

Principal's Newsletter

April 30, 2015

"My failure gave me strength, my pain was my motivation."

Michael Jordan

I congratulate the entire **Class of 2015** on their wonderful and well-earned college acceptances! All of your hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication are now being recognized across the finest schools in the nation. **Class of 2015, congratulations!** We could not be prouder of all that you have accomplished! I also want to acknowledge the hard work of our outstanding College Office and Guidance Counselors who have supported and guided our seniors throughout this year. As we move into the month of May, students need to check on the many extra help classes that are being offered by teachers in preparation for Final and Regents Examinations. Let's finish strong throughout the months of May and June!

Mr. McLaughlin

From the desk of Mr. Woods, Director of Technology: Important Notice on **PARENT PORTAL ACCESS** through end of school year. The Parent Portal will remain OPEN through the end of the current school year. It is imperative, however, that you realize that during the period from end of classes through transmission of final Report Cards, your student's grades are subject to significant changes. End-of-year grading, Final Exams, Regents Exams, and other adjustments can cause grades to change constantly. Your student's teachers will be working diligently to get this information posted accurately and in a timely manner. We ask that you NOT reach out to teachers, department heads, or administration until the grades have been finalized and sent via the online Report Cards.

Campus Ministry: On Thursday, May 7th, three students will be receiving their First Holy Communion in our school chapel during the 8 am Morning mass: Tristan Rodriguez, Nicholas Hasbun, Lianne Hope Sang. They are participating in our Sacrament program that Bishop DiMarzio began. In addition there will be five other students with them receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, May 31st, from Bishop Paul Sanchez They are Jessica Yodice, Francesco Purificato, Kaylee Molinari, Arianna DiGiuli, and Mary Zouvelos.

The Holy Week Franciscan Immersion Experience at the Romero Center in Camden, NJ, was a fantastic occurrence for everyone involved. Ten students and two faculty members travelled to Camden for the week leading up to Easter to be involved in the Romero Center Urban Challenge. The Urban Challenge Program is built upon four fundamental components: prayer, service, education, and reflection. Members of the F.I.E. Camden team volunteered their time with many organizations dedicated to helping the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. Students experienced direct service with the hungry, homeless, elderly, and those living with HIV/AIDS. The experience was rounded out with prayer and community living among students from 3 other area high schools. There is one Franciscan Immersion Experience remaining this year. Students will travel to Peru to care for children at the Hogar San Francisco De Asis in July. Check the Campus Ministry Webpage for more details!

Breakfast Run: On Saturday, March 28th, a committed group of SFP parents and teens prepared a warm breakfast and distributed clothing donations to 80 New Yorkers who are living on the streets. This is the sixth time that the Parent Guild and Campus Ministry have collaborated to provide a service activity for teens and parents to do together. Thank you to all who donated food, clothing, hygiene products, and time to share the Franciscan spirit!



Senior Retreats: Approximately 100 seniors have taken advantage of the Senior Retreat program this Spring. Focused on the theme of "Transitions," Campus Ministers lead a day of activities, reflection, discussion, and prayer at Camp Alvernia. The highlight of each retreat is a talk given by a faculty member giving the students advice about how to prepare for the next stage of life and how to keep their faith. Special thanks to Mr. Novoa, Mr. Pujdak, and Ms. Ramsey for serving as this year's speakers.



Sophomore Retreats: Tuesday, April 28th, marked the last day of the nineteen Sophomore Retreats. Almost every week from October to April, one of the sophomore religion classes was brought out to Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY. The theme of the day was "Growing and Sustaining Healthy Relationships." Led by junior and senior "retreat leaders," the sophomores were provided great hospitality and participated in activities like the Values Auction, Prayer Pantomime, and Seed Ritual. Students discussed important values in their lives and made promises when planting sunflower seeds in individual pots that they were able to take home. The day ended with Mass celebrated by Fr. Bill and the presentation of a San Damiano Crucifix for each student.

AP American History: The students visited the National Convention Center in Philadelphia PA on April 27th. Students were treated to two performances, "Freedom Rising" and "Living News," as well as a visit to Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Special thanks to Mr. Jardines and Ms. Donovan for coordinating the trip and chaperones Mrs. Barell, Mrs. Brizicky, Mrs. Mamos, and Mr. McLaughlin.



NY History Day: On Sunday, March 8th, two of our students, Fotini Mamos and Joshua Persad, took a trip into Manhattan to partake in the Annual New York History Day at the New York Academy of Medicine. Each student selected a historical figure and brought to life their leadership and legacy through dramatic performances. Fotini portrayed Empress Theodora of the Byzantine Empire - one of history's earliest feminists; Joshua relived the glory of Horatio the Roman general. Congratulations to Fotini for placing third in her category and to Joshua for winning Best New School Entry. A special thanks to Mr. Jardines for all of his help in preparing for the day.

English Department: On Monday, April 20th, Mr. Eric Hafker and his English 11 class, along with fellow English teacher, Ms. Mary Niklaus, went on a field trip to the Museum of Natural History to "walk in the footsteps of Holden Caulfield," the teenage hero rebel of the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*.



