



Principal's Newsletter

May 30, 2017

**"I hated every minute of training, but I said,
'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a Champion.'"**

- Mohammed Ali

As we move closer to the last day of class on June 7th, we must continue to do our best work as we prepare for final and Regents exams. I encourage all of our students to put in the necessary time until the very last test is taken because, in the end, hard work does pay off!

We celebrated our Seniors' last day on May 18th. We are very proud of the Class of 2017 and all they have accomplished over their four years. We look forward to their Commencement on Saturday, June 3rd, at St. John's University. Collectively, they have earned over \$158 million in scholarships!

Mr. McLaughlin

State Aid for Catholic Schools – Please Help!

Take ACTION NOW – Send this to parents, teachers, and community members who support Catholic Education! We cannot stand idly by and be subjected to a 4% DECREASE in Mandated Services while public schools get a 4% INCREASE. SPEAK OUT! BE LOUD! DEMAND passage of S.6089 and A.7833 before session adjourns.

Your input matters. It will take 2 minutes to send the email and tweet the information. Go to <http://www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center/>

For nearly 40 years, New York State and the State Education Department have provided aid (known as Mandated Services Aid) to Catholic and other religious schools based on a relatively simple formula. In recent years, however, the State Education Department has forced numerous schools to use a different formula that results in a cut to their aid, despite growing support to public and charter schools. Many more Catholic and other schools remain at risk of having their aid cut. Please take a quick moment to let lawmakers know we won't stand for a cut in aid, especially when aid to public schools and charter schools is rising.

Carol Geddis

Executive Director

Catholic School Administrators Association of NYS

From the desk of Bro. Lawrence, Registrar

SENIOR DIPLOMAS

Graduating Seniors who successfully complete all academic requirements and financial obligations are entitled to receive their diplomas. Diplomas will be mailed by the Registrar's Office in early July. A notice will be placed on the School's web site on the day mailing commences. You receive the only copy that is printed. As a legal document, it should be kept in a secure place.

WITHDRAWAL FROM ST. FRANCIS

Students who decide to leave St. Francis should notify the Registrar's Office when they make that decision. Parents are expected to complete a Withdrawal Form when this decision is made to facilitate the release of a student's academic and medical records to the new school. **All financial obligations**



must be met before records are released. All students must return the iPad and charger given them along with their passwords. iPad must be in working order.

From the desk of Mr. Castellano

FINAL and REGENTS EXAMS

School final exams will take place on Thursday, 8 June, and Friday, 9 June. Regents exams run from Tuesday, 13 June, through Tuesday, 20 June. The schedule is now posted on the school web site. Our morning Regents exams begin at 9:00 a.m.; afternoon Regents exams begin at 1:00 p.m. Teachers will inform students about the room for each of their exams. Please encourage your child to start now to prepare well for all his or her exams. Please remind your child that final and Regents exam scores are part of the final grade for all courses; Regents exam scores appear on the transcripts of students. Our teachers are very generous in holding many review sessions in advance of the exams: please make sure your child goes to these sessions. We wish the students all the best in ending the year well.

COURSES and CHANGES FOR 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

Students received their course verification forms last week. The form lists all the classes for which the students are scheduled for next year. Please review your child's course selections carefully. We will have days to request course changes throughout June. Changes cost \$40 and are based on space availability and qualification for the course. Students must receive approval from a departmental chairperson to add or change a course. The last day to request course changes is **Friday, 23 June, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** There are no course changes in the Summer or September. Please direct questions about your child's program to his or her guidance counselor. You may also call Mr. Castellano at ext. 209 with questions about procedure.

Confirmation

After 10 weeks of preparation held at the Prep, seven St. Francis Prep students joined other Catholic High School students from Queens and received the sacrament of Confirmation at a Confirmation liturgy held at Holy Family Church. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Witold Mroziowski and concelebrated by Fr. Mark (SFP Chaplain) and Fr. Furnari.

We congratulate these students for taking this step to become full members of the Catholic Church.

Kayla Acevedo Cor 101
Stephanie JeanBaptiste Cor 208
Samantha Berlanga Cor 302
Giannia Kosinski Cor 109
Monica Torres Cor 216
Briany Perard Cor 113
Christina Zouvelos Cor 217



more images [HERE](#)

THE TRADITION CONTINUES...

