

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of November 4

All School

Mrs. Harris Honored by the Houston Museum of Natural Science

Congratulations to Debbie Harris, eighth-grade science teacher and Middle School science coordinator, who was selected by the Houston Museum of Natural Science as the winner of the 2018 Wilhelmina C. Robertson Excellence in Science or Mathematics Teaching Award. Mrs. Harris will receive her award and a \$2,000 prize this Tuesday at the museum's Excellence in Science Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club. Way to shine, Mrs. Harris!

Turkey Bucks Ingathering Is This Week

This week, the St. Francis community is celebrating the Thanksgiving season by supporting families in need through our Turkey Bucks Ingathering.

- If you'd like to participate, please have your child decorate the turkey feather that was sent home with words, pictures, and things for which your family is thankful. Then return the feather, along with a check for \$10 (per family), to your child's teacher.
- The feather will decorate turkey signs, [like this one](#), throughout the school.
- The money raised will be used to purchase food for the holidays, including turkeys, for the families of Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo here in Houston. St. Francis is proud to have been involved with the San Mateo mission for many years.
- Please make checks out to St. Francis Episcopal School. **Feathers and checks must be returned by Friday, November 9.**

Get Your Gala Tickets!

What's all the buzz about Gala, anyway? Well, **the funds from this year's Gala will go toward three important school-wide initiatives:**

- Security improvements,
- The creation of a makerspace, and
- Technology enhancements.

Don't miss out on your chance to make a difference for our school! Seating is limited, so [get your tickets](#) soon and get ready for a fun night to celebrate St. Francis.

Congrats, Pumpkin Decorating/Carving Contest Winners!

Congratulations to all the winners of the annual St. Francis Pumpkin Decorating/Carving Contest! Check out the winners below, and [click here to watch the video](#) from the event.

- **Kindergarten Winner:** "Unicorn Pegasus" by Willow Bookmyer
- **First-Grade Winner:** "Cat in the Hat" by Emily McDonald
- **Second-Grade Winner:** "Piney" by Emily Stash
- **Third-Grade Winner:** "Ice Cream Delight" by Harper Williams
- **Fourth-Grade Winner:** "Piggy & Elephant" by Alyssa Davis
- **Fifth-Grade Winner:** "Pumpkin Spice" by Ashley Knowles
- **Sixth-Grade Winner:** "Multi-Tasker" by Carson Cabbage
- **Seventh-Grade Winner:** "Winnie the Pooh" by Chloe Zagorski
- **Eighth-Grade Winner:** "Creepy" by Giacomo Valente
- **Best in Show:** "I Snail You to Laugh" by Lauren Gibson
- **Runner-up Best in Show:** "Harrison's Solar System" by Harrison Oshins
- **Best in Lower School:** "Swat Watt" by Grayson Cotuno
- **Best in Middle School:** "Pumpkin Pox" by Sam Noser
- **Most Creative Pumpkin:** "Texas Trophy Hunter" by Freeman Woldert
- **Most Outrageous Pumpkin:** "Witch Flight" by Evans Anderson
- **Funniest Pumpkin:** "Lily Dog" by Kallie Gordy
- **Scariest Pumpkin:** "Indoraptor vs. Godzilla" by Connor Pavlik
- **Best TV Character Pumpkin:** "Quidditch Seeker" by Luke Chin
- **Spirit Award:** "St. Francis Bunny" by Alexa Duncan
- **Most Detailed Pumpkin:** "Astros Ring" by Micah Boutros
- **Most Unique Pumpkin:** "Lizard Lounge" by Hudson Woldert

- **Most Adorable Pumpkin:** “The Pugkin” by Hutch Burrow

Eighth-Grade Play Performances Are November 9 and 10

The Middle School Theatre Department is proud to present the eighth-grade fall play:

I Never Saw Another Butterfly
by Celeste Raspanti



Over 15,000 Jewish children were sent by the Nazis to Theresienstadt, a former military camp also known as Terezin. Tragically, only 100 children were still alive when the concentration camp was liberated at the end of World War II. *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* tells the true story of the children of Terezin and one of the camp’s survivors, Raja Englanderova. There were no butterflies at Terezin, of course, but for the children, butterflies became a symbol of defiance, making it possible for them to live on and play happily while waiting to be transported to Auschwitz. This play is based on Raja’s memories and, although it depicts the horrors of the Holocaust, it also reminds us of the best of which the human heart is capable.

