

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 23

All School

Announcement From the Head of School: Interim Head of Upper School

Hello, St. Francis family,

I'm happy to announce that **Angela Flowers, head of curriculum and instruction, has been named the interim head of Upper School**. She came to St. Francis in the summer of 2016 and has been working to develop curriculum in each of our divisions. Since joining our family, Mrs. Flowers has traveled around the country to dialogue with other premier independent schools about best practices for curriculum and student programs.

Beyond her work with curriculum, she has years of experience in the classroom as well as at the administrative level. Both she and the Upper School chairs have been working tirelessly to ensure our program is an extension of the top-notch education we are providing in our other divisions.

In regards to finding a permanent head of Upper School, we have formed a search committee and hope to have someone in place by this spring.

I must take the time to thank you again for all your patience and support during this time of transition. We are committed to ensuring excellence remains at the forefront of everything we do for our students. Our community doesn't exist without you, and your contributions do not go unnoticed.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Lair, PhD
Head of School

Sporting Clays Classic: Registration Deadline Is Tomorrow

Registration for the St. Francis Sporting Clays Classic **has been extended to Monday, October 23**. There's still room for both individuals and teams to participate in the event.

- Take a peek at the [event website](#) for a list of participants and sponsors who already have their eye on the target -- as well as a sampling of the remaining sponsorship opportunities available.
- The Sporting Clays Classic benefits The Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E Fund, which provides **cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment** for students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate fully in our school programs.
- **The extended deadline for swag bag donations is Monday, October 23**. Approximately 150 swag bags will be given to team participants. If you would like to include your company's promotional item in the event's swag bag, e-mail SportingClays@StFrancisHouston.org or contact [J.J. Oshins](#), Sporting Clays Classic chair.

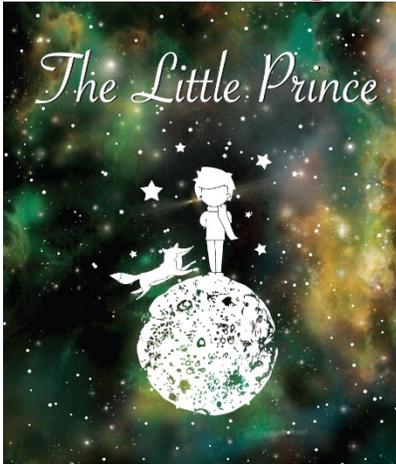
Be a Part of People For Others Day

On **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. Questions may be directed to PA-PeopleForOthers@StFrancisHouston.org.
- **Third graders will be conducting a 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](#). Students 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.**

Save the Date! Eighth-Grade Play Is November 10-11



The eighth-grade drama and theatre tech class is busy preparing for the fall production of ***The Little Prince***, an adaptation of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic children's story.

Please plan to join us **Friday, November 10, and Saturday, November 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center.** This production is appropriate for all ages. Tickets will be available for purchase in next week's *Wolf Watch*.

A New Twist on Grandparents/Grandfriends Days This Year

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 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 at 713.458.6141 or AChisholm@StFrancisHouston.org.

Congrats, Pumpkin Decorating Contest Winners!

A huge thanks to all who participated in Friday's Pumpkin Decorating Contest -- and congratulations to the winners, who wowed the judges with their imagination, ingenuity, and wonderful artistic skill! View the complete list of winners by clicking [here](#).

Poinsettia Sales Extended to October 29

Due to Hurricane Harvey, the Brookwood Community (FoFA's poinsettia supplier) has graciously extended its deadline to order poinsettias.

- FoFA will continue to accept orders for these beautiful red poinsettias through **Sunday, October 29**.
- Click [here](#) to order today.
- Pickup will take place on the South Campus on **Thursday, November 30**.
- Thank you for supporting the arts through your purchase!

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is Coming Up

Our next Wolf Wear Sale will be **Friday, November 3**, in the Concessions area by the gym, 7:45–9:00 a.m. Questions? Contact [Eloise Taussig](#) or [Shelley Iglesias](#).

Safeguarding God’s Children Is November 3

Safeguarding God’s Children is a program prepared by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. It teaches awareness of child abuse and exploitation and how to properly report when instances arise.

- All employees and school volunteers must attend these classes, but they are open to any interested parent.
- We have a class **Friday, November 3, on the Main Campus from 12:00–2:00 p.m.** Please e-mail [Rose Ann Gregory](#) to reserve your spot. If

you need this class for church activities such as the St. Francis Sports Association, Scouts, or Sunday School, please contact [Amy Homer](#).

Lost and Found Reminders

Our Lost and Found is overflowing! Please pick up your child's lost items by **Tuesday, October 31**.

