

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of January 28

### All School

#### **Draft 2018-19 School Calendar Now Available**

The draft school calendar for 2018-19 is now available. ([Click here to view it.](#))

We developed this calendar in response to your feedback, addressing many of the concerns you expressed and incorporating some of the positive comments and ideas you offered.

We are providing it earlier than in previous years so that you can use it for planning purposes. The final school calendar will be posted later this spring, but you will see no major changes to the start and end dates of school. (However, slight changes may be made based on internal school events and other needs.)

#### **Coach Settle to Build Upper School Baseball Program**

We're delighted to announce that Coach Michael Settle will be heading up the Upper School baseball program as head baseball coach! He'll continue to oversee the Middle School baseball program as he starts building the Upper School program this fall. Read more about Coach Settle's new role below in the Upper School section of this week's *Wolf Watch*.

#### **New Bible Studies for Parents**

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

- **Moms' Prayer Devotional with Mrs. Heinemann:** Wednesday, January 31, 8:40-9:10 a.m. in the Chapel of St. Clare
- **Dads' Bible Study with Father Wismer:** Thursday, February 1, 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms (at the end of the Middle School hallway)

### **Safeguarding God's Children Class Is This Friday**

Never taken the Safeguarding God's Children child abuse prevention class? Or has it been at least five years since your last class? If so, please plan to join Father Bob Wismer this **Friday, February 2, from noon to 2:00 p.m., on the Main Campus**. This informative class is required for our volunteers and must be taken every five years. Please e-mail [Rose Ann Gregory](mailto:RoseAnnGregory@stclare.org) to reserve your spot and for location details.

### **Next Wolf Wear Sale Is February 2**

The next Wolf Wear Sale will be held **Friday, February 2**. Visit us in the Concessions Stand on the Main Campus from **7:45-9:00 a.m.**

Questions? E-mail [Eloise Taussig](mailto:EloiseTaussig@stclare.org) or [Shelley Iglesias](mailto:ShelleyIglesias@stclare.org).

### **Save the Date: Festival Fiesta 2018 Is April 15**

Don't miss out on an opportunity to celebrate with us—Festival Fiesta 2018 is on its way!

- **St. Francis Festival Day is set for Sunday, April 15.**
- Be on the lookout for your **Festival Fiesta 2018 packet**, which will be **mailed this week** in a large white envelope.
- Once again, we are pleased to provide **online registration and payment**. [Click here](#) once registration **opens this Tuesday, February 30**.
- Each spring since 1969, the St. Francis Episcopal Church and School community has joined together to organize and celebrate Festival Day. This family event features games, food, and fellowship. Proceeds benefit the One Community Fund, which underwrites security enhancements, support staff expenses, and landscape and infrastructure improvements for both church and school.

Check your mailbox so you don't miss out on all the fun to be had at Festival Fiesta 2018!

### **Pajamarama Success!**

Arms Wide Adoption Services (AWAS) was delighted with the abundance of your donations. Students filled boxes with pajamas, books, diapers, socks, underwear, and toiletries that will benefit the children in AWAS's care as they await adoption. Thank you for living out our mission as people for others!

### **Note About Parking on Main Campus**

To help us honor the commitments we have made, please do not park in the Headmaster's Circle or Reserved for St. Francis Fund parking spaces unless they have been assigned to you. These are saved spots that parents and grandparents rely on being available when they are on campus. We appreciate your help!

### **Lost and Found? (Please Note New Location!)**

Lost and Found has moved temporarily! If you're looking for a misplaced item, please visit the Lower School or Middle School division office. (All items without name labels were taken to the Gay Foyer for the Uniform Resale.)

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 or head of school? 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!

## **Primary School**

### **From the Division Head**

We have gotten very positive feedback from you this year on our Tadpoles communication system. The ability to send photos and messages about our program and keep you informed of events and activities has been beneficial for us, too.

Please be watching for an addition to this communication. **Beginning this week, you will receive a Tadpole message from one of your child's enrichment teachers on a weekly rotation basis.** Music, Motor, Drama, and Spanish enhance the experience in the Primary School and give children additional opportunities to be challenged.

Loris Malaguzzi, credited with inspiring the famous schools in Reggio, Italy, believed that children have 100 languages. What he meant by this was that **verbal skills are not the only way children communicate and learn.** They discover and make sense of their world in so many ways. **They sing, dance, move, draw, sculpt, pretend, build, paint, and express themselves in at least 100 ways.**

I hope you enjoy receiving this additional feedback from our enrichment teachers about the robust learning opportunities happening in the Primary School each day. Please let us know if you have questions.

