

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of November 27

All School

Stay Social With St. Francis

Our days at St. Francis are filled with fun and meaningful moments, and we love sharing them with you via social media. In case you're not following us yet on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, you can find the official school accounts here:

Facebook

@StFrancisHouston

@StFrancisHoustonAlumni

Instagram

@StFrancisHouston

@Arts_at_StFrancisHouston

@SFE_and_me (Explore and Extend)

Twitter

@SFESHouston

@SFE_Admissions

@SFE_Athletics

St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Is This Week

Join St. Francis in collecting toys for families in need this Christmas season!

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering **this week—from tomorrow, November 27, through Friday, December 1**—and make the season a little more joyful for others in the Houston community.

Middle School students may place their toys under the Christmas tree in the People Place, while Primary and Lower School students will keep their toys in their classrooms.

Donations benefit Toys for Tots and will be picked up by Santa and the Village Fire Department this Friday, December 1!

Order Poinsettias? Pick Them Up This Thursday

It's the most wonderful time of the year! If you purchased beautiful poinsettias to support Friends of Fine Arts, pickup time is right around the corner:

Poinsettia Pickup

Thursday, November 30

Andrews House (South Campus)

8:15-10:00 a.m. and 2:45-4:15 p.m.

If these times are not convenient for pickup, please make arrangements for someone to pick up the poinsettias for you, as this Thursday, November 30, is the only day for pickup.

If you forgot to order this year, don't worry. We have extras! Just stop by during pickup times to purchase what you need.

St. Francis Fund: Drawing for Front-Row Parking Space Is Friday!

This **Friday, December 1**, one lucky family who has made a gift or pledge to the St. Francis Fund will win a front-row parking space on the campus of their choice for a year!

To give online, please click [here](#).

Wolf Wear Sale This Friday

Our next Wolf Wear Sale will be this Friday, December 1, in the Concessions

area by the gym, 7:45–9:00 a.m. Questions? Contact Eloise Taussig or Shelley Iglesias.

Thanks for Supporting Uniform Resale!

The **Uniform Resale Boutique** would like to thank everyone who came out to take advantage of our big November uniform sale. We are especially thankful for all the volunteers who helped make this day a HUGE success!

And stay tuned for our FINAL sale of the school year, coming in April!

This will be a great time to stock up on some uniform staples for the 2018-19 school year.

The year-round donations of your gently used uniforms allow us to pass along big savings to our students and teachers, so please keep them coming! Rose Ann happily accepts donations at the front desk of the main campus all year long.

Happy holidays from the URB!

[Angela Bookmyer](#), [Jill Smith](#) and [Kristin Valicek](#)

Join Us! Upper School Open House Is December 5

Curious about our Upper School? Join us for the last Open House of the semester on Tuesday, December 5, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.—we'd love to have you! Please RSVP [here](#).

Primary School

From the Division Head

Each year in November, I am intentional in reflecting on the many ways that I have been blessed in my professional and personal life. I'd like to share my list with you this year.

I am thankful for:

- 234 children in the Primary School whom I get to watch grow up. They are taught and loved by an amazingly talented group of teachers who

are lifelong learners. Our faculty members work hard both at school and at home to make sure their students have an enriching experience each day. I am humbled to work with such a professional team of educators.

