

Principal's Newsletter

March 1, 2014

"You can't control the wind, but you can adjust your sails"

As we depart from the harsh February weather, we look forward to the warmth of spring in March - hopefully! In these newsletters, I have attempted to highlight all of the great things happening at St. Francis Prep on a daily basis. Our students, faculty and staff are committed to keeping our standards elevated and achieve our goals at high levels. However, in school and in life the unthinkable happens and we are left to manage, reflect, and pray. We mourn the loss of one of our seniors, JiaHao " Jason" Leung, Cor 411, who was tragically killed in a car accident on the LIE on Tuesday, February 18th. Jason was a quiet and reserved person, who worked hard in all of his classes to become an outstanding student. Jennifer Gao, a student from Cardoza High School, also lost her life in the accident. We continue to pray for Jason and Jennifer, their families, and friends.

As we move through the middle of the third quarter of the school year, it is important for all of us to approach this time of year with renewed energy and to always give our maximum effort to our studies. During the beginning of the 4th quarter, teachers will be announcing review classes in preparation for school finals and Regents examinations. Finish Strong!

February Highlights:

Ariana Winter, Cor 118, attended the first **Congress of Future Medical Leaders** held on February 14-16. Students are nominated based on their academic performance, leadership potential, and dedication to serving others through a medical profession. At the Congress, students had the privilege of listening to Nobel Prize winners, prominent medical school deans, leaders in medicine, medical futurists, and young inventors and scientists (recent winners/finalists of the Intel and Google Science Fairs). They also witnessed a live surgery.

From Ms. Armon, Director of Guidance: Please join us on Tuesday, March 4, at 7:00 P.M. in the school auditorium for our **Junior Parent College Information Night**. We are pleased to have a special presentation from a panel of experts who will provide juniors and their families with an inside look at the college admissions process. Mr. Richard Alvarez, The University Director of Admissions at The City University of New York, Ms. Patricia Peek, The Director of Admissions at Fordham University, and Mr. Robert Pertusati, Senior Associate Dean of Admissions and Director of Recruitment at Stony Brook University, will address the many issues and questions that arise as you begin your college planning. In addition, we have increased our AP offerings. Currently 15 AP classes are given and we will have about 400 students taking these exams offering them opportunities for college credit as well as college placement. These tests along with good scores are essential for admissions to competitive schools. It is not an accident that SFP students are applying to and being accepted to these schools in great numbers.

We are excited to announce that former NFL player, Julian Jenkins, and his father, two-time Super Bowl Champion, **Ed Jenkins (SFP Class of 1968)** will be speaking to our student-athletes on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. They will be discussing college athletics, recruiting, and athletic scholarships.

Course Selection for 2014-2015

Since early January, our students have been involved in the process of selecting courses for next school year. Mr. Castellano coordinated the efforts of our teachers, chairpersons, and guidance counselors who have worked very hard in helping the students make the best possible selections for their classes.

Listed below are the tallies for the students who have been approved to take an H period class or extra credits next year. 43% of the student body is taking either an **H period class or an extra credit**. The process of reviewing these applications revealed how many of our students are taking on challenging classes and taking full advantage of the abundant opportunities St. Francis Prep offers.

Whatever classes your child is in this year and next, please continues to encourage and support hard

work, dedication, and striving for excellence. Your support and guidance make a tremendous difference.

Extra Credit and H Period

Next year's Seniors	305 – out of 673
Next year's Juniors	327 – out of 628
Next year's Sophomores	<u>216 – out of 647</u>
TOTAL	848 – out of 1948

Boys Basketball Team: Michael Fields, senior basketball player, has been selected to represent the CHSAA in the Mayor's Cup Senior All-Star Game against the PSAL on Saturday, March 29th at CCNY at 3:00 pm. The Basketball Program would like to congratulate all seniors Alex Amenta, Michael Fields, Brian Haggerty, and Jonathan Joseph for four years of dedicated service to the program. We also congratulate Coach Tim Leary on his 600th win this season!

[Boys Varsity Basketball Slideshow](#)

Girls Basketball Team: Girl's Varsity basketball had a successful regular season. This was due in part to the leadership of our seniors. Co-Captains Chelsea Brandimarte and Kayla Hourany along with Melissa Dericioglu are three year Varsity athletes. Their experience along with fellow Seniors Jubilee Aguilar and Alexa Moutafis helped to guide our underclassmen in what it takes to compete on the Varsity level. They will be truly missed.

Two of our athletes have received special recognition. Kayla will be playing in The Mayor's Cup game alongside many of the best players in the city. Chelsea was selected by the league coaches to receive The John Moran League Sportsmanship Award. Both very deserving honors to two very special athletes and we are very proud of them! We are currently still in State Play-offs. Our first State Play-off game will be at home on Wed. March 5th @ 5:45 if anyone would like to come and support our team! Congrats to Coach Caitlin Kennedy being selected as Brooklyn-Queens JV Coach of the Year!

[Girls Varsity Basketball Slideshow](#)

Ms. Sullivan reports that eight seniors from the **Science Research Program** were selected as Semifinalists and invited to present their original research projects at the 2014 Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at York College on February 9th. The nine Seniors were Jackie Angielczyk, Daniel Bogun (not pictured), Jacqueline Heffner, Suriah Iqbal, Diane Lachman, Umay Mughal, Kimberly Rosal, Ashley Simons.



