

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of December 10

All School

Join Us! Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board

Mark your calendars! Please join us on **Tuesday, December 12, at 8:00 a.m.** for Coffee & Conversation with the Head of School and members of our Board of Trustees.

This is a chance for you to hear directly from Steve and our Executive Committee Board members, as well as to ask questions.

We'll be meeting in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus

We hope to see you there!



Wolf Watch Is Going on Holiday!

Please be aware that this week's *Wolf Watch* will be the last published until December 31. We hope you enjoy the holidays with your families!

Terrific Tips From Tom and Tim: Stay Safe During Holiday Shopping

Stay safe during your holiday shopping trips with these tips from St. Francis's

Director of Security Tom Chiappetta and Assistant Director of Security Tim Dalton:

1. Try not to go shopping alone.
2. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.
3. When possible, while walking to and from your vehicle in a parking lot, walk down the center of the vehicle aisle away from parked vehicles.
4. Take all personal items out of your vehicle prior to leaving your house.
5. Limit the amount of cash you carry with you while shopping.
6. Do not leave cash or other valuables in your vehicle while shopping.
7. Try to park near doors of businesses or near cameras in parking lots.
8. Try to park in well-lit areas when possible.
9. Women, wear your purse strap across your body while walking to and from your vehicle.
10. Men, keep your wallet, cash, and keys in your front pockets.
11. When finished shopping, take your purchases directly home and put them in the house. Avoid additional stops on the way home.
12. Do not leave items visible inside your vehicle while shopping. If possible, store items in the trunk while shopping.
13. If you feel you are being followed, don't go home! Call 911, notify them of the situation, and follow the dispatcher's instructions.
14. If you stop by your bank, be especially aware of other people and vehicles while walking to and from your car.

Booster Club Is Selling Stocking Stuffers This Friday

This Friday, the Athletics Booster Club will be selling stocking stuffers—SFE PopSockets, Howling Wolf Christmas ornaments, Nike footballs, and so much more! Visit us in the Concessions Stand from 7:45-9:45 a.m,

Questions? E-mail [Eloise Taussig](#) or [Shelley Iglesias](#).

PA Pointers

PA PARENT EDUCATION WINTER EVENT IS JANUARY 24

The birds and the bees ... oh help me, please!!

Presented by Megan Michelson of The Birds & The Bees, this program promises to empower parents and give you the tools you need to have age-appropriate conversations with your children about sex.

The breakfast will be held on **Wednesday, January 24, at 8:30 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall** on the Main Campus. Reservation information to come.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2018-19 PA BOARD NOW OPEN

It's really hard to believe, but it's time to start thinking about the 2018-19 Parents Association Executive Officers!

- If you are interested or know anyone who is interested in serving the St. Francis community on the Parents Association Executive Board, please contact Past-President [Kelly Cabbage](#).
- Using the names you submit, the Nominating Committee will assemble the slate of officers, which will be voted on by the General Board.
- The deadline to submit names is **Friday, January 5**.

Save the Date: Woolrich Luncheon Is February 8

Please mark your calendars for this year's Woolrich Luncheon, where we will be honoring our 2016-17 award recipients. (2017-18 recipients will be announced in March.)

We hope you can join us to hear about these educators' summertime adventures—which were made possible by the Woolrich Fund—and how these unique opportunities are helping to bring classroom learning to life!

Invitations to come in early January.

Primary School

From the Division Head

I love Christmas! When my children were young, I spent a lot of time making my home beautiful and the season a bright memory for my family—the perfect tree, beautiful ornaments, great food, gingerbread houses for the children to decorate, lights everywhere, and a basket full of children's Christmas books.

My fantasy was that every night during Advent, I would read one of these favorites with my children. I imagined the children sitting with rapt attention, eager to hear these new stories.

I had spent years as a teacher building my library, and each book was special to me. It was a great collection: *The Night Before Christmas*, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, *The Jolly Christmas Postman*, *The Gift of the Magi*, *The Polar Express*, *Madeline's Christmas*, *The Nutcracker*, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*, *The Christmas Story*, *The Cajun Night Before Christmas* (yes, it's a real book!), *Clifford's Christmas* ... and so on.

You get the idea. It was a *really* big basket of books!

And, it was really all just a fantasy.

What happened was that my daughter, who really did love books, decided that she didn't really care that the calendar said it was time for reading Christmas books. Her favorite book (for months) this particularly memorable year was *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food*.

