

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of February 10

All School

Help Us Prevent the Flu and Other Illnesses!

Many of our community members are dealing with the flu and other illnesses, and we are working hard to safeguard our St. Francis family in every way we can.

- Our full-time faculty, part-time Explore and Extend teachers, staff, and custodial crew always clean and sanitize throughout the day, and we also have hired crews to do additional deep cleanings this weekend on both campuses to help keep contagion to a minimum.
- To help prevent the spread of illness, we are giving our students extra reminders to cover their noses and mouths when coughing or sneezing, to dispose of used tissues immediately, and to wash their hands frequently and thoroughly. Please continue to remind your children of these behaviors at home, as well.
- We also ask that, in addition to washing your children's school uniforms, you wash the fleece layers and jackets they are wearing to school.

Working together, we will make it through this challenging time!

Calling All Wolves: Re-Enrollment Contracts Due Tomorrow!

Thanks to all who have completed re-enrollment for the 2019-20 school year. If you have yet to re-enroll your student, this is a friendly reminder that signed contracts are due tomorrow, February 11. Please log in to My Backpack to complete the re-enrollment process. We'd love nothing more

than to welcome the whole Wolf Pack back in the fall!

This Is Your Only Chance to Bid on Gala Online Auction Items

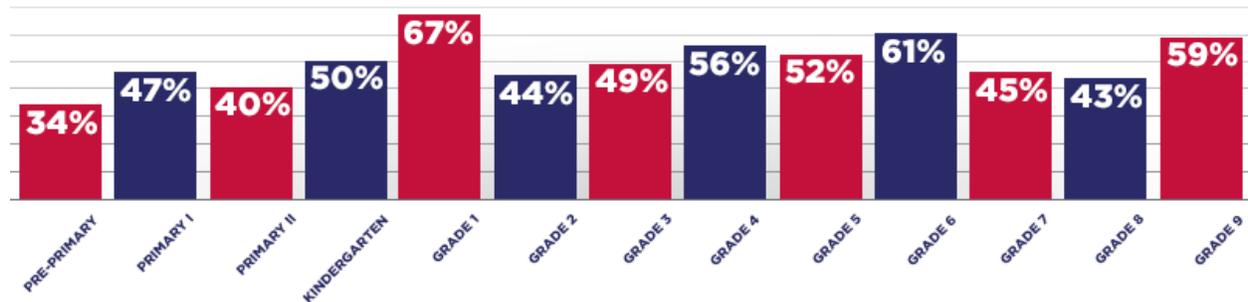
The online silent auction is going strong. Bidding from your device is really VERY easy. [Click here](#) to browse and bid on trips, sports tickets, home items, dining and spa packages, family experiences, and much more. Of course, class art projects and prime spots for the carpool line are also up for grabs!

- Please note that **this is your ONLY chance to bid on silent auction items**, including First in Carpool Line, class projects, sports tickets, etc. (Silent auction items will **not** be available at Gala.)
- Be sure to **preview the amazing Live Auction items and Big Board packages that will be available on Gala night**. This will give you plenty of time to prepare to take a trip of a lifetime or bring home a sweet puppy.

We hope you've received your Gala invitation (disguised as a composition book) in the mail and are planning to attend! [Click here](#) to get your tickets.

St. Francis Fund Participation Challenge Update

PARENT PARTICIPATION BY GRADE



Fun Fact: Did you know that 92 percent of the St. Francis faculty and staff have given to the St. Francis Fund this year? This group is on track to reach 100 percent participation before the end of the year!

First grade is still leading! Sixth grade and ninth grade are not far behind. The following grades all increased in participation: Pre-Primary, Primary I, Primary II, kindergarten, second grade, third grade, and fifth grade. Keep up the good work!

To date, the St. Francis Fund has raised just over \$698,000, which is 87 percent of our \$800,000 goal. Each gift counts tremendously.

The Participation Challenge ends **Friday, March 8**. The grade with the highest participation in supporting the St. Francis Fund will be treated to a pizza party with Mr. Lovejoy on **Wednesday, March 20**.

