



**March 30, 2016**

**"You must knock on doors until your knuckles bleed.  
Doors will slam in your face.  
You must pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and knock again.  
It's the only way to achieve your goals in life."  
Michael Uslan, *film producer***

The month of March gave us some unpredictable weather but also blessed us with accomplishment here at SFP. We proudly inducted students into our National History Scholars Society and our Science Honors Society. On March 10th, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of International Night. The presentation of food, music, and dance is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our proud diversity living under the American flag. On March 17th, our student council, cheerleaders, Irish Club, and alumni once again took to 5th Avenue to march in the St. Patrick's Day parade. [Facebook Photos](#) [HERE](#)

Every year we march to commemorate and honor the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn who founded our great school in 1858 by sending two Brothers from Galway, Ireland, to Brooklyn and established St. Francis Academy, ultimately renamed St. Francis Prep. The following evening, Saturday, March 18, 2017, more than 700 alumni, family and friends gathered at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, NY, to celebrate the rich athletic tradition at the Prep!

The purpose of the Red and Blue Terrier Ring of Honor is to recognize the achievements of our prominent athletes, coaches, moderators, athletic directors, and others who have contributed most notably to our sports history and who have enhanced the spirit and reputation of the Prep. Alumni Board President Wally Bishop '80 said, "The love, happiness, and enthusiasm in the room on Saturday were extraordinary. The honorees and championship team members were thrilled with the honors bestowed and they reflected on the wonderful memories of their high school experience." [Facebook Photos](#) [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

We are also happy to report that 7 of our students are presently involved in religious education classes each week in preparation to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in May. Please keep these students in your prayers. On Tuesday, March 28th, we held a school-wide Day of Reconciliation for our entire school community. We extended our Cor period and used the PA to lead the prayers. There were announcements through the morning inviting the different levels to the Auditorium to speak with a priest and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Congratulations!** Linda Baldacchino, Religion teacher, was the recipient of the Humanitarian Award for her work at SFP and Youth Board Coordinator at Our Lady of Lourdes Church for her work helping disadvantaged families. The events that Mrs. Baldacchino has organized collected between two and four tons of food per year. We are all very proud of her service to the community.

Great work to all!  
Mr. McLaughlin



## Principal's Newsletter

**SFP's oldest Alum!** During his recent visit with alumni in Florida, Brother Leonard Conway met with Dr. James Farrell, SFP Class of 1939, at his home in the Orlando area. It is believed that Dr. Farrell, who turns 96 later this year, is the Prep's oldest living alumnus.



*From the desk of Mr. Mendolia*

This month, St. Francis Prep held its first annual head-shaving event to support the *St. Baldrick's Foundation* and families affected by pediatric cancer. Three members of the St. Francis Prep faculty and twenty-two students shaved their heads in support of Isabella Ieraci (Class of 2032), raising funds for pediatric cancer research and families in financial crisis as a result of childhood cancer. Isabella's parents are both alumni of Prep and her father, Peter, recently spoke to our students at school assemblies describing the challenges his family and all families affected by pediatric cancer face every day. He also discussed the mission of *The St. Baldrick's Foundation* and explained how SFP students could help.

The event symbolized our support of Isabella in her fight against childhood cancer and raised approximately \$10,000. All students who participated will be recognized by the school community for their efforts at a later date. The top student fundraiser was sophomore Raquel Ramirez. She raised just over \$2,000. Raquel was the only female student to participate; before she had her head shaved, she cut off 10 inches of her hair, which was then donated to *Locks of Love*. *Locks of Love* is an organization that uses human hair to make wigs for patients who have lost their hair while undergoing chemotherapy.

A special thank you goes out to all faculty and staff members who supported the event. In particular we would like to recognize Mrs. Camus, Mr. Corrado, Mr. Ganci, Mrs. Kardon, Mrs. Klein, Mr. May, Mr. McCormack, Ms. O'Neill, Mr. Purificato, Mrs. Robertson, and Mrs. Torreblanca for all they did to make this event successful.

# SF Principal's Newsletter

Before:



After:



### Mathematics

π (Pi)Day at the Prep in 2017

A snow day interrupted our Pi Day Celebration this year!

It was encouraging to see the increasing number of students who got involved in the Pi Day celebration. Those visiting the Math Museum in New York City were at an all-time high. Although Mo Math exhibits cater to the younger students, the museum is a great place to visit for all age levels. The verbal feedback, posters, and pictures were fun to hear and see. We hope many more students will visit Mo Math next year.



