

Soundings

"Men for Others, Delivering News to Others"



September 2013 Issue

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Campus Life

No Fear Freshman Year

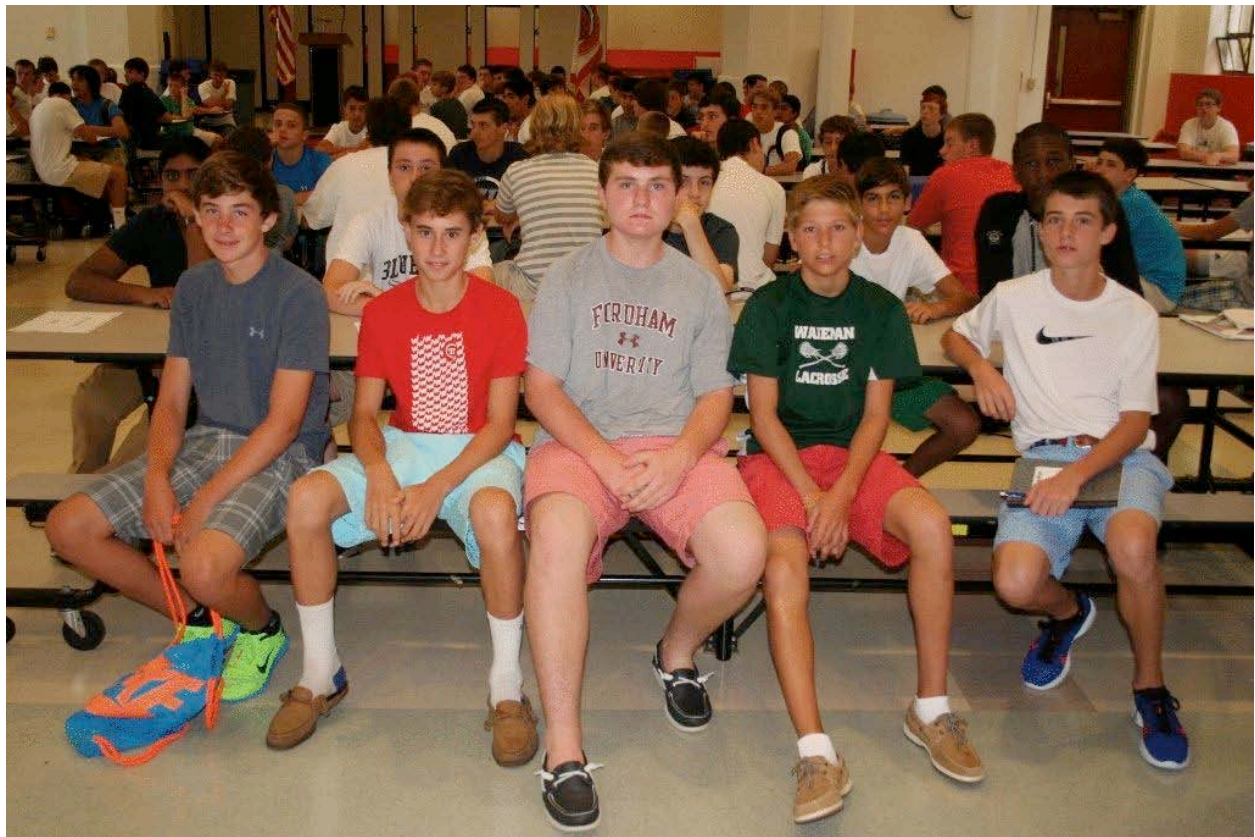
Tim Kiernan '14

The sun has officially set on the summer of 2013, and Prep boys, new and old, have begun to flock home to Fairfield County for their first day of classes. The time has come to trade in those swim trunks and t-shirts for a good old pair of khakis and a necktie. The school year has arrived and with it have come 250 new students with a completely clean slate and all sorts of wild expectations. You guessed it...freshmen! The first day of high school is a whirlwind of emotion: fear, nerves, excitement, and maybe even a little indigestion. These are all natural feelings on a day of such importance. Even as a senior, I vividly remember how I felt leading up to the start of my high school career so I met up with a few incoming freshmen to get the scoop on what they expected of their first day.

