

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of February 11

All School

Parent Community Bible Studies

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

- **Dads' Bible Study with Father Wismer:** Thursday, February 15, at 7:15 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms (at the end of the Middle School hallway)
- **Moms' Prayer Devotional with Mrs. Heinemann:** Wednesday, February 21, at 8:40 a.m. in the Chapel of St. Clare

These are peaceful times of scriptural reflection, prayerful meditation, and supportive fellowship.

Festival Fiesta 2018: Become a Booth Sponsor

By now, you should have received your Festival 2018 packets (in the large, white envelopes) in the mail. Have you added the April 15 event date to your calendar?

BOOTH SPONSORSHIP

Want to help to make Festival Fiesta 2018 a big success? Become a booth sponsor!

- We need at least one sponsor per booth to bring the booths to Festival.
- With 1,000+ children visiting campus during Festival, we love having a variety of activities for all ages.

- Sponsor as a family, as a class, or with a group of friends.
- We will see the return of beloved booths, as well as some new and exciting offerings available on the field, in the OAC, in the FAC, and in the special Primary Area on the field, so there are lots of opportunities to be a part of Festival.

CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THE NEW FESTIVAL T-SHIRT DESIGN

Wondering what the **Festival T-shirt** will look like? View the design [here](#). Students wear these festive shirts on their division's Spirit Day and on Festival Day!

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](#).

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."

Come Connect at a Division Coffee

Come to a division coffee! There is no formalized program or presentation, just a chance to share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

We'll be hosting division coffees according to the following schedule:

- **Primary School:** Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m., immediately following chapel (in the Primary School Library)
- **Lower School:** Wednesday, February 14, at 9:00 a.m., immediately following chapel (in the Chapel Narthex)
- **Middle School:** Wednesday, February 28, at 2:30 p.m., after the Choices parent meeting (in the Main Campus Library)

Can't wait to see you there!

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!

Invitation and registration information to follow.

Primary School

From the Division Head: Do You Have a 'Wonder'?

Socrates is credited with saying, "*Wisdom begins in wonder.*" Children's natural curiosity makes learning a joyful journey. Each "wonder" helps a child make sense of his or her world. In the early childhood years, children wonder about scary things, real and make-believe; where things come from; and how things work. Working with their peers, they can explore what they wonder about in greater depth.

Project work in the Primary School gives students the opportunity to dive deep into areas of interest. We wonder together! The beauty of project work is that we never know what direction a project may take, or how long it may last. That is the nature of emergent curriculum.

The benefits of wonder extend beyond building wisdom. According to the article "Awe, the Small Self, and Prosocial Behavior" by Dr. Paul Piff, "Experiencing a sense of awe promotes altruism, loving-kindness, and magnanimous behavior." And awe is "that sense of wonder we feel in the

presence of something vast that transcends our understanding of the world." According to Dr. Piff, people commonly experience awe in nature, but also in response to religion, art, and music.

HOW CAN WE ALL SUPPORT WONDER?

Early childhood education expert Ellen Booth Church offers these tips for supporting our children's sense of wonder:

Take time. Wondering takes time and usually happens in an unplanned and spontaneous situation. Be flexible enough to take time away from a planned event to follow children's wondering and creative thinking.

Listen. One of the most important ways you can support children's wonder is to listen carefully. At this stage, children need to express their wonder verbally and will often do this in great detail. Listen to all they have to say.

There is no shortage of curiosity in our program. Next time you're in the Primary School lobby, check out our display of "wonders" to see what our faculty, staff, and students are thinking. We hope you'll take a minute to post your own thoughts. We'd love to know what's on your mind!

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 be 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 February, please click [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, February 13

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

Wednesday, February 14

- *Ash Wednesday*
 - *Valentine's Day*
 - *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*
-

Thursday, February 15

- *Primary II Winter Field Trip: Students only*
-

Monday, February 19

- ***Incident Weather Makeup Day:*** We will follow our regular school schedule today
-

Tuesday, February 20

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

Wednesday, February 21

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms
 - *Primary School Parent Coffee:* 10:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library
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Thursday, February 22

- *T/Th Pre-Primary Rodeo Day:* Students only
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Friday, February 23

- *Darla McNay Rodeo Day:* Students only. Children are encouraged to wear western wear; please leave guns, spurs, and stick horses at home. Also bring tennis shoes for PE and/or recess if wearing boots. Yee-haw!
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Tuesday, February 27

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
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Wednesday, February 28

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

Lower School

From the Division Head

This past Wednesday was one of the best days I've had in a while. The halls were buzzing with parents and students, smiles were on faces, and it was evident that there was a pep in everyone's step. Nothing makes me happier.

While parent/student/teacher conferences are not always filled with 100 percent joyous information, the spirit of community and collaboration was alive and well. It is our job as educators to be honest and straight-forward with you

about your child's strengths and areas of challenge. By respecting each other and working collaboratively, progress will be made.

The administrative team, specialists, and enrichment team hosted a lunch for our conferring teachers, and the positive energy and comradery was exceptional. It was so gratifying to come together as a cohesive, professional team, sharing some downtime together. The teachers left lunch eager to learn and share more about your children during their afternoon conferences.

I often hear that parents do not request meetings or conferences with administration or teachers because they do not want to bother anyone, they feel their issue is not worthy of calling a meeting, or they don't want to be "one of those parents." There could not be anything further from the truth. **Your questions, concerns, or thoughts are extremely important to us; we do not want to hear from you only on conference days.** These students are your children, but they are also our children.

Everyone who works with your children here at St. Francis cares about them. Partnering with you to do what is best for your child will only benefit them. Call your teachers; send an e-mail to request a meeting; stop in the office. Your teachers want to tell you all about your children! We are all here for you and your children, and we want to work as a community.

