

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of November 6

### All School

#### **Have You Taken the Survey?**

If you haven't taken the survey included in October's Hear From the Head of School e-mail, please make sure to share your thoughts before the survey closes! Take just a few moments and check in with us [here](#).

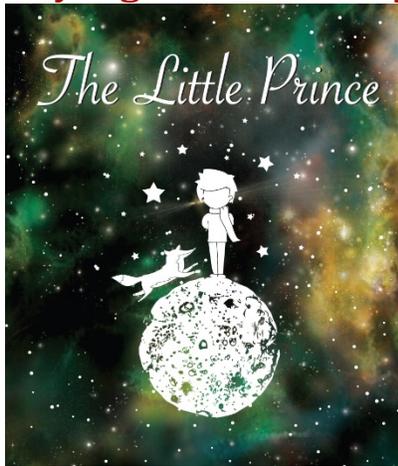
#### **Be a Part of People For Others Day**

This **Friday, November 10**, Lower School students will be learning about and participating in service activities during People for Others Day. The event will benefit St. Thomas Episcopal School, Books Between Kids, Ronald McDonald House, and local animal shelters such as the Houston SPCA and Friends for Life.

- **We need parent volunteers** for grade-specific activities, which will be held in the classrooms. Please sign up via [MySchoolAnywhere.com](http://MySchoolAnywhere.com). Questions may be directed to [PA-PeopleForOthers@StFrancisHouston.org](mailto:PA-PeopleForOthers@StFrancisHouston.org).
- **Students in EVERY grade will be collecting used books for the Books Between Kids Used Book Drive.** Please bring in used books between **Monday, October 30–Friday, November 10** to help local communities rebuild their lost libraries. Used book guidelines can be found [here](#). Third graders will be sorting, prepping, and boxing the collected used books for delivery to Books Between Kids.
- **Students in kindergarten through grade 2 will be crafting pet toys for local animalshelters.**

- SFE students will also be creating spirit banners and posters and composing encouraging messages to cheer and encourage the students at St. Thomas Episcopal, whose lower and middle school buildings were ruined during Hurricane Harvey and who are currently in temporary classrooms.
- **Our fourth graders will be making blankets for Ronald McDonald House and thoughtful gifts for students at St. Thomas Episcopal.**

### Buy Eighth-Grade Play Tickets Today



***The Little Prince*** may have returned to his own tiny planet to tend his Rose and look after his Sheep, but for a brief, enchanted moment he returns to us and comes alive on stage in the eighth-grade drama and theatre tech's production of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's children's classic.

This play tells the story of a world-weary and disenchanting Aviator whose sputtering plane strands him in the Sahara Desert. There, he meets a mysterious, regal "little man" who tells the Aviator about his adventures through the galaxy. From each adventure, the prince gains a unique insight which he shares with the Aviator: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly."

- Tickets are available online—[click here to purchase!](#)
- Showtimes are this **Friday, November 10**, and **Saturday, November 11**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center.
- This production is suitable for all ages—whether the theatregoer is young or young at heart!
- Students **MUST** be accompanied by a parent chaperone.

## **This Friday: Wolf Wear Sale and Uniform Resale**

- The Athletics Booster Club will be selling Wolf Wear during People for Others Day this **Friday, November 10**. The sale will take place in the **Gay Foyer** from **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Stock up on T-shirts, sweatshirts, yard signs, and more!
- Don't miss the Uniform Resale Boutique's Fall Sale on **Friday, November 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Gay Foyer**. To donate gently used items, please leave them at the front desk with Rose Ann Gregory. With questions, please contact Angela Bookmyer, Jill Smith, or Kristin Valicek at [pa-uniform@stfrancishouston.org](mailto:pa-uniform@stfrancishouston.org).

## **Book Fair Is November 15-17**

In honor of St. Francis's 65th birthday, we're combining Fall Book Fair with [Grandparents/Grandfriends Days](#) this year—and celebrating with cake, ice cream, books, and fabulous activities on **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!

## **Next Week: Grandparents/Grandfriends Days**

On **November 15, 16, and 17**, we will welcome our grandparents and grandfriends on both campuses to enjoy Chapel, classroom visits, and—for the first time at this event—a visit to the Fall Book Fair!

- We will also be implementing a new, grade level-specific schedule for our grandparents and grandfriends. For detailed information, please [view the invitation](#) that has been mailed out to all grandparents.

