

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 21

All School

St. Francis Fund: Make Your Gift by November 1 for a Chance to Win!

Each year, St. Francis Episcopal School asks each family to thoughtfully consider a gift to the St. Francis Fund. As this year's chairs, we are proud to continue this tradition and to support SFES.

The St. Francis Fund supports the school's general operating fund, which is crucial to providing resources for ongoing educational initiatives, competitive faculty salaries and benefits, and vital operating budget items.

On November 2, one lucky family who has made a gift or pledge to the Fund will win a front-row parking space on the campus of their choice for a year!

PLUS, to make things even more fun, the grade level that reaches 100 percent participation first will receive a pizza party with Mr. Lovejoy—and parents will also be invited!

We ask that everyone join us by making a gift from the heart.

You may give online [HERE](#).

Thank you for supporting our amazing school!

Shelley and Doug Masterson
2018-19 St. Francis Fund Chairs

Get Strategic Planning Updates This Week and Online

We've made some good progress on St. Francis's strategic planning process, and we invite you to stay abreast of the conversation on our frequently updated [Strategic Planning web page](#). You'll also have the chance to **learn more about the process at this week's Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board event**, which will take place on Thursday, October 25, at both 8:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.

The Gala Countdown Has Begun! Save the Date for February 23, 2019

The invitation for the Gala is OFFICIALLY in the mail, so be on the lookout and get ready for all the cool fundraising opportunities that await you! This year's Gala Committee has planned a spectacularly unique evening that you won't want to miss out on. More details soon

Coffee & Conversation With the Head and Board Is Thursday

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.

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](http://stfranchouston.org/tickets) or by paying cash at the door.

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](#).

Virtue of the Month: Self-Control

This is the perfect week to discuss self-control with your children. Many yummy temptations will come their way next Wednesday night. Help them memorize this verse: “God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:17) Then, talk as a family about what it looks like to have self-control as a trick or treater, a student, a family member, a musician, or an athlete.

Parent Education Fall Breakfast Is This Wednesday

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

- Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS

- Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.

UPPER SCHOOL TOURS

- 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

Last Sunday, we hosted 120 visitors in the Primary School for Showcase Sunday. Our teachers, admissions staff, and many others representing departments across the St. Francis community came together with parent representatives and Middle School student ambassadors to support us in welcoming these visitors to our campus. Prospective families with their children had the opportunity to learn more about our approach to teaching and our students' approach to learning in a Reggio-inspired environment.

While the visiting children enjoyed exploring our classrooms and pod areas and playing on our playground, our teachers were able to spend time talking to parents and grandparents. There were some tears that day, but they were from children who did not want to leave! That's a good sign of a successful event.

We appreciate you referring your friends and encouraging them to visit. And, to each of you who participated in Showcase Sunday, please know that this event would not have been possible without you. As an entry point to our school, we know that the Primary School begins a student's journey at St. Francis. We are grateful for your part in this beginning.

All my best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

A Note From Father Wismer

We love it when parents come and join us for Chapel. People often talk about their times here together as some of their favorite memories and the heart and soul of St. Francis. It is a sacred and special time for students to come and meet with God. Being with your child during this time of the school day is a privilege that is not afforded to any other activity in our school, so we ask your help in maintaining this worshipful time and space.

Here are some points to remember:

- When you participate in worship, prayers, and songs, you set an example for your child of attentive behavior. It is helpful for us when you direct your child to worship rather than engaging in conversation.
- Just as we ask our students to dress respectfully for worship, we ask our parents to follow suit with modest attire.
- Food or drink may not be brought into Chapel.
- When Chapel concludes, please make sure you have gathered all of your belongings (including the church bulletin, if applicable) from the pew.
- We encourage you to model proper phone/device etiquette for your children. Please silence all devices and refrain from using them during service.

- Taking photos or videos during Chapel is a distraction for your children, and therefore is not allowed. (We do offer opportunities to take pictures before or after the service, depending on your child's division.)

