

WOLF WATCH

— W E E K L Y E - N E W S —

News for the Week of April 1

All School

Happy Easter!

From our families to yours, we wish you a blessed and joyful Easter. He is risen. Alleluia!

Detour: Greenbay Closed for Construction Starting Tomorrow

If your usual route to school involves taking Greenbay Street to Memorial Drive, please note that **the City of Piney Point Village will be closing this intersection starting tomorrow, Monday, April 2**, to make drainage improvements. While Memorial Drive will remain open during construction, Greenbay Street just east of Memorial is **scheduled to be closed for approximately two weeks**, barring any unforeseen circumstances or bad weather.

During the closure, a detour will be set up using Hedwig Road, Beinhorn Road, and Voss Road. **You can view the closure location and detour route on [this map](#).**

If this closure affects your usual route to school, please expect delays and plan accordingly. Thank you!

The 2018-19 School Calendar Is Here!

The St. Francis calendar for the 2018-19 school year is now available! To view it, please [click here](#).

Please note a couple of differences between this updated 2018-19 calendar and the previous version that we e-mailed in January:

- Market Day and Meet the Teacher gatherings will now be held on the same date.
- The Monday after Easter Sunday will be a school holiday.

If you have any questions about next year's school calendar, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your division office!

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.

Tomorrow Is a School Day

Please note that tomorrow—Monday, April 2—is a school day. We will hold classes and after-school activities according to a regular schedule.

Develop Deeper Friendships: PA Spring Luncheon Is Wednesday

This year's St. Francis Parents Association Spring Luncheon will be held at the Houston Country Club this coming 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!

It's not too late to plan to attend! [Click here](#) to register via the MySchoolAnywhere store. (Remember, you'll need to log in.)

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is This Friday, April 6

The next Wolf Wear Sale will be held this **Friday, April 6**. Visit us in the **Concessions Stand in the Main Campus Gym from 7:45-9:00 a.m.** Questions? E-mail [Eloise Taussig](#) or [Shelley Iglesias](#).

Safeguarding God's Children: Next Class Is This Friday

Want to volunteer at St. Francis next fall or even this spring? Then **plan to attend the Safeguarding God's Children (SGC) class taught by Father Wismer this coming Friday, April 6, from noon to 2:00 p.m.** Father Wismer will share with you how the Episcopal Church trains volunteers to protect children from abuse and predators.

E-mail [Rose Ann Gregory](#) to reserve your spot or to check your training expiration date. (SGC training is good for five years.)

If you need this class for a church-sponsored group such as the St. Francis Sports Association or Scouts, please register with the church before April 6; then you can attend this class. Plan to meet that Friday by 11:50 a.m. at the front desk on the Main Campus.

Festival 2018: Volunteer Opportunities Await

We still need your help to make Festival Fiesta 2018 an amazing day! We have additional opportunities for you (and your Middle School student) to be a part of the action both behind the scenes and on the day of the event.

VOLUNTEERS: We have lots of volunteer opportunities on Festival Day. [Click here](#) to see how you can be an important part of this family event.

NEW THIS YEAR: Middle School students can work a Festival shift to earn service hours. Parents can sign their child up via the link that will be sent out soon and will be responsible for signing their child in and out at the Volunteer Booth on the day of the event. We ask that parents carefully look at the description of the volunteer tasks, and help their students select a role they feel comfortable in.

T-SHIRT FIRE SALE: Forgot to order your student a T-shirt? Not to worry. Plan to attend our T-shirt surplus sale on **Tuesday, April 10, and Wednesday, April 11**. On the **Main Campus**, the sale will be held in the **People Place** from **7:45 to 8:30 a.m.** On the **South Campus**, the sale

will be held in the **Primary School lobby** from **8:45 to 9:45 a.m.** Shirts are \$18. Cash or check only, please.

BAKE SALE: Do you like to bake (or buy) sweet treats? Sign up via the volunteer [SignUpGenius](#) to bring something for our bake sale. We offer **curbside drop-off on Saturday, April 14.**

Thank you to everyone who got their Festival 2018 packets in last week. We appreciate your support as underwriters, booth sponsors, and ticket and T-shirt purchasers. We can't wait to see you at the event!

Parent Community Bible Studies

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

MOMS' PRAYER DEVOTIONAL WITH MRS. HEINEMANN

- **Monday, April 2, 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!

DADS' BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER WISMER

- **Thursday, April 5, 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!

Primary School

From the Division Head

Last week, we hosted 25 local teachers and administrators from seven different schools at our annual Educators Visit Day. It's easy to see why people want to visit the Primary School. We have a beautiful facility; abundant, high-quality materials; and, most importantly, talented teachers who are masterful in their approach to working with our students.