The day began with a viewing of the 3D Imax film *Tiny Giants* in the Lefrak Theatre, then a tour of some dioramas and glass cases from the novel, including the following exhibits: Northwest Coast Indians, the Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall, the Hall of African Mammals, the Hall of North American Birds, and finally the entire 4th floor displays of dinosaur fossils. Although the inclement weather kept them from their walk through Central Park and a ride on its famous carousel, they ended the day with a rejuvenating Italian lunch at NYC's famous Patsy's. It was a wonderful day full of student bonding and experiencing the setting and aura of this iconic museum loved so much by Holden in this iconic American novel.

English Department Honor Society Induction:



Renaissance Festival: Under the direction of the Chair of the English Department, Dr. Stephen Marino (SFP Class of 1971), the freshman English honors classes students celebrated Shakespeare's Birthday in grand fashion! Students dressed in Renaissance period clothing and brought in food and drink for a royal banquet. Members of the SFP faculty showed their support and dropped to feast with the students. Visit the SFP Facebook page for a photo gallery.

[See Photo Gallery on FaceBook HERE](#)

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Key Club: On Sunday, April 26th, members of the SFP Key Club participated in the Autism Speaks Walk in Flushing Meadow Park. While there, students learned about the current research being done to help find the cause of Autism, how to educate people in the community about what Autism is, and how to recognize the symptoms in children so they may be helped with early intervention. The students, with some help from the SFP faculty, raised \$910 which was just short of our goal of \$1000. Overall it was a beautiful day and a great opportunity to help a good cause!





Music Department: On Saturday, April 18th, the Chamber Orchestra of St. Francis Prep participated in a very special performance at P.S. 115. Prep has offered a beginner string program there for the last three years, which has grown to include three distinct levels. The concert began with first year students demonstrating the skills they learned since September. This was followed by the second year group playing more advanced pieces. The two groups then joined forces for a performance of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land." The concert then featured the third year students performing alongside Prep's Chamber Orchestra, presenting three works for string orchestra. The night was very well received, and the P.S. 115 parents in particular were thrilled to have their students involved in learning an instrument. More so, students and parents truly appreciated the opportunity to perform with their high school counterparts from Prep. Prep also has a similar program at St. Kevin Catholic Academy. Next year, Prep will be starting a beginner band program at P.S. 115.

On Saturday, April 25th, Prep's Jazz Band lent their talents to Prep's Annual Hall of Fame, Honorary Alumni, and Reunion. Students presented a program of Jazz Standards and Pop Favorites for the honorees, their guests, and alumni.

App Contest: The picture of our award winners from the app contest on April 17th at Pace University are pictured below, left to right: Zetong Jia, Jiawei Tang, and Ching Pang. These three juniors are part of team LumInosiTy that won third place for creativity and first place in functionality at this year's First Westchester Smart Mobile App Development Bowl. They built an android app from the ground up combining their creative brains with their knowledge of computer coding.



In addition to these students we entered two other teams of students comprised of 3 sophomores and 4 freshmen. They are to be commended on their efforts and time dedicated to this competition. Special thanks to their moderator Ms. May.

Art Department: The Tablet's Christ is Risen art competition - We are thrilled to announce that Marsha Varghese took first place at the high school level and SunYoung Park took second in the Tablet's Christ is Risen art competition. We congratulate Marsha and SunYoung on their success! Reception and award ceremony took place April 22 at 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus in Brooklyn. There they received awards and prizes. The Tablet, in collaboration with the John Hughes Council of the Knights of Columbus, invited local youth to express their faith through participation in the Tablet's Easter Art contest. Entries were based on adherence to the theme, Christ is Risen; originality of work; and demonstration of artistic ability. Keep a look out for Marsha and SunYoung in the next issue of the Tablet!



On April 16, Nicole Pantano received an award, \$1000 prize, and partial scholarship to Molloy College. The awards ceremony was in a gallery setting on the Molloy College campus. Nicole's work was

exhibited, and she was called on stage to receive recognition for her fine work. Congratulations to Nicole and her digital arts teacher, Mr. Marc Salmin.



Greek Club: The Greek Club marched in the NYC Greek Parade on Sunday, March 29th, 2015.



SAVE THE DATE Flyer HERE
Diocesan Family Day
Saturday, October 3, 2015
Xaverian High School, Brooklyn
11:00 am —3:00 pm
\$20.00 per family

Athletics: The Girls Varsity Softball team traveled to Richmond, Virginia, for the Sports Plus Softball tournament from March 19th through March 22nd.



Congratulations to the Junior Varsity Softball team for winning the Archbishop Molloy Easter Tournament.



The Varsity Girls Softball team sponsored an "Easter" dinner at Presentation parish. The dinner menu included pasta, meatballs, vegetables, salad, and dessert.



Football: Rich Carroll, the long time protégé and assistant of legendary football coach Vince O'Connor, has been named the new head football coach at St. Francis Prep by Athletic Director Sal Fischetti.



College Signing: Francis Cole signed a letter of intent to play football at Ava Maria College.



Bio Tech: Wonderful news! A group of students in Mrs. Ashkenazy's Bio Tech class had their DNA sequences of two medicinal seeds published in NCBI -the National Center for Biotechnology Information! Congratulations to students George Galanis, Stacy Kang, Reggie Sterlin, Kirstin Lanfrit, Nicolette Rabuffo, and Daniel Markovich. Well Done!



Volunteers: We recognize and thank our volunteers who have worked hard throughout the year assisting with clerical issues and school mailings. Thank You!

