

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of September 23

### All School

#### **Strategic Planning Is Underway!**

The school will be busier than usual this week, as Rich Odell from Heads Up Educational Consulting continues to facilitate the strategic planning process through focus groups and classroom visits. A special thank-you to all of the Strategic Planning Committee members listed below who will spend all day on Thursday hearing feedback from the surveys and focus groups and formulating action items to move St. Francis forward. This group will reconvene in early November for a second full-day meeting to further refine the strategic plan, which will be presented to the community at large this spring. Together, we can #ChallengeWhatsPossible.

#### **2018-19 STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Kate Denham—Chair, Strategic Planning Committee; Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees  
Steve Lovejoy—Head of School  
Joel Moore—Chair, Board of Trustees  
Fr. Stuart Bates—Rector, St. Francis Episcopal Church  
Lacy Rieke—Board of Trustees  
J.J. Oshins—Board of Trustees  
Kenny Owen—Board of Trustees  
Mitra Shahbaz—Chief Financial Officer  
Michelle Smith—Head of Marketing and Communications; Vice-Chair, Strategic Planning Committee  
Cara Henderson—Head of Upper School  
Connor Cook—Head of Middle School  
Carol Christ—Head of Lower School  
Amy Whitley—Head of Primary School  
Angie Flowers—Head of Curriculum and Instruction  
T. Riley—Director of Athletics  
Justin Doran—Chair of Fine Arts  
Don Hicks—Associate Head of School for Programs

Curt Wissmiller—Director of Facilities  
Kelly Cliburn—Head of Development  
Steven Scales—Interim Head of Admissions  
Steve Eisenberg—Head of Technology  
Laurie Curtis—Head of Educational Services  
John Madden—Upper School Teacher  
Molly Edington—Middle School Teacher  
Melissa Cook—Lower School Teacher  
Janene Prasifka (Owens)—Primary School Teacher  
MS Student Leader  
Andrea Vogelsang—Parent Group Representative  
Billy Iglesias—Middle School Parent  
Kim Manning—Middle School Parent  
Marjorie Dale—Lower School Parent  
Sapna Amin—Lower School Parent  
Robby Zorich—Primary School Parent  
Kelli Calderwood—Primary School Parent  
Susan Wilson—Upper School Parent  
Chris Graeter '95—Alumni Representative

## **Shooting for Success: Sporting Clays Classic Invitation Deadline Is Monday!**

Attention, all interested sponsors and shooters! **Monday, September 24**, is the deadline to be included in our Sporting Clays Classic invitation, which will be mailed out in early October.

Don't forget to round up your team or take advantage of opportunities that deliver brand visibility through exclusive signage and print recognition while supporting our fourth annual Sporting Clays Classic, presented by Gordy & Sons Outfitters.

### **AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS**

- \$1,500—Team Flurry Competition
- \$1,250—Double Down Game
- \$750—Ladies Clinic Sponsor
- \$500—Professional Instructor
- \$500—Soda and Water Beverage Cart
- \$350—Mulligan Station
- \$200—Stations

Check out the [event website](#) or [Team and Sponsorship Commitment Form](#) to discover the various ways you can participate.

### **THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT SPONSORS**

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Gordy & Sons Outfitters; our major sponsor, Shipley Do-Nuts; and the following committed sponsors and supporters (listing as of 9/20)!

### **Teams**

- The Ableson / Stacy Families
- Beau Bellow / Dan Cotuno / Nick Meserve
- Cadence Bank
- CBRE—Wyatt McCulloch
- The Conner Family
- Brooks Despot / Jeff Horton / Matt Mays / James Wallis
- DL Meacham LP
- GHI Energy
- Gordy & Sons Outfitters
- Josh Hancock / Jamie Taussig
- The Hantak / Lyons Families
- Jimmy Hinton / Jonathan Plumhoff / James Woldert
- Ty Hoffer / Chris Hutcheson / John Schissler / Dan Sugulas
- MC Management
- The Oshins Family
- Travis Pace
- Shipley Do-Nuts

### **Sponsors**

- Bud Light / Silver Eagle Distributors
- Cadence Bank
- Fortuna Resources LLC.
- Gala Gals
- Gordy & Sons Outfitters
- Houston Trust Company
- The Lane Family
- The Little Family
- Riverbend Oil & Gas
- The Rosser Family
- Shipley Do-Nuts
- Sowers & Co PC

The Sporting Clays Classic benefits the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E Fund, which provides cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment (C.A.R.E) for students who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate fully in our school programs.

