

Principal's Newsletter

Scranton Preparatory School

May 2010

Dear Parents:

“Blessed are you, Lord Our God, who has given us holy parents.” These words begin one of the series of prayers that all Prep students prayed together during homeroom in Lent. As part of the prayer, students were asked to reflect quietly for a few moments – Do I pray for my parents, my grandparents, my aunts, and uncles - those who were my first teachers?

For this letter I offer this prayer for you our parents and your families. I offer it for all the sacrifices you make for your sons and daughters. You provide unconditional love through your selfless service to them. You support of all their endeavors here at Prep and help ensure their academic success. You bring them to practices, attend games and performances, and affirm their goodness as they serve others and continue to grow in faith. You assist them in so many ways that only you and they know. I offer this prayer especially for the parents of seniors with whom we all will join in celebrating the many accomplishments of their sons and daughters this month and next with our Parent / Senior social, National Honor Society ceremony, baccalaureate Mass and finally graduation.

BLESSED ARE YOU, LORD OUR GOD, WHO HAS GIVEN TO US HOLY PARENTS.

Lord of Life,

we are grateful for the gift
of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

These persons, who were chosen by You for us,
have shared with us not only life
but a multitude of gifts and talents as well.

We are each indeed homemade,
and our parents were the doorway
by which we entered into the wonder of life.

In our grandparents, we have sensed and felt
the thread of history and the treasure of tradition
that lays within our family.

We ask that those who guided our early steps
and called forth our latent talents
may be richly rewarded by You, their Divine Parent.

In the long tradition of holy parents,
of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel,
may our parents be blessed by Your faithful love.

May all teachers, guides and friends
who have, at times, been parents to us,
be blessed as well by Your divine compassion and care.

Show us, O Lord,
how we can express our gratitude to those who have given us life
by living lives of Light and Life.

Blessed are You, Lord our God,
who has given to us holy parents. Amen+

Scranton Prep Mock Trial Team Wins State Championship

We congratulate the fifteen members of the Scranton Prep Mock Trial team for their outstanding season which continues as they prepare a new case for the National Mock Trial Competition in Philadelphia during the first week in May. The team won the district title against Abington Heights and the regional title against Lake Wallenpaupack on their way to winning the state championship in Harrisburg on March 27. To win at states, the team had to defeat four other district winners from all regions of Pennsylvania. With the assistance of their lawyer advisors, Judge Malachy Mannion '72 and Atty. John O'Brien '72, and their moderator, Mrs. Mary Grace Phillips, director of guidance at Prep, the fifteen team members practiced throughout the winter months honing their skills as lawyers and witnesses in a mock murder case. For the district and regional trials, the students argued their cases at the William Nealon Federal Courthouse in Scranton. For the state championships, the students traveled to the Capitol building in Harrisburg. The fifteen members of the 2010 state Mock Trial champions are Christopher Boland, Jennifer Boland, Ryan Burdick, Joseph Burke, Michael Burke, Allison Durkin, Julia Fick, Sean Foley, Cara Mannion, Stephen Murphy, Daniel Penetar, Devon Sheridan, Aileen Van Wie, Anna Walsh, and Sarah White.

Scranton Prep Students Support the People of Haiti.

Following the disastrous earthquake in Haiti, the students and faculty of Scranton Prep donated over \$5,500 dollars to aid relief efforts in Haiti. On January 27 a collection was taken up during homeroom, prayer services were conducted during each lunch period and students dressed in red and blue, the colors of Haiti, to show solidarity with the Haitian people. Almost all Prep students gave up part of their lunch periods to pray and donated five dollars and in many cases more to the relief fund.

Prep Faculty and Students Pray with St. Ignatius

On Thursday afternoons during Lent, students and faculty were invited to the student chapel to pray in the way of St. Ignatius. These twenty minutes of prayer and meditation helped all to understand better the methods of Ignatian prayer. Also many faculty this year and next are making the Spiritual Exercises with Fr. Haske, S.J., in various formats. Prayer is central to our mission as a Catholic and Jesuit school so we are always finding ways to bring students and faculty together to pray. Again this Lent students and faculty were offered many opportunities for prayer with daily Mass, weekly Stations of the Cross, school-wide homeroom prayers, and opportunities for Confessions.

