

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of November 25

All School

What Do You Think About the SPC's Proposed Focus Areas?

You provided wonderful feedback with your surveys last spring, and St. Francis's Strategic Planning Committee used your input to help shape the school's proposed areas of focus for the next several years. The Committee will be finalizing these focus areas soon, but first, we'd love to know your thoughts on them. **Please be on the lookout this Wednesday, November 28, for an e-mail containing the link to a brief survey.** We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to complete it. Your feedback is invaluable as we work together to keep St. Francis at the forefront of faith-based education in Houston!

St. Francis Welcomes S.E.A.L. Security to South Campus

We are pleased to announce a new partnership with S.E.A.L. Security Texas to provide daily security at our South Campus. **Beginning Monday, December 3, a S.E.A.L. Security officer will work at the South Campus from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. each school day.** The S.E.A.L. officer will be highly trained, armed, and professionally dressed in a uniform that looks very similar to that worn by the police. The officer will enter and leave the South Campus each day in a marked patrol car. We will continue to use off-duty police officers for South Campus street-traffic control. Please join us in welcoming S.E.A.L. Security Texas to St. Francis!

Sign-up Parties for Gala Start This Week!

It's here! This is your chance to bid on or purchase spots at highly coveted and unique parties hosted by teachers and parents.

[Click here](#) to see all of the details about each party so you can decide which ones you are interested in. Even WE can't believe some of the fun opportunities being offered this year! With a Fortnite dance party, a hair and makeup tutorial, and a Round Top day trip (adults only) up for grabs, you'll want to clear your calendar so you can attend as many parties as your social schedule will allow.

We suggest you preregister on our bidding [website](#) so you are ready to start bidding when the auction opens **THIS Wednesday, November 28, at noon.**

- **Step 1:** Go to <https://gala2019.ggo.bid> to register *before* bidding begins.
- **Step 2:** Receive our welcome e-mail and text. Preview auction offerings.
- **Step 3:** Start bidding from any computer or device **THIS Wednesday, November 28, at noon.**

PLEASE NOTE: The numbering order of sign-up parties is subject to change, but will not affect details and allotted spots of the actual listing.

FoFA Holiday Poinsettia Pickup Is This Week

It's almost time to pick up your order of holiday poinsettias. Choose from two available pickup times:

- **Wednesday, November 28, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.** at the Andrews House on the South Campus
- **Thursday, November 29, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.** at the Andrews House on the South Campus

You may pick up your order curbside. We will have volunteers helping load your poinsettias into your car during those times.

Forgot to order your poinsettias? You're in luck! We have a limited number of extras available for purchase. Please e-mail [Neekie Kashani](#) with your order. All proceeds benefit St. Francis's Fine Arts Department.

Christmas Wolf Wear Sale Is December 7

The Athletics Booster Club will host a Christmas Wolf Wear Sale in the People Place on **Friday, December 7, from 7:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Stock up on sweatshirts, hoodies, Christmas ornaments, and more!

St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Starts Tomorrow

Join St. Francis in collecting toys for families in need this Christmas season! **Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for the St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering**—starting **tomorrow, November 26, through Friday, November 30**—and make the season a little more joyful for others in the Houston community. Middle School students may place their toys under the Christmas tree in the People Place, while Primary and Lower School students will keep their toys in their classrooms. Donations benefit Toys for Tots and will be picked up by Santa and the Village Fire Department on Friday, November 30!

SFSA Basketball Registration Closes Tuesday

Registration for the 2018 SFSA basketball season will close this Tuesday, November 27, with the draft being held this Saturday, December 1. Don't miss out! We're looking forward to a great season.

- To register, [click here](#).
- For more information about SFSA and its programs, [click here](#).
- If you have any questions, please e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

Primary School

From the Assistant Division Head

As I begin my 20th year in education and my second year as assistant head of Primary School, I can't help but reflect on all that I've learned. I also think about what the Bible says in Psalm 9:1: "I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

Primary School students often ask me, "What do you do?" So here are my top six reasons that being the assistant head of Primary School is the best job ever. Please feel free to talk about them with your child.

