

**February 28, 2017**

**"If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I would spend six hours sharpening my ax."  
Abraham Lincoln**

As we begin the Lenten season, let us be mindful of the message from Pope Francis: "Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God 'with all their hearts' (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord." Lent is a time of prayer, penance, sacrifice, and good works in preparation of Easter. During these special days, we are more conscious of our Franciscan mission to be instruments of peace, proclaim joy and hope, care for creation, and live lovingly.

As you will read in this Principal's Newsletter, the Franciscan spirit is alive within our students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni. I am proud of the great work that takes place in our community on an everyday basis, "refusing to settle for mediocrity."

In early December, I had the great opportunity to be interviewed by Dr. Gempesaw, President of St. John's University on "Sharing Knowledge," produced by Telecare. Joining me was Kathleen Walsh, Ed.D, Superintendent of Schools, Department of Education, Diocese of Rockville Centre, to discuss the Value of Catholic Education.

WATCH ON YouTube HERE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLd7SN7BEWcrB6t9go1EKVvLK7qQdHSZaU&v=B2jFFCDExVo>

Mr. McLaughlin

***From the desk of Fr. Mark:***

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held each Friday during the season of Lent. It will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Chapel on East top.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament gives one the opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and give reverence to Jesus in the Eucharist outside Mass.

It is a time to pause from the busyness of life and encounter Jesus as we strengthen our personal relationship with Jesus.



## *Principal's Newsletter*

*From the desk of Mr. Castellano:*

### **JUNE REGENTS EXAMS**

Students are automatically registered for Regents exam associated with all courses they take at St. Francis Prep. For many classes, the Regents exam serves as the final exam for the course; the Regents exam grade can count for as much as 20% of the student's final grade. Regents exam grades appear on the transcripts of students. It is important for students to prepare well for these exams and to do their best. All teachers will do Regents exam review in class, and many teachers offer extra review classes after school. Please encourage your child to take advantage of all these review opportunities.

Some students may have missed or not passed a Regents exam from past years. Students who are missing any of the required Regents exams (Algebra 1, Biology or Chemistry, Global History, U.S. History, and English) will automatically be enrolled for the appropriate June Regents exam.

Students who wish to re-take any of the other Regents exams must see Mr. Castellano by **Thursday, 9 March**, in order to register for an exam. St. Francis Prep allows students to re-take an exam if the student failed it; students may not re-take an exam they passed in order to raise their score. Parents and guardians with questions about Regents exam matters may call Mr. Castellano at ext. 209.

*From the desk of Bro. Lawrence Boyle:*

### **NON-RESIDENTS OF NEW YORK CITY TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS**

Parents of students who reside outside the City of New York are reminded that transportation requests for the School Year 2017-2018 are due in districts offices usually on March 31st.

If your district provides any sort of transportation and you have not heard from the district regarding the next school year, please contact the district now.

*From the desk of Bro. Leonard:*

### **Brother Leonard continues his travels to visit with alumni and promote the Prep's Modernization Program**

During the week of February 13th, Brother Leonard visited personally with 15 graduates (including one of our trustees) during individual face-to-face meetings conducted throughout North and South Carolina, including the Raleigh and Charlotte areas, and Columbia, Hilton Head, and Charleston, SC.

As in previous meetings with alumni, Brother takes the time to update each person on the latest "happenings" at Prep, with special emphasis on the current Modernization Program and the capital campaign designed to help fund this effort.



During this trip, Brother Leonard paid special visits to two of our “senior” alums, John Mullane, SFP Class of 1945 (pictured here in his Prep t-shirt), whom Brother met in Charlotte; and John Moten (below), SFP Class of 1943, whom Brother met near his home in Hilton Head.

Brother continues his “road show” later this week when he travels to Florida and meets one-on-one with alumni between Miami and Orlando both before and after the Prep’s Annual Florida Alumni Reunion this weekend in Port St. Lucie (March 3-5).

### **National Merit Scholarship Corporation**

We were very happy to receive the information from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation that Orlando Santiago was named as a Finalist in the 2017 Competition for National Merit Scholarships. In addition, Orlando Santiago and Jenna Alma were both recognized as National Hispanic Scholars for 2017. Well done!