Parent Alertness of Teen Substance Abuse

All of us at Scranton Prep continue to be very concerned about the issue of teen substance abuse as we attempt to educate our students about this issue in various ways especially through classroom instruction. I also occasionally share information in this space with parents since consistently in the news and in reports on schools, we read about the importance of parent alertness in the area of teen substance abuse. What follows is a summary of a study that I detailed on these pages two years ago. At this time of year, I also ask that parents and students review our school's policies in our student handbook (which are consistent with the law) concerning students who use or are in the presence of illegal substances.

The Lackawanna County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse published the results of a national survey, *Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XI: Teens and Parents*, that strongly indicates that "parents are often in denial about their own children's substance abuse behavior." According to the survey which is conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University, "one-third of teens and nearly half of 17-year olds attended house parties where parents were present and teens were drinking or using other illegal substances."

CASA's survey also reveals "that teens who say parents were not present at the parties they attended were 17 times likelier to say alcohol was available, 15 times likelier to say illegal and prescription drugs were available and 29 time likelier to say marijuana was available compared to teens who said parents were always present at the parties they attended." The survey found that parents believed that illegal substances were not available and that parents were normally present during parties while teens frequently reported the opposite.

Joseph A. Califano, Jr., CASA's chairman and president says, "Teen drinking and drugging is a parent problem. Too many parents fail their responsibility to chaperone their kids' parties. If your teen is having a party at your home, you should not only be there, but be aware of what is going on. And if your teen attends someone else's home, confirm that the parents will be present and that alcohol and drugs will not."

- taken from "Helping Hand" a newsletter of the Lackawanna County Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Scranton Prep Swimmers Win 200 Freestyle Relay State Gold Medal

The Scranton Prep relay team consisting of Emma Blake, Rebekah Campo, Megan Jones, and Maria Telincho won the state medal in the 200 meter freestyle relay at the State Competition at Bucknell University.

Three Prep students Earn Player of the Year

The Scranton Times has named Nick Reach golfer of the year, Anne Cognetii player of the year for tennis, and Rebekah Campo swimmer of the year.

Recent Prep Student Achievements

Competence is one of the three key elements in Scranton Prep's mission statement along with conscience and compassion. Throughout the year Scranton Prep students have demonstrated competence in a variety of academic-based competitions, regional and national tests and arts related activities. Literally hundreds of students won awards this year. Below are the most recent accomplishments.

One hundred and four senior members of the John A. Convery, S.J., Chapter of the National Honor Society will be recognized at an assembly on May 20. Also at this assembly 110 juniors will be inducted into the National Honor Society.

Jennifer Boland, Daniel Brier, Stephen Gan, John Guzek, and Amelia Macharey have been named National Merit Finalists for their outstanding performance on the PSAT Merit Scholarship Exam.

Sophomore Anshuman Sethi was selected to attend the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar.

Jennifer Boland, Meghan McDonald, and Lauren Opsasnick have been named to *The Scranton Times* Superstars team. Area schools can nominate up to three students for this designation. *The Times* chooses twenty-five students from the nominations from all area schools and recognizes their achievements in a special edition of the paper in May.

Sophomore Sarah Babinski placed third in the National French Exam sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Sarah will be recognized and receive her trophy at a dinner at King's College.

The Scranton Prep Physics Team won first place in the Kane Physics Competition which is held annually at the University of Scranton. This year's Physics team consists of Alex Cameron, Christopher Fan, Stephen Gan, Samuel Gutherz, Michael Holmes, Alexander Marchese, and Grace Nebzydoski.

Junior Ashlee Dougher was the first place winner of the Youth For Life Essay Contest sponsored by the Scranton Chapter of Pennsylvanians for Human Life. Elizabeth Casey received fourth place recognition for her entry.

