



FORDHAM PREP

Faith, Scholarship, Service since 1841



441 EAST FORDHAM ROAD
BRONX, NY 10458

Principal's Office

FORDHAM PREP NEWSLETTER

January 2021

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope that the graces of the Christmas season and the joys of family time over a well-deserved break for our students continue in your homes throughout the year.

As I write to you, the halls of Fordham Prep are quiet as we spend this week in remote learning. Please know of my gratitude for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the winter months and the latest wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. As Fr. Devron and I have mentioned in previous communications, the shift from hybrid to remote for classes is always carefully measured in light of the positivity rate in our school community and the impact of required quarantines based on the directives of the New York City Department of Health. We assure you that we will continue to communicate updates as necessary to our Prep families in a timely manner. Please carefully review our health and safety reminders found below.

In the wake of the violence at the U.S. Capitol last week, the Fordham Prep community gathered in prayer for healing and peace. If you were not able to join us for the prayer service, you can watch it on our YouTube page [here](#). You can find coverage of our efforts from CBS2 News [here](#). You will also find a resource from Common Sense Education regarding talking to your sons about the U.S. Capitol incident later in this newsletter as well.

I very much look forward to welcoming our students back to the building for the start of the second semester next Wednesday, and for the good work ahead for all of us in the months ahead. As always, I encourage you to support your sons with your guidance and love during these days of challenge and continued growth. The sacrifices you make to send your sons to Fordham Prep are a source of gratitude and a sign of God at work in our midst. On behalf of the Prep administration, faculty, and staff, please know of our sincere thanks for your partnership in challenging and unpredictable times.

In Christ's Peace,
Joseph A. Petriello, PhD '98
Principal



FUNDRAISING EFFORT

- Ernest Patti '20 suffered a serious accident in his first week as a college freshman at the University of Miami, resulting in severe injury to his spine. You can learn more about Ernie and his family at the link below, including an opportunity to join in an important fundraising effort: <https://helphopelive.org/campaign/18135/>. We thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Parents/guardians must contact Mrs. Maryann Casaccio-Ortiz at 718-584-8328 if their son is absent due to illness. The school nurse will follow up with a phone call home.
- Please refer to our [VitalCheck FAQ](#) if you have questions about protocols for reporting COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a parent/guardian answers "yes" to any of the questions on the VitalCheck daily questionnaire, the student must remain home for at least three days or otherwise be cleared with a doctor's note ruling out COVID-19 (e.g, cough is due to chronic asthma), or a negative COVID-19 PCR test result. If a student experiences COVID-19 symptoms due to another cause about which you have certitude (e.g., a headache caused by diagnosed migraine condition; sore muscle due to sports injury), it is not necessary to report this on VitalCheck.
- As per our [reopening plan](#), students who are ill will not be allowed to return to school until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation for COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related illnesses which include three days with no fever, an illustration that symptoms have been improved, and ten (10) days elapsed since the symptoms first appeared.
- Students are reminded to keep six feet of physical distance at all times traveling to and from school, walking on Fordham University campus, and throughout the Prep building. Specifically, throughout the Prep campus: do not crowd around each other in the Commons and other large spaces. Do not shake hands. As we are all aware, COVID-19 is asymptomatic, which is why physical distance is so important. We are asking every student to do his part in preventing its spread.
- All students are strongly encouraged to get a flu shot at their primary doctor or a health clinic if they have not yet done so.
- On our [COVID-19 dashboard](#), you may find data about the daily and weekly status of COVID-19 positivity within our community.



ADMISSIONS

- Admissions decisions for the Class of 2025 will be communicated on Fri 1/15.
- If you are interested in assisting the Admissions Office by reaching out to families admitted to the Class of 2025, please contact Mr. Brad Serton '95, Director of Admissions, at sertonb@fordhamprep.org.
- Applications for the summer [Higher Achievement Program \(HAP\)](#) for rising 8th graders will be available on Mon 2/1.

ACADEMICS

- Midterm assessments are taking place the week of 1/11. Questions about midterms, including conflicts and accommodations, can be directed to Mr. Broussard (broussardc@fordhamprep.org).
- Report cards go online on Fri 1/22. Parents and guardians can access 2nd quarter and 1st semester grades at that time through the [PowerSchool Student and Parent Portal](#).
- Grades through the end of the third quarter will determine eligibility for course selection for the 2021-22 academic year.
- Virtual Parent-Teacher Meetings are currently scheduled to take place on Tues 2/2. More information will follow in a separate email communication closer to the date.

ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT LIFE

- Special thanks to all of our students, faculty, and staff involved in our Virtual Advent Prayer Service and Christmas Assembly. If you did not get a chance to view the video, you can do so [here](#).
- In recent meetings, the Business Club continued to welcome professional guest speakers including Megan D'Arcangelo, an institutional equity sales trader with JP Morgan.
- Activities period take place every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. Any questions about clubs and activities can be directed to Mr. Broussard (broussardc@fordhamprep.org).