### **Campus Ministry**

During the February break, students and chaperones participated in the Franciscan Volunteer Program, offered by the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn. This weeklong collaboration included students and faculty from two other Franciscan high schools where members of the Franciscan Brothers minister: St. Anthony's High School, South Huntington, and Notre Dame High School, Cape Girardeu, Missouri. The students dedicated their entire week to prayer, service to the community, and building community among the schools. We thank and recognize them for their great work!



Faculty: Dr. Sullivan, Mr. Sempowich, Mrs. Kotowicz, Bro. James McVeigh, Fr. Mark Simmons, and Mr. Johnston. Students: Anna Maria Leal, Shannon Whelan, Samantha Rutuolo, Angela Castronova, Brianna Sheridan, Cesar Santana, Abdel Serrata, Marisa Kosinski, Jenna Alma, and Marcel Avril.

### **St. Francis Prep Night with the NY Mets at Citi Field**

On Tuesday night, May 30th, St. Francis Prep will be recognized by The New York Mets at Citi Field. Prior to the 7:00 game between The Mets and The Milwaukee Brewers, our highly regarded Chamber Choir will be on the field to perform their own special rendition of The National Anthem. The ceremonial first pitch will be thrown by our Principal, Mr. Patrick McLaughlin.

The Mets have reserved multiple sections of seating on the lower level just beyond the left field fence for our students, faculty and staff, families, friends, and alumni at the discounted rate of \$22 per ticket. Tickets can be ordered through Ms. Zerilli in the Faculty-Staff Room or by contacting her through email or by telephone by March 27, 2017. She can be reached at [gzerilli@sfponline.org](mailto:gzerilli@sfponline.org) or (718)-423-8810 ext. 211. We look forward to a fun-filled night

celebrating these two great Queens County institutions and hope that you will be able to join us.

### SJU Academic Bowl

On Saturday, February 11, 2017, 3 of our seniors competed in the **St. John's University College Advantage Academic Bowl**. This was a jeopardy-style competition, which included 15 teams from various high schools. We are very proud of our SFP Terrier Team members who earned 2nd place:



Zachary Cipollina: Cor 404, Michaela Prisco: Cor 414, Edward Ostuni: Cor 413  
Each received a \$10,000.00 grant toward their future St. John's tuition. Our team members also received items from St. John's as a bonus gift for knowing the most Trivia questions related to St. John's University facts. Thanks to Ms. Coccia for coordinating the event with SJU and Mr. Woods for his support!

### Hero Club

The SFP Student Activities Program, under the direction of Mr. Ganci, offers a variety of clubs and activities which serve our students' needs and the needs of our fellow community members.

The St. Francis Prep Hero Club's mission is to serve, or "be heroes," in our community. This past February, the SFP Hero Club organized and successfully completed the Valentine's Day Teddy Bear Sale. As a club dedicated to serving and helping others through "heroic" work, members of the Hero Club were able to take their desire to help others to a new level. For

two weeks, members of the club sold teddy bears to students and faculty. For every one bear purchased, \$1 was donated to Saint Mary's Children's Hospital in an effort to aid the hospital in their great work with the children in our community.



This year the Hero Club sold a record number of bears making the 2017 sale the best yet! 1,115 bears were sold which allowed the club to donate over \$1,115 because of additional donations. Although it requires a tremendous time commitment and dedication for our Heroes to sell, assemble, and distribute all the teddy bears, all members and Mrs. Brady enjoyed an enormously successful project! The SFP Hero Club would like to extend their gratitude to all faculty and students who participated in the sale and to all the club members who helped make the sale possible. As Franciscans, the Hero Club would like to ask that all the members of the Saint Francis Prep community continue to be living instruments of peace and keep the families at Saint Mary's Children's Hospital in their prayers. God Bless!