#6. Morning Carpool

Saying hello to everyone and talking to children as they walk into school is

sure to bring a smile to my face. Hearing about time spent at home and, especially, getting weekend reports from students makes my day.

#5. Parking-Lot Conversations

Discussing housekeeping items with Amy during morning carpool is often also a chance to laugh and have fun!

#4. St. Francis Way/Honor Code Classroom Meetings

This annual tradition at the start of the school year gives me a chance to reconnect with students, learn new faces, and get a sense of each classroom's dynamics.

#3. Primary II Bible Presentation

Because, God's Word!

#2. Parent Gatherings

It is always nice to see and interact with parents in the Primary School at New Parent Meeting, Parent Information Night, Nativity plays, parent coffees, Chapel, and Grandparents and Grandfriends Days!

#1. Our Students, Teachers, Sextons, Staff, and Administrative Team

We are so blessed to have a team of educators and staff members who love the work they do. #ChallengeWhatsPossible

I'm so grateful to be the assistant head of Primary School here at St. Francis. I pray that you and your family had a safe and fun Thanksgiving break!

Warmly,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Assistant Head of Primary School

St. Francis Welcomes S.E.A.L. Security to South Campus

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police officers for South Campus street-traffic control. Please join us in welcoming S.E.A.L. Security Texas to St. Francis!

Explore and Extend Registration Opens December 3

Registration for spring 2019 Explore and Extend enrichment classes and spring School of Music classes opens on **Monday, December 3, at 8:00 a.m. CT**. Links to the spring offerings will be uploaded this Friday, November 30.

Help Us Spread the Word About St. Francis

Do you know any friends or neighbors who could be future St. Francis Wolves? St. Francis's scheduled Primary School group tours have concluded, but anyone interested in setting up a tour may e-mail [Margaret Yerkovich](mailto:Margaret.Yerkovich@stfrancis.org).

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 26

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins: Ends November 30*
-

Tuesday, November 27

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

Wednesday, November 28

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the Andrews House on the South Campus*
-

Thursday, November 29

- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Andrews House on the South Campus*
-

Friday, November 30

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Ends*
-

Monday, December 3

- *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens*
-

Tuesday, December 4

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

Wednesday, December 5

- *St. Nicholas Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Chapel Dramatization (Blades)*
-

Tuesday, December 11

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

Wednesday, December 12

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

Monday, December 17

- *PI Christmas Parties*
-

Tuesday, December 18

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Ferguson's T/Th Pre-Primary Christmas Party: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, December 19

- *Lessons and Carols Chapel for PS and US: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Pre-Primary Christmas Parties: 1:30 p.m.*
-

Thursday, December 20

- *PII Pageants and Parties*
 - *Staller: Pageant at 9:00 a.m. and party at 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Owens: Pageant at 9:40 a.m. and party at 10:10 a.m.*
 - *Blades: Pageant at 10:20 a.m. and party at 10:50 a.m.*
 - *Wiener: Pageant at 11:00 a.m. and party at 11:30 a.m.*
 - *Hughes: Pageant at 11:40 a.m. and party at 12:10 p.m.*
-

Friday, December 21-Monday, January 7

- *School Holiday*
-

Tuesday, January 8

- *School Resumes*

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

Wednesday, January 9

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

Lower School

From the Division Head

Last week was full of wonderful learning opportunities for our students! Our Second Annual People for Others Day was a tremendous success, and our students had opportunities to take time out of their day to focus on others' needs. Our parent volunteers planned developmentally appropriate activities for all grade levels and went the extra step to ensure the children fully understood the missions of the organizations they were supporting and the needs of others in our community.

Following this incredible day was Grandparents and Grandfriends Day. Your children were gracious hosts and loved sharing part of their day with their special friends. No one can take the place of grandparents, and we are so blessed to be able to include them in our school community!

