

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of November 11

### All School

#### **People for Others Day Is Tomorrow!**

Tomorrow, November 12, is our school-wide People for Others Day! A full day of service activities for every grade is planned. It will be an amazing day of seeing our Wolves work together and share their gifts and talents beyond campus in tangible ways. By now, you have received notices about school-wide and grade-specific activities, volunteer needs, and items being collected. Thank you to the many who have contributed already. Please stay tuned for last-minute news or requests as we put the final touches on this big day!

#### **Grandparents and Grandfriends Days Are Almost Here**

This Wednesday through Friday, November 14-16, we will welcome our grandparents and grandfriends on both campuses to enjoy Chapel, classroom visits, and a visit to the Fall Book Fair!

- For detailed information, please [view the invitation here](#).
- We have several volunteer opportunities available on both campuses and would love to have you join us on this special day. Please [click here](#) for more information and to sign up for a shift.
- If you still need to update your child's grandparent information or if you have any questions regarding Grandparents and Grandfriends Days, please contact [Anne Chisholm](#).

#### **Gala Sign-up Parties Are Around the Corner!**

Now that you have your tickets for the Gala (and if you don't have yours yet,

get them [here](#)), it's time to get ready for sign-up parties. This year, a record number of parents and teachers are hosting a wide range of parties for you to bid on. These parties have been very popular in the past, and we can't wait for you to discover all of the fun new events that we have for you to pick from. **SPOILER ALERT:** Ninja warrior training and mother/daughter tea are just two of the many new parties up for grabs!

Be on the lookout for all the details in next week's *Wolf Watch*. For now, **mark Wednesday, November 28, on your calendar—that's the day you can start signing up.**

### **Turkey Bucks: Success!**

Thank you for uniting to help the Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo offer a happy Thanksgiving to those in need. Twenty turkeys, plus other foods, are on the way. It is a beautiful thing to see the St. Francis community truly live out the virtue of the month, compassion.

### **St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Is November 26-30**

Join St. Francis in collecting toys for families in need this Christmas season! **Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering the week after Thanksgiving**—from Monday, November 26, through Friday, November 30—and make the season a little more joyful for others in the Houston community. Middle School students may place their toys under the Christmas tree in the People Place, while Primary and Lower School students will keep their toys in their classrooms. Donations benefit Toys for Tots and will be picked up by Santa and the Village Fire Department on Friday, November 30!

### **SFSA Basketball Registration Closes November 27**

Registration for the 2018 SFSA basketball season will close on Tuesday, November 27, with the draft being held on Saturday, December 1. Don't miss out! We're looking forward to a great season.

- To register, [click here](#).
- For more information about SFSA and its programs, [click here](#).
- If you have any questions, please e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

## **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.

## **Primary School**

### **From the Division Head**

Tomorrow, students campus-wide will participate in activities that focus on making our school and community a better place. In most cases, these activities will benefit children, adults, elderly people, and animals that our students have never seen. **Each activity that is planned on Monday, November 12, is intentionally designed to give our students an opportunity to live out our mission of being people for others.** This isn't just something we say. We teach service leadership to all our students, beginning in the Primary School.

We will help provide patients at the veterans hospital with bags filled with toiletries and socks, since patients often arrive without these items. Tomorrow, students in our Upper School will help us fill these bags with all of the items you have contributed. This cross-divisional service project with the Upper School gives our Primary School students and the ninth-grade class time together to serve others. Each bag will also include a homemade card from our children that contains a prayer for the veterans and thanks them for their service to us.

Our children are young, and not able to personally meet those who will receive our contributions. They will be doing something for others without receiving praise or a "thank you" from the recipients. Our hope is that, as they get older, students begin seeing that the intrinsic rewards are the most important. It's the idea that you show random acts of kindness even when no one is looking. The power of kindness is contagious.

We appreciate you so generously participating in this ingathering. We know that what we are doing for others not only makes a difference for these patients at the veterans hospital, but also has the power to transform *us*.

Giving all St. Francis students an opportunity to represent our school and our families on this People for Others Day is part of the experience of being a St. Francis student. We weren't meant to keep all of our blessings for ourselves.

