

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of March 25

All School

The Monday After Easter Is a School Day

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

Announcing 2018 Woolrich Fund for Faculty Recipients!

We are so pleased to announce this year's faculty grant recipients of the Woolrich Award! These fabulous St. Francis faculty members will be gaining a new skill or traveling to a faraway land for a truly authentic learning experience.

Below are this year's recipients, with a brief explanation of what each has been awarded. For a more detailed description of their exciting upcoming adventures, please [check out the 2018 Woolrich Award recipients article](#) on our website.

- **Alison Salinas**—Travel to Germany to study the collections of the Brothers Grimm
- **Angela Flowers**—Travel behind the former Iron Curtain to study the impact and lasting effects of the Holocaust and World War II
- **Kimberly Dunn**—Krav Maga mixed martial arts and self-defense training

- **Amy Chandler and Julia Traber**—Travel to Japan to study art and theater
- **Melanie Wallace and Lydia Urbanek**—Travel to France to study the cultural roots of fiction and fairy tales
- **Carlo Minotti**—Welding and fabrication training

Thank you so much to all the generous donors to the Woolrich Fund for Faculty. You make these opportunities possible!

Safeguarding God's Children: Next Class Is April 6

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 on 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](mailto:RoseAnnGregory@stfrancis.org) 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.

A Note From the Development Office: The Graduating Eighth-Grade Class Fund For Financial Aid

As we continue to seek ways to be good stewards of the philanthropic funds that are donated, St. Francis is committed to increasing transparency in how we raise, and spend, the donations from our incredibly generous donors. Each month for the near future, we will focus on providing information about our current fundraising efforts.

Established in 2009, the Graduating Eighth-Grade Class Fund for Financial Aid has provided funding toward financial aid in order to “pay it forward” for families who might otherwise not be able to attend St. Francis. Since its inception, graduating families have provided over \$100,000 to this Fund.

The Graduating Eighth-Grade Class Fund for Financial Aid is an endowed fund at St. Francis. This means that the monies that are contributed are

invested, and the monies spent are from the investment income. The corpus of the Fund does not get spent, but rather generates a continual source of income. In this way, a gift to an endowed fund has an impact over a longer period of time. The percentage of the overall value of the Fund that is spent is determined by the Board of Trustees.

While only eighth-grade families are asked each year to support the Fund, any family that wishes to make a gift to the financial-aid endowment may contribute to it [here](#).

Festival Fiesta 2018: Muchas Gracias!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR UNDERWRITERS AND BOOTH SPONSORS!
Your generous support of this year's event is greatly appreciated.

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. We still need your help to make Festival Fiesta 2018 an amazing day!

VOLUNTEERS: We have lots of volunteer opportunities on the day of the event. Sign-up information will go out at the end of this month, so keep your eyes peeled for details on how you can be an important part of this family event. Want to make your volunteer time even more fun? Sign up with friends!

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.**

Parent Community Bible Studies

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

MOMS' PRAYER DEVOTIONAL WITH MRS. HEINEMANN

- **Monday, March 26, 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 29, 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!

Focus on FoFA

Friends of Fine Arts was delighted to bring Young Audiences of Houston's presentation of *Rabbit Tales TCA* to some of our Lower School students this past Friday, March 23. This delightful production told the stories of four well-known rabbits and the lessons they learned during their adventures. What a great way to lead into Easter week with our children!

Thank you, FoFA, for celebrating the arts with the students at St. Francis!

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

You are waiting in the carpool line at 2:30 p.m. when your car door flies open and you hear, “Mom, Dad, look! Today was my story day!” Your child holds out a piece of paper with much anticipation in their eyes.

Why is this story so important to your child? And why does the Primary School use the Rice University School Literacy and Culture’s (SLC) Storytelling Curriculum?

Studies show that the input of a conversational partner can have a strong influence on what a child learns. Listening attentively also has a very powerful effect on their experience of telling the story. It is in the sharing of stories that we understand and develop compassion and insight into our own and others' behaviors. It is in the sharing of stories that we can see the past so it can help us understand the present. Stories have the power to take us outside ourselves and return a changed self.

Everyone has a story to tell, and everyone’s story should be heard.

In order to guide your understanding of the deep impact of SLC’s Storytelling Curriculum, here are a few of the cognitive and social-emotional benefits you will notice in the three age levels of St. Francis’s Primary School:

- In the Pre-Primary year, children are exposed to the foundational components of storytelling. Relationships between the teacher and student are strengthened, and there is tremendous growth in oral-language development. We honor children by writing down their thoughts and ideas, and celebrate them by reading their words out loud. Eventually, by dramatizing their stories, they learn to modulate their voices, understand that print has meaning, build new vocabulary, and begin to use sequencing to recall events in their lives or retell storylines from their favorite books.
- In Primary I, children strengthen their knowledge of how stories work and where stories come from. Sequencing, plot development, a positive attitude toward reading, and the development of imagination are areas

of growth in the P1 year. While students gain a greater knowledge of literacy, social and emotional growth is enhanced. This builds a strong classroom community while bridging cultures, cultivating personal interests, and creating connections with our families.

- Primary II focuses on literacy building blocks such as phonics, spelling, decoding, and sight words. Students learn about quotations, directionality, and spaces between words. They begin reading for meaning, learning about how print functions, understanding dialogue, and exploring story details. Understanding the process of writing, characterization, and the author's purpose are areas of growth throughout the PII year.

A goal for all levels is the establishment of a respectful community that shares ideas and values the thoughts of others.

Now that you know why these stories are so important to your child and to the Primary School, how do you respond when the paper is waved at you?

You read it, of course!

