

From the desk of Rob Costante, Principal...

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“Half an hour's meditation each day is essential, except when you are busy. Then a full hour is needed.”

Saint Francis de Sales

This week, the busiest month of the school year came to a joyous conclusion. And as I look back upon the past 31 days, any weariness that may have been felt was quickly triumphed by proud celebration. And one of the highlights of this month was the National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony that was held on May 11th. While this unique scholastic program embodies all the qualities we desire to see in any student, this occasion served as a means to celebrate an outstanding group of students and all that they represent as ambassadors for St. Francis. During the ceremony, our students heard how using the qualities of Scholarship, Leadership, Character, Citizenship and Service are at the essence of the responsibility we assume as faith-filled leaders of our community. So on behalf of SFdS, I would like to congratulate the following group of students who were recently inducted as members of this prestigious group: 8th grader Stephanie Brilliant; and 6th graders Serena Khalefeh and Hannah Sigmund. A special note of appreciation to our guest speaker, Councilman Jim Ireton, and our Chapter Advisor, Debbie Traum, for all that they did to make this event so memorable.

Later that next week, we celebrated the accomplishments of our spring sport teams. Our Boys and Girls Lacrosse program enjoyed both a successful and memorable season. The teams earned many hard fought victories which revealed the teamwork, the determination and the developed skills that grew throughout the season. Success takes leadership and at the core of both of these two teams was outstanding 8th grade student leaders and dedicated coaches. I would like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to the girls' team coaches - Brendon Johnson, Tom Deere and Stephanie Machina; and the boys' team coaches - Andy McBride and Natalie Rosten.

That next week, the Super Penguins Team hosted a “Relay for Life Recess” event on May 18th. This afterschool fundraiser saw over 60 attendees run, jump, skip and swing all in support of cancer research. A special note of gratitude to Angie McLaughlin and Sarah Neall for serving as the lead organizers for this memorable event.

Then on May 19th, the spiritual leader for our Diocese made his annual visit to our school. The Most Reverend Bishop Malooly met with each of our grade levels and discussed the important foundation that a faith-filled education will offer their lives. His childhood stories from his own Catholic school days in Baltimore brought smiles to the faces of our young Penguins. Then later that night, harmonious sounds echoed from our Library Commons area as our Band and Choir groups performed their annual spring concert and shared the gift of music for all to enjoy. A grateful note of appreciation to Ben Wilshusen and Cheryl Thompson for their respective leadership of these groups.

What a month! We are truly blessed!!