*"Of those to whom much has been given, much is expected."* —Luke 12:48

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA  
Head of Primary School

### **Explore and Extend Registration Opens December 3**

Registration for spring 2019 Explore and Extend enrichment classes and spring School of Music classes opens on **Monday, December 3, at 8:00 a.m. CT**. Links to the spring offerings will be uploaded on Friday, November 30.

### **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.

### **News From Admissions! Deadline Approaching**

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to submit their Primary School applications by the deadline on **Thursday, November 15**. St. Francis's scheduled Primary School group tours have concluded, but anyone interested in setting up a tour may e-mail [Margaret Yerkovich](#).

### **Primary School Dining Hall Menu**

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

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, November 12

- *People for Others Day*
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### 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.*
  - *Fall Book Fair*
- 

### Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23

- *Thanksgiving Holidays*
- 

### **Monday, November 26**

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins: Ends November 30*
- 

### **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*
- 

### **Monday, December 3**

- *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens*
-

## **Tuesday, December 4**

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

## **Wednesday, December 5**

- *St. Nicholas Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Chapel Dramatization (Blades)*
- 

## **Tuesday, December 11**

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

## **Wednesday, December 12**

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

## **Monday, December 17**

- *PI Christmas Parties*
- 

## **Tuesday, December 18**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Ferguson's T/Th Pre-Primary Christmas Party: 1:30 p.m.*
- 

## **Wednesday, December 19**

- *Lessons and Carols Chapel for PS and US: 9:30 a.m.*
- *Pre-Primary Christmas Parties: 1:30 p.m.*

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## Thursday, December 20

- *PII Pageants and Parties*
    - Staller: Pageant at 9:00 a.m. and party at 9:30 a.m.
    - Owens: Pageant at 9:40 a.m. and party at 10:10 a.m.
    - Blades: Pageant at 10:20 a.m. and party at 10:50 a.m.
    - Wiener: Pageant at 11:00 a.m. and party at 11:30 a.m.
    - Hughes: Pageant at 11:40 a.m. and party at 12:10 p.m.
- 

## Friday, December 21

- *School Holiday*

## Lower School

### From the Division Head

I hope you are having a wonderful weekend!

As you have heard me say before, our faculty members enjoy celebrating life's most special moments with one another; **we hope you will join us in celebrating with Lauren Pena, our beloved drama teacher, as she will be welcoming her first baby in April.** If you are a fourth-grade parent, you probably know that fourth-grade musicals are usually held at the beginning of May. We have decided to move them up so that Mrs. Pena can stay with her students to the finish line and celebrate their amazing work from this year. **We will be sending those new performance dates to you this week** so you can put them on your calendar.

Lower School's Trimester 1 report cards will be available for viewing on **Monday, November 26**. Portfolios will be sent home the same day so that your child can share his or her progress with you. While portfolios are not new to Lower School, you may be new or want to learn more! If so, **click [here](#) to read all about the portfolio process.** What is it? Why try it? How does it work? What does research say? Are there any drawbacks?



**Thank you for all of your book donations for People for Others Day.** We have many meaningful activities planned for our students. Thanks also to those volunteering; it's a wonderful day for our community!

Another exciting day coming up this week is **Grandparents and Grandfriends Day!** The students have prepared a special gift for their visitors, and they are also planning to share the amazing work they do each day. If your child will not have a special friend visiting that day, please let your homeroom teachers know.

Thank you for sharing your children with us every day! They continue to amaze us with their spirit and desire to learn!

Cheers,

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Lower School

### **Registration for Enrichment Classes and SOM Opens December 3**

Registration for spring 2019 Explore and Extend enrichment classes and spring School of Music classes opens on **Monday, December 3, at 8:00 a.m. CT.** Links to the spring offerings will be uploaded on Friday, November 30.

### **Sports Clinics Offered for Thanksgiving and Christmas Breaks**

Explore and Extend is offering sports clinics in volleyball and baseball during our holiday breaks. To register, log in to My Backpack and select "Program Registration" in the My Forms/Documents section.

