

Thank you to those that participated in our Parent's Club Meeting on April 13, 2016 held in the library! A special thank you goes out to Patti Fabrizio for helping to promote and coordinate the event.

The forum presented an opportunity for parents of the Saint Patrick community to learn more about current and future doings from the principal's prospective. In addition, families were given an opportunity to ask questions and further discuss other issues that needed clarification or additional explanation.

Below is a brief summary of the agenda items:

### **New courses for next year: INCubator, Robotics, Computer Programming**

We are excited to announce three new courses that will run for next year!

#### INCubator

This course is designed to get students excited about becoming true entrepreneurs by giving them the opportunity to create and fully develop their own product or service. Real-world entrepreneurs and business experts will serve as coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the process of ideation, market research, and business plan development. Over the course of the year, student teams will learn about marketing, accounting, as well as the legal aspects of starting a business. They will have access to a network of professionals to further develop their skills (teamwork, problem solving, presentation, communication) for college and career readiness. Pitch Week helps to further fire the entrepreneurial spirit by putting student teams in front of actual investors so they can pitch their innovative idea to win funding and turn their wishful thinking into a reality.

#### Robotics

This course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are interested in designing the SHAMBOT and STRIKER robots for their respective competitions. Students will be exposed to designing using CAD, writing computer programming language for the autonomous functioning of the robots, developing tactics for the team during competitions, constructing field elements to be used during practice sessions, as well as marketing and fundraising for the program. Students will be required to participate in a minimum number of afterschool team design and practice meetings as well as any competitions during the season. Our INCubator program will replace our Entrepreneurship class; Robotics becomes a new year long course which introduces students to elements of our STRIKER program.

#### Computer Programming

The focus of this course is to learn how to teach a computer to perform a desired task. Students will learn how to create an abstract model that describes a task to be performed. Students will learn how to apply top-down reasoning to create algorithms that provide the logical statements and functions necessary to complete a task. Students will program in JavaScript (ECMAScript 6) with the use of a text-editor and render their results within a browser. Students will be exposed to pervasive programming

paradigms including data representation (variables, data types, and objects), control logic (sequential, conditions, and loops), functions, and classical inheritance models.

### **Summer Courses through Lewis University**

We are also very excited about our partnership with another Lasallian institution, Lewis University. Our partnership will allow another opportunity for our students to earn college credit during the summer of 2016. The two courses we are offering are: Intro to Criminal Justice; Life, Career, and the Emerging Workplace. For further information, please refer to our course book located at:

[http://www.stpatrick.org/assets/1/academics/2016-2017\\_Curriculum\\_Guide\\_\(1\).pdf](http://www.stpatrick.org/assets/1/academics/2016-2017_Curriculum_Guide_(1).pdf)

### **STEM curriculum launch in 2017-2108**

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program will officially launch for the school year in 2017-2018. The program will allow students who are interested in one of those fields to participate in a differentiated curricular and experiential educational learning experience. Additional details will come in the following months.

### **Other items for the 2016-17 school year**

- *Parent Committee for 2016-2017.* We are looking for parents who would be willing to participate as members of our admissions parent committee. Please contact Brian O'Connor if you would be interested.
- *RCIA program.* Next year, we will offer a RCIA (Right of Catholic Initiation for Adults) program for Saint Patrick students looking to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation.
- *Service for seniors-* As part of our 2020 Strategic Plan, service is a component that is being addressed and supported. In response to that, the Class of 2017 will be participating in a service project as part of the Religion curriculum.
- *Class of 2020 day of service* – August 12, approximately 10-3 PM. Additional details to follow.
- *Retreat opportunity for adults-* LaSalle Manor in Plano is offering an adult retreat for people “looking to discover and create meaning, purpose, and happiness in their lives”. For more information, click on the following link:  
<http://www.lasallemanor.org/2016/04/10/retreat-cultivating-a-meaningful-life/>

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### **BrightBytes technology survey—week of April 25**

In September 2014, we asked all faculty, staff, parents, and students to participate in a survey regarding technology to give Saint Patrick a baseline of data for where the school is at in terms of access, classroom integration, teacher and student skills, and the general learning environment. The results of the survey produced a tremendous amount of data for the school to analyze. In May 2015, we completed a second survey to measure the progress made from the fall. In the spring of 2016, we will complete a third survey to evaluate our progress.

### **Senior Mass – April 19**

The school celebrated the first ever senior mass which honored and recognized the class of 2016 for their efforts and contributions to Saint Patrick High School. Father Hurley was our celebrant.

### **Security update**

While initial discussion has taken place with our students about the possibility of having an off-duty police officer (who would be a St. Patrick parent) present during the school day, final details have not been completed. A pool of parents has offered their services to this project. The next step will be to formally present this to our families and any other interested members of the community in a town hall fashion. Further details will be provided at a later time.