

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 7

All School

Join Us! Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board

Mark your calendars! Please join us on **Thursday, October 25, at 8:15 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.** for Coffee & Conversation with the Head of School and members of our Board of Trustees.

This is a chance for you to hear directly from Steve and our Executive Committee Board members, as well as to ask questions.

We'll be meeting in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus.

It's Homecoming Week: Ready to Rally for the Wolves

Can't hide our Homecoming pride! Come "home" and cheer on the Wolves for any or all of the games. [Click here](#) to view the schedule of events.

GEAR GUIDANCE

If you ordered a Homecoming shirt online, they were sent home on Friday. Students should wear their Homecoming shirts on **Thursday, October 11**. If your student doesn't have a Homecoming shirt, wear any St. Francis spirit shirt. Every student received a Homecoming spirit ribbon—stick or pin it onto your student's shirt on **Thursday, October 11, and Friday, October 12**. Follow regular uniform guidelines for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

THURSDAY GAME-TIME TIDBITS

- Join the fall frenzy . . . football, food, and fun at our annual Homecoming Party on Thursday as our Varsity football team faces off against Second Baptist School. Bring your lawn chair, your appetite, and a healthy dose of spirit, because it's time to cheer our Wolves on to a win! The game starts at 5:00 p.m.
- The party starts in the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church parking lot. Parking opens at 4:15 p.m., and fans can hop on a shuttle bus. [Click here](#) for the map and more details.
- Purchase concessions tickets (cash only) for James Coney Island, Papa John's, Luchi & Joey's, Chick-fil-A, and Kona Ice while DJ tunes and supervised field activities keep our younger students entertained. The Athletics Booster Club will be selling Wolf Wear and candy should you want "Spirit and Sweets." (All children *must* be accompanied by an adult.)

FRIDAY NIGHT FUN

- Keep the spirit alive on Friday evening at the SOUTH Campus as our youngest and oldest athletes compete. Special concessions (Raising Cane's) and cool treats will be available (cash only).

Next SGC Training Is October 12

Safeguarding God's Children is a program of the Episcopal Diocese that trains individuals to be aware of child abuse and potential child-predator situations. Since the inception of the program, St. Francis has asked our parents who volunteer their time in their children's classroom to become trained. Many of you participate in some programs that now require you to be in the classroom more than six times, and we sincerely thank you for your time. In following the Diocese's program, St. Francis is now asking you to become certified according to their requirements. You may even be certified already because you serve in the church's Sunday school or scouting programs.

Our next class, taught by Don Hicks, is **Friday, October 12, at noon**. But before attending, please e-mail [Rose Ann Gregory](#) to help you determine if you need to be trained or certified.

Save The Date: Fall Theater Performances Are Coming Soon!

The SFES Theater Department's upcoming fall shows are right around the corner! Box office information will be available soon.

UPPER SCHOOL MUSICAL

- ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (PG-13)***
- Friday, October 26, and Saturday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym on the South Campus

EIGHTH-GRADE PLAY

- ***I Never Saw Another Butterfly***
- Friday, November 9, and Saturday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Main Campus

Virtue of the Month: Self-Control

The virtue verse is 2 Timothy 1:7: “God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and self-control.” Try to memorize this verse as a family.

Sporting Clays Classic: Team and Sponsorship Spots Still Available

Be on the lookout for your invitation in the mail! If you can't attend the Sporting Clays Classic presented by Gordy & Sons Outfitters, but would still like to support the event, there are several options available. Take advantage of sponsorships that deliver brand visibility to the almost 200 attendees. **The sponsorship deadline is Monday, October 15.**

AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

- \$1,250—Double Down Game {One Available}
- \$1,250—Mixed Target Game {One Available}
- \$750—Ladies Clinic Sponsor
- \$500—Professional Instructor Sponsor {One Available}
- \$500—Soda and Water Beverage Cart {One Available}
- \$350—Mulligan Station {One Available}
- \$200—Station {17 Available}

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 15!