[Please make your gift to the St. Francis Fund today!](#)

The St. Francis Fund permeates everything that we do daily at St. Francis. As is the case at other schools, our tuition only covers a portion of our operating budget. That gap is made up by the St. Francis Fund.

The St. Francis Fund helps with things like employee benefits and salaries, professional development, all-student academic and extracurricular activities, and even parent initiatives that are school-funded. Examples include textbooks, instructional materials, laptops, security officers, active shooter training for faculty and staff, and more! The St. Francis Fund makes it all happen and, without it, programs and personnel would have to be cut due to the budget shortfall created by the difference between tuition income and expenses.

Please contact Director of Annual and Alumni Giving **[Laura Lanigan](#)** with any questions. Thank you for your support of this important effort!

Summer on the Point Registration Is Now Open

Have you checked out all the neat camps your child can take during Summer on the Point 2019?

- **[Click here](#)** for camp descriptions and to download the Summer on the Point brochure.
- Registration for students **3 years old through grade 10** is now open and available through "Program Registration" in My BackPack.
- **Summer sessions will run June 3-28 and July 8-August 2.**

- Yearly favorites are returning, and new camps are coming for summer 2019—including baseball, photography, fashion design, speed and agility sessions, field hockey, lacrosse, coding, LEGO design, self-defense, newly redesigned math sessions for Middle and Upper School grades, and many more.

Sports Association Registration Closes February 22

Registration closes for St. Francis Sports Association T-ball, baseball, softball, and fourth- and fifth-grade girls volleyball on Friday, February 22.

- This season, we will be hosting multiple clinics exclusively for SFSA athletes, including the following: Volleyball with Coach McMillian, Pitching (Softball) with Coach Cain, and Fielding/Hitting with Coach Cain. We will also host a coaches' clinic for each sport!
- [Register online here.](#)
- With questions, please e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

Woolrich Luncheon Is March 5—Tickets On Sale Now!

Please join us for the 15th Annual Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty Awards Luncheon on **Tuesday, March 5**. Let us know if you're planning to attend by either registering for the luncheon [online](#) or returning the reply card from your mailed invitation by **Monday, February 25**. At the luncheon, you'll hear extraordinary accounts from our 2017-18 Woolrich Award recipients:

- Alison Salinas traveled to Germany to study the collections of the Brothers Grimm.
- Angela Flowers traveled behind the former Iron Curtain to study the impact and lasting effects of the Holocaust and World War II.
- Kimberly Dunn received training in Krav Maga mixed martial arts and self-defense.
- Amy Chandler and Julia Traber traveled to Japan to study art and theater.
- Melanie Wallace and Lydia Urbanek traveled to France to study the cultural roots of fiction and fairy tales.
- Carlo Minotti received training in welding and fabrication.

We hope you can join us to hear about these educators' summertime adventures—which were made possible by the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for

Faculty—and how these unique opportunities are helping to bring classroom learning to life!

To learn more about the Woolrich Fund or the Woolrich Luncheon, please [e-mail us](#) or call 713.458.6169.

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 one of our Upper School Admissions Tours, which are held most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Primary School

From the Division Head

If you have been to a Chapel service in the Primary School, you've felt the spirit that exudes from our students as they worship. While services in our division look different from those in the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools, our students learn early on that their songs and prayers are special. Worship at St. Francis is not a "spectator sport." Children serve as the Chapel choir, as the Chapel party (acolytes), as prayer leaders, and sometimes as actors who tell stories from the Bible in drama presentations.

Most people are familiar with independent schools, but what makes Episcopal schools different may not be as clear. The National Association of Episcopal Schools states:

"Episcopal schools are created to be communities that honor, celebrate, and worship God as the center of life. They are created to be models of God's love and grace. They are created to serve God in Christ in all persons, regardless of origin, background, ability, or religion. They are created to 'strive for justice and peace among all people and [to] respect the dignity of every human being.' These principles are the basis on which identity and vocation are to be defined in Episcopal schools. Above all, Episcopal schools exist not merely to educate, but also to demonstrate and proclaim the unique worth and beauty of all human beings as creations of a loving, empowering God."