- Our Primary School staff who make the work we do look easy. Juggling calendars, events, and our busy office, plus keeping our school clean and beautiful is no small task.
- Our chaplains, Fr. Wismer and Wendy Heinemann, for helping us tend to the big and mighty hearts of our children. Our Primary School Chapel services at St. Francis are the best I've ever seen in my years in Episcopal schools. Really! And I've seen many!
- The voices of our joyful children singing hymns and songs—in English and Spanish. Hearing “This Little Light of Mine” leaves no doubt that the Holy Spirit is in this place. “Hide it under a bushel?” “NO!”
- The skilled, supportive staff of St. Francis Episcopal School. They are a community of people who are passionate about the mission of our school.
- The thought and care given to planning service learning opportunities for children at St. Francis. Helping our children learn at a very young age that much is expected of those to whom much is given! We are part of something larger than ourselves at St. Francis.
- The parents, grandparents, and friends in our Primary School community. I am grateful for the support you provide us and the faith you have in our program. This is a great place to grow up!
- Resilient people committed to the recovery and rebuilding of the city they love following Hurricane Harvey. Our community lives by the words of former Colorado congresswoman Pat Schroeder: “You can't wring your hands and roll up your sleeves at the same time.” We really are Houston Strong!
- My own family and friends. My adult children are healthy, happy, and leading productive lives. They make me very proud! And I know that my investment in their Episcopal school education helped them develop open minds and open hearts. Being people for others matters in this world. And it's what matters most to me.

- God calling me to this place! With every change comes growth. I am a better person because of this opportunity.

I hope this holiday with your family and friends has given you time to reflect on your many blessings. Thank you for sharing your most precious treasures with us!

All the best,

Amy Whitley
Head of Primary School

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

To view the Primary School Dining Hall menu for November, please click [here](#). The December menu is available [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 27-Friday, December 1

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*: Bring toys to classroom
-

Tuesday, November 28

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
-

Wednesday, November 29

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms; **PLEASE NOTE: This chapel will be held in the new Crum Athletics Center on the South Campus.**
-

Tuesday, December 5

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, December 6

- *St. Nicholas Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms*
-

Monday, December 11

- *Primary I Christmas Party: 1:30 p.m. in the classrooms; parents invited*
-

Tuesday, December 12

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *T/Th Pre-Primary Christmas Party: 1:30 p.m. in the classrooms; parents invited*
-

Wednesday, December 13

- *Lessons and Carols Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and Primary II students wear uniforms*
 - *MWF Pre-Primary Christmas Party: 1:30 p.m. in the classrooms; parents invited*
-

Thursday, December 14

- *Primary II Christmas Pageants and Parties: Parents invited; please [click here to view the schedule](#) for each class*

Lower School

From the Division Head

My hope is that everyone had a restful week full of food, family, and friends! We are looking forward to the next few weeks before Christmas. These weeks will be productive and full of learning for your children.

Grandparents and Grandfriends Day was such a wonderful event for all! Our fourth-grade Chapel Council did a stellar job planning the three services, and all of our other chapel helpers were spot-on for our special visitors!

We are so blessed to be able to spend time at school with these significant people in our lives. Thank you, parents, for helping to organize this event with your family.

For our Parent Connection this week, the topic is **standardized assessment**. You received your child's CTP/ERB scores, along with some information about interpretation.

- Attending the meetings to hear from our ERB consultant will further help you to understand the reports and scores, as well as give you a comprehensive picture of standardized assessment at St. Francis.
 - **The meeting for third grade is Tuesday, November 28, at 8:15 a.m. and the fourth-grade meeting is Wednesday, November 29, at 8:15 a.m.**
 - The reports that these two grade levels receive are different, hence the need for separate meetings.
- **At SFES, we administer this assessment in the early fall.** This affords us the ability to immediately utilize the data from your child's assessment as well as the data from the group results. We analyze the data and determine our program's areas of strengths, and we examine the areas on which we need to focus. Having this information in the early fall is extremely helpful and can have a significant impact on our programming and your child's learning.
- While testing in the late spring does provide a snapshot of a child's performance for that school year, there is not the time to make adjustments or examine a curricular plan. Trying to use this data the next fall, when it is four or five months old, is not best practice. The students are normed appropriately whether testing in the fall or spring, so timing does not affect scores.

- After you attend the ERB meeting that corresponds with your child's grade level, we are available to help with questions or thoughts you may have regarding the CTP/ERB assessment.

Have a blessed week!