Ready to shoot? Register your team soon via the [event website](#) or [Team and Sponsorship Commitment Form](#). The deadline to register is Monday, October 15.

The Sporting Clays Classic benefits the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E Fund, which provides cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment (C.A.R.E) for students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate fully in our school programs.

QUESTIONS?

For more information, visit the [Special Events page](#) under the Giving tab on the St. Francis home page. You may also e-mail SportingClays@StFrancisHouston.org or contact [J.J. Oshins](#), Sporting Clays Classic chair.

Parent Education Fall Breakfast Is October 24

The Parents Association will welcome John F. Taylor, PhD, as our featured speaker for the Parent Education Fall Breakfast, which will take place on **Wednesday, October 24, at 8:30 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall**. Dr. Taylor will be discussing:

“The Parent’s Survival Kit and Nitty-Gritty Answers to the Problems of Daily Family Life: A Special Morning for Parents of Children with ADHD, Sensory Processing Disorders, or Other Related Conditions”

You don’t want to miss this dynamic speaker. Purchase tickets now through [MySchoolAnywhere](#). Breakfast will be provided.

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

- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m. (children welcome)
- Thursday, October 18, at 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS

- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.

UPPER SCHOOL TOURS

- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m.
- Most Wednesdays from October through April at 9:00 a.m.

Check Lost and Found for Missing Items By November 1

If your Lower or Middle School child is missing any items—clothing or otherwise—please be sure to check the Lost and Found area, which is **located next to the Crum Library entrance in the closet under the fourth- and fifth-grade stairs**. All items remaining in the Lost and Found on **Thursday, November 1**, will be sent to the uniform resale.

Please also be sure to label all St. Francis fleeces and sweatshirts, non-St. Francis clothing items, water bottles, and miscellaneous items! This makes it much easier to return your child's misplaced items.

If you have any questions, please e-mail [Ali Williams](#), lost and found coordinator.

Primary School

From the Assistant Division Head

The Primary School faculty has implemented a new way of operating carpool pickup. We are using technology to help us work more efficiently and collaboratively. On your end, you might not have noticed many changes except that your carpool tag now displays a number instead of your family's last name. The way we used to manage carpool pickup was not meeting the needs of our teachers, students, or parents. Instead of continuing to use the system that was already in place, we decided to challenge what was possible and improve the way we gather and load children into their cars.

We assembled a Primary School carpool committee comprising 10 teachers and assistant teachers. Together, we identified what was not working, and began brainstorming how we would like afternoon carpool to run. Our carpool committee also thought long and hard about how we could use technology to help improve the communication regarding which parents were outside waiting for their child or children.

Our meetings over a 10-month time span proved to be well worth our time, effort, and discussions. Last August, we began using an app called GroupMe to list carpool numbers as cars reach the front of the Andrews House.

Teachers and assistant teachers inside the Primary School locate the children whose numbers have been listed. Children are then lined up, escorted to the door, and loaded into their vehicles. Our goal is to have your children standing and waiting as you pull up to the porte cochere.

Thank you for your patience at the beginning of the year as we—parents, students, and teachers—continue to get more comfortable with the new departure process. It always improves as the year goes on.

Here are a few carpool reminders:

- Please have your yellow or blue carpool number displayed. If you need replacements or an extra, please e-mail your child's teacher.
- Please help your children remember their carpool number. The good news is that your family will keep the same number for as long as your children are in the Primary School.
- Please begin teaching your children to buckle themselves into their seats. We encourage them to start with the top clips and then to fasten the bottom buckles.
- Please e-mail or call your child's teacher in the morning if you need to change your regular carpool.
- Please keep your speed below 10 miles per hour.
- Please follow the signs and signals of those directing traffic.
- Please refrain from using your cell phone during this time.

As always, we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we find new ways to improve our Primary School program. I look forward to seeing you in carpool!

Warmly,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Assistant Head of Primary School

Spirit Night Is October 18

All students and families in Primary and Lower School are cordially invited to come and cheer on the Upper School girls volleyball team during their last

home game on **Thursday, October 18**. The Wolves Upper School team will play The Emery/Weiner School at **5:00 p.m. in Crum Gym on the South Campus**.

