



The Official Newspaper of Fairfield College Preparatory School

The Boys Are Back in Town!



Fairfield Prep welcomes in a new school year and a new sports year with a Pep Rally

The 2008-2009 School year is underway and the boys are truly back in town. And yes, the class of two thousand and twelve has already lost that - stunned deer in the headlights look - and is settling into the academic rigor of Prep life. Courses are demanding and time is tight but it looks like the start of the year is a huge success. In addition to work a' plenty we have had the Mass of the Holy Spirit with outstanding musical interludes (thank you very much Mrs. Beyerly and all the liturgical singers and musicians) and already there have been impressive mite box collections. But of course, some of Prep life is just plain fun and the kick off pep rally, which was a sea of scarlet bomb squad shirts, can attest to that. Go Prep!

So remember, each new year is a challenge and an opportunity to test yourself against the current of events. And whether that current will bring a winning sports season, high academic achievement or fallout from a gyrating stock market I'm sure we can handle it. All the best.

Oh, a quick plug-Soundings is looking for writers, cartoonists, editorials, photographs and a whole lot more. We are meeting every Thursday in x309 so stop by and be a contributor.

Or email fbramble@fairfieldprep.org to get started.

Frank Bramble -Faculty Moderator



Homeroom – R.I.P.



Many of us are wondering what on earth was the reason behind the decision to remove homeroom from the schedule. So far it has not been of any assistance to anyone and it just makes people carry around more books and go non-stop through the day until lunch. So what I'm asking is why... what was the reason? There may be in fact a legit reason but so far no one has been able to answer it. I've received answers like, "Make a petition" or "it's up to the administration". Shouldn't they have tested this new process out first before making it a flat-out, written-in-stone sort of thing? The unanimous vote has been that Fairfield Prep has jumped the shark with this whole homeroom thing. People can only go so far before they begin to get tired and unfocused. The ten minutes may not have

seemed to be a lot of time but you'd be surprised at how much "rest" one can get in a period of ten minutes. It lets you have a chance to drop off your books and grab new ones for the coming classes.

Some alternatives: if the administration was that adamant to get rid of homeroom than why not make it longer time between classes? I know for a fact that I have to get from Xavier 1st Floor to Berchman's 2nd floor and sometimes, mostly always, the staircases are packed with people pushing and shoving, and by the time I've gone to the other stair case I'm down to 2.5 minutes. It just adds more stress to our already stressful lives. Can no one give us a break? Either bring homeroom back or find an alternative solution to this already failing "solution".

– A. Schroder, '10



The New Teams of the Fall Sports

Every year, August turns to September, the leaves change colors, and the school year resumes after the two and a half month summer vacation. Many students dread this series of transitions, but with the start of school, also comes the fall sports seasons. With the graduating class of 2008 off to college, many new faces will be looking to emerge for the Jesuits this season. All teams had positive seasons last year, but will certainly be looking forward to building on those seasons and improving this year.

Soccer

The soccer season kicked off for Prep on Wednesday 9/10 with a 2-1 victory over Daniel Hand. The long bus ride may have been the cause for the Jesuits' slow start. The Tigers took a 1-0 lead in the first half, but Prep was quick to recover. Junior Kevin Burt scored two goals to lead his team to a 2-1 lead, and the Jesuits held on for the win. Getting off to a good start is important in any sport. The come from behind win for Prep was just the start they were looking for.

Next, Prep had its home opener against Branford. There was no hour-long bus ride this time, and it showed as Prep got off to a quick start. There was no rust to shake off this time, as Prep scored 4 first half goals, and lead 4-0 at half time. A second half goal was added giving Prep a convincing 5-0 win. 5 different Jesuits scored goals, showing the exceptional depth of this squad.

The Jesuits have already shown many different strengths in their first two games. They showed their ability to come back in the opener against Hand, and their ability to bury their opponent early with their scoring barrage in the first half against Branford. Coach Jaffe should be expecting big things from his improved squad this year.

A promising start has set the expectations high for Prep's soccer team. They certainly look much improved and should have a better showing in the state playoffs than last year, when

the Jesuits got ousted in the first round of the CIAC Playoffs by losing to Guilford 3-1. Returning seniors like Kevin Maxham and Brad Boehringer played in that game last year and will certainly be looking to end their Prep soccer careers with a strong showing in the playoffs.

Football

When Prep's football team took the field on Friday 9/19 at Veteran's Stadium in West Haven, they were fielding a very different team than they had in years past. Key players such as DL Masengo Kabongo and RB Ryan Nolan were missed, but the Jesuits were confident that these stars would be replaced by quality newcomers.

