



FORDHAM PREP

Faith, Scholarship, Service since 1841



441 EAST FORDHAM ROAD
BRONX, NY 10458

Principal's Office

FORDHAM PREP NEWSLETTER
November 2019

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There was a lot of energy on campus this past weekend, as we hosted our second Open House of the fall season. Between our October and November admissions events, we welcomed over 1,800 guests, including 630 prospective students. Young men from the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades explored our building and learned about our mission of faith, scholarship, and service. I had the pleasure of speaking with many families, excited and hopeful to someday join the Prep community.

We also recently celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints with a school-wide Mass, during which our seniors were commissioned to go forth and serve as "men for and with others" as they begin their Christian Service experiences. In our gathering for liturgy we recalled our kinship with the Church's saints, the holy women and men whom the Scriptures call "friends of God and prophets." Our celebration invited our community to reflect on the best within all of us. We prayed with gratitude for our God-given dignity, talents, and the call to put our gifts to use for the greater glory of God.

As we enter into November, the spirit of the holy days and holidays that mark this season draw near to us. In so many ways, this month is about two central Ignatian values: gratitude and generosity. Your sons should be grateful for the many blessings of the first quarter: their successes in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in their leadership and involvement in school life. As we gather to give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings in our own lives, our hearts are filled with generous giving as well. Part of Hunger Awareness Month at the Prep, we have entered into the Great Ignatian Challenge with our fellow Jesuit schools in the metro area. With a goal to collect at least 26,000 items of food, we are competing with Fairfield Prep, Loyola School, Regis High School, St. Joseph's Prep, Saint Peter's Prep, and Xavier High School in a spirit of brotherhood and service for those most in need. I thank each of you in advance for encouraging your sons to give generously to our food drive in the next few weeks.

In the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius Loyola clearly teaches us: "Love consists of sharing what one has and what one is with those one loves. Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words." Let us lift up our prayers for all those in need in our local communities, our nation, and throughout the world. May this season of gratitude and generosity open our hearts and guide our hands to be Christ's presence of love and mercy for all those we encounter. AMDG!

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

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

By the time you read this, we will have completed our second fall Open House, dozens of students will

have visited Fordham Prep to participate in our Ram for a Day Program, and dozens more will have begun their online applications for admission and financial aid.

No doubt about it: we are in the middle of an active and busy admissions season!

Today I am writing to you about your critical role in shaping the Class of 2024. You see, despite all the activity and effort of our admissions staff, administration, faculty, and coaches, research indicates that the most effective influencers in independent secondary school admissions are current parents. In fact, I imagine that a Fordham Prep parent played a role in your willingness to consider the school for your son.

So I ask you to reflect on families you know from your social, neighborhood, parish, and work circles and reach out to help us introduce promising eighth graders to the opportunities of a Fordham Prep education.

As a parent who makes financial sacrifices to send your son to Fordham Prep, your perspective on the value of a Jesuit secondary education is extremely important. You have much greater credibility than I do in easing the anxiety of prospective parents who are concerned about their sons taking the train to school. You can speak, as only a parent can, of the care your son receives from his teachers, mentors, coaches, and moderators. You can spread the message of how your son grew from a retreat or service experience, a global exchange trip, through participating in one of our 18 team sports, or in the jazz ensemble or the dramatics society.

With each admissions cycle, I become more convinced that student recruitment is a highly personal and individualized enterprise. We literally recruit one family-- one student-- at a time! Please know that Mr. Serton, Mr. Punter, Dr. Petriello, and I look forward to receiving your referrals of high potential students and good families who can contribute to our community of faith, scholarship, and service. If there's a specific prospective parent or student you feel could benefit from a conversation with any of us, don't hesitate to introduce us.

Thank you for considering how you can play a role in our efforts this admissions season!