Students are encouraged to arrive to the gym between 4:30 and 4:40 p.m. for pregame activities. The students can watch warm-ups, meet the team, create the Fan Tunnel, and enjoy the match. There will be giveaways for each student in attendance. Concessions will also be on sale through the Athletics Booster Club.

Join Us! Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board

Mark your calendars! Please join us on **Thursday, October 25, at 8:15 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.** for Coffee & Conversation with the Head of School and members of our Board of Trustees.

This is a chance for you to hear directly from Steve and our Executive Committee Board members, as well as to ask questions.

We'll be meeting in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

Please Share the Word! Upcoming PS 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 Primary School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m. (children welcome)**
- **Thursday, October 18, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.**

Fellowship With the Head of School

Primary School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School. 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.

- **Tuesday, November 6**—10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library

We hope to see you there!

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 8

- *School Holiday*
-

Tuesday, October 9

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (T/Th) and Primary II*
-

Wednesday, October 10

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

Thursday, October 11

- *Primary II Field Trip to Main Street Theater*
-

Sunday, October 14

- *Showcase Sunday: 11:00 a.m.*

Tuesday, October 16

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel: Owens, Staller, and Wiener*
-

Wednesday, October 17

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel: Hughes and Blades*
-

Thursday, October 18

- *PS Admissions Tour: 9:00 a.m.*
 - *Spirit Night: Primary and Lower School divisions, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper School Athletics Center (Crum Gym) on the South Campus*
-

Tuesday, October 23

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

Wednesday, October 24

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

Thursday, October 25

- *Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board: 8:15 a.m. in the HBR*
- *Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board: 6:30 p.m. in the HBR*

Friday, October 26

- *Sporting Clays Classic*
-

Tuesday, October 30

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

Wednesday, October 31

- *PS Student Holiday*
 - *PS Parent/Teacher Conferences*
-

Monday, November 5

- *PS Admissions Tour: 9:00 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, November 6

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School: 10:00 a.m. in the PS Library*
 - *Step-Up to Lower School (Current Primary II Parents): 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the HBR*
-

Wednesday, November 7

- *PS Individual Picture Makeups*
- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
- *Chapel Dramatization: Hughes*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope this finds you enjoying a long weekend with family and friends!

I recently came across an article that jumped right off the page at me. The topic of the article was about another parenting label: “Lawnmower Parents.” I know we are familiar with the terms “Helicopter Parents,” “Tiger Parents,” and “Free-Range Parents,” but this is a new one. It grabbed my interest right away, as helping you raise resilient, emotionally healthy children is a top priority of every faculty member in Lower School.

So, what is this new breed of parents? Well, I don’t think it’s actually that new, but the label is intriguing. These parents mow down (eliminate) all of their child’s potential challenges, discomforts, or struggles. We, as parents, naturally want to help our children, and we *all* have been guilty of doing this from time to time.

The problem arises when we continue to prevent our children from ever experiencing disappointment or struggles. Working through disappointment or facing challenges is a very large part of learning to be flexible, learning from mistakes, learning to make decisions, and realizing mistakes are not the end of the world. Logically, as adults, we can all admit that handling these emotions is simply a part of life; but then we are quick to jump in and try to appease our upset children, rather than talk through the problem and help them to problem-solve to find the best solution. This might result in your children becoming angry at you for not “rescuing” them, but it is our job as parents to be able to handle that and realize that we are doing what is best for them. I know it’s not fun to have an upset child, especially when he or she decides to be upset or angry with us. But children **MUST** experience these emotions to become resilient and self-sufficient.

That said, what does this look like in school? If your child forgets materials for homework, don’t e-mail or text your friend to get a copy of the homework. Help your child realize that it is okay to make mistakes and that he or she can do the work the next night. Tell the teachers what happened and face the logical consequences (which is probably nothing except doing the work the next night). Again, this might upset your child—but what a great life lesson to learn in Lower School, where such actions are not detrimental to resumes or

transcripts! At school, we talk about making mistakes, taking risks, and problem-solving all day, so this will not be a new concept for the students.

