

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of January 21

All School

Presidents' Day Now a School Day

As you know, we've lost a lot of instructional time this year—first with Hurricane Harvey and more recently with the winter weather event. **Based on feedback from parents, our leadership team, and peer schools in the area, we've decided to add Presidents' Day back to the calendar as a full school day.** This addition will benefit our students by allowing us to recapture some of that critical lost instructional time. With any questions, please contact your child's division office.

Come Connect at a Division Coffee!

Want to hear more about what's happening in your child's division? Have questions or ideas for the division head? Want to connect with other parents who have children around the same age?

Come to a division coffee!

We'll be hosting them according to the following schedule:

- **Primary School:** Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m., immediately following chapel
- **Lower School:** Wednesday, February 14, at 9:00 a.m., immediately following chapel
- **Middle School:** Wednesday, February 28, at 2:30 p.m., after the Choices parent meeting

Can't wait to see you there!

'Where Do Babies Come From?' (Join Us Wednesday to Learn How to Answer!)

"Where do babies come from?" "How is that baby going to get out of there?"

Learn how you should answer these questions (and more!) at the Parents Association's Winter Parent Education Breakfast: "Birds and Bees, Oh, Help Me, Please!"

Presented by Megan Michelson of The Birds & The Bees, this program promises to empower you to answer your children's sex-related questions when they are asking them in order to create a foundation for future conversations.

The breakfast will be held this **Wednesday, January 24, at 8:30 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall** on the Main Campus. Reserve your seat now at the [MySchoolAnywhere store](#).

Join us Wednesday—and walk away with the tools you need to have age-appropriate conversations with your children about sex!

Uniform Resale Boutique: Pop-Up Shop This Thursday!

Come shop with us in the People Place this **Thursday, January 18, from 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.**

- \$5—Shirts, pants, shorts, and culottes
- \$10—Sailor dresses, with a free tie!
- Cash or check only, please

Donate your clean, gently used uniforms to make way for these great deals!

Cozy Up: Pajamarama Is This Friday

This Friday, January 26, St. Francis will celebrate our annual Barker's Pajamarama Day ingathering. On this day, **children in Primary, Lower, and Middle School are invited to wear appropriate pajamas to school to celebrate the *weeklong ingathering of pajamas, books, and other***

items. (If students choose not to wear pajamas, they may wear their regular uniform or house T-shirt and jeans.)

Named after Dianne Barker, head of Primary School from 1992–2008, Pajamarama continues the tradition she introduced of wearing pajamas to school one day a year in conjunction with collecting books for donation.

All donations will benefit [Arms Wide Adoption Services](#) (previously Spaulding for Children), an organization that supports foster children awaiting permanent homes. As in the past, the focus of the ingathering for Primary and Lower School is pajamas and books. **However, Arms Wide has asked for a variety of other items that will allow them to serve the children in their care more comprehensively. For this reason, the Middle School ingathering will focus on other items, as listed below under "What should you donate?"**

As usual, Pajamarama Day promises to be a lot of fun, and your support in helping our children become *people for others* is truly appreciated.

A few guidelines to remember:

- **What should you donate?**
 - **Primary School and Lower School**—One pair of new pajamas and one new book in the zipper-lock bag sent home with your child
 - **Middle School**—The following items, in travel or regular size
 - Grade 5—Brushes and combs, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner, shower gel
 - Grade 6—Socks, underwear
 - Grade 7—Wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste
 - Grade 8—Pull-ups, diapers
- **Where should you donate?**
 - PS—Boxes in the pods
 - LS—Pajama boxes in the People Place
 - MS—House boxes in the People Place
- **When can you bring your donation?**
 - Anytime this week! (Monday, January 22–Friday, January 26)

SOTP Registration Opens February 5

Summer on the Point is *Making a Move* in 2018!

- Sessions for **June 4–29** and **July 16–August 10** are packed with learning, discovery, and fun!
- Registration opens on **Monday, February 5**, in My BackPack.
- To view camp sessions and descriptions, click [here](#).

Get the Scoop at the PA General Meeting on February 6

The Parents Association General Meeting will take place **Tuesday, February 6, at 8:15 a.m.** Join us in the **Special Events Room** (located in the former Pre-Primary Building) on the Main Campus.

