

Principal's Newsletter

NEWS FROM 17th & GIRARD

Fall 2008

Dear Prep Parents and Guardians:

Greetings from 17th and Girard, and with the addition of Jesuit Hall, greetings from 18th and Thompson as well! With the Pre-8th and Pre-9th Programs, high school full credit, enrichment and make-up courses, and the new Camp Magis program, our campus was certainly full of life after Commencement Weekend in early June. During those Commencement Exercises, I had the opportunity to thank Rev. William J. Byron, S.J. for his generosity of time, presence, and spirit as president of St. Joseph's Prep. It was a privilege to serve with him. On behalf of the school community, I presented him with an Ade Bethune print of a young, strong, hardworking St. Joseph. This idea of Joseph twirls in my mind as I begin this letter to you. In so many ways, he is an example of the type of man we are trying to form at the Prep—a strong, hardworking, humble man who responds to the call of God, strives to lead with love, and understands the importance of family. It is with these great hopes that I begin this school year.

While experiencing the youthful energy in the building this summer, I also enjoyed the opportunity to expand our faculty and watch the expansion of our academic facility. In our efforts to continue to decrease class size, I am excited to share that we have added two full-time teaching positions and have converted three part-time positions to full-time. More details on new faculty positions and construction are contained in this newsletter, but I feel it is important to let you know that while we expect the new classroom floors in Jesuit Hall and the Dining Hall to be ready for the opening of school, the entire construction project will not be complete. Though there may be some minor inconveniences, I am quite confident that great teaching and learning will certainly take place. At our student orientations, the students will learn about the new addition and how we will proceed during the final weeks of construction.

As has been the case since the beginning of this construction project, I thank you and your sons for your patience and cooperation as we deal with these potential inconveniences that may come our way in September. But let's remember that it is also a time to celebrate. The addition of Jesuit Hall is a remarkable moment in St. Joseph's Prep history—the first major academic expansion since our current building was completed in 1968. I feel blessed to be here and to share it with you.

The facilities and faculty were not the only areas that experienced expansion this summer—we also increased our summer service opportunities, adding new trips to Alabama, New Mexico, and Australia while increasing the number of trips to

sites we have visited in the past. When our faculty, staff, and students return from these service trips, they are typically filled with excitement and gratitude for their time spent for and with others. One teacher described her experience to me in a letter: "My trip was altogether shocking. The land, the people, the rich spiritual life of the Navajo—the beauty of each shattered any expectations I had and introduced me to an even more powerful way of living, believing, and praying." Experiences like this one, which bring the *magis* to life, inspire us and help us to recognize the tremendous power found in service and reflection.

As always, several important items are explained in this newsletter and are included in this mailing. I ask you to please give them your attention.

I write this letter to you just a few weeks before the first day of school. While for me this is usually a time filled with excitement and anticipation, this year it is tinged with sadness. In the last two weeks, I have attended the funerals of three members of our community—a mother of two incoming Prep students, a beloved coach, and a legendary teacher and alumnus. The outpouring of support and love from the Prep community was tremendous. At each funeral, in one way or another, I thought about the extraordinariness of life as well as its brevity. In those moments, I could not help but think of my daughter, Tessa, and how much I desire to be present for and with her so I can witness her extraordinariness—whether it be in her first steps or in her constant smile. While your sons are well-beyond first steps, their lives continue to be extraordinary. I feel privileged and humbled to be a part of their lives here at the Prep.

I close this letter with a warm welcome to Rev. George Bur, S.J '59, our new president. After working with him for just a few weeks, his care for our young men and this community is already quite apparent. I look forward to the community welcoming him when the school year begins.

Much peace to you and your family during these final days of summer.

Mr. Michael Gomez

Mission Of St. Joseph's Prep

The mission of St. Joseph's Prep as a Catholic, Jesuit, urban, college preparatory school is to develop the minds, hearts, souls, and characters of young men in their pursuit of becoming men for and with others.

New Faculty

This fall, we are welcoming several new faculty and staff to the Prep. The addition of Jesuit Hall, our new academic center that will add 16 new classrooms to our facility, has allowed us to create new teaching positions in science and classics and to bring three current part-time positions (history, modern language and art) to full-time.

Dr. John Campbell—Science

Dr. Campbell comes from Riverside (N.J.) High School, where he taught biology, physical science and chemistry. Prior to that, he taught science at Little Flower High School for Girls in Philadelphia. Before becoming a teacher, Dr. Campbell worked as a chiropractor for eight years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Scranton, a Master's degree in secondary education from Holy Family University and a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from the Palmer College of Chiropractic Medicine.

