



Principal's Newsletter

April 30, 2017

"When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too."
Paulo Coelho

Campus Ministry

Senior Retreats Over 80 seniors took time to participate in the annual Senior Retreats offered by the Campus Ministry Team. The day away at Camp Alvernia gave the students time to reflect and pray about their past four years at SFP and discuss their concerns and excitement about the next steps after high school. Jeanne Buccino, Joe Licata, and Brian McCormack were the featured faculty speakers at the retreats. They offered the graduating seniors keen insights about dealing effectively with transition in their lives and shared about the importance of staying close to God. Each retreat concluded with a liturgy centered on Matthew's gospel (Mt. 7: 24-27) of building our lives on a strong foundation.

Summer Service Academy Back by popular demand! The Office of Campus Ministry is offering two sessions of the SFP Service Academy this summer from June 26-30th and July 10-14th. Open to any SFP students, this week-long program brings participants to local soup kitchens, food pantries, etc., to learn first-hand about what teens can do about poverty in NYC. Each participant earns 35 service hours and receives a certificate of commendation from the school. Sign up while spots are still available!

Senior Trip to Disney and Universal

This year's Senior Trip to Disney and Universal was a lot of fun! Members of the Senior class enjoyed 4 fun-filled days in Disney World and Universal Studios. The trip served as a great bonding experience for the seniors. Enjoying plenty of time to explore the parks and ride the rides with their friends, group meals, and exclusive use of rides allowed all the seniors on the trip to come together as the Class of 2017.



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Students enjoyed some of the park's biggest and most popular rides without having to wait in line. They were even taken to the front of the lines for two of the rides in *Harry Potter World* in Universal. A great time was had by all and the students were given a trip that they will always remember.

English Department

On April 3rd, Mr. Hafker's two junior classes went to Manhattan to "Walk in Holden's Footsteps." On a mission to bring important places and scenes from the novel *The Catcher in the Rye* to life, students visited the Museum of Natural History to watch an Imax film in the famous LeFrak Theater and observe the many life sized dioramas and glass cases. The students ended their trip with a walk through Central Park and ride on the carousel where the final scene of the novel takes place.

General consensus for the highlight of the day was 53 high school students taking over the carousel, laughing and taking pictures, and feeling like kids again--in other words, an experience that would have made the main character of the novel very proud! Special thanks to Ms. Niklaus and Ms. Pietryga for helping to chaperone this trip.

Congratulations to the students who were inducted into the "Red and Blue Chapter" of the English National Honor Society at the annual luncheon on Wednesday, April 26.

National English Honor Society (NEHS) is the only national organization exclusively for high school students who, in the field of English, merit special note for past and current accomplishments. At St. Francis, the chapter is composed of superior students who have distinguished themselves in the discipline during their time at the Prep. They are nominated by the English faculty.

Juniors:

Jessica Caliendo 303
Christopher Francone 306
Margaret Kearney 309
Nicholas Kokotos 309
Constantino Kosmidis 304
Elpida Leontiadis 309
Olivia Morris 311
Nicole O'Connor 312
Sarah Williams 318

Seniors:

John Fauvell 406
Amanda Hardardt 408
Colleen Petrere 414
Jake Sabatini 415
Katherine Schillat 416
Priya Singh 416
Christina Valeros 417





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ART DEPARTMENT

LANDSCAPE PAINTING WORKSHOP Painting 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 a landscape. 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!

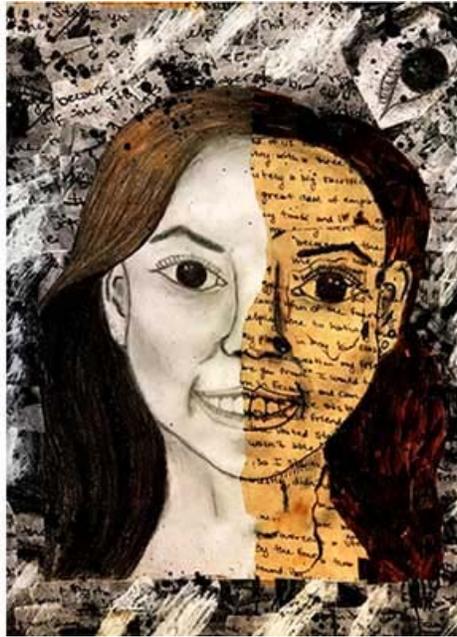


THE 2017 JURIED NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY EXHIBITION Students in Advanced Drawing and Painting entered their art work in the NAHS summer exhibition. This exhibition showcases the art work of talented students across the country. All students whose work is selected will receive an



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invitation to the exhibition, a special certificate, and press release. We are excited to have over twenty art students enter art work in the Juried Exhibit! Accepted work will be announced in May.



ADVANCED ART STUDENTS PAINT FROM A LIVE MODEL This month, Art students from Mrs. Buccino's and Ms. Shmerykowsky's painting classes had the opportunity to paint from a professional model. Prep Alumni Rashawn Wilkinson, class of 2013, posed for our art students. Rashawn professionally models for college art students. The painting class spent the afternoon sketching and painting Rashawn. They had life drawing and painting experiences to help their art skills and prepare for future art school classes.