The Prep Players presented their spring production *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* for two very successful weekends.

Four students won awards for their projects at the regional Science Olympiad competition in March. Senior Sam Gutherz and junior Connor Zale won first place awards. Senior Anup Patel and freshman Kishan Patel won second place awards.

Prep's Speech and Debate Teams participated in and performed very well in several competitions this year. Sophomore Allison Durkin will represent Scranton Prep for the second year in a row at the National Tournament in Omaha, NE, this year in the category of original oratory. Sophomore Kirsten Simons finished first or second in dramatic interpretations in all competitions in which she participated.

One hundred and seventy-five students merited awards on this year's National Latin exam. Freshman Neil MacDonald had a perfect paper. Forty-four students won gold medals, 39 earned silver medals, 35 received *magna cum laude* certificates, and 56 *cum laude* certificates.

Prep Math teams finished first and second out of 63 teams in competitions at the annual Bloomsburg Math Contest. Math Team members are Joseph Buttacci, Daniel Brier, Alex Cameron, Stephen Gan, Lexi Lang, Bryan Loftus, Alexander Marchese, Meghan McDonald, and Anup Patel.

Twelve students finished in the 90 percentile on the National German exam and qualify for the travel-study award— juniors Sean Cuff, Katherine Durr, Arden Fehlinger, Jake Forelli, Emily Harasym, Matthew Schrepfer, Michael Shostek, Emily Sweda, Kristopher Tomaine, and seniors Bryan Connaughton, Samuel Kuchwara, and Mathew Maria.

Many students took the American Chemistry Society High School Chemistry Exam and the National Spanish exams. Results on all these exams have not yet been received.

Don't Miss the Scranton Prep Art Show

Senior art students will showcase their artistic creations at the annual Scranton Prep Art Show on Friday, May 7 from 7-9 pm in the St. Francis Xavier Center. Senior art work includes paintings, stained glass, architectural models, metalwork, and clay work.



Spring Calendar Updates

- May 2 - Senior/Parent Social at St. Mary's Center
- May 4 - Faculty Meeting—12:50 pm dismissal
- May 5 - Junior Day of Recollection
A.P. Calculus exam
- May 6 - A.P. English Literature exam
- May 7 - A.P. U.S. History exam
Senior Art Show 7 - 9 pm in the Xavier Center Lobby
- May 10 - A.P. Biology exam; A.P. Physics exam
- May 11 - A.P. Chemistry exam; A.P. Psychology exam
- May 12 - A.P. English Language exam; A.P. Art History exam
- May 13 - Ascension Thursday-school liturgy
- May 14 - A.P. Human Geography exam; A.P. Latin exam
- May 20 - National Honor Society Recognition and Induction at 8:45 am.
Reception for parents of senior members of the NHS following the program.
- May 26 - Senior talent assembly. Seniors will be dismissed after the assembly.
- May 27 - Senior exams begin.
- May 31 - Memorial Day - no classes
- June 3 - Shortened periods Junior / Senior prom
- June 4 - Class trip day for freshmen and sophomores
- June 5 - Baccalaureate Mass in the Xavier Center - 5 pm.
- June 6 - Graduation in the Xavier Center - 10:30 am.
- June 7-11 - Underclass final exams

Senior Final Exam Schedule

Thursday, May 27

8:15 am— Math
10:00 am— Advanced American History

Friday, May 28

8:15 am— Science
10:00 am— International Affairs /
American Political Systems

Tuesday, June 1

8:15 am— Latin / Greek
10:00 am— Myth and Epic

Wednesday, June 2

8:15 am— English
10:00 am— Modern Foreign Language

Underclassman Final Exam Schedule

Monday, June 7

8:15 am— Math
10:00 am— Religion

Tuesday, June 8

8:15 am— Science
10:00 am— Social Studies

Wednesday, June 9

8:15 am— Latin/Greek

Thursday, June 10

8:15 am— English
10:00 am— Modern Foreign Language

Friday, June 11 and Monday, June 14
Make-up Exams