

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of March 17

All School

Announcing Big Plans for Kindergarten!

We'd like to share some exciting news about our plans for kindergarten! Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in the number of families entering Primary School, along with an increase in mission-appropriate applicants for kindergarten.

While this growth is fantastic, it is important that our classes remain small enough to offer focused attention and engaged learning. To accommodate this demand, we will be opening a fifth kindergarten classroom for the 2019–20 school year. This additional classroom will allow our enrollment to grow from 72 to 80 students, while simultaneously lowering our student-to-teacher ratio to 16:1 (down from 18:1). We will continue to have a certified teaching fellow who supports each classroom in kindergarten. Our overall class sizes and student-to-teacher ratios will remain the same at approximately 20:1 for grades 1-4.

Work will commence this summer to redesign our kindergarten pod to include five state-of-the-art classrooms. We are eager to see our students in their new space and look forward to welcoming the class of 2032 to our Lower School this fall!

Annual Fund Challenge Results Are In

Congratulations, first grade! You are the lucky recipients of a pizza party with Mr. Lovejoy on Wednesday, March 20. We cannot wait to celebrate with you! (Parents, please check your e-mail for the Paperless Post invitation with more details.)

While first grade held the lead for seven consecutive weeks and ultimately won the participation challenge, the support from so many families contributing toward this effort is commendable. ***Thank you!***

To date, the Annual Fund has raised 90 percent of our \$800,000 goal for the 2018-19 year. If you have not yet given, you have until Sunday, June 30, to do so. ([Click here](#) for details.) The Annual Fund is the most important area of need as it supports the operating budget, allowing our school to function and our students to thrive.

We continue to be grateful for each and every contribution to annual giving from the St. Francis community. Thank you, again—we cannot say it enough!

Please contact Director of Annual and Alumni Giving [Laura Lanigan](#) with any questions.

Gala Success: Here's How Much You Helped Raise!

The 2019 Saved by the Bell Gala was a huge success and the Gala leadership would like to thank all in our incredible community for doing their part! To those who donated auction items, planned sign-up parties, created class projects, sold raffle tickets, purchased seats, and raised your paddle, we are truly thankful.

We are thrilled to announce that this year's event raised \$410,000 for the three schoolwide initiatives: enhanced security, technology upgrades, and to create a Makerspace. And thanks to the Calderwood Challenge, we can start on renovations to the Main Campus Crum Library.

Enormous gratitude also goes out to the amazing Gala chairs, Becky Livingstone and Jacee Wolf; to the wonderful auction chairs, Lauren Biggs and Megan Vondra; and to the entire Gala committee, whose members poured their hearts into this nostalgic night. Their gifts of time, talent, and treasure exemplify the spirit of being “people for others.”

AUCTION ITEM PICKUP: All auction items can be picked up from the Special Events Office on the Main Campus during school hours. Check in at the front desk for directions. Need to make special arrangements for pickup? Please [e-mail us](#).

PA Spring Luncheon Is April 3

Attention, ladies and gentlemen! The Parents Association invites you to attend the Annual Spring Luncheon, featuring speaker Alysha Roll, MSW, LCSW. Ms. Roll will be speaking on “The Science of a Healthy Relationship.”

A Certified Gottman Therapist as well as a master trainer and consultant for The Gottman Institute, Ms. Roll is one of only 27 Gottman Institute master trainers in the world. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn scientifically based ways both to deepen your relationship with your significant other and to avoid relationship pitfalls.

- [Click here to purchase your tickets.](#)
- For more information on The Gottman Institute, [click here](#).
- With questions, please [e-mail Paola Lehman](#), Parents Association parent education chair.

Save the Date—Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash!

Laissez les bons temps rouler! Don't miss out on an opportunity to let the good times roll at Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash!

- St. Francis Festival Day is set for **Sunday, April 28**.
- By now, you should have received your Festival mailing containing event details, booth sponsorship opportunities, T-shirt and ticket purchase forms, and more.
- [Click here](#) to visit the event website and complete your “online packet.” For the printable version, [click here](#).
- Each spring since 1969, the St. Francis Episcopal Church and School communities have joined together to organize and celebrate Festival Day. This family event features games, food, and fellowship. Proceeds benefit the One Community Fund, which underwrites facility enhancements, landscape and infrastructure improvements, and joint efforts for both church and school.

