

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of February 25

All School

Festival Fiesta 2018: Sunday, April 15

Want to leave your mark on this year's Festival? Be a T-shirt sponsor! Promote your business or show your family spirit. (We will create a family logo for you!) **Sponsorships are due March 2.**

Now "let's taco 'bout booths!" There's still time to bring the fun to Festival Fiesta 2018! **The following booths still need sponsors:**

- Figure 8 Obstacle
- Yard Wars
- Quad Jump
- Double Lane Slide
- Tubs of Fun
- Hippo Chow Down
- High Striker
- Frog Game
- Ferris Wheel
- Dora 5-in-1 Combo
- Primary School Fiesta Games
- Airbrush Tattoos
- Custom Leather Bracelets
- Face Painters
- Hair Spray
- Balloon Artist
- Pig Races

- Toro Toss
- Plinko
- Ice Cream
- Raising Cane's Chicken
- James Coney Island
- Pizza
- Grilled Burgers and Hot Dogs
- Wine
- All the Fixings
- Sodas (inside)
- Fiesta Snacks

Please note that if a booth doesn't have a sponsor, we won't be able to have the booth at the event.

WHAT YOUR FUNDS SUPPORT

As we continue to seek ways to be good stewards of the philanthropic funds that are donated, St. Francis is committed to increasing transparency in how we raise, and spend, the donations from our incredibly generous donors. **Each month for the near future, we will focus on providing information about our most current fundraising efforts.**

Every spring for the past 48 years, our church families and school community have come together for the St. Francis Festival—a spirited afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Funds raised at this event support the One Community Fund, founded in 2007 by the vestry of the church and the board of the school. The purpose of the St. Francis One Community Fund is to provide a mechanism for funding expenditures that the rector and head of school agree are beneficial to both organizations and to the community as a whole.

Previous expenditures from the One Community Fund include the school's Raptor system, the repainting of the People Place, and repairs to the HVAC system and piano in the Fine Arts Center.

REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE

Remember, we have **online registration and payment** available.

- To view the printed packet, please [click here](#).
- For registration and payment, [click here](#).

WITH QUESTIONS

If you have questions or did not receive your packet, please contact event chairs [Megan Tipton](#) and [Marjorie Dale](#).

Parent Community Bible Studies

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

DADS' BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER WISMER

- **Thursday, March 1, at 7:15 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms** (at the end of the Middle School hallway)
- This study examines the New Testament book of James and seeks to apply it to life.
- All dads are welcome!

MOMS' PRAYER DEVOTIONAL WITH MRS. HEINEMANN

- **Wednesday, March 7, 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!

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is March 2

The next Wolf Wear Sale will be held **Friday, March 2**. Visit us in the **Concessions Stand on the Main Campus from 7:45-9:00 a.m.** Questions? E-mail [Eloise Taussig](#) or [Shelley Iglesias](#).

Register Today for Summer on the Point

Make a Move toward summer! Registration for Summer on the Point 2018 is now open. SOTP offers students entering Primary I through Upper School grades camps in discovery, enrichment, arts, sports, STEAM, technology, and academic review.

- Sessions for **June 4–29** and **July 16–August 10** are packed with learning, discovery, and fun!
- For course descriptions, [visit our summer programs page](#).
- To register, please [sign in to your My Backpack account](#) and select "Program Registration."

PA Spring Luncheon Is April 4

This year's St. Francis Parents Association Spring Luncheon will be held at the Houston Country Club on Wednesday, April 4. You won't want to miss Shasta Nelson, M.Div! The relationship expert and author of *Frientimacy: How to Deepen Friendships for Lifelong Health and Happiness* and *Friendships Don't Just Happen! The Guide to Creating a Meaningful Circle of GirlFriends* will be speaking to us about how to have and be meaningful friends—and how to teach our children to do the same!

[Click here](#) to register via the MySchoolAnywhere store. (Remember, you'll need to log in.)

Primary School

From the Division Head

Thank you for attending our Primary School Parent Coffee this week. It was so good to have many of you join us for casual conversation and fellowship following our Wednesday morning chapel. We know that it can be difficult to step away from work or other commitments and appreciate you being with us.

If you were not able to attend, please feel free to drop in at the next coffee on **Wednesday, February 28, from 2:30–3:30 p.m. on the Main Campus**. This coffee will be hosted by Middle School in the Crum Library and is open to anyone who would like to attend. Just as the other division heads and members of the administrative staff were present at the Primary School Parent Coffee, we will be present at the Middle School Parent Coffee, as well. This is a great opportunity to meet parents and staff from other divisions.

