

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of February 17

All School

We're Picking Up STEAM!



PARENT PREVIEW

FEBRUARY 21, 2019 • 8:15–9:15 a.m.

Our students are ready to *challenge what's possible* at STEAM Fair 2019! Parents are invited to see their child's project (and ingenuity) on display at a special parent preview hour:

Thursday, February 21

8:15–9:15 a.m.

Crum Library on the Main Campus

Can't wait to see you there!

Getting Gala Ready: The Countdown Is On!

We are ready for Gala this Saturday! Below are a few reminders and additional items to note:

- **Online Auction Success:** Wow! Thank you for your overwhelming support. The online auction is projected to raise more than \$75,000. Winning bidders received confirmation e-mails. All online auction items can be picked up from the Special Events Office on the Main Campus starting Tuesday, February 19.
- **Big Ticket Items:** 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.
- **Bidding:** Be sure your phone is charged and ready when you arrive at Gala, because we will have a few opportunities for you to make purchases online. Keep in mind, Live Auction and Big Board bidding will be conducted through auctioneers. Get ready to raise your paddle or shout out your bids!
- **Awesome Accessories for Grabs:** For \$200, \$100, or \$50, guests can pull an item of equal or greater value. There will be more than 130 surprise boxes available—and they will sell quickly. Plan to arrive on time if you want a box and the glass of bubbly that comes with each purchase!
- **Voting:** Who will win the totally amazing 90's dance off? Gala night will feature original performances by our very own SFE community entertainers—Act 1: Word to Your Mothers and Act 2: Cool Catwalk Crew. Guests can cast votes by donating dollars! \$25 equals one vote, and voting is EASY—done entirely on a mobile device. Votes are unlimited. Ultimately, Gala guests will decide the winner!

Put on your 90's prom or cocktail attire, and we'll see you on Saturday at the Royal Sonesta Hotel (2222 West Loop South Freeway / 77027)! Valet and self-parking will be available. The festivities will run as follows:

6:30 p.m.—Check-in, Awesome Accessories, Big Boards open

8:00 p.m.—Seated dinner

9:00 p.m.—Live Auction

10:30 p.m.—Entertainment acts and voting, then dancing

11:00 p.m.—Checkout and item pickup

Midnight—Event ends

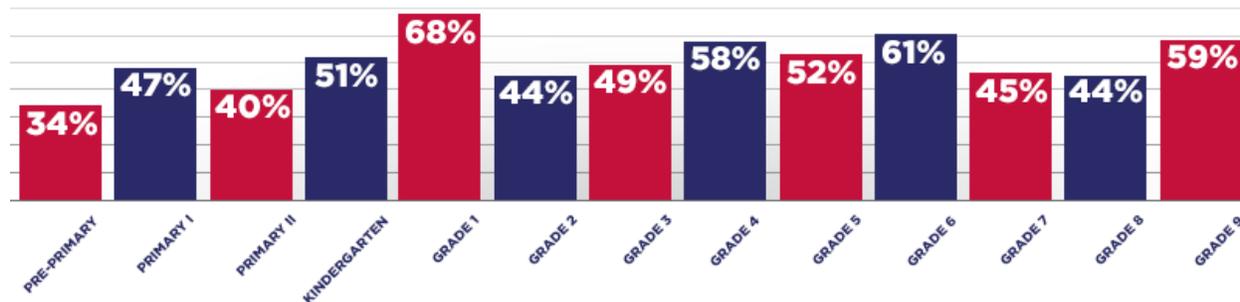
Please Share the Word! Upcoming US Admissions Tours

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.**

St. Francis Annual Fund Participation Challenge Update

Fun Fact: Did you know that every single gift to the St. Francis Annual Fund, regardless of amount, makes a difference? The goal for parent participation is 100 percent—one gift from every family, every year.

PARENT PARTICIPATION BY GRADE



First grade continues to lead the way! It only takes a few new gifts to affect participation percentages, so if you have not yet given, please take a quick moment to do so [here](#).

Participation percentages for kindergarten, first grade, fourth grade, and eighth grade all increased this week—way to go! To date, the St. Francis Annual Fund has raised just over \$705,000, which is 88 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 Annual Fund will be treated to a pizza party with Mr. Lovejoy on **Wednesday, March 20**.

