

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of March 31

All School

Congratulations to Our 2019 Woolrich Recipients!

We're delighted to announce the recipients of our 2019 Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty Awards—and the learning adventures they'll be participating in this summer!



From left: John Madden, Jessica MacMurtrie, Justin Doran, Carol Bedard, Adrian Pruett, and Debra Joyce

MACHU PICCHU AND THE AMAZON RIVER

Carol Bedard, *English*; Jessica MacMurtrie, *Spanish*

Middle School faculty members Carol Bedard and Jessica MacMurtrie are headed to Peru for the adventure of a lifetime! After touring the Sacred Valley of the Incas and Machu Picchu, they'll spend time on the Amazon river, then visit the Pilpintuwasi Butterfly Farm, various wildlife rescue centers, and the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve—where they're sure to spot monkeys, sloths, and macaws! As cosponsors of the National Junior Honor Society and collaborative colleagues, Dr. Bedard and Mrs. MacMurtrie plan to use their Peruvian experiences to provide their students with an awareness of wildlife preservation and an appreciation for the complexities of other cultures.

OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Justin Doran, *Fine Arts*

At the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Fine Arts Chair Justin Doran will explore how the great outdoors acts as a stage for year-round performances. He plans to study the specific production elements needed for storytelling outdoors, and to use this knowledge to enrich future fine arts performances on both campuses.

ICELAND

Debra Joyce, *Language Arts*

Lower School Language Arts Teacher Debra Joyce will travel to Iceland both to experience the “impenetrable land” that inspired folktales and to explore how the culture and landscape of a country shape its folklore. Through visits to the Icelandic Elf School and guided walking tours, Ms. Joyce will dive into the local culture, storytelling, and psyche of the people. Upon returning to the classroom in the fall, she'll share her adventures with students, enriching their classroom studies of folktales.

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

John Madden, *Science and Engineering*

Thousands of miles away, a remote island with a population of 30,000 holds valuable lessons for the fourth largest city in America. Science and

Engineering Chair John Madden will set sail for the Galápagos Islands to seek what it truly means to be “sustainable.” With boots on the ground (or, in this case, in the water), Mr. Madden will explore what the islands' residents are doing to minimize their adverse effects on the area's environment and wildlife—as well as what the wider world can learn from these sustainable practices. Incorporating these ideas into his lessons will help our students challenge what's possible for years to come.

HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI

Adrian Pruett, *Mathematics*

Middle School geometry teacher Adrian Pruett believes that, with hard work and the right outlook, anyone can be a “math person.” This summer, she'll travel to classrooms in Shanghai and Hong Kong to learn how educators in the Far East inspire this type of growth mindset in their students. She'll also explore the rich architecture of the area, and plans to incorporate this architectural design into her classroom lessons to help her geometry students continue building spatial reasoning.

ABOUT THE WOOLRICH FUND

For 15 years, the Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty has given St. Francis faculty members the opportunity to expand their horizons. In turn, they are better able to open our students' eyes to the wonders that await beyond the classroom. Established in honor of our esteemed first principal, Sarah W. “Sally” Woolrich, the Woolrich Fund underwrites unique learning adventures that span the globe.

End-of-Year Farewell to Coaches Settle and McMillian

We're sad to announce that, as of today, we'll be saying goodbye to two of our head coaches at the end of this school year:

- **Michael Settle** has accepted the head varsity baseball coaching position at Fort Worth Country Day School. In his nine years at St. Francis, Coach Settle has served our community faithfully and well in so many ways—as head coach of the baseball program, Middle School cross-country coach, director of physical education, PE teacher for all grade levels, assistant athletics director, Bible study leader, and more. Please join us in wishing Coach Settle well in his new position next year!

- **Cydryce McMillian**, who has led our volleyball program for the past two years and served as our first Upper School head coach, has accepted the head volleyball coaching position at St. Agnes Academy. We wish Coach McMillian all the best as she transitions to her new role!

We'll begin looking for our next volleyball and baseball head coaches immediately, and will let you know once we conclude our searches. Stay tuned for updates!