### **Music Department**

Late January and February continued to be busy for our Music department. On January 19th, our Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band performed at Prep's Accepted Students Night. On January 27th, our beginning students performed in a concert highlighting their achievements. The evening featured students from our beginner classes in Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, and Strings. Our String Orchestra and Junior Band headlined the evening. On February 15th, our Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of student-teacher Amanda Wai, performed at our National Honor Society Induction Ceremony. And finally, on February 14th, our Jazz Band visited Intermediate School 25 to perform for each grade. Jazz

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Band members even sat in with IS 25's band and IS 25 alum, and current Prep faculty member Marc Silvagni took questions from IS 25 students. Our next major performance is Friday, March 31st, when Prep's Music department will present the annual Jazz-Pop concert, featuring our Jazz Band, Honors Percussion Ensemble, Chamber Choir, and Chamber Orchestra. Doors open at 7:15pm for a 7:45pm performance.



*IS 25 Adrian Block Marc Silvagni alumnus of IS 25*

## National Honor Society

### National Honor Society Franciscan Chapter Induction Ceremony



### Art Department

SFP's first Paint Night on February 4th provided an evening of creativity and community-building. Paint Night was sponsored by the Parents' Guild and raised more than \$1,700 for the Mary Millus Foundation. Established to honor Mary (Class of '15), the foundation aims to help children with the struggles of mental illness. Art teacher Anthony Biondolillo attended Paint Night and said, "Paint Night was a wonderful experience. It was so much fun getting to paint with my father as two separate generations from the Prep community. The social aspect of the evening was warm and fun; as a teacher of Mary's, it meant the world to know that the proceeds were going towards the foundation established in her honor." Thank you to everyone who made Paint Night a success! Please continue to support SFP's Parents' Guild.



### Field Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art with A.P. Art History- Ms. Shmerykowsky

On January 30th, 2017, the Advanced Placement Art History class visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. We recently finished learning about the Greek and Roman civilizations and thought it best to see their history come to life with a visit to the museum. Our tour was entitled "**Ancient Greece and Rome: Art of Heroic Ideals.**" In two groups, the students learned how the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome used visual art and mythology to understand concepts like beauty, death, and heroism. As they traveled through the Ancient Greek and Roman Wings, students were mesmerized to see sculptures, paintings, and ancient artifacts from so many years ago. They were amazed how their perceptions of the art work changed when they had the chance to see everything in person as compared to on a Smart Board!



Afterwards, the students were allowed to explore the museum to see a variety of other art historical topics we are currently covering, such as Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic, and Early Renaissance. They also spent time drawing in the Roman and Greek Wing! To observe such beautiful classical sculptures while drawing is an experience not many people have. Overall, the students had a wonderful experience at the Metropolitan Museum, gained better insight as they prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam, and gained more appreciation of the past!

**St. Francis Prep Student Artists Earn Top Honors in Distinguished Competition**

Fresh Meadows, NY – Students from St. Francis Prep’s Art Department have been recognized as winners in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. This is the third year in a row our students have earned this prestigious recognition. Students from across the nation submitted 255,000 works of art and writing to the Scholastic Art Competition. More than 68,000 are recognized at the regional level and celebrated in local exhibitions and ceremonies. The top 2,000 works in the country earn National Medals and are celebrated at a ceremony at Carnegie Hall.

# SF Principal's Newsletter



Camille Uy - Gold Key, Honorable Mention, Silver Key  
Kristen Knoblauch - Honorable Mention  
Ashley Chen - Honorable Mention Silver Key, Silver Key  
Anthony Mirabella - Honorable Mention  
Margaret Panoti - Honorable Mention, Honorable Mention  
Jennifer Paredes - Gold Key, Silver Key, Silver Key  
Gabrielle Pelczar - Gold Key, Gold Key  
Jessica Rambao - Honorable Mention  
Jazlyn Rivera - Silver Key  
Rikamarie Lourdes Mantaring - Honorable Mention  
Gianna Medici - Honorable Mention, Silver Key, Silver Key  
Mariana Papadopoulos - Honorable Mention  
Janine Sahagun - Silver Key  
Jinghong Chen - Honorable mention  
Yueling Lu - Honorable mention

### **The Tablet**

Leila Shanley, a 9th grader, participated in the March for Life in DC with the school and the recent women's march in NYC. She is being featured in The Tablet this week.

[March for Life Article in the Tablet](#) **HERE**

### **Model UN**

On Saturday, February 11th, 2017, the St. Francis Prep Model United Nations attended a conference at Connetquot high school. The conference was attended by over 300 delegates from over 15 different high schools. Many of our delegates attained some personal goals in researching, presenting arguments, and public speaking while participating in their committees.