[Make your gift to the St. Francis Annual Fund today!](#)

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

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is March 1

The Athletics Booster Club's next Wolf Wear Sale will be held on Friday, March 1. Visit us in the Concessions Stand near the gym on the Main Campus from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Questions? E-mail [Eloise Taussig](#) or [Kara Montgomery](#).

Woolrich Luncheon Is March 5—Tickets On Sale Now!

Thank you to all who have purchased tickets for this year's luncheon! We look forward to seeing you 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.

Register Today for Summer on the Point

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 Friday

Registration closes for St. Francis Sports Association T-ball, baseball, softball, and fourth- and fifth-grade girls volleyball this 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](#).

Primary School

From the Division Head

Surely the most difficult job I've ever loved is parenting. But nothing prepared me for how challenging and exhausting it would be. My parents lived several hours away, but my sister and friends were wonderful resources for me. I remember that when our first child was born, we were baffled by her crying. My husband asked me what we should do. He assumed that because I was an educator, I would also be an expert in parenting. Not true. Just like everyone else, I've had to navigate through the challenges of trying to parent two very different children.

Even though it was difficult, I learned so much about my children, others' children, and myself. It has made me a better educator, and a better person.

Parents of adult children will tell you that your parenting “job” doesn’t end when your big kids leave home—it just changes.

In partnership with you in your parenting journey, we will offer three meetings this spring to tackle a few of the common challenges parents encounter while raising children. We’ll gather informally in the Primary School Library to share stories, ideas, and strategies for supporting one another.

Please join us for any or all of these meetings:

Tuesday, March 19, 8:30 a.m.

Same Parents—Different Children

Explore with others the mystery of how siblings with the same parents can be so different. Find out what research reveals about siblings, their personalities, and their family dynamics.

Tuesday, April 16, 8:30 a.m.

Setting Limits and Healthy Boundaries

Being consistent and following through can be hard, but not doing so can result in negative long-term consequences. We’ll look at the benefits of limits in helping children feel safe, and the pitfalls of the lack of boundaries.

Wednesday, May 8, 8:30 a.m.

Toilet Training

There’s nothing fun about starting or working your way through the toileting process with your child, but it’s an important developmental milestone. Margaret Yerkovich, assistant head of admissions and Primary School parent, will help facilitate our conversation about guiding children through the necessary steps to independence in this pivotal self-help skill.

As always, if you have questions about children’s development, or concerns about parenting, we hope you will let us know. We look forward to growing together to support children and families.

All the best,

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!

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

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*: 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.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*
 - *Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty 15th Annual Awards Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, March 6

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

Monday, March 11-Friday, March 15

- *Spring Break: School closed*
-

Tuesday, March 19

- *Primary School Parent Education (“Same Parents—Different Children”): 8:30 a.m. in the Primary School Library*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 26

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

Wednesday, March 27

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

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope everyone had a wonderful Valentine's Day! Our amazing parent volunteers hosted fun parties for all of our students, and we appreciate everyone's hard work so much. The students enjoy seeing their parents involved at school!

As a continuation of my article last weekend on research-informed approaches and practices, I wanted you to hear from our math and technology specialist, Holly Plost, MEd. She is a lifelong educational researcher, curriculum specialist, and most recently a *Bridges* curriculum trainer. It is critical that you understand our approach to mathematics so you can be our partner at home. We certainly don't expect parents to teach math from home, but an awareness of our approach can help you guide students to problem-solve when difficulties arise.

As I'm sure you've noticed, math instruction today is nothing like how we all learned—thank goodness! We now know so much about how children/humans learn, and we have been able to adjust our approaches according to that brain research. Is that potentially scary for parents who are not educators? Yes. Anything we do not understand or have not experienced before can be scary. Know that our calling as educators is to research best practices and to provide these rich learning opportunities to your children.

All of our curricular approaches are steeped in educational research, so please enjoy Holly's article below (directly after mine) about our approach to mathematics.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to us if you want to learn more. There is nothing we love more than to teach parents about curriculum and best practices!

Have a wonderful week,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

From the Math and Technology Specialist

In recent years, there has been an emergence of technologies that have allowed researchers incredible new access into the workings of the brain. Several new findings have been revealed due to this advance in technology.