Open to all parents, this meeting is an opportunity to hear reports from PA committee chairs and to participate in a discussion of matters as they pertain to PA business.

See You at the Woolrich Luncheon on February 8!

Join us on **Thursday, February 8, at 11:30 a.m.** to celebrate our 2016–17 Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty Award recipients!

- Learn all about their exciting adventures this past summer at the Woolrich Award Luncheon, which will be held in the **Fine Arts Center** on the Main Campus.
- Valet parking will be available.
- You may purchase luncheon tickets or donate to the Woolrich Fund by clicking [here](#).
- Please contact [Staci Thompson](#) with any questions.

Lost and Found?

Please visit the Lost and Found located along the back wall of the FAC to pick up your misplaced items.

Primary School

From the Division Head: What Sticks?

Years ago, I attended a retreat in the Texas Hill Country at a gathering for Episcopal school administrators. While each school was unique, we all shared the commonality of our Episcopal identity.

During the conference, we had the opportunity to celebrate in a Eucharist service. It wasn't in a church, and we celebrated Holy Communion with pita bread. There were no musicians or acolytes, just the voices of adults. I missed the presence of children.

The priest who was celebrant at our service, Fr. Roger Bowen, was at the time the head of school at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin. St. Stephen's is a boarding and day school for 1,000 students in grades 6–12. Fr. Bowen told a moving story of a mission trip with his students to Haiti, where there are 90 Episcopal schools serving mostly at-risk Haitian children.

During a school service, a priest at one of these schools went into the very poorest areas and invited a group of physically disabled individuals, who had literally spent their lives crawling on the ground, to attend the school service. The student acolytes, all very poor themselves, helped the priest lift each disabled person into a homemade wheelchair made from a plastic lawn chair and bicycle tires. Fr. Bowen said he would never forget this experience, and knew that it had to have an impact on the students in the Haitian school.

Although they were all too familiar with poverty, the Haitian students witnessed an act of love that would certainly affect their lives. He wondered what students in our schools would take away from their experience.

I often reflect on Fr. Bowen's sermon and wonder what sticks with our students through their experiences in our school.

Surely, our commitment to being "people for others" is an integral part of our faith at work in this school.

This year has afforded us so many opportunities for servant leadership. It's hard to know if a single incident will make a lasting impression in a child's life, or if it will be the collective feeling of many events together.

- Is it the opportunity for prayer each morning, asking for safe travel for parents and help with sick family members and lost pets?
- Is it a teacher who understands that a student needs an extra hug or a note sent to mom or dad bragging on the exceptional day their child has had?
- Is it being called upon as "the class expert" on the subject a student is most passionate about?

- Is it the gift of service in chapel as a chapel helper, or receiving a blessing on your birthday?
- Is it having someone recognize that you need more support in an area of development, or help working out a problem with friends?
- Is it the validation that everyone at your school knows you?

At a recent all-school faculty meeting, Head of School Steve Lovejoy spoke of our mission. Like many schools, we take very seriously the challenge of addressing the needs of the whole child. And at St. Francis, these aren't just buzzwords. As Mr. Lovejoy pointed out, many schools may speak to serving the whole child, but if they are not also attending to spiritual development, is that really possible? I have no doubt that we are serving the whole child at St. Francis.

Last week at our book study on *A More Beautiful Question*, I asked parents what they wondered about. My own response was, "I wonder what the children in the Primary School now will remember about this year when they're older?" What will stick?

I hope at least one thing will stick with each child, parent, and faculty and staff member associated with the Primary School: Each person has made a difference, and we are a community with stronger faith and abundant blessings because of you!

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 22-Friday, January 26

- *Pajamarama Ingathering*: Throughout the week; bags were sent home last week
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Tuesday, January 23

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *T/Th Pre-Primary Fathers and Friends Breakfast: 8:15 a.m.*
(rescheduled from Thursday, January 18)
-

Wednesday, January 24

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

Thursday, January 25

- *T/Th Pre-Primary Pajamarama Party: 8:45 a.m.; students only*
-

Friday, January 26

- *Barker's Pajamarama Day: Students only*
-

Tuesday, January 30

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

Wednesday, January 31

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms*
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Tuesday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

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

Lower School

From the Division Head

We are very excited to get back to school, where students can continue to learn and grow.