Performances run Friday, November 9, and Saturday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Main Campus.

[Click here](#) to purchase tickets online for a reserved seat. General admission tickets will be available at the door on show nights (cash only).

Plan to Attend the Dads' Club Social on November 15

Don't miss the upcoming Dads' Club Social, one of the club's most popular events! Join other St. Francis dads for good food, cold beverages, and great fellowship . . . not to mention the Rockets vs. Warriors game showing on multiple screens! The social will be held at **El Tiempo Cantina** (2605 S. Gessner Rd.) on **Thursday, November 15, from 7:00-9:30 p.m.** Dads' Club will be providing food, and drinks will be available via a cash bar.

Please Spread the Word! Upcoming Admissions Tours

The Admissions Office is hosting upcoming tours for all four divisions. Please tell your friends and neighbors!

PRIMARY SCHOOL TOURS

- Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m. (TOMORROW)

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS

- Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.

UPPER SCHOOL TOURS

- Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m. (TODAY!)
- Most Wednesdays from October through April at 9:00 a.m.

Primary School

From the Division Head

I hope that with the end of Daylight Saving Time today you've enjoyed the gift of an extra hour of sleep. I think all of us could use more.

A 2016 study by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concluded that at least a third of adults don't get enough sleep. A measure by state showed how many adults get seven hours of sleep each night (considered a healthy amount for those 18-60 years old). South Dakota had the most adults getting the recommended amount of sleep (71.6 percent), and Hawaii had the fewest (56.1 percent). In Texas, we are fairly typical at 67 percent. I hope you are getting at least seven hours.

Most medical professionals recommend 10-12 hours of sleep each night for children in their early childhood years. While this may seem difficult to accomplish, the benefits of sleep are clear. The CDC warns: *“Children and adolescents who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk for many health problems, including obesity, diabetes, poor mental health, and injuries. They are also more likely to have attention and behavior problems, which can contribute to poor academic performance in school.”*

As the days get shorter and we spend more time in our homes, I hope you will recognize and enjoy the restorative benefits of sleep and self-care. More time at home in hibernation mode is not such a bad thing. As parents, we generally recognize our children's needs and practice what is necessary to keep them healthy, but this is one of those times to put your own oxygen mask on first. Taking care of your children starts with you taking care of yourself.

All my best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Primary School People for Others Day

During People for Others Day on **Monday, November 12**, all Primary School classrooms will be creating hygiene kits for the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, using items our students have been collecting. Pre-Primary and Primary I classes will create cards to include with the hygiene kits, while Primary II students will assemble the kits with the help of our Upper School freshman class.

This is the last week to bring in your items for the collection. (You are welcome to bring any items from the list below to support the drive, regardless of your child's grade level.)

Pre-Primary classes are collecting the following items:

- Deodorant (travel size)
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Soap (mini or regular size; must be individually wrapped and unused)
- Combs

Primary I classes are collecting the following items:

- Toothpaste (travel size)
- Toothbrushes (travel size)
- Mouthwash (mini or regular size; must be individually wrapped and unused)
- Shaving cream (travel size)

Primary II classes are collecting the following items:

- Men's socks

All collection items will be blessed at Chapel on Wednesday, November 7.

Fall Book Fair: Time to Find Your Adventure!

We'll open our doors to the Fall Book Fair on **Wednesday, November 14; Thursday, November 15; and Friday, November 16**, when our grandparents and grandfriends visit St. Francis. The book fair is an exciting opportunity to share our classrooms and our love of reading!

