

Principal's Newsletter

March 31, 2015

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant."
Robert Louis Stevenson*

The 3rd quarter electronic report cards will be available before the Easter recess begins. Teachers will be available on Thursday, April 16th, from 6-8 pm to discuss your son or daughter's academic progress. If you are unable to attend the conferences, please contact the teachers by phone to discuss failures or other academic problems. Please continue to monitor your child's academic progress during the 4th quarter and contact his or her teacher if there is a problem.

Continue to keep Justin McClymont and Auston Charles and their families in your prayers as we mourn their loss.



Justin McClymont

Auston Charles

March Highlights:

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2015:

[See the Slideshow on our Facebook Page!](#)

International Night: Congratulations to all who participated and performed at International Night on Friday, March 6th! Great school spirit!

WEST SIDE STORY Coming in April!!!

THE ST. FRANCIS PREP ART DEPARTMENT AND THE ALVERNIA DRAMA SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS



8PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH

7PM, SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH

2PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH

TICKETS:

AVAILABLE IN THE ART OFFICE:

STUDENTS: \$5

ON SALE AT THE DOOR:

ADULTS: \$12

SENIOR CITIZENS: \$5

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE ART DEPT. OFFICE: 718 423-8810 EXT. 218
OR EMAIL JBUCCHINO@SFPONLINE.ORG**

English Department: St. Francis Prep is proud to announce that on March 9th at the Storer Auditorium at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, junior Maggie Capozzoli-Cavota made it to the final round, "top 8 of the State," in the State Finals of the Poetry Out Loud national competition!

She recited the following poems in three separate rounds: "Broken Promises," by David Kirby, "It Was Not Death For I Stood Up," by Emily Dickinson, and "Famous," by Naomi Shihab Nye. Her understanding and interpretation of the poems in her recitations were profound and heartfelt; it was as if Maggie were channeling both the poet and speaker of each poem she memorized. Her confidence, poise, and grace under pressure were that of a seasoned speaker who has been doing this for decades. The last three lines of her final poem describe her as a student and young woman aware of her potential, and, most important, aware of her self:

"I want to be famous in the way a pulley is famous,
or a buttonhole, not because it did anything spectacular,
but because it never forgot what it could do."

Our English chairperson, Dr. Stephen Marino, and English teacher and Poetry Out Loud coordinator Mr. Eric Hafker were proud to join Maggie and her parents in Syracuse for this unique experience and accomplishment. A special thank you also goes to Maggie's English teacher, Mr. Nick Paccione, who helped guide her on this incredible journey.

Finally, St. Francis Prep was the only Catholic high school in NY State that made it to the State Regionals!



Pictured - President Brother Leonard Conway, O.S.F., principal Mr. Patrick McLaughlin, Dr. Stephen Marino, Mr. Eric Hafker, Prep's POL Runner-Up Yasmeen Qureshi, and Prep's POL winner Maggie Capozzoli-Cavota.

Class Trip: On Friday, March 13th, Mrs. Camus' AP Government and Politics class visited our nation's capital. This educational trip afforded the students the opportunity to visit Arlington Cemetery, Capitol Hill, the White House, the Smithsonian, and various memorials throughout Washington, DC. A truly great experience was had by all, as the students were able to experience firsthand that which they have been learning about throughout the year.



Dance and Performing Arts: Sophomore student Kayla McLeod was accepted into the Alvin Ailey summer dance intensive program. She attended a series of auditions in order to be considered. She has studied dance and acting with Ms Mejia and is also a member of the Alvernian Drama Society and SFP Dance Team.

The Alvernian Drama Society has been accepted to perform in Disneyland, California. They will attend a workshop on how to become a Disney Park Performer with a Disney professional dancer. They will perform a series of musical theatre numbers, such as "Dancing in the Street" from the Broadway hit Motown the Musical. The seniors attending the trip will have the opportunity to intern in Disney in such fields as engineering, finance, marketing, or performance after completing one year of college.

Art: Seven of our Art students have had their work recognized in the National Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. Nicole Noel '15 and Sunyoung Park '16 received Honorable Mentions. Alexandra Boodram '15 and Emily Paredes '15 will receive Silver Keys. Kaisia Menzies '15, Cyan Daly '15, and Mary Millus will receive Gold Keys. Their work is being displayed at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Mary has also been recognized as a National Medalist for her work. Congratulations to these students and all their teachers. Well done!



