

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of October 14

### All School

#### **A Note From Steve About Emergency Response**

Each and every day, we look forward to welcoming your children to our school. Along with delivering top-of-the-line education, our goal is to serve as an extension of your family while providing students with a sense of security. Just as we take steps to care for our students' emotional safety, we have measures in place to protect their physical safety.

Soon, we will be sending home a quick-reference emergency guide that outlines procedures and training programs that we currently practice or are in the process of implementing at St. Francis. You can also view the emergency guide online now by [clicking here](#). As with any change, implementation will take time, but I felt it was important for you to know some of the things we have done so far.

Before this school year even began, we completed a comprehensive audit of our protocols and facilities on both campuses. This audit helped us identify areas of improvement that we are evaluating and pricing. We updated our phone system, a critical element in the event of an emergency; and the entire faculty, staff, and even certain parent volunteers became ALICE certified. (ALICE is one of the top active-shooter, scenario-based training education programs being used in organizations and schools across the country.) Finally, we lengthened the time our security officers are present on both campuses.

Our protocols will continue to iterate and improve as we work toward achieving solutions for two campuses. I will keep you updated on our progress and look forward to partnering with you on this journey.

Sincerely,

Stephen M. Lovejoy, MEd  
Head of School

### **Upper School Fall Musical Tickets on Sale Now!**

The St. Francis Upper School proudly presents its very first musical production!



### ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (PG-13)***

This sidesplitting, laugh-out-loud show (Winner of a Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical and a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Book of a Musical) is rated PG-13 and features an eclectic group of mid-pubescents as they vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life-

unaffirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Many spellers enter; one speller leaves as winner. At least the losers get a juice box!

**Performances run Friday, October 26, and Saturday, October 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Crum Gymnasium on the South Campus.**

General admission seating only. Purchase tickets [online here](#) or by paying cash at the door.

### **Please Help Us Keep Grandparents in the Loop**

Here at St. Francis, we know how important grandparents and grandfriends are to our students, and we love connecting with them!

- Our **monthly [Keepin' Track of the Pack grandparent newsletter](#)** provides up-to-date information on student events and activities.
- Our **annual Grandparents and Grandfriends Days**—scheduled this year for November 14, 15, and 16—provide a wonderful opportunity for them to spend time with grandchildren here at the school.

Please help us connect with your child's grandparents or grandfriends—and keep them in the loop on their grandchild's St. Francis experience!

Simply **submit a completed Grandparent Information Form** to [Danielle Richardson](#), gift records and data analysis manager. (You can download the Grandparent Information Form by [clicking here](#) or by visiting the "All Division Essentials" section of the Parent Portal.)

### **A Cut Above: Pumpkin Carving Contest Is October 29**

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade can get creative while they carve out some time to enter the St. Francis Pumpkin Decorating/Carving Contest on **Monday, October 29**.

- One entry per student is allowed.
- Kindergartners through eighth graders may carve and/or otherwise decorate their pumpkins. (Please, no parent work on student entries!)
- Best of Grade trophies will be awarded at each grade level, and an award will be given for Best of Show. Families may work together for the award in the Family Pumpkin category, and we will present a Spirit

Award for the pumpkin that best embodies the spirit of St. Francis. Also, new this year is the Best TV Character Award.

- Drop-off in the People Place will begin at **7:30 a.m. on Monday, October 29**. An [entry form](#) must be attached for the pumpkin to be judged.
- If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail [Neekie Kashani](#) or [Rita Pace](#).

### **St. Francis Sports Association: Registration Now Open**

Registration is now open for basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball. Please note that basketball registration will close on **Tuesday, November 27**, with our coaches' meeting and draft on **Saturday, December 1**.

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

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

### **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.

### **Virtue of the Month: Self-Control**

“God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and self-control.” 2 Timothy 1:7 reminds us that God can help us develop self-control. As a family, talk about areas of your lives where you could use more self-control. Then pray to God and ask Him to help you.

