

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of October 30

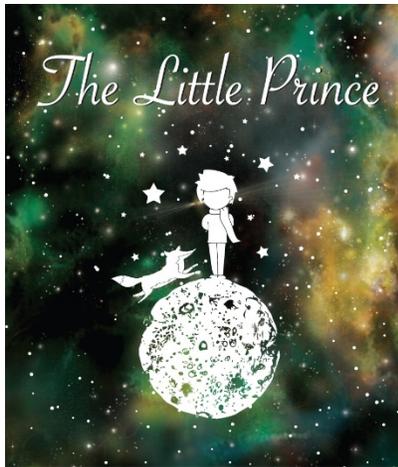
### All School

#### **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](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 disenchanted 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 now available online—[click here to purchase!](#)
- Showtimes are **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.

### **Last Safeguarding God's Children Until February!**

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. **This is the last scheduled class until February.**
- If you need this class for church activities such as the St. Francis Sports Association, Scouts, or Sunday School, please contact [Amy Homer](#).

### **Wolf Wear Sales: November 3 and November 10**

- 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](#).
- The Athletics Booster Club will also be selling Wolf Wear during People for Others Day on **Friday, November 10**. The sale will take place in the **Gay Foyer** from **8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

## Uniform Resale Is November 10

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).

## Happy 65th Birthday, St. Francis!

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!

## Grandparents/Grandfriends Days: November 15-17

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 at 713.458.6141 or [AChisholm@StFrancisHouston.org](mailto:AChisholm@StFrancisHouston.org).

## **Last Day to Order Poinsettias**

Today is the last day to order beautiful red poinsettias for the holidays!

- Click [here](#) to order from FoFA today.
- Pickup will take place on the South Campus on **Thursday, November 30**.
- Thank you for supporting the arts through your purchase!

## **Lost and Found Items Will Be Donated November 1**

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**

### **Step-Up to Lower School**

We hope you will join us for the *Step-Up To Lower School Program* on **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**

It has been more than a few years since psychologists and educators identified different types of intelligence.

We are all familiar with cognitive intelligence. This kind of "smart" is identified on standardized tests. Even before experts verified that there were other kinds of intelligence, we knew that a high IQ did not necessarily ensure success.

**A recent area of research considers the role of skill and the effect of effort in a person's success.** Leading researcher Angela Duckworth, a psychology professor at the University of Pennsylvania, calls this “grit.” She defines grit as “sticking with things over the very long term until you master them” and developed a test to measure it. (If you would like to find your own grit score, you can take the short test. It is available [here](#).)

The long and short of Duckworth's findings is that a person who is persistent and willing to practice and keep working even when a task is difficult or mundane is likely to succeed. For example, to determine entrance to the United States Military Academy (a.k.a. West Point)'s Cadet Basic Training program, the Academy assigns each applicant a “Whole Candidate Score.” This is a weighted, average score of SAT scores, high school rank, leadership potential, and physical aptitude.

The Academy has some very good reasons for wanting cadets to succeed. Students who drop out are not replaced by other students, so the loss has a permanent effect on each class of potential military officers. Plus, every dropout costs the government \$500,000.

Still, each year, the Academy experiences a 5-7 percent dropout rate from Beast Barracks—the colloquial name for Cadet Basic Training.

Perhaps, instead of using just the Whole Candidate Score, they should be using Duckworth's grit test, as well. As a doctoral student in 2004, Duckworth administered the test to about 1,200 just-arrived West Point cadets. At the end of the basic training program, the “grittiest” cadets—those who were most successful in the summer program—were not the ones with the top GPAs, the highest class ranking, the most physical ability, or the most outstanding leadership skills.

**The results of the grit test more accurately predicted who would be successful than the Whole Candidate Score.**

Duckworth also identifies “**self-control**” as an important component in school and professional achievement. In a study of eighth graders, those identified with the most self-control made better grades than those with the highest IQs.

Even as adults, there are lots of distractions that make it difficult for us to sustain our attention on one goal. Reading e-mail, checking Twitter, moving on to a new project before finishing an old one, and other temptations can adversely affect our productivity.

My experience as an educator and an administrator validates Duckworth's research. The “grittiest” students, the ones I've seen work with dogged determination, are often the most successful students in high school and in college. They may not have the highest standardized test scores, but they exercise self-control and are willing to work through challenges.

**Grit is a character trait that we can help our children learn.** It comes from supporting them as they try, letting them make mistakes (and sometimes fail), encouraging them to take risks and keep trying, and expecting them to do their very best.