I also want to encourage you to read our other divisions' weekly *Wolf Watch* updates. It's a great way to learn more about the activities and events that are happening throughout the St. Francis community, and gain insight into what's ahead in your child's future at our school.

St. Francis is a busy place. The Primary School enjoys a constant buzz of activity during school hours and after-school programs. Plus, our South Campus takes on another life after Primary School carpool is over, as our Middle Schoolers head out to the fields. I love looking out in the afternoons, seeing our field hockey, soccer, and lacrosse teams practicing. It's a reminder

that we're part of something bigger than ourselves, and a vision of our younger students' future.

This is a great place to grow up.

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Note About Celebrating Summer Birthdays

We would like to follow the schedule below for celebrating summer birthdays during Chapel, from now until the end of school:

- **If your child has a June birthday**, we will celebrate at the end of March/beginning of April.
- **If your child has a July birthday**, we will celebrate during the month of April.
- **If your child has an early August birthday**, we will celebrate at the end of April, through the first week of May.

Please contact your child's teacher as to when you would like to celebrate your Primary Schooler's summer birthday in Chapel, according to the above schedule.

Thanks for helping us to commemorate these special birthdays in such a meaningful and spiritual way!

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

- *Chapel:* 9:30 am.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms
 - *Parent Coffee:* 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library on the Main Campus
-

Thursday, March 1

- *Primary II Field Trip to Treemont Retirement Community:* Students only; **Primary II students wear uniforms today**
-

Tuesday, March 6

- *Chapel:* 9:30 am.
-

Wednesday, March 7

- *Chapel:* 9:30 am.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms
-

Monday, March 12–Friday, March 16

- *Spring Break:* Student holiday

Lower School

From the Division Head

I think we would all agree that Chapel is one of the most special times of the week and is something that sets St. Francis apart from most other schools. Our church is beautiful, our student leaders are amazing, and Father Wismer and Mrs. Heinemann are inspirational.

In order to protect this time and keep it special, we ask that you follow these protocols:

- **Please sit in the back three rows of the Chapel, and have your student join you there.** If that seating area is full, please see Mrs. McColloch or Mr. Kochel to find alternative seating.
- Please set a good example of Chapel respect and behavior and **refrain from having conversations with your child, friends, or neighbors during services.**
- Please **keep your phone or other devices put away during the service.** It is church policy that photos not be taken in the sanctuary; however, feel free to take photos in the Narthex before the service begins.
- The Chapel helpers from all grade levels are walked back to class right after Chapel concludes, following de-robing and a prayer.

We want to preserve our very special Chapel time, and we appreciate your assistance!

This Thursday, March 1, at 8:15 a.m., we are pleased to welcome back Michelle Sacks for a presentation on Internet safety. Her talk last year was extremely informative, and you don't want to miss her this Thursday. As the Safe School Manager at Crime Stoppers of Houston, Michelle is responsible for the development and maintenance of prevention and awareness programs that emphasize personal safety, anti-victimization, and how to safely and anonymously report crimes and potential dangers. Passionate about prevention, she serves as co-chair of Houston Independent School District's School Health Advisory Council, a committee member of the Houston Mayor's Human Trafficking Task Force, a member of the Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and a mentor to the Houston Police Department's Youth Police Advisory Council.

I hope to see you there!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 26

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between February 25-March 3 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Wednesday, February 28

- *100th Day!*
-

Thursday, March 1

- *Lower School Parent Meeting:* Michelle Sacks will be speaking about Internet safety; 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)
-

Monday, March 5

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between March 4-10 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
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Monday, March 12–Friday, March 16

- *Spring Break:* Student holiday

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

What a month of events: STEAMFaire, the LEGO Robotics state competition, the Houston Rodeo, spring sports, the Souper Bowl Canstruction, the Choices Parent Assembly, and our Middle School Parent Coffee! Things are rolling right along, and I am proud of the resilience and positivity our students, faculty, and staff display on a daily basis, as school gets busier and more frenetic. I challenge our community to top February with all of the great events happening in March!

As Head of School Steve Lovejoy mentioned in a recent communication from SFES, our hearts and prayers go out to the families and victims of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. *National Public Radio* recently published an article, which you can read [here](#), about **how to talk with our kids about terrible events**.

