

November 30, 2015
Principal's Newsletter

**"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity;
an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."
Winston Churchill**

As we leave the month of November and the first quarter behind, we look forward to the second quarter rich with hard work, dedication, and the anticipation of continued improvement. I would like to thank everyone in our school community for their generosity during our Thanksgiving donation drive for the less fortunate. Campus Ministry provided the direction during our Thanksgiving Prayer Services: "Gratitude is an Attitude."

As we have done in the past, we recognize and thank our veterans for their service to our country by establishing a Field of Honor in the front of our school.



As we enter the Advent season let us trust that this will be a blessed time. May we let God's will be done in our hearts and in our everyday lives!

Upcoming Events in December:

- ***Christmas Tree Lighting*** in the Library at 7:00 on Friday, December 4th. All are welcome! Refreshments will be served. Santa will arrive with Mrs. Claus, the Elves, and, of course, the Terrier! Bring an unwrapped toy for a child.
- The Fall Drama, ***"A Christmas Carol"***, will be performed in the Auditorium on Friday, December 4th, at 8:00 pm and Saturday, December 5th, at 7:00 p.m.
- **Christmas Concert 1** will be held on Friday, December 11, and **Christmas Concert 2** on Saturday, December 12, in our school auditorium starting at 7:45.
- The Christmas Party for ***Our Friends with Special Needs*** will be held on Saturday, December 19th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Cafeteria.
- Our **Christmas Liturgy** will be held on Tuesday, December 22, at 8:30 a.m. in the Auditorium. All welcome!

Music Modernization Update

Over the last few months, crews of contractors have been diligently working at creating a music hub that will make our already first-rate music program even better. They have been working hand-in-hand with our teaching and leadership staff to design custom tailored facilities that will promote and further advance our music program. Each of the new classrooms will feature a contemporary design and cutting edge technology. We've also ordered brand new high-end Wenger practice booths, each made-to-fit in its own classroom. The hallways are in the process of being completed with a modern design typical of the best universities and corporate facilities. Once these public areas are completed, work can take place behind closed doors with little disruption to our students and staff.



I want to thank each and every one of you for your patience. Know that despite the current minor inconveniences, these facilities will be beyond spectacular and will rival the facilities of similar institutions -- not only in New York, but also across the country. Modernizing a facility such as ours is a progression. Many small pieces fit together to create a much larger arrangement. The ultimate goal of this arrangement will be a state of the art facility. It will allow us to seamlessly integrate technology into our curriculum and further support our stellar teaching staff and exceptional student body. Music is a small but critical piece of a much greater puzzle. This current project, combined with past and future projects, will allow us to be successful for the next 150 years.

Blood Drive

St. Francis Prep has been supporting Long Island Blood Services for over 25 years. Each year, we host 2 blood drives: one in the fall and one in the spring. Our students and faculty donated 110 pints on November 17 and we look forward to an even bigger drive in the spring. Requirements for donating are as follows: a signed parental permission slip, weight of at least 115 pounds, at least 16 years of age.



Our purpose for running the drive is multi-faceted. As first time donors, we want our students to donate in a safe and comfortable environment, with the hope this encourages them to become life-long blood donors. Donating blood is a courageous, selfless act, for which the kids receive nothing more than self- satisfaction and the acknowledgement of saving lives.

Giving blood is a wonderful gift which reflects our Franciscan values. Our next Blood Drive is April 21, 2016. Special thanks to our blood drive coordinators Judy Turner and Sandi Vandermosten. Great work!

Music Department

November was a busy month for our Music Department. On the 15th, our Chamber Choir, under the direction of David Kobayashi, was invited to perform at the Youth Choir Festival of the Music Commission of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Prep's was the only high school choir that performed to a full house at Resurrection-Ascension Church. The students received a lengthy standing ovation!

On the 23rd, our Chamber Orchestra was invited to perform at a flag-raising ceremony at St. Luke's School. The event was held to celebrate the restoration of the school's facade. In attendance were Bishop Raymond Chappetto, representatives from the local police precinct, and our own Brother Leonard and Mr. McLaughlin.

In addition to these two events, our ensembles have been very active to date, with our Jazz Band performing at our Fall pep rally, Open House, and Walk-A-Thon; our Percussion Ensemble played at the Walk-a-thon as well. Our Chamber Choir performed at our Open House, and Chamber Orchestra at a reception for our partner school administrators and Open House.

Up next: our Christmas Concerts! On Friday, December 11th, all three orchestras, both percussion ensembles, and our Concert Chorus will be performing. December 12th features all three bands, Prep Chorus, and Chamber Choir. In addition, we will be having special guests from St. Andrew Avellino School and I.S. 77; their choruses will be participating in our annual "Hallelujah Project," singing Handel's ever-popular Hallelujah Chorus with our Concert Band and Prep Chorus. Both concerts are at 7:45PM with doors opening at 7:15, in the Bro. Ralph Clifford Memorial Auditorium. General Admission tickets are \$5 in advance in the Music Office or at the door.