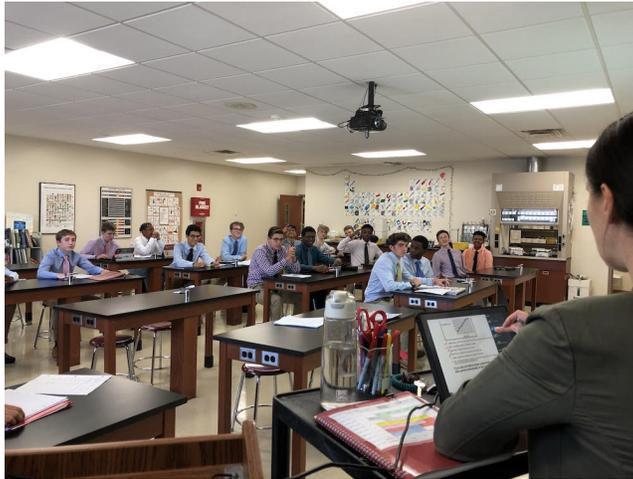
Sincerely yours,
Rev. Christopher J. Devron, SJ
President



ADMISSIONS

- Thanks to all the faculty, staff, student, and parent volunteers who helped us host over 630 families at our October and November Open House events.
- Admissions Tours and Ram for a Day slots are still available. If you know of a prospective family that would like to visit, please direct them to the admissions website at fordhamprep.org/admissions

- Applications for the Class of 2024 as well as Financial Aid applications are due on Fri 12/13.
- Admissions decisions for the Class of 2024 are communicated via email on Fri 1/31.
- HAP applications for the summer of 2020 will be available online beginning Fri 1/17.



ACADEMICS

- The first quarter ended on Wed 10/30. Report cards go online on Tues 11/5. Parents and guardians can access Q1 grades at that time through the [PowerSchool Student and Parent Portal](#).
- Parent-Teacher Meetings will take place on Tues 11/12 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. and 5:30-8:00 p.m. **More info about the day will follow soon in a separate email communication.**
- The Academic Support Center is available for all students for tutoring and support with organizational skills on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Room 217 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Please contact Ms. Molly Lieberman (liebermanm@fordhamprep.org) for more information.
- On Sat 10/19, Prep faculty and staff celebrated Convocation and the beginning of a new academic year. Ms. Mary Ann Salvatorelli was awarded a Bene Merenti medal for her 20 years of service, and four faculty members were granted tenure: Mr. Ryan Gorup '07, Ms. Claire McCarrick, Dr. Craig Smith, and Mr. Michael Weldon '86. To read more, click [here](#).

ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT LIFE

- Our first blood drive will take place on Mon 11/4 in partnership with [New York Blood Center](#). Special thanks to Dr. Gelpi and his mentor group for organizing our two drives each year!
- Organized by our student club, Bridges: LGBTQ+Allies, members of the Prep community wore purple on Thurs 10/17 for National Spirit Day. Thank you to all who wore purple to express their solidarity to speak out against LGBTQ bullying and stand with LGBTQ youth who disproportionately face harassment because of their identities.
- Maxwell Gonzalez '21, Joshua Ramos '21, and Nicholas Soddano '20 represented Fordham Prep at the 2019 National Hispanic Institute (NHI) Conference in San Antonio TX 10/30 to 11/3. The NHI offers leadership and summer programs for students at universities across the country. Contact Mr. Chad Broussard (broussardc@fordhamprep.org) for more information.
- A group of students and faculty will participate in the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (Radical Hope, Prophetic Action) in Washington, DC from Sat 11/16 to Mon 11/18. This is an annual gathering for members of the Ignatian family to come together in the context of social justice and solidarity to learn, reflect, pray, network, and advocate together. Now in its 22nd year, the IFTJ has a rich history rooted in honoring the [Jesuits and their companions](#) who were martyred in El Salvador in 1989. More information about the program can be found at: <http://ignatiansolidarity.net/iftj/>

- The Fall Sports and Activities Assembly will take place on Tues 11/26.



