

**October 30, 2015**  
**Principal's Newsletter**

***"Success is not final and failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that matters."***

***Winston Churchill***

Although September is a very important and busy month, October brings its own level of high energy and activities. It is always joyous to begin the month with the Feast of St. Francis Liturgy where we honor faculty and staff members for their years of service while we witness our Franciscan Brothers renew their vows. On the same day, we hold our Fall Pep Rally in the gym and begin our Alumni Homecoming events. Keep in mind that the end of the 1st quarter is closing in quickly, Tuesday, November 10, and that all report cards will be sent electronically as we did last year.

We are very proud of the following students for their accomplishments:

**Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Program**

Christopher Andreou  
Kaitlyn Dantuono  
Justine Ecker  
Jack Holden  
Tash Illiparambil  
Fotini Mamos  
Rebecca Zhang

**The College Board National Hispanic Recognition Program**

Marianna Cortes  
Tyler Coyoc  
Ana Jimenez  
Matthew Lipari  
Julia Londono  
Eric Rojas  
Jared Sanchez

**JANUARY REGENTS EXAMS**

We will be offering many of the Regents exams in January. Students who did not pass a Regents exam and would like to re-take it in January must see Mr. Castellano by 5 November. Students who passed a Regents exam may not re-take it to get a higher grade. Parents or guardians with questions may call Mr. Castellano: 718-423-8810, ext. 209.

**Walk-a-thon:**



**Powderpuff Football Fundraiser:**



**Open House:**

Thank you to Lisa Schaefer and Abe Leston for their great leadership with this year's Open House and to the many student, parent, staff, faculty, and alumni volunteers.



Thank You for Attending! **October 17th 2015**  
12 Noon to 4:30 pm

ST. FRANCIS PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**SF**

The Best Open House Ever!  
More Families!  
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SLIDESHOW and VIDEO [HERE](#)



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(718) 423-8810 [www.sfponline.org](http://www.sfponline.org)



SLIDESHOW and VIDEO [HERE](#)

## SFP Sports:

On Oct. 23rd, the Girls Varsity Soccer Team won the Varsity A League Championship. They won 2-1 in the second round of penalty kicks against Our Lady of Mercy. Congratulations!



The JV team also won the Championship by defeating St. Dominic's in the finals 1-0! Great season!

Girls Tennis defeated Mary Louis 4-1 to capture the City Championship! Congratulations!



Congratulations to the GIRLS VARSITY GYMNASTICS TEAM! They won the Catholic High Schools AA Championship and had an undefeated season this year. The Varsity team consisted of **Sabrina Laube**

(senior and captain), **Zoe Kaouris** (junior), **Jackie DeFalco** (junior), **Julianna Kapovic** (freshmen), **Eden Lutchmedial** (sophomore), and **Skyler Nenadich** (freshmen). This is the gymnastics team's 5th consecutive league win under the outstanding coaching of Kamla Modi (head coach), Tori Fishman (asst. coach), and Alex Guilliani (asst. coach).



On Saturday, October 24, 2015, St. John the Baptist held the 45th NSCHSGAA Individual Gymnastics Championships. Eleven of our gymnasts competed individually on all four events. *Varsity Scores:* **Eden Luchmedial:** 2nd place All Around, 1st place Vault and Floor, 2nd place Bars and Beam; **Sabrina Laube:** 3rd place All Around, 4th place Vault and Floor, 3rd place Bars and Beam; **Julianna Kapovic:** 5th place All Around, 3rd place Vault, 8th place Bars, 5th place Beam, 7th place Floor; **Skyler Nenadich:** 10th place All Around, 7th place Vault, 6th place Beam; **Jackie DeFalco:** 10th place Vault and Floor; **Zoe Kaouris:** 9th place Floor and 2nd place (JV) Vault *JV Scores:* **Annie Kambouras:** 1st place All Around, 3rd place Bars, 2nd place

Beam, 1st place Floor; **Eleanna Gatanas:** 4th place All Around, 4th place Vault, 5th place Bars, 10th place Beam, 4th place Floor; **Trinity Aiken:** 5th place All Around, 10th place Vault, 6th place Bars, 7th place Beam, and 3rd place Floor.

Boys JV soccer finished Undefeated and won the Brooklyn-Queens Title this season. Their record was 11-0-3.