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.**

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.

Primary School

From the Division Head

I hope your spring break was a time of rest and renewal, leaving you ready for the final months of the school year!

In case you missed the information in *Wolf Watch* last month about our three-part Spring Parent Education Series, I hope you'll join us for the first session: **"Same Parents—Different Children."**

Have you ever looked at your children and wondered how they could even be related? Did you think that your second (or third, or fourth) child would be easier because you'd learned everything you thought was possible with your first child? Are you puzzled by the differences in your children's personalities and interests?

If you would like to spend time visiting with other Primary School parents and learning more about how children with the same parents can be so different, join us for coffee and fellowship this week on Tuesday. We will conclude at 9:30 a.m. to accommodate anyone planning to attend Chapel. We look forward to spending time with you!

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Join Us Tuesday for ‘Same Parents—Different Children’

Ever wonder how siblings raised in the same family can be so different? Explore this mystery with others and find out what research reveals about siblings, their personalities, and their family dynamics at the first session in our Spring Parent Education Series, “Same Parents—Different Children.” The event will be held this **Tuesday, March 19, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Primary School Crum Library.**

Primary School Crum Library News

CHANGE TO OPEN LIBRARY TIMES

Thank you for taking advantage of our Open Library times! We have noticed that Tuesdays from 2:45 to 4:00 p.m. has proven to be the most popular time for visitation, so we will continue this arrangement so that parents and children may continue to enjoy and check out books together. Going forward, we will not continue the Thursday Open Library time, as we have not had interest in that day.

STORY TIME WITH MS. MCCONNELL

The next scheduled **Story Time With Ms. McConnell** will be on **Thursday, April 4, at 3:00 p.m.** We hope you’ll join us for this time when parents and children participate together in storytelling with Ms. McConnell, our Primary School librarian. These scheduled story times have been very popular. You won’t want to miss it!

PARENTING LIBRARY REMINDER

Don’t forget that we have a collection of parenting resources available for you to check out in our Primary School Crum Library. We have ordered favorites based on faculty recommendations, as well as other parent-tested references. Tuesday afternoons during Open Library is a great time to check out our collection.

Celebrating Summer Birthdays

We plan to follow the schedule below for celebrating summer birthdays during Chapel, from now until the end of school:

- **If your child has a June birthday**, we will celebrate at the end of March and beginning of April.
- **If your child has a July birthday**, we will celebrate during the month of April.
- **If your child has an early August birthday**, we will celebrate at the end of April, through the first week of May.

Please contact your child's teacher as to when you would like to celebrate their birthday in Chapel. Thanks for helping us commemorate your child's birthday in such a meaningful and spiritual way!

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, March 19

- *Primary School Parent Education: "Same Parents, Different Children"* at 8:30 a.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Open Library Time: 2:45-4:00 p.m.* in the Primary School Crum Library
-

Wednesday, March 20

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

Tuesday, March 26

- *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Capasso and Scriber)*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Open Library Time: 2:45-4:00 p.m.* in the Primary School Crum Library
-

Wednesday, March 27

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Burrow and Porter)*
 - *Primary II Fathers and Friends: 11:00 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, April 2

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Open Library Time: 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

- *Story Time With Ms. McConnell: 3:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library*
-

Tuesday, April 9

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Open Library Time: 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, April 10

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary I Fathers and Friends: 8:15 a.m.*
-

Thursday, April 11

- *Primary II Drama Performances*

9:00 a.m.—Blades
9:40 a.m.—Staller
10:20 a.m.—Wiener
11:00 a.m.—Owens
11:40 a.m.—Hughes

Tuesday, April 16

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
 - *Open Library Time:* 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
-

Wednesday, April 17

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
 - *Easter Egg Hunt (5-Day Pre-Primary)*
-

Thursday, April 18

- *Easter Egg Hunt (Ferguson T/Th Pre-Primary)*
-

Friday, April 19

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school
-

Monday, April 22

- *Easter Monday Holiday:* No school
-

Tuesday, April 23

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
 - *Open Library Time:* 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
-

Wednesday, April 24

- *Primary School Parent/Teacher Conferences:* Student holiday
-

Thursday, April 25

- *Primary II Field Trip*
-

Friday, April 26

- *Primary School Pep Rally*
-

Sunday, April 28

- *Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash*
-

Monday, April 29

- *Late Start:* Primary School begins at 9:00 a.m.
-

Tuesday, April 30

- *Pre-Primary Mothers and Others:* Ferguson T/Th, Oteiza, and Meriwether
- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.