### **QUESTIONS?**

For more information, visit the [Special Events page](#) under the Giving tab on the St. Francis home page. You may also e-mail [SportingClays@StFrancisHouston.org](mailto:SportingClays@StFrancisHouston.org) or contact [J.J. Oshins](#), Sporting Clays Classic chair.

## **Homecoming Week: Get Ready to Rally for the Wolves**

Can't hide our Homecoming pride! This year, we are spreading the spirit for ALL of our home athletics events during Homecoming Week (October 9-12). Come "home" for any or all of the games.

Here's the current schedule:

### **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9**

- 4:30 p.m.—Volleyball/MS Sixth Blue on the MAIN Campus
- 5:30 p.m.—Volleyball/MS Sixth White on the MAIN Campus

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10**

- 4:30 p.m.—Field Hockey/Seventh on the SOUTH Campus
- 5:30 p.m.—Field Hockey/Eighth on the SOUTH Campus
- 5:30 p.m.—Volleyball/MS JV White on the MAIN Campus

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11**

- 5:00 p.m.—Football/MS Varsity on the SOUTH Campus

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12**

- 5:30 p.m.—Soccer/Primary II on the SOUTH Campus
- 5:00 p.m.—Volleyball/US on the SOUTH Campus

### **HOMECOMING NOTES**

- Join the fall frenzy . . . football, food, and fun at our annual Homecoming Party on Thursday as our Varsity football team faces off against Second Baptist School. Bring your lawn chair, your appetite, and a healthy dose of spirit, because it's time to cheer our Wolves on to a win!
- Purchase concessions tickets (cash only) for James Coney Island, Papa John's, Luchi & Joey's, Chick-fil-A, and Kona Ice while DJ tunes and supervised field activities keep our younger students entertained. The Athletics Booster Club will be selling Wolf Wear and candy should you want "Spirit and Sweets." (All children *must* be accompanied by an adult.)
- *Note:* Because parking is limited on Thursday, fans should plan to shuttle from Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Details and map coming soon.
- Keep the spirit alive on Friday evening as our youngest and oldest athletes compete. Special concessions (Raising Cane's) and cool treats will be available (cash only).

## **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

- Friday, September 28, at 9:00 a.m.
- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m. (children welcome)
- Thursday, October 18, at 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.

## LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURS

- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.

## UPPER SCHOOL TOURS

- Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m.
- Most Wednesdays from October through April at 9:00 a.m.

## Next Wolf Wear Sale Is October 5

The Athletics Booster Club's next Wolf Wear Sale will be held Friday, October 5. Visit us in the Concessions Stand near the gym on the Main Campus from 7:45-9:00 a.m.

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

## Get the Scoop at the PA General Meeting

The Parents Association (PA) General Meeting will take place **Tuesday, October 2, at 8:15 a.m.** Join us in the **Events Room** (located in the former Pre-Primary Building) on the Main Campus.

Open to all parents, this meeting is an opportunity to hear reports from PA committee chairs and to participate in a discussion of matters as they pertain to PA business.

## A Note About the Care and Compassion Committee

The Parents' Association Care and Compassion Committee was created to provide help to St. Francis families in times of need. If, at any time, you hear of a circumstance in which a family might need assistance through prayer, meals, or just a thoughtful card or phone call, please let the grade representative know:

- M/W/F Pre-Primary: [Anna Gumpel](#)
- T/Th Pre-Primary: [Pamela Sanders](#)
- Primary I: [Sommer Stash](#)

- Primary II: [Lindsey Little](#)
- Kindergarten: [Kate Oshins](#)
- First Grade: [Sara Miller](#)
- Second Grade: [Kelly Horton](#)
- Third Grade: [Julianna Moorad](#)
- Fourth Grade: [Renee Thomason](#)
- Fifth Grade: [Elle Anderson](#)
- Sixth Grade: [Courtney Brynes](#)
- Seventh Grade: [Stacie Chapman](#)
- Eighth Grade: [Sofia Ryan](#)
- Ninth Grade: [Julie Moreton](#)

## Have You Ordered Your FoFA Poinsettias Yet? It's Not Too Late!

Order poinsettias by **Monday, October 1**, to support the St. Francis Fine Arts Departments *and* take care of your Christmas shopping at the same time. Poinsettias will come from The Brookwood Community, and you will pick up your order curbside (we will load the poinsettias into your car) at the South Campus on **Thursday, November 29**. Corporate orders are welcome!