I would love to say that this was quality children's literature ... it wasn't. What I remember, though, from reading it a million times, was that Papa Bear was indulging in Choco Chums and Sweetsie Cola, and getting too big around the middle. Too much junk food was adding up for Papa Bear's waistline. The book was tattered and worn from the one million bedtimes that it was read.

My son passed altogether on the basket and insisted on hearing "a pig story" (*The Three Little Pigs*)—told to him, not read—every night for two years. He was listening each night to hear a new twist on the story.

What I learned is that my children were their own people. They operated on their own timeline, and my interests were not their interests.

That is still true today. While we enjoy the holidays together, and we do have some common favorites at Christmas, I realized that I did not need to try so hard to make the season memorable for them. What they loved about our holidays was being together—at home. That did not have to include my big basket of Christmas books. *The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Junk Food* and "a pig story" told over and over is what made them happy.

I hope you find time during our upcoming holidays to enjoy time with one another as a family. And remember, it does not have to be perfect!

Christmas blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Reminder: Please Send Winter Clothing

It's that time of year when our weather can change in a matter of minutes! Please be mindful of this and remember to send your child with appropriate outerwear—coats, gloves, rain boots, etc. Weather permitting, our students will go outside for Motor and recess.

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Primary School Clinic Notes

Asthma and Allergies

If your child has been prescribed an inhaler or EpiPen and you have not submitted an action plan and medical forms (regardless of how seldom you believe your child would need it), please contact the Primary School Clinic. In the event that your child becomes ill while at school, we need the tools and documents to be able to help your child.

Nuts

Please do not send any food items containing nuts to school. This includes peanut butter crackers, Nutella, and hummus, which is almost always made with tahini or tree nuts, and/or drizzled with sesame oil. (It's not uncommon for a person with nut allergies to also have a sensitivity to sesame seeds.)

Birthdays = Annual Exams

Birthdays mean annual exams! This is the most convenient time for you to get your child's medical exam form updated. Simply print one out from Magnus, have your doctor complete and sign it, and upload it into your Magnus account.

Two notes: 1) Keep the hard copy for yourself on file, and 2) please remember that the clinics are ***paperless***. Please do not send medical documents to school or drop them off; they must be scanned and uploaded into Magnus. If you do not have access to a scanner, please consider downloading the app

“Tiny Scan.” The quality via this app is higher than a photo taken with your cell phone. We do not recommend having your doctor’s office fax the documents, as the quality of the transmitted image is often very low.

Hearing and Vision

The parents and teachers of students who were referred to have additional hearing and vision testing have been contacted. If you didn’t hear from me, your child did not receive a referral. Remember that only those students who turned 4 years old by September 1 of this year were screened.

It is a true honor caring for your children. I pray that all our families have a safe, happy, and healthy Christmas season!

Michelle Ly
Primary School Clinic Manager

Explore and Extend: Some Space Still Available

Registration for Explore and Extend continues through My BackPack. (To register, select Program Registration.)

There are still spaces available for Primary School students in the following classes:

- Mondays, 2:30-3:15 p.m.—Mini Stars Soccer
- Tuesdays, 2:30-3:15 p.m.—Tae Kwon Do
- Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m.—Primary I Early Ballet
- Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.—Primary II Ballet & Combination Dance
- Thursdays, 2:30-3:15 p.m.—Yoga with Señora
- Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m.—Critical Thinking
- Thursdays, 2:30-3:15 p.m.—Tae Kwon Do

Classes begin the week of January 8.

(Please note: Registration for Summer on the Point 2018 opens on February 5.)

Mark Your Calendar

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 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
-

Monday, December 18-Tuesday, January 2

- *Christmas Holidays:* No school; classes resume Wednesday, January 3

Lower School

From the Division Head

Our **Christmas Concerts** were more impressive than ever! The children felt so proud of their accomplishments and loved performing for all of our guests.

We are so blessed to have Mrs. Jurick teaching and directing our children. Students learn many valuable lifelong lessons when they're preparing for a performance as part of a group and working toward the success of the group.

We all could not be prouder of how well your children worked together in order to demonstrate their musical and performing gifts! And ... could they have looked more precious?!

As you recall, we had **People for Others Day** in November, during which the students participated in making gifts for the students of St. Thomas' Episcopal School. The fourth-grade Cares Council delivered the goodies to the school this past Thursday morning. What a wonderful way to teach our children to help others in need.