Ms. Kelli Jones—Mathematics

Ms. Jones, a certified actuary, has experience teaching at the college level after adjunct positions at Saint Joseph's University and The College of New Jersey. She spent nearly two decades working in the business world, most notably with the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. Ms. Jones received a B.B.A. degree in Actuarial Science and Finance from Temple University.

Mr. Matthew Kelly '02—Classics

Mr. Kelly returns to the Prep after teaching classics for a year at Buckley Country Day School in Roslyn, N.Y. In 2006-07, Mr. Kelly, a graduate of Georgetown University, taught as a member of the Alumni Service Corps. At Buckley Country Day, Mr. Kelly taught Latin to seventh and eighth graders and coached girls soccer and baseball. While a member of the ASC, Mr. Kelly taught English and Latin and was Assistant Director for two Cape and Sword productions.

Mr. Dino Pinto—Religious Studies

Mr. Pinto comes to St. Joseph's Prep after four years teaching theology at Bishop Eustace Prep in Pennsauken, N.J. Prior to that, he was Director of Retreats at Saint Joseph's University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree. Mr. Pinto also holds a Master's degree in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha. Mr. Pinto first began teaching at Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, S.D.

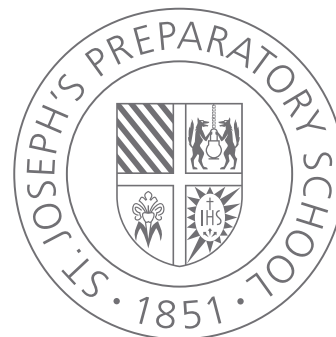
Alumni Service Corps

Once again, we are welcoming recent Prep graduates back to school to serve as part of the Alumni Service Corps. These members of the Class of 2004 will serve in a variety of positions here at the Prep and we are grateful for their service:

- Mr. John Dougherty (Loyola College in Maryland), Campus Ministry
- Mr. Michael McHugh (The Catholic University of America), Religious Studies
- Mr. Timothy Reilly (University of Pennsylvania), History

Move To Paperless Newsletters

As we move further and further into the world of technology, it has become important for us to communicate in new ways. With the Prep e-mail update being sent every two weeks and a News and Events Webpage that is updated even more frequently, there no longer seems to be a need for a printed version of this newsletter. This year, with the exception of this printed copy, the newsletter will be sent via electronic means (e-mails, e-newsletters, etc.). If this is a problem for you and your family, please let us know in the Main Office, and we will work to find a different solution for you. Thank you all in advance for your cooperation in this matter.



Jesuit Hall Update

Jesuit Hall, our new academic center, gives us the opportunity to provide departments some additional space and to group our classrooms by department in both buildings. For the 2008-09 academic year, Jesuit Hall will house art, classics, history and math, in addition to the Department of Mission and Ministry and offices for our president, treasurer and development. The Office of the Dean of Students, the Prep Shop and our nurse will move into newly created spaces in the renovated Dining Hall, just off the Ignatian Commons. In the main building, English will be on the first floor, modern language and religion will share the second floor and science will be on the third floor. In addition, a new physical science lab is being created out of two former classrooms on the third floor.

I am very grateful to our faculty and staff who have done a terrific job of working together and have remained patient during these days of packing and moving.

School Opening Information

For those of you for whom we have an e-mail address, the information about the opening of school will be news that you have already received. However, for those who do not have an e-mail on file and also as a reminder for the former, here is some information regarding the opening of the 2008-09 school year. The September calendar was arranged with the construction schedule and our transition into our new academic center, Jesuit Hall, in mind. Here are some key dates:

- Tuesday, September 2: Freshman Parent Orientation, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, September 4: Freshman Orientation, 8:25 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Buses will depart at 3:30 p.m.
- Friday, September 5: Orientation for Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, 8:25-11:52 a.m. (Freshmen do not report.) Buses will depart at 12:30 p.m.
- Monday, September 8: First day of classes for all grades
- Monday, September 15: Mass of the Holy Spirit
- Thursday, September 18: Mini-School Night for Freshman Parents, 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, September 25: Mini-School Night for Sophomore, Junior and Senior Parents, 6 p.m.

Schedules, Start/Finish Times

While we are excited about the opening of Jesuit Hall, there will be a bit of an adjustment for us as far as scheduling and moving between two buildings. Here are some changes to keep in mind:

- In order to accommodate movement between classes in both buildings, there will be five minutes between class periods. (Previously, there were four minutes between classes.)
- With the time between classes changing, during a regular school day we will now begin Homeroom at 8:25 a.m. and finish Eighth Period at 2:34 p.m.

Student Orientations/First Day Of School

Members of the Class of 2012 will participate in orientation on Thursday, September 4 from 8:25 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. Students should arrive in proper school dress code and bring a set of gym clothes. The buses will pick up at the regular time in the morning and leave the Prep at 3:30 p.m.

