

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

***"Growth Mindset is the belief that abilities can be cultivated."***  
***Carl Dweck, Mindset***

We greet our 9th-graders for the first time, Class of 2020! Our Sophomores and Juniors are ready for the new challenges of the next year of high school, and the students of the class of 2017 are busy with completing their high school education and preparing for the next step! They start all knowing that nothing replaces hard work and effort.

This past summer we continued to work on the east and west bottom corridors and updating the Music department classrooms. These improvements will benefit all of our current students in a very significant way by helping them be engaged in their studies in 21st Century facilities.

During the week of 29 August, our 9th-graders participated in 3 events to get them well prepared for the beginning of high school.

On **Monday, 29 August**, 9th-graders (and new transfer students) came in to receive their iPads. They set up their accounts and downloaded the necessary apps.

On **Tuesday, 30 August**, these same students participated in our Strategies for Academic Success program. They had a brief introduction to our Franciscan values and traditions, given by Br. James McVeigh, our Franciscan Mission Coordinator. The students then went through a full day of workshops on setting up and using the iPad; they also talked about using technology with integrity. The goal of this day was to have the students come to the first day of classes feeling competent with using the iPad. While the students were in the classroom, many parents and guardians stayed in the Auditorium for an orientation to life at St. Francis Prep.

On **Wednesday, 31 August**, 9th-graders participated in SFP Follies – a long-standing Prep tradition. Students met the students in their Cor (homeroom), worked with senior peer counselors, went on a scavenger hunt to learn the building, and participated in a fun field events program. By the end of the day, the students were building the camaraderie and community that is so essential to their experience at St. Francis Prep.

All three days were very successful. The students received a good introduction to Franciscan values, technology, and our community. They got to meet many students and to prepare themselves for the first day of classes. These programs were successful thanks to the generosity and sacrifice of so many of our faculty members. Special thanks go to Ms. Nicole May, our iPad Coordinator, who coordinated both iPad days, and Mr. David Ganci, Director of Student Activities, who organized and coordinated the Follies day. We thank all administrators, faculty, and staff members, particularly Mr. Castellano who coordinated and scheduled all activities, for their commitment to the students and the school and for giving of their time to help the students to start the year well .

**From the Desk of Mr. Castellano:**

**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 14 October. Students who did not pass a Regents exam required for graduation will be automatically registered for the exam and must take it in January. 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 and Senior Barbeque**

Despite the challenging weather SFP held it's annual Walk-A-Thon and Senior Barbeque. Enjoy some photos:



#### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

**October 4 – Feast of St. Francis** We will celebrate the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi* with a liturgy celebrated by Bishop Paul Sanchez. At the liturgy, we will be honoring Brother Adrian Fannon, O.S.F., on the occasion of his **60th Anniversary (Diamond Jubilee)** as a Franciscan Brother. The **Canticle Citation Award** for their years of service will be presented to the following faculty members:

**40 Years of Service:** Robert Corbino, Ed.D., Robert Guthenberg, Stephen Marino, Ph.D., Sr. Mary Ann Napier, C.S.J.

**15 Years of Service** Jean-Patrick Devesin, Joseph DiSomma, Laura Hassett, Gregory Madama, Xenos Novoa, Lorna Pietryga-Park

Also at this liturgy, the **President's Award** for years of service will be presented to Vesna Vulin for **15 Years of Service.**

*Congratulations and Thank You!!!*

**October 6 – Fall Pep Rally**

**October 15 – Open House**

**October 17–23 – Spirit Week and Homecoming**

**October 28 – Senior Halloween Dance**

**October 31 – Professional Day – No Classes**

#### **Campus Ministry**

This past weekend, Campus Ministry hosted the annual retreat leader training weekend at Camp Alvernia. All members of the Campus Ministry team were on hand as well as 60 juniors and seniors in training to lead this year's sophomore retreat program. The students were able to learn all about the

workings of the sophomore retreat while having a unique retreat experience for themselves. The overnight experience included a bonfire, games, Mass with our chaplain Fr. Mark Simmons, and a little bit of peace and quiet on beautiful Centerport Harbor.



The sophomore retreats will begin in the coming weeks. We are currently accepting applications for the Junior Overnight Retreat which will take place November 16, 17, and 18 in Connecticut. Please visit Campus Ministry or call ext. 292 for more information about this experience.

**Summer Travel to Greece and Turkey:**



**SFP graduate Kevin Garcia just signed with Houston Dynamo.**



The Houston Dynamo have signed defender [Kevin Garcia](#) from USL hybrid affiliate Rio Grande Valley FC, the club announced today. Garcia will join the Dynamo immediately and be eligible for selection Friday at Sporting Kansas City.

Garcia, 26, was captain of Rio Grande Valley FC this year, their debut season in the USL. The Flushing, New York, native appeared in 25 games for RGV FC, helping guide the expansion club to a league-record 760-minute shutout streak. The Toros have won five straight games and are unbeaten in 10 games, allowing one goal during that span, to climb to second place in the USL's Western Conference (12-5-9; 45 points). RGV FC has conceded 22 goals this season, tied for the fewest in the West and tied for third overall in the 29-team USL.

"Kevin has been a key leader and consistent performer this season for our USL team RGV FC," Dynamo VP/general manager Matt Jordan said. "He's earned this opportunity with the First Team by demonstrating a hardworking and professional attitude on a day-to-day basis. We look forward to his continued growth with our Club."

Garcia can play center back and left back and was selected in the third round of the 2012 MLS Supplemental Draft by the New England Revolution. He signed with Swedish club IFK Luleå in 2013 and made 30 appearances in two seasons. Garcia was a four-year starter at Villanova University and was coached by RGV FC head coach Wilmer Cabrera during his youth career at BW Gottschee in New York.

Garcia is the second player to move from Rio Grande Valley FC to the Dynamo on a full MLS contract, following MF [Jose Escalante](#), who joined the Dynamo on August 3.

#### **Girl's JV Soccer:**

Coach Nick Stork and members of the JV girls soccer team attended the Sky Blue FC vs. Portland Thorns women's professional soccer game in New Jersey at Rutgers University on September 25.

SFP Alumnus Michelle Betos is the goalie for the Portland franchise.



Group shot with Michelle in the GREEN JERSEY.

#### **Recognition**

This past summer, SFP junior Alessandra Ciuffo was the 1st place winner on Guy Fieri's Grocery Games Whiz Kids and received \$20,000 for her delicious culinary mastery on the show. Alessandra has previously appeared on Super Chef Kids and Food Network's Rachael vs. Guy: Kids Cook-off! She was also featured in the 2014 book on young chefs, *Future Chefs* (Rodale Press). In the future, Alessandra hopes to combine her passion for culinary arts, acting, fashion, and business. Congratulations!