Freshmen all over the world suffer from all sorts of first day jitters before arriving to school for the very first time, and Matty Gavey, younger brother of two Prep alumni, was no exception. When asked about his expectations pulling into Prep on orientation day, Gavey said, quite honestly, "I was scared of getting thrown into lockers and having my tie pulled down or my shirt untucked by my older brother and his goofy friends." This is a completely typical fear for any nervous freshman before the start of their first day. However, once he arrived at school, Gavey was pleasantly surprised by the lack of roughhousing from upperclassmen. In fact, he was astonished to see many of his older brother's senior friends showing freshmen like himself to their classrooms rather than to the inside of their lockers or the bottom of a garbage can. He described Tucker and his pals as "helpful and friendly," adjectives that I'm sure would make Mrs. Gavey as well as the Prep Faculty very proud.

Fairfield Prep enlisted the voluntary help of over 80 upperclassmen students to assist freshmen like young Matty as they tackled the colossal challenge of

surviving the first day of high school. “To be honest, I was a little bit nervous at first, but once I got my schedule and the seniors showed me where to go it was easy from there,” said Dan Kiernan, freshman and the third boy of his family to pass through Prep. When asked about whether or not the upperclassmen facilitated the outcome of his first day at Prep, Ryan Sullivan, rising freshman, said, “Ya.” Based on the elaborate input of Matty Gavey, Danny Kiernan, and especially Ryan Sullivan, it seems as if Fairfield Prep and their upperclassmen have ensured the survival of yet another class of Jesuits. As the year rolls, keep an ear to the ground for this new class of Prepsters because it seems to me like they’re destined for greatness.



“As the youthful, innocent freshmen approach the pie-eating contest, Mrs. Mauritz warns them to not participate if they are allergic to peanuts. I warn them to not participate if they’re allergic to fun. Safe to say, all the freshmen think I’m a freak.” -Jack O’Connell ’14 on Freshman Orientation

Campus Life

Off the Desk of the Secretary of Student Government

Phil Lynch '14

Now as seniors following the tremendous example set by the class of 2013, the class of 2014 has huge shoes to fill. As the new leaders of Prep, the class of 2014 will be expected to continue the legacy of athletic excellence, academic accomplishment, and most importantly, to maintain the Prep “Brotherhood” that defines Fairfield Prep. While all seniors must lead the charge to continue the tradition of excellence, the members of Student Government have the job of leading the student body to greatness.

As a member of Student Government myself, I see the role Student Government plays firsthand. Student Government coordinates dances, encourages student spirit and sponsors environmental initiatives. Student Government is a key component to the Prep community in terms of coordinating student events and leadership that often goes unnoticed. To get an inside view of how things work within Student Government, the valuable role of the organization, and the aspirations for the coming year, I talked to Student Government President, Tony Fox. When asked what he wants to change in the coming year, Fox responded, “I would like to set a foundation for years to come. One thing we already changed was that Net Classroom [could] be open to students.” The responsibilities of those in Student Government spans from school spirit to evolving our academic careers. Fox not only believes in efforts to directly affect student activities, but he also calls for leadership. “...As president I [would like to] get kids excited about Prep! Get students to get involved and to make this high school experience the best it can possibly be... Also having Student Government members as leaders with their own peers.” The motive behind all action in Student Government is to improve the Prep experience and continue the tradition that separates this school from any other. The

Student Government of 2013-2014 and President Fox hope to leave behind a legacy that will forever improve the Prep experience as stated by Fox, “Four years from now... I [want] to leave a memory in their [students’] heads saying, ‘Tony Fox and Student Government started this.’” Student Government as a whole is looking for opportunities to make our school a better and more fun place.”