In the spirit of cooperation, many issues that plague our world were resolved in these forums. We would like to commend our delegation for being part for this wonderful academic experience, and we would especially like to recognize Athanasi Dilos '20 (109) who won an Honorable Mention as the United States in the UNODC (U.N Office on Drugs and Crime) committee.



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### English Department News

On February 15th, junior Rebeca Oliveira and sophomore Sanaia Layne competed in Poetry Out Loud's NYC-Long Island Regional competition at Stony Brook University's Charles B. Wang Center Theatre. Rebeca made the final round and ended up placing 3rd!



We are very proud of both our students who showed courage, poise, and so much talented poetic spirit to make it this far.

Special thanks to their teachers Mr. Paccione and Ms. Prohaska for working with them before and after school to help prepare them for this prestigious competition and to Mr. Hafker for organizing the competition each year.

### Dance Team

The SFP Dance team competed on Long Island with the National Dance Association. They won first place and received an invitation to compete nationally in Florida.



### Black History Month

**Congratulations** to Sydni Hicks on receiving a \$1000 college scholarship from Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President, for demonstrating her aptitude, skill, and potential as a future leader of America. The scholarship was awarded by the African American Heritage Committee at its annual Black History month program on February 16th.





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### **Speech and Debate**

Congratulations! So thrilled with our students!!!! All four took home trophies today PLUS we received a team trophy!



### **Science Olympiad**

Our Science Olympiad team of 14 students competed in the NYC Metro Regional competition held at Grover Cleveland on February 4th, 2017. Dr. Bennett, Mrs. Picht, and Ms. May have worked with the team since October preparing for this competition in a variety of science categories, including all three branches of science from earth to living to physical science. Some students took challenging exams, while others built a device or apparatus to meet their event requirements. There were 67 registered teams from NYC schools, our notable finishes were:



9th - Dynamic Planet - Daniel DeLeon (12th)

Olivia Houri (11th)

8th - Forensics - Kayla Keenan (11th)

Olivia Houri (11th)

1st - Hovercraft - Michael Chan (12th)

Olivia Houri (11th)

10th - Rocks & Minerals - Daniel DeLeon (12th) Christina Lino (11th)

6th - Wind Power - XiangHe Huang (11th)

Dario Zeni (10th)

Congratulations to these students on their outstanding performance and the rest of the team for their effort and dedication!

### **German Language Award**

Claudio Zuniga, a sophomore in Mr. Kruger's German III class, has been awarded the Bronze Medal and special recognition on the Presidential Honor Role for his outstanding performance on the 2017 National German Exam for High School Students. Over 20,000 nationwide students took the exam this year.

### **Track Team**

On Saturday, February 11th, senior Harris Hillery won the Catholic High School State championship in the triple jump. His performance qualified him for the NYS championship in early March.



**Cameron Blair** Signing Letter of Intent to American International College.



**Coach Leary Retires**





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### **SFP Football Alumni Kyle Flood**

Here is the press release from the Falcons announcing Flood's hiring:

*The Atlanta Falcons have hired Dave Brock as an offensive assistant, **Kyle Flood** as the assistant offensive line coach, Bush Hamdan as the team's quarterbacks coach, and Charlie Jackson as a defensive assistant. The team has also hired Justin Outten as an offensive assistant, Jess Simpson as a defensive assistant, and Charlie Weis Jr. as an offensive assistant. **Flood** brings 23 years of coaching experience to the Falcons. He recently served as the head coach for the Rutgers football team from 2012-15. He became the first head coach in team history to lead the program to three bowl games in his first three years as head coach. Before being named head coach, he spent seven years on the Scarlet Knights staff, seeing time as the offensive line coach since joining the program in 2005, and was eventually promoted to assistant head coach in 2008.*



*In 2007, Flood was in charge of the run game as the running game coordinator and from 2009-10 he was the co-offensive coordinator. Before coaching at Rutgers, he spent three years at the University of Delaware where he was the assistant head coach and offensive line coach. Flood was the offensive line coach at Hofstra University from 1997-01.*