Another opportunity to visit with us will be in the Narthex on February 14 following our Ash Wednesday Chapel. The administration and specialists will be there to visit, to answer questions, and to get to know you. Please stop by and say hello!

Mark your calendar for our next Lower School Parent meeting on Thursday, March 1, at 8:15 a.m. We are bringing back Michelle Sacks, who spoke to us last year about Internet safety. Everyone who attended raved about her knowledge and helpful information regarding our children and how to keep them safe. More information will be coming soon, but please put this important meeting on your calendar!

Thank you for being involved in your child's educational experience and allowing us to be part of the journey!

Warmly,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Send Us Your World Series Memories by February 15

If you have photos of your SFE kids at the World Series or the parade, please e-mail them to [Steve Johnson](#) by **Thursday, February 15**. We may be able to include them in our Wolves at The World Series page in the yearbook!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 12

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between February 11-17 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Wednesday, February 14

- *Dress Uniform Day:* In honor of Ash Wednesday Chapel (not a Eucharist)
 - *Lower School Parent Coffee:* 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Narthex
 - *Valentine's Day Parties:* Teachers sent grade-specific information regarding what the children may bring for this special day. **The school provides all treats.** Please be aware of our policy on treats, as stated in *our School Handbook*: “Students may not give gifts, goodie bags, or treats for any occasion, including birthdays, Christmas, or other celebrations. Students may have food allergies, and gifts of candy and cookies could pose a serious health hazard. 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.”
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Monday, February 19

- ***Inclement Weather Makeup Day:*** We will follow our regular school schedule today
- *Dress Uniform Day*

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between February 18-24 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
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Wednesday, February 21

- *Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
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Friday, February 23

- *Go Texan Day:* Children are encouraged to wear western wear; please leave guns, spurs, and stick horses at home. Also bring tennis shoes for PE and/or recess if wearing boots. Yee-haw!

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

Thank you to our army of moms who helped decorate this past Friday's "Mardi Gras" dance for grades 6-8. Thanks, as well, to our fifth-grade team for planning and hosting a fun-filled Game Night.

This Wednesday is Valentine's Day, which is a polarizing holiday: We either like it, or we can't stand it. Either way, love is the main theme of the day.

In my high school days, one of my lacrosse coaches (who was also my math teacher) used to ask us at every practice, "What is your job today?" Our response was to be, "To love each other." Through this unique response, my team learned that what we were doing every day at practice—and especially during games—was actually demonstrating our love and care for each other.

A violent yet beautiful sport, lacrosse allows great displays of care and kindness. If Bart was struggling to pick up a groundball in a mass of the other team's players, who were hitting and hacking away at him, then we ran over to the scrum, made the fight even, and tried to win the ball. If our goalie, Will, let

one in, then our defense huddled up, said some words of encouragement, and waited for the next face-off. If coach made us run, whether it was for acting like knuckleheads or for strengthening our conditioning, we yelled for each other in support of finishing strong.

I hope the same experiences happen for our students not only on the courts and athletics fields, but also in the classroom and the hallways—not the groundball scrum part, of course!

As singer-songwriter Dan Auerbach says, “Love is the coal that makes this train roll.” Regardless of Valentine’s Day, let’s roll into this week with a lot of love and kindness.

On the Mind, Brain, Education Science research front, our faculty will be consulting research and discussing memorization strategies and retrieval practice in the coming weeks. Exploring ways to teach our students not only to remember, but also to actively call information to mind will strengthen the educational experience for us all. Please click [here](#) for more information and useful knowledge.

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

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Attention, Seventh Graders: WEB Applications for Next School Year

We are now accepting applications for WEB Leaders for the 2018–19 school year.

- Please click [here](#) for all the details, including application deadlines and mandatory dates.
- Contact [Mr. Duran](#) or [Ms. Crummel](#) with any questions or concerns.

Send Us Your World Series Memories by February 15

If you have photos of your SFE kids at the World Series or the parade, please e-mail them to [Steve Johnson](#) by **Thursday, February 15**. We may be able to include them in our Wolves at The World Series page in the yearbook!

Eighth-Grade White Shirt Day

Eighth-grade students will take the annual White Shirt Day photo between 8:00–10:00 a.m. on 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.

Handbook Policy on Treats and Gifts

With Valentine's Day around the corner, please remember that treats and gifts are not allowed. Below you'll find an excerpt from the *School Handbook* covering this policy:

Students may not give gifts, goodie bags, or treats for any occasion, including birthdays, Christmas, or other celebrations. Students may have food allergies, and gifts of candy and cookies could pose a serious health hazard. Therefore, goodie bags and gifts—as well as cupcakes, cookies, and other treats—are not allowed.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 12

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
 - **RE-ENROLLMENTS CONTRACTS DUE**
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
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Tuesday, February 13

- *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*
 - *Advisory Construction: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the FAC; students bring cans of soup for event/donation*
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Wednesday, February 14

- *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 (Ash Wednesday): 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *WEB Lunch: 12:05-12:45 p.m.;* WEB Leaders will eat with fifth graders in the Dining Hall (will miss Period 3)
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Thursday, February 15

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *WEB Applications Due*
 - *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
 - *Councils: 9:15-10:00 a.m.* in classrooms
-

Friday, February 16

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*
 - *AALC for Grades 5-8*
-

Monday, February 19

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

Church

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.

Register for SFSA Volleyball, Baseball, and Softball Today

St. Francis Sports Association registration is under way for baseball and softball, as well as for fourth- and fifth-grade girls' volleyball.

- To register, [click here](#).
- If you have any questions, please [e-mail us](#).

We would love to have you join us this season!

Shrove Tuesday Party Is This Week

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](#).