

Principal's Newsletter
March 30, 2016

"Always remember, you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." - A. A. Milne

As we reach the end of the 3rd marking period, begin the spring season with milder temperatures, and anticipate the conclusion of the school year, let us not forget that our learning continues until every final exam has been taken and the final grades calculated. Our aim remains to finish the year focused and strong; our mindset is always to grow as learners. Remain resilient in your studies, realizing the time remaining will present tough obstacles and many opportunities to learn and grow. We also enter our last quarter with the spotlight on our relationships with others by keeping in mind the last line of our Mission Statement:

"Together we create an environment filled with academic success, respect, integrity, and joy."

We wish all the members of the St. Francis Prep family a happy, joyous, and blessed Easter. May we all pray over and reflect upon the truth of Jesus' Resurrection and all that it means for us. Let us proclaim the joy and hope of the Resurrection in all we do. God bless you.

Mr. McLaughlin

Parent University

Open to all SFP Parents and Guardians.

Wednesday, April 20, 2016; 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Parent University is an event in which parents can come and learn about the very latest topics related to the high school life of their adolescent children. The workshops are led by SFP faculty members and area professionals. Go to our website www.sfponline.org for more details and registration information.

From the Desk of Mr. Woods, Director of Technology:
Technology Update - Important Announcement

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, we are changing the format of the Prep-issued email accounts.

Currently, those email accounts are formatted "firstname.lastname@stfrancisprep.org" for student accounts and "g-firstname.lastname@stfrancisprep.org" for guardian accounts.

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the new format for the student account will be "studentnumber@stfrancisprep.org" and "g-studentnumber@stfrancisprep.org" for the guardian account. This change is being made to eliminate account creation issues that have occurred in the past to eliminate issues associated with multiple students having the same first and last names. Look for more information on this in the near future via the website and announcements sent home. Please contact Mr. Woods at ewoods@sfponline.org with any further questions.

Math Department:

On Tuesday, March 22, 111 juniors and seniors were inducted into Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honor Society. The purpose of Mu Alpha Theta is to promote scholarship in and enjoyment and understanding of mathematics among high school students. Inductees have achieved outstanding grades in their mathematics classes. They use their mathematical strengths to help students who are struggling. Mr. McLaughlin and Sister Mary Ann Napier gave words of encouragement to those present at the induction ceremony. Senior members provided a brief instruction on the deeper meaning and historical significance of mathematics.



March 14 (3.14) is Pi Day and is celebrated throughout the world. The first 3 digits of the world famous irrational number π are 3.14. We celebrate the day here at the Prep by wearing Pi Day T shirts. The design of the shirt, ordering, and distribution are the work of Mrs. Bethany Klein. A new addition this year is that a student designed the shirt: we thank Isabella Franco for her creativity. Each teacher encourages the students to join in the celebration by various activities in the classroom, reports, posters, videos, etc. The Math Department Faculty also celebrates by having "Pizza Pie" for lunch. The activities that occur encourage the students to realize the importance of Mathematics in their lives and have a greater appreciation of the value of Pi.



Social Studies Department:

National History Day Competition

On Sunday, March 6, St. Francis Prep competed for the second time in the New York City History Day Competition. The competition, in its 26th year, focused on Exploration, Encounters, and Exchange throughout History.

Two entries were sent to the competition. The first, competing in the Senior Individual Performance category, was Siena DiBenedettis. Her performance, "Marco Polo – Explorations, Encounters and Exchange on the Silk Road," took a look into the life of a young archeologist who embarked on a journey to find out more about Marco Polo. Throughout the performance, she brought to life vivid moments of the journey Polo took from Italy to China, under the rule of Genghis Khan. This was done through a clever use of flashbacks provided by readings from original journal entries Siena had created specifically for the performance; she also used a cork-board map to take spectators along for the journey. Her wonderful performance earned her a third place medal in the Senior Individual Performance category.



The second group, competing in the Senior Group Performance category, was Jenna and Robyn Alma. Their performance, "75 Years of Exploration, Encounter and Exchange - The '39 and '64 New York World's Fairs," explored the topic of the New York World's Fairs, which took place just a few short miles from St. Francis Prep. To create their original performance, the sisters completed local research through interviews and museum exhibitions. The performance itself took a personal look at a mother and daughter duo who attended both the '39 and '64 World's Fairs together, looking at the historic

events that surrounded the Fairs and the impacts they both had on the future. To make the performance more authentic, they included timed period music, magazines, tickets, and even handmade backdrop drawings of both Fairs made by the girls in school. Their exciting performance earned them a Second Place medal in the Senior Group Performance category, allowing them a spot in the New York State History Day Competition to be held in Cooperstown this April. There they will compete to earn a spot on the national team. We wish them good luck on their journey!

