

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of November 13

All School

Join Us Wednesday to Celebrate Our 65th Anniversary!

In honor of St. Francis's 65th anniversary, we're combining Fall Book Fair with [Grandparents/Grandfriends Days](#) this year—and celebrating with cake, ice cream, books, and fabulous activities this **Wednesday, November 15, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. on the Main Campus.**

Fall Book Fair and Grandparents/Grandfriends Days will take place:

Wednesday, November 15

Thursday, November 16

Friday, November 17

Students will also visit the Fall Book Fair with their classes.

Check student or teacher websites for all the exciting details!

Explore the Upper School at an Open House

Curious about our Upper School? Come to an Open House—we'd love to have you! [Please RSVP here.](#)

St. Francis Fund: Make Your Gift by December 1 for a Chance to Win!

Each year, St. Francis Episcopal School asks each family to thoughtfully consider a gift to the St. Francis Fund. As this year's chairs, we are proud to continue this tradition and to support SFES.

The St. Francis Fund supports the school's general operating fund, which is crucial to providing resources for ongoing educational initiatives, competitive faculty salaries and benefits, and vital operating budget items.

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

We ask that everyone join us by making a gift from the heart.

You may give online [HERE](#).

Thank you for supporting our amazing school!

Maureen and Paul Perea
2017-18 St. Francis Fund Chairs

Order Poinsettias? Pick Them Up November 30

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 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. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Is November 27-December 1

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 **the week after Thanksgiving—from Monday, 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 on Friday, December 1!

Primary School

From the Division Head

During our Parent Information Night programs in September, I talked about the importance of encouraging children to ask questions.

I also asked you, “What is your hope for your child this year”? Your answers are as different as your children! **I recently displayed them in the lobby of the Primary School administrative building.** (If you haven’t seen them, stop by to see what everyone had to say!)

Also that night, I recommended the book *A More Beautiful Question* by Warren Berger. If you’re interested in the book’s topic, I hope you’ll join us before Chapel on **Wednesday, January 10, at 8:15 a.m. in the Primary School Library** on the South Campus.

I’ll be hosting a book talk where we’ll discuss ways you can encourage questioning, foster curiosity, and help your child develop problem-solving skills. We’ve set the date several weeks out to give you time to read the book, or at least look over it, before our talk. (Don’t worry, though—there won’t be a test!)

At the book study, I will also suggest a way you can journal with your children using thought-provoking questions that are perfect for family dinner conversations. This will help you kick off the new year with what I hope will become a family tradition for you.

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](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 13

- *Primary School Picture Retake Day*
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Tuesday, November 14

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Thanksgiving Feast: T/Th Pre-Primary and Primary II; students only*
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Wednesday, November 15

- *Chapel: 9:15 a.m.; Primary I and Primary II students wear uniforms; **please note change in time on this date only***
 - *Thanksgiving Feast: MWF Pre-Primary and Primary I; students only*
 - *Primary School Book Fair: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Motor Room*
 - *St. Francis's 65th Anniversary Celebration: 4:30-7:00 p.m. on the Main Campus*
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Thursday, November 16

- *Primary School Book Fair: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Motor Room*
- *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days: T/Th Pre-Primary and Primary II; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; click [here](#) for invitation and schedule*
- *Primary II Students Wear Dress Uniforms Today*

Friday, November 17

- *Primary School Book Fair:* 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Motor Room
- *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days:* MWF Pre-Primary and Primary I; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; click [here](#) for invitation and schedule
- *Friday Uniform Day:* House T-shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms today

Monday, November 20-Friday, November 24

- *Student Holiday:* No school

Lower School

From the Division Head

Our first **People for Others Day** was a huge success! Students enjoyed spending time helping others in the community, especially our friends at St. Thomas Episcopal School, who were greatly affected by the hurricane.

We so appreciate everyone's participation in the book drive. **Our third graders sorted and packed over 4,000 books for Books Between Kids!** A special thank-you to the parent volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this special day happen.

This week:

- **We look forward to hosting grandparents and grandfriends on Wednesday, November 15.** (Click [here](#) to view the Grandparents/Grandfriends Days invitation and schedule.) This is such a wonderful time for your children to share their learning experiences and school community with these special people in their lives.
- **Please join us for your child's Fall Book Fair time on Friday, November 17.** Students love to shop for books, and this promotes our goal of developing lifelong readers and learners.
- **St. Francis's 65th Anniversary Celebration will be held on the Main Campus this Wednesday, November 15, from 4:30-7:00 p.m.** I hope

you'll join us to shop for books, enjoy some student entertainment, and celebrate with special treats!