Virtue of the Month: Grace

During the month of April, the St. Francis community will focus on the virtue of grace. Our virtue verse is Psalm 103:8: "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love." God's grace is seen clearly in the life of Jesus. As we prepare for Easter, we remember that Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins. We don't deserve it, but Jesus did it anyway. That's grace—an undeserved gift.

Table Talk: Invite each member of the family to share a story about an undeserved gift they have received and what it meant to them.

Important Information About Safeguarding God's Children

If you volunteer at St. Francis Episcopal School and will be in your child's classroom or another teaching area more than six times, the Episcopal Diocese requires certification in Safeguarding God's Children, a child protective program. Also, if you go into a classroom without your child present (such as through Art à la Carte or on People for Others Day), you are required to be certified before your first visit.

- Our next class will be taught by Father Bob Wismer on **Friday, April 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the Main Campus**. This is our last scheduled class until fall.
- You must sign up for the class with Rose Ann Gregory [via e-mail](#) or by calling 713.458.6101 **no later than Wednesday, April 3**, to allow time to complete the initial paperwork.
- If you want to take the class in order to volunteer for the St. Francis Sports Association, the Scouts, or other St. Francis Episcopal Church activities such as Sunday School, please contact Cindy Huteson by calling 713.782.1270 or [via e-mail](#).

Bayou Bash Festival: Reserve Your Parking Spot!

Where y'at? We hope you are getting ready for the Bayou Bash Festival on **Sunday, April 28!**

Have you turned in your sponsorship forms and T-shirt and ticket orders? All forms may be completed online [here](#). You may also send in a hard copy of the [forms](#) with a check. **Due date is April 5!**

For the first time ever, you can reserve a parking spot for Festival. (No circling the lot or riding the shuttle!) We will have 20 parking spots available on the Main Campus for \$250 each—just pull up and walk right in. These will go quickly, so act fast! **Purchase your parking spot online at the [Festival website here](#).**

We always want to be “Bayou”!

Annual Fund: Three Months Until Closing Time. . .

. . . but less than two months until school's out for the summer!

Fun Fact: We start raising money for the St. Francis Annual Fund on July 1 of every year and continue through June 30 of the following year. All independent schools follow this fiscal year timeline.

Parent participation is important—even when a pizza party with Mr. Lovejoy is not at stake! Participation in annual giving sends a positive message to the broader community and serves as a powerful testament to our institution's strength. Organizations and foundations with grant opportunities look at participation figures as an indicator of a healthy institution worthy of additional support.

- Show your school pride for everything that makes St. Francis great with a gift to the Annual Fund today! [Click here](#) to give online.
- If you are unsure whether you have given this year, please [contact Laura Lanigan](#), director of annual and alumni giving.

PA Annual Spring Luncheon Is Wednesday

The Parents Association invites you to attend its annual Spring Luncheon this **Wednesday, April 3**, at the Houston Country Club. The featured

speaker is Alysha Roll, MSW, LCSW, who will be speaking on “The Science of a Healthy Relationship.”

Ms. Roll is a Certified Gottman Couples Therapist as well as a master trainer and consultant for The Gottman Institute. Don't miss this opportunity to learn scientifically based ways to deepen your relationship with your significant other and to avoid relationship pitfalls.

- Tickets are \$75 each or \$750 per table. [Click here to purchase your tickets.](#)
- Find more information on The Gottman Institute online [here.](#)
- With questions, comments, or concerns, please [e-mail Paola Lehman](#), PA parent education chair.

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is Friday

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

Join the SFE Spring BeKIND (Bingo) Challenge

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

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

Save the Date! MS and US Theater Productions

Save the date—the St. Francis Theater Department's spring productions are just around the corner!

- Our Upper School students will present William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on **Friday, April 26**, and **Saturday, April 27**, at 7:30 p.m. on the South Campus.

- Our Middle School students will perform *The Wizard of Oz* on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. on our Main Campus.

A box office link will be available through *Wolf Watch* in the coming weeks.