### **Social Studies:**

Mr. Jardines' AP US History class took a trip to Federal Hall on Wall Street in lower Manhattan at the spot of the Stamp Act Congress in 1765. Our host was ABOTA, a trial advocacy group, who introduced guest speakers Judge P. Kevin Castel of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York. Judge Castel spoke about the relevance of the Stamp Act today. We also heard from historian Nathan A. Allen who wrote a book about patriot James Otis entitled, "Arsonist: The Most Dangerous Man in America." We want to thank Ms. Monica Robertson of the Social Studies department who helped chaperone the trip.



**Ms. Donovan's AP Psychology classes** welcomed Dr. Wagner, a professor of psychology at St. Thomas Aquinas College, to discuss possible career paths involving psychology and various research options and psychiatric (MD) or social work tracks.



**Alvernians:**

The Alvernian Drama Society performed in Disneyland California this past summer. We were part of the 60th Jubilee celebration. The students performed on two stages in the Disneyland parks. They also experienced a Musical Theatre workshop with a Disney Performing Arts specialist, enjoyed the show Aladdin, and were given a private backstage tour. Parents also enjoyed four fun-filled days with the students.

## Art:

On October 28th, students from the Saint Francis Prep Art Department ventured out to The Pratt Institute. They toured film and photography studios and the architecture and interior design, illustration department, and fashion departments. Students got a taste of art school in the heart of Brooklyn. They had a chance to meet with admissions counselors for portfolio reviews and had lunch in the Pratt cafeteria. The tour included a glimpse of the original Pratt architecture of the Tiffany library and the old engine room. It was truly an experience to remember!



On October 29th, during a day blessed by unseasonable warmth, Mr. Biondolillo's Fashion Design class and Mrs. Buccino's Digital Photography class embarked on a trip to the New York Botanical Gardens. The fashion students were charged with a single, broad subject: Autumn Foliage. After a seminar on the styling profession and creating an inspiration board full of thematic ideas, the students styled



themselves as models in the theme of their choosing. Once at the Botanical Gardens, the group took two tours - one of the art gallery where the paintings of Frida Kahlo were displayed, and the other of a conservatory that displayed the plants found in her work and at her home. At the completion of the tours, Mrs. Buccino led the photography students in a lesson on shooting fashion and in outdoor spaces While Mr. Biondolillo's fashion students prepared themselves for the shoot. The students were then paired for the remainder of the trip to complete the fashion photo shoot, the results of which will be displayed in the near future. A fulfilling day was had by all!



The Girls JV and Varsity Volleyball Team raised over \$750 for Breast Cancer Awareness while they participated in the Jones Beach Breast Cancer Walk on October 18th.



On Sunday, October 18th, 2015, Ms. Gammello and the members of our Key Club, Jessica Gregoriano, Giuliana Garcia, Valentina Velilla and Dorothy Matinale and their families attended the Alzheimer's and Breast Cancer Walk.



**Alumni:**

Alum Christine Gengaro ('92) was a contestant on Jeopardy on October 13th. She's a college professor and writer living in Los Angeles now.

**SFP -- Why We Modernize**

St. Francis Prep is continually investing in infrastructure and technology. Currently we are working on improving our Music facilities and locker room space.

We understand the significance of well-designed facilities -- the places where our students spend the majority of their waking hours -- and the importance lighting, acoustics, and physical environment play in their education.

The goal of this modernization is to enrich our facilities so they are safer, healthier, and technologically advanced. Modern facilities will allow us to seamlessly integrate technology into our curriculum and mirror the advanced technology typically found in our everyday lives. When working in a clean, modern, organized and well-lit space, we tend to be more productive and satisfied. Our modern facilities will help engage our students, and the results of their educational efforts will be that much greater. This philosophy further applies to our teaching and administrative staff. In such an environment, job

retention and satisfaction increases creating a more effective and efficient organization.

Our modernization model is typical of leading colleges, universities, and private enterprise. Our labs would not be out of place in Novartis, Roche, or Pfizer. Soon our music facilities will rival those of any public or private institution. As a college preparatory school, we strive to give our students the practical precursory exposure they will experience when they go on to college and enter the workforce. The utilization of these 21st century skills, developed by learning in a modern environment, is a critical component to the success of our students and this institution.

The transformation and modernization of this facility will support our high standards and allow us to be leaders for the next 150 years.

### **Faculty:**

Dr. Marino, Chairperson of our English Department, was cited in a [NY Times](#) article regarding Arthur Miller.

"Stephen Marino, a Miller scholar, said that many of the playwright's old Brooklyn haunts look much as they did when he lived there, but that Miller found the gentrified Downtown Brooklyn disconcerting. 'It looks like Philadelphia,' Miller told him."