One new idea that has amazed scientists is that of "brain plasticity." The idea has long been held that our brain can't really be changed; in essence, either you're "a math person" or you're not. However, new research has shown that the brain is like a muscle; it changes and gets stronger when you use it. This has helped us to understand that people aren't "good" or "bad" at math. It takes work, but one can improve. At first, nobody can read or solve equations. But with practice, most anyone can learn to do it. The more a person learns, the easier it becomes to learn *more* new things—because the brain "muscles" grow stronger.

Furthermore, scientists have found that it is important for the brain to struggle. Strengthening the math part of your brain happens when you work on problems that are challenging. If a football player watched people play all day, his game would not improve, just as a pianist cannot excel by reading a book about playing. It takes practice—challenging practice—to get better. In fact, scientists have found that the brain grows when you learn something new, as well as when you make mistakes. Yes, you learn even more when you make errors. It is important to work to correct them, continue on, and make more mistakes. We've come to expect that math should not be uncomfortable—that students should be able to derive answers immediately. When they can't, our tendency is to jump in and "rescue" them; we have difficulty letting children struggle. However, we need to retrain teachers, parents, and students to

understand that this struggle is not a sign of a lack of intelligence, but a crucial step toward learning.

In one 2013 study, it was found that the most powerful learning occurs when we use different areas of the brain. When students work with symbols, such as numbers, they are using a different area of the brain than when they work with visual and spatial information, such as an array of dots. The researchers found that mathematics learning and performance was optimized when the two areas of the brain were communicating. Additionally, they found that training students through visual representations improved students' math performance significantly, even on numerical math. Many research studies indicate that teachers who emphasize visual mathematics and use manipulatives to teach mathematics attain higher achievement for students at all levels, from elementary through college.

Bridges in Mathematics, our math program, is based upon this recent neuroscience research. It presents mathematical content both visually and kinesthetically. Students see, touch, and sketch ideas to create pictures in the mind's eye to help them construct, understand, and apply mathematical ideas. Multiple areas of the brain are engaged and communicating. The curriculum focuses on developing students' deep understanding of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills, and ability to solve complex and novel problems. It involves much discourse and open-ended struggle. Mistakes are welcome in our math classes, where students are working on challenging mathematics, making discoveries, testing their theories, and "growing their brains."

If you would like to learn more about the brain and mathematics learning and about how you can encourage your child in ways that will create a growth mindset, I highly recommend reading *Mathematical Mindsets* by Dr. Jo Boaler, professor of mathematics at Stanford University.

Warmly,

Holly Plost, MEd
Math and Technology Specialist

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 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*: 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.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

Tuesday, March 5

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

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

Hello, Middle School families! I hope this finds you well today, enjoying the long weekend!

This week, we celebrate science, technology, engineering, arts, and math at our annual STEAM Fair, which takes place on Thursday, February 21. Our teachers and students have been working hard to display their skills and produce meaningful items that highlight their technical artistry. In the past, we've seen virtual reality stations, water filters created by 3-D printers, Tinkercad illustrations, programming robots, and more. I can't wait to see what we showcase this year!

On Friday, we close Trimester 2, and report cards go online next week. On Saturday, the school hosts our families for our 2019 St. Francis Gala at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. Thanks especially to Abby Clark, Martha Chavez, and the development and advancement teams for their incredibly hard work, which began at the end of the last Gala two years ago.

It's officially lacrosse season, which makes my heart sing. In a recent tweet, former Johns Hopkins All-American goalie and current coach and sports television reporter Quint Kessenich outlined the Friday routine for college players, which accurately reflects what we want from our young people. Here is his ideal Friday checklist, which precedes Saturday game days for college players: backup sticks, extra cleats, homework/reading for the bus/plane ride, snacks for hotel, music for downtime, written goal list (words are seeds), a "thank-you" call to family for the opportunity provided, and a "thank-you" call to former coaches/mentors. The list goes from literal items to figurative housekeeping for relationship building and maintenance, and I love it. I hope that not only our student-athletes, but also all of our kids, will grow into this model of organization, commitment, reflection, and care.

