

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of April 15

All School

Festival This Afternoon ... and Delayed School Start Tomorrow

We're looking forward to seeing you at Festival Fiesta today from noon to 4:00 p.m! Visit the [event website](#) for all the details.

NOTE: With the recent rain, the field may still be a bit soggy this afternoon. Please be sure to wear old shoes that you don't mind getting a little muddy!

Also, remember that the school day will start on a delayed schedule tomorrow, following today's Festival fun. Carpool and school start times will run as follows:

- **Primary School**—Delayed start time at 9:00 a.m. | Carpool begins at 8:30 a.m. (No Early Birds)
- **Lower School**—Delayed start time at 9:00 a.m. | Carpool begins at 8:15 a.m.
- **Middle School**—Delayed start time at 9:00 a.m. | Carpool begins at 8:30 a.m

The Tellepsen Challenge: Put Some Swing in Our Playground Renovation!

The Tellepsen family doesn't play around. That's why we're so pleased to roll out the Tellepsen Challenge, a matching gift opportunity that pairs the generosity of one of Houston's most philanthropic families with the giving power of the St. Francis community. When the Tellepsen family learned of our

plans to renovate our Main Campus playground—complete with installation of all-new equipment and the eventual addition of a soccer field and outdoor basketball court—they jumped in with an offer to match kickoff donations dollar for dollar up to \$150,000.

What this means for you is **double the giving power** of your Tellepsen Challenge donation! What it means for our Lower and Middle School students, however, is even more powerful. Outdoor play on fantastic updated and expanded facilities can only be made more special by the social, emotional, and physical boost that comes from time spent in nature among friends.

To help make this long-held dream a reality, please contact Head of Development Kelly Cliburn by [e-mail](#) or at 713.458.6172. And please join us in thanking the Tellepsen family for their game-changing kindness!

Withdrawal Deadline Is Wednesday

Wednesday, April 18, is the deadline for withdrawing from and cancelling the enrollment contract for the 2018–19 school year without penalty (except forfeiture of the nonrefundable enrollment deposit).

- **All withdrawals/enrollment contract cancellations for the 2018–19 school year must be completed and signed electronically and submitted online using the “Nonenrollment/Withdrawal Form” located in the Resources section of the St. Francis Parent Portal.**
- **Forms must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on April 18.**

Saturday, June 30, is the last day to withdraw or cancel the 2018–19 enrollment contract and be liable only for the nonrefundable enrollment deposit plus a cancellation fee.

- The cancellation fee is the equivalent of what would be paid for the months of May, June, and July under the Monthly By ACH tuition payment option. Please refer to your enrollment contract for the exact amount of the cancellation fee.
- **To be obligated for only the nonrefundable enrollment deposit and cancellation fee for the 2018–19 school year, electronically complete, sign, and submit the online “Nonenrollment/Withdrawal Form” by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 30. That form is located in the Resources section of the Parent Portal on the school’s website.**

- For enrollment withdrawals after June 30, the parent(s) will be obligated to pay the entire enrollment contract amount for the full 2018–19 academic year.

Annie: Eighth-Grade Play Tickets Go on Sale April 23

Annie is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City orphanage that is run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. With the help of the other girls in the orphanage, Annie escapes to the wondrous world of NYC. In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations . . . and even befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt! She finds a new home and family with billionaire Oliver Warbucks; his personal secretary, Grace Farrell; and a lovable mutt named Sandy. With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts—and she is sure to warm yours, too!

- Come see our eighth graders perform this family-favorite musical on **Friday, May 4**, and **Saturday, May 5**.
- **Tickets go on sale Monday, April 23.**
- Look for the link to purchase tickets in next week's Wolf Watch.

Parent Community Bible Studies

Please join us for upcoming Bible studies aimed at our parent community:

DADS' BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER WISMER

- **Thursday, April 19, at 7:15 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms** (at the end of the Middle School hallway)
- This study explores faithful obedience in the Gospels and helps us uncover and develop practices of faithful obedience.
- All dads are welcome!