- *Open Library Time: 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, May 1

- *Pre-Primary Mothers and Others: Ferguson M/W/F and Britton*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Thursday, May 2

- *Primary II Mothers and Others: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Friday, May 3

- *Primary II Step-up to Kindergarten Field Trip: 11:30 a.m.*
- *Primary I Mothers and Others: 1:30 p.m.*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope this finds you well rested and re-energized! We are ready for a fantastic spring!

My husband and I had a wonderful week in the mountains with my youngest son, who is a senior in high school, and seven of his friends. I never knew so much food could be consumed and so much laundry could be produced in six days! I also can't get my head around the fact that in a few short months, he will be gone, and we will be empty nesters!

When that happens, being part of the St. Francis community will come to mean even more to me and St. Francis will feel like even more of a home, I'm sure. This made me start thinking about our wonderful, engaging, and nurturing community. How can a large school with four divisions and over 800 students seem so small and feel like home?! I believe it starts in the classroom and expands from there.

Creating a safe, joyful, and engaging classroom and school community is the No. 1 goal for our faculty. This is intentional and deliberate. Research tells us that if students are not in an emotionally safe environment, learning will not happen.

To reach this lofty goal, we utilize the Responsive Classroom approach in Lower School. This is NOT a program with scripts, but rather is an approach centered around being developmentally responsive to students' strengths and needs.

The core belief behind this approach is that in order to be successful both in and out of school, students need to learn a set of social and emotional competencies (cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control) as well as a set of academic competencies (academic mindset, perseverance, learning strategies, and academic behaviors).

There are systematic and consistent practices we employ in the classroom to accomplish these competencies in all parts of the school day:

- **Morning Meeting**—Everyone in the classroom gathers in a circle for 20 to 30 minutes at the beginning of each school day and proceeds through four sequential components: greeting, sharing, group activity, and morning message.
- **Establishing a Social Contract**—Teachers and students work together to name individual goals for the year, which we share with you at Welcome to the Den Conferences. A Lower School Social Contract is established that helps everyone reach those goals and learn in our community.
- **Energizers**—These are short, playful, whole-group activities that are used as breaks in lessons throughout the day.
- **Quiet Time**—Teachers provide time for a brief, purposeful, and relaxed time of transition that takes place after lunch and recess, before the rest of the school day continues. This looks very different for every child, again being responsive to what each one needs in order to reset for the day.
- **Closing Circle**—Each classroom ends in a five- to 10-minute gathering at the end of the day that promotes reflection and celebration through participation in a brief activity or two.

Finally, I wanted to share the guiding principles of Responsive Classroom. According to the organization's website, the approach "is informed by the work of educational theorists and the experiences of exemplary classroom teachers. Six principles guide this approach:

1. Teaching social and emotional skills is as important as teaching academic content.

2. **How** we teach is as important as **what** we teach.
3. Great cognitive growth occurs through social interaction.
4. How we work together as adults to create a safe, joyful, and inclusive school environment is as important as our individual contribution or competence.
5. What we know and believe about our students—individually, culturally, developmentally—informs our expectations, reactions, and attitudes about those students.
6. Partnering with families—knowing them and valuing their contributions—is as important as knowing the children we teach.”

Please click [here](#) to learn more about this amazing approach that shapes our social, emotional, and academic program and helps us provide a nurturing, welcoming, and engaging climate in Lower School. I am proud to say we are the second school in the Houston area to commit to training 100 percent of our faculty in this approach, and now, many other independent schools in our area have followed in our footsteps and are seeing the benefits of this approach.

