

August 2008

Dear Prep Parents and Guardians,

Hello from Prep! As you are well aware, Prep remains a very busy place even during the summer. Since June, the school has been alive with hundreds of students taking part in various academic, athletic and Campus Ministry summer programs. In addition to summer school classes, Prep students have also been involved in the Higher Achievement Program (HAP), the Pre-Prep program for incoming freshmen, fine arts courses in jazz and drawing, and various immersion service projects from Jersey City to New Orleans and many places in between. The athletic staff has also sponsored a number of summer programs for pre-high school students in addition to training programs for our own teams. Finally, many work-study students have completed important projects to get our school ready for the upcoming year.

The faculty and staff have also been busy, leading student exchange trips to France and Spain as well as attending numerous professional development conferences across the United States and abroad. Closer to home, we have also been fine-tuning the implementation of our new student information software system, PowerSchool, which will have a positive impact on how we manage all student records--attendance, scheduling, report cards and discipline. As we further implement the system, we will update you on how parents can access this program online to monitor student progress and maintain good communication with teachers and counselors.

This year, the faculty will continue to undertake initiatives and monitor progress to fulfill our Middle States accreditation goals which we identified last year: enhancing the critical thinking skills of our students and deepening the commitment to our identity as a Jesuit school. One major project that begins this year is a comprehensive look at our curriculum—that is, examining our educational goals in light of current research and the important foundational principles of Jesuit education and how we can best adapt them to the reality of our school here at Grand and Warren. This process of review means that we will have at least two faculty meetings a month which will involve a late start of classes. In general, these meetings, which will usually take place on Wednesdays, are clearly identified on the school calendar (available on the Prep website <www.spprep.org> under the “News and Calendar” tab) and outlined on a separate sheet enclosed with this mailing.

Also enclosed with this letter is a copy of your son’s schedule, which your son should review for accuracy. Ms. Mary Durante, Vice Principal for academics, is the person to contact regarding any problems, such as incorrect courses or course conflicts. Many problems can be resolved by email <durantem@stpetersprep.org> or phone (201-547-6404); a student may also come in to speak directly with Ms. Durante. She will be available for meetings on August 18 and 25 between 9:00 AM and 12:00 PM as well as on August 28 from 1:00-3:00 PM. There is no charge to resolve a conflict or school error. There is,

however, a \$20 fee to change a course between now and August 31; after August 31 the fee increases to \$40.

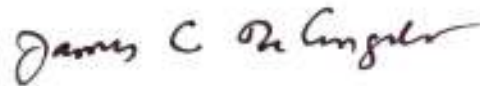
Orientation programs for the coming school year will take place on Thursday, September 4, for upperclassmen and on Friday, September 5, for freshmen. More exact information is enclosed on a separate sheet. Book lists with titles and materials for all courses will be available under the School Life/Academic headings on the Prep website.

At orientation, your son will receive a personalized booklist, outlining the specific books and other materials he needs for the courses (and sometimes teachers) he has been assigned. Your son should bring cash, a credit card or a check to orientation to purchase his books. If you send a check with your son, it should be signed and made payable to St. Peter's Prep, but the amount should be left blank until final pick-up. Be sure to include your son's five- or six-digit Prep ID number on the check; you may also want to include "Used for books only" in the memo section of the check. We also suggest that your son bring a backpack or other sturdy bag to carry his books because in the past the plastic shopping bags have often ripped. Locker assignments will also be given during orientation. Upperclassmen should bring their Prep locks which they already have; freshmen will be given locks at that time.

The Campus Shop will be open on Thursday, September 11 and 18, from 4:00-7:00PM if you would like to purchase any Prep clothing or other items for your son.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude for entrusting your sons to us for their education and for the many sacrifices you make to make it all possible. I look forward to seeing your sons at orientation as we begin another great year at Prep. Be assured of my best wishes and prayers for you and your family--that these last weeks of summer be filled with joy and relaxation, allowing us all to return re-energized for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C. DeAngelo".

James C. DeAngelo, '85

Important Dates

Thursday, September 4, 2008

Upperclassmen Orientation & Book Sales – meet in the Cafeteria at times listed below:

Seniors at 8:15 AM ** Juniors at 10:15 AM ** Sophomores at 12:15 PM

Warm weather dress code (no t-shirts) is in effect.

From *Student Handbook* – “The Warm Weather Dress Code eliminates only the suit coat and tie. Pullover shirts may be worn as long as they have a collar, appear neat and are tucked into the pants. Belts and/or suspenders are to be worn on pants.”

Friday, September 5, 2008 -- 8:15 AM-2:00 PM **bring lunch** IgNite Retreat to follow

Freshman Orientation, Book Sales & ID Pictures – meet in St. Peter’s Church

Students will be going directly from Orientation to IgNite. Therefore, they may come to school in shorts and sneakers. They **MUST** wear a polo shirt (with a collar). T-shirts are not permitted (ID/yearbook photos will be taken).

Friday, September 5, 2008 – 3:00 PM to Saturday, September 6, 2008

IgNite – Our required Freshman Retreat, culminating with Freshman Family Mass on Saturday, September 6 at 4:00 PM (all families are invited to join us in the Church for Mass)

Monday, September 8, 2008

First Day of Classes – Homeroom begins at 8:10 AM.

Thursday, September 11, and Monday, September 18, 2008, 4:00-7:00 PM

Campus Shop Hours – for the purpose of purchasing Prep clothing and other items

Friday, September 12, 2008

Mass of the Holy Spirit

Thursday, September 18, 2008

Back-to-School Night (for all parents) begins 6:30 PM