Coach Rich Magdon turned to last year's backup Brendan Nizolek to replace Mike Autore under center. The senior from Madison had a strong camp and has been named the Jesuits' starting quarterback. Jake Haddon and Pete Christiani were looked at to provide senior leadership on defense, as FB Connor Kelly and Peter Gruppo were looked at to do the same on the offensive side of the ball.

I see Prep's schedule and I have already picked out some interesting match-ups. The home opener for the Jesuits was Friday 9/26 against Daniel Hand. Prep had never met the Tigers last season, so it was hard to tell what to expect out of that game. The Jesuits met the Shelton Gaels last year on MSG's Snapple Game of the Week and lost a crucial game in the SCC. It was a tough loss, but this time home-field advantage will go to the Jesuits. So mark your calendars for Friday 10/24 as the #7 Shelton Gaels battle the #8 Jesuits. The final two home games of the regular season carry huge importance in the SCC. Friday 11/7, Prep battles always talented Xavier, and Friday 11/14, Prep will be seeking revenge against the Cheshire Rams. Last year, Prep got mauled by the Rams 42-7; a loss that may have kept Prep out of the playoffs. These games carry great significance, but every game counts. It began Friday 9/19 with a match-up with Notre Dame of West Haven.

– J. Butler, '10



The New Academic Center: For Better or Worse

The Boughton Academic Center, over the summer, had been refurbished to accommodate student's needs for a more productive study facility. Included in the updates are 78 new study carrels, consisting of 50 private studying booths and 28 computer booths. Yet it is not the refurbishing of the Academic Center that has both students cheering and jeering, but rather the "controversial" new sign-in policy introduced to ensure a controlled entry and exit within the Academic Center.

Upon entering the Academic Center, a student presents his student ID to the front desk, where it is scanned and replaced with an index card with a number corresponding to the assigned study carrel. Students are to stay within the Academic Center until 5 minutes before the bell rings, in order to solve the issue of tardiness to class caused by the mass influx of students surrounding the front desk. "Since we've opened this year, the students who have been taking advantage of this space have been working quietly," says Mrs. Beyerly, the Director of Library Services, "I have asked students as they leave what they think of the new space, and many have responded that they like it because they've been getting a lot of work done."



Mr. DeRosa, the Director of Student Activities, responded, "I think the changes are beneficial for students who want a quiet work space. The goal was to create an environment where students could study quietly, and I think that we have been successful." "...Definitely more conducive in getting work done...not bad, compared to last year I think this is definitely better...It'll prevent kids who are not as serious about studying from coming in," says sophomore Zack Creta. "The changes within the Academic Center, in accordance with the goal of achieving a peaceful, more productive studying space, have been successful. Last year, the Academic Center was overused and taken advantage of," says junior Jaime Rodriguez. "I believe the main issue juniors have with the Academic Center is the lack of a location to congregate and do group assignments. Where are students to go now with the Academic Center and the X210 computer lab deemed as silent spaces? The last time I checked, there are no computers in the cafeteria." Many students express that a compromise surely needs to be made in order to address the needs of both students who want to work alone, and those who want to work together.

Yet, many students disagree with the new changes implemented in the Academic Center. Prior to this past summer, the Academic Center was home to several different activities, ranging from clubs to group work, to discussions and peer tutors. The students want to enjoy the company of their friends and still do work at the same time. Also, the idea of spending the whole free period in the Academic Center is another new aspect that students disagree with. Freshman Joe Donnelly says, "I did not like the fact that I could not leave until the end of the period, because if I finish my homework, I can't leave until the period ends to do something else."

- Max Schroder, '10

The End of An Era

As most sports fans know, next season the New York Yankees move across the street into their new stadium. While some fans may be excited about visiting the new Yankee Stadium, this move marks the end of an era. Yankee Stadium holds many memories. For the past 85 years it has been the site of many great events, including football, boxing, Papal visits, and concerts. But, of course, it is for the great regular and post-season baseball games played there that it is best known. Starting with the first home-run that was hit there in 1923 by Babe Ruth, to Don Larsen's perfect game in game 5 of the 1956 World Series, Reggie Jackson's three post season home-runs, and the numerous no-hitters and perfect games, Yankee Stadium has become a symbol of American sports. There have been countless memories associated with Yankee Stadium and the Yankee Organization that so many people are nostalgic about leaving all those memories behind, and are reluctant to move to the new stadium and start creating new memories all over again.

