

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of February 18

All School

New Lost and Found Location

Please note that, starting tomorrow, February 19, **the new location for Lost and Found will be in the closet under the Lower School stairwell**, in the Texas Hallway.

A Message From the St. Francis Fund Chairs

Dear Parents,

When we were asked to chair the 2017–18 St. Francis Fund, we could never have imagined the devastation that Hurricane Harvey would bring to our city. When the storm hit right before we were planning to send out St. Francis Fund letters, we knew we had to take a step back, let our community breathe a collective sigh, and watch with pride as we came together in ways that honored our neighbors in need.

Now, we are asking our St. Francis family to help again. We have been inspired and encouraged by the amount of support the school has received from our parent community this year. We would like to extend a profound thank-you to each and every parent who has helped raise over \$720,000 for this year's St. Francis Fund. We are over 90 percent of the way to our \$800,000 goal—with just 41 percent parent participation. We hope that every family will choose to support the St. Francis Fund with a gift from the heart. If you would like to **join us in providing critical operating funds that support every student every day**, please [click here](#).

With sincere gratitude,

Maureen and Paul Perea
2017–18 St. Francis Fund Chairs

Parent Community Bible Studies

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

MOMS' PRAYER DEVOTIONAL WITH MRS. HEINEMANN

- Wednesday, February 21, 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, 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!

Festival Fiesta 2018: Sunday, April 15

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

Need some ideas on what booths you might like to sponsor? We need at least one sponsor per booth to bring the booths to Festival—sponsor as a family, as a class, or with a group of friends. We have booths to fit everyone's interest!

- **High-Energy Booths:** Fan favorites include the Quad Jump and the Figure 8 Obstacle Course; new challenges include the Adrenaline Rush Obstacle Course, the Hippo Chowdown, and Yard Wars for the Nerf enthusiast
- **Personal Style Booths:** Colored Hair Spray (fan favorite!) and the new Leather Bracelets booth, where kids can stamp their favorite emoji on a classic keepsake

- **Game of Chance Booths:** Fan favorite Pick-a-Chop and new thrill Plinko, our take on the classic *The Price Is Right* game
- **Food Booths:** Returning fan favorites include Kona Ice and Iced Tea & Lemonade; we welcome Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen nachos and tacos as a new thrill this year, plus many more food and beverage booths to keep you hydrated and energized for the day

FESTIVAL FIESTA FUN FACT

Cascarones (confetti-filled eggs) have been a part of St. Francis Festival Day for 48 years. Last year, we had over 2,100 dozen cascarones—that's 25,200 eggs!

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."

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

Just a few weeks ago, Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog Day, which lore tells us means six more weeks of winter. Now, most of us would prefer not to have another month and a half of weather like this year's winter brought us—and thankfully, in our part of the country, we probably won't. Now that we are approaching March, spring weather is possible just about any time.

For many in the Christian faith, this time of year is special for another reason beyond just the promise of improving weather: Ash Wednesday ushers in Lent, the beginning of a new season in the church and a time for us to begin working on new things.

According to EpiscopalChurch.org, *“Early Christians observed ‘a season of penitence and fasting’ in preparation for the Paschal feast. The season now known as Lent is from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days.”*

Many of us try to work on ourselves during Lent by “giving up.” We forgo things we really like—perhaps things we have been overindulging in such as sugar, fast food, soft drinks, excessive screen time or social media, or even splurges that have grown into expensive daily trips to the gourmet coffee shop drive-through window.

Instead of “giving up,” some people choose to “give more.” This is often helpful for children—giving more of themselves, doing more to help at home, being more patient with younger siblings, and being more thankful.

Now that Valentine's Day cards and candy are on the sale rack, it's tempting to want to skip ahead to Easter and forego Lent. Nevertheless, this is a time to work on ourselves—a sort of “spring cleaning” of the soul. As Father Wismer

reminded the children on Tuesday, “during Lent, we don’t say ‘alleluia.’ We are saving that for Easter.” It will be worth waiting for.

Whether you are “giving up,” “giving more,” or both, I hope this season of Lent will be a peaceful time for you. Please know that you are always welcome to join us for chapel as we learn more about being people for others.

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

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

Monday, February 19

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

Thursday, February 22

- *T/Th Pre-Primary Rodeo Day: Students only*
-

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!*
-

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

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

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 hope everyone is having a restful weekend!

This week, I wanted to highlight an addition to our Lower School program. As some of you might already be aware, we have a Teaching Fellow this year.

Our vision for this new position was to bring in an eager educator—a certified teacher with experience—who might need training in our curricular approaches or just need a bit more experience in general before being placed in the classroom.

Christine Nguyen joined us in August and has already made a tremendous impact on our Lower School program. She has four years of experience teaching children from 4–11 years old, and she will be earning her master’s degree from the University of St. Thomas in May.

Working with our youngest learners in Lower School is her primary job, pulling small groups for guided reading and math instruction. She is also co-teaching with third and fourth grades in their afternoon tutorial program, and she was a valued member of our kindergarten admissions testing committee.

From time to time, she serves as a substitute in each grade level, helping her gain more experience with all levels of learners. Maybe your children have come home and reported that she was their substitute. Rest assured, they are in excellent hands!

Her desk is in the Literacy Office, and she can often be found in the kindergarten pod. Please reach out to say hello if you can!

Have a fantastic week!

Cheers,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

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
-

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!
-

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)

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

This Tuesday, February 20, is the SFES STEAMFaire, which showcases our school's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math departments' great work with our students.

Whether we're using Tinkercad to 3-D print Mars farming stations, using recyclable materials to construct functioning water filters, building mini-staircases to learn and display slope, programming Ozobots to perform simple tasks, writing HTML code, or using Arduino to create interactive electronic objects, our teachers and students collaborate daily to bring first-class STEAM education to St. Francis.

Kudos to our students and faculty for pushing our school forward into the ever-developing landscape of modern, 21st-century education.

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

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 19

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
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Tuesday, February 20

- *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*
 - *Middle School STEAMFaire: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Crum Library*
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Wednesday, February 21

- *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 22

- *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: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*

Friday, February 23

- *Regular Schedule/Western Attire or Regular Friday Uniform*
 - *Go Texan Day*
-

Saturday, February 24

- *Annie Play Rehearsal: TBD in the FAC*
-

Sunday, February 25

- *Annie Play Rehearsal: TBD in the FAC*
-

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*
-

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 6-8*
 - *Special Schedule for Grade 5*
 - *Colonial Day for Grade 5*
 - *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.

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.

Registration for SFSA Volleyball, Baseball, and Softball Ends Soon!

Registration ends soon for St. Francis Sports Association 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!