Order your poinsettias online today at the [Wolf Den Campus Store](#), where you can also become a FoFA member.

## Parent Volunteer Opportunity: Campus Birthday Boards

Calling all creative and crafty parents! Help us celebrate Lower and Middle School birthdays by decorating the campus birthday board, which is located in the Dining Hall. (View fun examples of past birthday boards [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).)

Parent volunteers are needed to switch out the theme and student names each month. You can sign up for one month or multiple months! E-mail [Jen McDonald](#) (Chair) if you'd like to help.

## Virtue of the Month: Honesty

The virtue verse is Proverbs 12:19: "Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed." Discuss occasions when telling the truth was good or when telling a lie led to trouble.

## Parents' Bible Studies With the Chaplains

St. Francis dads and moms, please join us for morning Bible studies with our chaplains!

- All moms are invited to join Reverend Heinemann to study the women of the Bible on **Mondays at 8:45 a.m. in the St. Clare Chapel** (following Lower School Chapel). The first meeting will be **September 24**.

- **All dads are invited to join Father Wismer to study the parables on Thursdays at 7:15 a.m. in the Christian Education Rooms** at the end of the Middle School hallway. The next meeting will be **September 27**.

## **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.

## **Primary School**

### **From the Division Head**

Thank you for attending Parent Information Night last week. Our driving question, “What do children really need from grown-ups?” helps guide what we do in the Primary School each day.

Our question comes from the subtitle of Erika Christakis' 2016 publication, *The Importance of Being Little: What Young Children Really Need from Grown-ups*. It's easy to say that what children really need is adults, and a school that honors play as an integral part of their development. But it is not always an easy philosophy to put into practice.

Most publishers of early childhood curriculum outline day-to-day plans that structure learning on a set timeline with a fixed list of skills that are easily measurable through assessment and are designed to prepare children for kindergarten or first grade. What is more difficult, but research-based and considered best practice, is recognizing that children develop as individuals who do not all follow a set timeline. It is easier for teachers to follow a set schedule of skills developed for “some students”—but it is not developmentally appropriate. It takes skillful teachers who are observant of children, who listen carefully, and who acknowledge that children are individuals needing different kinds of support in their early childhood years to work in a program like our Primary School.

We understand that our students need time for play. It's time for them to ask big questions, problem-solve by figuring out how things work, tinker, negotiate their differences, try new things, observe their peers, learn from and teach others, take on challenging responsibilities, lead, follow, and make mistakes.

In our Reggio-inspired program, teachers must have the confidence to be okay with not knowing everything. None of us is all knowing. We are co-learners and partners in children's learning.

Giving children time to learn through relationships with their peers and teachers is possible by prioritizing time as a precious resource in our day. Time to work on projects born from the interests of children and to explore the materials available to them means that students develop a deeper understanding of what is meaningful.

If you are interested in joining us for a book talk on *The Importance of Being Little: What Children Really Need from Grown-ups*, I hope you will consider reading the book and attending a get-together in the second semester (date TBD soon). This is a great book for parents, teachers, and anyone else interested in supporting young children through the journey of childhood.

*“Whoever wants to understand much, must play much.” —Gottfried Benn*

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA  
Head of Primary School

## **Please Share the Word! Upcoming PS Admissions Tours**

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Primary School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Friday, September 28, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Thursday, October 18, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m. (children welcome)**
- **Monday, November 5, at 9:00 a.m.**

## **Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School**

Primary School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

- **Wednesday, October 3—10:00-11:00 a.m.** in the Primary School Library
- **Tuesday, November 6—10:00-11:00 a.m.** in the Primary School Library

