

**January 30, 2016**  
**Principal's Newsletter**

*"The wheel of life is ever moving and always turning. Change is guaranteed."*  
Anonymous

**COURSE REGISTRATION FOR 2016-2017**

Since our return from Christmas vacation, students have been involved in getting advisement for courses for next year. Course registration began on Thursday, 28 January, and will continue through Thursday, 4 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 5 February. Parents and guardians with questions about course selection can call their child's guidance counselor or Mr. Castellano, at ext. 209.

**Alumni Day**

Alumni from the most recent graduating classes to those from the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s spoke to Prep Juniors and Seniors on Thursday, January 7, for Alumni Day 2016 (previously known as Career Day) in the school auditorium.



The day was very informal and each alumni participant gave a couple of minutes to share their experiences as part of a panel. SFP Guidance Department Counselor Becky Barell thanked everyone for taking time from their work day and personal time to offer our students such valuable advice.

Facebook Gallery of Alumni Day [HERE](#)

## **National Honor Society**

The NHS Induction Ceremony was held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016. Congratulations to all of those Juniors and Seniors who were recognized for their outstanding academic excellence, strong leadership, honorable character, and generous service.

## **Model UN**

The St. Francis Preparatory School Model UN hosted its annual conference for over 200 delegates from 10 different high schools in the New York area. It is our largest so far. The Secretary Generals Isabella Loarte-Ciudad '16 and Donna Episcopo'16 ran a well organized conference with the aid of the Chief of Staff Rohan Shah '17. There was much support from returning alumni Steven Romanello '14, Alex Seyad'14, Alvaro Quintilla '14, Lily Ng '14, and Edward Wang '13. We would like to thank all the National Honor Society volunteers and the members of the school's staff, including the custodians. We would especially like to thank our Principal Patrick McLaughlin whose tremendous support and very inspiring speech helped to make this year's conference a success.



## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

On January 6, the students in Dr. Stephen Marino's English 9 Honors class attended a matinee performance of the play Something Rotten. The show depicts the story of two brothers who resent Shakespeare's success and invent the first musical. The photo is of the students sitting on the bleachers in Times Square after a pre-show lunch at Sbarros.



### Poetry Out Loud

Our two school winners of the annual Poetry Out Loud competition will be going to the NYC Finals at the Katie Murphy Amphitheatre at the Fashion Institute of Technology on February 25, 2016. Our 1st place winner, senior Maggie Capozzoli-Cavota, and Runner-Up, sophomore Matthew O'Donnell, will compete against dozens of other students to see if they can win and make it to the State Finals in Syracuse next month. Maggie and Matthew will be reciting two poems each from the Prep competition; they are prepared with a third poem committed to memory in case a tie-breaker is needed. We are very proud of their hard work and their unique dedication to the dying practice of learning a poem for life and sharing it with those eager and curious enough to listen. Special thanks to the faculty judges Ms. Lynch, Dr. Marino, Mr. Paccione, Ms. Prohaska, and POL coordinator, Mr. Hafker.