As I mentioned the week before Thanksgiving, your children will bring home their portfolios tomorrow, November 26. This is wonderful way for them to share their learning and growth. You will see many reflections in the portfolio. Reflection is an integral part of our entire learning process, because it enables each child to have ownership of everything they do in school. While academics are a large part of their life at St. Francis, social-emotional learning and serving others are equally important.

In fourth grade, the students serve as our leaders through their work on councils. There are three councils that each child serves on during the course of the year: Leadership, Cares, and Chapel. We asked the fourth-grade leaders to reflect on their job for Trimester 1. Their comments were amazing; they summed up how being servant leaders and role models is yet another way to be people for others. I thought I would share some of their words of wisdom with you. We are so proud of our fourth-grade leaders!

- “I think being a leader means that lots of people look up to you and want to follow you.”
- “I learned how to be on a stage and speak.” (referring to leading Alpha meetings)
- “I enjoy carpool the most because you get to open doors and brighten people’s days.”
- “I learned that it’s not that bad to go up in front of people, but it’s okay to be nervous.”
- “To me, being a leader means to help others and be the bigger person.”
- “Something I learned from the kindergarten kids is that they learn quickly and are learning to share that learning with others.”
- “I learned that if you mess up, it’s okay to go back and say it again because mess-ups are okay!”
- “I have learned that you should try your hardest because if you give up, that does nothing.”
- “I learned that being a teacher is really hard and that having a helper makes it easier.”
- “Being a leader is a real privilege, and I have liked it.”
- “I learned to have confidence when speaking.”
- “Even if you like being a leader or if you don’t, you should know how much others appreciate your kindness as a leader.”
- “I learned how hard it is to be a teacher or administrator with the frustration of kids blurting out.”
- “Have pride and act like it’s a privilege.”
- “You can guide the younger kids through mistakes.”

I hope you had a very blessed Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. I am grateful for you, your children, and our St. Francis family.

Fondly,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Registration for Enrichment Classes and SOM Opens December 3

Registration for spring 2019 Explore and Extend enrichment classes and spring School of Music classes opens on **Monday, December 3, at 8:00 a.m. CT**. Links to the spring offerings will be uploaded on Friday, November 30.

Sports Clinics Offered for Christmas Break

Explore and Extend is offering sports clinics in volleyball and baseball during our Christmas break. To register, log in to My Backpack and select "Program Registration" in the My Forms/Documents section.

BREAK THE WINTRY BLUES VOLLEYBALL CAMP (JANUARY 2-4)

This three-day adventure will catapult us into tournament mode as we break the wintry blues by sharpening our game-play skills. Instructors will send you on a rollercoaster of group and team scenarios (both on and off the court) as we work to improve our leadership skills, team chemistry, game play, and true understanding of how to play against the ball. Spaces are limited and are open to boys and girls in grades 2-9. (Register online to enjoy an early bird discount. Registration prices increase at the door to \$175 for grades 2-4 and \$195 for grades 5-9.)

- **Grades 2-4:** 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym; \$150
- **Grades 5-9:** 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym; \$175

WOLVES BASEBALL IDENTIFICATION SERIES (JANUARY 3-4)

Join us for the first edition of our Wolves Baseball Identification Series! The two-day event will be held on our Main Campus Baseball Field. We have a large number of students in our St. Francis family who love, play, and/or have an interest in the game of baseball. This series is meant to bring all Wolves together as a group according to age (grades K-2, grades 3-5, and grades 6-8) for skills training and evaluation.

Regardless of skill and experience level, every single Wolf is welcomed! This can be as much an opportunity for individuals to determine their true interest in baseball as it is an opportunity for us to identify all of the baseball-playing Wolves in our community. Participants will receive an Identification Series shirt and a participation/evaluation certificate.

- **Grades K-2:** 8:30-10:00 a.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125
- **Grades 3-5:** 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125
- **Grades 6-8:** 1:00-3:00 p.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125

School of Music Recital and Lesson Notes

St. Francis's fall School of Music recital will be held on **Sunday, December 9, beginning at 1:30 p.m.** (This recital will not include vocal performances.)

Please see the e-mails from Emily Boyle regarding the times for each studio to arrive and perform.