Please Share the Word! Upcoming US Admissions Tours

Our best advertising is word-of-mouth, so please tell your friends and neighbors to come learn more about St. Francis at one of our Upper School Admissions Tours, which are held most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Register Today for Summer on the Point

Have you checked out all the neat camps your child can take during Summer on the Point 2019?

- [Click here](#) for camp descriptions and to download the Summer on the Point brochure.
- Registration for students **3 years old through grade 10** is now open and available through "Program Registration" in My BackPack.
- **Summer sessions will run June 3-28 and July 8-August 2.**
- Yearly favorites are returning, and new camps are coming for summer 2019—including baseball, photography, fashion design, speed and agility sessions, field hockey, lacrosse, coding, LEGO design, self-defense, newly redesigned math sessions for Middle and Upper School grades, and many more.

Primary School

From the Division Head

Last week, we had the pleasure of hosting 38 local early childhood educators at our semiannual Educators Day. We receive many requests during the school year for tours of the Primary School, and invite those interested to join us on Educators Day for a presentation, a tour, and classroom observations. Our Reggio-inspired, project-based program honors play. In our Educators Day introduction, we talk about our philosophy and what participants will and will not see on their visits.

What they see and hear in the Primary School:

- Children engaged in meaningful play
- Documentation and displays
- Project work
- Passionate, professional teachers who are colearners
- Exploration, inquiry, and problem-solving
- Reflection, dialogue, and collaboration
- A natural, peaceful environment
- Curious and joyful children

What they don't see and hear in the Primary School:

- Every class doing the same thing
- Worksheets
- Teachers doing all the “teaching”
- Toys (our program focuses on materials)
- Primary-colored commercial displays and “decorated” rooms
- Teacher-planned “units” or “themes”

We are constantly evaluating our research-based practices, and we make decisions about how to best support our students in an environment that honors their thoughts and ideas. Our program does not look like what you see at every other school. We know what research says about providing valuable blocks of time each day for children to engage in meaningful play, and we make sure that our daily schedule makes this possible.

In the January 29, 2018, *New York Times* article, “The Check Up: Taking Playtime Seriously,” writer Perri Klass, MD, reports that, “Play is a universal, cross-cultural, and necessary attribute of childhood, essential for development and essential for learning. Experts who study it say that play is intrinsic to children’s natures, but still needs support and attention from the adults around them. Those who study its importance in children’s lives point out that it can also be threatened, either by too little attention and responsiveness from distracted adults or, in another sense, by too much attention and teaching, of the not-so-playful kind.”

I’m happy to report that the early childhood professionals who visited in the Primary School last week saw lots of the “playful kind” of learning. One visitor reported that “walking through these classrooms is like a textbook of what school is supposed to be.” I am honored to work with our faculty and staff, who are advocates for young children and share a commitment to excellence in our profession. There’s a lot to be proud of here!

All the best,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Primary School Faculty Transitions

We would like to keep you up-to-date on faculty transitions. As of today, we will bid farewell to three long-standing faculty members at the end of the school year. **Cindy Blades**, **Genie Porter**, and **Betty Huff** will all be retiring to spend time with their families. We appreciate all they have done for the children and families in the Primary School, and we wish them the very best. They will be missed.

Please Note: We'll be announcing new hires and any internal transitions in upcoming editions of Wolf Watch. Stay tuned!

Looking Forward: Life in Lower School

Please join us this **Thursday, April 4, from 8:20 to 9:20 a.m.** at our **South Campus** for an opportunity to learn all about life in Lower School. Representatives from all parent organizations will be present to explain how you can get involved! The kindergarten team and administration will also be present to answer any questions you have about getting plugged in to Lower School. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Join Ms. McConnell for Story Time This Thursday

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

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, April 2

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

Wednesday, April 3

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Parents Association Spring Luncheon*: 11:30 a.m. at the Houston Country Club
-

Thursday, April 4

- *Looking Forward to Lower School*: 8:20-9:20 a.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
 - *Story Time With Ms. McConnell*: 3:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
-