I've been in many independent schools, and I've participated in chapel services with students of all ages. Even so, I have never seen worship done as well as it's done at St. Francis. Fr. Wismer and Rev. Heinemann leave our students with the most important message of all each week: God loves them!

Spiritual development isn't just compartmentalized into our Chapel services each week, either. Prayer is present in our classrooms and is led by teachers *and* students. We value the spiritual development of our students and know that it makes a difference in developing the whole child.

It is a blessing to hear children singing a Chapel song on the way to carpool, or saying a prayer in their morning meeting. It's pure and joyful and a value in our school experience that is priceless! If you've not joined us for Chapel this year, or if it's been awhile, I hope you'll visit soon. I promise it will be the best part of your week!

*Good morning, God,
This is Your day.
I am Your child;
Show me Your way.*

Blessings,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship

Primary School parents, please join us on **Tuesday, March 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library** for coffee, to mix and mingle with friends, and to connect with other parents who have children around the same age. We hope to see you there!

Friendly Reminder Regarding Valentine's Day Treats

The following information is located on page 30 of the *Primary School Handbook*, which is available on the Parent Portal in the "Back to School General Info" section under "Primary School Division Information":

GOODIE BAG AND TREAT POLICY

Primary School students may not give gifts, goodie bags, or treats for any occasion. Students may have food allergies, and gifts of candy and cookies could pose a serious health hazard. In addition, small toys and trinkets in goodie bags can easily become a choking risk. Therefore, goodie bags and gifts—as well as cupcakes, cookies, and other treats—are not allowed. For Valentine’s Day parties, cards without candy are preferred; however, if a card has candy attached, the candy will not be consumed at school and will be sent home.

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 11

- *Re-enrollment Contracts Due*
 - *A Midsummer Night's Dream Parent Interest Meeting: 1:45 p.m. in the Drama Room*
-

Tuesday, February 12

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

Wednesday, February 13

- *Dramatization in Chapel (Staller): 9:30 a.m.*
-

Monday, February 18

- *Presidents’ Day: School Holiday*

Tuesday, February 19

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

Wednesday, February 20

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

Friday, February 22

- *Darla McNay Rodeo Day: Students may dress in western wear; no guns or spurs, please*

Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction: 6:00-11:30 p.m. at Royal Sonesta (2222 West Loop South)*

Tuesday, February 26

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

Wednesday, February 27

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

Tuesday, March 5

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *PS Parent Coffee*: 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library
-

Wednesday, March 6

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

Monday, March 11-Friday, March 15

- *Spring Break*: School closed
-

Tuesday, March 19

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

Wednesday, March 20

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

Thursday, March 21

- *Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty 15th Annual Awards Luncheon*: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, March 26

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
- *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Capasso and Noser)*

Wednesday, March 27

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
- *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Burrow and Porter)*

Lower School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday!

As I was thinking about what I wanted to share with you today, I realized how hard we have been working on our strategic plan and on gearing up for our self-study. This has resulted in many meetings and an intense focus on our school mission and vision. Due to this work, Amy Whitley, Connor Cook, Cara Henderson, and I have been spending a great deal of time together, and I am constantly amazed at everyone's knowledge of best educational practices, innovative ideas, and dedication to our students at every level. We all share very similar pedagogical philosophies, so this work has been most rewarding for us.

Collaborating and coordinating with these amazing educational leaders here at St. Francis is a true gift, and one for which I am most grateful. In all of this work, we strive to keep the mission of our school at the heart of all we do. In case you're a bit rusty on that mission, here you go:

In the Anglican tradition, St. Francis Episcopal School challenges and motivates students in an academically and spiritually stimulating environment to become imaginative, critical thinkers and *people for others*.