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA  
Head of Primary School

### **Friendly Reminder Regarding Valentine's Day Treats**

The following information is located on page 53 of the *School Handbook*, which can we found in the Parent Portal:

### **Goodie Bag and Treat Policy**

Primary School students may not give gifts, goodie bags, or treats for any occasion. Students may have food allergies, and gifts of candy and cookies could pose a serious health hazard. In addition, small toys and trinkets in goodie bags can easily become a choking risk. Therefore, goodie bags and gifts—as well as cupcakes, cookies, and other treats—are not allowed. **For Valentine’s Day parties, cards without candy are preferred; however, if a card has candy attached, the candy will not be consumed at school and will be sent home.**

### **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**

#### **Tuesday, January 30**

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
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#### **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.
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#### **Wednesday, February 7**

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms
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## Tuesday, February 13

- *Shrove Tuesday*
  - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *T/Th Pre-Primary Students Celebrate Valentine's Day: Students only*
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## Wednesday, February 14

- *Ash Wednesday*
  - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms*
  - *MWF Pre-Primary, Primary I, and Primary II Students Celebrate Valentine's Day: Students only*
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## Thursday, February 15

- *Primary II Winter Field Trip: Students only*

## Lower School

### **From the Division Head**

This week, I want to highlight a foundational professional-development opportunity in which most of our teachers have had the privilege of participating.

As you know, **we follow a balanced literacy approach that encompasses reading, writing, word work, and grammar instruction.** Most independent schools and excellent public-school districts have utilized this approach for over 15 years.

**A cornerstone of balanced literacy is Reading & Writing Workshop.** This approach was **founded at Teachers College, Columbia University** in New York City over 30 years ago.

- The mission of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project is to help young people become avid and skilled readers, writers, and inquirers.

- This goal is accomplished through research, curriculum development, and working shoulder-to-shoulder with students, teachers, and school leaders.
- The organization has developed state-of-the-art tools and methods for teaching reading and writing, for using performance assessments and learning progressions to accelerate advancement, and for literacy-rich content area instruction.
- Thousands of teachers regard the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project as a continual source of professional renewal and education.
- Over the past three years, all of our teachers have applied to both the Summer Institute on the Teaching of Reading and the Summer Institute on the Teaching of Writing. This training is highly sought-after from schools all over the world; therefore, only three to five of our teachers have been admitted each summer due to the programs' popularity and enrollment limitations.
- Ten of our 15 language arts teachers have attended either the reading or writing institutes, and three new teachers hired over the past three years already had this amazing training and were chosen in part due to their commitment to and experience with this approach. Applications for the institutes open in late February, and again, we have seven teachers applying with fingers crossed!
- There are also institutes that provide instructional coaches and administrators with training to bring back to campuses, ultimately to impact student learning through ongoing teacher growth and reflection. Three of our faculty have attended these institutes and have helped to further develop the teachers in-house with their current students. Both teachers and students benefit from this work.

We are committed to practicing consistent, research-based instructional approaches that build from grade level to grade level, as this promotes an optimal learning environment for our students. The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project is just one way we accomplish this unique goal.

To read a few quotes from faculty whose crafts have been impacted by these institutes, please [click here](#).

Warmly,

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Lower School



## Mark Your Calendar

### 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
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### Monday, February 5

- *Dress Uniform Day*
  - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between February 4-10 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
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### Wednesday, February 7

- *Holiday for Lower and Middle School Students*
- *Parent-Teacher Conferences:* Please remember to choose a conference time with your homeroom teacher using the SignUpGenius links sent in the e-mail; second-, third-, and fourth-grade students will join parents in their confereces

## Middle School

### From the Division Head

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

Thanks to National Junior Honor Society officers and members, Dr. Bedard, and Mrs. MacMurtrie for hosting a great Geography Bee this past week. Congratulations to Dwight Solano for winning the competition! Thanks, as well, to our eighth-grade Howlers squad, along with Athletics Council, Ms. Crummel, and Mrs. Krueger for hosting a fun Winter Pep Rally—our students and teachers showed some wonderful school spirit.

Another highlight of last week was following the leadership of our Head of Middle School for the Day, Mr. Gunn Lamba—I stepped down, and Mr. Lamba stepped right up and took care of business, without missing a beat.

Although this week's academic schedule is normal, the work going on behind the scenes is not. Our teachers are in the process of consulting Mind, Brain, and Education Science research topics in order to begin some field research and data collection of their own. Topics include using feedback, formative assessments, metacognition, memorization strategies, and peer tutoring; providing self-reflection time and student choice; building growth mindset; teaching executive functioning skills; integrating visual and performing arts to non-arts classes for knowledge transfer; using play constructively and STEM learning practices; enhancing student motivation and social-emotional learning; and more.

Our wonderful faculty are students of their craft; they are researchers who are committed to improving the quality of our teaching and helping students thrive in their learning.

If you are interested in consulting one of our MBES research databases, please take a look at [Digital Promise](#).

Two hot topics in education news right now—especially with adolescents—are screen usage and sleep, and I recently read some research about these important issues:

- [Screen usage](#)
- [Sleep](#) (reading just the abstract of the journal article helps)

I hope that our students will continue to use technology with moderation and practice good decision-making. We all want our young people to build in vital rest time each day.

I'm looking forward to a busy, productive, and fun week.