- This will be the “official” Grandparents/Grandfriends Days event for this school year, and there will not be another event in February as there has been in years past.
- If you have not updated your child’s grandparent information or if you have any questions regarding Grandparents/Grandfriends Days, please contact [Anne Chisholm](#).

## **Primary School**

### **This Tuesday: Step-Up to Lower School**

We hope you will join us for the ***Step-Up to Lower School Program*** this **Tuesday, November 7, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room on our Main Campus.**

- Head of Lower School Carol Christ and other members of the Lower School team will present the program, which introduces current Primary School parents to all of the division’s innovative and cutting-edge teaching methods.
- [Click here to RSVP today!](#)

### **From the Division Head**

When I have an hour that doesn’t require active listening—for example, when I’m folding clothes or traveling—I love to listen to the National Public Radio show *This American Life*.

Each week, the show features a variety of themes that range in scope from timely political topics, health care, and economics to education and personal interest stories.

One of my favorite episodes aired several years ago. Titled “The Book that Changed Your Life,” it explores the stories of **people who were deeply touched and inspired by a book they read**. In the show, writer Meghan Daum visits De Smet, South Dakota, the setting for many of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little House on the Prairie* books. The town has a population of just 1,200 people, all of whose lives have been guided by Ingalls Wilder’s books and who therefore live very simple, family-centered lives, much like those in the *Little House* books.

Two of the “adult” books that were profound for me included *Grapes of Wrath* and *Watership Down*, but I didn’t really fall in love with books until after I began teaching and had children of my own.

I love the words, illustrations, and feel of quality children’s literature, and the books I’ve cherished most are those that I can talk about with my children. Lines and phrases from these books have become part of our family culture.

- The sight of a room full of lounging family members, full from a holiday meal, might prompt someone to say, “This is like *The Napping House*.” Someone else would likely respond, “Where everyone is sleeping.”
- When someone is asked if he or she would like a second helping of spaghetti, it would not be odd to hear, “*More Spaghetti, I Say*.”
- My adult daughter is disappointed when her friends don’t understand a reference to a popular children’s book. She feels like they have missed an important piece of childhood.
- *Goodnight Moon*, *Corduroy*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, *Doctor Desoto*, *The Jolly Postman*, and *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* are just a few of our family favorites.

Rhyming words and playful language in quality literature help children acquire the skills necessary for learning to read. When you discuss what happened at the beginning, middle, and end of a story, and ask your children to retell the story, you help them build comprehension and an understanding of sequencing.

**Reading with your children is the best way to help them develop a rich vocabulary.**

Our students have the advantage of access to a multitude of books in well-stocked classroom collections and our Primary School library. In addition, if you haven’t visited a public library lately, I hope you will introduce your children to the resources available in our city.

Are there books that have changed your life? Make sure you share these with your children.

Reading to and with children of all ages isn’t just beneficial for them academically—it’s also a way to ensure that you are bonded with them for a lifetime.

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**

### **Sunday, November 5**

- *Daylight Saving Time Ends:* Set your clocks back one hour!
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### **Tuesday, November 7**

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II sings in Chapel (**Prasifka, Staller, Brooks—these students wear uniforms today!**)
  - *Step-Up to Lower School for Primary School Parents:* 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus
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### **Wednesday, November 8**

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II sings in Chapel (**Wiener, Blades**)
  - *Primary I and Primary II Students Wear Uniforms Today*
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### **Thursday, November 9**

- *Red, White, and Blue Day:* T/Th Pre-Primary; students only
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### **Friday, November 10**

- *Red, White, and Blue Day:* MWF Pre-Primary, Primary I, and Primary II; students only
  - *Friday Uniform Day:* Students wear House T-shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms today
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### **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**

- *Primary School Book Fair:* 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Motor Room
  - *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
  - *Primary I and Primary II Students Wear Uniforms Today*
  - *Thanksgiving Feast:* MWF Pre-Primary and Primary I; students only
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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.
  - *Primary II Students Wear Dress Uniforms Today*
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### **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.
  - *Friday Uniform Day*: House T-shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms today
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## **Monday, November 20-Friday, November 24**

- *Student Holiday*: No school

### **Lower School**

#### **This Tuesday: Step-Up to Middle School**

We hope you will join us for the **Step-Up to Middle School program on Tuesday, November 7, beginning promptly at 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room.**

- Our Step-Up to Middle School program introduces current Lower School parents to the teaching methods, philosophies, and curricular initiatives of the St. Francis Middle School.
- Head of Middle School Connor Cook, EdD, and Middle School faculty will speak about 21st century skills and project-based learning.
- [Click here to RSVP today!](#)

### **From the Division Head**

Happy November!

