



the RELATIONS



BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTIONS



Happy New Year! Taking a look back at December, we truly focused on faith, hope, and charity. We started the month with Advent Reconciliation. In the middle of the month, our Beuf Boxes campaign began, with the school community providing boxes filled with Christmas gifts to 13 families. We ended the month with a beautiful Advent Liturgy.

Brebeuf's annual Social Justice Symposium took place, with the theme centred on care for the environment, and featuring keynote speaker Luke Stocking of Development and Peace. December also featured our students' musical, dramatic, and artistic talents at the annual Christmas Arts Fest, with the additional performance this year of "Elves on the Shelf" put on by our drama students. Our elementary feeder schools once again got a taste of Brebeuf's musical talent, as Mr. Found and his jazz bands performed Christmas concerts for these students.

January was a relatively quiet month, with students busy studying for exams, though our Science department held its very successful annual Science Fair. We also hosted a basketball tournament for our elementary friends.

As usual, our athletics program has been extremely successful. Our Varsity Hockey teams have played very well again this year. Our Jr. Basketball team had a terrific season, while the Sr. Basketball team heads into playoffs, placing 2nd in their division.

Our clubs and committees continue to thrive with the Reach for the Top team competing in multiple games, and students participating in the DECA Business competition during the first weekend of February. Our Community Engagement Officer, PC Cindi Pepper, has officially joined our culinary club, which attracts a number of budding chefs. She has also continued to be a moderator for the Boxing Club with Mr. D'Angelo.

Before mid-terms, we look forward to SAC Spirit Week, our second Town Hall, Lenten Reconciliation, performances at the National Theatre School Drama Festival, and a speaker for the Catholic School Parent Council. Please look out for details about that event coming in March.

As always, special thanks to our Catholic School Parent Council (CSPC), led by our new Chair, Ms. Cristina Martins, and our Vice Chair, Mr. Mario Duran. Thanks, as always, to Trustee Maria Rizzo. We truly appreciate their support!

Have a wonderful Family Day! God bless.

Derek Chen

CALENDAR

Feb. 13	Report cards distributed
Feb. 14	P.A. Day (no classes)
Feb. 17	Family Day (no classes)
Feb. 20	Career Day; photo retake day; grad photo retake day
Feb. 26	Ash Wednesday Masses; CPSC meeting at 7 p.m.
Feb. 26-28	Kairos Retreat
Feb. 27	Casual Day; Late Start schedule
Mar. 3	Early assessments mailed
Mar. 6	First Friday Mass at 8 a.m.
Mar. 16-20	March Break (no classes)
Mar. 26	Casual Day; Late Start schedule
Mar. 30-Apr. 3	ShareLife Week
Apr. 1	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Apr. 3	ShareLife Casual Day
Apr. 7	Casual Day; Late Start schedule
Apr. 9	Holy Thursday liturgy; VICS Fast-a-thon
Apr. 10	Good Friday (no classes)
Apr. 13	Easter Monday (no classes)
Apr. 14	Term Two begins
Apr. 16	Club Brebeuf
Apr. 22	Report cards distributed; CPSC Meeting at 7 p.m.
Apr. 23	Parent-Teacher Interviews
Apr. 24	Late Start schedule; Casual Day

The Relations is the official newsletter of

BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL

It is named for the letters that St. Jean de Brebeuf and his Jesuit colleagues sent home to France in the 17th Century. Its aim is to share much of the good news coming from the school.

Michael Da Costa '92, Editor

Michael.dacosta@tcdsb.org

Twitter: @brebeufcollege

MEN FOR OTHERS

SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

Brebeuf hosted its sixteenth annual Social Justice Symposium on December 6 at the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. Organized by the Social Justice Club and students in the Gifted programme, over 250 students and teachers from across the city gathered to learn more about the theme of "Our Common Home: a Future for the Amazon, a Future for All". Students also attended a workshop on *Laudato Si*, the papal encyclical on the environment. Fittingly, the day began with a Mass for Social Justice in the historic St. Basil's Church. It was an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about social justice in a university setting.



SCHOOL NEWS

SCIENCE FAIR



By Harout Khacheekian and Dennis O'Brien

This year's science fair was an awesome experience that demonstrated the tremendous scientific talent that exists within the Brebeuf Community. It took place on January 20 during both lunches. The participants were from all grades, and each individual group had produced and created a presentation for their science fair projects. The projects included scientific studies, innovations, and anything else within the realm of science. The participants spent the entire semester working on their projects; they spent many weeks reading and synthesizing their research, and they had to understand what they had learned and discovered on a deep enough level to explain their findings to judges and interested Brebeufians.

The event took place in the Brebeuf atrium and brought together a large and diverse group of people, including several Brebeuf teachers, students from St. Joe's, and St. Joe's teachers. It was a huge success; the projects put together by the Brebeuf students were well researched and highly organized, and the presentations and large bristol boards created by the participants served their purpose of promoting science to the wider community. The sheer amount of scientific information that was learned and promoted during the event was simply outstanding, which left both the judges and the

participants with improved research skills and significantly more scientific knowledge.