In the upcoming year, Student Government faces the daunting tasks of continuing the legacy and tremendous leadership of Tim Peterson and Matt Noone. We in Student Government are working hard to not only improve the academic experience at Prep (as seen in Net Classroom), but we strive to improve the Prep experience. Under the leadership of Tony Fox and Andrew Ostrosky, Student Government is working to organize more and more student events, improve traditional events, and perpetuate the Prep experience and sense of community. With the help of the class of 2014, Student Government will no doubt exceed expectations and work towards leaving behind a lasting legacy that improves the already legendary “Prep experience.”

Student Government Representatives

Senior

President-Tony Fox

Vice President-Andrew Ostrosky

Secretary-Phil Lynch

Jairo Martniez

Sergio Cruz

Junior

Director of Communications-AJ Mansolillo

Junior Class Chair-James Ruddy

Simon Whiteman

Jack Thornton

James Mangan

Sophomore

Vito Ciambriello

George Crist

John Kirby

Matthew Pompa

Austin Prusak

Freshman

Elections to be held
in October.

Campus Life

In Da Club

Liam O'Reilly '14

Clubs are a great way to meet people with similar interests, get experience in fields that interest you, find new interests, and pad your resume. Fairfield Prep offers many extracurricular clubs to the student body. Some include the Stock Market Club, Student Government, and the Android Application Club. Each club at Prep offers leadership opportunities, chances to make new friends, and can be a lot of fun.

The Stock Market Club, sponsored by the Connecticut Post, is just one of the many clubs Prep has to offer. In this club, there are teams made up of one to five players, each starting with \$100 used to wisely invest in the stock market. After 10 weeks, the team whose stocks are worth the most wins. Fairfield Prep participates in this competition twice per year, along with teams from all over the state. Vice president of the club, Paul Stumpf, Class of '15, says his experience has been great, and he feels the meetings taught him how to invest responsibly, as well as gave him a feel for whether investing in real life is a risk worth financially taking. He says a goal for this year would be to get some fresh blood attending meetings.

Student Government is a very important club to Fairfield Prep. The elected members represent the student body, and work hard to keep the student body happy. In the words of President Tony Fox, Class of '14, "a school is like a marriage. Two parties have to be in some type of accord; administration and students." As most know, they have recently been able to keep Net Classroom open year round. It is popular ideas such as this that Student Government works on making a reality. Some goals Student Government are currently working on include having a mascot, a homecoming game and dance, and making sporting

events more fun for the fans and the Bomb Squad, probably through props. This club shapes and molds Prep differently every year and is the voice of the student body.

Android Application Club offers the opportunity to create applications. In this club, President Christopher J. Baudouin Jr., class of '15, teaches the member how to create an application, then the group works together to make an application. The club is currently getting last year's app beta tested and approved. This year Christopher Baudouin is planning on teaching the members to make applications for Apple products such as the iPhone and iPad. Christopher says this club has helped him to have a better understanding of the technology he uses every day, and a better knowledge of technology.

Getting involved in extracurricular activities, such as clubs is a great way to get to know your classmates while finding people with mutual interests, offers a way of learning about a subject outside of the classroom, and can be very enjoyable. To all skeptics I advise at least giving clubs a try, and remember, you get out what you put in, so get involved!

Campus Life

Jamaican Me Righteous

Paul Cashman '15

“We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.” Oscar Romero writes this in his work “The Long View.” Arriving in Jamaica I was greeted by the unfamiliar feeling of a new country. I could see poverty all around me and I was scared. I did not know what I hoped to accomplish or what lied ahead. I then read Oscar Romero’s words concerning what we hope to accomplish in our lives. The quote above illustrates how I felt at the beginning of my time at Blessed Assurance. I asked myself, “How can I possibly leave a profound impact on these poor children?” Romero answered my question. “We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.” I was called to serve God’s children in Jamaica. He didn’t expect me to change the world in one week, but I could certainly plant seeds that would one day grow. Through all the sweat of working under the hot Jamaican sun, through all the time spent with the kids, I realized that I was making a difference in each one of the kids at Blessed Assurance. It was an experience I will take with me for the rest of my life.