Throughout the grade levels, there were great posters addressing Pi, Einstein, and math concepts. A spotlight was put on "Women in the Space Programs" in all the countries throughout the world, especially the United States. Further, we celebrated Einstein, who was born on March 14th. In the future, we hope to have an Einstein and Pythagoras lookalike contest. The members of the Mathematics department deserve recognition for encouraging the Pi Day spirit. Special thanks to Mrs. Bethany Klein for choosing the Pi Day shirt and organizing their distribution to all students. Finally, thanks goes out to Sister Mary Ann's Calculus classes who decorated the halls and stairways with the Pi Day Posters!

**Science**



Mr. Gonzalez's Physics class Roller Coaster project.

**Social Studies**

**Trip to Europe Summer of 2018 June 26th-July 8th**

*One of history's darkest moments takes on a poignant immediacy when you walk through the cities, towns, and buildings where the events occurred. At the Jewish Museum in Berlin, in the Warsaw Ghetto, in Prague's Jewish Quarter, and at the camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau, you have the opportunity to recall the suffering, honor the victims, and celebrate the liberation.*

Next summer there will be a trip to Europe to visit some of the sites and cities that are instrumental in understanding the European Holocaust that occurred during the period of the Second World War.



The tour is open to all current students. The tour will be led by Mr. Hessel of the Social Studies department who has been teaching about World War II and the Holocaust for over a decade.

### Art

On January 6th, 2017, students from AP Art History, C.A.D., and Mechanical Architectural Drawing ventured into Manhattan for a divine experience of religious art work. We first 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 constructions was breathtaking! For the students 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 and Dark 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 that allowed the students to gain further appreciation for the arts, history, and religious imagery. Ms. D. Shmerykowsky and Ms. K. Schnurr organized and chaperoned the trip.

### **Ceramic Artist Tim Roda Visits the SFP Art Department!**

Ceramic Artist Tim Roda spent the day with the SFP Ceramic Class. Students had the opportunity to work side by side with the accomplished artist. They created clay sculptures of animal heads and learned how to throw on the wheel. Tim spoke in depth about his life and career as an artist. The students had a life- changing day and created their own individual masterpiece!



**Nassau Community College Art Competition**

**Honors Program Presents the Nineteenth Annual Science Fair  
and Art and Theater Competition**

On Saturday March 19, 2017, eight of our art students exhibited their work at the Nassau Community College Art Exhibition and Competition. The exhibition focused on a theme of Identity and self-portraiture. Art students had to visually represent the answer to the question, "How does identity inform your values, beliefs, and actions?"



Gabriela Espinal-Santiago, Jessica Romano, and Laima Kezys attended the award ceremony and reception. Janine Sahagun received Honorable Mention, and Laima Kezys was awarded Art Excellence. It was truly a memorable day!

**SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SUMMER ART EXHIBITION  
ART DEPARTMENT POST CARD DESIGN WINNER**

Saint Francis Prep Art Department student Margaret Panoti was the winner of the Saint John's University High School Post Card Art Competition. Her design will be on the post card for the Saint John's University Art Department summer show. High Schools in the local area competed for the chance to have their work exhibited on the post card. Congratulations, Margaret: we are so proud of you!



**Music**

March was another busy month for Prep's Music department. We have begun to register our new students in their ensembles and hear auditions. Welcome to all our new students and their families! Our Jazz Band performed to great acclaim at Prep's 2nd Red and Blue Ring of Honor on March 18th. On March 23rd, our Alumni Board hosted our 3rd Annual Alumni in the Arts reception, attended by Dr. Corbino and Mr. Johnston. On March 17th, our Jazz Band welcomed world-renowned Jazz drummer Tony Tedesco. Mr. Tedesco worked separately with the band's rhythm section and then with the full band. Then on March 24th, New York City's foremost freelance trumpet player, Tony Kadleck, visited our Jazz Band.



This Friday, March 31st, we will present our annual Jazz-Pop concert. The night will feature our Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Honors Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Band. We will also welcome special guests, the Jazz Band from Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy. The concert begins at 7:45PM; doors open at 7:15PM. General admission tickets are \$5 and are available at the door. A highlight of the evening will be one of the first ever live performances by the Chamber Orchestra of "Intrada," a new work by Brian Balmages. Honors Percussion Ensemble will present the Kansas hit, "Carry On, Wayward Son," arranged by senior Ben Santos. PLEASE JOIN US!!!