Speech, Debate, and Student Congress Team

On March 13, students from our team competed in the last regular tournament of the school year. The students spent the entire day competing in events such as Student Congress, Duo Interpretation, and Oral Interpretation, showcasing their talents. We are proud to announce that the Student Congress Team won first place at the tournament and Isiah Godoy '16, Jessica Eduoard '16, and Ojani Walhurst '16 will be competing at National Championships in Sacramento, California, along with Jillian Spence '16 and Cassidy Perard '16.

Additionally, due to their hard work, diligence, and perseverance, the following students will be competing at State Championships in April to be held at Hofstra University the weekend of April 9: Cassidy Perard, Jillian Spence, Yashmeen Qureshi, Isiah Godoy, Ojani-Pierre Walhurst, Jessica Edouard, Joshua Persad, Nicholas Mastrogiannis, and Isabel Casares. Good luck to all.

Music Department:

On Wednesday, March 9, the St. Francis Prep Jazz Band traveled to St. Francis de Sales School in Belle Harbor. St. Francis de Sales students were treated to an assembly concert; afterward, Prep Principal, Patrick McLaughlin, spoke to the students about high school. On Tuesday, March 22, Prep's Chamber Orchestra lent their talents to the Math Honor Society Induction.

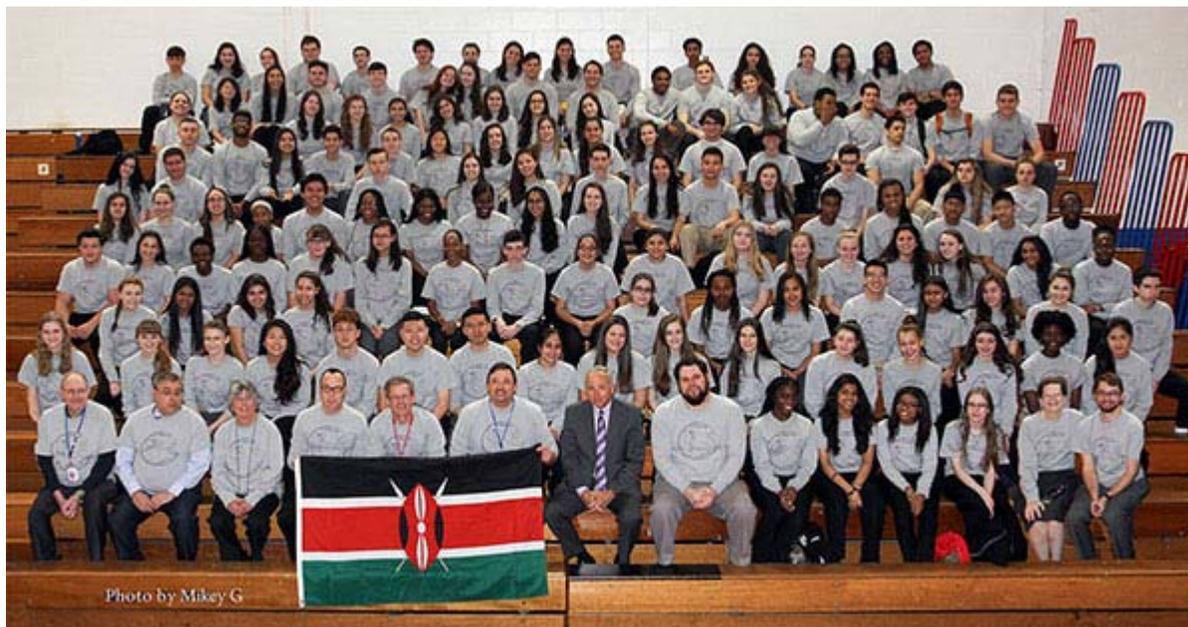
On Friday, March 18, Prep's Music Department hosted its annual Jazz-Pop Concert. Originally a vehicle for our Jazz Band, the concert has evolved into a night to feature our top four ensembles: the Jazz Band, the Honors Percussion Ensemble, the Chamber Choir, and the Chamber Orchestra. We also welcomed special guests, the Jazz Band from the Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy, and the Prep-sponsored Youth Orchestra from P.S. 115, who performed alongside our Chamber Orchestra. [FaceBook Slideshow HERE](#)