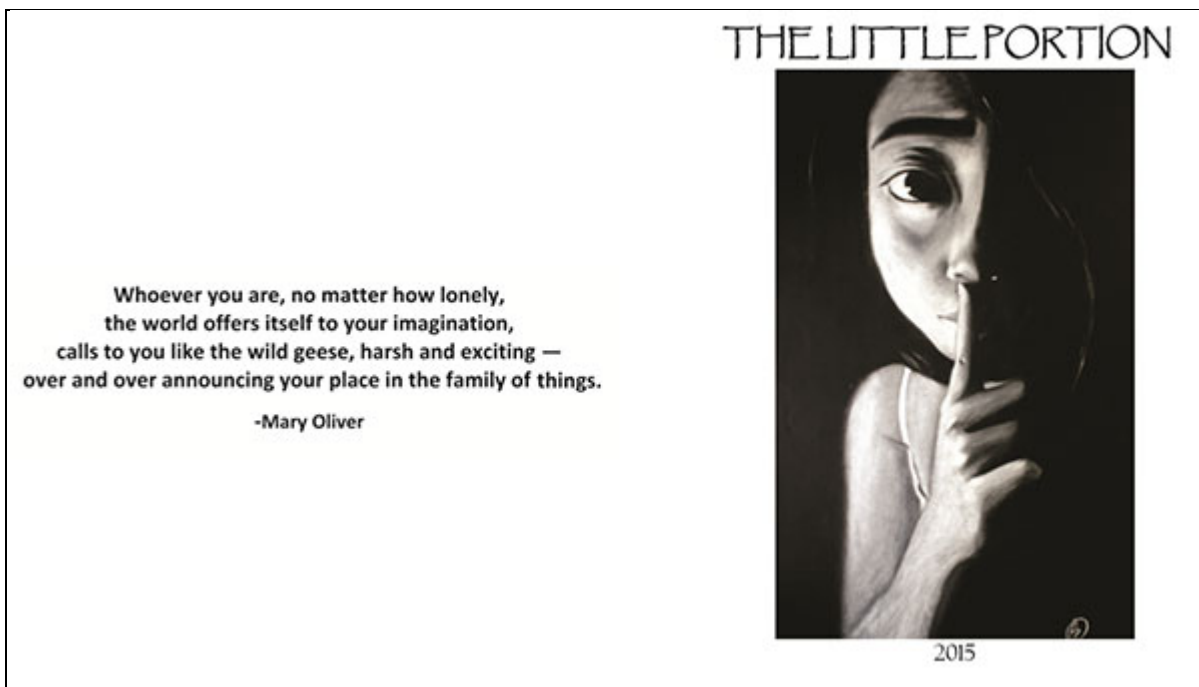


Note: Maggie was Poetry Out Loud's NYC Regional winner last year *and* she made it to the final round of the New York State Finals. She came so close to making it to Washington, D.C., for the national competition.

Good luck Maggie and Matthew!

### **The Little Portion**

Prep is proud to announce that our school's literary arts journal, *The Little Portion*, came in 2nd Place for the American Scholastic Press Association's 2015 Award for Best Literary Arts Magazine. Prep is the only Catholic high school in New York City to win top honors in this prestigious national competition.



### **Science Research**

On November 20, 2015, 16 of our seniors in the Science Research Program entered the regional competition for the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS). Every year a thousand students from the NYC metro area enter this competition. This year, 4 of our seniors were named semifinalists in the competition: Ana Jiménez, Frank Moreno, Mary Rueth, and Rebecca Zhang. These students have been invited to present a 12 minute oral presentation of their independent research projects. The competition will be Sunday, February 7, starting at 8 am.

Additionally, these 16 students have also entered into the New York City Science and Engineering Fair held at City College on Sunday, March 6. The students will be presenting professional-style posters to showcase their independent research projects. Students that advance to the finals will participate in a similar showcase on March 29 at the Museum of Natural History. We are very proud of all of our students and wish them the best of luck in these two competitions!

### **Science Department News**

On Thursday, January 21, Ms. Gammello's Chemistry students held their 3rd annual crystal growing science fair. The students were given the task of growing their own crystal from materials that they

researched on their own. They had all second quarter to complete this project and a lab write up. The students used their imaginations to create an infomercial to sell their crystal. Each class was then evaluated by Mr. Hafker's English classes and Mr Cohen's Advanced Physical Science class based on their knowledge of how the crystal was made, why they chose their material, and how they "sold" their crystal. The students would like to thank Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Castellano, Mrs. Istrico, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Hafker for coming to check out their projects. Here are the winners:



B-Period: Andrei Constantin, Daniella Deblasi, Sophia Rossi, Christal Taormina  
E-Period: Cory Calamusso, Anthony Giacomarra, Preston Milano, Nikki Pravata, Chris Moschitta  
F-Period: Sam Bedosky, Daniel Donascimento, Jack Edwards, Maria Petsanas, John Ricotta  
G-Period: Mike Andrada, Camerin Blair, Dawsen Durant, Joe Galanti, Anthony Rivera

On Saturday, January 9, 2016, a group of 7 of Mrs. Ashkenazy's students successfully completed a series of interactive lectures and demonstrations at the world renowned Rockefeller University. The students were impressed by the university's 79 labs and that 24 of its scientists have won Nobel prizes. The students had the unique opportunity of being inspired by hearing Dr. Thomas Sakmar speak about Drug Discovery, the birth of Biotechnology, the Genomics Revolution, and careers in Biology and Medicine. Dr. Sakmar heads the Laboratory of Chemical Biology and Signal Transduction at the University. At the end of the informative day, our students were proud recipients of their certificates of completion from Rockefeller University; these were presented to them by Mrs. Ashkenazy.