Tuesday, April 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

- *Primary II Drama Performances*

9:00 a.m.—Blades

9:40 a.m.—Staller

10:20 a.m.—Wiener

11:00 a.m.—Owens

11:40 a.m.—Hughes

Tuesday, April 16

- *PS Parent Education Series ("Setting Limits and Healthy Boundaries")*: 8:30 a.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
 - *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Open Library Time*: 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
-

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

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

Friday, April 19

- *Good Friday Holiday*: No school
-

Monday, April 22

- *Easter Monday Holiday: No school*
-

Tuesday, April 23

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

Wednesday, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

- *Primary II Field Trip*
-

Friday, April 26

- *Primary School Pep Rally*
-

Sunday, April 28

- *Festival 2019: A Bayou Bash: 12:00-4:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, April 29

- *Late Start: Primary School begins at 9:00 a.m. (no Early Birds)*
-

Tuesday, April 30

- *Pre-Primary Mothers and Others*: Ferguson T/Th, Oteiza, and Meriwether
 - *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Open Library Time*: 2:45-4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Crum Library
-

Wednesday, May 1

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

Thursday, May 2

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

Friday, May 3

- *Primary II Step-up to Kindergarten Field Trip*: 8:30 a.m.
- *Primary I Mothers and Others*: 1:30 p.m.

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope you all have been able to get out and enjoy this glorious spring weather! Don't blink—it will be 100 degrees before we know it!

This week, all of our Lower School students will get a sneak peek into their grade level for next year. It is so exciting for the kiddos to meet the teachers and spend some time in the classrooms, hearing all about their learning adventure for the next school year.

We also want to provide an opportunity for parents to have a preview of their child's experience for next year. Grade Level Preview Meetings have been scheduled back-to-back with all Declamations. See the calendar times below (in the "Mark Your Calendar" section) to find the correct time for your grade level. The teachers look forward to meeting you and to giving you some information about next year!

On the topic of next school year, thank you for trusting St. Francis's faculty and administration to place your child in the optimal learning environment. A great deal of work and thought goes into this complex process, and many people are involved in creating the classes. Not only do we want each child to be with some friends, but also we must ensure that they are placed in classes with academic peers. We also want a variety of temperaments and personalities in each class, and matching the child's personality with the teacher's is equally important. Your children's current teachers know them well and have great insight into the classmates with whom they will work best. It is very healthy for children to meet new friends and have the opportunity to expand their friendship circles. We truly want each child to thrive, so thank you for allowing us to use our knowledge and expertise in class placement.

So, back to this school year—we still have a great deal of learning to do! I hope you have a wonderful week!

Cheers!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Lower School Faculty Transitions

We would like to keep you up to date on faculty transitions. As of today, we will bid farewell to the following faculty at the end of the school year: **Melissa Cook** has accepted a position at another Houston-area independent school; **Blanche Lockhardt** and her husband will be moving to Dallas for his job; and **Laura Persia** will be staying home with her new baby.

We appreciate all that these faculty members have done for the students and families in the Lower School, and we wish them the very best. They will be missed.

Please Note: We'll be announcing new hires and any internal transitions in upcoming editions of Wolf Watch. Stay tuned!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 1

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

Tuesday, April 2

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

Wednesday, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

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

Monday, April 8

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

- *Joyful Sounds and Middle School/Upper School Choir Spring Concert:* 6:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
-

Wednesday, April 10

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

Monday, April 15

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

Wednesday, April 17

- *NO Chapel*
-

Thursday, April 18

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Eucharist (Maundy Thursday):* 8:05 a.m.
-

Friday, April 19

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school
-

Monday, April 22

- *Easter Monday Holiday:* No school
-

Wednesday, April 24

- *Third-Grade Declamation:* 9:35 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - *Incoming Fourth-Grade Preview:* 10:50 a.m. in fourth-grade classrooms
-

Thursday, April 25

- *Second-Grade Declamation:* 9:45 a.m. in classrooms
 - *Incoming Third-Grade Preview:* 11:00 a.m. in the third-grade pod
-

Monday, April 29

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between April 21-May 4 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Incoming First-Grade Preview:* 12:00 p.m. in the first-grade pod
 - *Kindergarten Declamation:* 12:40 p.m. in classrooms
-

Tuesday, April 30

- *Incoming Fifth-Grade Preview:* 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in fifth-grade classrooms
- *Fourth-Grade Declamation:* In the Wheatcroft Parish Hall

9:45 a.m.—Springmann/Tamlyn

2:00 p.m.— Lockhart/Armintor

Wednesday, May 1

- *First-Grade Declamation:* 10:00 a.m.