ATHLETICS

- **Bowling:** The varsity bowling team completed their sixth week of competition in the CHSAA league and currently sit in fourth place in their division. During the month of November the team will take on St. Agnes, Bishop Loughlin, St. Raymond's, and Monsignor McClancy. All matches take place at Whitestone Lanes on Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m.
- **Crew:** The fall crew season will concluded on Sun 11/3 as the team hosted Chaminade in a dual meet at Orchard Beach Lagoon. During the month of October the varsity eight and four competed at the prestigious Head of the Charles in Boston. Unfortunately due to heavy rain storms the team did not compete at the Head of the Schuylkill in Philadelphia.
- **Cross-Country:** The varsity Cross Country team pulled off a spectacular upset to capture the NYC CHSAA XC Championship on Sat 10/26 at Van Cortlandt Park behind the unprecedented 1-2-3 finish by Niall Ryan '20, Eamonn Sullivan '21, and Myles Hogan '22. Justin Jordaens '20, Lucas Moran '22, and Dean Mayo '22 added superb finishes to seal the win. The varsity team will look to win the CHSAA XC intersectional championship on Sat 11/16 at Van Cortlandt Park-- a feat that has not been accomplished in almost 60 years.
- **Football:** The varsity team finished the season with a 2-6 record overall in the CHSFL AA Tier I division. Fordham Prep ended up in a three way tie with St. Francis Prep and St. Peter's. Based on the results of coin flip the Rams received the 5th seed. They opened up the playoff quarterfinals on Sun 11/3 with a 22-14 victory over St. Francis Prep. The Rams will next face Chaminade in the semifinals.
- **Soccer:** The varsity soccer team finished the regular season with a 14-1 record and #9 ranking in NY state. They began the CHSAA "AA" playoffs as the #1 seed, defeating Xavier 2-1 in the quarterfinals and Regis 2-1 in the semifinals. The Rams took home the CHSAA city championship on Sun 11/3 with a 1-0 victory over Iona Prep. They will take on St. Anthony's in the state championship semifinals on Fri 11/8.



CAMPUS MINISTRY AND SERVICE

- November is Hunger Awareness Month at the Prep. Our community has been challenged by the administration to raise 26,000 food items this year and to compete against our brother metropolitan area Jesuit schools in the Great Ignatian Challenge to help feed our hungry neighbors throughout the Bronx. Your support is greatly appreciated!
- Hunger Awareness Month began with a Hunger Banquet for all freshmen led by Hunger Awareness Committee chairs Christopher Devine '20 and Nicholas Valdes '20. The freshmen class replicated global statistics regarding hunger as a few were waited upon and served a nutritious and balanced lunch, while 60% of the class was given bread and water. The luncheon also sensitized the class to the plight of the hungry in NYC.
- First Friday Adoration takes place in the Prep Chapel every Friday. All are welcome to stop in to pray and spend time with the Lord in the Eucharist.
- Seniors were blessed and received their service commissioning pins at the All Saints Day Liturgy on Fri 11/1 in the University Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they carry out their service projects this year.
- Saint Ignatius School in Hunts Point asks for any donations of box tops for education from participating food items. Any contributions can be brought to a collection jar in the Ministry Center off the Commons. Thanks for your help.
- The Prep is looking to recruit as many students as possible to solicit sponsors to support their jumping into the Long Island Sound on Sat 11/16 at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle. They'll be "Freezin' for a Reason" as they raise money to support New York Special Olympics athletes and programs.
- Thank you for all the prayers and support for Emmaus 295, which took place in October. Please keep the participants of our November retreats in your prayers: Emmaus 296 (11/4-11/6) and Discovery (11/20-11/22).
- Preliminary online applications for Service Immersion trips are due Fri 11/8. Information for all Service Immersion trips can be found [here](#).



JESUIT VOCATIONS

- Jesuit scholastics will visit junior year Religious Studies classes on Tues 11/5 to share their experience of vocation and formation in the Society of Jesus. As we recognize Jesuit Vocation Promotion Day, we share the following message from Fr. Philip Florio, SJ, Provincial Assistant for Vocation Ministry of the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces:
- If you, or someone you know, has ever considered serving God's people, the Church, as a Jesuit, then the Society of Jesus invites you to pray and discern if your passions and desires may lead you to a life with us. For almost 500 years Jesuits have been serving the Church as "men on a sacred mission." Through prayer, we aim to orient our own passions and desires with God's desires for the Church and the world. To explore if God is calling you to serve in Christ's mission as a Jesuit priest or brother, please visit our Vocation Website at beajesuit.org. We are ready to help you to discern our Jesuit life. *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.*

FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

- Upcoming Events for Parents and Families:
 - Mothers' Club Thanksgiving Mass - Sun 11/24 at 9:00 a.m. in the University Church followed by a light breakfast in the Commons
 - The Advent Supper for Parents sponsored by the Parent Faith and Fellowship Committee - Thurs 12/5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons. Register at fordhamprep.org/advent
- Halloween and All Saints Day: On November 1st the Church celebrates All Saints Day. In this [video](#) by BustedHalo.com, an online magazine for spiritual seekers, Fr. James Martin, SJ explains how Halloween and All Saints Day relate to each other. The best-selling author of [My Life with the Saints](#) also answers such common questions as, How does someone become a saint? What is a patron saint? and Do Catholics worship the saints?



VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

- Save the date for our upcoming musical, ***Grease****, which will take place on Fri 11/15 (7:30 p.m.), Sat 11/16 (7:30 p.m.), and Sun 11/17 (3:00 p.m.) in the Leonard Theatre. Tickets are \$10. Over 90 students are involved in the production from Fordham Prep and young women from 12 other high schools. 45 Prep students serve on stage crew. We hope to see you there!
 - **Grease* is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company. Book, Music, & Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey.



GLOBAL EDUCATION

- Applications for spring and summer Global Education Trips to Italy, Costa Rica, Rwanda and China are due on Mon 11/4. Trip details and applications can be found at fordhamprep.org/globaleducation
- On Thurs 11/7, students and faculty will travel to Clongowes Wood College, a Jesuit boarding school located in the town of Clane in County Kildare, Ireland. As part of this program, students stay in the dorms at Clongowes, attend classes with their host students, take part in service opportunities and explore neighboring cities like Dublin.
- On Thurs 11/21, we will welcome eight students from Istituto Leone XIII in Milan to the Prep. They will live with host families for eight days, attend classes and explore the rich culture of New York City.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- Save the Date: **Ricci Night: A Celebration of the Rich Tapestry of Fordham Prep** will be held on the evening of Sat 1/26.

- Two Diversity Summit Retreats will be held for students this year: 12/9 to 12/10 and 3/30 to 3/31. More information to follow from Mr. Pedro and Dr. Smith.



SCHOOL COUNSELING

- In freshman, sophomore, and junior group guidance classes, we will soon begin lessons on suicide prevention using the evidenced-based programs Lifelines and More Than Sad.
- Our school counselors are an important resource for your sons. We all know that the news these days might be stressful and anxiety provoking. While stress isn't always a bad thing, it can sometimes reach an unhealthy level that interferes with our work, school, relationships and even ability to enjoy life. If that's the case, it's time to take action. On behalf of the School Counseling team, Mrs. Maureen Martinez, Director of School Counseling encourages parents to review the following resource from The Jed Foundation: ["Decompressing"](#)

COLLEGE COUNSELING

- The college application process is in full swing. Your son should carefully complete his applications by each college's deadline. In order for Fordham Prep to submit his transcript and letters of recommendation, each school that he's applying to must be listed in Naviance under "Colleges I'm Applying to"; please have him double check that his list in Naviance is complete. Test scores for schools that require an official score report must be sent from the testing service. After your son submits his application, it is important that he checks his email. Most colleges will send an acknowledgement of receipt of the application and invite the student to set up an online portal: It is very important that he does so in order to monitor the progress of his application. If your son has any questions about any of these steps, please have him see his college counselor.
- During assembly period on Wed 11/20, seniors will watch *Haze*, a documentary film telling the story of Gordie Bailey, a college student who passed away after a night of binge drinking at a fraternity party. Counselors will hold discussions about the movie during guidance classes after the viewing. Parents who would like to access additional resources on binge drinking can do so at the [Gordie Center website](#).



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- This month our school psychologist, Dr. Kelly, shares two articles of interest:
 - ["After a College Applicant Hits 'Send'"](#) by Kelly Corrigan (The New York Times)
 - ["Families of gay kids were once seen as the enemy by support groups. That's changing."](#) by Marlene Cimons (The Washington Post)
- We also share three resources with regards to vaping education and prevention:
 - [Quick Facts on the Risks of E-cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
 - [Know the Risks: E-cigarettes and Young People](#) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
 - [Vaping and E-Cigarettes](#) (ADAPP - Archdiocese of New York Drug Abuse Prevention Program)
- Our school clinicians are available at Fordham Prep on the following days:
 - Dr. Jennifer Kelly (School Psychologist) – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
 - Mr. Robert Degen, LCSW (School Social Worker) – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
 - Mr. Ted McCourtney, LMSW (ADAPP Counselor) - Thursday