Continuing on the subject of educating our students about the pressures they'll face in life, *Scientific American* recently published an article, which you can read [here](#), about **helping our kids live best practices with regard to agency and self-control**.

Perhaps my favorite article of interest so far this month comes from the *New York Times* and Bruce Feiler's recent report on **how storytelling helps bind families together**. You can read the article [here](#).

All of this reading touches on an overarching subject that our Middle School faculty and staff have been learning about all year, as we continue our work with Mind, Brain, and Education Science research to better inform our teaching. **Understanding not only our adult brains, but also our adolescents', we truly learn to educate the whole child here at SFES.**

I hope to see as many of you as possible on **Wednesday, February 28**, not only at the **Parent Coffee**, but also at the **Choices Parent Assembly**, where we will discuss adolescents' substance abuse.

March begins on Thursday, everyone. Buckle up!

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

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Eighth-Grade White Shirt Day Is Tuesday!

Eighth-grade students will take the annual White Shirt Day photo between 8:00–10:00 a.m. this Tuesday, February 27. Please make every effort to have students to school on time that day, and please avoid early dismissals during this two-hour window. Attire for the photo is blue jeans and a button-down, long-sleeve white shirt.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 27

- *For Grades 5-7: Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *For Grade 8: Special Schedule/White Shirt 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*
 - *Eighth-Grade White Shirt Class Photo: 8:00-10:00 a.m. on the playground*
-

Wednesday, February 28

- *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.*
 - *Middle School Choices Assembly for Parents: 1:30 p.m. in the HBR*
 - *Middle School Parent Coffee: 2:30 p.m. in the Crum Library*
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Thursday, March 1

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Choices Assembly for Grades 5 and 6: 8:10-9:10 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *Choices Assembly for Grades 7 and 8: 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the FAC*
-

Friday, March 2

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform for Grades 6-7*
 - *Special Schedule for Grades 5 and 8*
 - *Colonial Day for Grade 5*
 - *NASA Field Trip for Grade 8: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*
 - *Seventh-Grade Field Trip: Theatre production of *Twelfth Night*, 7:30 p.m. at the University of Houston; students provide own transportation*
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Saturday, March 3

- *Middle School PSIA District Meet: All-day event at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School*
 - *Seventh-Grade Field Trip: Theatre production of *Twelfth Night*, 1:30 p.m. at the University of Houston; students provide own transportation*
-

Sunday, March 4

- *Annie Play Rehearsal: 1:30-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*

Church

Lenten and Holy Week Booklet Is Available Online

Our Lenten journey began last week on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the season of preparation for Easter and a time of fasting, penitence, reflection, and prayer. Regardless of whether we are giving something up or taking something on, our focus is on Christ and coming to know and love Him better.

To view the St. Francis Lenten and Holy Week booklet online, [click here](#).

Father Bates to Lead Forgiveness Workshop

Father Bates will lead a forgiveness workshop on **Saturday, March 24, from 9:00 a.m. to noon**. Consider whom you need to forgive and work through a process of learning to release others and yourself. Please RSVP to [Amy Homer](#) at 713.458.6307 if you plan to attend.

Participate in Our Palm Sunday Passion Play

On **Sunday, March 25**, our **9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service** will include a passion play that reenacts the events leading up to Jesus's suffering and death. The Gospel reading for the Sunday of the Passion ends with the dramatic event of the crowd shouting, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

The passion play is hosted and organized by our seventh graders, but all ages are invited and encouraged to participate. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Good Friday: Children's Walk to Calvary With Father Wismer

Friday, March 30, at noon, children meet with Father Wismer in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall to participate in their own journey of the Stations of the Cross.

- This is an interactive experience, and families are welcome to participate with their children.
- This year, we are asking our sixth graders to take on the responsibility of organizing and giving leadership.
- All children and youth are welcome.
- To participate, [sign up here](#).

Holy Saturday Baptisms

Easter Eve baptisms take place at 4:00 p.m. in the church. If you would like to schedule your baptism for Holy Saturday, please contact [Amy Homer](#) at 713.458.6307.

Join Us for Daily Prayer During Lent

During Lent, lay leaders and clergy will lead corporate offerings of the Daily Office in the Chapel of St. Clare.

- **Morning Prayer will be at 7:00 a.m., Mondays through Saturdays.**
- **Evening Prayer will be at 5:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.**
- These simple prayer offices, offered without sermons, are about 20 minutes long, start to finish.

We encourage you to enter into this rhythm of prayer as often as you can.