DuByne in the HBR

Masini in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall

McCormick in the Crum Library
Shindler in the first-grade pod

- *Incoming Second-Grade Preview*: 10:55 a.m. in the second-grade pod

Middle School

From the Division Head

Hello, Middle School families! I hope this finds you well!

March ends today, and we turn the page to April. Time is flying! This week, we have everything from community service projects and field trips to deadlines for Honors intent letters and the dissemination of council election information. I'm thankful that our eighth-grade students get another chance at helping the good people at [Panther Creek Inspiration Ranch](#). Getting out into the Greater Houston community and making a difference is what being *people for others* is all about. Thanks to Elle Anderson, our parent volunteers, and our grade-level team leaders for planning such meaningful service opportunities for our students.

On Friday, our sixth-grade team, students, and parent volunteers take us back in time with the Greek Festival! This day is always a fun one, and there is no better way to learn history than by making it interactive and real. I look forward to seeing our kids compete in our very own Olympics—togas and all. Thanks to all of sixth grade for their hard work on this culminating history project.

In other news, [this article](#) discusses 10 research-based insights into how learning works. Many of these topics are in our faculty's daily conversations and practices, and this article sheds good light on current best practices in the classroom.

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

Sincerely,

Connor Cook, EdD
Head of Middle School

Middle School Faculty Transitions

We would like to keep you up-to-date on faculty transitions. As of today, we will bid farewell to the following faculty at the end of the school year: **Connor Cook** will be joining River Oaks Baptist School; **Kimberly Dunn** will be the new associate head of school at San Antonio Academy; **Molly Edington** will be teaching in lower school at another Houston independent school; and **Lisa McDermott** will be retiring to spend time with family. We will also be saying goodbye to **Carrie Hamstra** and **Jeanette Hendricks**.

We appreciate all that these faculty and staff members have done for the students and families in the Middle School, and we wish them the very best. They will be missed.

Please Note: We'll be announcing new hires and any internal transitions in upcoming editions of Wolf Watch. Stay tuned!

Sixth Graders to View Program on Setting Boundaries

Sixth-grade students will soon participate in the *Your Boundaries, Your Call!* program. Boys will watch the program with Mr. Lakoski on **Monday, April 8**, and girls will watch the program with Dr. Curtis on **Tuesday, April 9**.

This program was designed for middle school students by Praesidium, creator of the Safeguarding God's Children program that adult volunteers and staff members must attend. The student program consists of a three-part DVD series paired with guided group discussions that teach students how to define their personal boundaries, respond if someone tries to violate these boundaries, and reach for help if someone is sexually abusing them or someone they know. Please contact Ted Lakoski (713.458.6157), director of school counseling, or Dr. Laurie Curtis (713.458.6118), head of student support services, with any questions.

Pathways Assembly for Parents: Technology Boundaries

Join us to learn how parents can set healthy technology boundaries for their children (and themselves!) on **Wednesday, April 10, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. Led by Dr. Crystal Collier of Pathways, this is the fourth in a series of 2018-19 parent workshops focused on social and emotional health.