The SFP **Junior-Semi Formal** was held on Friday, May 19, at the school. This is the culminating event of Junior Day. The Class of 2018 celebrated their rite of passage to become the leaders of SFP. They enjoyed a variety of food and dessert. They took pictures at the photo booth to capture the memories of the evening and, of course, enjoyed non-stop dancing all night long. This is an SFP tradition that will continue for future generations of Juniors.





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Senior Prom at Pier 60- Chelsea Piers



Senior Prom at Pier 60- Chelsea Piers





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NYPD Visits St. Francis Prep

On Friday, 19 May, 3 officers from the New York City Police Department visited St. Francis Prep and spoke with our 9th-grade students. These officers were all from the NYPD Canine Unit; they brought along one of their trained dogs, Jimmy.

The officers first spoke about social media and the importance of having an on-line presence of which one can be proud. The second half of the assembly focused on how the Police Department uses dogs in its work. The officers spoke about how dogs are trained; they also demonstrated a little about how dogs act in criminal situations. The officers spoke about various job opportunities in the Police Department. One of the last things the officers spoke about was the need for physical, mental, and spiritual strength in their line of work. They encouraged the students to continue to develop all these attributes in their education here at St. Francis Prep. We are very proud to have hosted these visitors and thankful for their inspiring words.



Social Studies

The AP U.S. History classes visited the national Constitution Center, the Museum of the American Revolution, and the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was a beautiful day and the kids got to see their history books come alive. The Museum of the American Revolution just opened: if you have an opportunity, go visit it.



Trial of the Century

On Monday, May 15th, the following list of students, mentors, and advisors participated in the annual "Trial of the Century---The People of St. Francis Prep v. Mrs. Denise Heckelman". Thanks to Judge Viscovich, we had the opportunity to hold the trial at the St. John's Law School Moot Court. Our students rose to the occasion and presented convincing arguments that resulted in a hung jury on the charge of Manslaughter. To see more photographs, visit Prep's Facebook page. We would like to thank our hosts at St. John's University, Tamara A. Lajara and Maureen Gillespie.

Presiding Judge: The Honorable William Viscovich

Prosecution: Mrs. Jessica Silva, NYS Special Prosecutors Office

Mr. John Kosinski, Queens Assistant District Attorney

Defense: Mr. Christopher Renfroe, Attorney at Law

Moderators: Mr. Paul Cohen (Science Dept.) Mr. Charles Jardines (Social Studies Dept.)

Student Prosecutors:

Kayla Keenan 309, Nicole O'Connor 310, Jason Zhang 318, Joshua Mathews 211, Alexis Chrisohoidis 303, Olivia Houry 308, Athanasios Dilos 103, Mary Zouvelos 418

Student Defense Team:

Abigail Bossa 202, Isabel Casares 303, Penda Martin 211, Lucas Vouitsis 117, Jazmin Jedrzejczyk 107

Student Criminal Investigators:

Michael Chan 403, Aleya Boatwright 202, Jessica Castro 203, Nikita Ramnarain 311

Student Forensic Scientists:

Jessica Rambao 414, Patricia Leal 209, Janeen Rico 214

Student Witness:

Mark Milian 308 "Dusty Mopp"

The Jury

Rachel Zhang 311, Mrs. Maria Finn, Ms. Rebecca Chan '14, Glenn Fiocca 306, Cesar Santana 315, Lauren Secilmis 315, Daniela Mastronardi 311, Eliya Bentley 402, Doris Ekwebelem 416, Clare Iriarte 308, Oisin Corbet 303, Ashley Mangra 310



[more images HERE](#)

Art

Crayola Art Competition WINNERS!

We are pleased to announce that our art students Ashley Chen and Isabella Devoe have been selected as finalists in the 2017 Creativity Connects the World Art Exhibition! This year's theme was Empowering Students through Creative Leadership. 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.

End of the Year Art Department Ice Cream Party!

The Art Department celebrated all of our accomplishments this year with an Ice Cream Sundae party! Senior art students grabbed a mouth-watering ice cream sundae with all of the fixings. Students relaxed with their friends in the Franciscan Garden area, sitting at cafe tables and reflecting on the great year the Art department had! Good luck to all Senior Art students! The Art department wishes you all the best! Happy Painting!