Voice students of Callie Denbigh will perform on **Tuesday, December 18, at 5:30 p.m. on Main Street.**

The last regular day for lessons is **Friday, December 7**, with any rescheduled lessons set for the week of December 10-14. Spring semester lessons begin on January 14, 2019.

Please Share the Word! Upcoming LS 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 Lower School Admissions Tour this **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

'Tis the Season for Music! Join Us for Our Christmas Concerts

We are excited to bring you songs of the season in our upcoming Christmas Concert Series, *The Joy of Christmas!* There will be three Lower School concerts taking place in the FAC:

- **Grades 1 and 2:** Monday, December 10, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- **Grades 3 and 4, Joyful Sounds Choir:** Tuesday, December 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- **Kindergarten:** Wednesday, December 12, from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.

Please check Seesaw and teacher web pages for details on dress attire for each grade.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 26

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins:* Ends November 30
- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 25-December 1 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today

- *Report Cards Online*
-

Wednesday, November 28

- *FAC Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*
 - *ERB Parent Meeting for Grades 4-8: 8:15 a.m. in the HBR*
 - *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the Andrews House on the South Campus*
-

Thursday, November 29

- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Andrews House on the South Campus*
-

Friday, November 30

- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Ends*
 - *ERB Parent Meeting for Grade 3: 8:15 a.m. in the HBR*
-

Monday, December 3

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between December 2-8 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*
 - *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens*
-

Wednesday, December 5

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *St. Nicholas Eucharist: 8:05 a.m.*
-

Monday, December 10

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between December 9-15 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Christmas Concert for Grades 1 and 2:* 6:00 p.m. in the FAC
-

Tuesday, December 11

- *Christmas Concert for Grades 3-4 and Joyful Sounds Choir:* 6:00 p.m. in the FAC
-

Wednesday, December 12

- *Chapel:* 8:05 a.m.
 - *Christmas Concert for Kindergarten:* 9:00 a.m. in the FAC
-

Monday, December 17

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between December 16-31 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Wednesday, December 19

- *Christmas Parties*
-

Thursday, December 20

- *Dress Uniform Day*
- *Polar Express Day:* Students may bring a robe and slippers to wear at school
- *Lessons and Carols:* 9:00 a.m.; students only
- *Sing-along:* 2:00 p.m.; students only

Friday, December 21-Monday, January 7

- *School Holiday*
-

Tuesday, January 8

- *School Resumes*

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy Sunday, Middle School families! I hope the Thanksgiving break brought all of you joy, rest, and connection.

Here we go with Trimester 2! It's a pretty regular week, which will allow our students—even one week removed—to get back in the swing of school again.

If you are interested in learning more about ERB testing, we are hosting Rebecca Craft of ERB Member Services for a consulting session with parents of students in grades 4-8. The event will be held this **Wednesday, November 28, in the Hogan Board Room from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m.** Ms. Craft will discuss how to properly read score reports and what to take from them.

I also wanted to share some exciting news with you about the Alley Theatre Fall Middle School Slam, which took place on Friday, November 9. There were eight competitors in total, and Payton B., Randy G., Aniyah P., Soraya S., and Ava S. represented our school. Aniyah and Ava placed in the top three for the first round of the slam, and **Ava won the slam**. She was then allowed to perform as the “sacrificial poet” for the High School Slam later that evening. I'm incredibly proud of all of the students—their poems were a beautiful mix of the personal and universal, and they did a great job of taking direction from Rain, the Alley's teaching artist, in order to perform their pieces well and with the depth of emotion that slam poems need.

Alley Theatre Photographer Rachel Wagner graciously sent me a link to some of the photos she took that night. To view them, [click here](#).

I wish you all a wonderful start to the new trimester! It's a beautiful day, and we are Wolves!

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Parents and Business Owners, Buy Your Yearbook Ads Today!

Each year, **eighth-grade parents are invited to place a full- or half-page ad** in *The Howler* yearbook to congratulate their student on eighth-grade graduation and to celebrate and reflect on the special times their child has shared with friends and teachers at St. Francis.