Please remember our book drive supporting *Books Between Kids*. We have collected so many books, but many more are needed. Clean off those shelves and dig into your closets. Your children feel so proud to bring in the books and add them to their class's tally sheet!

A great way to learn more about our fabulous Middle School is to attend the **Step-Up to Middle School meeting this Tuesday, November 7, at 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room.** You will hear from the administration and from teachers regarding the curriculum and student life. Parents from any grade level are welcome.

In last week's Parent Connection, Mrs. McColloch introduced us to growth mindset and some ways parents can help their child develop a growth mindset. This week, I want to focus on important elements of growth mindset—perseverance and grit.

*Perseverance* is the ability to keep trying even when facing challenges and adversity. Carol Dweck, a Stanford psychology professor and renowned expert on the topic of growth mindset, talks about how it is more important to praise the *processes* a learner uses, such as perseverance, than the child's intelligence or talents. She believes this practice will create better learners who are not afraid of taking on new challenges, which is what we desire for our students.

Angela Lee Duckworth, who studies concepts such as *grit* at the University of Pennsylvania, talks about grit being perseverance that lasts for an extended amount of time because it is combined with *passion*. She compares grit to running a marathon instead of a sprint. Angela's work has taken her into classrooms, military training facilities, and the National Spelling Bee, among other places, to study what makes gritty individuals more successful. She says growth mindset and perseverance are key factors for their success.

In the Lower School, I see our students' growth mindset expanding every day. Our teachers work with them in the classroom when they are setting goals and encourage them to try their best and not give up when they are approaching challenges.

It is important that our students hear these things at home, too. To help spark this dialogue, I have included some resources below that will help explain the ideas of perseverance and grit:

- [Perseverance Key to Children's Intellectual Growth](#)
- [TED Talk about grit](#)

Have a blessed week!

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Lower School

**Mark Your Calendar**

## **Sunday, November 5**

- *Daylight Saving Time Ends:* Set your clocks back one hour!
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## **Monday, November 6**

- *Dress Uniform Day*
  - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a November 5-11 birthday will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
  - *Yearbook Picture Makeup Day:* Wheatcroft Parish Hall
  - *Third-Grade ERB Testing:* Begins after Chapel
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## **Tuesday, November 7**

- *Regular Uniform Day*
  - *Third-Grade ERB Testing:* Begins at 8:00 a.m.
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## **Wednesday, November 8**

- *Regular Uniform Day*
  - *PSIA Testing:* 8:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room, for those students who turned in the signed form from their parents
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## **Thursday, November 9**

- *Regular Uniform Day*
  - *Third-Grade ERB Testing:* Begins at 8:00 a.m.
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## **Friday, November 10**

- *Friday Uniform Day:* House T-shirt with jeans or uniform bottoms today

- *People for Others Day*: Students participate in creative activities designed to help a local school impacted by Hurricane Harvey and also to bless several charities
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### **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**

- *Regular Uniform Day*
  - *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days*: Please refer to the All School portion of *Wolf Watch* for details. 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.
  - *St. Francis Book Fair*
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### **Thursday, November 16**

- *St. Francis Book Fair*
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### **Friday, November 17**

- *St. Francis Book Fair*
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### **Monday, November 20-Friday, November 24**

- *Student Holiday*: No school

### **Middle School**

## **St. Francis Welcomes Dominique Canty as Head MS Girls' Basketball Coach**

We are pleased to announce the hiring of longtime Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) star Dominique Canty to be St. Francis's head Middle School girls' basketball coach.