## **Sporting Clays Classic: Sponsorship and Registration Deadline Is Tomorrow**

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.**

### **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](mailto: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**

- TODAY! 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**

- TODAY! 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**

- TODAY! 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 Division Head**

In the comics page in last Sunday's newspaper, a *Family Circus* cartoon highlighted a drawing of Billy lounging on the sofa, reading a book. Billy looks out over his book and is surrounded by a wide range of illustrations, including dinosaurs, zoo animals, nursery rhyme characters, inventors, and other real and imaginary personalities. The caption says, "Virtual Reality: Available at Any Bookshelf."

Reading and storytelling are a big part of our day in the Primary School. They're also among the joyful parts of parenting. Books come in the traditional hardback form, in audio versions, and also in animated reproductions (videos) of favorite stories.

A blog article published by NPR last spring, ["What's Going On In Your Child's Brain When You Read Them A Story?"](#), reflected on [a study](#) designed to evaluate the effect of screen-based media on children. The research measured the brain activity of 27 4-year-old children who were exposed to a story presented three ways: a recorded version of the author reading a story with the illustrated book, audio only, and an animated cartoon. The combination of the author-read story along with illustrations was found to be the "just-right" combination for children's connectivity between words, language, and illustrations. They used context clues, an important part of learning to read. Our "reality" in the Primary School includes time for children to be immersed in quality literature through real books and storytelling. It's the right path to learning to read.

The author of the blog, Anya Kamenetz, also suggests that the positive effects of a child hearing a story from his or her parent's lap would have an even more profoundly positive impact on brain activity. I agree. The academic gains are measurable. But most importantly, to me, are the emotional benefits experienced by children when hearing a book read by the ones they love most.

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA  
Head of Primary School

## **Sign Up Now: Fall Conferences Are October 31**

Primary School Fall Conferences are **Wednesday, October 31**. Please sign up for a conference by clicking the name of your child's teacher:

### **PRE-PRIMARY**

[Britton](#)  
[Ferguson](#)  
[Meriwether](#)  
[Oteiza](#)

### **PRIMARY I**

[Burrow](#)  
[Capasso](#)  
[Porter](#)  
[Scriber](#)

### **PRIMARY II**

[Blades](#)  
[Hughes](#)  
[Owens](#)  
[Staller](#)  
[Wiener](#)

## **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:

- **TODAY! 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.**

## **Primary School Dining Hall Menu**

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

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Sunday, October 14**

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

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### **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*
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## **Tuesday, October 30**

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

## **Wednesday, October 31**

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

## **Sunday, November 4**

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

## **Monday, November 5**

- *PS Admissions Tour: 9:00 a.m.*
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## **Tuesday, November 6**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Step-Up to Lower School: Current PS parents are welcome to join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the HBR on the Main Campus*
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## **Wednesday, November 7**

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

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## Friday, November 9

- *PS Red, White, and Blue Day*
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## Monday, November 12

- *People for Others Day*

## Lower School

### **From the Division Head**

Everyone enjoyed our Homecoming festivities last week, and our Episcopal School Sunday and Sunday Showcase are underway at this very moment! The entire faculty is at school today highlighting the amazing programs St. Francis has to offer in each division. Thank you for your continued efforts to spread the mission of St. Francis to friends and family!

As we prepare for admissions tours, it forces us to reflect and to examine our practices. One such practice that truly sets St. Francis apart from most schools is our work in brain-based, research-based programming.

We know from years and years of research that learning is a social act; humans have a social brain that has been called the “gateway to human cognition” by Dr. Patricia Kuhl, researcher from the Institute of Learning and Brain Sciences at the University of Washington. She states that anything that gets kids interacting with one another reaps huge dividends in learning. Click [here](#) to read a short article about her work, and click [here](#) and [here](#) to watch a couple of very short videos in which she describes our social brain and its implications for learning. Understanding this concept will help you understand why we implemented our specific curricular and social-emotional programs.

- **Reading and writing workshop** involves mini-lessons, sharing and interactive learning, small-group and partner work, one-on-one teacher conferences, and reflection. Within the workshop, Guided Reading is

where students work on their reading levels with academic peers to grow and stretch their abilities and thinking.