Fall Book Fair hours on the South Campus are as follows:

- Wednesday: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Friday: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Please Share the Word! PS Admissions Tour Tomorrow

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Primary School Admissions Tour on **Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m!**

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

To view the Primary School Dining Hall menu, please click [here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, November 4

- *Daylight Saving Time Ends*: Fall back one hour
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Monday, November 5

- *PS Admissions Tour*: 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 - *Turkey Bucks Ingathering Begins*
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Tuesday, November 6

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Step-Up to Lower School*: Current PII parents are welcome to join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the HBR on the Main Campus
-

Wednesday, November 7

- *PS Individual Picture Makeups*
 - *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.; items collected for PS People for Others Day will be blessed in Chapel
 - *Chapel Dramatization*: Hughes
-

Friday, November 9

- *Turkey Bucks Ingathering Ends*
-

Monday, November 12

- *People for Others Day*
-

Tuesday, November 13

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Thanksgiving Feasts (Ferguson T/Th Pre-Primary & PII): Students only*
-

Wednesday, November 14

- *No Chapel Today*
 - *Thanksgiving Feasts (Pre-Primary & PI): Students only*
 - *Fall Book Fair*
-

Thursday, November 15

- *Admissions Application Deadline: PS only*
 - *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day (Ferguson T/Th Pre-Primary & PII): 8:30-10:45 a.m.*
 - *Fall Book Fair*
-

Friday, November 16

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day (PI & Pre-Primary—Britton, Meriwether, Oteiza, & Ferguson M/W/F): 8:30-10:45 a.m.*
 - *Book Fair*
-

Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23

- *Thanksgiving Holidays*

Monday, November 26

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins*

Tuesday, November 27

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

Wednesday, November 28

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

Thursday, November 29

- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup*

Friday, November 30

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Ends*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope you are enjoying this weekend! We had a fun-filled time last week: All Saints' Eucharist and a party hosted by our fabulous room parents! *Thanks to all parents who volunteered to plan and run a party for our Lower School kiddos.* Each classroom in every pod had specific activities, and the students rotated among the rooms. Laughter and smiles were everywhere!

As we continue our persistent work to encourage both a **growth mindset** among our students and a school environment that promotes **problem-solving, risk-taking, and reflection**, please remember the following guidelines:

- Promote a routine at home in which children gather what is needed for the next day. Children feel empowered when they are independent and successful.
- Checklists or reminders are great supports, but at the end of the day, the backpack, library book, or snack is theirs, not yours. Set them up for success by providing the snack and establishing one place for them to keep their books or packed backpack; then, have them do the packing up.
- When they forget something, we guide them and help them problem-solve through the issue. We view these mistakes as amazing ways to promote learning! PLEASE do not bring to school what your child left at home, and don't tell them it was your fault.
- Remember, parenting is a journey. None of us always get it right, and there is not just one right way! Those of us who have walked the parenting road for many years—both administrators and teachers—are always happy to talk, share experiences (good and bad!), and help you work through any issues. Additionally, working with children every day, all day for many years does give us unique perspectives. Reach out to any of us so we can help each other on this journey with your children! It is what is best for our youngest learners!
- GREAT QUOTE: "I'm not a parenting expert. In fact, I'm not sure that I even believe in the idea of 'parenting experts.' I'm an engaged, imperfect parent, and a passionate researcher. I'm an experienced mapmaker and a stumbling traveler. Like many of you, parenting is by far my boldest and most daring adventure." —Brené Brown

Click [here](#) for an informative blog post on promoting and coaching problem-solving and growth mindset for kids!

Finally, on a more “nuts and bolts” topic, I wanted to provide a few procedural reminders, especially for our new Lower School parents:

- If you need to check your child out early, please come to the Lower School Office and do two things: sign the roster just outside the office, and then get a white slip from Mrs. St. Clair. She keeps the yellow copy for the office, and you will take the white slip to the teacher. Please do

not go to the classroom first, as the teacher will not release your child to you without a white slip. If Mrs. St. Clair is not in the office, she always leaves signed slips on her desk. Fill it out, leave the yellow copy on her desk, and take the magic white ticket.