On Thursday, April 11, Dr. Collier will present to our Middle and Upper School students on the same topic in grade-level assemblies, which should provide the basis for some meaningful conversations at home.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, March 31

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

Monday, April 1

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

Tuesday, April 2

- *Regular Uniform*
 - *Grade 5: Special Schedule*
 - *Grades 6-8: Tuesday Schedule*
 - *Grade 5: AALC Field Trip to Bayou Bend*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Advisories: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *WEB Leadership Training (Grade 8 WEB Leaders): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in Mr. Duran's classroom*
-

Wednesday, April 3

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*

- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *New Student Enrollment Contracts Due*
 - *HAIS Common Reply Deadline*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Parents Association Spring Luncheon: Houston Country Club*
-

Thursday, April 4

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15-7:45 a.m.* in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
 - *Class Meeting: 9:15-10:00 a.m.* in the FAC; Student Council elections info goes out
-

Friday, April 5

- *SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Grade 5, 7, and 8: Friday Schedule*
 - *Grade 6: Special Schedule*
 - *MS Athletics/MSPE Registrations Due for 2019-20 (Online)*
 - *MS Honors Intent Letters Due to English and Math Teachers*
 - *NJHS Meeting (Grade 7 and Officers Only): 7:15-7:50 a.m.* in Dr. Bedard's classroom
 - *Wolf Wear Sale: 7:45-8:45 a.m.* in the concessions area near the gym
 - *Grade 6 Greek Festival: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.*
 - *NJHS Cultural Experience to the Downtown Aquarium (NHS Members Only): 6:00-9:30 p.m.;* cost for sack lunch, admission, and rides is \$15
-

Sunday, April 7

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

Monday, April 8

- *Monday Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Joyful Sounds and MS/US Choir Concert Rehearsal: 7:00-10:00 a.m.*
 - *MS Honors Testing—Math, Part 1: During math class*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Joyful Sounds and MS/US Choir Spring Concert Rehearsal: 1:00-3:00 p.m.*
 - *Joyful Sounds and MS/US Choir Spring Concert: 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Tuesday, April 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*
 - *WEB Activity (Grade 5): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in classrooms*
 - *MS Student Council Officer Registration: During lunch in the Dining Hall*
-

Wednesday, April 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*
 - *Chapel (Holy Week Reflection): 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *Pathways Assembly for Parents: 1:30 p.m. in the HBR*
 - *Spring Training for Grade 7 WEB Leaders: 12:00-2:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
-

Thursday, April 11

- *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*

- *Pathways Assembly for Grades 5 and 6: 8:15-9:15 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *Pathways Assembly for Grades 7 and 8: 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the FAC*
 - *MS Student Council Officer Registration Deadline*
-

Friday, April 12

- *SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Grades 5 and 6: Special Schedule*
 - *Grades 7 and 8: Friday Schedule*
 - *NJHS Meeting (Officer Elections): 7:15-7:50 a.m. in Dr. Bedard's classroom*
 - *Grade 6 AALC Field Trip to Houston Museum of Natural Science: 7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, April 15

- *Monday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:45-11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Tuesday, April 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*
 - *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
 - *Progress Reports Online at Noon*
 - *MS Honors Testing: English Writing Sample in English Classes*
 - *MS Student Officers' Pledge and Speech Due to Ms. Crummel*
-

Wednesday, April 17

- *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
 - *MS Councils (No Chapel): 10:45-11:15 a.m.* in classrooms
-

Thursday, April 18

- *Eucharist Schedule (Maundy Thursday)*
 - *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
 - *Maundy Thursday Eucharist: 11:05-11:55 a.m.* in the Chapel
 - *Main Campus Rally Meeting: 3:30-4:30 p.m.* in the HBR
-

Friday, April 19

- *Good Friday Holiday: No school*
 - *Passover: April 19-27*
-

Monday, April 22

- *Easter Monday Holiday: No school*
-

Tuesday, April 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
- *Honors English Literature Test: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.,* during English classes
- *Festival T-shirt Surplus Sale: 8:30-9:00 a.m.* in the People Place
- *Advisory: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*
- *Grade 8 Howlers Practice: 10:45-11:15 a.m.*

Upper School

From the Mathematics Chair

When we said that our founding freshmen would be creating the culture and some of the programs that make up the life of the school, we meant it. The Upper School faculty actively look for ways to give students choice and voice, and one such opportunity presented itself in the form of our assembly times, when the whole division comes together for half an hour. Assemblies earlier in the year were often spent establishing clubs (developed, organized, and led by students), hearing from interesting outside speakers, or learning about summer travel possibilities. Some of the more recent assemblies, however, have been taken on by advisory groups, which has put student voices front and center.