The visiting educators spent time hearing about our program, observing in classrooms, and touring the facility. During their tour, they heard from one teacher per grade level who highlighted one of the curriculum components that makes our program unique.

- In **Pre-Primary**, Jane Oteiza spoke of the storytelling curriculum that is part of each of our classes in Primary School. Story baskets, dramatizing original student stories, and other components of our Rice University School Literacy and Culture curriculum were part of her demonstration.
- In **Primary I**, Andrea Scriber helped the visitors learn more about the Reggio-inspired approach that is used throughout our division. A focus on the importance of valuing students' thoughts and ideas; being part of a community; and having opportunities to generate ideas, create original work, and dig deeply into project work were part of her explanation on how the Reggio approach influences our program.
- In **Primary II**, Cindy Blades used her documentation of project work to support her explanation of how project work begins, develops, and is chronicled throughout the year. Evidence of children's work is displayed throughout our facility and is one way we honor our students' time and creativity.

At each grade level, visitors were especially interested in **project-based learning** in our program. Most teachers are familiar with theme-based learning that is planned and directed by teachers. In contrast, facilitating project work requires that teachers are open to learning with and from children, comfortable in admitting that they do not have all the answers, and willing to listen to children's thoughts and ideas. Teachers must be patient and willing to nurture ideas that present themselves, without rushing the process. **We must be open to not knowing how and when a project will conclude. In project work, we value the learning process and do not emphasize an end product.** It's a progressive approach.

It is always affirming to have educators benefit from visits to our school. Our teachers work very hard to ensure that our program meets the needs of our students, and they are committed to sharing their professional gifts with others. **Modeling best practices in our field has made St. Francis a destination for early childhood educators throughout the city.** Thank you for the encouragement and support you provide for our program!

I hope you and your family have a very happy Easter!

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Friendly Reminder About Morning Carpool

Morning carpool runs from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. We will begin closing the doors to Pre-Primary and Primary II promptly at 8:15 a.m., so that our teachers and students can start their day. If you arrive after 8:15 a.m., you must sign your child in at the front desk. **We appreciate your support in getting your child(ren) to school by 8:15 a.m.**

Tomorrow Is a School Day

Please note that tomorrow—Monday, April 2—is a school day. We will hold classes and after-school activities according to a regular schedule.

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 1

- *Easter Sunday*
-

Monday, April 2

- *School in Session/Regular Schedule*
-

Tuesday, April 3

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

Wednesday, April 4

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

Thursday, April 5

- *Looking Forward: Life in Lower School (Primary II Parents):* 8:20-9:20 a.m.; Primary School Drama Room/Lobby on the South Campus
-

Friday, April 6

- *Young Audiences of Houston's Performance of Dance of the Insects:* Students only
-

Monday, April 9

- *Primary II Motor Celebration:* Primary II parents, please join us in the Motor Room according to the following schedule:
 - 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Blades)
 - 12:00-12:30 p.m. (Wiener)
 - 12:30-1:00 p.m. (Prasifka)
 - 1:00-1:30 p.m. (Staller)
 - 1:30-2:00 p.m. (Brooks)
-

Tuesday, April 10

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

Wednesday, April 11

- *Primary I Fathers and Friends Breakfast:* 8:15 a.m.
 - *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I and II students wear uniforms
-

Thursday, April 12

- *T/Th Pre-Primary Pep Rally:* Students only
-

Friday, April 13

- *Primary School Pep Rally:* Students only
-

Sunday, April 15

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

Lower School

From the Division Head

As we look toward our final trimester, our readers in second, third, and fourth grades have begun the important work of book clubs. I wanted to provide some background information on this very engaging learning opportunity. All grade levels have been working hard in reading workshop, learning numerous reading strategies from both whole-group instruction and guided reading lessons. Book clubs provide the chance to practice higher-level reading skills.

What is the purpose of book clubs?

The purpose of book clubs is to provide opportunities for children to develop lives in which reading matters. By providing a framework where students experience the shared pleasure of reading with friends, we are further promoting lifelong reading. I know many of us, as adults, enjoy participating in book clubs!

Book clubs are also fantastic avenues to promote components of our SEAL approach:

- Children must work collaboratively, meaning they will practice the competencies of compromise, shared power, negotiation, and accountability.
- They must complete the reading and prepare for the group discussion before the club meets.
- Additionally, they practice active listening and reflect on their participation in these various areas, using rubrics to assess their own work as well as that of their group.

Book clubs also teach students to read and think more deeply and independently about a text—and then to communicate those thoughts effectively to others. Book club discussions are not based on literal context, but are conversations revolving around analyzing, synthesizing, predicting, and evaluating texts. These are the highest levels of cognition, which must be modeled and practiced. Book clubs provide the opportunity for this practice, as well as the chance to listen to peers modeling these thinking processes!

