



Prep mourns the loss of a student

By Max Rein '11

On Monday, February 28th, Fairfield Prep was shaken. At age 18, Senior Ryan Brennan died after a long and courageous battle of cancer. Ryan Charles Brennan, son of Tom and Dale Brennan of Fairfield, was a remarkable young man and a true inspiration. He was a Fairfield Prep brother, giving love to every person, and in return receiving the love back.

Ryan had a gift. He made everyone around him love him so much. He gave life to those who surrounded him, as shown through his dear friends in and out of the Fairfield Prep community. His best friend, Sean Keane, has been his lifelong brother and stayed strong while eulogizing Ryan at his funeral on Friday, March 4th, along with Ryan's siblings: Jodie Delach, Michael Brennan, *(continued on page 4)*

Freshman Retreat focuses on brotherhood



By Max Rein '11

On Thursday, March 3rd, the Fairfield Prep Freshman Retreat took place for the entire Freshman class as well as their Junior and Senior leaders. The day began at 8:30 a.m. at Egan Chapel for their opening ceremony. Next came Freshman Field Day, an experience for the students to work with younger children from schools all throughout the Bridgeport area. Their activities ranged from

soccer shoot-outs to "Duck Duck, Goose" and "Simon Says." After the Field day concluded, the retreat officially began in the Quick Center around 12:30 p.m. The class enjoyed a clip from the movie *Miracle* and experienced an outstanding speech from Mr. Sather, discussing the topic of Brotherhood and highlighting the theme of the retreat, "From Strangers to Brothers, Destined for Greatness." *(cont pg. 4)*

HOCKEY WINS!

Basketball is Runner-Up in Class LL Final
(SEE SPORTS)

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An emotional rollercoaster

Dear Readers,

It is quite safe to say that the last few weeks at Prep have been the most emotionally disorienting we have ever experienced.

First, the school and many students lost a valued member of the Fairfield Prep community after a courageous battle against cancer. And while the loss of Ryan Brennan '11 leaves us with a sense of great sadness, we must find comfort as we gather together as a community. We gather together as brothers — in good times and in bad. Ryan Brennan's memory will live on forever in our lives and in our hearts.

Second, both the basketball team and the hockey team had tremendous seasons, which culminated in two state championship games. The tremendous spirit of the Bomb Squad and the dedication of the players proved to be an unbeatable combination as Prep dominated winter sports. I have no doubt that Ryan was close by, cheering us on.

Through the victorious celebration and tragic mourning — it all contributes to strengthening the brotherhood Fairfield Prep holds so dear. We are stronger.



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Perrotta opens up about extended day

By Nick Martinez '13



If you're a student here at Fairfield Prep, your day-to-day life underwent a pretty significant change on Tuesday, March 1st. Of course, if you're a Prep student, you already knew that--the change was hard to miss. Chances are you had been bemoaning the thought of this change, dreading the day it would come into effect since the very moment you heard it was even being considered. If you're not a Prep student, you may at this point be wondering exactly what this change I'm referring to is. Well, I'll fill you in.

On March 1st the Prep school day was extended by a half hour in order to compensate for the 8 cancellations had as a result of the snowy and icy weather experienced across Fairfield county over the course of this particularly harsh winter. This extension to the school day, made by adding 30 minutes to the last class period, is scheduled to last for the whole month of March. It's announcement via e-mail from school principal Dr. Robert Perrotta to all parents of Prep students left many students and teachers upset, to say the least. The general feeling amongst students seems to have been one of dread at the prospect of having an extended school day and confusion as to the reason why this extension was made.

Many, myself included, wondered how this change would affect our after school activities, the clubs, sports, and various other extracurricular programs many Prep students participate. To get answers to these and other questions about the recent schedule change, I sat down with Dr. Perrotta and let him explain the administration's reasoning behind adding the half-hour to school days for the month of March.