MOMS' PRAYER DEVOTIONAL WITH MRS. HEINEMANN

- **Monday, April 23, at 8:40 a.m. in the Chapel of St. Clare**
- This is a peaceful time of scriptural reflection, prayerful meditation, and supportive fellowship.
- All moms are welcome!

'Lost Boy of Sudan' to Speak at St. Francis on April 26 and 27

When Salva Dut left his war-torn home with the other “Lost Boys of Sudan” in 1985, he faced an incredible journey of pain, peril, and promise. Join St. Francis on **Thursday, April 26**, as we welcome Mr. Dut, who will speak about his *lost* years and how he *found* himself through his nonprofit, Water for South Sudan, which today provides lifesaving water wells to the remote villages of his homeland.

A VIP Reception with Mr. Dut will kick off at 6:00 p.m. in the Crum Library. Doors to the Fine Arts Center will then open at 7:00 p.m. for Mr. Dut's talk, which will begin at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for the VIP Reception and \$10 for general admission, and are [available only by online purchase here](#).

Linda Sue Park's *New York Times* best seller *A Long Walk to Water*, which recounts Mr. Dut's story of survival, will be available for sale. *All proceeds will benefit Water for South Sudan.*

Mr. Dut will return to St. Francis the morning of Friday, April 27, to speak to our Middle Schoolers and visiting students from area schools.

Magnus Health Forms Due June 1

Completed Magnus Health forms for the 2018-19 school year are due by **Friday, June 1**. The forms are available in the Magnus Health Information section of the Parent Portal.

Feast Your Eyes: Our 2016–17 Annual Report Is Online

We're proud of the bold way we approach life at St. Francis Episcopal School—and it shows! [Check out our latest annual report](#) for a sampling of highlights and special memories from the 2016–17 school year.

How Would You Change the Mini-Directory? (3-Minute Survey)

How useful are the online and printed directories the Parents Association provides? The PA wants your feedback! Please help make next year's parent directory as helpful as possible by taking 3 minutes to complete [this survey](#)—

and let them know what information should stay in the directory, what can go, and what info you'd like to see added.

Primary School

From the Division Head

Research confirms what we've long known about parent involvement in schools: It benefits students. When your children see you volunteer, support teachers, and strengthen the school community with your passion and energy, they know that you value education.

At St. Francis, the level of support from our Parents Association and Primary School volunteers is impressive. The eagerness of our families to provide resources that complement our curriculum and program make it possible for us to extend the experiences of our classroom.

This year through the Curriculum Support Committee, our students enjoyed an Arts Alive! performance for Pajamarama, and Young Audiences of Houston entertained our students with a puppet show on Rodeo Day and a *Dance of the Insects* performance last week. Tom's Fun Band will visit next week. These experiences with local professionals expose our students to science and history integrated into the performing arts.

New Family Ambassadors, office volunteers, homeroom parents, art deck helpers, readers, and classroom volunteers all help support the efforts of our program. We know that including our families in the life of our school builds a stronger St. Francis community.

We are grateful for all our families do to show their appreciation for our faculty and staff. Lunches, surprise snacks and treats, December and May gifts, volunteers for our events and, most of all, your willingness to support our work with your children makes working at St. Francis a privilege.

Please know how much we appreciate your time, treasure, and talents, and your willingness to share them so generously with us. Your presence in the work we do with your children makes St. Francis a great place to grow up!

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Thank You, Festival Chairs!

Huge thanks to Festival Fiesta chairs Marjorie Dale and Megan Tipton for all their hard work in putting together this amazing community event. We can't wait to celebrate with them this afternoon!

School Starts Late Tomorrow (No Early Birds!)