What do book clubs look and sound like?

Book clubs comprise three to five children who are either reading the same book, reading books in the same genre, or reading books by the same author.

They usually have “jobs” to complete before meeting. Sometimes it may be to complete a task as the summarizer, vocabulary detector, discussion director, or illustrator. The job could also be listing observations, wonderings, or connections to the text. Simply annotating the text with pre-learned symbols is another way to prepare for a group discussion. This work provides the students with opportunities for a very rich conversation!

The groups meet in various parts of the classroom, and the teacher checks in with the group frequently to monitor understanding and facilitate this important work.

In the coming weeks, ask your child about his/her book club, and maybe even start one with members of your family. Click [here](#) to learn more about family book clubs!

Have a wonderful week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

(Special thanks to Ali Salinas, curriculum and instruction specialist, and Ashley Stephenson, literacy specialist, for contributing to this article.)

Tomorrow Is a School Day

Please note that tomorrow—Monday, April 2—is a school day. We will hold classes and after-school activities according to a regular schedule.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 2

- *School in Session/Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between April 1-7 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Monday, April 9

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between April 8-14 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Friday, April 13

- *Festival Spirit Day:* Students may wear their Festival T-shirts with jeans or uniform bottoms
-

Sunday, April 15

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

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday and Happy Easter, Middle School families. I hope this finds you well today.

I'm beginning this letter with Billy Collins' beautiful poem about Spring, "Today":

*If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze*

*that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house*

*and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
indeed, rip the little door from its jamb,*

*a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies*

*seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking*

*a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,*

*releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage*

*so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting*

*into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.*

Sometimes, it's just nice to take a moment and read something beautiful. For the next two months of the school year, I hope that we often have days like the one in the poem.

On the Mind, Brain, and Education Science front, I'm including [this](#) interesting, informative website, which showcases—among other subjects—study skills, executive functioning, memory, active retrieval, and growth mindset. Our faculty members continue their deeper dive into best practices in education, and we actively integrate these practices into our daily lessons.

Thank you all, and have a great week.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Register Now for 2018-19 MS Athletics and MSPE

Attention, rising sixth through eighth graders! It's time now to register your athletics and PE selections for the 2018-19 school year. Please log into your [My Backpack](#) account, click the "My Forms" link, and submit your student's selections for next year via the Middle School Athletics and Physical Education Registration Form.

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Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 2

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

Tuesday, April 3

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Honors Letters of Intent Due to English/Math Teachers*
 - *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 4

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
- *New Student Enrollment Contracts Due*
- *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.
-

Thursday, April 5

- *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
 - *Councils*: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms
-

Friday, April 6

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform*
 - *2018-19 Athletics/PE Registration Forms Due Online*
 - *NJHS Meeting*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom
 - *WEB Training*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms
-

Monday, April 9

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Honors Math Testing Day (During Math Class)*
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Tuesday, April 10

- *Grades 6-8*: Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day
 - *Grade 5*: Special 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
 - *Fifth-Grade AALC Field Trip to Bayou Bend*: 9:00-11:30 a.m.
-

Wednesday, April 11

- *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
 - *Festival T-shirt Surplus Sale*: 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the Gay Foyer
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
 - *Howler Practice*: 11:20-11:55 a.m., TBD
-

Thursday, April 12

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Ticket Sales for Annie (Spring Musical) Open*: Tickets will be for sale online April 12-May 5
 - *Middle School Council Election Notices E-mailed 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
 - *Festival T-shirt Surplus Sale*: 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the Gay Foyer
 - *Class Meeting*: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center
 - *Howler Practice*: 1:45-2:30 p.m. in the Gym
 - *Middle School Festival Pep Rally*: 2:35-3:05 p.m. in the Gym
-

Friday, April 13

- *Grades 5, 7, & 8*: Regular Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform
- *Grade 6*: Special Schedule/Regular Friday Uniform
- *NJHS Meeting*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom
- *Sixth-Grade Field Trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Houston Museum of Natural Science*: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Church

Safeguarding God's Children: Next Class Is This Friday

Want to volunteer at St. Francis next fall or even this spring? Then **plan to attend the Safeguarding God's Children (SGC) class taught by Father Wismer this Friday, April 6, from noon to 2:00 p.m.** Father Wismer will

share with you how the Episcopal Church trains volunteers to protect children from abuse and predators.

E-mail [**Rose Ann Gregory**](#) to reserve your spot or to check your training expiration date. (SGC training is good for five years.)

If you need this class for a church-sponsored group such as the St. Francis Sports Association or Scouts, please register with the church before April 6; then you can attend this class. Plan to meet that Friday by 11:50 a.m. at the front desk on the Main Campus.

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