



Principal's Newsletter

January 30, 2017
Principal's Newsletter

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson."

As we begin the second semester and focus on doing our best over the 3rd quarter, we also begin our course registration for next year. (Finally, the seniors are finally free of that process). Our calendar also indicates that Parent-Teacher interviews will take place on **Thursday, February 2nd**. Recently added to our calendar, St. Francis Prep and the Franciscan Brothers have collaborated with Unity Productions and will be having an advanced screening of the *Sultan and the Saint* on Feb. 9 at 7pm in the auditorium. See the information further in the Newsletter from Brother James regarding the screening. All are welcome! As we reach the midway point of the 2016-17 school year, let us continue to grow our minds through best efforts in all we do.

Mr. McLaughlin

COURSE REGISTRATION FOR 2017-2018

Since our return from Christmas vacation, students have been involved in getting advisement for courses for next year. Course registration will take place 2-5 February. Students will select their classes through their Power School accounts. If students have not yet met with their guidance counselors, they should do so right away. Once students select their classes, they must print the sheet of classes and have a parent or guardian sign it; students will submit this sheet in Cor on 6 February. Parents and guardians with questions about course selection should call their child's guidance counselor or Mr. Castellano, at ext. 209.

Brother Leonard Takes Prep "On the Road"

Among the many hats he wears as President of St. Francis Prep, Brother Leonard Conway has become particularly fond of the one that reads "Happy Traveler," meeting with alumni locally and around the country as he continues to spread the good news about the school and request the financial support of those with whom he spends his time—at their home, at their place of work, at a restaurant over a meal or a cup of coffee—wherever is most convenient for his audience. Most of these are one-on-one sessions, arranged by the Prep's Office of Development and designed around the personal touch that Brother brings to each meeting.

Most recently, in late October, Brother visited with eight (8) Prep graduates in Northern California (and also spent time with Campaign Chairman John Brown '76 who moved to San Francisco last year) Two weeks ago (January 9-13), Brother had the opportunity to spend time with nine (9) Prep alums in Texas during one-on-one meetings he conducted in Dallas, Houston, and Austin.

As part of each discussion, Brother reviews some of the highlights from the 2015-16 school year, which include the awarding of Middle States Association credentials to our **Art and Guidance Departments** (the highest level of recognition for a high school program) AND the unveiling of several completely renovated and modernized areas for our award-winning **Music Department** together with many bright new updates to our lower level corridors and hallways.

Brother goes on to explain that the current renovation work is part of Phase III of our ongoing Capital Improvement and Modernization Program which continues to be funded in large measure by **The Campaign for St. Francis Prep: The Next 150**. He reminds each person he's with that early Phase III work resulted in our beautiful Science labs, while Phases I and II resulted in a totally upgraded infrastructure and wonderful Physical Fitness and Art Education Centers.

He concludes each discussion by suggesting ways to participate in the campaign financially, and he leaves behind a complete packet of information that provides more details and helps answer questions (which Brother is also available to address personally in the days that follow).

Follow-up communications take place over the course of time and many alumni "make their commitment" to the campaign as a result of this process. This is usually a major gift payable over several years and sometimes includes a provision for an estate or planned gift to the Prep. Brother Leonard's upcoming trips will include visits with alumni in North and South Carolina (mid-February) and Florida (March).

Thankfully, The Campaign for St. Francis Prep has now received over \$11 million in cash and commitments in support of the school's capital improvement and modernization efforts. Slightly more than \$5 million was committed during the successful Stage One of the campaign and over \$6 million has now been committed toward the current Stage Two goal of \$10 million. The campaign will continue through 2018.

From the Finance Office

REMINDER to Parents: Please be sure to include the student ID# and name when making payment by a check to the school.

The Sultan and the Saint

Brother James McVeigh informs us that Saint Francis Prep and the Franciscan Brothers In collaboration with Unity Productions will have an advanced screening of *The Sultan and the Saint* on Feb. 9 at 7pm in the auditorium. The screening is taking place in 50 cities in advance of the Fall opening in theaters.

This Interfaith event will bring Christians and Muslims together. Here at St. Francis, we welcome people of all faiths, including our Muslim students. We are reaching out to the community to invite other Muslims and Christians to join us as we build bridges instead of walls. The evening will consist of a one-hour docudrama followed by interaction with the community and a representative from Unity Productions. This will be a wonderful educational and life experience for our students and adults. As part of the Franciscan family, following St. Francis' outreach to the Muslim community, we hope to build bridges with the Muslim community. In these contentious times in our country, let us do what we can to Be Living Instruments of Peace. The entire production will be over by 9pm.

Next page.....

St. Francis Prep earns high honors for Art and Guidance programs

The visual arts and school counseling programs at St. Francis Preparatory School(SFP) have been deemed “Programs of Distinction” — a prestigious title reserved for the country’s top-tier institutions — by the Middle States Association.



Read about it [HERE](#)



Principal's Newsletter

Model UN

January 14th, 2017 - 10th annual conference, 1st conference in Queens, 300 high school delegates, 15 high schools, 9 committees.



Music Department

The Music department continues to provide opportunities for students of every level and to lend the talents of our more advanced students to various school events.

On Friday, January 27th, our beginner students and younger ensembles were featured at our "Concert for Beginning Students." This concert is a vehicle for our beginner string, band, and percussion classes. Our Junior Band and String Orchestra will be the headliners. This unique performance details the in-class efforts of our beginners and gives our Junior Band and String Orchestra the chance to close a concert.

Our Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band both performed at Prep's "Accepted Students Night," showcasing their artistic integrity for potential members of Prep's Class of 2021. Chamber Orchestra has also begun rehearsal on "Intrada," by Brian Balmages, and is part of a consortium that will premiere the work. This is the ensemble's fourth premiere in three years.