As we have reflected on and evaluated our programs, one topic that continues to resurface in our discussions with each other—as well as with our students and parents—is the need to promote self-efficacy with all students, beginning in Primary School. What in the world is self-efficacy? It is the belief in your own ability to succeed in achieving a goal—having the confidence to know you can do whatever you set your mind to by managing how you think, feel, and behave.

I read a great article by Jennifer Davis Poon from the Center for Innovation in Education describing steps to attain self-efficacy.

- First, we set advantageous goals. This process requires self-awareness, intentionality, and planning. We do this with your children every day as they set academic, social, and emotional goals for which to strive.
- Next, we initiate action toward those goals through choice, voice, ownership, and self-initiation. Our curriculum provides space for children to have choice, to engage in exciting topics, and to delve into issues for which they have great passion.
- Third, we reflect and revise. Again, all through our program, students are always reflecting, shifting goals, starting over if needed, and developing grit. We are not in the business of “delivering” educational opportunities to your children; rather, we cultivate an environment where your child can thrive within set boundaries and scope and make the choice to engage with these learning opportunities.
- Finally, after executing these steps, our children are living a growth mindset, demonstrating empowerment, and internalizing self-efficacy.

So, let’s narrow our focus to Lower School. One of the most challenging areas related to self-efficacy for our Lower School-aged children is feeling confident speaking to teachers, admitting they are struggling in an area, and asking for help. We encourage self-efficacy in these areas daily, as students cannot take charge of their learning if they have not practiced speaking up for themselves. This also, of course, has to do with different children’s temperaments (introvert vs. extrovert). Knowing which way your child tends to process is vitally important to knowing how to help them learn to communicate effectively and to advocate for themselves.

It is much easier for your child to come to you, share his or her problem, and have you find the solution. Once you do that, he or she will continue to take this path, as it is the least resistant and most comfortable. Dr. William Stixrud, author of *The Self-Driven Child*, says, “Don’t work harder to help a child than your child is working.”

Try explaining this to your child. Let them know that you love them, but that you are helping them grow into a responsible, independent person. That’s your job. This takes the emotion out of the situation and puts the responsibility back on them. They are very accustomed to hearing, “What’s your job, and what’s mine?” from the teachers.

While it is difficult to see your own child struggle and feel uncomfortable, experiencing those emotions and having a positive outcome will promote more independence and confidence. It's like training for a marathon: it's painful in the beginning, but you eventually work through it and achieve the goal. If someone rescued you from the training, you would never attain that goal.

Try these steps the next time your child is presented with a challenging situation, and watch him or her grow and develop self-efficacy skills! You will be helping them to become independent and confident decision-makers who will always be ready to take on new challenges in life.

Thank you for partnering with us as we do what is best for children!

Cheers,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship

Lower School parents, please join us on **Wednesday, March 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the church narthex** for coffee and fellowship, to mix and mingle with friends, and to connect with other parents who have children around the same age. We hope to see you there!

Doodle for Google Art Contest: Calling All LS Students

Calling all students who are interested in participating in the [Doodle for Google Art Contest](#)! This year's theme is "When I grow up, I hope . . ." and we can't wait to see the fantastic wishes or practical plans our Lower School students come up with. Anything you dream up is fair game, whether it's sky cities, teleporters, cleaner water, pizza trees, time machines, edible clouds, or Earth-cooling fans.

Artists, here's what to do:

1. Complete the [entry form](#) or pick one up at school from Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant. (School-year groups are K-3 and 4-5.)
2. Create your Doodle using any materials you want.