Warmly,

Amy Whitley  
Head of Primary School

P.S. For more on grit, check out Angela Duckworth on the [Ted Radio Hour](#) and NPR's "[Forget Talent, Success Comes From 'Grit.'](#)"

## 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 31

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

### **Lower School**

### **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

I hope everyone had a restful weekend!

We are very excited about our first **People for Others Day**.

- Students will participate in creative activities designed to help local students at St. Thomas Episcopal who experienced flooding during Hurricane Harvey.
- In addition, they will assist in collecting and sorting books for the Books Between Friends charity, while others help make blankets for Ronald McDonald House.
- Students will also be bringing joy to animals at the SPCA and Friends for Life by designing toys.
- **Please help your child determine if you have any gently used books that could be donated to our book drive.** They may bring them to school and place them in donation boxes in their pods.

Thank you for helping to make this day very special for our students!

Your children enjoyed spending a bit of time in the next grade level Thursday morning, “**Stepping Up**” and learning about exciting things to come for next year. Then they were treated with a pizza lunch, prepared by our own Chef Bryce, in their Step-Up classrooms. They had such a great time!

If you have any questions about the grade level ahead for your child, please don’t hesitate to reach out to anyone on our team.

This week’s **Parent Connection** is from Mrs. McColloch, assistant head of Lower School for academics. She explains *Growth Mindset* and how you can promote this positive mindset at home. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Mrs. McColloch, Mr. Kochel, Mrs. Salinas, Ms. Stephenson, and I presented on this very topic on Friday afternoon at the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools conference. We had over 50 teachers and administrators in attendance, and it was a fantastic way to share many of our effective instructional practices with others.

Have a wonderful week!

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Lower School

## Mark Your Calendar

### 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:* 8:05 a.m., wear Dress Uniform
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### Sunday, November 5

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

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

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

- *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

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

- *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

## Middle School

### **From the Division Head**

Congratulations to our Wolves for competing hard and representing our school well on the courts and fields during conference tournaments this past week!

Also last week, our faculty, staff, and school community came together for **Episcopal School Sunday** events at St. Francis Episcopal Church and on the Main Campus and South Campus. Our Admissions Team, faculty, and parent and student ambassadors worked overtime to connect interested families with our world here at St. Francis, in order to build the future success of our school. Thanks to all who gave their time!

**Service Day** was successful, to say the least. Our faculty and students cleaned up the outdoor classroom here at St. Francis, brought cheer to the elderly at Treemont Retirement Center, packed and sorted books at Books Between Kids, wrote letters to military veterans, and made sack lunches for Kids' Meals. I'm proud to report that our Wolves helped hundreds, if not thousands, of Houstonians this past week, and I thank them for their hard work.

**Quarter 1 grades went out Thursday, and Quarter 2 began Monday, October 23.** Getting a full quarter with a normal start is priceless. We will all benefit from a regular start to a quarter with ample time to instruct our students for better learning outcomes!

This week, winter sports begins. Good luck to our students as they work hard on the field, on the courts, and in classrooms.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD  
Head of Middle School

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, October 30

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
  - *End of Fall Season Honor the Wolves: Various times, various locations*
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### Tuesday, October 31

- *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*
  - *Winter Athletics Season Begins*
  - *Sporting Clays Classic: Off campus*
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### Wednesday, November 1

- *Eucharist Schedule/Dress 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*
  - *Eucharist (All Saints Day): 11:15-11:45 a.m. in the Chapel*
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### Thursday, November 2

- *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*
  - *Middle School Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
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### Friday, November 3

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*

- *NJHS Induction Ceremony Practice: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Chapel*
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### **Sunday, November 5**

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

- *Individual Picture Makeup Day: 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall*

## **Upper School**

### **RSVP Today for Upper School Open House!**

Be sure to RSVP for one of our two upcoming Open Houses featuring our new St. Francis Upper School.

During our Open House, you and your son or daughter will have the opportunity to:

- Meet and spend time with the founding faculty of our Upper School, whom we recruited through national searches.
- Learn why being a founding freshman gives students the unique ability to develop their leadership skills, to take intellectual risks, to experience an education that is linked to the real world, and to have their voices valued in every aspect of the formation of the Upper School experience.
- Participate in mini-classes that highlight our cross-disciplinary approach to academics.
- Gain a deeper understanding of how our strategic approach to athletics and the arts will develop with student input over time.
- Discover how our innovative Internship and Entrepreneurship programs will prepare St. Francis students for a world that continues to rapidly evolve.

Joining us for our Open House will equip you with more tools to effectively plan for life during and after the high school years!

[Click here to RSVP today!](#)

## **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.

## **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](#).