For our Parent Connection this week, the topic is **resilience**. Part of being able to exercise a growth mindset is the ability to bounce back when things do not go as planned or go our way. Research continues to show us that developing competencies such as resilience, perseverance, and grit contributes to a person's happiness and success in life.

We promote resilience in the classroom on a daily basis. STEAM experiments and trials do not always turn out as expected; feedback from peers and teachers may involve going back and revising in writing workshop; a friend might disappoint us; or the math strategy used might not prove successful, resulting in a need to try again. The list goes on and on.

The ability to take risks, reflect, and deal with various outcomes is a skill we want our students to develop. You can help your child learn this skill at home by modeling appropriate thoughts and emotions when you experience a disappointment. As we know, life presents challenges—and the more we can prepare our students for real-life situations, the more well-adjusted they will be.

Click [here](#) to learn more about resilience and how to help your children develop this critical social-emotional competency.

Looking forward to an exciting week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 13

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a November 12-25 birthday will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
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Wednesday, November 15

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days for Lower School:* Click [here](#) to view the invitation and schedule. Chapel times are staggered: grades K/4 at 8:40 a.m.; grades 1/3 at 10:40 a.m.; and grade 2 at 12:40 p.m.
 - *Fall Book Fair:* Crum Library
 - *St. Francis's 65th Anniversary Celebration: 4:30-7:00 p.m. on the Main Campus*
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Thursday, November 16

- *Fall Book Fair:* Crum Library
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Friday, November 17

- *Fall Book Fair:* Crum Library
-

Monday, November 20-Friday, November 24

- *Student Holiday:* No school
-

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*
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Tuesday, November 28

- *Grade 3 ERB Parent Meeting:* 8:15 a.m. in the Library

Wednesday, November 29

- *Regular Uniform Day*
- *Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*
- *Grades 4-8 ERB Parent Meeting: 815 a.m. in the HBR*

Middle School

From the Division Head

As Father Wismer discussed this past week in Chapel, our virtue of the month is gratitude.

For what are you grateful?

It's an interesting question to ponder, and the more often we do it, the more our attitude of gratitude will pervade our campus, community, and world. I'm thankful for a committed, passionate faculty and staff; a curious, creative, intelligent, kind student body; and a loving, nurturing, supportive St. Francis community.

- **This week, we welcome our wonderful grandparents to campus for Grandparents/Grandfriends Days as well as for Fall Book Fair.** Thanks to Anne Chisholm and Staci Thompson for ensuring that all our students' grandparents and special friends have a meaningful experience, as well as to Melanie Wallace and our library staff for hosting the Fall Book Fair.
- Also this week, we **celebrate St. Francis's 65th anniversary on Wednesday, November 15, from 4:30-7:00 p.m.** I hope you'll join us on the Main Campus for books, student entertainment, and birthday treats!
- As our faculty delves deeper into Mind, Brain, and Education Science, we continue to explore helpful research to inform our teaching. [This article](#) from *Smithsonian Magazine* discusses **impulsivity and decision-making in the teenage brain**, and I think we can all learn from it!
- **St. Francis is closed the week of November 20 for the Thanksgiving holiday.** Our return on November 27 will begin the second semester homestretch.

Until we return, have a happy Thanksgiving, and enjoy your time with family and friends!

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Washington, DC, Trip: Deposit Due November 16

If your fifth-grade student will be participating in the Washington, DC, trip, please note that the deadline for deposits is this **Thursday, November 16**. Deposits should be submitted to [Molly Edington](#).

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 13

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

Tuesday, November 14

- *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*
- *Seventh-Grade Medieval Feast Parent Meeting: 8:00-9:30 a.m. in the Crum Library*
- *Upper School Open House: 7:00 p.m. at the South Campus*

Wednesday, November 15

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
- *Fall Book Fair: Lower School Day; Crum Library*
- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *St. Francis's 65th Anniversary Celebration: 4:30-7:00 p.m. on the Main Campus*
- *Q2 Progress Reports Available Online: 5:00 p.m.*

Thursday, November 16

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
- *Fall Book Fair: Middle School Day; Crum Library*
- *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days for Middle School: Click [here](#) to view the invitation and schedule*
- *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*
- *Deposits for Washington, DC, Trip Due to Molly Edington*
- *Chapel for Grades 5 and 7: 8:40-9:10 a.m.*
- *Chapel for Grades 6 and 8: 10:40-11:10 a.m.*

Friday, November 17

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*
- *ERB Scores Mailed to Parents*
- *Deadline to Sign Up for Spring Electives*
- *Fall Book Fair: Crum Library*
- *NJHS Meeting: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*

Monday, November 20-Friday, November 24

- *Student Holiday: No school*

Church

Join Us at the Children's Christmas Party

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](#).