

September 30, 2013

Principal's Newsletter

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow." – Albert Einstein

It was a great opening to the 2013-14 school year! The 9th-graders seem to be making a good transition, and students in general seem to be off to a good start. Also, we have had Deans and Academic assemblies with all levels to communicate and highlight important rules and policies.

The students, faculty and staff have settled into a routine both in and out of the classroom. I continue to encourage parents to check the Parent Portal on a regular basis and track student progress. If you discover a problem with a particular course, follow our protocol by contacting the teacher first, then the departmental chairperson, an assistant principal and finally the principal if the matter is still not resolved. Also utilize the services of our guidance department who are ready to aid you in matters of personal, academic, and college counseling.

SFP News:

Spirit Week

September 30th – October 4th

Campus Ministry

Over the summer, under the direction of George Ann Kotowicz from Campus Ministry, eleven Prep students attended a program called ND VISION at the University of Notre Dame.

ND VISION brings together high school students from all over the country (and beyond) to share a week of fun and spiritual activities. The students explore leadership and vocational opportunities. The week is filled with interactive group sessions, Eucharistic Liturgies and other prayer opportunities, talks and musical gatherings.

Activities were led by ND students – Mentors in Faith – and focused on having students think about the gifts they have and how they can use them to make the world a better place.

Prep students have been attending this program for the past five years.

The following students attended this year

Michelle Walczuk '16, Melissa Cadina '14, Xania Riguard '14, Mary Millus '15, Elizabeth Meittinis '14, Danielle Sheridan '14, Nicoletta Thomas '15, Tashila Peter '14, Cheyenne Coco '13, Jubilee Aguilar '14, Veronica Ruiz '14

Each and every student who has attended has come home with a new outlook on God, faith, and the gifts they are more than willing to share with the world.

Science Research

Senior Luisa Alvarez will have an article published in the journal "Addictive Behaviors" for her work during the past year. Congratulations to Luisa and her Science Research teacher Jim Boylan.

National Merit Scholarship Corporation

The following students have been named Commended Students in the 2014 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success as a result of their scores on the 2012 PSAT/NMSQT.

Christina Egan, Amy Jung, Nicholas Randazzo, and Javier Serrano

Student safety

Here's a link from one of our English teachers, Mr. Paccione, for the documentary by Werner Herzog about texting and driving. It's only 30 minutes. It really is **that** good. Haunting and harrowing, and filmed almost perfectly. He's a great director.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xk1vCqfYpos>

Feast of St. Francis

On Friday, October 4, at 8:30 a.m. in the School Auditorium, the Prep will celebrate the **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi** with a liturgy celebrated by Bishop Raymond Chappetto. There will be a *special blessing* of the new President (Brother Leonard Conway, O.S.F.) and the new Principal (Mr. Patrick McLaughlin) during the liturgy. We welcome all parents and students wishing to attend. It is required for all faculty and staff.

At the liturgy, we will be honoring...

Brother Lawrence Boyle, O.S.F., on the occasion of his *50th Anniversary* as a Franciscan Brother.

Sister Rita McCauley, C.S.J., on the occasion of her *Golden Jubilee (50 Years)* as a Sister of St. Joseph.

The **Canticle Citation Award** for their years of service will be presented to...

25 Years of Service

Mary Niklaus

Mary Ann Spicijaric

Sandi Vandermosten

15 Years of Service

Brother Lawrence Boyle, O.S.F.

Kevin Colucci

Eric Hafker

Donna Mejia

Robert Williams

Also at this liturgy, the **Principal's Award** for years of service will be presented to...

25 Years of Service

Sofia Eide

NFL Hall of Fame

Please join us...

For the dedication of Pro Football Hall of Famer Vince Lombardi's Hometown Hall of Famers™ plaque
presented by

The Pro Football Hall of Fame and Allstate Insurance Company

Wednesday, October 2, 2013, at 1:25 p.m. (Please arrive by 1:15 p.m.)

St. Francis Prep

Auditorium

6100 Francis Lewis Blvd.

Fresh Meadows, NY 11365

Beautiful Me...the Emma, Alyson, and Katie Hance Project

On July 26, 2009, Emma, Alyson, and Katie Hance were killed in a tragic car accident. Their parents, Jackie and Warren Hance immediately established the Hance Family Foundation with the intention to honor their daughters through the gift of education. This project is designed to teach girls of all ages how to think positively and with assurance about their bodies, their skills, and their relationship with others.

We at SFP are honored that the Hance family Foundation has partnered with us this year to bring this wonderful program to our 9th grade girls on Wednesday, October 16th. Our 9th grade boys we also be involved with a program that parallels *Beautiful Me* that our own faculty has developed which includes

similar values and beliefs. Thanks to faculty members Mary Ellen Bechtle, Robyn Armon, Sal Fischetti, Christian Sullivan, Joseph Castellano and Gerilyn Coccia for their generous time and energy on this very important project for our 9th graders.

Open House

Saturday, October 19th from 12:00 – 4:30 pm

Have a great year!

Mr. McLaughlin