**Pictured from Left to Right:** Angelica Hernandez, George Galanis, Christopher Polloni, Kimberly Mayo, Mrs. Ashkenazy, Aaron Kim, Lanqiao Gao, and Marianna Tzirani

### **Art Department News**

On January 6, 2016, students from AP Art History, C.A.D., and Mechanical Architectural Drawing ventured into Manhattan for a divine experience of religious art work. First we visited St. John the Divine, a modern day Gothic Cathedral on 110th Street. To see such a massive structure, which is still under construction, was breathtaking! For them 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 which allowed the students to gain further appreciation for the arts, history, and religious imagery. Teachers Ms. D. Shmerykowsky and Ms. K. Schnurr organized the class trip.

Congratulations to all who participated in the Performing Arts Showcase held on Friday, January 15th. Performers were from Mrs. Mejia's classes: Acting, Theatre Design, and Movement for performers.

### **Social Studies Department News**

The US history honors classes are putting Andrew Carnegie and John. D Rockefeller on trial for charges of corruption and unfair business practices.



## SFP Sports

### Boys Track

On January 18, the boys Track and Field team won the Sophomore Brooklyn-Queens Championship. This is the first time that St. Francis Prep has won this Championship meet. The team was led by Christian Izien, Zalen Nelson, Vincent Giuga, Marc Dalce, and Hallston Fergilus, who all won their respective events. The team is looking forward to continue its great season at the Varsity competitions next month.



## Soccer










The soccer programs offered a free clinic to area elementary student-athletes on Saturday, January 16. The clinic included 140 6th, 7th, and 8th graders working in the gym for over 4 hours. Fifteen SFP student soccer players and coaches volunteered their services for the day.

## Prep PRIDE at the SUPER BOWL

Sunday February 7, the National Football League will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Super Bowl and one team will achieve the ultimate prize, the Lombardi Trophy. Every year, teams compete for this coveted prize. Very few NFL coaches and players achieve an opportunity to compete in this game and even fewer are fortunate enough to achieve victory. We in the Prep Community have always had a sense of pride knowing that Coach Vince Lombardi (SFP'33) is honored and recognized by the NFL as one of the greatest coaches of all time and that Coach Lombardi was and is one of us. This year we have yet more reason for Prep Pride on Super Bowl Sunday. The National Football League has distinguished St. Francis Prep once again, by inducting our school into its **Super Bowl High School Honor Roll**. The NFL has made it a mission to celebrate a half century of this great sporting event by recognizing the high schools of the head coaches and active players from each Super Bowl Team by creating this elite recognition.

As a symbol of this classification, the NFL has presented three Golden Footballs to St. Francis Prep signifying our special classification in its Super Bowl High School Honor Roll. The three golden footballs are in honor of Coach Vince Lombardi (SFP'33) for being the Head Coach of the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl I and II; Eddie Jenkins (SFP '68), who was on the 1972 Miami Dolphins undefeated team in Super Bowl XIII; and Bill Pickel (SFP '77), who played for the LA Raiders in Super Bowl XVIII.

But the Prep PRIDE and Super Bowl list does not end there. We have our own Super Bowl Honor Roll here at the Prep. This includes other Prep Alumni who have achieved and participated in various Super Bowls throughout the years.

SFP SUPER BOWL HONOR ROLL		
Vince Lombardi SFP 1933		 I  II
Dan Henning SFP 1960		 XVII  XXII  XXXVIII
Eddie Jenkins SFP 1968		 VII  VIII
Bill Pickel SFP 1977		 XVIII
Marco Battaglia SFP 1991		 XXXVIII



So as you sit back on Sunday, February 7, with the rest of America to enjoy a day that is imbedded in our American culture, take Pride in knowing that you have a direct link to the NFL's 50 year celebration and that your fellow alumni have contributed to this amazing event and celebration.

On for ole' St. Francis!!! Coach Rich Carroll '86

### **Alumni**

Xavier Avery is an award-winning filmmaker and writer from New York City and Saint Francis Prep Alumni (Class of 2012). Attending SUNY New Paltz (Class of 2016) as a Film/Creative Writing student, Xavier is currently studying in Paris, France, at the EICAR International School of Film and Television as part of a study abroad program through the SUNY institution. His short film, [Revenir](#), was selected as Best Student Film in the 2015 Kingston Film Festival in Kingston, NY, and also received an Award of Recognition from the INDIEFest Film Awards in July 2015. His poetry has also been published in the [Stonesthrow Review](#), a literary journal published by SUNY New Paltz.



### **Senior Class**

The College office reports that the class of 2016 was offered over \$17 million in scholarships during the College on-site visitation period this past fall semester. Congratulations to the students. Thank you to Mrs. Armon and the Guidance Department for organizing the interviews. Well done!