#### **VOLLEYBALL CLINICS**

#### **Thanksgiving Break (November 19-21): Bust a Move Volleyball Camp**

In this elite, three-day camp, we'll divide into groups by skill level and break down all skills in the first hour, and then explore the game as we transition into wash drills and scrimmage opportunities during the last hour to facilitate a full, sweat-producing, calorie-burning workout! Spaces are limited and are open to boys and girls in grades 2-9. (Register online by Sunday, November 18, to enjoy an early bird discount. Registration prices increase at the door to \$175 for grades 2-4 and \$195 for grades 5-9.)

- **Grades 2-4:** 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym; \$150
- **Grades 5-9:** 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym; \$175

### **Winter Break (January 2-4): Break the Wintry Blues Volleyball Camp**

This three-day adventure will catapult us into tournament mode as we break the wintry blues by sharpening our game-play skills. Instructors will send you on a rollercoaster of group and team scenarios (both on and off the court) as we work to improve our leadership skills, team chemistry, game play, and true understanding of how to play against the ball. Spaces are limited and are open to boys and girls in grades 2-9. (Register online to enjoy an early bird discount. Registration prices increase at the door to \$175 for grades 2-4 and \$195 for grades 5-9.)

- **Grades 2-4:** 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym; \$150
- **Grades 5-9:** 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym; \$175

### **BASEBALL CLINICS**

#### **Winter Break (January 3-4): Wolves Baseball Identification Series**

Join us for the first edition of our Wolves Baseball Identification Series! The two-day event will be held on our Main Campus Baseball Field. We have a large number of students in our St. Francis family who love, play, and/or have an interest in the game of baseball. This series is meant to bring all Wolves together as a group according to age (grades K-2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8) for skills training and evaluation.

Regardless of skill and experience level, every single Wolf is welcomed! This can be as much an opportunity for individuals to determine their true interest in baseball as it is an opportunity for us to identify all of the baseball-playing Wolves in our community. Participants will receive an Identification Series shirt and a participation/evaluation certificate.

- **Grades K-2:** 8:30-10:00 a.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125
- **Grades 3-5:** 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125
- **Grades 6-8:** 1:00-3:00 p.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125

### **School of Music Recital and Lesson Notes**

St. Francis's fall School of Music recital will be held on **Sunday, December 9, beginning at 1:30 p.m.** (This recital will not include vocal performances.)

Please see the e-mails from Emily Boyle regarding the times for each studio to arrive and perform.

Voice students of Callie Denbigh will perform on **Tuesday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m. on Main Street.**

The last regular day for lessons is **Friday, December 7**, with any rescheduled lessons set for the week of December 10-14. Spring semester lessons begin on January 14, 2019.

### **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.

### **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.**

### **'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 this month via Seesaw and teacher web pages.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **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.
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### **Wednesday, November 14-Friday, November 16**

- *Book Fair:* In the FAC
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### **Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23**

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*
- 

### **Monday, November 26**

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins:* Ends November 30

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 25-December 1 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
  - *Report Cards Online*
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### **Wednesday, November 28**

- *FAC Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
  - *ERB Parent Meeting for Grades 4-8:* 8:15 a.m. in the HBR
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### **Thursday, November 29**

- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup*
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### **Friday, November 30**

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

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between December 2-8 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
  - *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens*
- 

### **Wednesday, December 5**

- *Dress Uniform Day*
  - *St. Nicholas Eucharist:* 8:05 a.m.
-

## **Monday, December 10**

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between December 9-15 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
  - *Christmas Concert for Grades 1 and 2:* 6:00 p.m. in the FAC
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## **Tuesday, December 11**

- *Christmas Concert for Grades 3-4 and Joyful Sounds Choir:* 6:00 p.m. in the FAC
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## **Wednesday, December 12**

- *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
  - *Christmas Concert for Kindergarten:* 9:00 a.m. in the FAC
- 

## **Monday, December 17**

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between December 16-31 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
- 

## **Wednesday, December 19**

- *Christmas Parties/Polar Express Day*
- 

## **Thursday, December 20**

- *Dress Uniform Day*
  - *Lessons and Carols:* 9:00 a.m.; students only
  - *Sing-a-Long:* 2:00 p.m.; students only
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**Friday, December 21**

- *School Holiday*

## **Middle School**

### **From the Division Head**

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

I think about my grandparents almost every day, whether I'm trying to look and listen twice as much as I'm speaking, or remembering to smile because it's a great way to combat the tough days—both were lessons from my mom's parents, who have both passed away. The house where they last lived is on the way home from work, so I can't escape a day without fond memories of watching football with my grandfather or telling my grandmother about school. Every Sunday, we'd gather at their house to have dinner and catch up, and it was always time well spent. Although I miss them dearly, I keep them alive by striving to earn the life they provided for me.

