

November 30, 2013

## Principal's Newsletter

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." Henry David Thoreau*

### Happy Thanksgiving!

There is much to be thankful for at St. Francis Prep! As we complete our Thanksgiving Drive for the needy, our Campus Ministry Department rolled out our school wide campaign "Gratitude is an Attitude" in which every student received a wrist band as a reminder to always give.

The agencies we are serving:

St. Francis Table (soup kitchen and pantry) at St. Matthias Church, Queen of Peace Residence, Hour Children (works with children of incarcerated adults), Women Helping Women (works with victims of domestic violence), St. Aloysius Food Pantry, Incarnation Food Pantry, St. John's Bread and Life.

Our students completed the first quarter of their 2013-14 academic journey on November 8th. Students should continue to work hard, connect with their teachers for extra help and seek out their guidance counselor to discuss personal or academic concerns.

Parents need to remain connected to the academic progress of their child by checking Power School on a regular basis. Our Homework Assistance Program is available to all students in the Library every day, every period, as well as before and after school. Peer Counselors and members of the National Honor Society are available to tutor any student.

### November Highlights:

- On a recent field trip to the DNA Learning Center in Lake Success, a select group of **Mrs. Ashkenazy's** Biotechnology students had the unique opportunity to analyze a sample of their own DNA with state-of-the-art DNA microchip analyzers. The DNA Center is one of only two teaching labs in the US containing this equipment. While exploring the center, students also toured the NS-LIJ Clinical Core Lab. This is one of two world-class robotic labs that contain robotic arms and conveyor belts from start to finish. Blood samples and hematology from the surrounding local area hospitals are processed robotically, completely untouched by hand.
- The Freshman girls Cross Country Team won the Brooklyn-Queens Championship led by **Amanda Hardardt** 2nd Place, **Alyssa Olivieri** 3rd, **Nora Flores** 5th, **Rosalie Robinson** 8th, **Dora Lombardozzi** 10th, **Kathryn Pender** 16th and **Amaya Okogeri** 21st Place. They also placed 3rd in the 9th City Championship. The next week Alyssa and Amanda led the JV team to a third place finish in the JV City Championship followed by Sophomore **Nora Bauso**.



- The Girls Varsity Volleyball Team is both City and State Champs! Girls Varsity Volleyball went 14-0 during the season. They won the Brooklyn/Queens championship for the 7th year in a row. 15 of the 16 players have over a 90% GPA. Congratulations to **Coach Colucci**, his staff and outstanding players.



[Click to view a slideshow of the meet](#)

- A delegation of 16 St. Francis Prep students attended the annual Patchogue-Medford Model United Nations conference on Friday, November 15th, and Saturday, November 16th. The conference was attended by over 150 students from over 8 high schools. We won the following awards: **Alex Seyad 416** "Best Delegate" in the Security Council, **Robert Shea 416** "Honorable Mention" in the World Health Organization, **Lily Jardines 409** "Best Position Paper" in the International Civil Aviation Organization. Congratulations to **Mr. Jardines** and the entire team!
- The Sacrament Preparation Team led by **Susan Vivona** and **Ellen Schuler** are preparing our students for Confirmation, Baptism and First Eucharist.
- Our annual Christmas Party for Our Friends with Special Needs, coordinated by **Suzanne Camus** and **Ann Marie Rich**, will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 10am-2pm. Each year many of you are very generous with your time and donations and we appreciate all you have done to make this party such a success. We are again asking for gift donations for our guests. Type of gifts include, but are not limited to the following: scarves, gloves, hats, slippers, robes, picture frames, and stationary. We ask that all of the gifts be new and wrapped in holiday paper with a notation of Male or Female and size if applicable. You can bring your gifts to Camille McMenamin's office beginning Monday December 3. Anyone who would like to volunteer on this day please email Suzanne Camus at [scamus@sfponline.org](mailto:scamus@sfponline.org)
- SWEET SIXTEEN!!!! 16TH STRAIGHT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP  
**Mr. Brennan, Ms. Gammello** and the Prep girls, in the most exciting fashion won the league and state championships on Oct. 17th and 23rd. In the league championship on Thursday Oct. 17th at the Northshore Tennis Club in Bayside. Prep battled Sacred Heart to a 4-3 win in the finals. The following week the state championships were decided. On Tuesday in the semi-finals Prep easily defeated Staten Island Champs, St. Joseph by the Sea 5-0. Now it would come down to two undefeated teams, Mary Louis and Prep, with Mary Louis believing it was their time to end Prep dominance. Indoors at Alley Pond Park on Wednesday, Oct. 23rd, the finals were played out with some exceptional tennis. This was one of the most enthusiastic and determined teams in Prep's exceptional history and capped a year with one of the most emotional and exciting league and state championships.