Another example is bringing items to your children during the day that they really don't need to get through the day: water bottles, lunch, homework, binders, part of the uniform. The world will not end without these items, and they will not be "punished" if they forget things from time to time. Hopefully, the experience makes them feel a bit uncomfortable—which is the logical, natural consequence for forgetfulness. Of course, if this is a pattern, you will hear from the teachers so we can help you and your child problem-solve and get everyone on the right track.

Or, how about going to a sports practice? Who packs the baseball bag or makes sure they have everything? What happens if they forget their equipment?

We ask for your cooperation in helping us teach responsibility, emotional well-being, and resilience. Years and years of research tell us that these qualities are what make truly successful, happy adults. They are used to not being rescued at school and very accustomed to reflecting on mistakes for the purpose of learning and growing. They can do this outside of school, as well!!

[Click here](#) to read more about Lawnmower Parents.

Have a wonderful long weekend and week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Spirit Night Is October 18

All students and families in Primary and Lower School are cordially invited to come and cheer on the Upper School girls volleyball team during their last home game on **Thursday, October 18**. The Wolves Upper School team will play The Emery/Weiner School at **5:00 p.m. in Crum Gym on the South Campus**.

Students are encouraged to arrive to the gym between 4:30 and 4:40 p.m. for pregame activities. The students can watch warm-ups, meet the team, create the Fan Tunnel, and enjoy the match. There will be giveaways for each student in attendance. Concessions will also be on sale through the

Athletics Booster Club.

Parents Association: Help Needed for Fall Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Calling all cooks, bakers and shoppers! We are honoring our fabulous Lower and Middle School teachers at the Main Campus with a Fall Fiesta Luncheon on **Monday, October 22**—and we need your help! If you are interested in assisting, please [visit the Parents Association's SignUpGenius page](#).

Our teachers really appreciate these events, and we couldn't do it without you! Thank you!

Join Us! Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board

Mark your calendars! Please join us on **Thursday, October 25, at 8:15 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.** for Coffee & Conversation with the Head of School and members of our Board of Trustees.

This is a chance for you to hear directly from Steve and our Executive Committee Board members, as well as to ask questions.

We'll be meeting in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

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 Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Fellowship With the Head of School

Lower School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head

of School. 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.

- **Wednesday, October 31**—9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 8

- *Columbus Day*: Student holiday (no school)
-

Tuesday, October 9-Friday, October 12

- *Homecoming Week*: Students may wear their Homecoming spirit shirts on Thursday, October 11
-

Wednesday, October 10

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between October 7-13 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Monday, October 15

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between October 14-20 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Monday, October 15-Thursday, October 18

- *Fourth-Grade ERB Testing*: 8:00-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 17

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

Thursday, October 18

- *Spirit Night:* Primary and Lower School divisions, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper School Athletics Center (Crum Gym) on the South Campus
-

Monday, October 22

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between October 21-27 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Tuesday, October 23-Thursday, October 25

- *Third-Grade ERB Testing:* 8:00-11:00 a.m.
-

Wednesday, October 24

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

Thursday, October 25

- *Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board:* 8:15 a.m. in the HBR
 - *Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board:* 6:30 p.m. in the HBR
-

Monday, October 29-Wednesday, October 31

- *Hearing & Vision Screenings:* Kindergarten, first grade, third grade, and new students
-

Monday, October 29

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between October 28-November 3 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Lower and Middle School Individual Picture Makeup Day*
-

Tuesday, October 30

- *Kindergarten Words Their Way Parent Meeting:* 8:00 a.m. in the HBR
-

Wednesday, October 31

- *Dress Uniform Day*
- *All Saints' Eucharist:* 8:05 a.m.
- *All Saints' Parties*

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

This past week, our students completed ERB testing. I applaud their patience, diligence, and hard work during standardized testing, especially with regular school-day scheduling on top of that. We will get the scores back as soon as possible, and we will use them as one of many tools to measure our academic progress as a Middle School.