"Throughout all of Connecticut, everyone was figuring out what we're going to do with these days, how we're going to make them up. Our challenge at Prep was that we did not want to cancel February or April break," he explained. "This was partly because we are a community in which many people go on vacations and have planned these vacations for a very long period of time and as a school we go on mission trips such as the trip to El Salvador over February break."

For these reasons, after brainstorming and weighing a few options, including one in which the school day would be extended every other seven day cycle with normal class days occurring during the off cycles, Dr. Perrotta settled on the school day extension now in effect. When asked about how the extension would affect sports and other extracurricular activities, he responded that some sports and clubs would simply have to start meeting later.

He sympathized with students who were upset with the schedule change and offered that while the change is inconvenient, it is a truly necessary one, and one that is much more palatable than the others that had been considered to help compensate for cancellations. "It's not the perfect solution," he said, "but it's the best we have."

Mourns

(continued from cover)

Danielle Bartlett, and Alexandra Kragen. The sheer participation at Ryan's funeral was proof of the powerful brotherhood that every Prep student shares, with over 200 students in attendance. The funeral concluded with one of Ryan's favorite songs, "One Love" by Bob Marley, performed by Fairfield Prep's Liturgical Choir.

Watching the community at this heightened state of sadness was truly an moment no one will forget. We, as a group of brothers, were joined together in unity over the passing of our beloved brother, Ryan.

Ryan will never be forgotten. The "Just Beat It" team will be in attendance at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in June to continue to show their love and support of Ryan and the entire Brennan Family. Ryan will be a Prep brother forever, and he will be loved and missed always. RIP RCB.

Retreat

(continued from cover)

The small groups of freshman returned to Prep after the talk, accompanied by their leaders, and they went into to classrooms to discuss the ideas presented from the day. The leaders also selected a friend from Prep to give their "Friendship Talk" also highlighting the idea of Prep Brotherhood. The retreat ended with a closing ceremony at Egan Chapel, with each freshman receiving their retreat cross to represent their unity of brotherhood at Prep. Despite the fact that the retreat was cut short because of the unexpected loss of our Prep brother, Ryan Brennan, the leaders and freshman handled the situation with flexibility, respect, and sheer love for their fellow brother. The retreat was an overall success all thanks to the leaders, the chairpersons of the committees, and the entire Campus Ministry team. We are all brothers at Prep, no matter what the circumstances, and that was certainly the main theme presented in this stupendous retreat.



State Champs!

**Prep 5
St. Joe's 0**



The hockey team celebrates their State Final victory over St. Joe's moments after the game ends.

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Prep shoots — and just misses

By Timmy Attolino '13

In a very inspiring run, the Jesuits basketball team reached the finals of the Class LL state tournament. The road that they took to Mohegan Sun Arena would put a smile on the face of anyone associated with Fairfield Prep.

In the first round, Prep defeated #24 East Hartford 52-44 on the home court at Alumni Hall. They then traveled to play #8 Crosby, where senior Kevin Potter hit 7 three pointers, leading Prep to an 86-69 victory.

The Jesuits then returned home to face #17 Xavier. The Bomb Squad was out in full force. Armed with chants like "I Believe that We Will Win," the Bomb Squad were cheering their hearts out. Chants of "Ryan Brennan" and "RCB" echoed throughout Alumni Hall. The basketball game itself was one of the most exhilarating games in Prep history. The teams went back and forth, with Xavier taking a 4 point lead with only a minute to go. The Jesuits did not want to disappoint their fans, so they put their confidence in junior sensation Terry Tarpey. He scored Prep's final 8 points, including a buzzer-beating floater that brought bedlam to Alumni. The fans stormed the court, celebrating Prep's 61-59 victory.

Coming off that emotional high, Prep traveled to Wilby High School in Waterbury to take on #5 Ridgefield. The Jesuits came to play, with seniors Robby Bier and Kevin Potter hitting 3's all day. Prep capped the game off with a breakaway dunk from senior Alex Heiman. The Jesuits were victorious 60-55 and they were off to Mohegan Sun Arena to face St. Joseph, as they did in hockey.