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

### Tuesday, September 25

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

### Wednesday, September 26

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

### Friday, September 28

- *Primary School Admissions Tour: 9:00 a.m.*
- 

### Monday, October 1

- *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (M/W/F) and Primary I*
- 

### Tuesday, October 2

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals for Pre-Primary (T/Th) and Primary II*
  - *Primary II Furry Friends Picnic*
- 

### Wednesday, October 3

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Blessing of the Stuffed Animals for Pre-Primary (M/W/F) and Primary I*
  - *Primary School Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School: 10:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library*
- 

### Monday, October 8

- *School Holiday*
- 

### **Tuesday, October 9**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *School Pictures for Pre-Primary (T/Th) and Primary II*
- 

### **Wednesday, October 10**

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

### **Thursday, October 11**

- *Primary II Field Trip to Main Street Theater*
- 

### **Sunday, October 14**

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

### **Tuesday, October 16**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Primary II Sings in Chapel: Owens, Staller, and Hughes*
- 

### **Wednesday, October 17**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Primary II Sings in Chapel: Wiener and Blades*
- 

### **Thursday, October 18**

- *Primary School Admissions Tour:* 9:00 a.m.
- *Spirit Night:* Primary and Lower School divisions, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper School Athletics Center (Crum Gym) on the South Campus

## **Lower School**

### **From the Division Head**

It was great to see our halls filled with parents and students last Wednesday. The teachers were so excited to meet with you and to learn more about your children! Thank you for your insights and wonderful information. Parents working together with the teachers is paramount to a successful school experience for all.

Speaking of working together, please mark your calendars to attend one of our two upcoming parent meetings. **For parents of kindergarteners and first graders, join us on Friday, September 28, at 8:15 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall to learn more about early literacy** and how you can help your child at home. Our specialist will share valuable information about early reading and writing skills and your role at home.

If your child is in **second, third or fourth grade, join us Monday, September 24, at 8:30 a.m. (after chapel) in the Hogan Board Room to learn more about homework** and your role in this process. We will inform you of ways to guide your children and how to get the most out of working at home.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**The first-ever Primary and Lower School Spirit Night at the Upper School is Thursday, October 18, at 4:30 p.m.**

Join us at the Crum Gym to show our spirit at the Upper School girls volleyball game. There will be concessions, pre-game activities, and a treat for coming out to support our great team! More to come. . . . GO WOLVES!

Have a blessed week!

Warmly,

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Lower School

### **Sign Up for Parent Lunch Visits**

Last Friday, we sent you an e-mail with details about scheduling lunch dates with your child. Please be sure to review it, as it includes some important details about this process, along with

helpful information from our *Lower School Handbook* (located on the Parent Portal). To sign up, [click here](#) or visit the “Quick Links” section of the Parent Portal and select “Schedule Lunch Visit.”

## **Candlelighters Coin Collection Ends Friday**

As People for Others, we are partnering with Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance to support their Spare Change School Initiative. Candlelighters provides emotional, educational, and practical support to children with cancer and their families.

**The coin-only collection will run through Friday, September 28.** Coin containers are located in the People Place, the classrooms, and the pods.

The People for Others Parents Association team thanks you for your support and participation in this effort to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer. For more information, please [e-mail the Parents Association](#).

## **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:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

## **Upcoming Dates for Eucharist and FAC Chapels**

Please make note of the following dates for this school year’s Eucharist and Fine Arts Center (FAC) Chapels:

### **EUCCHARIST DATES**

- St. Francis: Thursday, October 4
- All Saints: Wednesday, October 31
- St. Nicholas: Wednesday, December 5
- Epiphany: Wednesday, January 9
- Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, March 6
- Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 18
- Ascension: Wednesday, May 15

### **FAC CHAPELS**

- Wednesday, October 24
- Wednesday, November 28
- Wednesday, February 13
- Wednesday, April 10
- Wednesday, May 8

## Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School

Lower School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

- **Thursday, October 4**—9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex
- **Wednesday, October 31**—9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex

We hope to see you there!