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

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
 - *Variety Show Auditions*: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC
-

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*
-

Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction: 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.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 Pathways 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*
-

Monday, March 4

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

Tuesday, March 5

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 8 White Shirt Class Photo Makeup Day (If Needed)*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty 15th Annual Awards Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, March 6

- *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*
 - *Ash Wednesday Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.; ashes only—no Eucharist; Lent begins*
-

Thursday, March 7

- *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*
 - *MS St. Francis Got Talent Variety Show: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*
-

Friday, March 8

- *Special Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *NJHS Meeting (Parachute Fun): 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
 - *Art Car Parade: 1:15-2:00 p.m. on the carpool route around the school*
 - *FoFA Social Concessions: 2:55-3:30 p.m. on the OAC*
-

Monday, March 11-Friday, March 15

- *Spring Break: School closed*

Upper School

From the Division Head

A friendly reminder that Upper School drop-off begins at 7:15 a.m., and students should be picked up by 4:30 p.m. unless they are engaged in an after-school activity. At 4:30 p.m., we walk students to the Primary School Office, where they are given a snack and the opportunity to study while they wait. Please remember to always let the office know if your child is going home with another family or being picked up by someone who is not an authorized adult. As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Please enjoy the note below from our office manager, Cathleen Flaniken.

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

From the Office Manager

When Cara asked me to share my Upper School experience in this week's *Wolf Watch*, I jumped at the chance! My journey to the Upper School actually began in 2016. Prior to that, my career in education had been at the administration level. It was in 2016 that I was afforded the opportunity to take over a kindergarten class once a week to teach the *10 Principles of Creativity* curriculum offered through a nonprofit organization with which I volunteer. That 50-minute class each week was both terrifying and exhilarating—the attention span of 27 5 year olds seemed to be 15 minutes max at any given time.

This experience taught me a major life lesson: to be present and in the moment. It also sparked the desire to be a daily part of school life. I was able to begin that journey last year by serving as the SFES Middle School Office manager.

When given the opportunity to be a part of the founding Upper School team, I felt as though I had reached the karmic trifecta—exposure to the primary, middle, and now high school level. I buckled up for what was going to be a true test of living in the moment—not just a year of firsts for me, but for our students and faculty, as well. I am blessed beyond words to see the world through the uninhibited lens of this class as they experience making new friends, their first high school dance, creating the art car, and the list goes on and on!

The highlight of my day is morning drop-off. Exposure to the unique and dynamic qualities of each child during that little window of time will forever be what defined this year for me. A few examples of this are overhearing two students in an incredibly articulate, healthy debate on consent; being reminded of the importance of watching the State of the Union address; being given data on why a teenager can never have enough sleep (and thus should be allowed to nap in the mornings); seeing students collaborate on projects; and having the majority of them tell me that you are never too old to enjoy Pop Rocks.



Before we know it, our founding freshmen will be the seasoned sophomores leading the way for new students. Is there room to grow in being a model student? Of course, for all of us! We are all students in the adventure of lifelong learning. The biggest lesson I have learned so far is that we, as faculty, have a phenomenal, interactive resource at our fingertips—the 17 children we have the privilege of seeing each day.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a daily part of your child's St. Francis experience. I know how fortunate I am to be in this place, at this time, in their lives.

With gratitude,

Cathleen Flaniken
Upper School Office Manager

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 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*
 - *Track Meet: 4:00 p.m. at St. Thomas High School*
-

Friday, February 22

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

Saturday, February 23

- *St. Francis Gala and Auction: 6:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m. at Royal Sonesta (2222 West Loop South)*
-

Monday, February 25

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, February 26

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
-

Wednesday, February 27

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*

- *Pathways Assembly for Parents: 1:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus*
-

Thursday, February 28

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Student Pathways Assembly: 9:30 a.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus*
 - *Track Meet: 4:00 p.m. at St. Thomas High School*
-

Friday, March 1

- *Day 1 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
-

Tuesday, March 5

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

Church

Ash Wednesday Services Are March 6

Begin your Lenten journey that leads to the cross and the joy of the resurrection with the **Imposition of the Ashes** and **Holy Eucharist** on Ash Wednesday, March 6. The first day of Lent is a special day of holy obligation. **Services will be held at 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.** to accommodate your schedule that day.

Sports Association Registration Closes Friday

Registration closes for St. Francis Sports Association T-ball, baseball, softball, and fourth- and fifth-grade girls volleyball this 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 for some family fun 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.