- The Lost and Found is located through the double doors at the back of the FAC (west side).
- All items remaining in the Lost and Found will be sent to the uniform resale on **Wednesday, November 1**.
- Please label everything! This makes it much easier to return your child's misplaced items.

Primary School

From the Division Head

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending my first 5th Quarter celebration at St. Francis. While I've heard that this is not a decades-old event, it is obvious to me why it has quickly become so popular with our school families. Students love it!

I worked at the "swag" table with other administrators, and the students visiting our booth were grateful for freebies that helped them show their pride in their school. There was great food available at the food trucks, and the steady stream of busses shuttling families to the South Campus added to the spirit of community celebration.

My favorite part of this event was watching students making their own fun -- a dirt pile and an open field was all they needed. Seeing hot, sweaty kids with a safe place to play and the chance to run free with their friends was a refreshing reminder that our children don't need a lot to be happy. St. Francis is a great place to be a kid!

All the best,

Amy Whitley
Head of Primary School

Primary II Violin Classes Begin Thursday

Mommy and Me violin classes for Primary II students begin this **Thursday, October 26**, with Sylvia Ouellette and run through **Thursday, December 14**. Classes are held 1:45-2:30 p.m.

- Students attend with their parent and learn beginning violin technique and songs. Parental involvement helps ease the transition toward private lessons.
- Each student will need to rent an instrument with a shoulder pad, and information regarding rental recommendations can be provided by contacting EBoyle@StFrancisHouston.org.
- To register, contact the [Explore and Extend office](#).

Sign Up for Fall Conferences

Please sign up for fall conferences by clicking on the name of your child's teacher:

Pre-Primary

[Ferguson](#)

[Meriwether](#)

[Oteiza](#)

[Robinson](#)

Primary I

[Bruckner](#)

[Capasso](#)

[Hughes](#)

[Porter](#)

[Scriber](#)

Primary II

[Blades](#)

[Brooks](#)

[Prasifka](#)

[Staller](#)

[Wiener](#)

Primary School Dining Hall Menus

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, October 24

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

Wednesday, October 25

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

Friday, October 27

- *PS Pumpkin Decorating Contest:* Students only; each class decorates a pumpkin for display in the PS lobby
-

Tuesday, October 31

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

Wednesday, November 1

- *Primary School Parent/Teacher Conference Day:* Student holiday; if you haven't already done so, please sign up for a conference using the links in "Sign Up for Fall Conferences," above

Lower School

From the Division Head

I know we all have enjoyed the cooler weather and feeling of fall in the air! We had wonderful attendance at our parent meeting on Thursday -- thank you to all who joined us! I believe we all walked away knowing more about how our children's brains work and how we can help them be successful.

We are so blessed to have **hired Maureen Martinez to complete the year in our K-2 STEAM classroom**. She has 27 years of teaching experience in both Houston and Spring Branch ISDs in all grade levels, most recently in science and writing. She has jumped in quickly and is very excited to continue providing an experiential, engaging, and dynamic STEAM class for your children. We will still see Mrs. Graham in our hallways, substituting when needed. A huge thank-you to her for stepping in so willingly!

I know many of you have not had the opportunity to **meet some of our amazing enrichment teachers**. They've made a quick video so you can learn more about them and their classes. Click [here](#) to view the videos in our Parent Portal. We are blessed to have so many talented teachers to enrich our students' educational experience.

Just below, you will find this week's Parent Connection from Mr. Kochel.

Have a wonderful week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Parent Connection: A Note From Mr. Kochel

This week, I thought it would be a good idea to share some information about my position as the assistant head of Lower School for student life. This should help clarify my role and how I interact with the students.

A few years ago, when my role was created in the Lower School, the idea was to have an administrator who would mentor, coach, and advocate for our students. As we all do, our students sometimes deal with issues that affect their daily lives, whether those issues are in school, with friends, or at home. My job is to be a positive role model they can come to for advice and support.

The relationships I build and conversations I have with students are about much more than just handing out consequences for poor choices. However, when they do visit my office for behavioral guidance, I get to the root of the

problem; I do this by reflecting on the situation and helping them to problem solve and self-actualize in the future. The purpose of the visit is to empower the child and to guide them in analyzing the issue. This is not a punitive process.

My position often entails asking students many questions, and I know you, as parents, do the same. I would like to encourage you to read the article "[15 Questions to Replace 'How Was School Today?'](#)" as a way to facilitate the dialogue between you and your children about their school experience.

Please reach out to me anytime if you have questions or would like to visit.

I share my belief statement with you in closing:

I believe children thrive in a safe, supportive environment, and my role is to mentor faculty and students to develop their social-emotional skills so everyone is involved in building a strong community.