- **Bridges in Mathematics** is a conceptual approach to teaching math that involves group investigations, sharing how to come to solutions, and realizing there are many pathways to get to one correct answer; one way is not simply better than others.
- **Words Their Way**, our word-work program, involves children working together with academic peers to sort words, discover patterns, and hold each other accountable for correct spelling.
- Our **STEAM** approach is built on inquiry, investigations, and the application of knowledge in order to solve problems and engineer solutions. Students collaborate daily around real-world issues and challenges.
- Our **enrichment classes and physical education classes** offer opportunities for students to stretch their thinking and abilities in fun and interactive ways, tapping into different parts of the brain.
- Our **social-emotional approach** ([Responsive Classroom](#)) is one that builds on a community of learners and systematic routines:
  - Morning meetings where students purposefully greet one another, share a thought, and participate in a group activity tying to the curriculum;
  - Closing meeting where students reflect on the day;
  - Academic opportunities where students are fully engaged in learning with others; and
  - Our social contract, written by the students themselves, which dictates behavior norms in our learning community.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our program and approaches. I hope this information provides you with talking points to share with other families interested in joining in our WOLF PACK!

Cheers,

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:

- **TODAY! 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 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.
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### **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
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### **Tuesday, October 23-Thursday, October 25**

- *Third-Grade ERB Testing: 8:00-11:00 a.m.*
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### **Wednesday, October 24**

- *FAC Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*
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### **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*
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### **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*
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### **Tuesday, October 30**

- *Kindergarten Words Their Way Parent Meeting: 8:00 a.m. in the HBR*
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### **Wednesday, October 31**

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

- *All Saints' Parties*
- 

## **Sunday, November 4**

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

## **Monday, November 5**

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 4-10 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
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## **Tuesday, November 6**

- *Admissions Step-Up to Lower School:* Current Primary School parents are welcome to join us from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the HBR on the Main Campus
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## **Wednesday, November 7**

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

## **Middle School**

### **From the Division Head**

Happy Sunday, Middle School families. I hope you all are having a great weekend.

Last week, we celebrated our school's history as well as our new traditions for Homecoming Week, and the beautiful weather made it easy to get outside and enjoy our community. We also engaged the help of Dr. Crystal Collier to discuss the invaluable life skill of self-control with our parents and kids. Please continue the conversation with your students, as they should have a lot of

options to create a successful self-control plan in their daily lives. Dr. Collier's Pathways program will help our school prevent and cope with at-risk behavior in our community, and I am thankful for her partnership with our faculty and staff.

This week, we have OLEs, group pictures, and Fifth-Grade Movie Night—a little bit of everything.

On the Mind, Brain, and Education science front, I want to share [this article](#) about the neuromyth of learning style versus learning preference. Are you an auditory or visual learner? As it turns out, it may not matter, as no particular style defines who we are as students. Daniel T. Willingham, a psychologist and educational consultant from the University of Virginia, weighs in with his research-informed perspective.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD  
Head of Middle School

### **People for Others Day Is November 12**

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

#### **FIFTH GRADE**

Our fifth graders will be working on Blessings in a Backpack, and we're asking for your help collecting the following items:

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

Our goal is to collect over 6,000 items to pack, so we need your support. Please place these items in the boxes in the fifth-grade classrooms.

#### **SIXTH GRADE**

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

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

### **Summer Travel: Come Explore the Mediterranean With Us!**

Our Middle/Upper School European travel opportunity for this summer takes us to the Mediterranean coast. We begin in Barcelona, travel through France, and end in Rome. Our adventure will take us to the historic sites of each area, including the Park Güell and Sagrada Familia in Barcelona; Pont du Gard in Nice, France; the Tower of Pisa near Florence; and the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. We will swim in the Mediterranean, bike through Barcelona, watch perfume being made in Italy, see Michelangelo's famous *David*, and so much more! The trip concludes with a visit to Assisi to see where our own St. Francis is buried.

Along the way, we will discover local foods, shop the markets in Nice and picnic overlooking the city, break into small groups and eat with local families in their homes in Nice, as well as be treated to an authentic tapas dinner in Barcelona. And don't forget about *real* pizza in Italy!