Lily Jardines (409) went to a **Youth Leadership Seminar for National Security** in Washington, D.C. during the winter break. Students were introduced to guest speakers from different government agencies like the NSA. She visited the Pentagon and other sites related to national security. Of the 250 students at the seminar Lily was one of 4 students selected to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Mr. Kruger identified that Nicolai Feldhoff, COR 306, has earned a Gold Certificate from the **American Association of Teachers of German (AATG)** for scoring in the 92nd percentile on the 2014 National German exam.

This past fall, the New York City Chapter of the National Football Foundation (NFF) selected the **"Elite Eleven."** These scholar athletes were chosen from a public or private school residing in the five boroughs of New York City. The criteria were academic achievement, athletic accomplishment, and community leadership. Mr. McLaughlin proudly announced on Wednesday, that one of our senior members of the football team was chosen this year and publically congratulated Kevin DeMauro for this great achievement.

The **SFP Snow Club** had another successful day on the slopes of Plattekill Mountain. Mr. Devesin, Ms. Donovan, and Mr. Wagner chaperoned 30 students on the snow-filled Wednesday 2/19) over the February break.



Senior Justin Guerre is the **Indoor Track and Field** 55 m City Champion and came in 3rd Place Millrose Games. Coach Hernandez reports he is currently being recruited by Uconn, Pittsburg and LaSalle University.

[Boys Indoor Track Slideshow](#)

Breena Goldberg graduated from SFP in 2008. She was very active in the school plays, campus ministry, and the dance team for four years and was captain in her senior year, she reports as the best four years of her life. She has just started the official professional Royals Dance Team for the Brooklyn Kings Rugby League! All the Best to Breena!

The St. Francis Prep, **gymnastics team** is quickly becoming a dynasty. For the third consecutive season, the team won the CHSAA sectional championship title on Oct. 28, 2013. The Prep finished the season 6-0 in team competition on both the varsity and junior varsity levels. "It's really been fantastic," said head coach Kamla Modi, who has coached the team for eight years. "I've been happy every year seeing the girls grow throughout the year. It's a wonderful experience being able to coach no matter what level they are. Learning from our experiences and seeing how much we've grown just in that two months, it happens every year." Junior Khayla Martinez took home first place in the varsity individual all-around competition for the second straight year. Second place went to St. Francis senior

Nicole Donini. On the junior varsity level, senior Madison Kolnsberg won the individual all-around. "These last three years, we've had a super-powerhouse strong team," Modi said. "We've started out strong, so there's been more confidence. When you start to win, it starts to become the norm." The L'il Terriers are the three-time defending champs after all and are surely gearing up for a fourth straight title.



On February 1, 2014 our **Science Olympics** team competed against 51 other teams at Grover Cleveland High School. The teams were lead by our head Coach ,Ms. Nicole May, Dr. Sharon Bennett , Mr. Paul Cohen, Mr. Michael Alvarez , Dr. Peter McNamara, and Ms. Alisha Brizicky. Students Lily Ng and Bryant Kim placed first in the event "write it, do it". 3rd place in " Scrambler" was won by Sebastian Mendez and James Pyne. 7th place in "Magnetic Levitation" was won by Veronica Ruiz and Andrew Bow. Finally, 10th place for "Bungee Drop" won by James Pyne and Arianna Kahn. On Sunday, February 9th our seniors competed in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) at York College. Eight of these students were named semifinalists in their categories. Umay Mughal was also named 2nd in her category for Biology. This Sunday, March 1st 14 of our seniors will be competing in the New York City Science and Engineering Fair (NYCSEF). In both competition students that enter must have completed a novel, collegiate level research project. Our students have been working diligently designing oral and poster presentations to discuss their work and findings. Additionally Jacqueline Heffner was notified that her work on viral therapy will be published in Dove Press. The article is titled "Oncolytic Viral Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer: Current Research and Future Directions". Mr. Boylan is proud of the work and accomplishments of his Science Research students.

The Duns Scotus Speech, Debate and Student Congress Team, under the direction of Mrs. Hausserman, has had a great season with much success. This season has been very emotional for the students due to the loss of their beloved coach Maurice Braithwaite this past summer. Mr. B, as he was affectionately called, served as coach for 25 years, leaving an impression on all of the students he mentored. The team had the honor of dedicating the trophy case in the library to Mr. B on Feb. 8th. Mr. B's wife, Rosemarie and their two sons, Marcel and Rory, both graduates of the Prep, as well as one of his grandsons, Tiberius, joined current and past coaches and team members in remembering Mr. B's stories and contributions. Mrs. Braithwaite was gracious enough to bring all of the photo albums Mr. B put together over the past 25 years so we can reminisce. This event served as the opportune time to celebrate and incredible man.



Additionally, the team has earned much success this year. With one more month left in the normal competition season, we have had a large portion of the team qualify for state championships in Oneonta this coming April. The students that have qualified are senior Ashley Simons, sophomores Cassie Perard, Jillian Spence, Richkisha Walcott, Isiah Godoy, Ojani Walthrust, Yasmeen Qureshi, and Jessica Eduoard. Students Natalie Correa, Nicholas Mastrogiannis and Jonathan Mendez earned spots as alternates for state championships. The success of the students is due to their great diligence and dedication. The spirit of the team is strong.



Arianna Kahn, a 2014 National Achievement Scholarship Finalist