Highlights of the night included Jazz Band's rendition of Maynard Ferguson's "Admiral's Horn" and Honors Percussion Ensemble performance of junior Benjamin Santos' arrangement of Toto's hit, "Africa." Chamber Choir explored some contemporary classical music by singing "Knee Play 1," from Philip Glass' opera, "Einstein on the Beach," and Chamber Orchestra presented Queen's timeless classic, "Bohemian Rhapsody." [Video HERE](#)

Please join us for our upcoming Spring Concerts on April 22 and April 29. Both concerts are at 7:45 PM and are in the Brother Ralph Clifford Memorial Auditorium. General admission tickets are \$5, either in advance in the Music Office or at the door.

Campus Ministry:

We are very pleased to announce that we achieved our Lenten Collection goal of \$10,000 for our partner school in Lare, Kenya. Our students, faculty, and staff raised \$6,000 while an anonymous donor contributed the balance of \$4,000. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of our goal!



St. Patrick's Day Parade:



Art Department:

Scholastic Art Awards-Gold key Winner-Jennifer Paredes

On Friday March 11, Jennifer, her family, and Art Teachers attended the Scholastic Art Awards Award ceremony at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Jenn had the opportunity to see her art work on display. The evening included an awards ceremony, speeches, and a gallery show. The art work will be on display in the MET for the month of March. Congratulations to Jenn and her family!

Crayola Art Competition

We are pleased to announce that our art students, Aria Shehas, Julia Bravo, and Jessica Richardsen, have been selected as finalists in the 2015-2016 Creativity Connects the World Art Exhibition! Their artwork shows a true connection to the theme, had stunning visual appeal, presented age-appropriate critical thinking, and responded to the theme with originality. Our students will have their artwork professionally framed and donated to the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, they will receive a customized plaque with a replica of their inspiring artwork, commemorating this achievement. To honor the SFP Art Department, we will also receive a selection of Crayola products.



Ms. Mejia's freshman and sophomore performing arts classes were assigned to write an original composition based on either a human rights issue or what holds importance to them. Three pieces were chosen to perform at Nassau Community College on March 19. Sophomore Nick Kototos, Sophomore Jordan Ban, and Freshman Jason Ligasan participated in the competition. Jordan Ban won the top three awards against eight area high schools.



Foreign Language Department:

Sophomores Tyler Hartman, Nicholas Delacruz, and Lauren Dierks have been awarded special recognition on the Presidential Honor Roll of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). Tyler and Nicholas will be awarded silver medals and Lauren will be presented with a bronze medal for their outstanding performance on the 2016 National German Exam for High School Students.

English Department:

At the 2016 New York State Poetry Out Loud Competition in Syracuse on March 14, St. Francis Prep senior, Maggie Capozzoli-Cavota, reached the final round of competition and was declared the runner-up to the state champion. As the second place finisher, Maggie received \$100, and St. Francis received \$200 to purchase poetry books for its library. St. Francis is proud to be the only Catholic high school in the State of New York to make it to the State Finals.

Congratulations to Maggie, her parents, and the English department for contributing to our continued success with Poetry Out Loud. Special thanks go to English teacher and POL coordinator Eric Hafker, English Chairperson Stephen Marino, and English teacher-mentor Nick Paccione for their special devotion to the competition.



Model UN:

The St. Francis Prep Model United Nations Team participated in a conference hosted by Port Washington's Schreiber High School. There were over 200 students representing over 8 different high schools. Our delegation made a strong showing. We want to recognize the seniors who attended and congratulate them on their last high school conference: Samantha McNamara'16, Addham Zaatri'16, Nicholas Ramos'16, Chris Andreou'16, Isabella Loarte-Ciudad'16, and George Galanis'16 (not shown).



Recognition:

St. Francis Prep was recognized at the 2015 NYC Awards Reception for Autism Speaks on February 10, 2016, for being one of the top fundraising teams in 2015. We have recently received a plaque for being a Bronze Supporter. Congratulations to Ms. Gammello and her team!