We have a late start tomorrow. **NO EARLY BIRDS TODAY! Carpool begins at 8:30 a.m. and school starts at 9:00 a.m.**

Sign Up Now: Spring Conferences Are April 26

Please sign up for spring 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 Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 15

- *Festival Fiesta*: Noon to 4:00 p.m. on the Main Campus
-

Monday, April 16

- *School Starts at 9:00 a.m.*: **NO EARLY BIRDS TODAY!** Carpool begins at 8:30 a.m.
-

Tuesday, April 17

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

Wednesday, April 18

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Primary I Students*: Wear uniforms today
 - ***Primary II Students*: Do not wear uniforms today; rather, wear bottoms for the Primary II plays**
 - *Primary II Play Performances*:
 - Group A: 12:00 p.m. in the Drama Room
 - Group B: 1:15 p.m. in the Drama Room
-

Monday, April 23

- *Tom's Fun Band Performs for Primary School: Students only*
-

Tuesday, April 24

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I sings (Capasso and Scriber)*
-

Wednesday, April 25

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I sings (Bruckner, Hughes, and Porter)*
 - *Primary I and Primary II Students: Wear uniforms today*
-

Thursday, April 26

- *PS Parent/Teacher Conferences: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.*
 - ***Student Holiday/No School Today!***
 - ***Parents: Please enter through the front office, then proceed to your child's classroom.***
-

Friday, April 27

- ***Primary I Motor Celebration:*** 9:30 a.m. in the Motor Room; Primary I parents, please join us in the Motor Room according to the following schedule:
 - 9:30 a.m.—Hughes
 - 10:00 a.m.—Porter
 - 10:30 a.m.—Capasso
 - 1:00 p.m.—Scriber
 - 1:30 p.m.—Bruckner

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope this finds you enjoying your Sunday afternoon!

I wanted to highlight a couple of parent meetings we have on the horizon:

- On **Tuesday, May 8**, we will be hosting a discussion for parents of students in grades 1–4 on “Avoiding the Summer Slide.” We will give you some great ideas and activities to do over the summer to keep your child plugged in and actively learning.
- Additionally, on **Friday, May 11**, we are inviting Primary II and kindergarten parents to discuss “Engaging Your Child in Summer Reading,” as reading to and with little people looks different than reading with older readers. We hope you will join us for some great discussions!

In the meantime, click [here](#) to read all about some creative ways to stay engaged with brain-friendly activities during the summer months. These are non-structured ideas that are full of play and creativity. There is endless research in the field of play and how important it is to children’s development. Take advantage of the summer months to enhance your child’s play repertoire!

We can’t wait to see everyone this week at Declamation and grade-level preview meetings! Our students are entrenched in some pretty amazing learning activities that they’ll share with you. Thank you for carving out some time from your busy day to visit us!

See you at school!

Cheers,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

School Starts Later Tomorrow

We have late arrival tomorrow. Carpool begins at 8:15 a.m. and **students will begin the school day at 9:00 a.m.**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 16

- **Regular Uniform Day:** No Chapel today
 - **Late Arrival:** Students will begin the school day at 9:00 a.m.; carpool begins at 8:15 a.m.
-

Tuesday, April 17

- **Fourth-Grade Declamation and Incoming Fifth-Grade Preview:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall and fifth-grade classrooms; please see e-mailed invitation for details
-

Wednesday, April 18

- **FAC Chapel:** 8:05 a.m.
 - **Third-Grade Declamation and Incoming Fourth-Grade Preview:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall and fourth-grade classrooms; please see e-mailed invitation for details
-

Thursday, April 19

- **Second-Grade Declamation and Incoming Third-Grade Preview:** Second-grade classrooms and third-grade pod; please see e-mailed invitation for details
-

Friday, April 20

- *First-Grade Declamation and Incoming Second-Grade Preview:* Please see e-mailed invitation for details on locations and times
-

Monday, April 23

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between April 15-28 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Kindergarten Declamation and Incoming First-Grade Preview:* Please see e-mailed invitation for details on locations and times
-

Friday, April 27

- *Thyme for a Rhyme Spring Concert:* Featuring Joyful Sounds Choir and introducing PULSE Instrument Ensemble; 8:05 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center; parents of performing choir and ensemble are welcome
-

Monday, April 30

- *Dress Uniform Day*
- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between April 29-May 5 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School Families. I hope this finds you well.

Thank you all for your tremendous support of this year's Festival, and thanks to Abby Clark and her team for hosting a wonderful event.