This week, I want to share a bit about the professional development day we had on January 2. **The faculty identified vocabulary integration as an area on which to focus.**

- Educational research tells us that providing lists of vocabulary words out of context for young children to memorize and regurgitate is not an effective practice and does not improve test scores or vocabulary retention or application. The students must have some connection with the vocabulary (context-schema) in order for the words to have meaning and ultimately to be added to their bank of literacy skills. The memorization strategy does not promote transfer to long-term memory, so the students can't access the knowledge for future application.
- Seeing words in different and multiple contexts provides students with opportunities to encounter words repeatedly and in more than one context.
- Our classroom teachers are paying particular attention to identifying sophisticated, high-utility words found in books they read aloud during class (examples include "ferocious," "gleeful," and "beckoned"). By selecting a few words to highlight from daily read-alouds, teachers are helping their students to develop a greater awareness of sophisticated words and their meanings.
- When a new vocabulary word is introduced, the students engage in a brief mini-lesson about the word's meaning, are provided with several examples of how the word could be used, and have the opportunity to try using the new word themselves. This heightened sense of investigating new words encourages all students to use the new words they are learning in their schoolwork and conversations, to look for

relationships between words, and to be more curious about new vocabulary they encounter when reading.

We also discovered that many words used on assessments and other educational materials are foreign to students as we do not use them in everyday contexts. **We have chosen to highlight two of these academic words per month for the remainder of the school year.**

The selected words are displayed in every Lower School classroom, and teachers have had the opportunity to work in small groups to generate ideas for using these words in all content areas.

“Describe” and “compare” are the words we are focusing on this month. Last week, one of our kindergarten teachers shared that after hearing the reminder that a line should sound quiet and have every person standing one behind the other, one of her students commented, “You just *described* what our line should be like!”

We challenge your family to find ways to use “describe” and “compare” at home.

Click [here](#) to learn more about how to help your child with vocabulary development. More information about vocabulary research and best practices is available [here](#).

As always, if you wish to know more, reach out to your child’s teacher, our curriculum specialists, or to me. We are happy to discuss any thoughts or ideas!

Enjoy the week!

Warmly,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Important Note About Lower School Carpool

As you know, afternoon carpool for Lower School has staggered times for dismissal. The staggered times are as follows:

- Kindergarten and first-grade students **WITHOUT** OLDER SIBLINGS have **white** carpool tags. The gate opens at 2:45 p.m. so that cars may begin lining up. Children begin to enter cars at 3:00 p.m.
- Kindergarten and first-grade students **WITH** OLDER SIBLINGS and students in second, third, and fourth grades have **lavender** carpool tags. Parents picking up these students should enter the line after 3:05 p.m. These students will be loaded into their cars at 3:15 p.m.

Up until now, any car with a lavender tag that has arrived at the carpool door before 3:15 p.m. has usually been sent back around through the carpool line to keep the line moving.

Our **new procedure**, beginning **Wednesday, January 24**, should help to streamline afternoon carpool so it can run more smoothly.

Cars will be allowed to enter the line from Piney Point Road based on tag color.

- Those with white carpool tags (kindergarten and first grade **without** older siblings) will be allowed to enter when the gate opens.
- Cars with lavender carpool tags will be allowed to enter at 3:05 p.m. Please do not attempt to enter before 3:05 p.m. or you will be directed back down Piney Point Road to circle around and come back at 3:05 p.m. Cars will not be allowed to park along Piney Point Road, so please adjust your arrival time accordingly.

The area by the library is not a place for cars to wait for students. This area needs to be kept empty to allow for emergency procedures should they be needed. It is also the area where the “first in carpool line” and “second in carpool line” spots are located. These were bid on and won at the St. Francis Gala & Auction. Anyone attempting to park in this area will be asked to drive back around. For the safety of our students, cars will only be loaded from the carpool area.

If you need a new tag, please contact [Kristal St. Clair](#) in the Lower School Office at 713.458.6022.

Thank you for helping us keep carpool less congested and moving quickly.

3d Lacrosse Clinic Sign-up

The St. Francis Athletics Department is excited to announce that it will be hosting a free **3d Lacrosse Clinic** again this year.