3. Write an artist statement that describes the drawing and how it represents something that inspires you. **Be sure to also fill out the rest of the required information and sign the entry form.**
4. **Submit your Doodle to either Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant by Monday, March 4.**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 11

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between February 10-16 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Re-enrollment Contracts Due*
-

Wednesday, February 13

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

Thursday, February 14

- *Valentine's Day Parties*
-

Monday, February 18

- *Presidents' Day:* School holiday
-

Wednesday, February 20

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between February 17-23 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Thursday, February 21

- *STEAM Fair Parent Preview: 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the Crum Library*
-

Friday, February 22

- *Go Texan Day: Children are encouraged to wear western wear; please leave guns, spurs, and stick horses at home. Also bring tennis shoes for PE and/or recess if wearing boots. Yee-haw!*
-

Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction: 6:00-11:30 p.m. at Royal Sonesta (2222 West Loop South)*
-

Monday, February 25

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between February 24-March 2 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*
 - *Report Cards Online*
-

Monday, March 4

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between March 3-16 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*
-

Wednesday, March 6

- *Dress Uniform Day*
- *Ash Wednesday Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*
- *LS Parent Coffee: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the church narthex*

Monday, March 11-Friday, March 15

- *Spring Break*: School closed

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

Thanks to our fifth-grade team for a fun Rec Night, and to our parent volunteers and faculty chaperones for a wonderful dance, too!

This Thursday is Valentine's Day, and we want to make sure the day is as inclusive and normal as possible. **Students should not bring individual treats or presents and should not exchange gifts. The next day, Friday, is a great opportunity to share snacks** as a group during advisory, which is what we've been doing all year. If advisories want to bring Valentine's snacks on Friday, then please feel free, and make sure the entire group gets to share in the fun.

Thursday also features our Middle Schoolers and their advisories during **Canstruction for the Souper Bowl**, an event centered around the [Lead2Feed](#) cause, which facilitates student leadership to tackle world hunger. Advisories will build a creative sculpture using food cans, and all of the donations will go toward this meaningful cause to benefit the Greater Houston community. I'm looking forward to seeing our students' creative minds on display.

[This recent Edutopia article](#) discusses the long-term impact teachers can have on students' non-cognitive skills—motivation, adaptation to new situations, and self-regulation—as a great follow-up to Dr. Stixrud's lessons from last week. Our wonderful teachers here at SFES certainly focus on academic content, but they are also mindful and skilled at supporting students' social-emotional growth.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Pathways Assembly for Parents: Healthy Teen Relationships

Join us to learn about how teens can cultivate healthy relationships, including healthy boundaries regarding dating, on **Wednesday, February 27, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.** Led by Dr. Crystal Collier of Pathways, this is the third in a series of 2018-19 parent workshops focused on social and emotional health.

On Thursday, February 28, 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.

Doodle for Google Art Contest: Calling All MS Students

Calling all students who are interested in participating in the [Doodle for Google Art Contest](#)! This year's theme is "When I grow up, I hope . . ." and we can't wait to see the fantastic wishes or practical plans our Middle School students come up with. Anything you dream up is fair game, whether it's sky cities, teleporters, cleaner water, pizza trees, time machines, edible clouds, or Earth-cooling fans.

Artists, here's what to do:

1. Complete the [entry form](#) or pick one up at school from Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant. (School-year groups are 4-5, 6-7, and 8-9.)
2. Create your Doodle using any materials you want.
3. Write an artist statement that describes the drawing and how it represents something that inspires you. **Be sure to also fill out the rest of the required information and sign the entry form.**
4. **Submit your Doodle to either Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant by Monday, March 4.**

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, February 10

- *Spring Musical (Sunday Rehearsal):* 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the FAC

Monday, February 11

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Re-enrollment Contracts Due*
- *NJHS Read Aloud (Various): Through February 15*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

Tuesday, February 12

- *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, February 13

- *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.*

Thursday, February 14

- *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 (Construction for the Souper Bowl): 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*

Please do not bring gifts or treats for individuals on Valentine's Day. We do not want to exclude anyone.