When you visit Chapel, we ask you to observe the following seating arrangements:

- Primary School students may sit with their parents at the side or back of Chapel.
- Lower School students may join their parents at the back of the church, but please remember that they are learning to sit properly and shouldn't be sitting on your laps in Chapel.
- Middle School parents may sit at the back of Chapel while students stay seated with their peers.

If you have suggestions to make our school Chapels even better, or if we can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or with [Reverend Wendy Heinemann](#).

Warmly,

[Father Bob Wismer](#)

Join Us for Story Time on October 30

Join Ms. McConnell, our Primary School librarian, for a fun story time. There will be a story, time to read with your child, and an opportunity to check out books.

- **Who:** Primary I and Primary II students and their parents
- **When:** Tuesday, October 30, 3:00-3:45 p.m.
- **Where:** Primary School Library

No RSVP required—we hope to see you there!

A Note From the PS Clinic About Screenings

St. Francis will be offering vision and hearing screenings for Primary School students who turned 4 years old on or before September 1, 2018. Screenings will occur on **Monday, October 29, and Tuesday, October 30.**

Here's what you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- Students who wear glasses should bring them to school.
- We do not refer to the screening as a “test.” Please help us by doing the same. The teachers will explain the process to our students, and they will discover that they are playing two games with the screeners.
- Screenings are non-diagnostic and not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist.

If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Debbie Toler [via e-mail](#) or at 713.458.6167.

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](#)

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 Tour

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 Tour on **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

Tuesday, October 23

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

Wednesday, October 24

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

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*
-

Tuesday, October 30

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *PI and PII Story Time*: 3:00-3:45 p.m. in the Primary School Library
-

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*: 9:00-11:00 a.m.
-

Tuesday, November 6

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

Wednesday, November 7

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

Friday, November 9

- *PS Red, White, and Blue Day*
-

Monday, November 12

- *People for Others Day*
-

Tuesday, November 13

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Thanksgiving Feasts (Ferguson T/Th & PII): Students only*
-

Wednesday, November 14

- *Thanksgiving Feasts (Pre-Primary & PI): Students only*
 - *Book Fair*
-

Thursday, November 15

- *Admissions Application Deadline: PS only*
- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day (Ferguson T/Th & PII): 8:30-10:45 a.m.*
- *Book Fair*

Friday, November 16

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day (Pre-Primary—Britton, Meriwether, Oteiza, & Ferguson M/W/F): 8:30-10:45 a.m.*
- *Book Fair*

Monday, November 19-Friday, November 23

- *Thanksgiving Holidays*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope you had a wonderful, restful weekend! This week, you will have the opportunity to hear from our wonderful chaplain, Father Wismer. Please see his note below.

Have a great week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

A Note From Father Wismer

We love it when parents come and join us for Chapel. People often talk about their times here together as some of their favorite memories and the heart and soul of St. Francis. It is a sacred and special time for students to come and meet with God. Being with your child during this time of the school day is a privilege that is not afforded to any other activity in our school, so we ask your help in maintaining this worshipful time and space.

Here are some points to remember:

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- Food or drink may not be brought into Chapel.
- When Chapel concludes, please make sure you have gathered all of your belongings (including the church bulletin, if applicable) from the pew.
- We encourage you to model proper phone/device etiquette for your children. Please silence all devices and refrain from using them during service.
- Taking photos or videos during Chapel is a distraction for your children, and therefore is not allowed. (We do offer opportunities to take pictures before or after the service, depending on your child's division.)

When you visit Chapel, we ask you to observe the following seating arrangements:

- Primary School students may sit with their parents at the side or back of Chapel.
- Lower School students may join their parents at the back of the church, but please remember that they are learning to sit properly and shouldn't be sitting on your laps in Chapel.
- Middle School parents may sit at the back of Chapel while students stay seated with their peers.

If you have suggestions to make our school Chapels even better, or if we can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or with [Reverend Wendy Heinemann](#).