Read it and ask questions about who was picked to act in their story, why certain children were picked, what your child's favorite part was, and how the audience reacted to parts of the story. And know that your child is becoming confident with sharing his or her own ideas, as well as developing a strong literacy base that will ensure success later on in school!

Contributing authors: Susan Meriwether, Pre-Primary; Emily Hughes, Primary I; Michelle Staller, Primary II

Note: We are fortunate to have these three Rice University Early Literacy Leadership Academy leaders and mentors on our faculty, and continue to provide professional development each year for all of our teachers in this approach.

Warmly,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

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Sign Up Now: Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences Are Thursday, 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 March, please click [here](#). The menu for April is available [here](#).

Note About Celebrating Summer Birthdays

We would like to follow the schedule below for celebrating summer birthdays during Chapel, from now until the end of school:

- **If your child has a June birthday**, we will celebrate at the end of March/beginning of April.
- **If your child has a July birthday**, we will celebrate during the month of April.
- **If your child has an early August birthday**, we will celebrate at the end of April, through the first week of May.

Please contact your child's teacher as to when you would like to celebrate your Primary Schooler's summer birthday in Chapel, according to the above schedule.

Thanks for helping us to commemorate these special birthdays in such a meaningful and spiritual way!

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, March 27

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

Wednesday, March 28

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*; Blades drama performance; Primary I and II students wear uniforms
 - *MWF Pre-Primary Easter Egg Hunt: Students only*
 - *Primary II Fathers & Friends Lunch: 11:00 a.m.*; Please remember to bring lunch for your child—no fast food, please!
-

Thursday, March 29

- *T/Th Pre-Primary Easter Egg Hunt: Students only*
-

Friday, March 30

- *Good Friday*: Student holiday
-

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

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope everyone had a wonderful weekend!

As the trimester came to a close, I know you had the opportunity to learn about your children's progress from the report card and from them sharing their portfolio. We have enjoyed reading your comments and hearing about the sharing process from the children!

Portfolios are just one reflection tool used in the classroom. Our students are constantly analyzing what they have learned, why they have learned it, and how to grow and improve as learners. (I observed a first-grade class the other day discussing metacognition as it relates to comprehending what you are reading. Amazing!)

Reflection, of course, is part of having a growth mindset; you cannot grow if you do not know the direction in which to go. I love this quote from the book *Cultivating Student Reflection* by Kate Charner-Laird: "Reflection is the mind's strongest glue for making connections essential to understand, regardless of the subject matter."

I came across a couple of fantastic articles about the importance of the reflection process and wanted to share them with you: Click [here](#) to read more about portfolios, and click [here](#) to learn more about the framework for the reflection process and metacognition. The articles are easy reads and contain links to more in-depth research articles if you'd prefer more details.

See you around school!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

The Monday After Easter Is a School Day

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 26

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between March 25-31 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Thursday, March 29

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Maundy Thursday:* Holy Week Eucharist; 8:05 a.m.
-

Friday, March 30

- *Good Friday:* Student holiday
-

Sunday, April 1

- *Easter Sunday*
-

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

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

We have a short week, on account of Good Friday and Easter. As love is the virtue of March, we have been focusing on that virtue during Chapel and Advisory each week. It's this time of the year that we should be especially thankful for God's love.

An anonymous author once wrote this account of his or her experience with love and devotion:

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at Stanford Hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liza who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her five-year-old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to Liza's little brother and asked him if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before he took a deep breath and said, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save Liza."

*As the transfusion progressed, he lay in his bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to Liza's cheeks. Then her little brother's face grew pale, and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister **all** of his blood.*

This Easter, I pray that each of us will carry God's love in our hearts and minds, as we live out the rest of our school year together.

On the Mind, Brain, and Education Science front, I have included the following articles:

[This](#) article discusses the research-informed claim that adolescent behavior isn't all dependent on hormones. I found it interesting and thought-provoking, especially as we gain insight into the teenage brain during these critical years.

[This](#) article is a deeper dive into retrieval practice and memory with preteens and adults—both the teacher's and student's role in the content delivery and studying process, respectively.

Differentiation was a topic of interest at our MS Honors Program meeting this past Thursday. For a deeper dive into differentiation, please consult the great work of Susan Brookhart and Carol Ann Tomlinson, who are authorities on

instructional best practices. I have included [this](#) article, which is based on Tomlinson's snapshot explanation of differentiated instruction.

As you review the schedule below, please note that Easter Monday, April 2, is **not** a holiday.

Thank you, all, and have a great week.

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

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 26

- *Regular Schedule/Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Honors Testing Dates E-mailed to Parents*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, March 27

- *Regular Schedule/Regular Uniform Day*
 - *Honors Intent Letters Distributed Via E-mail and Hard Copy*
 - *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 Trip Parent Meeting: 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
-

Wednesday, March 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.*
-

Thursday, March 29

- *Special Schedule/Dress 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*
 - *Eucharist Chapel (Maundy Thursday): 11:05-11:55 a.m.*
-

Friday, March 30

- *Good Friday: Student holiday*
-

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*
- *NJHS Meeting: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
- *WEB Training: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*

Church

Holy Week and Easter Services

MARCH 30: GOOD FRIDAY

Noon—Liturgy of Good Friday**

Noon—Walk to Calvary with Father Wismer (Families Meet in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall)

1:00 p.m.—The Seven Last Words of Jesus**

2:00 p.m.—The Stations of the Cross**

MARCH 31: HOLY SATURDAY

2:00–3:00 p.m.—Private Confessions in the Chapel

4:00 p.m.—Easter Eve Baptisms (Contact Amy Homer at 713.458.6307 to schedule a baptism.)

APRIL 1: EASTER SUNDAY

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,** and 11:00 a.m.** Services

8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.—Continental Breakfast

10:00 a.m.—Easter Egg Hunt

**Childcare Available

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

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