- Coach Canty played in the WNBA for fourteen seasons—four seasons with the Detroit Shock, four with the Houston Comets, five with the Chicago Sky, and her final season with the Washington Mystics.
- During her stellar professional basketball career, she played in 380 games, averaging 7.3 points and 2.5 assists per game.
- She ranked in the top ten in games played during three WNBA seasons, and she had two seasons of top ten rankings in assists per game and assist percentage.
- As a basketball player at Whitney M. Young Magnet High School in Chicago, she was one of forty players to be named to the annual *Parade* All-America High School Girls Basketball Team, and she received that honor for three consecutive years. She averaged twenty points, ten rebounds, and six steals per game her senior year in high school.
- Coach Canty played guard-forward during her collegiate basketball career at the University of Alabama and throughout her WNBA career. Coach Canty is still one of the most decorated players in Crimson Tide basketball history, and she is the University of Alabama's all-time leading scorer—male or female—with 2,294 points. In her senior year at Alabama, she was named First-Team All-American by the Associated Press and The Sporting News. She finished her collegiate career as a two-time All-American and four-time All-SEC selection, and averaged 18.1 points, 7.2 rebounds, and 3.6 assists during her four seasons at the university.

Please join us in welcoming Coach Dominique Canty to the St. Francis Episcopal coaching ranks. She is a great addition to the Wolves coaching staff!

### **From the Division Head**

Hello, Middle School. I hope this finds you all well today.

Thank you all for kicking off Quarter 2 with an orange wave of support for our hometown Houston Astros. Your spirit for our H-Town baseball team has created a tangible, perpetually positive aura around our school, and I sincerely

believe it helped bring the 'Stros and our city a championship, along with an uplifting change from the distress of the past couple of months.

Second quarter is in full swing, so please keep your student connecting with their teacher regularly in order to build that successful path of learning.

- On Monday, our hardworking National Junior Honor Society, led by Dr. Carol Bedard and Doña Jessica MacMurtrie, will induct its newest members in a beautiful ceremony.
- All week, as part of our Veteran's Day celebration, we will honor veterans of military service during our chapels and advisories, and even during different classes.
- You might recall that our October CHOICES assembly focused on bullying. It's a topic never far from our minds, as the physical and emotional well-being of our students is of the utmost importance. Rest assured that our faculty and staff are focused on fostering good relationships among our students, and we continue to research best practices with bullying prevention. [This article](#) discusses the salient topic, which impacts schools across the world every year. The survey data within the article sheds light on many topics that fall under the umbrella of bullying.
- Lastly, this is a friendly reminder that while we try to make picking up your children during school hours an easy process, our utmost priority is to ensure their safety and security. Students can only be signed out by an adult authorized to do so in that student's record. If they are leaving with someone other than an authorized adult, including riding home with another St. Francis family, please [e-mail Cathleen](#) in the Middle School Office.

Today, please remember to set your clocks back an hour for Daylight Saving Time.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD  
Head of Middle School

**Grade 5: Washington, DC, Trip Meeting**

For fifth graders interested in attending the Washington, DC, trip, the parent information meeting is **Thursday, November 9, at 9:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room.**

### **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 6**

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
  - *Individual Picture Makeup Day: 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
  - *NJHS Induction Ceremony and Reception: 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Chapel and the Gay Foyer*
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#### **Tuesday, November 7**

- *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*
  - *Fall Play Dress Rehearsal: Eighth graders in cast and crew; 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
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#### **Wednesday, November 8**

- *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*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

- *Fall Play After-School Rehearsal*: Eighth graders in cast and crew; 2:30-5:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
  - *Upper School Open House*: 7:00 p.m. on the South Campus
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### **Thursday, November 9**

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
  - *Eighth-Grade High School Admissions Forms Due to Ms. Crummel*
  - *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
  - *Washington, DC, Trip Meeting*: Parents only; 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room
  - *Lessons and Carols Rehearsal*: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
  - *Middle School Council Meetings*: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms
  - *Fall Play After-School Rehearsal*: Eighth graders in cast and crew; 2:30-5:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
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### **Friday, November 10**

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*
  - *Veteran's Day Observed During Advisory*
  - *Wolf Wear and Uniform Resale*: Gay Foyer
  - *NJHS Meeting*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom
  - *Eighth-Grade Fall Production of The Little Prince*: 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
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### **Saturday, November 11**

- *Eighth-Grade Fall Production of The Little Prince*: 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
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### **Wednesday, November 15**

- *St. Francis Book Fair*

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## Thursday, November 16

- *Grandparents/Grandfriends Day*: Please refer to the All School portion of *Wolf Watch* for details.
  - *St. Francis Book Fair*
- 

## Friday, November 17

- *St. Francis Book Fair*
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## 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](#).