After hockey defeated St. Joseph 5-0, everybody took the ride up to Mohegan to watch this state championship game. The Bomb Squad filled up nearly 1,100 seats, all decked



Robbie Bier takes a shot during Saturday's State Final against St. Joseph School.
CT POST

out in red. St. Joseph controlled most of the game, but Prep never gave up.

They showed heart, grit, and determination even though the final score wasn't in their favor. Although the run ended in defeat, Prep basketball is officially back!

**St. Joe's 79
Prep 53**

Hockey learned from last year and thanks Ryan Brennan '11

By Ethan Doerger '13

Nobody needed to remind the Fairfield Prep Jesuits ice hockey team of last season's 6-5 heartbreaker in the state championship final to Hamden. All the players knew what was at stake, and because of last year, they knew how to win: strike first. And that's exactly what Conor Peterson did on a deflection right in front of St Joe's goalie Zach Carrano, putting the Jesuits up 1-0 not even 3 minutes into the first period. Another minute later, co-captain Don Carnicky, playing in his last game, fired away and beat Carrano, bringing Prep to a quick 2-0 lead. Then Bryan Puffer took over. Senior, co-captain, and great guy to his teammates, Puffer scored the next two goals for Prep, one on a shot that went over Carrano's shoulder and another off a rebound. He later assisted on the final goal of the game, a goal by David Griffin that sealed the deal in the 3rd period. Not to be outdone by his fellow senior co-captains, John Galiani pitched a shutout, tallying 25 saves, 3 of which were on breakaways by the Cadets. When it was over, the score was 5-0, and Fairfield Prep was the state champion. "The ring feels nice, man," said sophomore Sean Henry on the Monday after. There was no doubt in anybody's mind, however, that late senior Ryan Brennan was watching over the team. The Prep faithful made this known, chanting "Thank you Ryan!" after the game. Galiani even pointed upwards several times, a touching tribute to all who support Prep and to those who are no longer with us. Junior Matt Brophy wore Ryan's hockey jersey as a cape during the award ceremonies. All in all, it was a great day for Prep fans everywhere at the Yale Whale on Saturday afternoon.

Swimming wins 7th Straight Title

By James Terry '11

NEW HAVEN, CT -- It was a rebuilding year, or at least that's what many people thought. After multiple All-Americans left the Fairfield Prep swimming and diving team due to graduation, teams such as Amity and Xavier were very fond of their chances to dethrone the Jesuits, who had won six string conference championships entering the 2011 SCC Championships. However, Prep worked hard for a record of 11-1 during the regular season and was able to continue their success in the conference championship, finishing a comfortable 276.5 points ahead of runner-up Xavier and 335.5 points ahead of third place Amity.

Prep started out fast by winning the 200 Yard Medley Relay when Bradley Helt, Brandon Cole, Bryan Dougherty and Bjorn Davis worked together to edge out Amity's relay team by less than a second. The victory in the Medley Relay would be the only first place finish of the night for the Jesuits, as they had to find other ways to dominate.

Prep's dominance came with the number of swimmers who scored points rather than where they placed. The Jesuits numbers included seven swimmers scoring points in both the 50 and 100 Yard Freestyle races, six people scoring points in the 200 and 500 Yard Freestyle races as well as the 100 Yard Breaststroke. Five different athletes scored in both the 200 Yard Individual Medley as well as the 100 Yard Butterfly while four Prep swimmers were able to score points in the 100 Yard Backstroke and three divers placed in the top fifteen.

Freshman Bjorn Davis lead the way with third place finishes in both the 50 and 100 Yard Freestyle races as well as serving as anchor on the first place Medley Relay and the third place 200 Yard Freestyle Relay. He joined teammates Bradley Helt, Brandon Cole, Bryan Dougherty, Nicholas Wargo, and Keith Dougherty on the 2011 All-SCC team.

The win marked the seventh straight SCC Championship for Fairfield Prep, a new league record. It also marked the thirty-sixth conference championship in school history (9 SCC, 8 ACC and 19 MBIAC titles).