The Music department was also well represented in Prep's Winter Academy, offering courses in Electronic Orchestration and Music Technology.

Finally, Prep's outreach program at P.S. 115 is now in full swing, as we recently began our fifth year partnering to offer instruction in orchestral and band instruments.

Keep an eye out on the Prep website for upcoming performances!

Principal's Newsletter

Alumni Day 2017

On January 5th, in the Br. Ralph Clifford, O.S.F., Memorial Auditorium, esteemed St. Francis Prep alumni gathered to share their experiences with our students for our annual Alumni Day. The alumni, both professionals and college students, came from near and far to speak about how their education at Prep positively affected their lives. Our college students gave us exciting information about their transition from high school to college, how to choose classes, and what it is like to live in a dorm. The professional alumni discussed their varied career paths and the many opportunities that students have as they go out into the working world. Our students were able to ask questions and connect with the alumni after each session. Some of our guests included Raymond Gachette (Pharmacist), Daniel Soares (Entrepreneur/Student), Jonathan Mendez (GWU), Richard Carlson (Bank Officer, Maspeth Federal Savings), Raymond Alma (Cartoonist), Cynthia Kouril (Lawyer), Stephen Conroy (Asst. Principal in Vietnam), Eugene Joseph (Product and New Ventures – Phosphorus), Tatjana Mustac (Rutgers), Ojani Waltrust (GWU), and Franco Sagliocca (Director, Mount Sinai Health System).



We are thankful to all of our alumni for taking the time out of their busy schedules to spend the day with us so that our students will be uniquely prepared as they leave this very special place as part of the global St. Francis Prep network.



Principal's Newsletter

Poetry Out Loud

The English Department is proud to announce the following winners of St. Francis Prep's 9th annual Poetry Out Loud competition: Aaila Awan from Cor 101 won 3rd place; Rebeca Oliveira from Cor 312 won 2nd place, and Sanaia Layne from Cor 209 won 1st place. Both Sanaia and Rebeca will be representing Prep at the New York City-Long Island Regionals on Feb. 15th at Stony Brook University, with a chance for them to go to the New York State Competition in Syracuse on March 10th.



For 8 out of 9 years, St. Francis Prep has been the only Catholic high school in New York City to compete in this prestigious national competition. We are also proud to have had 3 New York City Regional winners and 2 New York State Runners-Up.

Chemistry Class

On Tuesday, January 17th, Mrs. Gonzalez held her annual Crystal Growing Project Science Fair. These Chemistry students worked very hard to research and grow their own crystals throughout the course of quarter 2. As with previous years, Mr. Hafker was generous enough to have his classes come and judge the students. Each group or student had to make sure they presented their project well using their knowledge of chemistry.



Principal's Newsletter



The winners of the project are:

- B-Period:
 - Victoria Donato
 - Ariana Andrade
 - Katherine Giaramita
 - Zach Abouelkawaam
- E-Period:
 - Shania Small
 - Trinita Ukubiwe
 - Vansh Kumar

Congratulations to all of the students for a job well done!

Student Development

Congratulations to Michael Scaperotta, senior, who was selected to be a member of the Volunteer Fire Department of Locust Valley. Michael indicates, "The fire department is something that I really hold true to my heart. I don't believe there is any greater service you can do for your community than at a volunteer level. I felt it was my duty to join them on this great task by giving back to the community and lending a helping hand. Joining the fire department is a great achievement to me. There is an unbreakable brotherhood among the people who put on the helmets and run into a fire when everyone else is running out of it. The most valiant achievement of my service, however, was swearing the oath for the volunteer fire department. My greatest community service thus far has been joining the fire department." Good Job, Michael!



Principal's Newsletter

Sherry(Zhahui) Chen from cor 303 performed at her master's (Wang Chengyuan) 60th anniversary concert. The concert took place on Sunday, January 8th, at Alice Tully Hall of Lincoln Center. She performed one solo and three ensembles. She made her master very proud!

Marine Biology Class

On January 4th, 2017, the Marine Biology class visited the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut. We attended an endangered ecosystems workshop which focused on the changes that are occurring worldwide to our ecosystems.



At the end of the presentation, we were able to pet an alligator (one that had been rescued).



We visited the largest beluga whale exhibit and met Juno.

Sports

On Sunday January 29th the Varsity boys track and field team won the Brooklyn Queens Indoor Championship at the 168st armory. The team earned the victory with a score of 63 to 62 over Archbishop Molloy. The team was led by junior Zalen Nelson who was a double champion winning both the 3200 and 600 meter run. Hillary Harris was named outstanding field performer of the meet by winning the triple jump and placing third in the long jump. Other champions were, TJ Barrow Whitfield in the long jump, and the 1600 meter relay of Andre Sobers, Marc Dalce, Shawn Bendeck, and Johnathon Dinh. The team is looking to continue their success at the upcoming CHSAA championship and the NYS Championship next month.



Alumni

Read about Debra Rameriz's accomplishments for Hunter College's Track team.
Read about her [HERE](#)



Principal's Newsletter

NYC Family Court Attorneys Travel to Washington to be admitted to the Supreme Court. Deputy Chief Jennifer Gilroy Ruiz, SFP class of 1985, and her daughter Kathryn Ruiz, Cor 214, visited the Supreme Court in early January to meet with Justice Roberts for a ceremony and professional development.



Former St. Francis Prep and Marist College Player Marc Hamlin is in charge of Security for CFP National Championship Game

Read about him [HERE](#)

Congratulations to Seamus McCaffery (SFP Class of 2013) on his graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. Picture of his parents, SFP administrators, and former teachers will be displayed at the USAFA Graduation Ceremony.

