

## Summer 2019

*The Prep never sleeps!*  
Mr. McLaughlin

# ***SUMMER AT SFP***

As we ready for the 2019-20 school year, let's look back at the various activities and trips our students were engaged in during July and August. In addition, close to 1000 elementary and middle school students participated in one of our sports camps or summer academies.

### Reminder:

We will e-mail student schedules for the first semester before the first day of classes. Please be sure your child downloads his or her schedule. Please have your child save a copy to his or her iPad and print a copy. The first day of classes is Friday, 6 September. We will begin at 8:25 with A period with the regular day 1 schedule. H period classes will begin on Monday, 9 September.

Students with questions about their schedule can see Mr. Castellano on Wednesday, 4 September, or Thursday, 5 September. We remind you and your child that the last day to request course changes was Friday, 28 June. There are no course changes now.

We wish you and your family a successful and wonderful school year ahead. All the best.

### **Summer Symposium**

Each year St. Francis Prep holds the Summer College Symposium for rising seniors to begin their college application process. Ms. Robyn Armon and Ms. Becky Barell, along with Mr. Brandon Magenheim and several Prep graduates, helped over 300 students complete their Common App and write their college essay. Students are now able to start their senior year prepared to take on the college application process with ease.





Common Cents Program



## CAMPUS MINISTRY

This summer, Prep's Campus Ministry team oversaw a number of distinct programs that gave students an opportunity to emulate the spirit of service embodied by St. Francis.

The first was the SFP Summer Service Academy. In two one-week sessions, students had the opportunity to volunteer at local service sites, such as The Mary Brennan INN in Hempstead, Presentation Soup Kitchen in Jamaica, and St. John's Bread and Life in Brooklyn. Students shared in discussions about poverty and social justice and what they can do to help in the world around them. The program was geared towards those students whose academic and extracurricular commitments don't allow time for service during the course of the school year. Students completed 36 Hours of service in their one-week commitment and enjoyed their time preparing and serving meals, sorting donations, visiting the elderly, and mentoring young children. Special thanks to all our volunteers and community partners!

Second was Prep's Franciscan Immersion Experience (F.I.E.). There are a number of F.I.E. trips each year, to places such as Camden, NJ, and Cape Girardeau, MO. This summer, Prep students traveled to Peru to serve at the Hogar San Francisco de Asis, or the Home of St. Francis. This is a facility outside Lima that serves Peruvian children with significant medical needs whose families cannot afford their required care. The students were able to work side-by-side with Dr. Tony Lazzara, a Florida pediatrician who, like the early Franciscans, sold his belongings and left the life he knew behind to serve. The experience was a day-to-day ministry of presence with the young children of the Hogar. Volunteers offered support and help at the Hogar, oftentimes for some tragic situations. They escorted patients to Hospitals in Lima's city-center, accompanied younger patients to the local park to play, and even treated all of the Hogar residents to a trip to the movies to see The Lion King! This year's trip was led by Campus Minister Mr. Sempowich, a veteran of this trip, along with another veteran, Religion teacher Ms. Glynn, and first time Peru chaperones Ms. Ruotolo (Campus Ministry) and Mr. Vlkovic (Religion). The students who volunteered in Peru this year were thoughtful, hardworking, and generous. They were eager to give of themselves and have already begun to speak of their return trips to see the children of the Hogar.





### **Iceland Trip**

This past July, an intrepid group from the Prep traveled to Iceland, “The Land of Fire and Ice.” The journey was filled with wonderful landscapes, beautiful vistas, and remarkable geological activity all within what the Icelanders call “The Golden Circle” tour, which includes hot springs, waterfalls, glaciers, and volcanoes.

On this tour, students explored the rich geological and cultural history of Iceland from its earliest days. They visited “Pingvellir” (pronounced thing-vellir; it means assembly field), the location of the creation of the first parliamentary system of government (930 AD) and its amazing geology. Unknown to the Icelanders of the time, Pingvellir is also the location where the mid-Atlantic ridge comes ashore. They stood on the border of the North American and European tectonic plates. It is this feature that gave Iceland its incredible scenery and gives life to the numerous active volcanoes on the island continent. Students learned how these systems provide Iceland with a constant source of renewable geothermal energy and how the locals there are learning to use this resource to grow food in this cold climate and in everyday life.



We also visited with the Icelandic horse, a small version of the Arabian breeds. We were, however, warned to not call them “ponies” as this is offensive to the horse. One of the tour highlights was the glacier hike. This was quite challenging and many bravely had to step out of their comfort zones and, boy, was it worth it.

Please enjoy the photos posted on The Prep website: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmFf1ViJ>  
**Assisi Independent Studies Program**

June 26 - July 3, 2019

For one week this summer, Mr. Hafker and his wife took 13 incredible Prep students to Greccio, Assisi, Perugia, and Rome. Many highlights of the trip focused on places and events in the life of St. Francis, especially the Church of San Damiano and San Damiano crucifix, Santa Chiara Basilica (with the body of St. Clare), San Francesco Basilica (with Francis' tomb), Cathedral of San Rufino, Mt. Subasio, the castle Rocca Maggiore, St. Mary of the Angels Basilica (with the Little Portion chapel inside), and an afternoon in the medieval city of Perugia.

In Rome, the group visited St. Peter's, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Basilica of St. John Lateran (the pope's church), the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona, Villa Borghese Park, the Pantheon, Castel Sant'Angelo, and the Capuchin Crypts. The kids also loved riding the Rome buses and metro with the locals.



This special travel abroad program counts as a half credit course. The students had to keep a travel journal; upon their return write a paper based on what they learned, discovered, experienced, and felt. It was difficult for all to end this wonderful trip together!

### **Europe Trip**

This year's students had the opportunity to visit Paris, Cinque Terre, Rome, and Sorrento. They learned how to celebrate like the locals and browse through unique events, discover exciting routes and savor typical French and Italian food. In addition, not only were students able to absorb Rome's heritage and culture, which dates back to thousands of years, but they also walked through three of the five villages of Cinque Terre, soaking in the natural and cultural beauty of ancient castles to quaint seaside towns. What an adventure!



**Summer Camps and Academies**



# SF *Principal's Newsletter*



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