Warmly,

[Father Bob Wismer](#)

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:

- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 22

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between October 21-27 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Tuesday, October 23-Thursday, October 25

- *Third-Grade ERB Testing:* 8:00-11:00 a.m.
-

Wednesday, October 24

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

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
-

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*
-

Tuesday, October 30

- *Kindergarten Words Their Way Parent Meeting:* 8:00 a.m. in the HBR
-

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
-

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
-

Wednesday, November 7

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

Monday, November 12

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 11-24 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *People for Others Day*
-

Wednesday, November 14

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day:* Kindergarten and fourth grade, 8:00-10:30 a.m.; first and third grades, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; second grade, 12:00-2:30 p.m.
-

Wednesday, November 14-Friday, November 16

- *Book Fair:* In the FAC

Middle School

From the Division Head

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

This past week, we kept the good energy flowing from Episcopal School/Showcase Sunday. What a wonderful day for St. Francis! Whether teachers were helping administer the chalice at church services or presenting academic programming to potential families; whether parents were being great ambassadors on tours or simply bringing their kids to help showcase their skills; and whether students were dancing, singing, playing basketball and volleyball, or cheerleading, the Houston community saw our school at its very best. Thanks to all who made Sunday such a success!

Last Tuesday, our eighth graders took a field trip to the Port of Houston to learn more about our great city and its water sources. Students took water samples to study and to begin their project-based learning (PBL) initiative about how water plays a role in our lives, especially where we reside geographically. Learning experiences like this help us take what we do in the classroom out into the world so we can be global citizens and good stewards of our planet.

Here on the Main Campus, Mrs. Wallace's LEAD class of eighth graders hosted Primary II students last Friday to present their pet rock projects to their little buddies. After a couple of weeks spent practicing empathy, which involved interviewing and design-thinking with our much younger students, our LEAD students created a pet rock with the names of both the PII student and the eighth grader on it—a memento and token of friendship between the two. Cross-divisional connections like this are great examples of how we can learn from each other, regardless of age, and it lets our younger students know they have an older peer and mentor who cares for them. Thanks to Primary School for sharing their kids with us.

I'd be remiss if I didn't publicly thank the parents who helped make last week's "90's Neon" Middle School Dance so fun for our students. Huge thanks to Liz Romere for leading the charge, and thanks, as well, to Courtney Robertson, Amy Howell, Melissa Reeves, Amanda Gonzalez, Courtney Lippincott, Ebony Patterson, Erin Fowler, Shelly Blalock, Leisha Mamera, Kristine Troger, Amy Boquist, Stacy Hardison, Stephanie Scheyer, Laura Theis, Mimi Patrick, Adrienne Cutter, Courtney O'Neil, Jennifer Slator, Krista Sinex, Jessica Brazelton, and Stacy Henningsen.

This week is pretty normal, except that on Thursday our students have MS Step-Up Day to their next grade level during Community Time. This is always a great day, in that students get an appetizer of the fun, inspirational,

educational activities they'll be involved in next school year. I hope the day generates some exciting conversations about what's to come.

October is traditionally a busy and tough month in school, and sometimes stress can get the best of us. This [article](#) from psychologist Dr. Alicia Clark discusses how we can turn stress into strength with a growth mindset. This is one of the many academic and social-emotional competencies we discuss not only in weekly advisories, but also in our classes.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

A Note From Father Wismer

We love it when parents come and join us for Chapel. People often talk about their times here together as some of their favorite memories and the heart and soul of St. Francis. It is a sacred and special time for students to come and meet with God. Being with your child during this time of the school day is a privilege that is not afforded to any other activity in our school, so we ask your help in maintaining this worshipful time and space.

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If you have suggestions to make our school Chapels even better, or if we can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or with [Reverend Wendy Heinemann](#).

Warmly,

[Father Bob Wismer](#)

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.