It's Homecoming Week, which means we're celebrating the old and new traditions of our growing school; we've got community service drives, pep rallies, and games galore. This week, we begin school on Tuesday—don't

come to school on Monday, please, as it is Columbus Day—and it is incredibly busy.

On Tuesday, progress reports go online to our parents. Please keep in mind that these are working documents, as grades are entered daily, but they should give you good insight as to how our students are progressing through trimester one. Each parent will get an academic report with conduct grades, as well as an effort report for each class. The effort reports are designed to better inform the whole picture of our students' progress—engagement, independent learning, collaborative learning, and self-advocacy. Hopefully, these reports change the driving question away from “What letter is my student earning in class?” to “What effort, behavioral, and academic traits are my student showing in class?”

On Wednesday, Dr. Crystal Collier—formerly of the Choices program—will join us for a parent presentation on the topic of self-control. She is now independently practicing, and her program is called Pathways. Similar to the work she did with us previously, her presentations will continue to help guide our community through high-risk behavioral education to better inform our teaching, parenting, and overall school programming. On Thursday, Dr. Collier will meet with our students in grade-level presentations, so please look forward to meaningful conversations about important life skills in the coming days.

This past week, the *New York Times* published two articles about adolescent health that caught my eye. [This article](#) discusses helping teenagers embrace and cope with stress in order to buoy their learning outcomes. [This article](#) has an embedded link to a Canadian study conducted on adolescent sleep patterns and screen time, and how those items affect overall health. Dr. Collier will discuss many of these issues in her forthcoming talks, but I'll keep sending mind, brain, and education resources as often as possible to supplement her research-informed guidance.

The week culminates with the MS Fall Dance for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Thanks so much to our Student Council members and their parents for helping with organization and setup of the “90's Neon” event. Don't worry, fifth graders—we have some fun events planned for you this year, too!

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Parent Workshop This Wednesday: No. 1 Predictor of Adult Success

Join us to learn about the predictors of adult success and what parents can do to cultivate these skills and abilities in their children this **Wednesday, October 10, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. Led by Dr. Crystal Collier of Pathways, this will be the first in a series of 2018-19 parent workshops focused on social and emotional health.

On Thursday, October 11, Dr. Collier will present to our Middle School students on the same topic in grade-level assemblies, which should provide the basis for some meaningful conversations at home.

Lord of the Streets Sock Drive This Friday

The CARES Council is working in conjunction with the Lord of the Streets to gather socks for those who are in need. The Council is asking that each person who attends the MS dance bring at least one pair of new socks to the dance this Friday. Last year's drive helped so many—we are looking once again to be People for Others to those in the most need.

PSIA Interest Forms Due October 15

Your student has the opportunity to try out for one or two Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) academic events. Students in grades 5-8 will compete individually according to their grade level.

We encourage you to visit with your child about his or her interests and the possibility of entering these events. It is a big commitment to study throughout the semester and involves parents as the academic "coaches," responsible for organizing practice sessions and coaching the students. Only two or three students at each grade level will be entered at the district level in each event.

From the District Meet held at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School on Saturday, March 2, 2019, two students will advance at each grade level in each contest (with a few exceptions) to the PSIA State Meet, which will be held at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

For more information about each academic event, [visit the PSIA website](#).

The deadline to submit interest forms is **Monday, October 15, by 4:00 p.m.** [Click here](#) to view and print the interest form. Your child's completed form can be e-mailed to [Molly Edington](#) or given to his or her English teacher.

Parents Association: Help Needed for Fall Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

Calling all cooks, bakers, and shoppers! We are honoring our fabulous Lower and Middle School teachers at the Main Campus with a Fall Fiesta Luncheon on **Monday, October 22**—and we need your help! If you are interested in assisting, please [visit the Parents Association's SignUpGenius page](#).

Our teachers really appreciate these events, and we couldn't do it without you! Thank you!

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We hope to see you there!