Thank you for partnering with us in our journey with your children!

Cheers!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 18

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

Thursday, March 21

- *Second-Grade Biome Bonanza*: 12:45 p.m. in the pod and classrooms
-

Monday, March 25

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between March 24-30 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Monday, April 1

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between March 31-April 6 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Fourth-Grade Musical (Armintor)*: 12:15 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Tuesday, April 2

- *Fourth-Grade Musical (Springmann)*: 12:15 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Wednesday, April 3

- *Fourth-Grade Musical (Tamlyn)*: 2:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Thursday, April 4

- *Fourth-Grade Musical (Lockhart)*: 12:15 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Monday, April 8

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between April 7-13 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
- *Joyful Sounds and Middle School/Upper School Choir Spring Concert*: 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center

Wednesday, April 10

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

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

Our faculty and staff are very excited to welcome our students and families back to campus after a much-needed break. We hope you all had plenty of time to connect, relax, and rest.

As I write this, the MS has performed a total of 9,450 acts of kindness since January 9, 2019. This makes me very happy; however, I know that we can not only exceed the March challenge of 15,000 total AOKs, but also make that number look tiny in the months to come. Our community will keep inspiring, modeling, observing, and reporting kind acts to the very end of the year—and I can't wait to see how far we go!

On Tuesday, I will host an MS honors program parent meeting for new families and rising sixth-grade families, but all are welcome. I will cover the basics of our math and English programs' offerings and how the process works. **On Monday, March 25, the application process for rising sixth-through eighth-grade students will begin**, and letters of intent will be e-mailed and handed out to students in English and math classes. From there, we'll keep you updated on the process as it unfolds.

On Friday, we host the Medieval Feast for seventh grade, which is an event like no other. The Wheatcroft Parish Hall will be transformed into a medieval castle, and each seventh-grade student will play his or her social hierarchy's role for the day in a special experience that inserts everyone into a firsthand account of history. Thanks so much to Dr. Staller and the seventh-grade team for their interdisciplinary planning of this, and thanks to our parent chairs and volunteers for making this day so special.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Introducing the SFE Spring BeKIND (Bingo) Challenge

To foster our community's commitment to being "people for others," our chaplains have created the BeKIND Challenge for the Lenten season. The game card has 25 acts of kindness that encourage students to be a source of light in their family and community. As a family, complete five acts of kindness in a row (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally) on the game card to win. Each child will win a special prize. Any family that completes the entire game card will receive a bonus prize!

Return completed game cards to Rev. Heinemann by April 26, the Friday after Easter. [Click here](#) to get the game card.

Medieval Feast Parent Preview Is Thursday

Medieval Feast is Friday, March 22! **Parents of seventh graders should plan to attend the Grand Procession from 11:45 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall.** The feast will be closed to parents at 12:10 p.m. so the kids can be fully immersed in medieval times.

All parents should have received an invitation via Paperless Post to the **Medieval Feast Preview Party on Thursday, March 21, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall.** Please remember to RSVP.

If you would like to order individual or group pictures, please **return your photo form and payment to Dr. Staller by Thursday, March 22.**

Thank you!

Carmen Gomez, Huntley Kubitzka, and Maureen Perea
Medieval Feast Chairs

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 18

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Medieval Feast Setup:* Through March 22 in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - *Chapel:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
 - *Main Campus Rally Meeting:* 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the HBR
-

Tuesday, March 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
 - *MS Honors/Parent Information Meeting:* 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the HBR
 - *Advisory:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Wednesday, March 20

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders:* 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Chapel:* 10:45-11:15 a.m.
-

Thursday, March 21

- *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 Class Meeting:* Mercury Chamber Orchestra performs for MS, courtesy of FoFA; 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC
 - *Medieval Feast Preview Party:* 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
-

Friday, March 22

- *Grades 5, 6, and 8:* Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress
- *Grade 7:* Special Schedule/Medieval Feast Costumes

- *NJHS Geo Challenge/Parent Presentations: 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
 - *Medieval Feast for Seventh Graders: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Sunday, March 24

- *MS Spring Musical Rehearsal: 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *BBQ for Accepted Families: 2:00-5:00 p.m. on the South Campus*
-