All other Prep students (sophomores, juniors and seniors) should report in proper school dress code for orientation on Friday, September 5 at 8:25 a.m. The day will end at 11:52 a.m., and buses will leave at 12:30 p.m.

All students will report for the first days of classes on Monday, September 8 in compliance with the dress code. I know that I am repeating this, but please remind your son that Homeroom begins at 8:25 a.m.

Assistant Principals' Corner

From Mrs. Rose Marie Kettinger, Assistant Principal for Academic Programs and Records:

Welcome back! We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Class schedules are included in this mailing. This information is essential when ordering books. Please check the schedule to make sure that it is correct. In order to handle any questions efficiently and fairly, I ask that you forward requests/concerns in writing by e-mail or by fax. Please contact me via e-mail at rkettinger@sjprep.org. You may also fax me a copy of your schedule with an attached note about your concern to 215-765-1710.

Assistant Principals' Corner Cont'd

For your information, the drop-add period for classes will end on Monday, September 15 at 3 p.m.

Prep textbooks will be available online from Varsity Books. Included in this mailing is an explanation on how to access its website. The Varsity Books website can also be accessed through the Prep website (www.sjprep.org/books). If a course is not listed, then a state book will be provided to the student during the first week of class. To minimize any returns, it is very important to order carefully and make sure that the course numbers and teachers' names match those on your son's schedule.

From Mr. Joseph Nawn, Assistant Principal for Instruction and Learning:

Parents, I ask you to please share this note with your sons:

Welcome. I hope you have enjoyed your time away from school and that you have had a restful summer. If you have not yet finished your summer reading, take heart – there is still time. But don't wait too much longer. Opening day of school is quickly approaching.

Here are some helpful hints for the first few days of school: Buy your books as soon as your roster arrives, hit the books right away, do all your assignments thoroughly, turn them in on time, and ace the first test in each of your classes. In short, don't ease into your classes; rather, dive in head first. You are quite capable. Give your best effort and great things will happen.

In your "Student Directives" there are several pages that are dedicated to the Academic Honesty policy. Please read those specific pages as well as the entire "Student Directives." We always expect your best honest effort. No grade, test, or paper is ever worth the slightest compromise of one's personal integrity.

Counseling Department News And Notes

From Dr. Stew Barbera '86, Director of Counseling:

As you know, the Counseling Department is an integral resource for students and families throughout their Prep careers. In terms of counselor assignments for the 2008-2009 academic year, **Mr. David Skowronski** will be

working with the freshman class and I will be working with the sophomore class. We are pleased to welcome **Mrs. Kristen Bielecki** back to the Prep. Mrs. Bielecki recently completed her doctoral externship in School Psychology from Columbia University, and she will be working with the junior class while **Mr. Bill Gillespie** completes his doctoral internship. **Dr. John Berna** will work with the senior class.

Mr. Tom Belzer and **Mr. Lawrence Czudak '67**, Director of College Counseling, will continue to provide college admissions counseling to the senior and junior classes.

In closing, on behalf of the Counseling Department, I hope that you and your family have an enjoyable and relaxing remainder of the summer. We look forward to meeting you at the upcoming mini-school evenings and working with you and your son this year!

More information regarding the Prep's Counseling Program can be found on-line at <http://www.sjprep.org/counseling/> as well as in upcoming editions of the Counseling Department electronic newsletters.

International Travel

Several Prep faculty, staff and students traveled abroad for a variety of reasons this summer:

- **Ms. Deb Hilton**, the chair of our art department, took a group of students on a tour of Italy as part of a summer art course. To read more about this trip, please go to the group's blog at <http://www.sjprep.org/Italy>.
- **Mr. Michael Magree, S.J.**, a member of our religious studies department and director of the Christus Choir, led a group of students to World Youth Day in Australia and then a service project in that country. To read more about this trip, please go to the group's blog at <http://sjpwyd08.wordpress.com/>.
- **Rev. Bruce Maivelett, S.J.**, Director of Ignatian Identity, **Ms. Ligia Baland**, a teacher of modern language, and **Mr. Dave Fortin**, a teacher in our history department, led several trips to the Dominican Republic for service.
- **Mr. Bill Lamb '79**, the head coach of our Crew team, and the Varsity Eight represented the Prep well at the Henley Royal Regatta in England. After two victories, the team lost to the eventual runners-up, Eton, in a tight race.