### **Newspaper Awards**

The following students represented the Seraph by attending Press Day and the Quill Awards at Adelphi University: Kathryn Pender, Renee Grasso, Jake Sabatini, Siena DeBendittis, Colleen Petrere, Lindsay Sayour, John Vicari, Nora Flores, Charlize Ruiz, and Ashley Fils-Aime. Kathryn Pender, Renee Grasso, and Megan Clifford won an award for Best Layout, and Siena DeBenedittis won for Best Opinion Piece. Congratulations to the winners and to the entire staff for producing a fantastic newspaper for St. Francis Prep!



### **Common Cents Program**

The SFP team of Jewel Chavis, Tyler Hartman, Brandon Florez, and Mark Milan competed on March 17 in the HS Fed Challenge at the Federal Reserve in lower Manhattan. The team did a great job in a difficult environment. They competed against schools as far away as Allentown and New Paltz.



The format was as follows: The team was called from a communal waiting room and brought into a conference room where they had to make their case for monetary policy decisions to an analyst at the Federal Reserve. The team came to their decisions after analyzing real-world data regarding GDP, CPI, inflation, labor, and housing statistics. We worked on the project for a month by having after-school meetings and a meeting during the February break at the main branch of the public library on Fifth Avenue. After they presented their argument, they had to answer 15 minutes of questions. At the conclusion of their presentation, the students were invited to ask questions about his job, career path, etc. It turns out that he had participated in the College Fed Challenge for numerous years while a college student himself. All in all, it was a great day and every student walked away with a much better understanding of what the Fed does, how they make decisions, and how the economy is a complex web of interrelated parts.

### **Speech and Debate**

Congratulations to Havilland Firoz and Nyla Firoz for qualifying for Debate Nationals in Kentucky in May!

### **Model UN**

The Model UN Team attended a conference at Schreiber High School in Port Washington, N.Y., with 7 other high schools from the NYC and Long Island area. There were over 200 delegates. St. Francis Prep had a strong showing winning 3 awards. Congratulations to all those who attended and in particular to Penda Martin (COR 210) and Athanasios Dilos (COR 104) who earned honorable mentions and Joshua Matthews (COR 211) who won "Best Delegate."



### **Recognition**

On Wednesday, March 22nd, Sanaia Layne Cor 209 was invited to be a guest student speaker at an open- to- the-public town hall community meeting named "Thrive NYC: A Mental Health Roadmap for All," featuring First Lady of New York City, Chirlane McCray. Sanaia shared her middle school experiences with racism and how those experiences helped shape her to become the proud and resilient person she is today.



## Principal's Newsletter

**Over 600 tickets sold already!**

### **Join us: St. Francis Prep Night with the NY Mets at Citi Field**

On Tuesday night, May 30th, St. Francis Prep will be recognized by The New York Mets at Citi Field. Prior to the 7:00 game between The Mets and The Milwaukee Brewers, our highly regarded Chamber Choir will be on the field to perform their own special rendition of The National Anthem. The ceremonial first pitch will be thrown by our Principal, Mr. Patrick McLaughlin.



The Mets have reserved multiple sections of seating on the lower level just beyond the left field fence for our students, faculty and staff, families, friends, and alumni at the discounted rate of \$22 per ticket. Tickets can be ordered through Ms. Zerilli in the Faculty-Staff Lounge or by contacting her through email or by telephone. She can be reached at [gzerilli@sfponline.org](mailto:gzerilli@sfponline.org) or (718)-423-8810 ext. 211.

We look forward to a fun-filled night celebrating these two great Queens county institutions and hope that you will be able to join us.

### **Parade**

On March 26th, Ms. Bradfield escorted the Greek Club to the annual Greek Independence Day parade on 5th Ave. in Manhattan to celebrate 196 years of independence.



**Sports**



Alexander Gzik signing with St Joseph's College for soccer.



Gabriella Costa will be attending Queens College next year and playing soccer.

**Alumni News**

After a vigorous recruitment process, Mark Burik, SFP graduate, has been named to Assistant Coach of the Men's Collegiate Beach National Team.



He is the only US National Team Coach who is ALSO still competing on the Domestic and International Pro Tours.