Monday, March 25

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *MS Honors Intent Letters Distributed*
 - *PA Faculty Appreciation Lunch: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the HBR*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, March 26

- *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*
 - *Parent Meeting for Eighth-Grade Trip: 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, March 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*
- *New Family Ambassador Training: 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the HBR*
- *Upper School Shadow Day for Interested Eighth Graders: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the South Campus*

- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Thursday, March 28

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Grades 5-7: Thursday Schedule*
 - *Grade 8: Special 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*
 - *Councils: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
 - *Grade 8 Field Trip to Memorial Park: 12:00-2:20 p.m.*
 - *2019-20 Trimester 1 Elective Sign-ups: In elective classrooms; through April 4*
-

Friday, March 29

- *SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Grades 5, 6, and 8: Friday Schedule*
 - *Grade 7: Special Schedule (Field Trip to Museum of Fine Arts, Houston)*
 - *WEB Decisions E-mailed and Posted Online*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *NJHS Cultural Experience to the Downtown Aquarium (NHS Members Only): 6:00-9:30 p.m.; cost for sack lunch, admission, and rides is \$15*
-

Saturday, March 30

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

Sunday, March 31

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

Monday, April 1

- *Grades 5-7: Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Grade 8: Special Schedule/Casual Dress*
 - *Grade 8: Service Day at Panther Creek*
 - *Festival Packets Due*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, April 2

- *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*
 - *Grade 5 AALC Field Trip to Bayou Bend*
 - *Advisories: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, April 3

- *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*
 - *New Student Enrollment Contracts Due*
 - *HAIS Common Reply Deadline*
 - *Chapel: 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Parents Association Spring Luncheon: Houston Country Club*
-

Thursday, April 4

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *Deadline for 2019-20 Trimester 1 Elective Sign-ups: In elective classrooms*
-

Friday, April 5

- *SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Grade 5, 7, and 8: Friday Schedule*
- *Grade 6: Special Schedule*
- *MS Athletics/MSPE Registrations Due for 2019-20 (Online)*
- *MS Honors Intent Letters Due to English and Math Teachers*
- *NJHS Meeting (Grade 7 and Officers Only): 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
- *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:45-8:45 a.m. in the concessions area near the gym*
- *Grade 6 Greek Festival: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*
- *WEB Training (Grade 8): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom*

Upper School

From the Fine Arts Chair

I hope this message finds you well rested and ready to start an art-filled next couple of months. We recently had a wonderfully wacky showcase of nontraditional, local art with our on-campus Art Car Parade. The Upper School art program coordinated and sponsored this event as a “soft open” for the official debut of our Upper School Art Car “Wolfie.” The car is a celebration of the work we started through our innovative Upper School Immersions and Explorations Program. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Upper School Team for seeing the value in this interdisciplinary, cross-divisional, multi-campus project. I am proud to work along such dedicated and visionary colleagues who are “doing school right!”

Finally, “Wolfie” would not have happened had Beth Looser not ignited the flame in her early morning art lectures. We are excited to hear more from Beth this coming trimester. Her art history class will take us through the end of the year as she shares her interactive and engaging approach to topics ranging from cave paintings to yarn bombing. Be on the lookout for guerilla art projects around campus! **We also would like to extend an invitation to attend a presentation on Tuesday, March 26, at 2:30 p.m. with our guest artist, Mark Burns.** The discussion of Mark’s work will last until 3:30 p.m. Please [RSVP](#) if you would like to attend.

The start of the next trimester is also when we begin official rehearsals for our spring play, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Our rehearsal period to mount this production is extremely short; therefore, we have asked that all of the actors

arrive at our first rehearsal after spring break off-book (lines memorized). **We will have our first audience on Thursday, April 11, when we debut the show for the 3,400 students at the ISAS Arts Festival in Austin. The festival will run April 11-13.** There will be a required parent informational meeting closer to our ISAS departure date. We will return from the festival on Saturday morning, April 13, and go directly to the Art Car Parade downtown. What a weekend!