Monday, March 16th – Guest ceramic Artist Hayne Bayless spends the day at SFP.



On Monday, March 16th, Ceramic Artist and potter Hayne Bayless spent the day at Saint Francis Prep. Mrs. Buccino's ceramic design class had the opportunity to learn from a professional ceramic artist. Hayne led a hands-on workshop on slab techniques, extruding, and surface design. He discussed his own career and life-long accomplishments. Hayne was a true inspiration to our students. They concluded the workshop by admiring their own ceramic creations. It was truly a "messy" but wonderful day!

A Day at the MET – a warm-up for Paris!

WEDNESDAY – March, 18th 2015

The Art Department is thrilled to announce we will be going to Paris this upcoming July! The art students who signed up for this glorious endeavor spent a day at the Metropolitan Museum learning about Parisian Art. We had a guided tour through the French art and Impressionist galleries. Students had the opportunity to sketch the artwork and enjoy the day at the museum. It was a warm-up for Paris this upcoming summer!

Girls World Expo

Sunday, March 15th, twenty students from the Saint Francis Prep Art Department participated in the Girls World Expo. They had the extraordinary opportunity to exhibit their art work at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow Park. Girls World Expo is a one-day event in cities across the nation for girls. They can be inspired to imagine and create their own unique future. They can explore college and career choices, learn about having a healthy body image, discover empowering communities, and learn to stay safe in life and online. It was an eventful day! Scholastic Art and Writing Awards – Winners!

March 20th and 21st

We are pleased to announce that the following students have earned recognition In The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards of 2015. Honorable Mention – Nicole Noel and Sun Young Park, Silver Keys – Emily Paredes and Alexandra Boodram, Gold Key winners – Kaisia Menzies, Cyan Daly and Mary Millus. Mary Millus earned a medal for national recognition. Nationally recognized artists have been identified by panels of creative professionals as the most talented young artists in the nation. On Friday, March 20th, Gold key recipients attended a reception at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Their work was exhibited in the Museum. On Saturday, March 21st, Silver and Gold Key recipients received awards at the New School. Mary Millus, our National Medalist, will have the opportunity to attend a ceremony at the world famous Carnegie Hall on Thursday, June 11th. Congratulations to our extraordinary art students!



Music: On Friday, March 20th, Prep's Music Department presented their Annual Jazz-Pop Concert. Originally a vehicle for our Jazz Band, the concert has evolved into a showcase for our top ensembles: the Jazz Band, the Honors Percussion Ensemble, the Chamber Choir, and the Chamber Orchestra.

As part of the department's initiative to be inclusive and welcoming through Music, the Jazz Band from the Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy and violin students from Prep's Beginner Strings program at P.S. 115 also performed.

The night was a special one, hosted by new faculty member Brother Joseph Bach, O.S.F., and featured a wide variety of music, ranging from Glenn Miller to Guns N' Roses.

The Music Department will present its annual Spring Concerts on Friday, April 24th, and Friday, May 1st. Well over 600 students will perform, including special guests from St. Gregory the Great School, St. Kevin Catholic Academy, and P.S. 115. Both concerts are at 7:45PM. General admission tickets are \$5.

Alumni: Congratulations to SFP Grad Kevin Garcia '08 on his signing with Galway United of the Irish Premier League.



Stephanie Laterza, Class of 1997, published her first novel, [The Boulevard Trial](#), on Amazon. She is a 1997 graduate of SFP whose roots in the craft of writing began in her English classes all those years ago. She recalls her poems being published in *The Little Portion* and the joy that came with sharing her work with the school.

Fox Business Report: James Cotomuccio was interviewed on Fox News about the college selection process. Great shout-out to the SFP community.

Navigating the College Application Process on Fox Business

Campus Ministry:



Presidents Award for Community Service



Lenten T-shirts

College Signings: Congratulations to Senior Brendan Cole on his signing with Mercyhurst College where he will be playing Division II Football in the PSAC Conference for SFP Alumni Coach Marty Schaeztle '79.



Congratulations to Senior Leonardo D'Alesandro on his signing with Farleigh Dickinson University, where he will be playing Division I Soccer on Scholarship.