3d Lacrosse is the nation's leading lacrosse training organization for youth. Last year's clinic was a huge success, and we are fortunate to have 3d Lacrosse return for a second year in a row.

The event will take place February 10-11, 2018, at the St. Francis South Campus.

Saturday, February 10

8:00–9:30 a.m. Girls (Grades 3-5)
9:30–11:00 a.m. Boys (Grades 3-5)
12:00–2:00 p.m. Girls (Grades 6-8)
2:00–4:00 p.m. Boys (Grades 6-8)

Sunday, February 11

1:00–2:30 p.m. Boys (Grades 3-5)
2:30–4:00 p.m. Boys (Grades 6-8)

This free clinic is for St. Francis students only. Your young laxer will need to provide his or her gear and stick.

To sign up, please [send an e-mail to Coach Robinson](#), director of Middle School athletics, stating that your son or daughter would like to attend the 3d Lacrosse Clinic. In the e-mail, include your child's name and grade.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 22

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between January 14-27 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Pajama/Book Ingathering Begins:* Lower School bag drop-off is in the People Place
-

Friday, January 26

- *Barker's Pajamarama Day*: Students may wear appropriate pajamas to school; please see the All School section of this *Wolf Watch* for details
 - *Lower School Parent Meeting*: Guest speaker from The Parish School is talking to us about developing social competence and resilience in our children; 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room
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Monday, January 29

- *Dress Uniform Day*
- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between January 28-February 3 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

Middle School

From the Division Head

Hello, Middle School Families. I hope everyone has warmed up from last week's cold spell.

This week, we are mindful of our school's virtue of the month, which is Charity. With Pajamarama getting started, as well as a canned food drive for the "Souper" Bowl, we will do our best as a school to help those in need, and we'll all—children, adolescents, and adults—be better for it. CARES Council is also planning two more charitable events for February, which we'll announce in upcoming communications.

Earlier this month, National Public Radio published an article which highlights a study of how altruism and philanthropy have positive effects in adolescents. You can find the article [here](#).

In my five years at SFES, I've seen some wonderful acts of kindness, great and small, on a daily basis, so let's keep the good work going.

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

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

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To sign up, please [send an e-mail to Coach Robinson](#), director of Middle School athletics, stating that your son or daughter would like to attend the 3d Lacrosse Clinic. In the e-mail, include your child's name and grade.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 22

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
- *Barker's Pajamarama Ingathering Begins:* Please see the All School section of this *Wolf Watch* for details
- *Chapel:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, January 23

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform 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*
 - *Howler Practice: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
-

Wednesday, January 24

- *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*
 - *Fifth-Grade Colonial Day Parent Meeting: 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Howler Practice: 11:20-11:55 a.m. in the Dance Room*
-

Thursday, January 25

- *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 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
 - *NJHS Geo Bee Final Competition: 9:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
 - *Howler Practice: 1:45-2:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium*
 - *Winter Pep Rally: 2:35-3:05 p.m. in the Gymnasium; students only*
-

Friday, January 26

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*
- *Seventh-Grade Field Trip to Houston Museum of Natural Science*
- *Barker's Pajamarama Day: Students may wear appropriate pajamas to school; please see the All School section of this *Wolf Watch* for details*

Saturday, January 27

- *Annie Rehearsal*: 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center

Church

Disco Night Is February 3

Please join us on **Saturday, February 3**, for Disco Night, an adults-only party and fund-raiser for St. Francis Episcopal Church.

- Enjoy great food and music, silent and big board auction items, a wine toss, and fun with your St. Francis friends. The silent auction is filled with fabulous goods and services, and the spirited live auction includes exciting vacation getaways!
- Tickets still available! Purchase yours online [here](#).
- To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please click [here](#).
- Want a sneak peak at some of our fabulous auction items? Click [here](#) and [here](#)!

Celebrate Good Times ...Come On!!

Shrove Tuesday Party Is February 13

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party is scheduled from **5:00-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13**—the evening before Ash Wednesday.

Join us for some family fun as we feast on pancakes, sausage, red beans and rice, and gumbo. There will also be crafts for the kids and Zydeco music provided by Rick Keith & friends.

For further details and to RSVP, [click here](#).