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, September 24

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between September 16-29 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
  - *Grades 2-4 Parent Meeting:* How to help your child with homework and reading; 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room
- 

### Wednesday, September 26

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

### Friday, September 28

- *Kindergarten and Grade 1 Parent Meeting:* Early literacy; 8:15 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- 

### Monday, October 1

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between September 30-October 6 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

---

**Wednesday, October 3**

- *NO Chapel*
- 

**Thursday, October 4**

- *Dress Uniform Day and Individual/Group Pictures*
  - *St. Francis Eucharist: 8:05 a.m.*
  - *Blessing of the Animals for Grade 4: 9:00 a.m. in the Courtyard*
  - *Lower School Parent Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Church Narthex*
- 

**Monday, October 8**

- *Columbus Day: Student holiday (no school)*
- 

**Tuesday, October 9-Friday, October 12**

- *Homecoming Week*
- 

**Wednesday, October 10**

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between October 7-13 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*
- 

**Monday, October 15**

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between October 14-20 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*
- 

**Monday, October 15-Thursday, October 18**

- *Fourth Grade ERB Testing: 8:00-11:30 a.m.*
- 

### **Wednesday, October 17**

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

### **Thursday, October 18**

- *Spirit Night: Primary and Lower School divisions, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Upper School Athletics Center (Crum Gym) on the South Campus*

## **Middle School**

### **From the Division Head**

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

This past week, our students participated in council elections. I applaud the students who ran for officer positions for getting up in front of their peers, speaking to their strengths, and being vulnerable to a crowd of peers. Going through the election process builds presentation skills, empathy, resilience, and leadership; it also enables our student council members to experience the voting process, which is invaluable to their global citizenship. I'm proud of our candidates, and I have steadfast confidence that our elected officers will make our school a better place with their positive footprint.

Does your student multitask? More specifically, does your student like to listen to music or play video games while working or studying? Regarding Mind, Brain, and Education (MBE) science, I have included [this article](#) that addresses this issue. In it, Daniel T. Willingham, a psychologist at the University of Virginia, skillfully discusses how a mean, or an average, does not always accurately represent the deciding factor in a piece of research. [This related piece](#) from *Scientific American* discusses how, and if, digital devices are rewiring our brains. Regardless of the evidence presented, these are the kinds of questions our faculty and staff are interested in, and we continue our quest to enhance our teaching with research-informed strategies in MBE science.

I hope this week treats everyone well. It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD  
Head of Middle School

## **Please Share the Word! Upcoming MS Admissions Tours**

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at our upcoming Middle School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 1:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, November 1, at 9:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

## **Candlelighters Coin Collection Ends Friday**

As People for Others, we are partnering with Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance to support their Spare Change School Initiative. Candlelighters provides emotional, educational, and practical support to children with cancer and their families.

**The coin-only collection will run until Friday, September 28.** Coin containers are located in the People Place, the classrooms, and the pods.

The People for Others Parents Association team thanks you for your support and participation in this effort to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer. For more information, please [e-mail the Parents Association](#).

## **Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School**

Middle School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

The next coffee will be held **Wednesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

## **Mark Your Calendar**

**Monday, September 24**

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *NJHS Meeting (All Members): 7:15-7:50 a.m. in the Chapel*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*

- *Individual Student Pictures*: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
  - *NJHS Induction Ceremony*: 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
  - *NJHS Induction Ceremony Reception*: 7:00-7:30 p.m. in the Gay Foyer
- 

## **Tuesday, September 25**

- *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
  - *Eighth-Grade Video Meeting (Parents Only)*: 8:00-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Library
  - *Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
- 

## **Wednesday, September 26**

- *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
  - *“See You at the Pole” Chapel*: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)
- 

## **Thursday, September 27**

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Fifth-Grade OLE Trip*
  - *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 Fine Arts Center (FAC)
- 

## **Friday, September 28**

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *Fifth-Grade OLE Trip*
  - *NJHS Meeting (All Members)*: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in classrooms
  - *Advisory*: 10:45-11:15 a.m.
- 

## **Monday, October 1**

- *ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Middle School ERB Testing: 7:55 a.m.*; students report to assigned classrooms
  - *Middle School ERB Extended-Time Testing: 7:55 a.m.* in assigned classrooms
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in the Chapel
- 

## **Tuesday, October 2**

- *ERB Special 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
  - *Middle School ERB Testing: 7:55 a.m.*; students report to assigned classrooms
  - *Middle School ERB Extended-Time Testing: 7:55 a.m.* in assigned classrooms
- 