- **Seniors Paula Faltynowicz, Nicole Holloran, Matia Ciklic, and Andrea Panaitescu** end their Prep careers with another undefeated league and state championships season. This was a season to remember as the legend of girls Prep Tennis team went to even more remarkable heights. Sixteen consecutive undefeated league and state champions and over 200 straight wins. Unbelievable but true!!!
- Alumni note: **Daniela Marquez, class of 2013**, was named rookie of the week for swimming for Baruch College.
- From our Alumni News page: SFP Principal **Pat McLaughlin '73**: "What great representation of the Prep spirit at all of the events this past weekend! Special thanks to the student-athletes, coaches, moderators and our Athletic Director, **Sal Fischetti '83**, who spent countless practice and game hours during the Fall season!" He went on to say, "There also was a terrific showing of parent, faculty and alumni support at all the events. Thank you to all of these good people who are doing great things to support and encourage our athletes!"
- The Varsity Football Team: The Terriers finished the regular season **undefeated in the league** (8-0). They lost to Holy Cross 20-13 in the AAA quarterfinals on Saturday night in a very hard-fought game that could have gone either way. There was a terrific crowd and tremendous enthusiasm at Mitchel Field.
- **Girls Swimming** The Girls Swimming team competed in the Catholic High School Finals on Sunday, November 10th, at The Nassau County Aquatic Center in Eisenhower Park and took 4th Place overall. Congratulations!
- Girls Gymnastics won their 3rd consecutive League Championship.
- The Boys Varsity Soccer Team won the CHSAA City Championship and made it to the championship game for the State Championship.



- Junior student **Lily Ng** crocheted chemo caps for patients of Sloan Kettering at Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre. Lily made these caps over her summer vacation. The caps were delivered to Mercy Hospital by a friend of the Prep on behalf of Lily.

- The event at Barnes and Noble on November 22nd and 23rd was a wonderful showcase of the many talents at SFP. Some of the highlights of the weekend included:

\*On Friday, **Eric Hafker** and **Dan DioGuardi** led students with Poetry Readings. On Saturday, students from Chamber Choir performed under the direction of **Dave Kobayashi**. The Art Work by SFP Students was on view in the balcony entering the lower level of the store. **Mrs. Buccino** created a wonderful display for all to see. In the children's section SFP Students were heard reading stories to young visitors. **Lisa Schaefer** and **Alisha Brizicky** did a great job organizing this event and were present over the weekend with the students and faculty who volunteered. Various faculty, parents and alumni were also present to support this event. The time and talent of SFP was well received by the shoppers. We heard many positive responses. Great job by all!  
[Click to see a slideshow of the event](#)

- **A Wonderful Story of Alumni, Family and Friends Coming Back and Giving Back** St. Francis Prep's Alvernian Drama Society's Fall production, Rick Abbott's "*Play On*" will be a true Prep community effort as it features many alumni, students, faculty and parents working "behind the scenes"—and on the set! Prep alumna **Kristin Foti-Errico, SFP Class of 2000**, earned a degree in Theater Set Design from Marymount Manhattan College in 2005 and is designing the set for this wonderful production. She is delighted to return to her alma mater to work with classmate **Anthony Biondolillo '00**, who joined the Prep's Art Department faculty this year-- thus bringing full-circle a great friendship which was forged in the halls of Prep more than 18 years ago. They will also be joined by Anthony's father, **Vincent Biondolillo, Class of 1975**, and his twin sister **Camille Biondolillo-Taglia, Class of 1975**. While matriculating at Prep, Vincent was active in the student council and served as the President in his junior year, while Camille was well regarded in the Art Department for her work on the sets of the school plays. Anthony's cousin, **Steven Hoyt, Class of 2005**, will also be lending a hand. Steven earned his bachelor's degree at Full Sail University, and is currently pursuing a Masters degree. He has vast expertise to offer from his work as a stagehand for concerts and other stage productions. Steven's mom, **Victoria**, (Camille and Vincent's sister), will also be working along side them as well. The play's Director, Art Department faculty member **Ms. Donna Mejia** is thrilled to have **Kristin Foti-Errico** and the **Biondolillo family** to the place where so many wonderful memories were forged, demonstrating that although one may graduate from SFP, that Prep stays with its students – an ever-present and wonderful part of each of their hearts." She added, "The students are extremely grateful for their support and are truly inspired by their devotion to St. Francis Prep." The set was constructed during most of the day each day from November 9-11 in the auditorium. This is a true community effort and everyone is encouraged to attend the performances in December.

*The St. Francis Prep Art Department and the Alvernian Drama Society proudly presents*



# *Play On!*

*A Comedy by Keith Abbott*

8pm, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6th  
7pm, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th

**CLICK TO VIEW THE COMMERCIAL!**

**TICKETS: AVAILABLE IN THE ART OFFICE AT ANY TIME  
STUDENTS \$5 ADULTS \$8 (SIDES)/ \$12 (CENTER)**

- Captain of our Varsity Football Team Robert Wright is reunited with his father at halftime of the Bishop Ford game. Mr. Wright surprised Robert after serving a one year tour in Afghanistan.

