



Dean of School's Report ~ March 18, 2020
Theme of the Month: Immigrants and Entrepreneurship

[Updated: March 16, 2020]

1. Mission in Action (From Mr. Gracza):

Leadership is nigh-impossible without strong communication skills. As we discuss in Rhetoric, it does not matter if one has the most brilliant thought; an inability to clearly communicate in a way that people understand limits the effect such thoughts could have. Rhetoric does not simply reinforce the values of character and leadership through exploring the effect speakers' credibility has on their audience. It empowers and enables students to express themselves in a manner necessary to fully embody what it means to be a leader. Students recently had the opportunity to demonstrate this during our in-class debate about gun control – one of the class' most contentious debate topics. Though the discussion in the public square will often devolve into thoughtless repetition of inherently flawed arguments, students demonstrated not only a mastery of the argumentation techniques learned, but mastery of their emotions and how they expressed their character to their peers.

2. Round Table Feature (From The Madison House- Mr. Wales):

The 7th grade Round Tables have distributed maps of the world for students to mark where they know they have family that immigrated to the U.S. Mr. Weekley's Round Table handed out maps last week and my class will be creating the final maps to go in the display room. I will also be having a conversation (multiple) with my Round Table about where their families came from originally. I have already seen some great maps that will spark a lot of discussion.

3. [POSTPONED] Student Feature: Student members of the Founders' FIRST Robotics Team will present.

4. From Director of Faculty (Mrs. Hayes, Director of Faculty):

Mrs. Hayes is in the middle of teacher observations and evaluations. Each teacher is observed at least once during the school year and then meets with Mrs. Hayes for a follow-up and evaluation meeting. The first question asked during the evaluation meeting is, "How do you infuse the mission of the school into your classes?" From there Mrs. Hayes evaluates the teachers' performance related to infusing the mission into their classroom and offers suggestions for how to infuse the mission into their classroom, extracurricular activities, in the hallway, in the community, and beyond.

5. From Student Services (Angela Parent, Guidance Counselor):

Student services has been working extensively with seniors surrounding college applications, scholarships and future planning. Acceptances have been piling up. At this point we have confirmation of students being accepted to a number of various colleges, universities and programs. You can view a running list of these acceptances at the link provided here:
http://www.thefoundersacademy.org/about/senior_acceptances

A few field trips are in the works for the upcoming months to visit Career Development and Discovery days at both Manchester and Nashua Community Colleges. These are great opportunities



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for students to explore a wide array of different career opportunities. On March 5, we held a High School Information Night for current and prospective 8th graders and their families. Mr. McKenzie and Ms. Parent spoke about graduation requirements and future planning. Department chairs spoke about course offerings in their subject areas and gave examples of student work. Current seniors spoke to their experiences in high school at Founders, in addition to parents, teachers, administrators and other students available to answer any questions families may have had. Student Services looks forward to the upcoming spring months of supporting students and their families.

6. Department Chairman Report (Mr. Ste. Croix Chair):

The Humanities Department is enjoying its first full year of implementing a number of major and beneficial changes to both English and History, including concrete benchmarks and standards, a common book list, and common assessments. These changes have allowed faculty to set students up for success as they progress to more rigorous and challenging courses and work toward ensuring that students are learning the same core content, even when sections are taught by multiple teachers. Additionally, English is getting to roll out a set of common writing standards and practices that can be used across disciplines; the hope is that the use of consistent terminology and expectations in all classes will help our students become more proficient writers. It has been fulfilling seeing over two years of hard work finally put into practice, and the department is excited to continue working on ways to improve the Humanities Department and benefit our students here at Founders.

7. PSAT 9 Presentation: Mr. McKenzie to present on recent PSAT/SAT scores [here](#).

8. Students of Second Quarter: High School ~ Elijah Morris Grade 11 ~ “Always caring for those around him. He’s a good listener. He is kind to everyone and respects people’s differences. Eli is loyal to his friends and is always there for them.”

Middle School ~ Bella Mulhern Grade 6 ~ “Stands up for everyone, focuses and stays on task, helpful and patient” “Bella Mulhern is very nice, kind, caring, and smart. She always offers to help people when they need help. She also works very hard in school.” “She is a very kind person who represents the code of conduct. She is very helpful and would be patient to the person who needs help.” “Whenever people get distracting she just keeps on working, is always kind to others, works extremely hard, helps a friend when needed.” “Always shows leadership, always respects teachers, gets things done, helps people, always nice to students.”

9. Volunteers of the Month: Bob Best is the Volunteer of the Month for February. See [here](#). Scott Perron is the Volunteer of the Month for March. See [here](#). Thank you!

10. Employees of the Month: Christopher Rodrigues is the Teacher of the Month for February. See [here](#). Lauren Brouillette is the Employee of the Month for March. See [here](#). Thank you!

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- 11. THANK YOU:** To Special Education Department and Student Services for their teamwork; Lori Ragas helping with admissions; members of the Coronavirus Task Force Committee; members of the Standardized Test Subcommittee; Jose Ochoa and our cleaning crew; those who spoke at and attended the High School Information Night on March 5, 2020; Music Department for concerts; and the Drama Club for all its hard work.

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