TECHNOLOGY / COMMON SENSE EDUCATION

- For 2019-20, 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 find a parent tip of the week below.
- **Common Sense Teen Panel:** Join Common Sense for a moderated teen panel discussion on the good, the bad, and the realities of the social media landscape in middle and high school. Hear firsthand from teens about their experiences with social media and their hard-earned advice for parents of younger kids. Learn why kids love social media, where they can run into trouble, and how parents can help them manage. The event will take place on Wed 12/11 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Trinity School (139 W. 91st St., New York, NY 10024). Please see this [flyer](#) and register for free [here](#).
- **Is the Amount of Screen Time My Kid Gets Normal?** As parents in the digital age, we have a lot to manage, and our kids' [time on screens](#) is not the least of it. It's easy to get anxious and wonder if we're doing it right, or, at least, if what we're doing is "normal." [New research](#) from Common Sense Education tweens and teens are using nearly 5 to 7.5 hours of screen media a day, which is an increase from 2016. [As of 2017](#), children 0-8 spend about two hours on

screens each day; however, it's likely that number's gone up, too. But since there's no exact number of minutes around how much is too much for each age, how can we know if our kids are balancing their screen time? You are invited to explore the [new research](#) from Common Sense for more guidance on this issue.



MOTHERS' CLUB

- Please join us for our next FPMC meeting on Tues 11/19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Prep Commons. Is the pace of our modern-day world wreaking havoc on your physical, mental and emotional well-being? Then you must come to this meeting. We are holding a Stress Resilience Seminar and have invited a special guest speaker, Heidi M. Weiker, MSSA. Heidi is known for her "keen insight into human nature, thought processes and behavior. She engages audiences in powerful, yet fun ways to turn awareness into action and to translate who we all are on the inside as human beings into what we do to the outside world at large." The topic she will be discussing is "Parent Rescue: Stress Resilience in the Modern Age." Heidi will provide a fun, interactive seminar and you will learn how to use effective relaxation techniques to reduce stress and bring more calm into your life. The timing couldn't be more perfect with the hustle and bustle of the holiday season approaching. This is a great opportunity for moms to focus on our own well-being so that we can be our best selves for our families. You don't want to miss this meeting! Her book, [Just Be](#), has great reviews on Amazon.
- The FPMC and FPFC, together with Campus Ministry, invite all current and alumni families to join the Prep community for a Thanksgiving Family Mass on Sun 11/24 at 9:00 a.m. in the University Church. Members of the Prep choir will enliven our liturgy and refreshments will follow in the Commons. Please bring a canned or boxed food item to support the annual food drive.
- Current and alumni moms please join us on Wed 12/11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Prep Commons for the annual Mothers' Club Christmas Party. We welcome you and your friends, neighbors, and family members to this joyful women's event. Online registration will open in the coming weeks.

FATHERS' CLUB

- On Wed 11/13, the FPFC will hold a special meeting at J.C. Fogarty's (60 Kraft Ave, Bronxville) at 7:00 p.m. to honor veteran fathers, faculty, and alumni.
- Save the Date: Advent Christmas Party at Concourse House on Mon 12/9 at 5:30 p.m. Concourse House provides transitional housing for mothers and their children. Over 60 children will enjoy this special evening of food, carols, gifts, including a visit by Santa Claus. Gift bins will be in the Prep Commons during November. A donation to help offset the cost of this wonderful event is greatly appreciated ([donate here](#)).

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

- Each month we will highlight one strategic priority from our strategic plan: [Igniting Our Mission: Strategic Plan, 2017-2022](#). You can read Fr. Devron's letter about the plan [here](#).
- **Fostering a Catholic Ignatian Identity (5.1):** Enhance our appreciation and understanding of our identity and mission through an annual reflection on the Prep's mission statement, goals and objectives by trustees, faculty, and staff, parents, students and alumni.
 - During the 2018-19, a group of select faculty, staff, and trustees served on the Mission Statement Task Force to evaluate and renew our mission statement. Our new mission statement was approved by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Members in June: **"Our mission is to form leaders committed to faith, scholarship, and service through a college preparatory education in the Catholic Jesuit tradition."**

OTHER NEWS

- We will follow a Z schedule on Mon 11/4 (C-Day) for morning faculty meetings. The warning bell will ring at 9:45 a.m.
- School will be closed on Veterans Day on Mon 11/11.
- There will be no classes for students on Tues 11/12 due to Parent-Teacher Meetings.
- School is closed for Thanksgiving Break from Wed 11/27 to Fri 11/29. Happy Thanksgiving!



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joe Petriello".

Joseph A. Petriello, PhD '98
Principal