Auditions for Eighth-Grade Spring Musical Start October 9

Attention, eighth graders interested in auditioning for the spring musical!

- **Auditions for *The Wizard of Oz* will be held October 9, 10, 12, and 15** during eighth-grade electives in the FAC and the Middle School music and dance rooms.
- Sign up for an audition spot via the sign-up sheet on Mrs. Traber's office door.

Here are the rest of the details:

REQUIREMENTS

- Students must learn a song and choreography from one of the show's numbers for their audition.
- Students must audition to be cast in ANY of the principal or chorus roles.

REHEARSALS

- The spring musical begins rehearsals during electives starting in the second trimester.
- There are several mandatory weekend rehearsals.
- Expect an evening technical rehearsal and after-school tech week rehearsals.

ELECTIVE CHOICE

- Once students are cast in the show, they will be enrolled in Theatre Production, Music, or Dance for the second and third trimesters.

Fellowship With the Head of School

Middle School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School. 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.

The next coffee will be held **Wednesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

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 Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 8

- *Columbus Day/School Holiday*
-

Tuesday, October 9-Friday, October 12

- *Homecoming Week*
 - *NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
-

Tuesday, October 9

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Homecoming Door-Decorating Contest*
 - *Trimester 1 Progress Reports Go Live to MS Parents*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Howlers Practice (Grade 8 Girls Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Dance Room*
 - *Volleyball Game/MS Sixth Blue: 4:30 p.m. on the Main Campus*
 - *Volleyball Game/MS Sixth White: 5:30 p.m. on the Main Campus*
-

Wednesday, October 10

- *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*
- *Pathways Assembly for Parents: 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the HBR*
- *Parent Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School: 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library*
- *New Student Ambassadors Training (Grades 6-8): 11:20-11:55 a.m. in the Admissions Office with Mrs. Spinelli*

- *Howlers Practice*: 11:20-11:55 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
 - *Field Hockey Game/Seventh*: 4:30 p.m. on the South Campus
 - *Field Hockey Game/Eighth*: 5:30 p.m. on the South Campus
 - *Volleyball Game/MS JV White*: 5:30 p.m. on the Main Campus
-

Thursday, October 11

- *Pathways Special Schedule/Homecoming Shirt With Jeans or Uniform Bottoms*
 - *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
 - *MS Pathways Assembly (Grades 5-6)*: 8:10-9:10 a.m. in the FAC
 - *MS Pathways Assembly (Grades 7-8)*: 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the FAC
 - *Booster Bash Lunch*: 12:15-1:50 p.m. in the Dining Hall
 - *Fall Pep Rally (Students Only)*: 2:35-3:05 p.m. in the Gym
 - *Homecoming MS Varsity Football Game vs. Second Baptist*: 5:00 p.m. on the South Campus, for the entire St. Francis community
-

Friday, October 12

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *NJHS Meeting*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom
 - *Soccer Game/Primary II*: 5:30 p.m. on the South Campus
 - *Volleyball Game/US*: 5:00 p.m. on the South Campus
 - *MS Fall Dance for Grades 6-8*: 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the Main Campus Gym; students only; "90's Neon" theme; students must be in attendance at school to attend the dance
-

Monday, October 15

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *PSIA Interest Letters Due*
- *Grade-Level Group Pictures (Grades 5-7)*: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Courtyard, during electives classes
- *Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, October 16

- *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*
 - *NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Musical Chairs Activity: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Grade 8 Field Trip to Port of Houston: 8:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, October 17-Friday, October 19

- *Seventh-Grade OLE Trip*
-

Wednesday, October 17

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform for Grades 5 & 8*
 - *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform for Grade 6*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Thursday, October 18-Friday, October 19

- *Sixth-Grade OLE Trip*
-

Thursday, October 18

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Advisory for Grades 5 and 8: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
-

Friday, October 19

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Fifth-Grade Movie Night: 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, October 22

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

Tuesday, October 23

- *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*
 - *Medieval Feast Meeting: 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the Crum Library*
 - *Class Meetings: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the FAC*
-