The Model United Nations participated in a conference hosted by Schreiber High School in Port Washington. There were over 5 high schools represented by over 120 students. Our delegation of 14 did a tremendous job representing their various countries. All should be recognized, but in particular Isabella Loarte-Ciudad (Cor 310) and Isiah Godoy (Cor 307) who won "Honorable Mention" awards as delegates in the committee of the European Union.



The St. Francis Preparatory School Chapter of the National History Scholars Society was formed in recognition of students who have embraced their role as "student historians." This Honor Society was formed through a charter granted through the National History Club and the National History Scholars Society whose mission is to promote an interest in the reading, writing, discussion, and enjoyment of history. The faculty of the Social Studies Department wishes to recognize students who have shown academic success in Social Studies

offerings and interest in the field. On Thursday, March 12th, the following students were inducted in the National History Scholar Society: Christopher Andreou, Saudia Baksh, Alexander Bracco, Margaret Capozzoli-Cavota, Marianna Cortes, Jessica Eduard, Donna Episcopio, Isiah Godoy, Xinhua He, Ana Jimenez, Isabella Loarte-Ciudad, Ryan Looney, Fotini Mamos, Nicholas Mastrogiannis, Samantha McNamara, Philip Murtha, Eric Rojas, Jillian Spence, Lisa Stack, Lauren Talty, Richkisha Walcott, Ojani Walthrust, Rosemary Wolf, Addham Zaatri, Brendan Zhang, Rebecca Zhang



Key Club: This year the Key Club Members are participating in the Autism Speaks walk on April 26th in Flushing Meadows Park. If you would like to join us or help by sponsoring a walker, click on the link below. We are also encouraging people to participate in the Light It Up Blue campaign. Wear blue on April 2nd!
[Walk for Autism Speaks](#)

Bio Tech: Mrs. Ashkenazy's Biotechnology students Kirstin Lanfrit, Daniel Markowitz, and Nicolette Rabuffo have discovered a novel sequence of nucleotides for Ajwain seeds - *Trachyspermum ammi* – and Anise seeds *Pimpinella anisum* that has never previously been barcoded. A DNA barcode is a DNA sequence that uniquely identifies each living species. Both seeds are known to have medicinal properties, and these students have been studying their genetic relationship through their phylogeny.

As a result of their outstanding work, they have had the honor of publishing their findings in GenBank – an international genetic sequence database, which is part of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). Their DNA barcodes will also be published in the International database at the Barcode of Life Data System at the University of Guelph, ON.

Way to go. We are so proud of your tremendous achievement!!!



Science Research: On March 1st, eight of our seniors competed in the New York City Science and Engineering Fair at City College of New York. The competition involved hundreds of students from high schools all over New York City. Three of our students and their projects moved on to compete in the final round on March 24th at the American Museum of Natural History. Based on their performance, they were awarded the following:

Lily Bergin's project looked at the effects of PCBs and sewage leakage on marsh land restoration efforts. Her project demonstrates that marine electrolysis is a viable option for marsh restoration in polluted environments. She was given First Award in the category of Environmental Science as well as awards from the American Meteorological Society and an award from the Association for Women Geoscientists.

Brooke Chai's project investigated the effectiveness of enzymes used in the process of biofuel production from grass sources. Her project helped to identify a more successful method of treatment to generate high energy yields from these grasses. Her project was given Third Award in the category of Biochemistry; she also received awards from the United States Metric Association for exceptional significant quantitative components, and a CUNY Sage Scholarship for an outstanding project and performance in NYCSEF from Hunter College.

Natalie Correa's project explored the genetic factors that drive time to infertility in women. Her research suggests that current methods for assessing a woman's reproductive potential do not provide an accurate window of fertility and that new measures should be considered. Her project received Third Award in the category of Medicine and Health as well as the Surgeon General's Award in Medicine and Health for health promotion and disease prevention. Natalie was also recognized with a CUNY Sage Scholarship for an outstanding project and performance in NYCSEF from Hunter College.

On February 27th, two seniors in the Science Research Program were invited to the Facebook Office in New York to celebrate the 2015 Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalists. These two women, Natalie Correa and Ariana Gopal, were named semifinalists by the Intel STS program in January. The event held by Facebook was attended by over 50 students, representing over 40 different schools from across the state. New York was home to almost one third of the 300 Intel Semifinalists for 2015. Natalie and Ariana were two of three students in Queens named semifinalists. Congratulations!