## **Wednesday, October 3**

- *ERB 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
  - *Eucharist Chapel/Feast of St. Francis: 10:45-11:35 a.m.* in the Chapel
- 

## **Thursday, October 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
  - *ERB Makeup Testing: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.* in assigned classrooms
  - *Middle School Councils: 9:15-10:00 a.m.* in classrooms
- 

## **Friday, October 5**

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *NJHS Meeting (All Members): 7:15-7:50 a.m.* in Dr. Bedard's classroom
  - *ERB Makeup Testing: 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.* in assigned classrooms
  - *Middle School Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
  - *Howlers Practice (Grade 8 Girls Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in the Dance Room
-

## **Monday, October 8**

- *Columbus Day/School Holiday*
- 

## **Tuesday, October 9-Friday, October 12**

- *Homecoming Week*
  - *NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive*
- 

## **Tuesday, October 9**

- *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*
  - *Howlers Practice (Grade 8 Girls Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Dance Room*
- 

## **Wednesday, October 10**

- *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*
  - *Pathways Assembly (formerly Choices) for Parents: 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room (HBR)*
  - *Parent Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School: 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library*
  - *Howlers Practice: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
- 

## **Thursday, October 11**

- *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 Pathways Assembly (Grades 5-6): 8:10-9:10 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)*
- *MS Pathways Assembly (Grades 7-8): 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Fine Arts Center (FAC)*
- *Booster Bash: 12:15-1:50 p.m. in the Dining Hall*
- *Fall Pep Rally (Students Only): 2:35-3:05 p.m. in the Gym*
- *Homecoming Varsity Football Game vs. Second Baptist: 5:00 p.m. on the South Campus, for the entire St. Francis community*

---

## **Friday, October 12**

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *NJHS Meeting: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
  - *MS Fall Dance for Grades 6-8: 7:30-10:00 p.m. in the Gym; students only*
- 

## **Monday, October 15**

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
  - *Grade-Level Group Pictures (Grades 5-7): 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Courtyard, during electives classes*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
- 

## **Tuesday, October 16**

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *NJHS Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Musical Chairs Activity: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
  - *Grade 8 Field Trip to Port of Houston: 8:00 a.m.-2:15 p.m.*
- 

## **Wednesday, October 17-Friday, October 19**

- *Seventh-Grade OLE Trip*
- 

## **Wednesday, October 17**

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
- 

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

- *Sixth-Grade OLE Trip*

---

## Thursday, October 18

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Bible Study for Fifth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
  - *Advisory for Grades 5 and 8: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in classrooms*
- 

## Friday, October 19

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Fifth-Grade Movie Night: 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*

## Upper School

### From the Division Head

We had another special week with our ninth-grade students! My highlight this past week was most definitely our field trip day on Wednesday. Please enjoy a recap below. (You can also view photos from the day by clicking on the links within the text.)

The day started with a Whataburger breakfast and *Oklahoma!* show tunes playing in the background as [students and faculty loaded the bus](#). Sue Cross (our bus driver) drove us downtown, where we got a [behind-the-scenes tour of Houston's Theatre Under The Stars](#) before watching a fabulous performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*, which was produced in artistic collaboration with the Houston Ballet. Listening to the giggles, the gasps, and the enthusiastic applause of our students was delightful.

From the theater, [we walked to Market Square](#), where we enjoyed southern comfort food at Treebeards. Dan Tidwell and Jamie Mize, two Oklahoma natives, told us about the history of the area, how they opened a restaurant in the late 1970s, and their decision to sell it (a few years ago) to their former employees.

We then boarded the bus again and made our way to The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, where [we navigated rooms and buildings](#) using Beth Looser's creative visual art scavenger hunt as a guide. Students made observations, learned fun facts about the pieces they were viewing, and even attempted to replicate aspects of the artwork in [picture poses](#).

Please join me in thanking Justin Doran, Kathy Elder, and Krissy Richmond for their work in coordinating such an amazing day of experiential learning in our city! I hope you enjoyed the photos from our special day!

Gratefully,

Cara Henderson  
Head of Upper 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 our upcoming Upper School Admissions Tours!

Tours are scheduled as follows:

- **Showcase Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m.**
- **Most Wednesdays from October 10 to April 23 at 9:00 a.m.**

## **Join Us! Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School**

Upper School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School. This is a chance for you to connect directly with Steve, share your thoughts, mix and mingle with friends, and connect with other parents who have children around the same age.