Wednesday, October 24

- *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. in the FAC*
 - *Students Sign Up for Second-Trimester Electives*
-

Thursday, October 25

- *Regular Uniform*
- *Thursday Schedule for Grades 5-7*
- *Special Schedule for Grade 8: Step-Up to SFE Upper School*
- *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*
- *Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board: 8:15 a.m. in the HBR*
- *MS Student Step-Up Day: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
- *Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board: 6:30 p.m. in the HBR*

Friday, October 26

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Seventh-Grade Field Trip (Optional): Twelfth Night* at Alley Theater
- *NJHS Geo Challenge: 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in Dr. Bedard's classroom
- *Sporting Clays Classic: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.* at the Greater Houston Gun Club
- *Faculty vs. Eighth-Grade Volleyball Team: 3:00 p.m.* in the Main Campus Gym

Monday, October 29

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Hearing & Vision Screening*
- *MS Individual Makeup Picture Day: 8:30-10:30 a.m.* in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- *Eighth-Grade Group Picture During Electives: 8:55-9:45 a.m.* in the Courtyard
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:45 a.m.*
- *End-of-Fall-Season Honor the Wolves: 4:00-5:30 p.m.* in the Main Campus gym, FAC, and classrooms

Tuesday, October 30

- *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
- *Winter Athletics Season Begins: 2:35-4:30 p.m.* in the Main Campus gym and on the fields

Wednesday, October 31

- *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*
 - *Hearing & Vision Screening*
 - *All Saints' Eucharist: 11:05-11:55 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Thursday, November 1

- *All Saints' Day*
 - *Thursday Schedule/Regular Schedule*
 - *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*
 - *MS Admissions Tour: 9:00-11:00 a.m.*
 - *Councils Meetings: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
-

Friday, November 2

- *Friday Schedule/SFE Spirit Dress*
- *WEB Leadership Training (Grade 8 WEB Leaders Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom*
- *Fall Play Technical Rehearsal No. 1: 2:30-9:00 p.m. in the FAC*

Upper School

From the Division Head

I hope this message finds you doing well and enjoying a restful holiday weekend. We had quite a spectacular week last week, kicking off the month of October with a three-day retreat at Camp Allen. Prior to returning to campus on Wednesday, we enjoyed a group lunch at Escalante's. Here are some photos of our happy campers:

- [Photo #1](#)
- [Photo #2](#)
- [Photo #3](#)
- [Photo #4](#)
- [Photo #5](#)
- [Photo #6](#)

- [Photo #7](#)

During my lunch conversation with faculty at one end of the table, we agreed that retreat highlights included the student-faculty volleyball game, spontaneous group sing-alongs to "Lean On Me" and "Let It Go," and dancing together next to the campfire. I hope that your child's retreat experience was a positive one. Please join me in thanking Cara Matzen, Shai Zacaraev, Angela Flowers, and Cyd McMillian for their roles in planning this team-bonding, experiential-learning adventure.

Individual student pictures and our class photo will be taken on Tuesday, October 9. This is a dress uniform day for all students.

Homecoming Week is ahead of us, and I invite you to join me in cheering on our Wolves from both the Middle and Upper School divisions at their respective athletics contests. Our week of Homecoming activities culminates on Friday with our first-ever Primary-through-Upper School pep rally, and the Upper School volleyball game.

Have a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Join Us! Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board

Mark your calendars! Please join us on **Thursday, October 25, at 8:15 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.** for Coffee & Conversation with the Head of School and members of our Board of Trustees.

This is a chance for you to hear directly from Steve and our Executive Committee Board members, as well as to ask questions.

We'll be meeting in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

Please Share the Word! Upcoming US 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 Upper School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m.**
- **Most Wednesdays from October 10 to April 23 at 9:00 a.m.**

Fellowship With the Head of School

Upper School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School. 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.