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

Connor Cook, EdD  
Head of Middle School

## Welcome to the Den Conferences Are February 7

There will be no classes on **Wednesday, February 7**, so that advisors can conduct Welcome to the Den conferences with their advisees and the advisees' parents. Instructions on how to sign up will be e-mailed to families no later than tomorrow (**Monday, January 29**). Feel free to call [Cathleen Flaniken](#) in the Middle School Office at 713.458.6140 if you have any questions.

## Deadline to Create Yearbook Ads Is January 31

The deadline to create your own yearbook ad for your eighth grader or business is **Wednesday, January 31**.

If you are interested in having the yearbook staff create an ad for you, please sign up for an appointment via SignUpGenius [here](#).

- Please bring to your appointment 10-20 of your high-resolution images and the text you want to include on the page.
- Most phone images saved at their original size are suitable, as well as 300 dpi scans of prints and digital camera shots sized between 1–4MP.
- If you have an ad from a previous year's book that you liked, please take a picture with your phone and bring that as well.
- Also, bring a check made out to SFES for \$250 for half-page ads and \$450 for full-page ads.

## Send Us Your World Series Memories

If you have photos of your SFE kids at the World Series or the parade, please e-mail them to [Steve Johnson](#) by **Friday, February 9**. We may be able to include them in our Wolves at The World Series page in the yearbook!

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, January 29

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
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## **Tuesday, January 30**

- *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*
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## **Wednesday, January 31**

- *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.*
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## **Thursday, February 1**

- *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*
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## **Friday, February 2**

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*
  - *NJHS Meeting: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
  - *Faculty vs. Eighth-Grade Boys' Basketball Team: 3:00 p.m. in the Gym; students only*
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## **Saturday, February 3**

- *Annie Rehearsal: 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
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## **Sunday, February 4**

- *Annie Rehearsal*: 1:30-4:40 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center

## **Upper School**

### **Settle to Lead the Wolves on the Diamond**

St. Francis Episcopal School is proud to announce Michael Settle as the Upper School head baseball coach. Settle joins Head Girls Volleyball Coach Cydryce McMillian and Head Football Coach Charles McMillian on the Upper School coaching staff.

A member of the St. Francis family since 2010, Settle currently serves as the director of physical education and assistant director of Middle School athletics, in addition to serving as head Middle School cross country coach and head Middle School baseball coach. Settle will continue to oversee the Middle School baseball program as he starts building the Upper School program this fall.

“Coach Settle has a true passion for both St. Francis and the game of baseball,” said T. Riley, St. Francis’s director of athletics and wellness. “He is the ideal person to lead, build, and grow the Upper School baseball program from the ground up. I look forward to seeing him in action on the field with our future Upper School players.”

Settle brings to the role nearly 20 years of experience coaching baseball, having worked at the youth, middle school, upper school, college, and international club/professional levels. His previous coaching roles included varsity baseball at All Saints’ Episcopal School in Fort Worth and college ball at both Wheaton College and Texas Christian University (TCU). In 2010, he founded the St. Francis Episcopal School baseball program.

Settle credits the game of baseball with bringing him to a career in education.

“I am passionate about helping students and athletes develop in the areas of faith, courage, and grit,” he said. “I believe that coaches and educators are blessed with an inherent platform, and the positive impact we can have on a child’s life is limitless.”

Settle’s experience with baseball isn’t limited to coaching it. He was a celebrated player at TCU, where he participated in two All-Conference campaigns; earned Conference Player of the Week recognition on multiple occasions; and received the Matt Carpenter Most Valuable Player Award, the

Bryan Holaday Outstanding Defensive Player Award, and the Lou Gehrig Award for RBI Leader. He was also selected to the All-Tournament Team while playing in the Shriners Hospitals for Children College Classic at Minute Maid Park.

Following his collegiate days, Settle spent the next few years travelling the nation and the world playing professional baseball.

“These learning experiences serve as fuel in my tank,” he said. “My successes are nice, but the battle scars that I have earned are what I use when striving to make a difference in a student-athlete’s life. I will do everything in my power to prepare our players to be confident competitors who thrive under the inevitable pressures of competition.”

Settle holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from TCU and is a member of the American Baseball Coaches Association; the European Baseball Coaches Association; the Professional Baseball Players Association; the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance; and the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association. In his free time, he enjoys escaping to the mountains and spending time with his wife and three children.

## **Church**

### **Scouts, Join Us This Sunday**

All Girl Scout and Cub Scout families are invited to participate in **Scout Sunday on February 4 at the 9:00 a.m. church service.**

Scout Sunday is a nationwide recognition of the contributions of young people and adults to scouting. Those of all faiths are welcome. Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, please wear your uniform to be recognized!

### **SFSA Volleyball Registration Now Open**

Registration for the St. Francis Sports Association volleyball season is now open for fourth- and fifth-grade girls! If you have any questions, please [e-mail us](#).

### **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](#), [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](#).