- The students' schedules can be found just outside the Lower School Office, in the binder that sits on the table under the window. Find the homeroom teacher's page, and you can see exactly where your child is at any time of the day.
- Please remember: **We do not encourage early checkouts**, *especially* after school events. Depending on grade level, the day ends at 3:00 or 3:15 p.m., and we expect students to remain at school even after special parties or class events. After 10 early checkouts, we will ask that you come in to discuss how we can help you. We want your children here with us learning! (Of course, we certainly understand that there are times you must take your child for an appointment.)

Thanks for all of your help as we keep the Lower School running as safely, smoothly, and efficiently as possible for you and your child!

Have a wonderful week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Fall Book Fair: Time to Find Your Adventure!

We'll open our doors to the Fall Book Fair on **Wednesday, November 14; Thursday, November 15; and Friday, November 16**, when our grandparents and grandfriends visit St. Francis. The book fair is an exciting opportunity to share our classrooms and our love of reading!

Lower and Middle School students will also attend Fall Book Fair with their classes. Don't forget to [create a student account](#) for your Lower and Middle School students to use for purchases at the book fair.

Fall Book Fair hours on the Main Campus are as follows:

- Wednesday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Friday: 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Please check homeroom and/or English teacher websites for class visit times.

'Tis the Season for Music! Join Us for Our Christmas Concerts

We are excited to bring you songs of the season in our upcoming Christmas Concert Series, *The Joy of Christmas!* There will be three Lower School concerts taking place in the FAC:

- **Grades 1 and 2: Monday, December 10, at 6:00-7:00 p.m.**
- **Grades 3 and 4, Joyful Sounds Choir: Tuesday, December 11, at 6:00-7:30 p.m.**
- **Kindergarten: Wednesday, December 12, at 9:00-9:30 a.m.**

Details on dress attire for each grade will be posted in November via Seesaw and teacher web pages.

Important Details About People for Others Day

Our annual day of service, People for Others Day, is right around the corner!

This year, on Monday, November 12, our students will serve our community through several different activities and lessons built around three pillars: childhood cancer, early childhood literacy, and veterans. Our People for Others team has been working diligently to create projects that will not only give back to our community, but also encourage our students to have visceral connection to the day of service, be aware of the needs in the community around us, and truly understand and comprehend why being people for others is important.

Throughout the day, each grade will participate in a variety of service-focused activities created specifically for each age group and geared toward their level of emotional maturity.

Everyone will begin the day with a grade-level presentation to discuss the purpose for this day of service and to introduce their activities and the beneficiaries of the service projects.

- Each grade will create something specific to accompany the books being collected during the book drive—whether it be designing a personalized bookmark, filling LEGO bags for STEM programs, or

creating encouraging cards to be given to the mobile libraries of Making It Better and Houston Public Library's Curiosity Cruiser.

- Our students will also participate in service projects focused on helping and honoring the local veterans at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, as well as deployed troops across the world. We will discuss the honor, privileges, and sacrifices of military families, and how important it is for all of us to appreciate and be aware of the courage and commitment of our troops. Each grade will create some form of gratitude either to be given locally or to be shipped overseas to bring uplifting messages and kind words to our women and men who are currently fighting or who have previously protected our country and freedom.
- Each grade will also participate in either writing heartfelt and encouraging cards OR creating activity bags to be given to families at the Ronald McDonald House and to young patients at Texas Children's Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Below is a brief description of each grade-level activity.

KINDERGARTEN

- Tour the Houston Public Library's "Super Library on Wheels," the Curiosity Cruiser.
- Decorate and fill bags of donated toiletries.
- Write thankful and upbeat cards to be given to our local veterans and their families at Texas Children's Hospital.
- Design and create a personalized bookmark to accompany the donated books.

FIRST GRADE

- Create a handmade "United We Stand" flag to be presented to the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.
- Write a heartfelt letter to be sent to our deployed troops.
- Create "Bags of Smiles" for the patients at Texas Children's Hospital. (Assemble craft kits, and create a 10-page journal to include in the bag, along with some Play-Doh and crayons to encourage creativity while the patients are in the hospital.)
- Create LEGO gift bags for mobile libraries to give out to their participants.