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FASHION DESIGNER TRE' ANDERSON VISITS SFP ART DEPARTMENT On Wednesday, April 26th, Tre' Anderson visited our National Art Honor Society meeting. Tre' is a fashion designer and creative director. He has experience and expertise in fashion production development. Tre' is an assistant designer and fashion buyer in the industry. He spoke to the fashion design students about his career, clientele, and his life as a designer. Tre' gave a digital presentation, showed actual client boards, and had models exhibiting his actual garments! Students were thrilled to meet Tre' and learn from his experiences!



New York Botanical Gardens Advanced Painting Trip On April 26, 2017 the Saint Francis Prep Advanced Painting class ventured to the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx. The daffodils, crab apple trees, and azaleas were in full bloom. The class set up their portable easels, acrylic paints, and hand stretched canvases and painted for the entire day. These students had the opportunity to create paintings in an astounding outdoor atmosphere. After painting they enjoyed lunch in the café and headed back to Prep to finish up their paintings after school.



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Art Students Participate in Nation Wide Design Competition Last month, students of Advanced Drawing and Painting and Graphic Design participated in a national competition, called Vans Custom Contest. This contest was created by the shoe company Vans to inspire and empower high school students to embrace their creativity through art and design. In the end, we chose five students to represent our school: Maggie Mansfield, Justin DiMaggio, Camille Uy, Mariana Papadopoulous, and Julia Lipari. Each student was tasked to design a blank Van shoe and customize it based on five given themes: Local Flavor, Art, Music, Action Sports, and Technology Design. Their designs have now been submitted and they are waiting to see if they have been chosen to be a part of the top 50. If they make it through, it will be up to their classmates and school to help them through a public voting process. The top five go on to the final event and will have a chance to be flown out to Los Angeles to celebrate their art and could win the grand prize worth \$50,000. Our five artists made some amazing work and we wish them all the best!



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Scholastic Art and Writing Awards: New York City Regional Exhibition Opening Reception On Friday, March 24th, 2017, three seniors from our school attended an opening reception for their accomplishment of winning Gold Keys from the Scholastic Art and Writing Award. These seniors were Jennifer Paredes, Gabrielle Pelczar, and Camille Uy. All three of them have been a part of the Art Department since their freshman year and their teachers are tremendously proud of what they have accomplished during their time with us. Winning a Gold Key Award from Scholastic Arts and Writing is a massive achievement, not only because of all the New York City teens who entered, but also because their work was recognized as some of the strongest.





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They will have their art work exhibited in one of the most famous locations: the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, the Scholastic Awards are the longest-running and most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in the United States. Located in the Ruth and Harold D. Uris Center for Education, their art work, along with more than 600 works of art and writing, will be exhibited from March 24th to May 29th. Many other students from the Art Department also entered the competition, ranging from Sophomores to Seniors, and received Silver Keys and Honorable Mentions. The Art Department is extremely proud of all those who entered and their accomplishments!

Music

Prep's Music department will present our annual Spring Concerts on May 5th and May 12th. In all, nearly 650 students will be performing over both nights. May 5th will spotlight all three orchestras, both percussion ensembles, and our Concert Chorus. In addition, we will welcome our beginner string students from P.S. 115 who will perform alongside our Chamber Orchestra. This is the fifth year Prep has had a partnership with P.S. 115. Prep Trustee, Gerald Scales, '76, will be narrating the work "Lincoln at Gettysburg" with the Chamber Orchestra.

Spring Concerts I & II

Concert I FRIDAY MAY 5, 2017
String Orchestra, Honors Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra,
Concert Chorus, Percussion Ensemble
Including String Students from P.S. 115
and Narration by Gerald Scales ('76)
Doors open at 7:15 Concert at 7:45

Concert II MAY 12, 2017
Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Prep Chorus,
Chamber Choir, Junior Band, Band Students from P. S. 115,
St. Gregory, St. Luke School and Sacred Heart Catholic Academy
Doors open at 7:150 Concert at 7:45

In the Brother Ralph Auditorium

The poster features a background image of a percussion ensemble performing on stage. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image in a blue, serif font.

May 12th will feature all three bands, Prep Chorus, and Chamber Orchestra. Special guests that night will be the concert bands from St. Gregory the Great School, St. Luke School, Sacred Heart Catholic Academy, and our beginning band students from P.S. 115. A musical highlight of that night will be



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Prep Chorus' rendition of "My Shot," from the smash Broadway hit "Hamilton," accompanied by a band comprised of Prep's Music faculty. We will also be honoring Paul Effman, the founder and director of Paul Effman Music Service, for his years of dedicated service to the student-musicians of the Diocese of Brooklyn, including many current and former Prep students.

General admission tickets are \$5 and are available in advance in Prep's Music office or at the door the night of each concert. Each performance begins at 7:45PM; doors open at 7:15PM. Please join us and celebrate the successes of our students!