ATHLETICS

- For the winter season, the following sports have been given approval to practice and host competitions: indoor track and field, swimming and diving, and bowling.
- High-risk sports such as basketball, ice hockey, wrestling, and squash are still awaiting word from the Governor of New York State on when they can safely resume.



CAMPUS MINISTRY AND SERVICE

- The **Great Ignatian Challenge** broke records this year with over 46,000 pounds of food donated placing the Prep in a tie for 1st among 9 schools in money awarded from donor, Jim Rowen '82. Thank you to all who gave so generously to those in need this year.
- Please read [this appeal](#) from Prep alumnus Arinze Uddoh '18 asking for the Prep community's support of his project to assist students in a school in Nigeria. It is a most impressive undertaking!
- Thanks to all those families who donated so generously to the food drive, the Christmas toy drive, and the winter clothing drive. All recipients were so grateful for your kindness.

- **Christian Service Program:** Seniors have submitted their service project proposals and are currently doing research and gathering information on their social justice topics in order to prepare for the Action phase of their project to begin in the third quarter.
- Underclass mentor groups will discern their remote projects this semester, with freshmen focused on charitable acts and sophomores encouraged to consider justice causes.
- Emmaus retreats for juniors have been scheduled for 2021. Sign ups will be made available after break. They will take place at the Prep and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Emmaus 301 for seniors has been rescheduled for January.
- School-wide virtual prayer services celebrating the Immaculate Conception and Advent have continued to help the community stay spiritually in the liturgical season while also celebrating the service projects of the Class of 2021.
- **Christian Service Immersion:** A heartfelt thank you to all who wrote cards to our friends associated with Appalachia Habitat for Humanity and the Children's Center of the Cumberland in our first-ever Christmas card initiative. We hope we will be able to once again travel in 2021 as part of our Christian Service Immersion Program, with a decision regarding any travel expected by the end of March.



FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Upcoming Events:
 - Wednesday Morning Prayer with St. Ignatius - Broadcast each Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. [here](#).
 - Faith on Tap - Wed 1/27 at 7:00 p.m.
- A Prayer for the New Year by Rev. Marcy Sheremetta
 - *As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.*

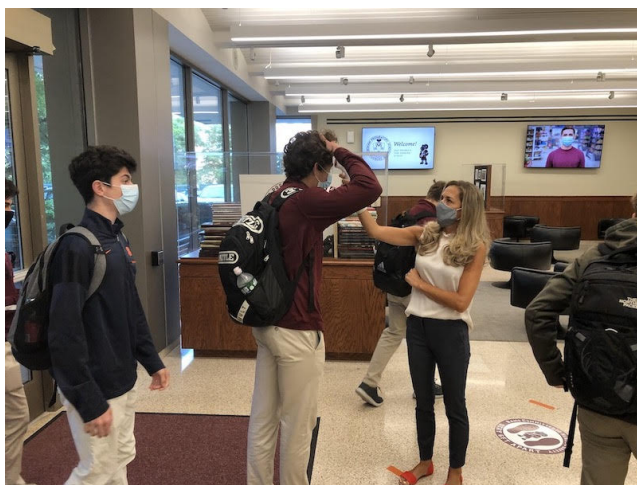
Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each

day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

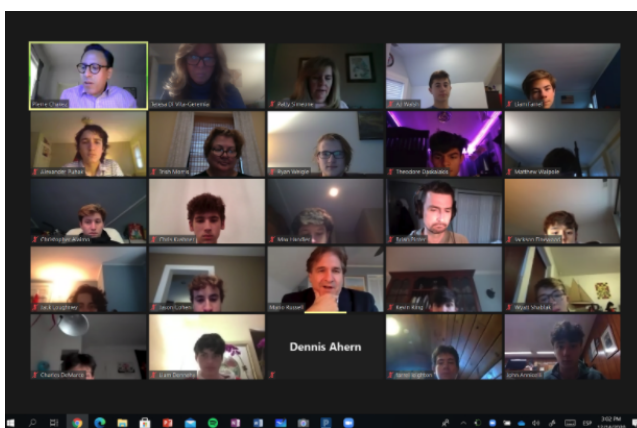
Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.



VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

- Congratulations to the cast and crew of *A Christmas Carol - A Radio Play**! Under the direction of Mr. O'Sullivan '98, over 60 students were involved in the production from Fordham Prep and young women from seven other high schools. Thank you to everyone who enjoyed this amazing streaming performance and to support our talented students involved in the Dramatic Society!
 - **A Christmas Carol - A Radio Play* is presented by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company, Inc. Book by Philip Grecian, based upon the novel by Charles Dickens.