All parents are also invited to place ads for their local businesses. *The Howler* yearbook is an excellent resource for building professional relationships within the St. Francis community while supporting the entrepreneurial efforts of our yearbook staff. *The Howler* is also an excellent way to advertise a community business.

The deadline to create and purchase yearbook ads is Sunday, February 3, at 8:00 p.m.

HOW TO CREATE YOUR AD

There are four ways to create your ad:

- Meet with a yearbook staffer to design your full-page ad. You'll need to bring 10 to 15 of your high-quality digital photos on a USB or CD. Cost is \$450.
- Design your own full-page ad online using your photos, or upload a professionally created business ad. Cost is \$400.
- Meet with a yearbook staffer to design your half-page ad. You'll need to bring 5 to 10 of your high-quality digital photos on a USB or CD. Cost is \$250.
- Design your own half-page ad online using your photos, or upload a professionally created business ad. Cost is \$250.

To arrange a meeting with *The Howler* staff to create your ad, please e-mail Yearbook Instructor [Steve Johnson](#). You will need to bring your photos

to the meeting, along with a check for \$450 for a full-page ad or \$250 for a half-page ad.

To design your own ad or purchase space for your professionally created ad, go to Balfour.com and enter “St. Francis Episcopal School Houston” in the school search. You can purchase the half- or full-page ad space after creating your ad.

Directions for creating your own ad online can be found [online here](#).

YEARBOOK AD GUIDELINES

- Ads designed by the yearbook staff must be paid for by check (made out to St. Francis Episcopal School).
- St. Francis reserves the right to edit ads per yearbook guidelines.
- St. Francis reserves the right to remove any explicit text, graphic photos, or copyright-protected imagery or photos.
- In keeping with the spirit of St. Francis, we ask that no hunting or fishing photos with deceased and/or captured game or weapons be used.
- Your ad must be completed and purchased by the order deadline of **Sunday, February 3, at 8:00 p.m.** for it to appear in the yearbook.
- If you build your own ad online, we will make every effort to use your layout and text as designed. A proof will not be provided, and no changes can be made after purchase.

NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

Please e-mail Yearbook Instructor [Steve Johnson](#) with any questions.

Please Share the Word! Next MS Admissions Tour Is Tuesday

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 Tour this **Tuesday, November 27, at 9:00 a.m.**

SFES Summer Program: Register by December 1 for Discount

All rising sixth, seventh, and eighth graders are eligible to **travel to the Mediterranean** this summer with the St. Francis Travel Program. Our group is forming—and there’s room for more!

We are visiting Spain, France, and Italy from July 2-12, 2019. It's a spectacular trip! Please consider enriching your child's educational experience by allowing them to see Michelangelo's *David*, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Roman arena and theatre in Arles, St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, St. Francis's Assisi, and so much more! We'll eat ourselves silly, swim in the Mediterranean Sea, and stroll the streets of some of the most renowned destinations in Europe—Barcelona, Carcassonne, Provence, Arles, Nice, Monaco, Florence, Pisa, Rome, and Assisi.

The trip price is discounted if you register by Saturday, December 1. E-mail [Sarah Powell](#) or call her at 713.458.6413 for more information and registration instructions. It truly is a trip of a lifetime to places our students have actually studied. Let it come to life for them!

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Join Us for Coffee With the Head of School on December 5

Middle School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the head of school on **Wednesday, December 5, at 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.** 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. We hope to see you there!

Pathways Assembly for Parents: Creating Behavior Contracts That Work

Join us to learn about the predictors of adult success and what parents can do to cultivate these skills and abilities in their children on **Wednesday, December 5, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.** Led by Dr. Crystal Collier of Pathways, this is the second in a series of 2018-19 parent workshops focused on social and emotional health.

On Thursday, December 6, Dr. Collier will present to our Middle School students on the same topic in grade-level assemblies, which should provide the basis for some meaningful conversations at home.