The next coffee will be held **Wednesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, October 7

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-6:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, October 8

- *Columbus Day/School Holiday*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 9

- *Day 3 Schedule/Dress Uniform*

- *US Individual Student Pictures and Class Photo*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:15-4:15 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:30-6:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, October 10

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-4:00 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, October 11

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 3:30-7:15 p.m.*
-

Friday, October 12

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Homecoming Pep Rally: 1:35 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Cross-Country Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Homecoming Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m. on the South Campus*
-

Saturday, October 13

- *Cross-Country Meet: Time TBD at T.C. Jester Park*
-

Sunday, October 14

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-6:00 p.m.*

Monday, October 15

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:15-7:15 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 16

- *Special Schedule/Uniform TBD*
 - *Field Trip: Religion in the city*
 - *Athletics Practice: 3:30-4:45 p.m.*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:00-7:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, October 17

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-4:00 p.m.*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, October 18

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:15-4:00 p.m.*
 - *Cross-Country Practice: 4:15-5:30 p.m.*
 - *Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m., home game*
-

Friday, October 19

- *Day 4 Schedule/SFE Spirit Wear*
- *End of Fall Season Athletics*
- *Fine Arts Tech Week Rehearsal: 2:00-9:00 p.m.*

Saturday, October 20

- *Fine Arts Tech Week Rehearsal*: All day (time TBD)

Sunday, October 21

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal*: 1:00-9:00 p.m.

Church

Children, Wear Your Halloween Costumes on October 28!

In the spirit of fun traditions, we invite children of the Parish to wear Halloween costumes to the 9:00 a.m. service on October 28!

We can't wait to see all of your cute, fun, or scary costumes!

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.

'The Meaning of Marriage' Continues Today

Modern culture would have you believe that everyone has a soul mate; that romance is the most important part of a successful marriage; that marriage does not mean "until death do us part," but merely "for as long as my needs are being met"; and that when serious differences arise, divorce is the best solution.

According to the Bible, though, these modern-day assumptions miss what marriage is all about.

In this six-session, video-based Bible study, Timothy and Kathy Keller—who have been married for 40 years—draw **a profound portrait of marriage from the pages of Scripture** that neither idealizes nor rejects the institution, but points us back to the relationship between God and man. The result is a vision for marriage that is refreshingly frank and unsentimental, yet hopeful and beautiful.

This study is for everyone, whether you are single, considering marriage, a newlywed, or part of a couple that's been married a long time!

Sessions will be held at **10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room** on two Sundays per month from September through November. Remaining topics include:

- “Roles: Loving Through Mutual Submission” (October 7)
- “Singleness: Strengthening the Spiritual Family” (October 28)
- “Sex: The Act of Covenant Renewal” (November 11)
- “Hope: Seeing the Great Horizon” (November 18)

Discovering Christian Meditation

New opportunities for silent prayer at St. Francis Episcopal Church are now available:

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

These sessions are held in the **St. Clare Chapel** and 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, pray.

Holy Baptism Is November 4

On Sunday, November 4, we observe All Saints' Day, celebrating the saints and membership of the church. It is especially appropriate to offer the sacrament of baptism on this principal feast day. To schedule a baptism, please contact Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 713.782.1270.

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.

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: Registration Now Open

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

- **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!

The Grief Group Starts Today

The Grief Group will meet for four consecutive Sundays in October from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Chapel. It is time set aside for those who are grieving to reflect on their lives, their losses, and their strengths going forward. We will use the 23rd Psalm as our guide to remember that God is with us even during painful times.

The Grief Group is a safe place to talk, cry, and laugh about the gifts we have—even when we're facing death, crisis, and trauma in our lives—while beginning to move into our new, renewed lives. Dr. Robbie Sharp, a psychologist who attends St. Francis, will lead the group. Please e-mail [Jerry Ballard](#) to sign up for The Grief Group.

Episcopal Worship . . . Explained

What does it mean to be Episcopalian? Discover the nuances of the Episcopal faith and its liturgy and traditions in this three-part program led by Father Bates, which started September 9. Additional dates in the series are **Sunday, October 21**, and **Sunday, December 2**. Please meet at **10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room**.