Seniors '11



'King' didn't deserve it...

By Alex Giobbi '11

I made myself a promise to see whichever film had a great showing at the Academy Awards, in this year's case, *The King's Speech*, which took home honors for Best Picture, Director, Actor, and Original Screenplay. After seeing the film, I honestly have to wonder what the Academy was thinking when they awarded Colin Firth, who played Prince Albert/King George, Best Actor, an award he clearly didn't deserve.

The reasons why I do not believe that Firth did not deserve the statue are as follows: First, Firth greatly exaggerated his character's speech impediment, making every instance that "Bertie" spoke horribly painful. I almost thought that he was going to vomit a few times, or worse, collapse. Second, I had to believe that Firth was not the lead actor, but rather, Geoffrey Rush, who played Lionel Logue, the king's speech therapist. If anything, he was more dynamic, charismatic, and if you will pardon my French, did not act as if he had a stick up his hindquarters. Finally, Firth was the complete opposite; he could have passed off as a robot, as his performance was quite uninspiring.

Moving along, I thought that the overabundance of stars was pleasing. There were quite a few Harry Potter alumni, Sir Michael Gambon (Dumbledore) played King George V, Helena Bonham Carter (Bellatrix Lestrange) played Queen Elizabeth I, and Timothy Spall (Peter Pettigrew) played Winston Churchill. They all played their roles admirably.

Aside from the cast, I thought the story was unique. I do not think that there has ever been a story about a disabled king, and on the first try, they made it believable, despite Colin Firth's horrible acting. Historical accuracy was also a focal point, as great pains were taken to make everything nearly authentic. There were no fabricated scenes, everything looked and sounded real. There was also plenty of British humor, most of which I could barely understand, but still managed a chuckle. Swearing was quite present, especially in one scene where Logue told the prince/king to let out his aggression in the form of profanity, as those were the only words he could say in a continuous sentence without croaking. So, as you can imagine, the audience was treated to quite a few bloodys, buggers, s-bombs, female dogs, derogatory homosexual terms, and an impressive string of 12 consecutive f-bombs.

Quite charming.

But aside from all that, what did I think of the movie as a whole? Call it whatever you like, a visual masterpiece, an inspirational story, a historical drama, in my opinion, the film was just okay, definitely not the greatest Best Picture, but a somewhat okay Best Picture, that was very overrated, almost a disappointment. I give the film a 5 out of 10 for its cast and authenticity, but nothing else.

The King's Speech



"Just OK"

Senior, Pat Benedosso, talks about his El Salvador experiences

By John Boe ✎✎✎ '12

J.B: Overall, how do you think the trip went? Was it a success?

P.B: Yes I think the trip was a great success. We definitely accomplished our goal which was strengthening the relationship between El Salvador and the United States by learning about the civil war.

J.B: What was the most surprising thing about El Salvador's society and culture?

P.B: The most surprising thing was the poverty. You won't even believe your eyes when you enter a third world country filled with dirt roads and garbage everywhere. It's sad.

J.B: Describe what you guys would do on a daily basis?

P.B: Our daily routine consisted of getting up early and going to various places that would further educate us about the Salvadorian lifestyle such as a school, farm, or church. Then we would get home and have a reflection.

J.B: Describe one of the more meaningful experiences you had while down there?

P.B: The most meaningful experience for me was when we visited the poorest people in the area. They literally had shacks for homes. Five people would sleep in one room. The family wouldn't even have beds, they all slept on hammocks.

J.B: Can you list some of the major differences you saw between life here in America, and life in El Salvador?

P.B: Life in America is the ideal life for Salvadorians because there is so much work here. The average Salvadoran makes like two dollars a day. The workers there work from 7 in the morning until 11 at night. The mentality of hardworking in El Salvador is completely different than it is here in the United States.





