

Principal's Newsletter

Scranton Preparatory School

January 2011

Dear Parents,

As we begin 2011, I first want to extend to you and your families best wishes for God's blessings throughout the year. I also want to thank you for your support of our programs at Scranton Prep—academic, spiritual, extracurricular, development—and the myriad ways you as parents show that support. All at Scranton Prep are particularly grateful for this generosity as we begin this new year. I hope that everyone in the Scranton Prep community may experience a year of happiness and fulfillment in the work we do together.

As we continue the academic year, we are working on several long-range programs that we started in August. The most significant of these is the development of our new strategic plan, *For Higher Things: The Scranton Prep 2011 Strategic Plan*, which will help us map our future for the next decade. Side by side with developing this plan, all constituents of Scranton Prep are looking at the core of our existence as a Catholic and Jesuit school as we consider our mission through the lens of a recently revised Jesuit document, *Profile of the Graduate of a Jesuit High School at Graduation*. Since my last newsletter where I introduced you to the specifics of the first significant quality of a Jesuit school graduate - that he/she be open to growth- focus groups of faculty, parents, students, and alumni have worked on the strategic plan. Also, board members, faculty, and students have considered the next quality of the Grad at Grad which is that he/she be intellectually competent. Our goal in all this is to assure that everything we do is rooted in our identity as a Catholic, Jesuit school.

As part of this process, we have decided that we should more clearly inform all our constituents not just about our mission statement and statement of philosophy but also the specific descriptors that we follow as we develop our programs. Thus, in this issue I supply the specific qualities which we as a Jesuit school hope our graduates have attained in regard to intellectual competence. Understanding that these are the qualities we are striving to help our students attain gives us a context for appreciating the many complex programs Scranton Prep offers as part of our plan to educate the whole person. It is a long, step-by step process that begins on the first days of freshman orientation.

The conclusion of a talk given on the topics of openness to growth and intellectual competence by senior Kate Sundheim to the board of trustees on Trustee Day in December captures best, I think, what we want for our students this year and for the next decade. Her comments also reflect the thoughts of other students who had conversations with the board that day. After explaining to the board of trustees in specific terms what she has experienced at Scranton Prep in these two areas, Kate concludes with these words:

“As I became more and more intellectually competent so did I become more and more open to growth. In signing up for challenging classes, I took a risk, yet I found myself seeking new experiences that these classes presented. In revealing myself to others on Kairos, I stepped outside of my comfort zone, yet this retreat taught me so much about myself. New experiences and a willingness to grow have marked my times at Prep. As I prepare to enter college, I realize countless challenges and obstacles await me; however, I feel prepared. I may not know everything, but I know how to think for myself, and I am open to new experiences and people. These two qualities, which Prep has helped me to develop, will undoubtedly be beneficial as I continue on in life.”

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Marx
Principal

Course Selection Process To Begin For Next School Year

The important process of student course selection for next year will begin during the first week of February. Each class year will have an assembly where students will learn about their course requirements and options for next year. Students will be bringing home forms explaining the process. They will receive a list of required courses and the electives that they may choose. Please discuss these options carefully with your son or daughter. Guidance counselors will assist each student with this process and will be happy to answer any of your questions. Once you and your child have selected the courses he/she wishes to take, please sign the form and return it. Please keep in mind that changing courses once your child has signed up is often very difficult and sometimes impossible. Students requesting honors and advanced placement courses must meet criteria set by academic departments for inclusion in these courses. In the spring each student will receive a finalized list of courses, and you will be asked to verify that the courses are correct.

Intellectually Competent (The second of five qualities of the Jesuit school graduate profile)

By graduation the Jesuit high school student will exhibit a mastery of those academic requirements for advanced forms of education. The student will have developed many intellectual skills and understandings that cut across and go beyond academic requirements for college entrance. The student is also developing habits of intellectual inquiry, as well as a disposition towards life-long learning. The student is beginning to see the need for intellectual integrity in his or her personal quest for religious truth and in his or her response to issues of social justice. By graduation the student already:

1. has mastered those academic skills required for college (or for some other form of advanced education).
2. is developing mastery of logic and critical thinking.
3. is developing precision and creativity in oral and written expression within and across disciplines.
4. is developing a curiosity to explore ideas and issues.
5. is developing the ability to apply knowledge and skills to new situations.
6. is developing problem solving skills.
7. is able to learn in a variety of settings and through a variety of pedagogical approaches.
8. is developing the ability to learn as an active member of a team.
9. uses technology resources to support collaborative work for learning, problem solving, and communication.
10. uses effectively a variety of media resources to acquire, create and process information.
assesses media and content critically, attending, for example, to issues such as credibility of sources, values
11. expressed or promoted, and civility and respect for persons.
12. is developing an organized approach to learning tasks.
13. can present a convincing argument in written and oral form that evidences sound analytical reasoning and convincing rhetoric.
14. is taking pride and ownership in his or her school accomplishments and is beginning to enjoy intellectual and aesthetic pursuits.
15. has begun to develop a knowledge of central ideas and methodologies of a variety of academic disciplines.
16. has begun to relate current issues and perspectives to some of their historical antecedents.
17. is growing in knowledge and understanding of his or her cultural heritage and of cultural complexities in one's local community and in a global society.
18. is beginning to understand the public policy implications of science and technology.
19. is beginning to understand the interdependence of global economic policies.
20. understands basic principles of personal finance and handles one's own finances responsibly.
21. is beginning to understand both rights and responsibilities as a citizen of one's country.
22. is beginning to understand one's own government and other forms and practices of government around the world.
23. understands the need for individual and community responsibility for stewardship of the earth's resources.
24. understands a variety of images of the human person through literature, biography, history, and the arts that lead to a greater appreciation of the variety of human experience.
25. is beginning to develop that critical consciousness which enables one better to analyze the contemporary issues facing men and women and to seek and evaluate the various points of view on these issues from the standpoint of a man and woman for and with others.

