

Oct. 30, 2013

Principal's Newsletter

"The price of success is perseverance. The price of failure comes cheaper."

As we move closer to the end of the 1st Quarter, I ask parents to continue to monitor the progress of their son or daughter by utilizing Power School. Also, if you see that your child is having any difficulty with a particular subject, early intervention is the best policy. Contact the teacher and have a conversation with your child's Guidance Counselor. Effective communication and teamwork are essential to promoting school success. This includes communication between parents and the school. Communication between parents and the school is intended to have your child's best interest as a goal. Remember, it is much easier to address a small problem than a large one. If you have a particular concern, do not wait to voice it; there may be a quick and simple solution to a small problem, whereas once something has developed into a major issue, it may be difficult to resolve successfully.

At the end of the quarter, we will have a homework assistance room available in the library before and after school as well as every period during the school day.

This will be mandatory for students with multiple failures.

From CAPE (Council for American Private Education):

- The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) reports students from religious and independent schools significantly exceeded the SAT College and Career Readiness Benchmark, a combined score on three SAT tests that is associated with success in college.

There are many wonderful things happening at SFP that I want to keep you updated on:

- It is with great pride that we have reintroduced the SFP school fight song ("*On For Old St. Francis*") to the students and faculty this year. Mr. McLaughlin led the teams and 9th grade class assembled for the Pep rally on the Feast Day of St. Francis, October 4th, in a rousing version of the song. Cors and Academic departments were involved in a friendly contest for the best version of the song, and the winners are: Cors 104, 212, 309, 409 and the Health and Physical Education Department. Congratulations!
- National Achievement Semi Finalist Nominee: Arianna Kahn
- National Merit Commended Students: Javier Serrano, Amy Jung, Christina Egan, Nicholas Randazzo
- National Achievement Outstanding Participants: Tashila Peter, Xania Riguard, Ethan Robinson, Brittany Balin
- Kathryn Pender, Cor 113, was asked to speak at the Museum of the City of New York as a National History Day winner for her exemplary work in the state and national level of competition.
- On Friday before Open House, Shawn Sempowich from Campus Ministry ran a Cunningham Park clean-up. Members of the Key Club and the Heroes Club were in attendance as well as other student volunteers. A total of 53 students were on hand to clean the park and we picked up over 25 bags of trash.



- On Saturday, September 28th and Sunday, September 29th, 56 of our Juniors and Seniors gathered at Camp Alvernia for the Retreat Leader Training Retreat. The training was conducted by Campus Ministers, Dr. Sullivan, Mr. Sempowicz, and Mrs. Kotowicz. Bro. James McVeigh, OSF, and Fr. John Gilmartin joined the group on Saturday evening. The students received a surprise "virtual visit" by Chaplain, Fr. Bill Sweeney, who Facetimed with the group from Rome on Sunday morning. After concluding their training, these students will serve as leaders for each of the Sophomore Retreats occurring throughout the school year.
- Seniors will start their on-site college interviews with certain colleges starting on Oct . 29th. Go to the College Office link on our website for the calendar and more information.
- This past May, Prep's Chamber Orchestra earned another New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Gold Medal rating. The orchestra continues to be one of Prep's premier facets and will begin their season by performing at this year's Grammar School Reception on October 10th and Prep's Open House on October 19th. In addition, four different composers have invited the Chamber Orchestra to perform their works. Senior violinist Jaelyn Angielczyk has earned a seat with NYSSMA's All-State String Orchestra. French hornist Katherine Angielczyk and percussionist Javier Serrano have been chosen as All-State alternates. In June, Prep's longtime Chairperson of Music, Dr. Robert Corbino, received a great deal of recognition for dedication to Prep students over the last five decades. He earned a New York State Senate Proclamation from Martin J. Golden, an Office of the Executive Citation from Edward P. Mangano, a City of New York Proclamation from Eric Ulrich, and was one of the 2013 recipients of the Chairman's Honoree Award from the Josephine Foundation. If that weren't enough, he was awarded with Prep's 2013 Excellence in Education Award. Last March, Prep's Jazz Band, Chamber Choir, and Chamber Orchestra performed to a packed house at St. David the King Parish, in a concert dedicated to the memory of Prep alum and benefactor, Vincent Toscano, '53. And in the spirit of community, Prep's Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble are again sharing their talents for our September 26th Walkathon. Prep's Chamber Choir recorded our fight song, "On for OI' St. Francis," for a recent school wide broadcast.



- The SFP Dance Team, led by Art Department faculty member Donna Mejia, had a very exciting day on Saturday, September 28th. Our talented young ladies performed at CitiField Stadium at the New York Mets annual "Cheer and Dance Day". Mets fans were greeted by a select group of talented student performers, ranging from elementary school teams, to high school teams, all the way up to college level. Participating schools and teams rehearse a professionally choreographed New York Met's cheer and then perform it pre-game ON THE WARNING TRACK. Great job, Terriers!
- The Foreign Language National Honor Society inducted over 440 students on Thursday, October 24th, Congratulations to all!
- Throughout the month of October, many of our students participated in a Breast cancer Awareness walk to raise money for ongoing research with the hope of finding a cure. On Tuesday, October 19th, 96 of our senior girls participated in a "Powder Puff" football game which raised over \$600.00 to benefit breast cancer awareness. Many thanks to all the students, in particular Angelica Lopez and Madeline Brito who did an amazing job implementing, organizing and executing the event. Thanks also to D.J. Alex Naula, faculty advisor Sal Fischetti; referees Nicole Pasinkoff and Ann Marie Rich as well as our resident photographer Laurie Capiello. Special thanks to the moderator Susan Vivona for her help and guidance. The generosity of all who participated is appreciated and provides a terrific example of what the prep community is all about.



- Never Forget. **Veterans Day, November 11**, Remember those who have bravely served and defended our Freedom!