\$4.99 Buy App

App of the Month **Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit**

Need for Speed Hot Pursuit app for the iTouch and iPhone is a great app that allows endless hours of adrenaline filled street racing and cop chasing. Whether you be the hunted or the hunter either path is fun. As a cop you get to call Helicopters which drop road spikes or drop them yourself, call a road block to slow and stop the racers, a nitrous system, my favorite the EMP and your own car to ram the racers with. As a racer you must evade the police, who are well equipped, you also get a armory of tools. These tools include a oil slick, a jammer device which blocks EMP lock-ons and cop radars, and of course a nitrous system to increase your speed as well. This is by far one of the best iPod apps yet created.

Verizon now has the iPhone — let the comparisons begin!

The iPhone by Apple has made its way over to Verizon recently. It came in February and was announced in January. The reviews say it is the same thing as the ATT iPhone, but it has some variations in the options. It includes mobile WI-FI hotspot and does not include some browsing functions such as Internet and talking at the same time. The Verizon iPhone otherwise has the same features and availabilities as the ATT iPhone. They both include the same app store, app organizing system. The Verizon iPhone also has a newer operating system than the ATT iPhone operating system. The other only difference is the antennas on the Verizon iPhone and some of the buttons are differently placed due to the mobile hotspot. Overall both iPhones are the same product but carry different service quality.

—Matt Kingsbury '13



Pesto-Stuffed Mustard Chicken

Hello all,

Something most people have in their refrigerator is chicken breasts whether they are bone in or boneless. I wanted to find a new way to up the kitchen staple's flavor. After a few days of searching through cookbooks and my favorite chef's websites, I found the perfect recipe. Bethenny Frankel's Pesto Stuffed Mustard chicken. The reason I like this recipe is not only is it healthy but it put's a new twist on something that we all know and love. Try this natural food chef's culinary creation if you like to entertain, or even just to cook for yourself on a weeknight!

Happy Cooking,
Sebastien Laforest '11

Directions:

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of Dijon mustard
- 1 clove of garlic, chopped
- Juice of 1 lemon
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 cups of packaged pesto
- 1 cup of part skim ricotta
- 2 Boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

1. Mix the marinade by combining the garlic, Dijon mustard, lemon, salt and pepper in a large bowl or resealable plastic bag.
2. Poke chicken breasts with a fork and let sit in the marinade overnight, or at minimum 4 hours, in the refrigerator.
3. Preheat oven to 350°
4. Combine the ricotta and pesto together.
5. Cut a pocket lengthwise into the side of the chicken breast and stuff with the ricotta-pesto mixture.
6. Using a nonstick pan, over medium-high heat, brown both sides of the chicken with olive oil.
7. Place in a baking dish and cook covered for 25-30 minutes, depending on your oven.
8. The last 5-10 minutes of baking can be done uncovered for a crispier chicken. Serve immediately.

Egyptian Crisis has Global Effect

Over the last couple of months or so I'm sure that everyone has noticed the turmoil in the Middle East. I remember the time I started paying attention was when the events and protests started going on in Egypt. There were riots in the streets, houses being burned down, and complete unrest in that nation. One of the main reasons that the Egyptians were so mad was because their government was supposed to be democratic but instead it was very corrupt and a sly form of dictatorship with then president Mubarak serving as president for over 30 years. So the people of Egypt, living in a so called democratic nation, exercised their right to protest. The other reasons that they wanted to protest were lack of freedom of speech, police brutality, lack of free election, corruption, unemployment, low wages, and food price inflation. Protesters wanted President Hosni Mubarak to step down and pave way for a new government that will cater for the rights and the interest of the Egyptian people. Eventually and with much perseverance the people of Egypt got what they wanted and President Mubarak stepped down from office.



So how does this event affect the entire world? Take for example the unrest in Libya. It is pretty much the same situation—a brutal dictator, corruption, unemployment, police brutality, etc. But the difference is that the Libyan dictator saw what happened to Mubarak. He saw that if you react peacefully to protests then you would be kicked out of power. So what is the Libyan dictator doing? He is sending out troops to react violently against the protests by the people to scare them away from doing it. However the Libyans have hope. They saw how if you continue to protest, like the Egyptians did, then you could get your way, and that is exactly what they are doing. This however has led to many deaths and an impact on the global economy.