Christmas Concerts

Concert I	Concert II
Friday, December 11, 2015	Saturday, December 12, 2015
Chamber Orchestra	Prep Chorus
Honors Orchestra	Junior Band
String Orchestra	Concert Band
Concert Chorus	Jazz Ensemble
Percussion Ensemble	Chamber Choir
Honors Percussion Ensemble	

Admission \$5.00 Doors Open 7:15 Concert 7:45 PM

We hope to see you there!!!

Art Department

On Friday, November 20th, the Sculptural Design class spent the day working with artist and performer John Trevellini. Mr. Trevellini works with the Puppet Phactory, a theater and sculpture organization that builds their puppets or "characters" out of found objects, meaning everyday objects repurposed as art materials. They then use these characters to put on plays. Mr. Trevellini shared some of his experiences being a freelance artist and his path to creating art for a living. He told a short story to give the students some inspiration for their characters. The students here at Prep all came up with ideas for their own characters and then quickly launched into building them out of objects like clothing irons, coffee cans, sports equipment, broken electronic devices, assorted pieces of hardware, and clothes. Their sculptures will now be displayed in the West Lobby cases to share their work with the school.



On November 19, 2015, our Art department traveled to The School of Visual Arts. We traveled to Manhattan with our art work and portfolios. Our class had the opportunity to tour the SVA campus. We looked at SVA's bio lab, 3D animation studios, and film and photography departments. We looked at the sculpture, fine arts, and welding rooms. Students walked through animation and graphic design classrooms on campus. After the extensive tours, we were warmly welcomed by SVA admission counselors. They reviewed our portfolios, giving us extensive positive feedback. We had lunch in the SVA café and headed back home to Prep with SVA posters, tote bags, and catalogs. It was inspirational to see art college students at work!



On Thursday, October 5th 2015, Maria Carlucci, Julia Culcasi, and Marisa Gentile took a trip with the St. Francis Art Department to St. John's University. The students had a tour of the art facilities. They had the opportunity to see a Saint John's Alumni Arts Show in the Sun Yat Sen Art Gallery. Our students gathered together with other Catholic high school arts students from the local area. The St. John's Art Department provided lunch with faculty members and the Chairperson of their Art Department, Belanna Lauto. Students had the option for portfolio reviews and spoke with current St. John's Art students. Saint Francis Prep graduate Maria Torres spoke about her accomplishments as a graphic design art major at St. John's. A wonderful experience was had by all!



Model UN

On Nov 13th and 14th, the St. Francis Prep Model United Nations team sent a delegation of 16 students to a conference hosted by Patchogue-Medford High School. The conference had eleven schools with over 200 students in attendance. We took home two awards. Donna Episcopio '16, who represented France in the Security Council, won an honorable mention, and Nicole O'Connor '18, who represented Syria in the Human Rights Council, earned a top honor as Best Delegate. We are proud of all delegates.



The College Process:



Pictured: Alyssa Robinson '17, Krissy Suquisupa '17, Karina De Los Santos '18, Kayla Keenan '18, Joshua Persaud '18, Rebecca Rodriguez '17, Lejla Redzamatovic '17 By: Rebecca Rodriguez '17

This past October and November, seven students participated in an eight-week intensive program at Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. The Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program, referred to as HPREP, is a way for high school students to learn and get a feel for the possibilities that the health care field has to offer them. While in the program, students were able to hear from professionals in the health care field, develop their college essays, research a medical topic of personal interest, become CPR certified, and visit the Anatomy Lab. To assist them through the program, students were each assigned a mentor who is a present Sophie Davis student. Two of our students were fortunate enough to be matched up to one of Prep's own, Stephan Lestin '12. The students all agreed that HPREP has allowed them to lighten the load that the college process will bring and has opened a door to many future opportunities.

Sports:

Girls Swimming:

The girls varsity swimming team competed at the CHSAA Girls Swimming Championships at Eisenhower Park on November 7th and 8th. They fought back and forth throughout the entire meet with St. Anthony's, Sacred Heart Academy, and The Mary Louis Academy and ended up taking fourth place overall at the meet. A big congratulations goes out to senior Olivia Santos, who qualified for the 100 yard Butterfly, and freshman Julia Courtney, who qualified in the 500 yard freestyle, at the New York State High School Girls Swimming Championships. They both represented the Terriers at Ithaca College November 19th as they took on the rest of the best swimmers in the State. Best of luck to them and congratulations to the rest of the team on a great season!

The JV-A Football Team defeated Mount St. Michael for the City Championship. Congratulations on a great season!



Guest Speaker:

On November 18th, Chris Williams, motivational speaker and positive energy coach, spoke to our senior class regarding keys to success, positive energy fuelers, and responsible decision making.