School of Music Recital and Lesson Notes

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- **Grades K-2:** 8:30-10:00 a.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125
- **Grades 3-5:** 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125
- **Grades 6-8:** 1:00-3:00 p.m. on the Main Campus Baseball Field; \$125

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 26

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Second Trimester Begins*
 - *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins: Ends November 30*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, November 27

- *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*
 - *Seventh-Grade Field Trip: The Christmas Carol at Alley Theatre; 8:30 a.m.-1:05 p.m.*
 - *MS Admissions Tour: 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the HBR and Crum Library*
-

Wednesday, November 28

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *ERB Parent Meeting for Grades 4-8: 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the HBR*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the Andrews House on the South Campus*

Thursday, November 29

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Andrews House on the South Campus*
- *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*
- *Trimester 1 Report Cards Go Out to Parents*

Friday, November 30

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *Deadline for Spring 2018 PE/Athletics Registration (Online)*
- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Ends*
- *St. Nicholas Toy Drive Pickup: 8:30-11:00 a.m. in the People Place*

Monday, December 3

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
- *Hanukkah (December 2-10)*
- *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens Online*
- *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

Tuesday, December 4

- *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*

Wednesday, December 5

- *Wednesday Eucharist Block 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*
 - *St. Nicholas Eucharist: 11:00-11:50 a.m. in the Chapel*
 - *MS/US Pathways Assembly for Parents: 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the HBR*
 - *Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School for MS/US Parents: 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the HBR*
-

Thursday, December 6

- *Pathways Special 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 Assemblies*
 - *Grades 5 and 6: 8:10-9:10 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *Grades 7 and 8: 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the FAC*
-

Friday, December 7

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:45-9:00 a.m. in the concessions stand near the gym*
 - *NJHS Let Our Voices Be Heard: 8:00 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
 - *Locker Cleanout: During Advisory*
 - *WEB Leadership Training (Grade 8 WEB Leaders Only): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom*
-

Monday, December 10

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

Tuesday, December 11

- *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*
 - *Locker Cleanout During Advisory*
-

Wednesday, December 12

- *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*
 - *PA Christmas Gift Distribution and Cookie Exchange: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the HBR*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Lessons and Carols Rehearsal: 11:20-11:50 a.m. in the FAC*
-

Thursday, December 13

- *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*
 - *LS/MS/US Christmas Concert: 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Lessons and Carols Rehearsal: 9:15-10:00 a.m. in the FAC*
-

Friday, December 14

- *Friday Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
- *NJHS Celebration: 7:00-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
- *WEB Activity (Grade 5): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*

Upper School

From the Division Head

"I don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness—it's right in front of me if I'm paying attention and practicing gratitude." –Brené Brown

Dear Founding Freshmen Families,

I hope that the past week has been filled with happy moments and shared gratitude amongst family and friends. I am always so appreciative of time to disconnect from the routine in order to rest and refuel while reconnecting with loved ones from near and far.

Looking to the week ahead, please enjoy Academic Technology Chair Shai Zacaraev's message about Immersions and Explorations and the three experiential learning projects that will be underway during the next two weeks (November 26-December 7).

As we wrap up our first trimester at St. Francis Episcopal Upper School, it is a great moment to pause in order to show gratitude for our students, our faculty, our staff, and our wonderful community as a whole. With one trimester under our belts, we have had multiple opportunities to engage our founding class with rigorous academic courses and to watch our freshmen "show their stuff" with their presentation of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Additionally, we kicked off our fall sports season, with our students competing in cross-country races and volleyball. We are currently in our winter sports season, with the initiation of our swim and basketball teams.

Over the next two weeks, we'll be holding our inaugural Immersions and Explorations program. These courses are designed to be immersive experiences that support authentic blended learning opportunities that extend beyond the confines of the classroom. Our students will have the opportunity to engage with faculty in three different team-taught courses that include the following:

- *Road Scholars: PS/US Art Car*
- *Designing an Outdoor Learning Space for Primary Students*
- *Building Our Own 3-D Printer*

*The programs are designed to be process-oriented in order to focus on skill development. Students will practice their leadership, collaboration, public-speaking, and critical problem-solving skills—and have lots of fun in the process. **We will hold a public forum and reception to present the students' work on the evening of Thursday, December 6.** We look forward to showcasing our students' work in a community-building event.*

Best,

Shai

We hope to see you on campus this **Tuesday, November 27, at 5:00 p.m. in the Andrews House on the South Campus**. Head of School Steve Lovejoy will be providing information about what's happening at St. Francis, as well as updates on our strategic planning process, capital campaign, and admissions. Steven Scales will also present information regarding college counseling.