SECOND GRADE

- Create superhero capes to be presented to Texas Children’s Hospital for in-patient children.
- Create and personalize a bookmark to be donated along with the book-drive books.
- Write a letter of gratitude to a veteran, to be distributed at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center.

THIRD GRADE

- Count, sort, box, and label our collected books from the book drive.
- Create a “Thank You, Veterans” sign.
- Make “prayer bags” containing a short prayer along with a plastic army man. (The prayer bags will be distributed to every student in the Lower School to help remind our students to pray for the soldiers who are making great sacrifices to fight for our freedom and our country.)
- Make no-sew fleece blankets and write uplifting letters to be given to the patients and families at the Ronald McDonald House.

FOURTH GRADE

- FaceTime with Commander Michael G. Mercado, MD, of the US Navy.
- Package student-designed holiday cards and stamps to create a gift bag for in-patients at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, so they have cards to send to their own families.
- Write a letter of gratitude and encouragement to our deployed troops, veterans, and new recruits.
- Make no-sew fleece blankets and create handwritten notes for pediatric cancer patients at Texas Children’s Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center.
- Assemble and decorate activity booklets designed by our students.
- Create a LEGO Character Creation Kit, which will be packaged and donated to the mobile libraries to be utilized in the STEM and STEAM programs they host in the community.

Although we call this People for Others Day, we feel it is valuable to teach our children to be givers and encourage them to help others as often as possible beyond just this one day.

We began our season of service in September, which is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, by hosting the first People for Others Spare Change Challenge. In just two weeks, the SFES community collectively accumulated over \$2,000 in change. The money collected will directly benefit the

Candlelighters - Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, which will be presented with a check from our school in an upcoming Chapel service.

This month, we will be kicking off our two-week Gently Used Book Drive, collecting used books from our students and St. Francis community to be donated directly to the Curiosity Cruiser and Making It Better. Last year, we collected over 4,000 books during the two-week drive. This year, the bar is set high, and we know our community will pull together to collect a record-breaking number.

On People for Others Day, each Lower School grade will create something specific to accompany the books being collected during the book drive. This year, our collections will be given directly to two local nonprofit literacy programs:

- The Curiosity Cruiser is a mobile library providing free books and other educational programs to children in the Greater Houston area.
- Making It Better provides several different literacy programs to local communities and schools, including mentoring, after-school programming, and a mobile classroom providing early literacy programming to our youngest Houstonians.

LS Book Drive Ends November 9

Donate your gently used books between now and Friday, November 9.

There are collection bins in the pods and/or classrooms. We are collecting board books for babies, early readers and chapter books for elementary-aged students, and young adult novels for middle schoolers.

Please Share the Word! Upcoming LS Admissions Tours

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Lower School Admissions Tour on **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, November 4

- *Daylight Saving Time Ends:* Fall back one hour

Monday, November 5

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 4-10 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

Tuesday, November 6

- *Admissions Step-Up to Lower School:* Current Primary School parents are welcome to join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the HBR on the Main Campus

Wednesday, November 7

- *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.

Friday, November 9

- *LS Book Drive Ends*

Monday, November 12

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 11-24 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
- *People for Others Day*

Wednesday, November 14

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day:* Kindergarten and fourth grade, 8:00-10:30 a.m.; first and third grades, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; second grade, 12:00-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14-Friday, November 16

- *Book Fair:* In the FAC

Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*

Monday, November 26

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins*
- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 25-December 1 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

Wednesday, November 28

- *FAC Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
- *ERB Parent Meeting for Grades 4-8:* 8:15 a.m. in the HBR

Friday, November 30

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Ends*
- *ERB Parent Meeting for Grade 3:* 8:15 a.m. in the HBR

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School families! I hope November is treating everyone well.

This week, we prepare to enjoy the SFES Middle School fall production of *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. This play was adapted from the collection of poems and artwork created by Jewish children who were subjected to life in the concentration camp of Theresienstadt.