Summer Service Trips

Hundreds of Prep students, faculty and staff participated in 17 service trips throughout the United States, Central America and Australia:

- Australia, Leader: **Mr. Michael Magree, S.J.**
- Camden, N.J., Leader: **Mr. Steve Oldham**
- Chaparral, N.M., Leader: **Mr. Steve Oldham** and **Mr. Matt Fitzgibbons**
- Dominican Republic (three trips), Leaders: **Ms. Ligia Baland, Mr. David Fortin** and **Rev. Bruce Maivelett, S.J.**
- Eastern Shore, Md., Leaders: **Larry Czudak '67** and **Mr. Matt Scannapieco '03**
- Gulf Coast, Ala., Leaders: **Mr. Andrew Whelan** and **Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick**
- Habitat for Humanity (Philadelphia), Leaders: **Mr. John Kilroy '03** and **Mr. John Fitzpatrick '04**
- Ivanhoe, Va., Leaders: **Mr. Joe Donahue '63** and **Mr. Matt Scannapieco '03**
- Justiceworx, in Trenton, N.J.
- Navajo Nation, N.M., Leaders: **Ms. Susie Cook** and **Mr. Andrew Whelan**
- New Orleans, La. (two trips), Leaders: **Mr. Andrew Whelan, Mr. Steve Sizer '03, Ms. Colleen Conmy** and **Mrs. Maureen Stasson** (<http://sjprepservice.edublogs.org/>)
- Quaker City (Philadelphia), Leaders: **Mr. Steve Oldham** and **Mr. John Kilroy '03**
- Rural Retreat, Va. (two trips), Leaders: **Ms. Meredith Morgan, Mrs. Nancy Primick, Mr. Jeremy Foldsey,** and **Mr. Patrick McKenzie '02**

Emergency Phone Contacts

Last year, we contracted with a company that allowed us to better communicate with the St. Joseph's Prep community by telephone with necessary information (weather, cancellations, etc.). We will continue to utilize this web-based phone communications system and also use the regular TV/radio outlets and the Prep Website.

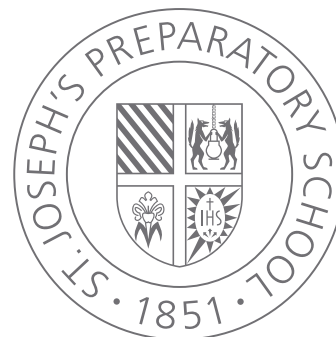
Freshman Parents Orientation

I would like to welcome the parents of the members of the Class of 2012. Some of you are old friends of the Prep, either as parents of previous students or as alums (or both). Some of you may just be taking your first steps on this Prep journey. I think that you are in for some wonderful moments as part of our community, and I look forward to sharing them with you.

Freshman parents are invited to an orientation on Tuesday, September 2 at 6 p.m. The evening will begin with Mass in the Church of the Gesu, followed by a few presentations by administrators and faculty members that will help you prepare for the first few weeks at SJP. To help you feel more at home, we will end the evening with a barbecue that will give you a chance to meet other freshman parents as well as Prep administrators and faculty. Please RSVP by calling 215-978-1018.

Change In Food Services

Prep President **Rev. George W. Bur, S.J. '59**, announced that effective August 1, ARAMARK Educational Services, LLC (ARAMARK Education) will commence operations as the new food service provider for St. Joseph's Prep. According to Fr. Bur, "ARAMARK Education was selected based on their extensive food service experience. ARAMARK Education is located in Philadelphia and is the food service provider for the Archdiocesan High Schools of Philadelphia, Saint Joseph's University and many independent and public schools nationwide. ARAMARK Education has over 55 years of food service experience that will enable the mealtime (breakfast, lunch and snack time) to be a positive nutritional and social experience for our students and employees."



Fight Song

As a welcome to our new students and parents, here are the words to the St. Joseph's Prep fight song. As always, I hope you join me and the rest of our community at the first Prep football game and are prepared to sing our fight song!

Swing on along with the crimson.

Swing on along with the grey.

Roll up the score once again for St. Joe's Prep

With a hip-hip-hip-hooray.

The fight is ours for the winning.

The day is dark for the foe.

So fight team fight and we'll bring home tonight,

A victory for old St. Joe's.

Jesuit Corner

In a summary of "Ignatian Pedagogy: A Practical Approach," Sharon J. Korth describes the importance of reflection in Jesuit education:

"Reflection and discernment were integral parts of Ignatius' learning process. Reflection is a thoughtful reconsideration of some subject matter, experience, idea, purpose, or spontaneous reaction, in order to grasp its significance more fully. Thus, reflection is the process by which meaning surfaces in human experience by understanding the truth being studied more clearly; understanding the sources of one's sensations or reactions in the consideration; deepening one's understanding of the implications for oneself and others; achieving personal insights into events, ideas, truths, or the distortion of truth; coming to an understanding of who I am...and who I might be in relation to others. Reflection is a formative and liberating process that forms the conscience of learners in such a manner that they are led to move beyond knowing to undertake action."

Reflection