Next week, we hope you will make plans to **join us on Thursday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. for student presentations related to their learning during Immersions and Explorations**. Please look for more details in next week's *Wolf Watch* message.

Here's to a wonderful week!

Sincerely,

Cara Henderson
Head of Upper School

Pathways Assembly for Parents: Creating Behavior Contracts That Work

Join us to learn about the predictors of adult success and what parents can do to cultivate these skills and abilities in their children on **Wednesday, December 5, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus**. Led by Dr. Crystal Collier of Pathways, this is the second in a series of 2018-19 parent workshops focused on social and emotional health.

Join Us for Coffee With the Head of School on December 5

Upper School parents, please join us for coffee and fellowship with the Head of School on **Wednesday, December 5, at 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus**. 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. We hope to see you there!

Registration for Enrichment Classes and SOM Opens Soon

Registration for spring 2019 Explore and Extend enrichment classes and spring School of Music classes opens on **Monday, December 3, at 8:00 a.m. CT**. Links to the spring offerings will be uploaded this Friday, November 30.

Volleyball Clinic Offered Over Christmas Break

Explore and Extend is offering a volleyball clinic during our holiday break. To register, log in to My BackPack and select "Program Registration" in the My Forms/Documents section.

BREAK THE WINTRY BLUES VOLLEYBALL CAMP (JANUARY 2-4)

This three-day adventure will catapult us into tournament mode as we break the wintry blues by sharpening our game-play skills. Instructors will send you on a rollercoaster of group and team scenarios (both on and off the court) as we work to improve our leadership skills, team chemistry, game play, and true understanding of how to play against the ball. Spaces are limited and are open to boys and girls in grades 2-9. (Register online to enjoy an early bird discount. Registration prices increase at the door to \$175 for grades 2-4 and \$195 for grades 5-9.)

- **Grades 2-4:** 10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym; \$150
- **Grades 5-9:** 8:30-10:30 a.m. in the Crum Gym; \$175

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, November 26

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations/SFES Spirit Wear*
- *Trimester 2 Begins*
- *St. Nicholas Toy Ingathering Begins: Ends November 30*
- *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*

Tuesday, November 27

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Swim Practice: 6:35-8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *Boys Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Upper School Parent Conversation With the Head of School: 5:00 p.m. in the Andrews House on the South Campus*
 - *Girls Basketball: 6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Wednesday, November 28

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 3:00-4:30 p.m. at the Andrews House on the South Campus*
 - *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Boys Basketball: 5:45 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, November 29

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Trimester 1 Report Cards Released*
 - *Swim Practice: 6:35-8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 8:00-10:00 a.m. at the Andrews House on the South Campus*
 - *Boys Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Girls Basketball: 4:30 p.m. at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart*
-

Friday, November 30

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Boys Basketball: 4:00 p.m. at The John Cooper School*
-

Monday, December 3

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens Online*
-

Tuesday, December 4

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Swim Practice: 6:35-8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *Boys Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Girls Basketball: 5:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Wednesday, December 5

- *Special Schedule for Eucharist/Immersions and Explorations*
 - *Arrive in SFES Spirit Wear/Bring Dress Uniform for Eucharist: See note below**
 - *Eucharist (Joint Chapel Between Upper School and Middle School): 11:00 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel*
 - *MS/US Pathways Assembly for Parents: 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus*
 - *Coffee and Fellowship With the Head of School for MS/US Parents: 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room on the Main Campus*
 - *Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
 - *Boys Basketball: 5:00 p.m. at The Post Oak School*
-