Best regards,

Ryan Kochel
Assistant Head of Lower School for Student Life

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 23

- *Leadership Council II Induction Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*
 - *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing: Begins after Chapel*
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Tuesday, October 24

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing: Begins at 8:00 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, October 25

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with an October 22-28 birthday will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing*: Begins after Chapel
-

Thursday, October 26

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing*: Begins at 8:00 a.m.
 - *Student Step-Up Day*: 10:30-11:15 a.m. in the classrooms; students only
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Monday, October 30

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with an October 29-November 4 birthday will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
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Wednesday, November 1

- *All Saints Eucharist Chapel*: Dress Uniform, 8:05 a.m.

Middle School

From the Division Head

This month, our school has been particularly mindful of service. Whether our community members are helping families in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey or bringing coats for the NJHS-driven Kitty Elliott Coat Drive, we are committed to living our mission as people for others.

This Tuesday, the Middle School embarks on Service Day. Our students, faculty, and staff will be making lunches for Kids' Meals, working at the Houston Food Bank, helping at Books Between Kids, repairing and cleaning the St. Francis outdoor classroom and 9 square space, and bringing joy to the elderly at Treemont Retirement Community. I look forward to seeing the positive footprint our community will leave on the outside world.

With regard to our school's focus on Mind, Brain, and Education Science, I read [this recent article](#) about teen anxiety, which -- whether we teach adolescents or parent them -- pertains to all of us.

Keeping the conversations constructive and proactive, especially about the current research on teen anxiety, will keep our school better attuned to our students' needs. This is a school where students are known and cared for. We have a dedicated staff of supportive teachers who run our Advisory system, which addresses our students' social-emotional needs on a weekly basis. If any of our students need help on a daily basis, then our wonderful Student Support Services counselors are your people—don't hesitate to contact Dr. Laurie Curtis, head of student support services, and Mr. Ted Lakoski, director of school counseling.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Summer 2018: Iceland Trip Applications Due October 27

[Click here](#) for information about our exciting Middle School summer 2018 travel opportunities to Costa Rica; Iceland; and Washington, DC,

- Applications for the Iceland trip are due to Sarah Powell by **Friday, October 27**.
- Download the application for the Iceland trip [here](#), and the Iceland trip informational flyer [here](#).
- The meeting for the fifth-grade Washington, DC, trip will take place on **Thursday, November 9**, Information for this trip will come out in October.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 23

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
- *Q2 Grading Period Begins*
- *Online Ticket Sales for Eighth-Grade Fall Play Open Today: Join us for the eighth-grade production of *The Little Prince* at 7:00 p.m. on November 10 and 11 in the Fine Arts Center; tickets for sale online through November 11*

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

Tuesday, October 24

- *Special 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*
 - *MS Service Day*
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Wednesday, October 25

- *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*
 - *Eighth-Grade OLSAT Testing: 9:30-10:40 a.m.; in classrooms*
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Thursday, October 26

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Q1 Report Cards Available Online*
 - *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*
 - *Student Step-Up Day: 10:30-11:15 a.m.; during Step-Up Day, students are given a brief overview of the grade they will join next school year -- this includes alumni returning to share their high school experiences with current eighth-grade students*
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Friday, October 27

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*
- *NJHS Induction Ceremony Practice: 7:15-7:45 a.m.; in Chapel*
- *Fifth-Grade WEB Activities: 10:45-11:15 a.m.; various locations*
- *Faculty vs. Eighth-Grade Volleyball Game: 3:00 p.m.; in gym; faculty volunteers play the volleyball teams*

Church

Children's Christmas Party Is December 2

Please mark your calendars to join us at the St. Francis Church Children's Christmas Party -- Gingerbread Delight! -- on **Saturday, December 2, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

- We will have treats, games, crafts, fun activities, a face painter, a balloon artist, photos with Santa, and SNOW!!!
- [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](#).

Holy Baptism Is November 5

On Sunday, November 5, St. Francis Episcopal Church will offer the sacrament of **Holy Baptism at the 9:00 a.m. service**. If you would like more information about baptism, please contact [Mairim](#) in the church office at 713.782.1270.

All Saints' Sunday Is October 29

On **Sunday, October 29**, we will observe All Saints' Day and the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, also known as All Souls' Day.

- The term "saints" comes from the New Testament, and can refer either to saints of the church who are recognized for their heroic sanctity, such as St. Francis, or it can refer to the entire membership of the Christian community, including our personal loved ones. On All Saints' Sunday we remember both of these groups.
- If you have lost a loved one this year, we invite you to join us for this service and add his or her name to our Book of Remembrance, which will be located in the Narthex on Sunday mornings in October.
- **Children are invited to wear Halloween costumes to the 9:00 a.m. service!**