand many of the art works they study in class!

This was a successful field trip which allowed the students to gain further appreciation for the arts, history, and religious imagery.

Ms. D. Shmerykowsky and Ms. K. Schnurr

Music Department News

The wintertime is always busy for Prep's Music department. Even with our facilities being renovated, teachers and students alike have stepped up to extraordinary heights.

Recent newsletters have highlighted our sold-out Christmas Concerts, our giving back to the community, such as members of our Chamber Orchestra performing at Presentation Parish's Soup Kitchen, and Chamber Choir providing live Christmas Carols at Prep's tree lighting.

January was a time for our beginning students to shine. Since the 2007-8 school year, Prep Music Department has been mounting a concert that includes our beginner string classes, our beginner woodwind and brass classes, our beginner percussion classes, and our String Orchestra and Junior Band. This concert, which is oftentimes presented with narration, provides parents and audience members with highlights of just what goes into learning an instrument and gives a glimpse into the joys and successes that continued musical study can hold. In all, nearly 270 students participated, many of them performing for the first time!

This concert is one of the many reasons St. Francis Prep is recognized, not only for our second-to-none arts programs, but because of the myriad opportunities the school regularly provides its students.

Additionally, Chamber Orchestra continued to provide a touch of elegance to many different school events, including our National Honor Society Induction Ceremony and our Special Programs Night, where our Jazz Band is also a regular fixture.

Our next major department performance is our Jazz-Pop concert on Friday, March 18th, at 7:45PM in the Brother Ralph Clifford Memorial Auditorium.

English Department News

The English Department is pleased to announce that our two students performed remarkably well at last week's New York City *Poetry Out Loud* Competition at F.I.T. in Manhattan. Sophomore Matthew O'Donnell and Senior Maggie Capozzoli-Cavota gave stellar recitations of their poems. Maggie reached the final round of competition and won 1st place! Maggie will represent New York City at the New York State *Poetry Out Loud* Competition in Syracuse on March 14th. Last year Maggie was NYC's runner-up, and she made it to the final round of the New York State Competition. We wish her much success!



Model UN

The St. Francis Preparatory School Model UN attended a conference held at Connetquot High School on February 6, 2016. Although we did not win an award, our delegates made a strong showing among the 200 attendees from 8 high schools from the NY area.



Sports



College Signing- Olivia Bullaro – Delaware State – Soccer



College Signing- Alyssa Siess – Dominican College – Softball

Boys Basketball

Congratulations to Kyle Beeson on making CHSAA All City 3rd Team.

SFP Hockey

The hockey team enjoyed another playoff-bound season. The Terriers lost in the Semi-Final round to Xavier. Senior captain Jack Mastronardi led the Terriers through a challenging season wonderfully. Junior alternate captains Matt Castillo and Angelo Les helped by being great teammates and leaders. They sacrificed and played extremely hard during the season. Matt played out of position most of the year and excelled, earning 7 wins as goaltender for the Terriers. Under first year coach Steve Cameron, the hockey team finished 8-6-0 with a young, talented group. We expect to have a great returning set of players next year. Thank you to the teachers, administrators, parents, and fellow students for your support this year!



Girls Track:

On Saturday, Marian Wright placed second at the Catholic HS State Track and Field Championship in the Triple Jump at Ocean Breeze, Staten Island. This qualified her for the NYS Track and Field Championship on March 5 at Cornell University. [Girls Indoor Track Slideshow](#) [HERE](#)