Even for Americans who live over 4000 miles away this affects us in a very significant way. Take for example the most obvious affect—the price of oil. As of the 7th of March this year the price of oil has risen to over 105 dollars a barrel. This is affecting both gas prices (which are skyrocketing) and the stock market (which if you have been following it like I have has been extremely volatile). Libya is the largest oil producer hit by political turmoil in recent weeks, and it produces only 2 percent of the world's current supply. But if the unrest affects oil producing in nations like Algeria or Oman — or oil-rich Saudi Arabia, which ships 18 percent of the world's supply — the effect on prices could be catastrophic. These are the reasons why the crisis in the Middle East has been so significant to the entire world, especially those who rely on oil so much, like the United States.

—*Joseph Sanfilippo '12*

What does it mean to be a hero?

By John Schwoerer '14

According to Dictionary.com, a hero is a person of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds and noble qualities. There were many heroes back in the day, heroes today, and heroes in the future. They can be real or fictional, but no matter what they all exhibit certain qualities. Some of these qualities are strength, intelligence, bravery, persistence, benevolence, and leadership. Just to name a few heroes, you have Martin Luther King Jr., Odysseus from Homer's *The Odyssey*, and President Barack Obama.

Despite being just a character from a story, Odysseus had many important characteristics of a hero. Most of all he was brave and courageous. Going through Scylla and Charybdis is like a rock and a hard place. You need superior bravery to overcome this because there is no way that you will come out completely intact no matter which route you take. You also need to be brave to kill more than people by yourself and with your son. Odysseus' bravery is unmatched, but it was also exaggerated because he was the main character and an epic hero.

Paul Baumer from *All Quiet on the Western Front* was also brave and courageous. While lying in a trench, he stabbed Gerard Duval for invading his trench but attempts to comfort him by giving him water and ministering to his wound. He agonizes for killing his enemy. Despite the dehumanizing nature of war, Paul shows compassion for his enemy.

Heroes are not only fictional; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a big advocate for equality among all races. As we learned early in the year: diversity is the key to peace, and none other supported that statement more than King. He eventually got equality for all ethnicities but especially African Americans. He is truly a very important hero in America, and there is no chance that the world would be the way it is now had King not been the courageous hero he was.

Of course, running a country is not an easy thing, and when you are the first black president that does not make it any easier. Many people thought that in our lifetime we would never have witnessed an African American president, or any other than a white one for that matter. Before Obama, every president was white, but that did not stop him from running. This situation is actually more than meets the eye at first. Not only did Obama pave the way for people of color to run for president, but people of other races as well such as Hispanic or Asian. President Obama's intelligence and courage made him a hero.

A Freshman's Perspective

By Liam Mason '14

On Thursday, the freshman had their annual Freshman's T-shirt ceremony. The beginning of the day consisted of a short prayer service held in the Egan chapel. They heard speeches about what the day was like from the upperclassmen. After the service the freshmen were sent to Alumni Hall for the service portion of the day. The freshmen always play games with students from Bridgeport Catholic schools, all of them in first to fifth grade.

After playing games like an obstacle course and relay races, the Bridgeport students left, and the freshmen were sent to the Quick Center. There, the students heard a terrific speech by Mr. Sather about brotherhood. They also watched the Freshman Video, which was a highpoint for the day.

This video had several questions for different teachers. Some of the questions included: "Where you popular during high school?" and "What was the it band during high school?"

After all of the events at the Quick Center, the students went with their retreat leaders back to the classrooms. There they had "friendship talks" and played games like knee hockey. When all was over, the students went back to the Egan chapel for a closing prayer service where they got their crosses.

The day was certainly memorable and the students learned a lot about the Prep Brotherhood and being a "Man for others."