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Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

Mark Your Calendar

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; 7:00 p.m.*
- *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: 2:35 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*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:45 a.m.*
- *End-of-Fall-Season Honor the Wolves: Sixth grade & JV teams at 3:00 p.m.; Varsity team at 4:00 p.m. in the Main Campus gym, FAC, and classrooms*

Tuesday, October 30

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Hearing and 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: 2:30-9:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Sunday, November 4

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

Monday, November 5-Thursday, November 8

- *Turkey Bucks Ingathering*
-

Monday, November 5

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Group Pictures for Grades 5, 6, & 8: During electives/rotation*
 - *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

- *Regular Uniform*
- *Tuesday Schedule for Grades 5-7*
- *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*
 - *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*
-

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*
 - *Eighth-Grade Transcript Request Form Due to Ms. Crummel*
-

Saturday, November 10

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

Monday, November 12

- *Special Schedule: Dress according to grade-level activity*
 - *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the People Place*
 - *Service for Others Day: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, November 13

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

Wednesday, November 14

- *Special Schedule/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*
 - *Book Fair (LS Day): Crum Library*
-

Thursday, November 15

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *MS Grandparents and Grandfriends Day: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *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*
 - *Book Fair (MS Day): 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Crum Library*
 - *MS/US Brown Bag Dance Series: 12:00 p.m. in the People Place*
-

Friday, November 16

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *First Trimester Ends*
- *ERB Mailout to Parents*
- *NJHS Meeting Geo Bee Challenge: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's Classroom*
- *Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. in the Crum Library*

Upper School

From the Division Head

Last week was the end of our fall sports season. Please join me in congratulating our wonderful Wolves and their amazing coaches (Coach Cyd McMillian and Coach Jamie Platt) on their phenomenal seasons of girls' volleyball and co-ed cross-country, respectively. With the coaches' leadership and guidance, our student-athletes achieved personal and school records while also developing the valuable skills of perseverance and good sports(wo)manship. Go Wolves! We're so proud of you and your accomplishments!

Looking ahead to our first Upper School musical performances on **Friday, October 26**, and **Saturday, October 27**, please enjoy the following thoughtful message from Mr. Justin Doran.

As we near the tech week for the US musical, it is important to find a moment to celebrate the enormous undertaking this has been for our small community. We are reminded that it is light work when we all lend our time, talents, and resources to a project. What better use of those resources than in celebrating the talents of our children publicly? All of the hours we have spent banding together have made for some fast friendships between students, faculty, and parents. This is truly a "the more you put in, the more you get out" experience that will be something we will never forget. Many students will look back and talk about this as one of the highlights from their high school years, and it would not have happened without all of us working together for and with them.

I am reminded that our approach to the arts is a focus on the process. I am reminded that the energy we put in leading up to the production is equally valuable, if not more so, than the two evening performances

themselves. How we get there defines us—not the shows themselves. Tech week always brings out the best in people. I encourage you to take a moment to look around and take a mental snapshot of the glorious work we are doing together as a community, and remember why we are doing it. Thank you for everything you have done and all of the things you will do. Thank you for all of the things I know you have done for these students and the countless things I don't know about. Our first musical is a success in my book, even before it makes it in front of an audience. Thank you for accepting the invitation and joining your new St. Francis arts family. Welcome to the Den!

Applause,

Justin Doran

Appreciatively,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Please Sign Up for Parent/Teacher Conferences

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](#)

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 Família 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:

- **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 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*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *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*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Fine Arts 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*
-

Saturday, October 27

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

Monday, October 29

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, October 30

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:45 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, October 31

- *School Holiday*
- *Welcome to the Den Parent Conferences*

- *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Thursday, November 1

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel*
 - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

Friday, November 2

- *Day 1 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*

Church

Seeking Confirmation Prayer Partners

Do you have a few minutes to pray for a confirmand each day as they go through their Confirmation year, send them an anonymous letter of encouragement, and possibly meet them at the end of the year? What a difference just a little bit of encouragement can make in the life of a young person. If you are interested, please contact Father Wismer [via e-mail](#) or call him at 281.253.6739.

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](#).

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 and continue today, **Sunday, October 21**. The final date in the series is **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!