The Brebeuf Science Fair had a tremendous impact on the Brebeuf community as a whole. It taught the participants what it truly takes to do legitimate scientific research, and it demonstrated the strength of Brebeuf's science program. The science fair provides students with the opportunity, as Ms. Llupo states, "to get involved in active and inquiry learning that is essential to build constructive knowledge and stimulate students' interest in the diverse fields of science such as health care and environment."

The science fair showed how truly important it is for high school students to promote and celebrate their scientific skills through large events like this. Through this experience, students were introduced to the important field of research and learned the complexities of gathering and presenting new information to an audience.

We thoroughly enjoyed completing this project, as we were very passionate about our chosen topic. Our initiative of spreading the knowledge of the mental benefits of exercise was a subject that we both had a deep interest in and wanted to share with the community. Through learning about our topic in-depth, we were able to enrich our learning about the complexities of the human brain and develop a deeper understanding of how exercise affects the different systems in our bodies. By choosing an issue that we were both interested in, we were able to work on the science fair for months without ever losing our enthusiasm. Working as a pair allowed us to be creative and bring our best ideas and wisdom together. Being able to complete this project as a pair showed me how important collaboration is and just how much foresight my peers have to offer. We can now use these learning strategies and apply them to problems inside and outside the classroom. Without this opportunity being given to us, we would have never created a project that allowed us to demonstrate our diligence and affection for science with other members of our community.

INTERVIEW WITH MS. LLUPO (SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HEAD)

By Jacob Maillet

What is it that motivates you to organize the Science Fair here at Brebeuf each year? Clearly, there is a lot of organization and work done to make this happen. What makes running a Science Fair worth it to you?

The Science Fair is an event that provides the opportunity for students to research, explore and experiment about the scientific topics that are relevant to everyday life. I believe that students of the Brebeuf community have the potential to extend their learning beyond the curriculum expectations.

The Science Fair process involves a lot of work from the teachers and students. However, it is worth realizing that students will be empowered with the knowledge and skills needed to get involved and perform scientific research in the future. Also, students during the research process will be able to understand the work and the challenges that scientists face during the research to develop an appreciation for their work.

Overall, my goal for the Science Fair is to create a risk-taking environment for the students that will inspire and initiate the spark needed to pursue science with the ultimate purpose of thinking and serving communities locally and globally.

Concerning the students that participated this year, they had to come up with an original experiment either by themselves or in pairs. Recognizing what an achievement it is just to bring a finished project, what were your thoughts on the quality of work you saw?

The Science Fair project requires that students learn to plan, research and experiment over a period of three months to build important skills that will be used beyond high school. The Science Fair reinforces students' abilities to be committed, persistent and avoid procrastination, as it requires a rigorous follow up of a four-stage research process. Students learn the importance of selecting the topic, learning the scientific terms that will impact communication in their presentations, which are the factors that will complete the work successfully.

The students this year did an excellent job. I relate the quality of our students with the process and

implementation of scientific research, the ability and the skills they develop on data analyzes and critical thinking. The students' work in the Science Fair projects demonstrated active and inquiry learning, which is the cornerstone of successful learning in science.

Let's talk about trends. This year hosted the second consecutive Brebeuf Science Fair. Did you see more participation? Were there more visitors?

The level of the student participation in the Science Fair was on a larger scale this year compared to the last year. We began with 14 groups (18 students) last year and increased to 44 presentations (75 students) this year. There was a definite a student participation and interest from the Brebeuf students and teachers. Everyone wanted to learn about the new topics presented this year. There were more visitors this year. We invited teacher candidates from Hongik University, South Korea, as well as the Science Department Head and students from St. Joseph Morrow Park to be our judges!

This year's Brebeuf Science Fair can be considered a success. Some time has passed since the event itself already, but what are your goals or your vision for the future? I'm sure future participants would like to know.

My goal for the future is that the Brebeuf Science Fair becomes a school cultural event whereby students become aware that September is the month to get involved in the scientific research journey. Students will understand that the Science Fair requires focus, work ethics and commitment for success. Our community is blessed with talented science teachers who collaborate and identify the best approaches to motivate students to become active observers and critical thinkers. As a science department, we aim to continue to motivate the Brebeuf students to take the initiative to study, explore and become innovators in the science field. Overall, our purpose is that Brebeuf students represent themselves as citizens who are knowledgeable and who use a Catholic lens when perusing the scientific research.



