



Fontbonne Hall Academy

PARENT

Newsletter

2017-2018

2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to use this January Parent Newsletter to express my gratitude to all of you for your understanding and support of our tuition increase for the 2018-2019 school year. The additional revenue will allow Fontbonne to align our income with the financial needs that we now encounter, one of which is helping to close the \$4,000 gap per student that it costs us to provide a Fontbonne education. Our current expenses are also because of the significant improvements we have made in the areas of academics, technology, facilities, and after-school athletic and extra-curricular opportunities. Our growth and development as an institution has come over a short five-year period of time, and it is now necessary to generate an income to support improvements we have made, as well as improvements that still need to be put in place. We would also like you to know that we do not anticipate the need for a 12% tuition increase to become the norm. This significant increase will hopefully put us in a much better financial position for the immediate future.

I am also happy to tell you that on January 10th we mailed our acceptance letters for our Class of 2022. For a second year in a row, our applicant pool has increased, despite a much more competitive Catholic school market. This year we saw a 15% increase in applicants listing Fontbonne as their first choice school, and an overall applicant pool increase of 19%. We are thrilled that more potential parents are seeing Fontbonne, an all-girls learning environment where students are both challenged and nurtured academically, spiritually, physically, and socially, as a great choice for an excellent college preparatory education.

As always, please know that my door is always open to all of you. If you wish to make an appointment to see me with any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact my administrative assistant, Linda Jean-

Louis, at 718-748-2244, Ext 104, or via e-mail at jeanlouis@fontbonne.org for an appointment.

Best Regards,

Mary Ann Spicijaric
Principal

BONNIE NEWS

SCIENCE RESEARCH STUDENTS AWARDED BADGES

Two of our Science Research students, Kristina Scarfo (right) and Teressa Martinelli (left), were honored to receive award badges for their research papers which were submitted to the Regeneron Science Talent Search.



Kristina earned the Research Report Badge which is awarded to an entrant who has submitted a well-written, college-level, journal-style research report based upon her own independent science research. Teressa also earned the Regeneron Science Talent Search Report Badge along with the Student Initiative Badge for her well-written college-level research report and her extraordinary effort and accomplishment relative to the resources available to her. The Regeneron Science Talent Search, is the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors.



ENTREPRENEURS ENTER DIAMOND CHALLENGE

The Diamond Challenge is an international competition for high school entrepreneurs sponsored by the Horn Entrepreneurship at the University of Delaware. The Entrepreneurship Class

has submitted two business concepts entitled "Sports 4 All" and "Baskets 4 You". Each submission included a pitch deck and a written business concept. In addition, they will be competing at St. Francis College for the High School Pitch Competition.

MAJOR ART STUDENTS COMPLETE PORTFOLIOS

Students in Major Art 2 & 3 are working on drawings for the completion of their portfolio. They have also been working on developing their artistic

voice and depicting meaning in the artwork.

Kristina Zoklikovits (right) cat's eyes glimmer like gems to signify her love of animals and pursuit of veterinary studies.



POETRY COMPETITORS HEAD TO REGIONALS

Students competed after school in the third annual Fontbonne Poetry Out Loud competition. Poetry Out Loud is a national scholastic program celebrating the poetic arts. Students memorize and recite two separate poems aloud for a panel of judges. The warm, supportive atmosphere allows students to build presentation skills, self-confidence, and an appreciation for the art of poetry. The English department serves as judges and chooses two winners to represent Fontbonne Hall Academy at the regional competition. This year's winners for Fontbonne are: Gabriella Agliata (Junior), and Mairead O'Shea (Sophomore). They will compete at the regional competitions in February.

BONNIES REACH TOURNAMENT FINALS

The FHA Varsity Basketball team defeated Millennium HS and St John Villa Academy to make it to the finals of the Msgr. Brown Basketball Tournament held at St. Thomas Aquinas in Flatbush over the MLKJ weekend before coming up short against a strong team from Madison HS. Our own Katie Marquardt and Breanne McDonnell were voted all-team members for the tournament. Congratulations to the team on a well played tournament!



BIOLOGY HONORS CLASS TRIP TO LAKE SUCCESS DNALC LAB

On a recent field trip to the DNA Learning Center in Lake Success, Mrs. Ashkenazy's Biology Honors students had the unique opportunity to analyze a sample of their own DNA with state-of-the-art DNA microchip analyzers. The DNA Center is one of only two teaching labs in the US containing this equipment.

The group gained firsthand experience and knowledge, as they were able to isolate, amplify and analyze their DNA far more accurately than with agarose gel electrophoresis, allowing students to study their ancestral lineage. Throughout the 4.5 hour intensive lab, our students active engagement, hard work and commitment paid off, as each participant completed an electropherogram, displaying their very own genotype inherited from both parents.

While exploring the center, students also toured the NS-LIJ Clinical Core Lab. This is one of two world-class robotic labs that contain robotic arms and conveyor belts from start to finish. Blood samples and hematology from the surrounding local area hospitals are processed robotically, completely untouched by hand.



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

To our Parents and Families,

The Board of Trustees of Fontbonne Hall Academy, in conjunction with the administration and staff, have recently formed a facilities committee.

We are in the process of assessing all of our facility needs. As with any building, there is always a need for proper maintenance, as well as for improvements.

The purpose of this communication is to determine if there are Fontbonne families with expertise in the facilities arena who might consider

volunteering their time and talent to help us. Like any other Catholic school, our budget is limited and we would very much appreciate your efforts on our behalf.

If interested, please reach out to Kim Parker at kcp301@verizon.net with your contact information and your area of expertise.

We thank you in advance for your kindness and support.

Kim Parker
Board Facilities Chair

EVENTS & REMINDERS

- **BONNIES AND BUDDIES Dinner Dance**- Our Annual dinner dance event for students and their dads, uncles, brothers, or that special adult. Invitations for February 2nd will be sent soon, save the date!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Director of Admissions, Victoria Hein, married John R. Hein (Regis HS Class of '02) on Saturday, December 30th. The couple celebrated their nuptial mass at Mr. Hein's childhood home parish, St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Yonkers, NY followed by a reception in New Rochelle. The couple looks forward to spending time in Italy next month which will include a *Sposi Novelli* audience with Pope Francis.
- The Parent University of the **FHA Parent Association** is announcing the following opportunities for parents interested in Child Study topics: [Workshops](#) & [Webinars](#)



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80th
Anniversary
1937-2017

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