This week will be a normal week full of learning opportunities. On Friday, we will celebrate the real meaning of Christmas with **Lessons and Carols**. Please remember, this is a dress uniform day. After this very special service, we will pull out our slippers and robes and have **Polar Express Day!** Each grade level has planned activities to continue celebrating the holiday season.

I hope you and your family have a blessed Christmas season!

Warmly,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Explore and Extend: Some Spaces Still Available

Registration for Explore and Extend continues through My BackPack. (To register, select Program Registration.)

There are still spaces available for Lower School students in the following classes:

- Mondays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.—Woodworking Level II
- Tuesdays, 3:45-4:30 p.m.—Tae Kwon Do
- Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.—Critical Thinking Engineering
- Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m.—BOOST Math Number Sense
- Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.—Chess
- Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.—Cooking
- Thursdays, 3:45-4:30 p.m.—Tae Kwon Do
- Thursdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m.—BOOST Math
- Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.—Wolf Pack Wrestling
- Fridays, 3:30-4:30 p.m./4:30-5:30 p.m.—Advanced Woodworking

- Fridays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.—Archery

Registration is also available for School of Music. Register through My Backpack by selecting Program Registration.

Please note: Registration for Summer on the Point 2018 opens on February 5.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 11

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between December 10 and the end of the month will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Thursday, December 14

- *Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Christmas Sing-Along:* 9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center; students only
-

Friday, December 15

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Lessons and Carols:* 9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center; students only
 - *Polar Express Day:* Celebrations in classrooms throughout the day; **students may bring robes and slippers in their backpacks;** students only
-

Monday, December 18-Tuesday, January 2

- *Christmas Holidays:* No school; classes resume Wednesday, January 3

Middle School

From the Division Head

This week, we are wrapping up the second quarter and first semester.

We are fortunate to enjoy Lessons and Carols on Friday, and I'm thankful for the members of Chapel Council and their work with Father Wismer and Mrs. Heinemann to make that wonderful event happen.

We end the week by ringing in the holiday spirit with the Christmas Sing-Along, and I look forward to a joyful end to 2017.

Thank you all for a wonderful first semester, and I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and happy holidays!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Explore and Extend: Some Classes Still Available

Registration for Explore and Extend enrichment classes as well as for the School of Music continues through My BackPack. (To access the registration form, select Program Registration.)

There are still spaces available for Middle School students in the following classes:

- Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.—Lego Robotics with Steve Johnson. Build and test robots to solve league challenges. Grades 5-8. Begins after wrestling season ends in February.
- Thursdays, 3:45-4:45 p.m.—Wolf Pack Wrestling. Grades 3-8. Begins after wrestling season ends in February.
- School of Music lessons in piano, percussion, violin, viola, voice, cello, guitar, clarinet, and—starting in January—upright bass.
- NEW! December Volleyball Skills Clinic with Coach McMillian for girls in grades 5-7. This clinic will be held December 18-21 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the gym on the Main Campus. Cost is \$100 and includes a volleyball.

Please note: Registration for Summer on the Point 2018 opens on February 5. We will have lots of exciting new offerings for Middle Schoolers in sports, arts, academics, and technology this year! Stay tuned for more information.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 11

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

Tuesday, December 12

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Eighth-Grade Bible Study: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Lessons and Carols Rehearsal: 10:00-11:15 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
-

Wednesday, December 13

- *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*
-

Thursday, December 14

- *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*
 - *Lessons and Carols Rehearsal: 9:15-10:00 a.m in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
-

Friday, December 15

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day: Full day of school*
- *NJHS Meeting: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*

- *Lessons and Carols*: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
 - *Christmas Sing-Along*: 3:00-3:45 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
-

Monday, December 18-Tuesday, January 2

- *Christmas Holiday*: No school; classes resume Wednesday, January 3
-

Wednesday, January 3

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
- *Q2 Report Cards Go Online at Noon*
- *Q3 Grading Period Begins*
- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
- *Epiphany Chapel/Eucharist*: 11:05-11:55 a.m.

Church

Holy Baptism Is January 7

On Sunday, January 7, we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord, and **we will offer the sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 11:00 a.m. service.**

If you would like more information about baptism, please contact Mairim in the church office at 713.782.1270.

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.](#)

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](#).