The next coffee will be held **Wednesday, October 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Crum Library** on the Main Campus.

We hope to see you there!

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Monday, September 24**

- *Day 2 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *WoW! Assembly*
- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:30-4:30 p.m.*
- *Athletics Practice: 4:45-6:00 p.m.*

---

### **Tuesday, September 25**

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-4:00 p.m.*

- *Cross-Country Practice: 4:15-5:30 p.m.*
  - *Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m.; home game*
- 

### **Wednesday, September 26**

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-4:00 p.m.*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

### **Thursday, September 27**

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Crum Gym*
  - *Fine Arts Non-Athlete Rehearsal: 3:45-4:45 p.m.*
  - *Cross-Country Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
  - *Volleyball Game: 4:30 p.m.; home game*
- 

### **Friday, September 28**

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *Cross-Country Practice: 3:45-5:00 p.m.*
  - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 5:15-7:15 p.m.*
  - *Volleyball Team Attends Rice Game: 5:30 p.m. at Rice University; parents provide transportation*
- 

### **Sunday, September 30**

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-6:00 p.m.*
- 

### **Monday, October 1-Wednesday, October 3**

- *Freshman Retreat at Camp Allen*
- 

### **Monday, October 1**

- *No Athletics*
  - *No Fine Arts Rehearsal*
- 

## **Tuesday, October 2**

- *No Athletics*
  - *No Fine Arts Rehearsal*
- 

## **Wednesday, October 3**

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 1:00-4:00 p.m.*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- 

## **Thursday, October 4**

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
  - *Fine Arts Non-Athlete Rehearsal: 3:45-4:45 p.m.*
  - *Cross-Country Practice: 3:45-5:15 p.m.*
  - *Volleyball Game: 5:00 p.m.; home game*
- 

## **Friday, October 5**

- *Day 2 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
  - *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:30-4:30 p.m.*
  - *Athletics Practice: 4:45-6:00 p.m.*
- 

## **Saturday, October 6**

- *Cross-Country Meet vs. Faith Christian Academy: Time TBD*
- 

## **Sunday, October 7**

- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: 2:00-6:00 p.m.*

---

## Monday, October 8

- *Columbus Day/School Holiday*
- *Fine Arts Rehearsal: Time TBD*

## Church

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

Registration is now open for basketball, baseball, softball, and volleyball.

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

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

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

Join Father Bates on **Sunday, September 30, 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.

### **Blessing of the Animals Is September 30**

Bring your dogs, cats, birds, and reptiles to our Blessing of the Animals service on **Sunday, September 30, at 4:00 p.m.** We will have a short liturgy in the church, followed by individual blessings in the courtyard. Your pet will also receive a special token after the blessing!

**Citizens for Animal Protection will be joining us, so please bring the following always-needed items in support of CAP:**

- Canned kitten and puppy food
- Paper towels
- Clay litter
- Copy paper
- Clorox
- H-E-B gift cards

You may also bring donations of paper towels, Dawn dish soap, newspapers, or cat food (specifically H-E-B Texas Pets 4 Flavor Morsels dry cat food or Iams adult cat food) to be donated to Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition.

## **The Grief Group Starts in October**

**The Grief Group will meet for four consecutive Sundays in October from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the Chapel.** It is time set aside for those who are grieving to reflect on their lives, their losses, and their strengths going forward. We will use the 23rd Psalm as our guide to remember that God is with us even during painful times.

The Grief Group is a safe place to talk, cry, and laugh about the gifts we have—even when we're facing death, crisis, and trauma in our lives—while beginning to move into our new, renewed lives. Dr. Robbie Sharp, a psychologist who attends St. Francis, will lead the group. Please e-mail [Jerry Ballard](mailto:jerry.ballard@stfrancis.org) to sign up for The Grief Group.

## **Episcopal Worship . . . Explained**

What does it mean to be Episcopalian? Discover the nuances of the Episcopal faith and its liturgy and traditions in this three-part program led by Father Bates, which started September 9. Additional dates in the series are **Sunday, October 21**, and **Sunday, December 2**. Please meet at **10:00 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room**.