These memories have extended over many generations. From our grandparents going to see games in the early days of Yankee Stadium, to our parents seeing their first Yankee game in the 1960's and 1970's, and eventually our generation seeing them in one of their highpoints in the 1990's and 2000's, the Yankees have provided great baseball memories. But this era of being able to buy baseball tickets for an affordable price is coming to a close. This era where an everyday man could take his kids to a baseball game without breaking the bank. As the cost of tickets has been steadily rising, it is becoming harder and harder for a regular family to simply go to see a Yankee baseball game.

Most American kids will still grow up playing baseball, but the opportunity for them to see their favorite baseball players playing will become a financial challenge for their families. Seats close to home plate will now range from \$500-2500 each, and almost all the field level seats will cost \$100 or more. This rise will make people unsure about whether it is worth going to see the Yankees play. Baseball is becoming more of a business than a sport, and it's an expensive business.

An irony about the exorbitant cost of tickets at the new Yankee Stadium is its location. Both the old and new stadiums are located in the South Bronx, one of the poorest neighborhoods in the United States. With the cost of ticket prices rising, the new stadium will be inaccessible to people who live locally.

The rise in prices is attributed to the income of the players and the costs of the new stadium. Even with the rising prices, the Yankees will still manage to sell out crowds. People will dig deeper into their pockets, perhaps cancel a vacation or cut back on Christmas presents, just to spend three hours at a Yankees game. And then, of course, there are the affluent people, who have no problem forking out \$1800 for three tickets to a baseball game.

Since baseball has become a business, we tend to forget that it is just a sport. It is one of our national pastimes, yet it is so financially driven that it's hard to believe that there was once an era when baseball was just a game. That era has come to an end.

- J. Catalfamo, '11



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QUICK CENTER OPEN: October Listings!

Attention all prep students and their families.
The Quick Center For the Arts on Fairfield
University grounds has opened and the first fall
events are listed below what a better way to
spend time with your family and friends then
seeing a show performed at the Quick Center.

OCTOBER

- Fri 3rd 8pm- Parsons Dance Company
- Sat 4th 8pm- Chamber Music Society of
Lincoln Center
- Sun 5th 1 & 3pm- *If You Give A Pig A
Pancake and other story books*
- Mon 6th 8pm- Mia Farrow, Open VISIONS
forum
- Sat 11th 1 & 7pm- Richard Strauss'
Salome, Metropolitan Opera HD (7pm
encore performance)
- Fri 17th 8pm- McCoy Tyner Quartet, Jazz
- Thurs 23rd 8pm- General Wesley K. Clark,
Bennett Lecture
- Fri 24th 8pm- Raul Midon, singer-
songwriter
- Sat 25th 8pm- Radio Drama, War of the
Worlds/ The Lost World, LA Theatre
Works
- Mon 27th 8pm- Mika Brzezinski/ Monica
Crowley, Open VISIONS Forum
- Fri 31st 8pm- Linda Eder, Vocalist
- M. Holmes, '12

Record-Breaking T-Shirt Sale!!!

This past week, the Student Government
sold new Bomb Squad T-Shirts. The cost of
one t-shirt was \$15, and on Friday 9/26,
students could dress down, wearing the t-
shirt instead of his dress shirt. In total the
Student Government raised over \$2,000!

- M. Schroder, '10



Upcoming Home Fall Sports Events

Football (F, JV, V)

- 10/3 vs Jonathan Law (V)
- 10/4 vs Jonathan Law (JV)
- 10/11 vs Amity (F)
- 10/16 vs Hillhouse (F)
- 10/24 vs Shelton (V)
- 10/25 vs Shelton (JV)
- 10/30 vs Hamden (F)
- 11/08 vs Xavier (V)
- 11/10 vs Xavier (JV)
- 11/14 vs Cheshire (V)
- 11/15 vs Cheshire (JV)
- 11/20 vs West Haven (F)

Soccer (F, JV, V)

- 10/1 vs Xavier (JV)
- 10/2 vs Shelton (JV)
- 10/06 vs Amity (F)
- 10/07 vs Daniel Hand (V)
- 10/08 vs Daniel Hand (JV)
- 10/10 vs ND-West Haven (F)
- 10/14 vs Hamden (V)
- 10/15 vs Hamden (JV)
- 10/17 vs Fairfield Warde (F)
- 10/20 vs Fairfield Ludlowe (F)
- 10/22 vs Xavier (V)
- 10/24 vs Shelton (F)

Cross Country

- 10/23 Prep Freshmen Invitational