Just prior to spring break, Coach McMillian's advisory group planned an assembly in which several students shared their individual stories and personal journeys, modeling how to lead an assembly in that format. One student told us about growing up with her personal hero, while another shared his experiences living in various countries around the world. We were also entertained by a student who turned a writing assignment into stand-up comedy, regaling us all with humorous observations. A couple of students had prepared games for the whole class. By turns personally touching and hysterically funny, we all got to know different aspects of these students in our Upper School family.

This past Monday, the Upper School assembly was organized by my advisory group. Because this group of students had previously brought up their concerns about the amount of waste we produce on South Campus and the lack of a recycling program, they decided on the topic of sustainability for this assembly. My advisees came up with discussion questions and topics, and they invited Curt Wissmiller, St. Francis's director of facilities, to join us. He launched the informative and productive discussion by sharing his background in sustainability and his work so far on both campuses in the year he has been here. Students and faculty jumped in with questions and ideas about how to work together to build a recycling program, with the potential for a composting program as well. Since sustainable programs could be incorporated into the building plan for South Campus, this was a timely discussion.

In the next couple of weeks, Mr. Zacaraev's advisory group will be planning something special, and we can't wait to see what they come up with. When we create opportunities to hear from our students and to support them in bringing their ideas to fruition, our school life becomes richer. Since advisory provides a great venue for listening to students, we advisors will be asking our groups about their visions for how they want to wrap up the end of their freshman year—this division's inaugural year. Students are what make a school: their stories, their ideas, their convictions, their work, and their creations. It's our job and our honor as faculty to support them in all of those as we build this Upper School together.

Sincerely,

Cara Matzen
Mathematics Chair

Pathways Assembly for Parents: Technology Boundaries

Join us to learn how parents can set healthy technology boundaries for their children (and themselves!) on **Wednesday, April 10, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. Led by Dr. Crystal Collier of Pathways, this is the fourth in a series of 2018-19 parent workshops focused on social and emotional health.

On Thursday, April 11, Dr. Collier will present to our Middle and Upper School students on the same topic in grade-level assemblies, which should provide the basis for some meaningful conversations at home.

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, April 1

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal: 3:30-6:00 p.m.*

Tuesday, April 2

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal: 3:30-5:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, April 3

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Track and Field Practice: 6:45-8:00 a.m. on the Kinkaid track*
 - *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal: 3:30-6:00 p.m.*
-

Thursday, April 4

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Track Meet: 4:00 p.m. at St. John's School*
 - *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal: 3:30-6:00 p.m.*
-

Friday, April 5

- *Day 3 Schedule/SFES Spirit Dress*
 - *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal/Dinner: Tentative*
-

Sunday, April 7

- *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal: 1:00-5:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, April 8

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal: 3:30-6:00 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, April 9

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal: 3:30-5:00 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, April 10

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Track and Field Practice: 6:45-8:00 a.m. at the Kinkaid track*
 - *Fine Arts Play Rehearsal: 3:30-7:00 p.m.; dinner provided*
-

Thursday, April 11

- *Students Attend ISAS Arts Festival in Austin*
-

Friday, April 12

- *Students Attend ISAS Arts Festival in Austin*
-

Saturday, April 13

- *Houston Art Car Parade: 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.*

Church

Join Us for the *St. Matthew Passion* on April 10

Join us on Wednesday, April 10, for a moving performance of the *St. Matthew Passion* by J.S. Bach. The 7:00 p.m. concert will be held in St. Francis Episcopal Church, and will be preceded by dinner at 6:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. (If you are planning to attend the dinner, please RSVP to Lynn Lloyd via [e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2987.)