Friday, February 15

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:25 a.m.*
-

Monday, February 18

- *Presidents' Day: School Holiday*
-

Tuesday, February 19

- *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, February 20

- *Wednesday Schedule for Grades 6-8*
 - *Special Schedule for Grade 5*
 - *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.*
-

Thursday, February 21

- *Thursday Schedule for Grades 6-8*
- *Special Schedule for Grade 5*
- *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*
- *STEAM Fair: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Crum Library*

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

Friday, February 22

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress or Go Texan Day Attire*
 - *Go Texan Day*
 - *Trimester 2 Ends*
 - *NJHS All School Read Aloud: 7:15-7:45 a.m.*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Grade 7 WEB Activity for Applicants: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom*
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Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction: 6:00-11:30 p.m. at Royal Sonesta (2222 West Loop South)*
-

Sunday, February 24

- *MS Spring Musical Rehearsal: 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, February 25

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Trimester 3 Begins*
 - *National Dr. Seuss Week (Feb. 25-March 1)*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth 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.*
-

Tuesday, February 26

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *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
 - *Grade 8 White Shirt Class Photo: 8:00-9:30 a.m.* in the courtyard and on the playground
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, February 27

- *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.*
 - *WEB Lunch: 12:05-12:45 p.m.* in the Dining Hall
 - *MS Choices Assembly for Parents: 1:30 p.m.* in the HBR
 - *MS Parent Coffee: 2:30 p.m.* in Crum Library
-

Thursday, February 28

- *Special Schedule for Pathways/Regular Uniform*
 - *Trimester 2 Report Cards Online*
 - *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
 - *Pathways Assembly for Grades 5 and 6: 8:15-9:15 a.m.* in the FAC
 - *Pathways Assembly for Grades 7 and 8: 9:30-10:30 a.m.* in the FAC
-

Friday, March 1

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *NJHS Geo Challenge: 7:15-7:50 a.m.* in Dr. Bedard's classroom
- *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:45-9:00 a.m.* in the concessions area near the gym

- *Fifth-Grade Colonial Day:* 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on the OAC and in classrooms
-

Saturday, March 2

- *MS PSIA District Meet:* 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School
-

Sunday, March 3

- *Spring Musical Rehearsal:* 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the FAC

Upper School

From the Athletics Director

Congratulations to our winter sports athletes, coaches, and parents on a great season. The Founding Freshmen helped establish three more teams this season—Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Co-ed Swimming. It has been great to see all of the “firsts” with each team and to see so much improvement by each athlete. A big thank-you to each student who participated and to the parents for all of their support. Please read below for a season recap of each program.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Wolves capped off the inaugural season with a 54-38 win on the road. Bryce L. led the team in scoring with 18 points in the first game of the season, and he was the co-leading scorer with 18 points again in the final game of the season. The team finished the season with a 9-7 overall record, which is very impressive for a first-year program. Chandler S., Drew S., and Bryce L. teamed with players from our partner school, Saint Constantine, for a very successful first season under the guidance of Head Coach Chris Schoettelkotte and Assistant Coach Luke Edmonds.

“I could not be more proud of all the players,” said Coach Schoettelkotte. “We have a very young team of determined young men. They understood from the beginning that for us to create a winning program from the start,

we needed to come together, communicate on both ends of the court, and make adjustments quickly. Our guys did just that—they played tenacious defense and always supported one another. The boys fought hard, believed in one another, and built a winning program in our first season. We had some unforgettable wins and some close, heartbreaking losses. As this season comes to an end, we will be creating individual skill development plans for the guys, and we will continue to get the word out about Wolves basketball and the winning excitement ahead.”

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Founding Freshmen Sadie L. and Amal G. helped establish the Upper School Girls Basketball team this winter. The two Wolves teamed with players from our partner school, Saint Constantine, to compete against some of the top schools in the area. Each player on the team improved over the course of the season and received quality instruction from Head Coach Dominique Canty and Assistant Coach Michael Sorrels. The season concluded with a nail-biting one-point loss in a home game that could have gone either way. The girls showed how far they have come in this final game of the season.

“I am so proud of the young ladies this year,” said Coach Canty. “They put in the hard work and dedication each and every day, in practice as well as in games. It amazed me to see the progress from day one to the very last game. It was such an honor to coach this year.”

CO-ED SWIMMING

Four members of the Founding Freshmen class helped establish the Upper School Swimming team this winter. Alex I., Grace M., John K., and Luke M. represented the Wolves in the water this season. The team practiced in the morning at the Houston Racquet Club and competed in meets in the greater Houston area. The team capped off their season with a solid performance at the 15th Annual HAPPI City Championships, which featured 19 total teams.