Sports

Paschal Mystery Resolved

Liam O'Reilly '14

The recruiting chase for Paschal Chukwu is officially over. Providence, Boston College, Georgetown, North Carolina State, Maryland and St. Joseph's were among all the members of his fan club. After narrowing his decision down to St. Joseph's and Providence, Chukwu decided that he will bring his talents to Providence next year in 2014, where he will become a Friar and play for head coach Ed Cooley. He will bring to Providence quite an impressive resume as he averaged 13.7 points, 12.1 rebounds and 6.8 blocks per game last season while taking the Jesuits to the Class LL state title game against Hillhouse High School and to the SCC championship game. On ESPN.com he is rated as the 58th best player in the nation and the fifth best center.

Over this past summer, Chukwu was on the AAU circuit with the Connecticut Basketball Club and his improvement on the offensive end has been noticeable. Standing at 7'2, as one would imagine, his major strength on the court is shot blocking and he also rebounds the ball very well. Chukwu's main focus however is to become more of an offensive threat. "I don't just want to be known as a shot blocker. I want to be an all-around player." We all know one thing for sure, in Chukwu Providence is receiving a very much improved center who will greatly contribute to the front court. If he continues to develop at the rate in which he has over the past season he will definitely be a dominant force.



Sports

Previewing Prep's Football Season

Jack O'Connell '14

Ever since going 0-10 in 2009, Fairfield Prep Football has been on a steady ascent. With Tom Shea at the helm the past three years, The Jesuits have gone 14-16. Although their successes have been consistently sporadic, Prep Football is adamant their breakout season--one after which they make the playoffs--is imminent.

At mid-October of last year, all was looking promising for the squad sporting a 5-1 record, consisting of five seemingly effortless wins and one hard-fought loss to the almighty Xavier. After that pinnacle, two consecutive losses, however close, virtually foiled any playoff hopes for the Jesuits. The coaching staff has bottled last season as motivation for the team, establishing the program's new motto, "Start Fast, Finish Strong." The average spectator, on the other hand, can appreciate last year's young, returning talent. Sophomore running back Joe Ganim averaged an astonishing 8.16 yards per carry last year, while the Yale-committed Nick Crowle, alongside mammoth defensive linemen Tony Fox and Anthony Palazzolo, headed the defense with a 101 tackles. One can also revel in the sheer size of the team. All the hard work in the weight room put in by Brendan Sullivan, Steve Kornutik, Tom Cirillo, AJ Mansolillo, Mike Ruther, Tony Fox, Anthony Palazollo, and Darren Edwards has produced a physically intimidating offensive line with formidable metrics.

This talent-laden team, for the better or worse, will not go unchallenged. The schedule is as ugly as the roster is pretty. The names St. Joe's, Notre Dame of West Haven, Shelton, Daniel Hand, Cheshire, Amity, Xavier, and West Haven strike fear into all football coaches and players around the state. Will Prep Football match the recent successes of the soccer, hockey, lacrosse, baseball, and swim teams? How will Colton Smith, Junior starting quarterback, perform this year?

The 11-week long answer to these essential questions begins September 12th in Stamford at 7 PM.



The Arts

The Best of the Summer

Brent Kaiserman '14

Top 5 Movies of the Summer

5. **The Purge**- Although this movie was incredibly hyped and looked like the blockbuster of the summer, many looked at it as a disappointment. The majority of viewers, however, had positive things to say about it and felt it was still a thrilling movie despite the shortness of it.

4. **Elysium**- Matt Damon is one of the best actors of his generation, and he displays that in this sci-fi flick. It may not be the usual Damon role, but he sure does make it seem like he's a regular for it.