This past Thursday, eighth grader Lauren Drury and I had the great honor of speaking to Khambrel Marshall, host of KPRC Channel 2's *Houston Newsmakers*. We discussed our Middle School's project-based approach to learning and how that approach has led us to further our school's mission of being people for others.

Last spring, science teacher Debbie Harris brought the idea for an all-Middle School read of Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water* to our faculty, to kick off our project-based learning initiative. Our driving question—"How can our school help solve the world's water crisis?"—motivated our faculty, staff, and students to create grade-level, interdisciplinary projects centered around the reality of Salva Dut's struggle as highlighted in Park's informative book.

This spring, Lauren Drury and her classmates in Mrs. Harris's eighth-grade science class created water filters out of recyclable materials and presented them to faculty judges. They went a step further by digitally 3-D modeling and printing them using Tinkercad programming.

This project, along with many others throughout the Middle School, inspired our school to raise money for Salva Dut's [Water for South Sudan](#), the nonprofit organization he founded in 2003. Melanie Wallace, our director of libraries, has been a driving force behind bringing Mr. Dut to campus, and we are so thankful for her help.

As a teenager, Mr. Dut led 1,500 youths ("Lost Boys") hundreds of miles through the Southern Sudan desert in a flight from the terrors of civil war to the safety of the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. On the 26th, he will speak to the general public in a ticketed event here at St. Francis, and we have the pleasure of hosting him again the next day exclusively for our students, faculty, and staff.

It has truly been an exceptional journey of bringing a real-world issue to the forefront of our learning, while also connecting with a person for others who resides thousands of miles away.

We are as excited to host Salva Dut as we are to continue our meaningful project work in the future. On the Mind, Brain, and Education Science front, project-based learning is a methodology of best practice, and it's easy to see why. Please see [this](#) helpful resource to better understand project-based learning, one of the many effective instructional methods employed by our outstanding faculty.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Thank You, Festival Chairs!

Huge thanks to Festival Fiesta chairs Marjorie Dale and Megan Tipton for all their hard work in putting together this amazing community event. We can't wait to celebrate with them this afternoon!

School Starts Later Tomorrow

We have late arrival tomorrow. Carpool begins at 8:30 a.m., and **students will begin the school day at 9:00 a.m.**

Social Dance Opportunity: Registration Is Thursday

Online registration for Dance Club 2024 will be held this Thursday, April 19, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Dance Club provides a social dance opportunity for boys and girls entering seventh grade in fall 2018. It includes six dance lessons (think waltz, fox-trot, tango, etc.) held on certain Sundays in fall 2018. Each lesson will last one hour and 15 minutes.

In addition to students from St. Francis, our dance club group comprises students from the following six schools: Memorial Middle School, Spring Branch Middle School, Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, The Regis School of the Sacred Heart, St. Cecilia Catholic School, and St. Michael Catholic School. [Note: There are other dance club groups around town based on school, but this is ours.] ***Each current sixth-grade parent should have already received a packet in the mail with exact dates, dues, venue, and other details.***

Space is limited to the first 450 registrants from the seven participating schools—so not everyone who wants to participate will be able to do so. On April 19, participants will register [here](#) once registration opens at 9:00 a.m. If you aren't able to secure a spot for your child, it is recommended that you register for the wait-list. The cost for joining the wait-list is \$25. If registration is

later confirmed, the balance of the dues will be charged to your card at that time.

Parents will be able to sign up to chaperone the dance classes, and dads are especially welcome to attend! More on that later.

Questions may be directed to [Lorie Herod](#) or [Amy Walton](#).

KOBI Photo Contest: Entries Due April 20

For the past few years, we have honored the memory of Kobi Pickett (daughter of former SFES second-grade teacher Stephanie Pickett) by hosting a very special photography contest and show. Kobi had a passion for the visual arts—especially for photography and for creating beautiful designs based on bible verses.

The theme of this year's Keep on Being Incredible (KOBI) Photo Contest is "strength," which is something we've all had to rely heavily on this year due to Hurricane Harvey. All Middle School students are invited to participate. **Entries are due by Friday, April 20**, and will be on display April 30-May 7.