I cannot think of a more meaningful production that our eighth graders could put on than this one. Our virtue of the month is compassion, and this play not only brings the subject of human suffering and evil to the forefront, but also champions a celebration of the human spirit in the face of extreme adversity. I am thankful to our fine arts faculty and our students for their vision and diligence in bringing our community a relevant, important artistic offering at a time when it's truly needed.

If you have not visited the [Holocaust Museum Houston](#), then I highly recommend it—our eighth graders will tour it this school year. Also, I highly recommend visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's [online resources](#) to learn more about this seismic event in our world's history and how we can spread love in the world to combat any and all hatred. I have no doubt that when our students leave SFES, they will be agents of change for love, peace, and tolerance in the world. This coming weekend is just one display of that action.

I wish you all a wonderful week! It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Mrs. Harris Honored by the Houston Museum of Natural Science

Congratulations to Debbie Harris, eighth-grade science teacher and Middle School science coordinator, who was selected by the Houston Museum of Natural Science as the winner of the 2018 Wilhelmina C. Robertson Excellence in Science or Mathematics Teaching Award. Mrs. Harris will receive her award and a \$2,000 prize this Tuesday at the museum's Excellence in Science Luncheon at River Oaks Country Club. Way to shine, Mrs. Harris!

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We'll open our doors to the Fall Book Fair on **Wednesday, November 14; Thursday, November 15; and Friday, November 16**, when our grandparents and grandfriends visit St. Francis. The book fair is an exciting opportunity to share our classrooms and our love of reading!

Lower and Middle School students will also attend Fall Book Fair with their classes. Don't forget to [create a student account](#) for your Lower and Middle School students to use for purchases at the book fair.

Fall Book Fair hours on the Main Campus are as follows:

- Wednesday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Friday: 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Please check homeroom and/or English teacher websites for class visit times.

Help Students Collect Items for People for Others Day

Our Middle Schoolers will be participating in **People for Others Day on Monday, November 12**, and we need your help collecting items!

FIFTH GRADE

Our fifth graders will be packing meals for Spring Branch Blessings in a Backpack, which provides food bags each Friday during the school year to children who are at risk of going hungry. This new Houston chapter of the national Blessings in a Backpack organization currently serves a total of 500 students attending Sherwood, Spring Branch, Thornwood, and Woodview elementary schools in SBISD.

Please help us reach our goal of 6,000 food items! It's boys vs. girls, and whichever group collects 3,000 items first will win a special treat during Friday Study Hall.

Here are the items we're collecting:

- Ravioli/spaghetti (Pop tops preferred),
- Fruit cups of any kind,
- Mac and cheese boxes, and

- Boxed milk.

Fifth graders will also support Operation Stars & Stripes by making Christmas stockings for our troops.

SIXTH GRADE

Our sixth graders will be working at Books Between Kids, and we need your help collecting new and gently used books that are appropriate for ages Pre-K through fifth grade—including storybooks, chapter books, leveled readers, children's nonfiction books, toddler books, and Spanish or dual-language books (Pre-K through second grade only). Please place these items in the boxes in the sixth-grade classrooms.

While on campus, sixth graders will also pack lunches for Kids' Meals and write letters to veterans.

SEVENTH GRADE

Seventh graders will spend the day at Generation One, where they will host a field day and a literacy event, plus complete numerous projects for the community in the surrounding neighborhoods. Generation One's mission is to provide life-changing early childhood education to impact the future of Houston by empowering its children to realize their fullest potential.

Seventh graders will be collecting the following items:

- New or gently used books for children aged 2-4 years old—Bedard and Dawson
- New or gently used games for children aged 2-4 years old, such as Candy Land, Go Fish, Memory, and Twister—Kruger
- Toilet paper (four-pack)—Minotti
- Baby wipes—Pruett
- Clorox wipes—Staller
- Paper towels (two-pack)—Traber

EIGHTH GRADE

Eighth graders will be traveling to Panther Creek Inspiration Ranch to work on the property for the day. Panther Creek uses equine activities and therapies to provide a Christ-centered oasis for children and adults with special challenges.