3. **Man of Steel**- While he is not Christopher Reeve, Henry Cavill does a great job as Superman and Amy Adams is incredible as Lois Lane. It should be interesting to see Ben Affleck as Batman when the sequel to Man of Steel comes out.

2. **The Conjuring**- For those who like horror movies, this is an unbelievable one. Throughout the entire movie, people were on the edge of their seats, as it combines all components from any horror movie you could think of. It's a terrifying one.

1. **2 Guns**- Denzel Washington and Mark Wahlberg have great chemistry in this action movie, as I deem this movie the best of the summer. It's definitely a great action thriller that is worth the rent on Amazon or on-demand.

Top 5 Albums of the Summer

5. J.Cole: **Born Sinner**- Following a great debut album, this album features hit singles "Power Trip," as well as "Crooked Smile." J. Cole is looking for a new approach to the rap game, and this album definitely goes in another direction due to the style. However, he's definitely finding success in it.

4. Vampire Weekend: **Modern Vampires of the City**- This album has both relaxing and soothing music, as well as fast paced and good rock music. This album is an album that can be played whenever, wherever, and it will still sound good.

3. Big Sean: **Hall of Fame**- One of my favorite artists, Big Sean was critically acclaimed for his verses on the Kanye West-produced tracks “Clique” and “Mercy.” Hall of Fame is a great follow-up to his previous LP “Finally Famous.” Big Sean is certainly paving the way for him to become the next best rapper.

2. Daft Punk: **Random Access Memories**- They’re baaack. After a 6 year gap since their last studio album, French group Daft Punk comes back strong with a solid album and one of the biggest songs of the summer. “Get Lucky” is obviously a wonderful song, but it’s the other songs that make this album amazing. Personally, I recommend “Doin’ it Right” and “Give Life Back to Music.”

1. Jay-Z: **Magna Carta Holy Grail**- The long awaited album of Shawn Carter is here, and it’s on pace to become his greatest selling record in the long career of Jay-Z. Since his last solo work, The Blueprint 3 in 2009, Carter comes back bigger than ever, featuring the works of Justin Timberlake, Frank Ocean and Rick Ross. It couldn’t have been a more publicized album, as this was the most hyped rap record since Watch the Throne and Recovery. Just as people thought Jay-Z was too old to be the king of rap, he shuts them down with Magna Carta Holy Grail.

When asked their favorite movie/album of the summer, Prep students said...

“The Conjuring because it fulfilled the hype that it got.” –*Jack Snopkowski ‘15*

“The Conjuring—it was the best and most terrifying.” –*Andrew Ostrosky ‘14*

“42 because it was a major part of history.” –*Tav’on Hunter ‘14*

“I would have to say Iron Man 3.” –*Brendan Sullivan ‘14*

“Yeezus, it was a provocative and groundbreaking album.” –*Austin Cantwell ‘14*

“Born Sinner was my favorite summer album. Everything J. Cole touches seems to turn to gold.” –*Burke Smith ‘14*

Op-Ed

Dissecting This Year's Disciplinary Overhaul

Will Clyne '14

This year Fairfield Prep has instituted a series of harsh crackdowns on tardiness. The penalty for tardiness now includes, without exception, JUG with Mr. Brennan. This is a significant policy shift in the school's tardiness policy compared with last year's. If a student arrived a little late to class last year, teachers were able to handle it on a case-by-case basis. That option, along with the autonomy of the teachers, has been torn away. This policy, while well intentioned, seems to create more of a hassle than the one it prevented. Senior Tim Kiernan had a few words, "While I do understand the importance of arriving to class promptly, this policy has made for a very stressful school day. With a locker arbitrarily located in the basement of the school and classes scattered sporadically throughout all three buildings, it makes it nearly impossible to make trips to and from my locker in between class periods. Since I can't find time to visit my locker, I constantly find myself missing papers and forgetting books. Normally, I pride myself on my organizational skills. However, with this policy in place I feel like I don't even have a chance to get organized." While this may sound like the whining of a lazy senior, Tim Kiernan presents a fair point; does this extreme tardiness policy actually hinder more than it helps? In my opinion, yes, this is a wasteful practice. Students end up missing far more time by being forced to go to Mr. Brennan's office thus creating a wasteful and inefficient policy.