For more information about the contest, please [click here](#). The contest entry form is available [here](#).

Questions? Please [e-mail Mrs. Chandler](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, April 15

- *St. Francis Festival Fiesta: Noon-4:00 p.m. on the Main Campus*
-

Monday, April 16

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
- **Late Start for Students: 9:00 a.m.**

- *No Fifth-Grade PE*
 - *No Chapel*
 - *Q4 Progress Reports Online*
-

Tuesday, April 17

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Honors English Writing Test Day*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
-

Wednesday, April 18

- *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. in the Fine Arts Center*
-

Thursday, April 19

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Middle School Council Election Notices Sent Home*
 - *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*
-

Friday, April 20

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform Day*
- *NJHS Meeting (Officer Elections): 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*

- *WEB Activity (Grades 5 and 8 Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*
-

Saturday, April 21

- *Annie Costume Choreography Review/Run-through: 1:00-5:00 p.m.*
-

Sunday, April 22

- *Annie Costume Fittings/Run-through: 1:30-5:30 p.m.*
-

Monday, April 23

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Student Council Sign-ups: 12:10-1:40 p.m. in the Dining Hall*
-

Tuesday, April 24

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Honors English Literature Test Day*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Student Council Sign-ups: 12:10-1:40 p.m. in the Dining Hall*
-

Wednesday, April 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
 - *Choices Assembly for Parents: 8:15-9:15 a.m.* in the Hogan Board Room
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Student Council Sign-ups: 12:10-1:40 p.m.* in the Dining Hall (last day)
 - *MS Student Council Pledge and Speech Submissions Due: 3:00 p.m.*
-

Thursday, April 26

- *Special 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
 - *Choices Assembly for Grades 5 and 6: 8:10-9:10 a.m.* in the Fine Arts Center
 - *Choices Assembly for Grades 7 and 8: 9:30-10:30 a.m.* in the Fine Arts Center
 - *New WEB Leader Spring Playday (Grade 7 Only): 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.* in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - *Salva Dut VIP Reception (Must Purchase Ticket): 6:00 p.m.* in the Hogan Board Room
 - *Salva Dut General Admission Event (Same as MS Assembly on April 27): 7:00 p.m.* in the Fine Arts Center
-

Friday, April 27

- *Special Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform Day*
 - *MS Assembly With Salva Dut: 10:45-11:45 a.m.* in the Fine Arts Center
 - *Annie Tech Rehearsal #1: 2:35-9:00 p.m.*
-

Saturday, April 28

- *PSIA State Tournament: Fort Worth*

- *Annie Tech Rehearsal #2: Noon-6:00 p.m.*

Church

Fall First Communion Classes

First Communion classes begin **Sunday, September 16**. This is an eight-week course designed to prepare second-grade students to receive Holy Eucharist. To sign up or for further information, please contact [Nichole Hilgert](#).

Honoring Mothers and Their Graduates

On **Sunday, May 13**, we will honor our mothers and our graduates during Sunday services. If you are graduating from eighth grade, high school, or college and would like to be recognized in the bulletin, please [e-mail Cindy Huteson](#).

Day of Pentecost Baptisms Are May 20

Sunday, May 20, is the Day of Pentecost, a Principal Feast Day celebrating the birth of the church—and an especially appropriate day to offer the Sacrament of Baptism. To schedule a Pentecost baptism, please contact [Amy Homer](#) at 713.458.6307.

Join Us for a Pentecost Party!

Since we celebrate the birth of the church on the Day of Pentecost, what better way to rejoice than with a party? Mark your calendars for food, fun, and festivities on **Sunday, May 20, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall**.

SCENES Summer Theater Camp

Registration for SCENES, one of the highest-quality theater camps in Houston, is now open! [Visit our website for more information and to register](#).

CAMP #1: URINETOWN

July 9–13

Grades 7–12

CAMP #2: HONK

July 16–27

Grades 2–High School

CAMP #3: MUSICAL REVIEW

July 30–August 3

Songs from Disney, *Matilda*, *Annie*, and Classic Musical Theater

Grades K–6