Registration is still open. The trip is from **July 2-12, 2019**, and is open to all current sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth graders. The cost for the trip is \$5,466, which includes virtually everything but souvenirs and a few meals. Learn more about the trip on our tour company's website (ACIS) by [clicking here](#).

Questions? Ready to register? Contact Sarah Powell via [e-mail](#) or at 713.458.6413.

### **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](#).

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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:

- **TODAY! 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 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*
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## **Wednesday, October 17**

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

## **Thursday, October 18-Friday, October 19**

- *Sixth-Grade OLE Trip*
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## **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 (Grade 7 Parents Only):* 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*
  - *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*
  - *Hearing & Vision Screening*
  - *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**

- *Eucharist 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*
  - *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/SFES 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*
- 

## **Sunday, November 4**

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

## **Monday, November 5**

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
  - *PSIA Testing: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the HBR*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
  - *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal (Tech Run-through): 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*
  - *Sign-Up Deadline for Second Trimester Electives*
- 

## **Tuesday, November 6**

- *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*
  - *Fall Play/Dress Rehearsal: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*
  - *Step-Up to MS for LS parents: 8:15-10:00 a.m. in the HBR*
  - *National Election Day: Vote!*
- 

## **Wednesday, November 7**

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*

- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
  - *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal: 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*
- 

### **Thursday, November 8**

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *Washington, DC, Trip Meeting (Parents Only): 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the HBR*
  - *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*
  - *Fall Play/After-School Rehearsal: 2:30-6:00 p.m. in the FAC*
  - *Eighth-Grade Girls Basketball Tournament: 4:00-8:00 p.m. (tentative)*
  - *Eighth-Grade Transcript Request Form Due to Ms. Crummel*
- 

### **Friday, November 9**

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *Veterans' Day Observed by MS*
  - *Wolf Wear Sale: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the People Place*
  - *WEB Activity (Grade 5): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*
  - *MS Fall Theater Production: 7:00-9:30 p.m. in the FAC*
- 

### **Saturday, November 10**

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

### **Upper School**

#### **From the Division Head**

Below are the logistics for our Tuesday, October 16, Humanities field trip. Please join me in thanking Angela Flowers for coordinating this experience.

*Our Humanities students continue to explore the connections between literature, history, religion, art, and culture. While they are studying protest movements from around the world in class, they will move from the classroom out into the community on October 16 to explore how many individuals apply faith to find a sense of peace and connection in the world. In Monday's class, we will discuss and reflect on the ways we believe religious houses of worship serve individuals, families, and the community, and we will do some research to discover the many faith traditions present in the Houston area. We will examine these questions: Whom do faith communities serve and how? How many different religious faiths are present in Houston? What are our own personal experiences with houses of worship? Are there common customs from one faith tradition to another, and how do we know what is expected when we enter a new worship house?*

*Tuesday, October 16, we are excited to take the students on our "Religion in the City" field trip. The purpose of this trip is to gain insight into the diversity of faith traditions practiced in and around Houston. We will tour houses of worship, meet with faith leaders from various backgrounds, and hear from Rev. Greg Han, Interfaith Ministries' director of interfaith relations, on ways the various faith institutions partner together in service to meet the needs of the community.*

*Our visits will conclude with a luncheon of vegetarian Indian cuisine at Govinda's. We look forward to this opportunity to discover more about our Houston community. Out of respect to the various houses of worship, students should wear their formal uniform for this event.*

*Respectfully yours,*

*Angela Flowers*

There is **no class on Wednesday, October 31**, so that advisors can conduct conferences with their advisees and the advisees' parents. With the assistance of their advisor, students will lead the conversation on academic and social/emotional strengths and establish goals for the year. Please click the name of your child's advisor below to sign up for your conference:

- [Mr. Doran or Dr. Henderson](#)
- [Mr. Zacaraev or Ms. Matzen](#)

Please remember to mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to the inaugural Upper School fall musical!