On Thursday, we'll welcome our grandparents to campus, host them in a Chapel service, take them to Fall Book Fair, and have fun with and learn from them in advisory. We hope to have a great day with the people who are such important figures in our lives—the people from whom we can learn so much.

Rather than end with a Mind, Brain, and Education (MBE) science piece today, I'd like to provide a prompt for reflection: What is one important life lesson you've learned from a grandparent or elder?

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD  
Head of Middle School

### **SFES Summer Program: Travel to the Mediterranean**

All rising sixth, seventh, and eighth graders are eligible to **travel to the Mediterranean** this summer with the St. Francis Travel Program. Our group is forming—and there's room for more!

**We are visiting Spain, France, and Italy from July 2-12, 2019.** It's a spectacular trip! Please consider enriching your child's educational experience by allowing them to see Michelangelo's *David*, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Roman arena and theatre in Arles, St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, St. Francis's Assisi, and so much more! We'll eat ourselves silly, swim in the Mediterranean Sea, and stroll the streets of some of the most renowned destinations in Europe—Barcelona, Carcassonne, Provence, Arles, Nice, Monaco, Florence, Pisa, Rome, and Assisi.

**The trip price is discounted if you register by Saturday, December 1.** E-mail [Sarah Powell](#) or call her at 713.458.6413 for more information and registration instructions. It truly is a trip of a lifetime to places our students have actually studied. Let it come to life for them!

### **Registration for Enrichment Classes and SOM Opens December 3**

Registration for spring 2019 Explore and Extend enrichment classes and spring School of Music classes opens on **Monday, December 3, at 8:00 a.m. CT.** Links to the spring offerings will be uploaded on Friday, November 30.

### **Pathways Assembly for Parents: Creating Behavior Contracts That Work**

Join us to learn about the predictors of adult success and what parents can do to cultivate these skills and abilities in their children on **Wednesday, December 5, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.** Led by Dr. Crystal Collier of Pathways, this is the second in a series of 2018-19 parent workshops focused on social and emotional health.

On Thursday, December 6, 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.

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- 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.

### **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**

#### **Monday, November 12**

- *Special Schedule:* Dress according to grade-level activity
  - *People for Others Day:* 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; all divisions
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#### **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
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## **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*
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## **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*
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## **Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23**

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*
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## **Monday, November 26**

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
  - *Second Trimester Begins*
  - *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins: Ends November 30*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
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## **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*
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## **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*
  - *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup*
  - *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*
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## **Monday, December 3**

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Hanukkah (December 2-10)*
- *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens Online*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

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## Tuesday, December 4

- *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*

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## Wednesday, December 5

- *Wednesday Eucharist Block Schedule/Dress 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*
- *St. Nicholas Eucharist: 11:00-11:50 a.m. in the Chapel*
- *MS Pathways Assembly for Parents: 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the HBR*
- *Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School for MS/US Parents: 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library*

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## Thursday, December 6

- *Pathways Special 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*
- *MS Pathways Assemblies*
  - *Grades 5 and 6: 8:10-9:10 a.m. in the FAC*
  - *Grades 7 and 8: 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the FAC*

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## Friday, December 7

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:45-9:00 a.m. in the concessions stand near the gym*
- *NJHS Let Our Voices Be Heard: 8:00 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
- *Locker Cleanout: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*
- *WEB Leadership Training (Grade 8 WEB Leaders Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom*

## Upper School

### **From the Division Head**

I'd like to begin with a huge "thank you" to John Madden, Cara Matzen, and Justin Doran for chaperoning our students on last week's field trip to Galveston. Please enjoy some pictures from their experience: [photo 1](#), [photo 2](#), [photo 3](#), [photo 4](#), [photo 5](#), and [photo 6](#).