Led by Head Coach Doug Durkee, the team performed well in its first year. Each swimmer improved over the course of the season, trimming seconds off their times, setting and re-setting personal records, and establishing school records.

“This inaugural swim team season far exceeded my expectations!” said Coach Durkee. “We practiced at the Houston Racquet Club, and they were more than gracious hosts. The SFE community could not have been more supportive. The team, the Upper School faculty and staff, and the

swimmers' parents really contributed toward making this a fantastic first year. Finally, I could not have handpicked a better group of student-athletes to have on this first-ever St. Francis Episcopal Upper School Swim Team!”

Congratulations again to our winter sports athletes and coaches. We are looking forward to the upcoming spring sports season, which will feature track and field and tennis. Be on the lookout for more information soon!

Sincerely,

Coach T. Riley
Athletics Director

Doodle for Google Art Contest

Calling all students who are interested in participating in the [Doodle for Google Art Contest](#)! This year’s theme is “When I grow up, I hope . . .” and we can’t wait to see the fantastic wishes or practical plans our ninth-grade students come up with. Anything you dream up is fair game, whether it’s sky cities, teleporters, cleaner water, pizza trees, time machines, edible clouds, or Earth-cooling fans.

Artists, here’s what to do:

1. Complete the [entry form](#).
2. Create your Doodle using any materials you want.
3. Write an artist statement that describes the drawing and how it represents something that inspires you. **Be sure to also fill out the rest of the required information and sign the entry form.**
4. **Submit your Doodle to either Mrs. Chandler or Mrs. Tennant by Monday, March 4.**

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 one of our Upper School Admissions Tours, which are held most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, February 11

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Re-enrollment Contracts Due*
-

Tuesday, February 12

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
-

Wednesday, February 13

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, February 14

- *Special Schedule—Humanities Experiential Learning Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, February 15

- *Day 4 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
-

Monday, February 18

- *Presidents' Day: School Holiday*
-

Tuesday, February 19

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Spanish I Presentation: 8:45 a.m. in the Crum Loft; Spanish I students will be presenting about themselves, a family member, and a friend*
-

Wednesday, February 20

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Thursday, February 21

- *Day 1 Special Schedule (STEAM Fair)/Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, February 22

- *Day 2 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress or Go Texan Day Attire*
-

Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction: 6:00-11:30 p.m. at Royal Sonesta (2222 West Loop South)*

Church

Sports Association Registration Closes February 22

Registration closes for St. Francis Sports Association T-ball, baseball, softball, and fourth- and fifth-grade girls volleyball on Friday, February 22.

- This season, we will be hosting multiple clinics exclusively for SFSA athletes, including the following: Volleyball with Coach McMillian,

Pitching (Softball) with Coach Cain, and Fielding/Hitting with Coach Cain. We will also host a coaches' clinic for each sport!

- [Register online here.](#)
- With questions or concerns, please e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

Join Us for New Member Orientation on March 3

If you started attending St. Francis Episcopal Church within the last two years and have not made your membership official yet, we invite you to become a member of our family by attending our New Member Orientation class on **Sunday, March 3, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.** (Lunch will be served.) Join Father Bates to learn about our church, our mission, and how membership in Christ's Body at St. Francis can help you deepen your relationship with God.

Please RSVP to Amy Homer via [e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2983.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party Is March 5

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mardi Gras Party is coming up! Join us the evening before Ash Wednesday on **Tuesday, March 5, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall** as we feast on gumbo, sausage, pancakes, king cake, and Mardi Gras ice cream. We'll also enjoy extra special music provided by Rick Keith and St. Francis musicians, and a balloon artist will help make things even more festive. You don't want to miss this!

For further details and to purchase tickets, please [click here](#).

Discovering Christian Meditation

An opportunity for silent prayer at the church is available:

- Tuesdays, 4:00-4:30 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.