On April 27th, Ms. Soderberg took her String Orchestra to an open rehearsal of the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center's newly renovated David Geffen Hall. For many of our students, this was their first experience seeing a professional orchestra, let alone one of the world's best!



Congratulations to Siyumeng Wang, Senior, on her acceptance to the Juilliard School! This is a very significant achievement that Siyumeng attained. We should all be very proud!



Social Studies

History Day is a national competition that celebrates our students' love for the past. This year's topic was "Taking a Stand in History." In March, after nearly a year of hard work, four students participated in the New York City History Day Competition at the Museum of the City of New York in Manhattan. They created documentaries, websites, and original performances. Three of our students were rewarded for their hard work, earning a place at the state level competition.

On April 24th, we ventured to Cooperstown, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Sienna DiBenedettis, who created an original documentary entitled ***Its Carrier is Man; its Demise is Woman: Rachel Carson and the Environmental Movement***, which highlighted the negative effects of the pesticide DDT and one woman's fight to defend our Earth, earned fourth place in the state.



Jenna and Robyn Alma, who created an expository website entitled ***THE WORKPLACE REBELLION: HOW THE WOMEN OF NEWSWEEK STOOD UP FOR THEIR RIGHTS AND INSPIRED A WIDESPREAD REVOLUTION***, explored the courageous work of the young women of *Newsweek* who fought for women's rights in journalism and those who inspired them. Their entry earned the American Labor Studies Award from the Kate Mullany National Historic Site, which was awarded to the most outstanding overall entry focused on American Labor. We would like to congratulate and thank these students for all they have done to beautifully share these hidden stories of history in their own unique way.

The 9th- and 10th-grade AP World History classes enjoyed the opportunity to enhance their classroom lessons by visiting the Cloisters. Both groups of students enjoyed learning about the various differences in Romanesque and Gothic architecture and monastic life during the early and late Middle Ages. The students were accompanied by their teachers, Mrs. Haussermann and Mr. Leston, and Mr. McLaughlin and Ms. Armon, who enjoyed getting to know our students and getting a quick history lesson.

SF *Principal's Newsletter*



Governor Cuomo's Press Conference at LaGuardia Community College



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Congratulations to Jake Sabatini, senior, for receiving recognition in the 2017 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards presented by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. A thank you to Mr. Masselli from our English department who served as Jake's mentor.



Sports

On Friday, April 21st, the Girls Varsity Softball team traveled to Herkimer, NY, and participated in the Cure for Cancer Tournament at the Mudville Complex.



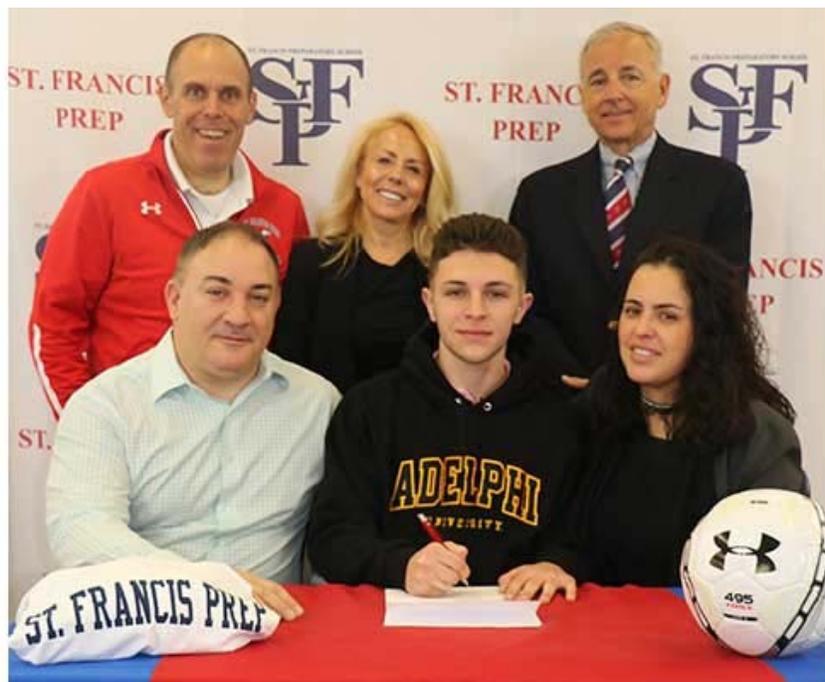


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The Girl's Varsity team hosted an Easter dinner at the Presentation Soup Kitchen on Thursday, April 20th, 2017. This is the 5th year that the team has hosted this event. All varsity players, family, and friends took part in this event.



Congratulations to Mariopio Dipasquale, Senior, on his signing to Adelphi University to play Soccer!





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Alumni Association

ST. FRANCIS PREP
24TH ANNUAL GOLF & TENNIS CLASSIC
Monday, June 19, 2017
CHERRY VALLEY CLUB, GARDEN CITY, NY

We've added Tennis
Newly added for 2017!

OUR 2017 HONOREES:
Robert A. Waegelein '78 and John Brennan H'08

Please call 718.423.8810 ext. 268/269 for more information OR click the calendar item at www.alumni.sfponline.org.