Looking to the week ahead, please enjoy Cara Matzen's message about our vision for ongoing service learning collaborations:

*The term "community service" has come to mean helping others more in the sense of philanthropy—of a one-way giving, so to speak. There is certainly a place for simply raising funds for a cause, and those in need can definitely benefit from students who volunteer at various organizations in one-time appearances. However, as our students mature and move through our Upper School, we hope to promote a deeper understanding of particular problems or plights facing segments of the wider community.*

*As we grow the Upper School, we aspire to build toward a "service learning" model, which is more of a two-way street: Student groups commit to continually serving an identified need in the wider community, but in the process they also gain knowledge of the issues surrounding that need, along with skills that actively address them. Service work is made more meaningful when combined with a longer-term collaborative partnership with community organizations, instruction, research, and reflection.*

*On **Monday, November 12**, the ninth-grade students and Upper School faculty will spend part of the morning helping Primary School students package hygiene kits for the VA Hospital. Then, we'll visit The Brookwood Community for adults with special needs, taking a tour of the facility and learning about its purpose. After having lunch with residents there, students will continue to make connections by joining them for an exercise class and possibly working together with them on a craft activity. We plan to return to Brookwood several times this school year to start building an ongoing partnership.*

*Yes, we are people for others. But we are also among the “others”; humans need not be segmented. We will all be elderly at some point (God willing), and misfortune can strike any of us (and has for many of us). Taking care of each other, regardless of age, class, ability, or station in life, is an essential skill to build. We are all connected as human beings on this planet, and our service learning program is designed to develop both an understanding of that connection and a sense of responsibility for nurturing it.*

*Sincerely,  
Cara Matzen*

Our week will conclude with **Grandparents and Grandfriends Day**, which takes place on **Friday, November 16, at 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.** We look forward to welcoming grandparents and special friends to our campus for lunch, Chapel, student-led tours, and plenty of photo opportunities.

Finally, as we head off for Thanksgiving, please know that I am so grateful for each and every one of you—our founding freshmen families. Your kindness, patience, and ongoing engagement are true gifts to our Upper School community.

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson  
Head of Upper School

### **Registration for Enrichment Classes and SOM Opens December 3**

Registration for spring 2019 Explore and Extend enrichment classes and spring School of Music classes opens on **Monday, December 3, at 8:00 a.m. CT.** Links to the spring offerings will be uploaded on Friday, November 30.

### **Volleyball Clinics Offered for Thanksgiving and Christmas Breaks**

Explore and Extend is offering volleyball clinics during our holiday breaks. To register, log in to My BackPack and select “Program Registration” in the My Forms/Documents section.

### **Thanksgiving Break (November 19-21): Bust a Move Volleyball Camp**

In this elite, three-day camp, we’ll divide into groups by skill level and break



down all skills in the first hour, and then explore the game as we transition into wash drills and scrimmage opportunities during the last hour to facilitate a full, sweat-producing, calorie-burning workout! Spaces are limited and are open to boys and girls in grades 2-9. (Register online by Sunday, November 18, to enjoy an early bird discount. Registration prices increase at the door to \$175 for grades 2-4 and \$195 for grades 5-9.)

- **Grades 2-4:** 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym; \$150
- **Grades 5-9:** 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym; \$175

### **Winter Break (January 2-4): Break the Wintry Blues Volleyball Camp**

This three-day adventure will catapult us into tournament mode as we break the wintry blues by sharpening our game-play skills. Instructors will send you on a rollercoaster of group and team scenarios (both on and off the court) as we work to improve our leadership skills, team chemistry, game play, and true understanding of how to play against the ball. Spaces are limited and are open to boys and girls in grades 2-9. (Register online to enjoy an early bird discount. Registration prices increase at the door to \$175 for grades 2-4 and \$195 for grades 5-9.)