Midyear Exam Information

Tuesday, January 18	8:15 - Science 10:00 - Social Studies
Wednesday, January 19	8:15 - Latin / Greek / AP Biology 10:00 - Myth & Epic / AP Human Geography / AP Art History
Thursday, January 20	8:15 - English 10:00 - Modern Language
Friday, January 21	8:15 - Math 10:00 - Religion
Monday, January 24	8:15- Make-up exams 10:00 - Make-up exams

Exams are ninety minutes in length. Students may leave the exam after sixty minutes if they have finished. Students report only at times for which they have exams scheduled. There are no classes after exams. Students may leave after the completion of their exams for the day. On days students have two exams, they are **not** permitted to leave the building between exams. Also on days students are scheduled for two exams, they must take **both** exams. Make-up exam day is for illnesses only. Students may not miss exams for vacations or college visits. Districts that provide busing have been notified that dismissal is 11:35.

In the event of a two-hour delay due to weather conditions during exam week, the first exam will begin at 10:15 and dismissal after the second exam will be 1:35. In the event of school closing for one or more days, the order in which exams are taken remains the same. If school were to be closed on Wednesday, exams scheduled for Wednesday would move to Thursday. Monday, January 24 is exam make-up day for students who are absent for a scheduled exam. If there are no snow cancellations during the week, then students who do not miss any of their scheduled exams do not need to report to school on Monday, January 24.

In the event that Scranton Prep needs to convey more information about delays or cancellations than is possible through the information provided on television and radio, we will do that through announcements on our phone system and on our Websites scrantonprep.com and scrantonprep.net

Junior Parent Evening of Information - Wednesday, February 2

On Wednesday evening, February 2 at 7 p.m., the guidance department will hold its junior parent evening of information. Parents will learn about important aspects of the college process for juniors and upcoming events including information on the college fair on April 12.

Prep's College Day and College Fair Set for April 12

Tuesday, April 12, is College Day for Prep juniors. Beginning at 12:50, juniors will attend sessions devoted to the college selection process. This program affords juniors an opportunity to meet in small groups with admission counselors from many colleges and universities. In the evening there will be a "college fair" for parents and students. Parents are encouraged to attend this informative program at the school from 7 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. College representatives will be on hand to provide information and answer your questions. There will be special sessions that evening on the college admissions process and financial aid.

Upcoming Events

January 17.....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day— no classes
January 18-24.....	Midyear Exams
January 25.....	Second Semester Begins
February 1-4.....	Kairos Retreat
February 1.....	Faculty Meeting—12:50 dismissal
February 2.....	Guidance Department's Junior Parent Evening of Information
February 21.....	Presidents' Day - no classes
March 1.....	Faculty Meeting—12:50 dismissal
March 1-4.....	Kairos Retreat
March 3.....	Parent / Teacher Conferences at 7 p.m.
March 9.....	Ash Wednesday - school liturgy
March 19.....	Prep Auction
March 25.....	Third Quarter Ends
March 28-April 3.....	Spring Break
April 4.....	Classes Resume
April 8-10 & 15-17.....	Scranton Prep Players Present <i>How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying</i>
April 12.....	Faculty Meeting -12:50 dismissal except juniors; College Day for juniors begins at 12:50
April 20.....	Easter Break begins after classes
April 26.....	Classes Resume
May 1.....	Senior/Parent Social at St. Mary's Center
May 2-13.....	A.P. Exams
May 4.....	Junior Day of Recollection
May 10.....	Faculty Meeting—12:50 dismissal
May 19.....	National Honor Society Induction Assembly



Scranton



Prep's Auction 2011

Bella Italia

March 19, 2011

St. Francis Xavier Center

6:30 PM



Dinner by

Epicurean Delight



Mark your calendars for Prep's annual auction sponsored by the Parents' Club. This year's theme, **Bella Italia**, promises once again to showcase an eclectic collection of gifts on which auction patrons may bid. The two-week November online auction held in conjunction with this major fundraiser was very successful.

Homeroom solicitation for auction gifts will begin this month. Parents who have not yet donated an item will receive letters requesting a gift or monetary donation of \$35.00. Each homeroom will be assigned a gift theme.

The success of the auction greatly depends on the variety and quality of the gifts that are offered on the auction block. If you have access to tickets for sporting events, perhaps you would consider donating them, as they are always a popular item. Arrangements can be made to have large or unusual items picked up by contacting the Development Office at 941-7743.

Current parents Atty. Joseph '76 and Kathy Burke, Atty. Mark and Lorraine Perry, and Dr. Joseph and Kathy Stella are chairing the event.