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Congressional Art Competition

This year marked the thirty-sixth anniversary of the Congressional Art Competition, *An Artistic Discovery*. Since this competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students throughout the United States have participated, and thousands have showcased their artistic talent in our nation's capitol. Five of our students attended the congressional Art Competition awards ceremony on Saturday, April 29th: Mariana Papadopoulos, Laima Kezys, Isabella Perna, Janine Sahagun, Gianna Medici. They had their work exhibited in the Queens Museum of Art and received certificates from Congresswoman Grace Meng. Congratulations to all!



Revel In The Renaissance

May 20th was a day for Saint Francis Prep to celebrate the arts! We hosted our annual Spring Arts Festival, "Revel in the Renaissance." Our new art wing was transformed into a gallery space. Paintings, sculptures, photographs, and much more covered every square inch of the wing. The Art Show included a Renaissance café and a live band. Guests enjoyed refreshments while looking at the art and listening to fine music. The show concluded in the auditorium with films, performing arts, and the induction of over 70 students into the National Arts Honor Society. A magical afternoon was had by all who attended.



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English Department



On May 9th, 50 juniors who had already read and discussed Lorraine Hansberry's groundbreaking play *A Raisin in the Sun* made a trip into Manhattan to see it live at the Harlem Repertory Company! The students, present and former members of Ms. Prohaska's class, and the chaperones, Ms. Prohaska, Dr. Marino, and Mr. Castellano, all agreed: the performance was excellent!

The Little Portion

This month, *The Little Portion* Annual Reading and Open Mic celebrated the release of its latest issue of Prep's literary arts journal and commemorated its 60th anniversary! *The Little Portion* began at our Brooklyn campus in 1957 and is named in honor of St. Francis' favorite place on earth—the tiny church outside the walls of Assisi he chose to call home (*La Porziuncola* in Italian). Students, family, friends, and faculty gathered after school on Tuesday, May 16th, to listen to dozens of moving poems that were published in this year's issue.

The journal's moderator for the past 17 years, Mr. Hafker, opened the event by presenting the Canticle of the Sun Prize to senior Jay Sharma for his contribution of brilliant poems, then thanked the Prep administration for its continued support, and the English and Art Departments for daily inspiring their students to produce the best writing and art. Last, but not least, he thanked Editor-in-Chief Samantha Ruotolo and *The Little Portion* editorial staff for their hard work and dedication and, of course, every student writer who was brave and passionate enough to put their hearts on paper and share it.

Speech and Debate

Mr. Kennedy reports that two students from St. Francis will be traveling to Louisville, KY, this weekend to compete in the national competition for speech and debate. They are Havilland Firoz and Nyla Firoz.



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Science Department

Mr. Cohen's AP Environmental students plant a cherry tree to beautify park near school.



Girl Scout Gold Award earned by two Prep Students

On Tuesday, May 16, Alexa Fucile ('17) and Nicole Sullivan ('18) earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Gold Award is the highest achievement in the Girl Scouts: only 6% of eligible Girl Scouts achieve this prestigious honor. Both Alexa and Nicole demonstrated real leadership as each devoted 80 hours of service to enact lasting change in their communities by devising and implementing a Take Action service project. Alex implemented an arts program at her former elementary school to give children an outlet to creatively express themselves and spark early interest in art. Nicole developed service projects for the students at her former elementary school in order to benefit our Veterans, recently deployed soldiers, homeless and others in need. Congratulations to both!!!





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Sports

Mr. McCormack reports we had two seniors qualify for the CHSAA Golf Individual State Championship. Michael Cosentino and Joshua Guriel will participate on Friday, June 2nd.

Track and Field

The girls track team placed second in the Brooklyn-Queens Championship and 4th in the City Championship. They were led by City and Brooklyn-Queens Champions Trinity Smith in the 100 and 400 meter hurdles, Eden Thomas-Lutchmedial in the high jump, and Brooklyn-Queens Champion Alyssa Olivieri in the steeplechase.

At the Catholic State Champs, Trinity Smith won the 100 meter hurdles and will compete at the NY State championship June 9-10 at Endicott, NY.