- **Grades 2-4:** 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym; \$150
- **Grades 5-9:** 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym; \$175

### **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!

### **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, November 12

- *Special Schedule for People for Others Day/Regular Uniform*
  - *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

### Tuesday, November 13

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Swim Practice: 6:35-8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
  - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
  - *Girls Basketball: 4:30 p.m. at Pope John XXIII*
  - *Boys Basketball: 4:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
- 

### Wednesday, November 14

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
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### Thursday, November 15

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
  - *Swim Practice: 6:35-8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
  - *Boys Basketball Practice 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
  - *Girls Basketball: 4:30 p.m. at St. John's School*
- 

### Friday, November 16

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day*
- *Trimester 1 Ends*
- *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*

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## **Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23**

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*
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## **Monday, November 26**

- *Special Schedule for Immersion and Exploration/Regular Uniform*
  - *Trimester 2 Begins*
  - *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins: Ends November 30*
  - *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
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## **Tuesday, November 27**

- *Special Schedule for Immersion and Exploration/Regular Uniform*
  - *Swim Practice: 6:35-8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
  - *Boys Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
  - *Girls Basketball: 6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
- 

## **Wednesday, November 28**

- *Special Schedule for Immersion and Exploration/Regular Uniform*
  - *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
  - *Boys Basketball: 5:45 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
- 

## **Thursday, November 29**

- *Special Schedule for Immersion and Exploration/Regular Uniform*
- *Trimester 1 Report Cards Released*
- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup*
- *Swim Practice: 6:35-8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
- *Boys Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- *Girls Basketball: 4:30 p.m. at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart*

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## Friday, November 30

- *Special Schedule for Immersion and Exploration/Regular Uniform*
- *Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- *Boys Basketball: 4:00 p.m. at The John Cooper School*

## Church

### **Dedicate a Christmas Poinsettia Today**

Be a part of the St. Francis tradition of dedicating a Christmas poinsettia "in memory" of a loved one or "in thanksgiving" for your many blessings. Dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship bulletins. Dedication forms are located on the tables in the Narthex, or you may [submit one online here](#).

### **Angel Tree Begins November 18**

Every Christmas, an Angel Tree decorates the Narthex. All are invited to participate by providing gifts to low-income families with children who have received financial aid during the year from the Linda Sadler Memorial Fund or other outreach ministries of St. Francis. Gifts might include bicycles, clothing, shoes, books, toys, or gift cards. **This year's Angel Tree will be in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 18**, if you'd like to be an angel to someone this year! [Read more about the Angel Tree here](#).

### **Children's Christmas Party Is December 1**

A fun, free event for families in celebration of the birth of our Savior, our annual Children's Christmas Party will be held on **Saturday, December 1, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.** Bring your kids to enjoy food, treats, crafts, games, activities, and a visit with Santa. Best of all, they can play in real SNOW! (We recommend bringing shoes that can get wet and gloves to protect hands from the cold.)

### **Advent Wreath-Making Is December 2**

Join us on the first Sunday of Advent for the treasured St. Francis tradition of making your own Advent wreath for your home! We'll gather **in the**

**Wheatcroft Parish Hall on Sunday, December 2, after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services** to make tabletop wreaths with fresh evergreens, fun and fancy decorations, and four candles that symbolize the four weeks of Advent. A donation of \$25 per wreath is suggested to defray the cost of the materials.

### **Christmas Sing-along and Potluck Dinner Is December 9**

One of the best things about the Christmas season is the music! Join us on **Sunday, December 9, from 5:30-8:00 p.m.** as we gather to sing our favorite carols, new and old. We'll begin with a festive dinner in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. Ham, turkey, and soft drinks will be provided, so bring a side dish or dessert to share.

### **Children Invited to Participate in the Christmas Pageants**

Preschoolers through fifth graders are invited to participate in our Christmas Eve Nativity Pageants! We will have two pageants on **Monday, December 24—one at the 2:00 p.m. service and one at the 5:00 p.m. service.** The church will provide costumes, which will be fitted at the rehearsals.

[Please fill out the online registration form to participate.](#)

### **Christmas Worship Schedule Now Available**

St. Francis Episcopal Church's Christmas worship schedule is now available online. [Click here to view it.](#)

### **SFSA Basketball Registration Closes November 27**

Registration for the 2018 SFSA basketball season will close on Tuesday, November 27, with the draft being held on Saturday, December 1. Don't miss out! We're looking forward to a great season.

- To register, [click here.](#)
- For more information about SFSA and its programs, [click here.](#)
- If you have any questions, please e-mail [Ragan Cain.](#)

### **Call for Student Performers: Christmas Musical Is December 9**

We are looking for 10 to 15 students in grades 2 and up 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**

An opportunity for silent prayer at the church is now available:

- 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.