



SAINT PETER'S PREP

NEW JERSEY'S JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL SINCE 1872

Dear Prep Parents and Guardians,

Hello from Grand and Warren! The school year has gotten off to a good start and in some ways it is hard to believe that the first marking period, one quarter of school year 2009-2010, is done. But if you could witness a typical day here at Prep—from the arrival of the first students well before Homeroom prayer just after 8:00am through eight periods of classes, to the after-school meetings and practices which often end after darkness falls—you would believe it without a doubt! The first quarter has been marked by so many heartening things both inside and outside of the classroom. To take a line from the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, “Christ plays in 10,000 places” every day at Prep.

The occasion of this mailing is primarily to inform you that Prep has completed the transition to electronic grading and that report cards from this marking period forward will now be accessible online through the PowerSchool parents’ portal. More specific information is included in a separate letter from Ms. Mary Durante, our Vice Principal for Academics. Please also note that Parent-Teacher conferences will take place on Thursday, November 19, from 2:00-4:00pm and 5:00-7:00pm. Detailed information on how to arrange an appointment online is also included separately.

With the close of the first marking period, I encourage you to engage your son in a conversation about his experience at Prep so far this year both inside and outside of the classroom. Grades, important as they are, are but one type of indicator of the whole experience of being a student at Prep. At this point, congratulate your son on improved academic performance or noteworthy participation in an activity or athletic team, encourage him to join a new club or apply greater effort in an area in which he may have been struggling.

Should you be concerned about your son’s standing in any of his classes, please speak first with him to gain his perspective. If he has not done so, he should speak with the teacher of that class to see how he might improve his performance. All teachers are asked to be present and available for extra help during 9th period—from 2:30-3:00pm—in their classrooms or offices. If an issue persists, then contacting the teacher by email or phone message is the next step. Please refer to the following sections of the 2009-2010 Student Handbook for more complete information: “Home-School Communication” (pages 27-28) and “Student-Teacher Difficulties” (page 19). Finally, if you ever feel there is difficulty in communication with a particular teacher, please contact Ms. Durante, and she will address the situation. In the end, everyone involved with your son’s education at Prep—you and your son, his teachers, guidance counselor, administrators, coaches and other staff—should be in appropriate contact with each other if situations of concern develop in the course of the year.

As the weather turns increasingly cooler, we are reminded that winter is drawing near. Two important notes: first, should severe weather force the cancellation of classes, the Prep webpage www.spprep.org will be updated and a recorded message will be posted to the school status message board at (201) 547-2361, generally by 6:00am. Please consult the Student Handbook pages 24-25 for further information regarding school closings and unplanned early dismissals. Second, our school nurse, Ms. Maureen Sheppard, R.N., is in close contact with local and state public health agencies regarding the impact of the H1N1 flu virus. We have requested that Prep be a site for the H1N1 flu vaccination for families who wish to have their son inoculated at no cost. By making this option available, the school administration is not endorsing any course of action with regard to the H1N1 flu vaccine. You, in consultation with your doctor, need to decide what the best course of action is for your son. Once we receive a confirmed date on which the vaccination will be available at Prep, we will mail home a permission form which your son must return signed by you in order to receive the vaccine.

In closing, I would like to thank you for entrusting your son to us for his education. Please know that all of us at Prep strive daily to continue the great tradition of Jesuit education here in downtown Jersey City. Our president, Fr. Robert Reiser, S.J., joins me in wishing you and your family all God's blessings as we move further into the 2009-2010 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "James C. DeAngelo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James C. DeAngelo

Principal

November 5, 2009