Thursday, December 6

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations*
- *Arrive in SFES Spirit Wear/Bring Dress Uniform for Presentations: See note below**
- *Swim Practice: 6:35-8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
- *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
- *Immersions and Explorations Presentations: 6:00 p.m.; additional details TBA*

Friday, December 7

- *Special Schedule for Immersions and Explorations/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Boys and Girls Basketball Practice: 4:15-5:45 p.m.*
-

* Since dress uniforms are required for Eucharist on Wednesday, December 5, and Immersions and Explorations presentations on Thursday, December 6, and we are asking students to arrive in spirit wear and change into their dress uniforms for a short time on each of those days, we recommend that students bring hangers so they can leave their uniforms overnight. We hope this will eliminate the need to launder the uniform again or the possibility of forgetting to bring it on the second day. Please contact Cathleen at 713.458.6130 if you have questions.

Church

Dedicate a Christmas Poinsettia Today

Be a part of the St. Francis tradition of dedicating a Christmas poinsettia "in memory" of a loved one or "in thanksgiving" for your many blessings. Dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship bulletins. Dedication forms are located on the tables in the Narthex, or you may [submit one online here](#).

This Year's Angel Tree Now in the Narthex

Every Christmas, an Angel Tree decorates the Narthex. All are invited to participate by providing gifts to low-income families with children who have received financial aid during the year from the Linda Sadler Memorial Fund or other outreach ministries of St. Francis. Gifts might include bicycles, clothing, shoes, books, toys, or gift cards. **This year's Angel Tree is now in the Narthex**, if you'd like to be an angel to someone this year! [Read more about the Angel Tree here](#).

Children's Christmas Party Is December 1

A fun, free event for families in celebration of the birth of our Savior, our

annual Children's Christmas Party will be held this **Saturday, December 1, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** Bring your kids to enjoy food, treats, crafts, games, activities, and a visit with Santa. Best of all, they can play in real SNOW! (We recommend bringing shoes that can get wet and gloves to protect hands from the cold.)

Advent Wreath-Making Is December 2

Join us on the first Sunday of Advent for the treasured St. Francis tradition of making your own Advent wreath for your home! We'll gather **in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall on Sunday, December 2, after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services** to make tabletop wreaths with fresh evergreens, fun and fancy decorations, and four candles that symbolize the four weeks of Advent. A donation of \$25 per wreath is suggested to defray the cost of the materials.

Christmas Sing-along and Potluck Dinner Is December 9

One of the best things about the Christmas season is the music! Join us on **Sunday, December 9, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.** as we gather to sing our favorite carols, new and old. We'll begin with a festive dinner in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. Ham, turkey, and soft drinks will be provided, so bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Children Invited to Participate in the Christmas Pageants

Preschoolers through fifth graders are invited to participate in our Christmas Eve Nativity Pageants! We will have **two pageants on Monday, December 24—one at the 2:00 p.m. service and one at the 5:00 p.m. service.** The church will provide costumes, which will be fitted at the rehearsals.

[Please fill out the online registration form to participate.](#)

Christmas Worship Schedule Now Available

St. Francis Episcopal Church's Christmas worship schedule is now available online. [Click here to view it.](#)

SFSA Basketball Registration Closes Tuesday

Registration for the 2018 SFSA basketball season will close this Tuesday,

November 27, with the draft being held this Saturday, December 1. Don't miss out! We're looking forward to a great season.

- To register, [click here](#).
- For more information about SFSA and its programs, [click here](#).
- If you have any questions, please e-mail [Ragan Cain](#).

Call for Student Performers: Christmas Musical Is December 9

We are looking for 10 to 15 students in grades 2 and up 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](#).

Spring First Communion Classes Begin January 13

First Communion classes begin **Sunday, January 13**. This eight-week course is designed to prepare second-grade students to receive the Holy Eucharist. If you would like to sign up or request further information, please contact [Nichole Hilgert](#).

Discovering Christian Meditation

An opportunity for silent prayer at the church is now available:

- Tuesdays, 5:00-5:30 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.