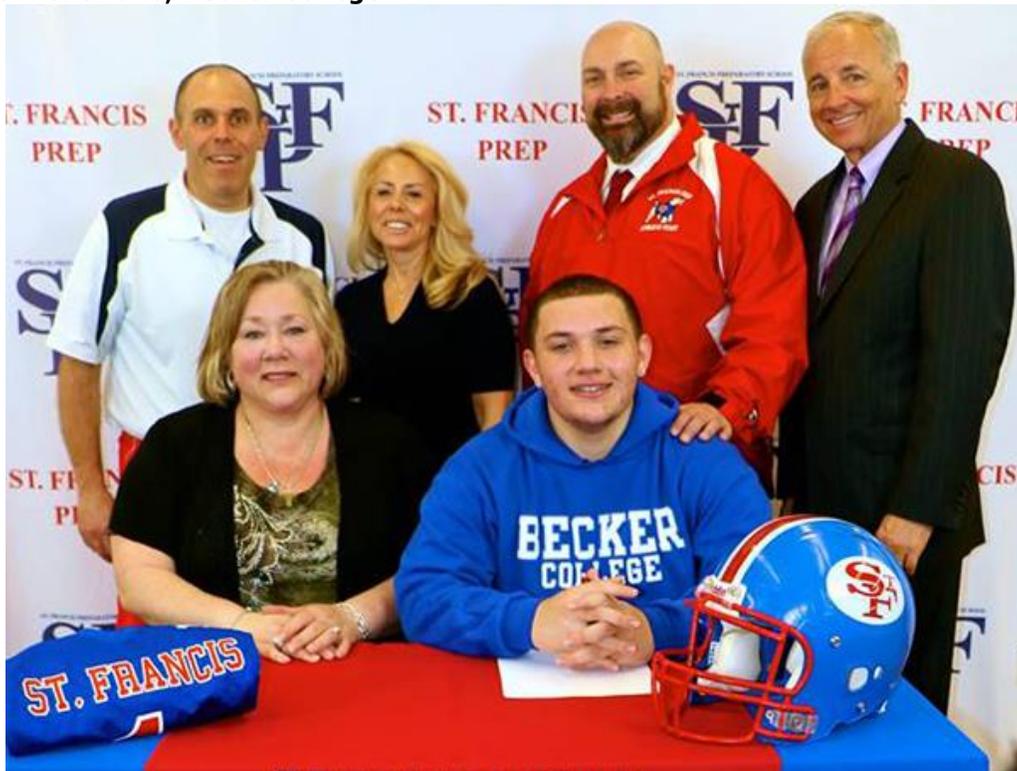
College Signings

Nihaal Shameen, Queens College



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Michael Veneziano, Becker College



Matthais Adamek, St. Thomas Aquinas College



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Morgan Rodriguez, Canton



Mariopio DiPasquale, Adelphi



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Robert McGuinness, Fairleigh Dickinson



Marianna Albines, Queens College



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**St. Francis Prep Alumni
4th Annual SFP Education Alumni Chapter Reception May 11, 2017**



Education Alumni Chapter coordinators **Kathleen A. Mackin-Sciortino '76** and **Dominick J. Vulpis '74** organized another well-attended Education Alumni Chapter event at Donovan's in Bayside on **May 11, 2017!**

Our guest speaker was **Angela C. Cavanna '82, (pictured above, center)** a Clinical Assistant Professor and course Director at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine and Chair of the Committee for Education and Evaluation in Sports Medicine for the American Osteopathic Association. Angela spoke enthusiastically about her Franciscan Education at St. Francis Prep and how it has influenced her career and helped her to overcome daily challenges in the work place.





The Financial Services Alumni Chapter Reception

Prep offers several profession-based alumni networking event opportunities: Financial Services, Education, the Arts, Technology, Health Care, and Legal Services. Each chapter event provides alumni an opportunity to meet and network with industry peers or potential mentors. A half dozen recent graduates were among the more than 50 alumni who attended the Prep's Financial Services Alumni Networking reception on Thursday, May 18th, at the Friar's Club in NYC.





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Seamus McCaffrey (third from left), SFP Class of 2013, visits the White House before graduation from the Air Force Academy.



George Dillman, SFP Class of 2000, was an employee of Con Edison performing routine electrical maintenance work when he was killed in a job related accident in 2008. His colleagues at Con Ed, together with friends and family members, have organized an annual golf outing in his memory. Each year the event proceeds, along with other donations, are directed to the George Dillman '00 Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Prep. The May 2017 outing held at Douglaston Golf Course raised \$8,000 for the fund and this will be "matched" by Con Edison. Pictured here: Prep alumni parent Jack Tully of Con Edison (seated right); SFP Alumni Director Bro. Robert Kent, O.S.F. (seated left); SFP Director of Development Robert Angeletti (standing left); and SFP Principal Patrick McLaughlin.