Eighth graders will need work gloves to wear during their service project. Gloves should be brought to the student's advisor.

With questions, please e-mail [Elle Anderson](#).

Please Share the Word! Upcoming MS Admissions Tours

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Middle School Admissions Tour on **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Join Us for Coffee With the Head of School on December 5

Middle School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School on **Wednesday, December 5, at 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library**. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age. We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, November 4

- *Daylight Saving Time Ends: Fall back one hour*
-

Monday, November 5-Thurseday, November 8

- *Turkey Bucks Ingathering*
-

Monday, November 5

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Group Pictures for Grades 5, 6, & 8: During electives/rotation*
- *PSIA Testing: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the HBR*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

- *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal (Tech Run-through): 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Sign-Up Deadline for Second Trimester Electives*
-

Tuesday, November 6

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Tuesday Schedule for Grades 5-7*
 - *Special Schedule for Grade 8*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Fall Play/Dress Rehearsal: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Step-Up to MS for LS Parents: 8:15-10:00 a.m. in the HBR*
 - *National Election Day: Vote!*
-

Wednesday, November 7

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *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.*
 - *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal: 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Thursday, November 8

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *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*
 - *Washington, DC, Trip Meeting (Parents Only): 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the HBR*
 - *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal: 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Eighth-Grade Transcript Request Form Due to Ms. Crummel*
-

Friday, November 9

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Veterans' Day Observed by MS*
 - *Wolf Wear Sale: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the People Place*
 - *WEB Leadership Training (Grade 8 WEB Leaders Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom*
 - *MS Fall Theater Production: 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Saturday, November 10

- *MS Fall Theater Production: 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, November 12

- *Special Schedule: Dress according to grade-level activity*
 - *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the People Place*
 - *People for Others Day: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, November 13

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *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: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, November 14

- *Special Schedule for LS Grandparents and Grandfriends Day/Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Fall Book Fair (LS Day): In the FAC*

Thursday, November 15

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *MS Grandparents and Grandfriends 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*
- *Fall Book Fair (MS Grandparents and Grandfriends Only): 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the FAC*
- *MS/US Brown Bag Dance Series: 12:00 p.m. in the People Place*

Friday, November 16

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *First Trimester Ends*
- *ERB Mailout to Parents*
- *WEB Activity (Grade 5): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*
- *NJHS Meeting Geo Bee Challenge: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
- *Fall Book Fair (MS Visits During English Classes): 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the FAC*

Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*

Monday, November 26

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Second Trimester Begins*
 - *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, November 27

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *MS Admissions Tour: 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the HBR and Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, November 28

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *ERB Parent Meeting for Grades 4-8: 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the HBR*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Thursday, November 29

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *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*
 - *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*
-

Friday, November 30

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Deadline for Spring 2018 PE/Athletics Registration (Online)*
- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Ends*
- *St. Nicholas Toy Drive Pickup: 8:30-11:00 a.m. in the People Place*

Upper School

From the Division Head

Thank you for making the time to meet with us for our student-led parent-teacher conferences last Wednesday. The conversations allowed us time to reflect collectively on the strengths and challenges of each student. Please know that we are most grateful for the opportunity to teach and learn

alongside your children and to partner with you in supporting each student's growth and skill development.

Please enjoy the following message from Mr. John Madden, who will be leading the experiential education excursion to Galveston tomorrow.

*On **Monday, November 5**, the Upper School students and faculty will depart campus for our **Investigating the Galveston Estuary** science field trip. We are excited for this opportunity to explore and examine one of the richest habitats in the Houston area with the knowledgeable assistance of the Texas A&M Sea Aggie Center. As part of the experience, students will be spending three hours aboard the Earl L. Milan (TAMUG's 47-foot passenger vessel) learning physical, chemical, and biological oceanography. They'll be sorting and identifying finfish and shellfish collected by shrimp otter trawl and will view the results from a plankton tow. They will also have the chance to examine mud samples for annelid worms and other bottom dwellers, and we'll hope to glimpse bottlenose dolphins at the surface.*

Remember that the bus will depart promptly at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow (Monday) and that a sack lunch (specific to your child's communicated dietary needs) will be provided. Please also be sure to send a hat and sunscreen.