GLOBAL EDUCATION

- On Mon 12/14, the Global Education Program sponsored its first in a series of Round Table Discussions focusing on the [Universal Apostolic Preferences](#) of the Society of Jesus. The guest speaker for this event was Mr. Mario Russell, Esq., director of NY Catholic Charities' Immigrant and Refugee Services Division. Mr. Russell shared his photo diary during his time 'walking with the excluded' on the U.S. southern border, which was followed by a wonderful question and answer session. His photos and stories were very moving. We were joined by students and faculty from Fordham Prep and St. Peter's Prep in Jersey City, NJ.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- Save the Date: Ricci Night, A Celebration of the Rich Tapestry of Fordham Prep - Sat 1/23
- The next Diversity Dialogue for students will be held in January.
- A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, composed of faculty, administrators, staff and trustees has been meeting this year to develop a plan for implementing our new [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan](#) released this past July. We look forward to sharing the work of the Task Force with the community in the coming months.



SCHOOL COUNSELING / MENTAL HEALTH

- Our school clinicians and counselors share the following resource of practical tips to help your teens during the pandemic:
 - [Kids Are Anxious And Scared During The Pandemic. Here's How Parents Can Help.](#) (NPR Life Kit)

COLLEGE COUNSELING

- Seniors have excelled in early college acceptances. Learn more about their destinations [here](#).
- Students should continue to update admission decisions in Naviance when they are received. The College Counseling Office will automatically send a mid-semester grade report for all applications for which we do not have a final admission decision when grades become available in late January. We kindly ask all parents/guardians to assist their sons in providing college decision information to the College Counseling Office.
- Seniors were emailed instructions for signing up for a new Schoology course, "2021 College Counseling". All seniors are asked to sign-up for this course as college counselors will utilize this course to communicate with seniors during the second semester.
- Has your son been awarded a scholarship from a college, university or outside organization? If so, please submit a copy of the award letter to Mrs. Isabel. Letters can be emailed to isabelc@fordhamprep.org or faxed to 718-367-9090.
- College Prep guidance for juniors starts on Wed 1/20. Students will meet in small groups with their college counselor during their currently scheduled Guidance class. During the first class, counselors will review the course syllabus with students and demonstrate how to sign-up for one-on-one meetings, and review features of Naviance Family Connection.
- The College Board is hosting four virtual college fairs that are designed for students to have real conversations with hundreds of colleges, admission reps, and current college students without leaving home. Students can sign up to attend any event and more than one to explore colleges in each region across the nation. Registration at cb.org/bigfuturedays

- **BigFuture Day West + SouthWest:** Sat 2/6, 4–8 p.m. For colleges located in AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NM, NV, OK, OR, TX, UT, WA, and WY.
- **BigFuture Day Southeast:** Tues 2/23, 5–9 p.m. For colleges located in AL, AR, DC, DE, FL, GA, LA, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV.
- **BigFuture Day Northeast:** Sun 3/7, 4–8 p.m. For colleges located in CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT.
- **BigFuture Day Midwest:** Thurs 3/11, 5–9 p.m. For colleges located in IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, and WI.



TECHNOLOGY / COMMON SENSE EDUCATION

- For 2020-21, Fordham Prep is once again partnering with [Common Sense Education](#), an organization committed to developing digital literacy and digital citizenship programs for educators, parents, and school communities. Please see below for an important resource recently published by Common Sense Education.
- **Talking to Kids about the Violence at the U.S. Capitol:** The storming of the U.S. Capitol on Wed 1/6 was a shocking attack on an essential part of our democracy -- the peaceful transition of power from one president to the next. As Congress met to certify the 2020 electoral college vote, a protest outside the Capitol turned violent as the crowd unlawfully entered the building and temporarily disrupted the voting process. While we adults continue to process these events, kids are also trying to make sense of what they're seeing and hearing in the news and on social media. To help, CSE has put together some [age-appropriate questions and conversation starters](#) that adults can use to navigate this tricky topic with their children. CSE hopes these tools help you provide the care, comfort, and answers our kids and teens need during these challenging and unpredictable times.



MOTHERS' CLUB

- As we look towards the new year, the FPMC is embracing the idea, "New Year, New Friends!" In January, a Freshman Mom Zoom Meet and Greet is being planned. Whether they are new to the Prep or just have another son who has joined the ranks of the Prep, the moms of the Class of 2024 will enjoy a unique opportunity to meet other mothers in their son's freshman year.
- A new virtual event is beginning to take shape! In February, the FPMC will host its first virtual BLINGO night! It's time for FPMC's moms to muster their energies and competitive spirit to join with friends at the chance to win some bling!

FATHERS' CLUB

- FPFC is working to develop an online poker tournament for Prep dads on Thurs 1/14 at 7:00 p.m. More details to follow.
- Fordham Prep's annual Faith on Tap will take place on Wed 1/27. We hope you can join us!

OTHER NEWS

- There will be no classes for students on the following dates:
 - Fri 1/15 (Faculty Planning Day)
 - Mon 1/18 (Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr.)
 - Tues 1/19 (Faculty Planning Day)



Joseph A. Petriello, PhD '98
Principal