The on-campus performance dates of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27. We are thrilled that nearly 20 students from the Primary School (Primary II classes) will be joining the cast to round out our Fairy Kingdom! The show will be an event to remember, rain or shine! I am also grateful that we have so much Upper School parent support for this production in the departments of props, costumes, meals, programs, and set decoration. If you are not currently involved and would like to join the team, please [e-mail me](#) and we will gladly bring you onboard!

Sincerely,

Justin Doran
Fine Arts Chair

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, March 18

- *Day 1 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *WOW Assembly: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*

Tuesday, March 19

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

Wednesday, March 20

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Track and Field Practice: 6:45-8:00 a.m. on the Kinkaid track*
-

Thursday, March 21

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Track Meet: 2:30 p.m. departure; location TBD*
 - *Upper School Report Cards Released: 4:00 p.m. via the Parent Portal*
-

Friday, March 22

- *Day 5 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
-

Monday, March 25

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, March 26

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
-

Wednesday, March 27

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Special Schedule: Upper School Service Day*
- *Track and Field Practice: 6:45-8:00 a.m. at the Kinkaid track*

Thursday, March 28

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Track Meet: 2:00 p.m. departure; John Cooper School*
-

Friday, March 29

- *Day 4 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*

Church

Week of Wonder VBS Is July 29-August 2

A weeklong faith experience for children ages 4 years old through rising fourth graders, Week of Wonder (WOW) is five fun-packed days of themed music, crafts, science projects, outdoor play, and Bible stories.

Date: July 29–August 2

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Theme: Salt Water Gospel

Ages: Children from 4 years old to those entering fourth grade (must turn 4 by July 29, 2019)

Registration Fee: \$50 per child

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All children are welcome (you don't have to be a church member to attend), but we recommend registering early as space is limited to 15 children per age group. Once registration is full for an age group, you will be placed on a waiting list. [Register online here.](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

WOW is a rewarding volunteer opportunity for adults, high schoolers, and middle schoolers! We need lots of teachers, decorators, crafters, snack distributors, and behind-the-scenes helpers to make this a great week for the kids. Please consider joining the fun! [Register to volunteer here.](#)

Forgiveness Workshop Scheduled for April 13

Father Bates will lead a forgiveness workshop on **Saturday, April 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon**. This will be a time during Lent 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 832.325.2983 if you plan to attend.

Join Us for New Member Orientation on May 5

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, May 5, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Guild 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.

Sunday Programs at St. Francis Episcopal Church

NEW STUDY WITH FATHER BATES STARTS TODAY

Who: Adults

Where: Hogan Board Room

When: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Study: *24 Hours That Changed the World*

Beginning today (Sunday, March 17), Father Bates will be leading a five-week adult series titled *24 Hours That Changed the World*. In this series, Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area, guides us step-by-step through the last day of Jesus’s life. He offers the biblical story with historical detail, theological analysis, and spiritual insight to describe how Christ’s crucifixion unfolded, leading us to our response to Christ’s work. The study will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room.

CO-ED ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Who: Adults

Where: The People Place

When: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Current Study: 1 Samuel

The Co-Ed Adult Bible Study group meets every Sunday year-round at 10:00 am in the People Place (near the St. Francis Episcopal School office). Come and learn about God as revealed in His Word and enjoy the enlightening discussions of this informal group.

GOD LIGHTS OUR WAY (GLOW)

Who: Grades 5-8

Where: Room 212

When: Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (Series began on March 3)

Current Study: *Feed the Dog*

Feed the Dog is a video-driven Bible study for middle school students. Through the artistry of illusion and his unique gift of evangelism, Brock Gill guides students to realize the importance of nourishing the spirit through the daily practice of spiritual disciplines.

Over the course of eight sessions, students learn that spiritual disciplines are something we develop over time. With practice and perseverance, students will be able to discern the truth and focus on what's important. They will learn about the following key disciplines: worship, scripture, prayer, solitude, fasting, ministry, and community.

Students will receive six days of personal study to complete between group sessions each week.

Sunday Worship Schedule

St. Francis Episcopal Church holds four services on Sundays, as follows:

- 8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:00 a.m.—Family worship with Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- 11:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with organ and choir
- 5:00 p.m.—Holy Eucharist, Rite I

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.