St. Matthew Passion is one of the most beautiful works depicting the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The Assisi Choir, joined by a chamber orchestra, will present the “Crucifixion and Burial” portion of the Passion story. Dr. Jason Oby will sing the part of the evangelist; Leon Turner will sing the part of Jesus; Ben Hall, Jawan Jenkins, and Imani James will sing the parts of commentary set to Arias; and John Werner will sing additional musical portions.

Calling Young Dancers for the Resurrection Dance

Calling all dancers! Children in pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade are invited to participate in the first annual Resurrection Dance on **Sunday, April 28**, during the **9:00 a.m. family worship service**.

- Dancers will perform a praise dance choreographed by Miranda Tadlock to the music of *Remember* by Lauren Daigle.
- Rehearsals are **Saturday, April 13**, AND **Saturday, April 27**, from **11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**
- Dancers will wear a leotard and tights with a tutu of their choosing.
- To participate, please [e-mail Allison Devlin](#).

Week of Wonder VBS Is July 29-August 2

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

Date: July 29-August 2

Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Theme: Salt Water Gospel

Ages: Children from 4 years old to those entering fourth grade (must turn 4

by July 29, 2019)

Registration Fee: \$50 per child

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

Forgiveness Workshop Scheduled for April 13

Father Bates will lead a forgiveness workshop on **Saturday, April 13, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.** This will be a time during Lent to consider whom you need to forgive, and to work through a process of learning to release others and yourself.

“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.” –C.S. Lewis

Please RSVP to Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2983 if you plan to attend.

Join Us for New Member Orientation on May 5

If you started attending St. Francis Episcopal Church within the last two years and have not made your membership official yet, we invite you to become a member of our family by attending our New Member Orientation class on **Sunday, May 5, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Guild Room of the Wheatcroft Parish Hall.** (Lunch will be served.) Join Father Bates to learn about our church, our mission, and how membership in Christ's Body at St. Francis can help you deepen your relationship with God.

Please RSVP to Amy Homer [via e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2983.

Sunday Programs at St. Francis Episcopal Church

- **Breakfast Bites and Fellowship:** Meet in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and light bites after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.
- **Lighthouse Expressions in Art:** Children in pre-K through middle school meet in the Guild Room to create an art project reinforcing the Bible lesson and key verse discussed during Let it Shine!
- **Adult Bible Study:** Meet in the People Place to develop a closer relationship with God through reading and reflecting on Scripture.
- **Adult Series:** Father Bates is leading the series *24 Hours That Changed the World*. Meet in the Hogan Board Room.
- **God Lights Our Way (GLOW):** Middle and high school students meet upstairs in CE 212 for lessons and activities.

Sunday Worship Services

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

8:00 A.M.—HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

This is a contemplative service that includes a traditional sermon, communion, and time for prayer and reflection. Held in the St. Clare Chapel (accessed through the main church entrance), this service is ideal for those who like to get an early start to their Sunday.

9:00 A.M.—FAMILY WORSHIP WITH HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

This is a family-friendly service with a blend of updated music, a children's message, Rite II liturgy, and full communion.

- Held in the sanctuary, you'll see youth ages 3 and older participating in parts of the service. Everyone is welcome, from newborns to centenarians. You don't need to have children to enjoy this service!
- After the children's message, students in pre-K through middle school are invited to Let It Shine! with Allison Devlin in the Robert Gay Foyer for a group lesson and project. High school youth are invited to join and help the younger students during this time. All children will return to the service during the announcements.
- After the service, please join us for breakfast bites and fellowship in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall, followed by [Sunday School](#) activities for all ages.

11:00 A.M.—HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II, WITH ORGAN AND CHOIR

Appropriate for adults and families, this is a beautiful service with traditional liturgy and hymns, communion, sermon, full choir, and professional musical accompaniment. After the service, please join us for breakfast bites and fellowship in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall.

5:00 P.M.—HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

This reflective service in the St. Clare Chapel includes an adult message and communion and is appropriate for adults and teenage children. Casual dress is welcome.

CHILDCARE

Please note that childcare and playtime in the church nursery are available on Sundays from 8:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. to allow parents time for church and adult Sunday School.