Bullsworth directing Student Council in some Christmas carolling



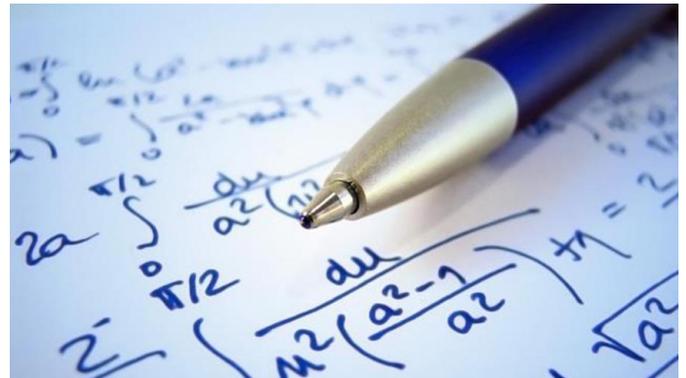
Students and staff in the ISP programme visiting the Christmas Market in the Distillery District



Student leaders learning about mental health

MATH UPDATE

By Brad Ryan (Dept. Head)



This year, the AP Enriched Brebeuf Mathematics programme is well on track toward helping over 130 boys excel at high level mathematics. In Semester One, a pre-AP Grade 9 class easily finished the course at midterm and completed a great deal of supplementary work. The Grade 9 class finished with a final average of 88%.

In Semester 2, there will be two Pre-AP Grade 10 classes preparing for the all-important Grade 11 year. At the AP Grade 11 level, there is a class of 31 boys, who have finished the Grade 11 course at the mid-term, have just finished the Grade 12 Advanced Functions course by January 17, and are now starting University Calculus while they are still in the Grade 11 course. It is this class that will stay in mathematics for the whole year in order to prepare for the AP Calculus AB exam in May of 2020. So far they look like a strong class and I am hoping for good results in AP Calculus from these dedicated boys.

At the AP Grade 12 level, there is one Calculus and Vectors section that has finished all work with vectors, have reviewed all first year University Calculus, have finished most of second year University Calculus and have completed some work in Differential Equations. They have the option of writing the AP Calculus BC exam in May, and I would expect that most of them would be able to obtain near perfect on the exam if they choose to do so. The final class average in this class was 88% with two students, Dennis O'Brien and Arthur Tamasian, finishing with 100%. I am most proud of all of these students and commend them for their hard work and effort toward achieving excellence in Mathematics.

CHRISTMAS ARTSFEST



Mr. Dan Found conducting one of Brebeuf's many bands



ALUMNI

The Brebeuf Alumni Association will host its annual Alumni Pub Night at the school on Friday, May 8 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. There will be entertainment, raffles, auctions, finger foods, and a cash bar. All are welcome. Contact fmacgrath@gtigolf.com.

St. Joseph Morrow Park Alumnae Association is having a reunion on Saturday, May 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This will mark the final chance for alumnae to visit the building before the relocation to the new building at the end of June. Contact carols@rogers.com for more information.

SPORTS



By Brad Chin You '98



Brebeuf's hockey programme continues to thrive. The Varsity "A" Hockey team is currently in a tie for second place in the TDCAA East. The Varsity "B" Hockey team pulled its way into a tie for first place, thanks to a last second goal by Tanner Chow against Chaminade. Led by Mr. Chin You, Mr. Vittorio, and Debicki, the teams continue to prepare for the playoffs next week. Good luck boys!

Ms. McTernan and Ms. Shannon have had the Swim team practising hard this season for the TDCAA championship coming up in February.

Spring sports are right around the corner: the Badminton, Junior Volleyball, Track and Field teams have already been practicing hard in preparation for their upcoming seasons.



The Senior Basketball team is having an incredible season, currently sitting in a tie for first place in the TDCAA East Division. Led by Mr. Damiani and community coach, Mr. Clennon, the team has matured into one of the best basketball teams in the city. With players like Bosco Tumabil and Neil Paras, who were key cogs in the 2016-17 Junior TDCAA Championship, the Senior Bulls will have the experience needed to battle deep into the playoffs.

Congratulations to the Junior Basketball team, coached by Mr. Baronaitis, Mr. Sottile, and community coach, Mr. Ferguson, for a solid season to this point. The team had worked hard and is currently fighting for a playoff spot. Built with many Grade 9s, the team is set up for future success, and the Grade 10s going to Senior next year show great promise for our Basketball programme.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2019 - 2020

Wards

1. Joseph Martino	416-512-3401
2. Markus de Domenico	416-512-3402
3. Ida Li Preti	416-512-3403
4. Teresa Lubinski	416-512-3404
5. Maria Rizzo, Chair	416-512-3405
6. Frank D'Amico	416-512-3406
7. Mike Del Grande, Vice-Chair	416-512-3407
8. Garry Tanuan	416-512-3408
9. Norm Di Pasquale	416-512-3409
10. Daniel Di Giorgio	416-512-3410
11. Angela Kennedy	416-512-3411
12. Nancy Crawford	416-512-3412
Taylor Dallin, Student Trustee	416-512-3413
Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee	416-512-3417