This well-intentioned policy is simply not worth the hassle that it creates not only for the teachers and students, but also for Mr. Brennan. On the first day of classes, upwards of sixty students were sent to JUG and the next day upwards of fifty still. With so many students in JUG, the shock factor is taken away. No longer is it a "big deal" to have JUG. If a student has JUG with twenty of his friends, where is the punishment? Receiving a JUG should not be considered the norm; it

should be the farthest thing from it, and with this dubious policy, JUG is being just what it should not be, the norm. An important group of people to consider in this situation is the teachers. That is because teachers used to have the benefit of the doubt when students were late; yes, they could send them to Mr. Brennan and, yes, they could deal with it on their own. The autonomy was something enjoyed by both teachers and students. If a student was rarely late and simply dropped something in the hall causing a slight tardiness, teachers would generally let them into class. This option is gone. A mandatory minimum policy on tardiness destroys the autonomy of a classroom. Each teacher has earned and deserves an immense amount of respect from the students and administration. While tardiness is disrespectful towards our teachers, the efficacy of this policy needs some evaluating.

Teachers, students, and the administration have all been affected negatively by this tardiness policy. Whether it be the disrespect shown to our teachers, the valuable class time missed by our students, or the incredible amount of students forced to go to JUG for minor offenses; we need a change. It is time for change, it is time for the administration to admit its mistake, and it is time for the school to take the appropriate step forward: eradicate these unnecessary and detrimental policy changes.



Op-Ed

Return of the Rave

Austin Cantwell '14

Every Labor Day weekend for the past five years, a music festival called “Electric Zoo” has dawned upon Randall’s Island in New York City for three days full of dancing, sun and supposed fun. At this year’s festival, sadly, two young adults died in the immediate few hours following the closing of this festival at night. These tragic deaths were both immediately attributed to the popular music festival drug, MDMA, Molly or Ecstasy. One of the deaths was a young college girl, barely 20 years of age. She left the festival Saturday night when paramedics raced her to a hospital, her last words being, “I took six hits of Molly.” Her abuse of the drug does not make her death any less of a tragedy, but it made the festival organizers think and led to the cancellation of the last day of the festival on Sunday.

Electric Zoo is a festival dedicated to the rising Electronic Dance Music scene, popularly referred to as EDM. Living in Fairfield County, a quick train ride from New York City, many local youngsters see Electric Zoo is the quintessential EDM event. It is popular among teens as young as fifteen to adults up to forty years old. There was an eighteen and older age minimum this year, but it is questionable how much that was enforced. All across the country EDM is on the rise as is drug abuse, specifically pure form Ecstasy a.k.a. Molly. There is no question the EDM musicians know that ramped drug use (with) a pure form of ecstasy comes with their music and they take advantage of this. Songs consistently have voices in the back saying “I can’t find Molly” or “Who knows my girl Molly.” With the huge rise in EDM a rise in teenage drug abuse is right behind.

Popular among Fairfield Prep students are mixers and Fairfield University concerts. Fairfield University recently hosted the EDM musician Diplo, a very popular leader of the EDM movement. No news of foul play from this concert was

given but it is not far fetched to assume drugs were at this concert. At Prep mixers, the DJ's are continually increasing the amount of EDM songs they play due to popular demand. With music that has a drug culture so closely tied to it, it is important to keep these drugs away from kids. The danger of these drugs has recently come to light, and we can only hope that EDM music diverts from the dangerous sub-culture it is tied to.