Congratulations to Emma Estrada, Cor 106:

Bayside teen skates to victory in national win

Ninth-grader brings home ice championship with team after years of intensive training

BY GABRIEL ROM

Between doing her schoolwork, hanging out with friends and being a member of a championship-winning synchronized ice-skating team, Emma Estrada leads a busy life.

Emma, a ninth-grader from St. Francis Prep who lives in Bayside, and her 11 teammates were crowned National Champions at the 2016 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships last week in Kalamazoo, Mich.

"It was such a fun experience," Emma said. "It's exciting knowing that I was up against the rest of the nation, and winning with your friends there just feels so good."

Emma, a member of the Skyliners Intermediate Synchronized Skating Team, traveled to the national tournament with her teammates to compete among the 12 best synchronized skating teams throughout the country in her division.

Their skating earned the Skyliners their best score of the season as well as their first national crown in the intermediate division.

The team was established in 2001 by a group of parents who wanted to create the most competitive synchronized skating club in the tri-state area. Now in its 15th year, Skyliners has grown into one of the top synchronized skating teams in the country, with 11 squads and 190 skaters ranging in age from 5 to 26. While the bulk of kids are from the tri-state area, Emma is the only skater on the team to represent Queens.

To get competition-ready, Emma and her teammates have undergone a grueling training regimen every weekend from August to February with only Christmas weekend off.

"It gets hard, it does, and it's tough to balance it all out, but it always gets done," she said.

She noted that since her group of friends is mostly the girls she has met through skating, socializing and work often go hand-in-hand.

"Knowing that all of the hard work paid off just feels so good," she said. "We worked so hard for it. We won and we got the prize."

There are approximately 600 synchronized teams and nearly 5,000 synchronized skaters in the United States alone, with elite competitions at both the national and international level. Although not currently an Olympic sport, there is significant movement toward including it at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

"After the win it gave me a lot more motivation that I can go even higher in the sport," Emma said, before getting back to her homework.

Reach reporter Gabriel Rom by e-mail at grom@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 269-4564.



Emma Estrada from Bayside was crowned National Champion at the 2016 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships in Kalamazoo, Mich. this past week. Skyliners Synchronized Skating Team

Alumni:

Seamus McCaffery back visiting from the United States Air Force Academy. Pictured with Mr. Masselli.



SFP Handball Team Alumni Win

International Handball Tournament in London

Danny Torres '08 and Jon Sese '08 travelled to London, England, in February to compete in the UK Handball Tournament. They played singles and doubles. Jon Sese won his "B" division and captured 1st place in the Men's Singles "B" Division defeating a player from Ireland 15-13 in the championship round. Torres and Sese, who joined the school's Handball Team in their senior year – 2007-2008 – played together in the Men's Open Doubles Division. The "Open" division is made up of the best and top players. Danny and Jon defeated their rivals – a team from England – and captured 1st place for their first international championship as a team. This is Jon's first international handball tournament experience. Danny competed several times in international tournaments, including Belgium in 2015 and at the World Handball Championship in Ireland in 2013, where he captured two world championships in singles and doubles. Both Danny and Jon volunteer as assistant coaches for the current 2016 SFP Handball Team.





Brianna Sheridan sings the National Anthem at the Queens Chamber of Commerce St. Patrick's Day luncheon.

Athletics:

Gilbert LaSala maintained a 211 season average, earning him a 6th place finish in the NY State CHSAA Bowling League. He and New York State's top 25 bowlers were invited to the NY State individual tournament held at Babylon Lanes on Saturday March 5, 2016. Gilbert had a strong first game earning him a top fifth standing. He bowled an average of 219.75 with a series for his four games totaling 879. Overall for the tournament he finished in 7th place. Congratulations to Gilbert on a great finish to a great season!





Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Angeletti at the Atlantic 10 "Lifetime Achievement" Brunch with St. Bonaventure and SFP basketball legend Sam Stith.

Athletic Department Signings:



Alyssa Seiss - Dominican College - Softball



Olivia Bullaro – Delaware State - Soccer



Sabrina Blaskovic – Adelphi University – Soccer



Samantha Zdesar – Stevens Institute of Technology - Swimming



Brianna Allen – Wilmington University - Volleyball



Brianna Baglino – St. Joseph's College - Softball