 ST. FRANCIS Episcopal School  
AN UPPER SCHOOL PRODUCTION

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County  
**SPELLING BEE**

**SOUTH CAMPUS**  
OCTOBER 26 AND 27 • 2018 • 7:30 P.M.

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY WILLIAM FINN      CONCEIVED BY REBECCA FELDMAN      BOOK BY RACHEL SHEINKIN

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL BY JAY REISS      ORIGINALLY DIRECTED ON BROADWAY BY JAMES LAPINE

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY DAVID STONE, JAMES L. NEDERLANDER, BARBARA WHITMAN, PATRICK CATULLOM, BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY, SECOND STAGE THEATER

**PG-13**      TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR PRE-PURCHASE AT:  
[STFRANCISHOUSTON.ORG/TICKETS](http://STFRANCISHOUSTON.ORG/TICKETS)

Appreciatively,

Cara Henderson  
Head of Upper School

### **Summer Travel: Come Explore the Mediterranean With Us!**

Our Middle/Upper School European travel opportunity for this summer takes us to the Mediterranean coast. We begin in Barcelona, travel through France, and end in Rome. Our adventure will take us to the historic sites of each area, including the Park Güell and Sagrada Familia in Barcelona; Pont du Gard in Nice, France; the Tower of Pisa near Florence; and the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. We will swim in the Mediterranean, bike through Barcelona, watch perfume being made in Italy, see Michelangelo's famous *David*, and so much more! The trip concludes with a visit to Assisi to see where our own St. Francis is buried.

Along the way, we will discover local foods, shop the markets in Nice and picnic overlooking the city, break into small groups and eat with local families in their homes in Nice, as well as be treated to an authentic tapas dinner in Barcelona. And don't forget about *real* pizza in Italy!

Registration is still open. The trip is from **July 2-12, 2019**, and is open to all current sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth graders. The cost for the trip is \$5,466, which includes virtually everything but souvenirs and a few meals. Learn more about the trip on our tour company's website (ACIS) by [clicking here](#).

Questions? Ready to register? Contact Sarah Powell via [e-mail](#) or at 713.458.6413.

### **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:

- **TODAY! 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.**

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **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/Dress Uniform*
  - *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/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *End of Fall Season Athletics*
  - *Fine Arts Tech Week Rehearsal: 2:00-9:00 p.m.*
- 

## **Saturday, October 20**

- *Fine Arts Tech Week Rehearsal: Time TBD*
- 

## **Sunday, October 21**

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

## **Monday, October 22**

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Fine Arts Tech Week Rehearsal: 4:00-8:30 p.m.*
- 

## **Tuesday, October 23**

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Fine Arts Tech Week Rehearsal: 4:00-8:30 p.m.*
-

## Wednesday, October 24

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Fine Arts Tech Week Rehearsal: 4:00-8:30 p.m.*
- 

## Thursday, October 25

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Fine Arts Tech Week Rehearsal: 2:15-4:00 p.m.*
- 

## Friday, October 26

- *Day 3 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *Fine Arts Musical: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*(rated PG-13); 7:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym on the South Campus
- 

## Saturday, October 27

- *Fine Arts Musical: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*(rated PG-13); 7:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym on the South Campus

## Church

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

We are looking for 10 to 15 students in grades 2-6 to participate in our Christmas musical, *Fact or Fiction*, by Celeste and David Clydesdale. The performance will be held the evening of Sunday, December 9, in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall, and will be directed by Ben Hall, Elizabeth Steen, and Richard Keith.

Rehearsals will be held at the church on dates to be announced.

If you are interested in participating, please e-mail your name, grade, and contact information to [Rick Keith](#).

## **The Grief Group Meets Today**

**The Grief Group is meeting 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](mailto:JerryBallard@stfrancis.org) 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**.

## **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!

## **'The Meaning of Marriage' Continues Soon**

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:

- “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**

Opportunities for silent prayer at St. Francis Episcopal Church are 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.

### **Veterans' Day Recognition**

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

### **Join Us for St. Francis 101**

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

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

### **St. Francis Sports Association: Registration Now Open**

Registration is now open for basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball. Please note that basketball registration will close on **Tuesday, November 27**, with our coaches' meeting and draft on **Saturday, December 1**.

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

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