Warmly,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 27-Friday, December 1

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*: Bring toys to classroom
-

Monday, November 27

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a November 26-December 2 birthday will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Report Cards Released and Portfolios Sent Home*
-

Tuesday, November 28

- *Grade 3 ERB Parent Meeting*: 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room **(Please note location change.)**
-

Wednesday, November 29

- *Regular Uniform Day*
- *Chapel*: 8:05 a.m.
- *Grades 4-8 ERB Parent Meeting*: 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room

Monday, December 4

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a December 3-9 birthday will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Christmas Concert:* Grades 1 and 2; 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
-

Tuesday, December 5

- *Christmas Concert:* Grades 3 and 4 and Joyful Sounds Choir; 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
-

Wednesday, December 6

- *Dress Uniform Day*
- *St. Nicholas Eucharist:* 8:05 a.m.

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School Families. I hope you all have had a wonderful, restful Thanksgiving break.

This week, we charge into the remainder of second quarter.

Returning to school after a break can be nerve-racking for some students. And, of course, adolescence by its very nature is full of little worries.

If you'd like to learn how to help your child through these situations, I recommend reading [“5 Easy Ways to Help Your Anxious Child \(and Your Anxious Self\)”](#) by Dr. Ellen Hendriksen, a clinical psychologist at Boston University. Both the article and its corresponding podcast were featured in this month's *Scientific American* and are available via the link above.

Whatever the cause of anxiety or stress in our adolescent students—be it diving back into studies after a break or responding to a stressful situation—our MS faculty and staff are committed to finding and providing helpful resources like the article above that empower our entire community to help our kids.

It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Iceland Trip for Grades 6-8

Still interested in the Iceland trip for sixth through eighth graders, but missed the deadline? We have a great group going! Please contact [Sarah Powell](#) for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 27-Friday, December 1

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering*: Place toys under the Christmas tree in the People Place
-

Monday, November 27

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Tuesday, November 28

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Eighth-Grade Bible Study*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway

Wednesday, November 29

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Grades 4-8 ERB Parent Meeting: 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

Thursday, November 30

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
- *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*

Friday, December 1

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*
- *NJHS Meeting: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
- *WEB Leadership Training: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*

Church

What's Happening at the Church This Winter?

St. Francis Episcopal Church's winter and Christmas event schedule is now online. [Click here for the St. Francis winter and Christmas timeline.](#)

Children's Christmas Party Is Saturday

Please mark your calendars to join us at the St. Francis Church Children's Christmas Party—Gingerbread Delight! We will have treats, games, crafts, fun activities, a face painter, a balloon artist, photos with Santa, and SNOW!!!

Saturday, December 2
9:00-11:00 a.m.
Wheatcroft Parish Hall

[RSVP for this FREE event via this link.](#)

If you would like to sign up to volunteer at a booth or to donate food or refreshments, please contact [Lisa Tidwell](#) or [click here](#) to see a list of volunteer opportunities.

Christmas Eve Nativity Pageants

On **Christmas Eve, December 24**, toddlers through fifth graders are invited to participate in our Christmas Eve Nativity Pageants! We will hold two pageants, one at the **2:00 p.m.** service and one at the **5:00 p.m.** service.

Please fill out the [online registration form](#), and be sure to indicate which service your family will attend.

The church will provide costumes, which will be fitted at the rehearsals.

Spring First Communion

First Communion classes begin **Sunday, January 14**. This is an eight-week course designed to prepare second-grade students to receive the Holy Eucharist. If you would like to sign up or request further information, please e-mail [Nichole Hilgert](#).

SFSA Basketball Registration Ends Friday

We want to thank all of the St. Francis Sports Association volunteers and athletes for an amazing 2017 soccer season!

Basketball will begin play on January 13, 2018. Registration is currently under way, but will close this **Friday, December 1**. If you would like to register your child, please [visit the registration website here](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to [e-mail us](#).