Here's to another spectacular week!

Respectfully yours,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Please Share the Word! US Admissions Tour Is Today

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our Upper School Admissions Tour today, **November 4, at 3:00 p.m.**, as well as most Wednesdays through April 23 at 9:00 a.m.

Join Us for Coffee With the Head of School on December 5

Upper School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School on **Wednesday, December 5, at 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum**

Library on the Main Campus. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age. We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 5

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform, Sneakers, and Hat*
 - *Science Field Trip to Galveston*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, November 6

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, November 7

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Individual Student Picture Retakes*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, November 8

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Friday, November 9

- *Day 5 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Girls Basketball: 4:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Boys Basketball: 5:45 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Monday, November 12

- *Special Schedule for People for Others Day/Regular Uniform*
 - *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the People Place on the Main Campus*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, November 13

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Girls Basketball at Pope John XXIII: 4:30 p.m.*
 - *Boys Basketball: 4:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Wednesday, November 14

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, November 15

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Athletics Practice (Boys Basketball): 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Girls Basketball at St. John's School: 4:30 p.m.*
-

Friday, November 16

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*

Church

Call for Student Performers: Christmas Musical Is December 9

We are looking for 10 to 15 students in grades 2-6 to participate in our Christmas musical, *Fact or Fiction*, by Celeste and David Clydesdale.

- The performance will be held the evening of **Sunday, December 9, in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall**, and will be directed by Ben Hall, Elizabeth Steen, and Richard Keith.
- Rehearsals will be held at the church on dates to be announced.
- If you are interested in participating, please e-mail your name, grade, and contact information to [Rick Keith](#).

Spring First Communion Classes Begin January 13

First Communion classes begin **Sunday, January 13**. This eight-week course is designed to prepare second-grade students to receive the Holy Eucharist. If you would like to sign up or request further information, please contact [Nichole Hilgert](#).

Discovering Christian Meditation

A new opportunity for silent prayer at the church is now available at St. Francis:

- Tuesdays, 5:00-5:30 p.m.
- Thursdays, 7:30-8:00 a.m.

These sessions are in the St. Clare Chapel and are led by Father David Price.

We find the roots of Christian meditation in the practice of Jesus recorded in the Gospels and in the content of the Epistles. We see it developed further in the writings of the desert tradition of the early church. Come learn a bit about it, gain a few hints about the practice and, mostly, come and pray.

Forgiveness Workshop Scheduled for November 10

Father Bates will lead a forgiveness workshop on **Saturday, November 10, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Hogan Board Room**. This will be a time to consider whom you need to forgive, and to work through a process of learning to release others and yourself.

“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.” —C.S. Lewis

Please RSVP to Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 713.782.1270 if you plan to attend.

Veterans' Day Recognition

On **Sunday, November 11**, we will honor and celebrate our veterans, giving thanks for all who have served honorably in the U.S. military. If you have an additional name to add to the Veterans' Day publication we produce annually, please e-mail [Kathryn Adkins](#) with the name and rank of the person to be listed by **Monday, November 5**.

Join Us for St. Francis 101

Join Father Bates on **Sunday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room** for St. Francis 101. This is a great opportunity for new or prospective members to get to know St. Francis Episcopal Church and Father Bates as he gives an overview of our mission, ministry, and programs.

You can RSVP to [Kathryn Adkins](#), or just stop in, and we'll happily welcome you! The Bride's Room is located in the Narthex of the Church.

St. Francis Sports Association: Register Today

Registration is open for basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball.

Please note that basketball registration will close on **Tuesday, November 27**, with our coaches' meeting and draft on **Saturday, December 1**.

- **For more information** about our league, [click here](#).
- If you would like **to register**, [click here](#).
- If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

We look forward to another great season and have added clinics for every sport!