

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of November 10

All School

New to the St. Francis Fund: Leadership Donor Reception

Amy and Rob Pierce, St. Francis Fund chairs, will host a reception on **Tuesday, December 3**, to honor and thank our most generous St. Francis Fund supporters. All donors who give or pledge at or above \$1,952 will receive an invitation. We look forward to celebrating our leadership donors!

If you haven't made your gift, there is still time. [Make a gift today!](#)

We Need Your Used Items!

The Lower School and Middle School art teachers are looking for some items that just might be collecting dust at your home. [Click here to see the list.](#) These items are not meant to be purchased! If you have any of the listed items, please drop them off at the Middle School Art Room on the Main Campus. With any questions, please [e-mail Amy Chandler](#), Middle School art teacher.

Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens December 2

Registration for spring Explore and Extend classes will open on **Monday, December 2, at 10:00 a.m.** Popular favorites will return for the spring semester, with some added STEAM and technology options.

Parents' Night Out Is December 6

Save the date! Our second Parents' Night Out for students in Primary II through Grade

5 will take place on **Friday, December 6, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on the Main Campus.**

- Students will participate in sports activities, a fun Star Wars–themed set of games and crafts, Christmas ornament making, cookie decorating, an age-appropriate spa and salon, dodgeball, a pizza dinner, and a movie.
- To register, [e-mail Pantea Sarvi](#), Explore and Extend coordinator, or go to Program Registration in My BackPack and select the appropriate date.

Summer on the Point Registration Opens February 18

Registration for Summer on the Point 2020 will open on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. Summer on the Point is open to new and returning students who will be entering Primary I through grade 11 in fall 2020. Keep reading *Wolf Watch* for updates on new course options!

Holiday Reminder From the PA: Teacher Gifts Policy

As the holidays approach, please take note of the “Teacher Gifts and Celebrations” section of the *School Handbook*:

Twice a year, at Christmas and at the end of the year, the Parents Association sends out a letter to all school families soliciting funds for employee gifts. The money collected is divided equitably among everyone—faculty, staff, coaches, after-school care staff, and part-time coaches—with adjustments for part-time employees. All gifts remain anonymous. ***We ask that school families support this effort and refrain from other types of gift giving, including soliciting money for teacher gifts or birthdays.***

Be on the lookout for the Parents Association letter regarding the Christmas collection, which will be sent out later this month.

Register Today for SFSA Basketball

You do not want to miss out on another great season of St. Francis Sports Association basketball! This year, we will kick off our first season of Primary II basketball. We will also be offering our SFSA basketball families some amazing opportunities to join our clinics. These will be hosted by SFE coaches, and the cost is covered by the registration fee.

- **Registration closes Monday, December 2.** To register, please [click here](#).
- If you have questions or need assistance, please [e-mail Ragan Cain](#).

Volunteer for Grandparents/Grandfriends Days

On Thursday, November 21, and Friday, November 22, we will welcome our Lower, Middle, and Upper School grandparents and grandfriends to both campuses to enjoy Chapel, classroom visits, and a visit to the Fall Book Fair!

- We have several **volunteer opportunities available on both campuses** and would love to have you join us on this special day. Please click [here](#) for more information and to sign up for a shift.
- View [the invitation](#) for scheduling information.

Buy Tickets to *The Snow White Variety Show*



- **Tickets are now on sale**—[buy them online here](#) before they sell out!
- All the fun of just about every TV-show genre you can imagine is jam-packed into our Middle School fall production, *The Snow White Variety Show*—a wild and fast-paced comedy!
- Lower School students must be accompanied by an adult supervisor.

Athletics Booster Club: The Wolf Is Back

St. Francis yard signs are now in stock. [Buy yours today](#), and support your St. Francis Wolves!

November Virtue of the Month: Courage

During the month of November, the St. Francis community is focusing on the virtue of courage. This week, play the alphabet game together as a family. For each letter, name something that might require courage for you to try. Remember, courage is the ability to do something even when you are afraid or the strength to face your fears. (For example, A is for Archery; B is for Back dive; C is for Cooking a new recipe; etc.)

Primary School

From the Assistant Director of Library Services

Have you ever heard talk about “makerspaces” and “tinkering” from your children and wondered what they were talking about? This year, we’ve added tinkering to our studio spaces as a way to expand our students’ thinking. In addition to my role as a librarian, I am working with groups of students to explore, discover, test ideas, and invent through engineering.

A makerspace is a designated area within a school, office, library, or home that allows participants to experiment, create, and design new things. These areas can include high-tech gadgets or even household items such as toilet paper rolls, shoeboxes, and old flashlights. In our Primary School, we are working to create designated areas for “making.” There is no one way to create a makerspace, and no two makerspaces are the same. The purpose of these spaces is to encourage creativity and give our students opportunities for problem-solving.

Tinkering happens in our makerspaces. Students explore materials available to them and have the opportunity to take apart everyday gadgets using real tools. This meaningful process helps to satisfy children’s curiosity about how things work. Primary School students have tinkered with flashlights, calculators, and scanners as a beginning to their explorations in our makerspaces.

I look forward to working with our students this year as they discover the endless possibilities inherent in tinkering. If you would like to know more about the makerspace movement, you may enjoy further reading on this topic [here](#) and [here](#).

Sincerely,

Desiree McConnell
Assistant Director of Library Services

Step-up to Lower School Is Tuesday

Before you know it, you will be moving up to Lower School. And now is a great time to learn about your next step.

Our Step-up to Lower School program will introduce current Primary School parents to all of the innovative teaching methods used in Lower School. You will also hear from Head of Lower School Carol Christ and her team about the joyful daily life of a Lower School student and all of the ways St. Francis helps them grow into confident young leaders.

Join us this Tuesday, November 12, at 11:30 a.m. on the Main Campus to see classes in action and to learn about our educational philosophy, Episcopal identity, curriculum, athletics program, arts, and much more!

Please help us plan by letting us know you are coming. RSVP [here](#).

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, November 12

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Primary School Step-up to Lower School*: 11:30 a.m.
 - *Open Library*: 2:45–3:45 p.m.
-

Wednesday, November 13

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Chapel Dramatization (Wiener)*
-

Friday, November 15

- *Middle School Production of The Snow White Variety Show*: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus
-

Saturday, November 16

- *Middle School Production of The Snow White Variety Show: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus*
-

Tuesday, November 19

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Open Library: 2:45–3:45 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, November 20

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus*
-

Thursday, November 21

- *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus*
-

Friday, November 22

- *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus*
-

Monday, November 25–Friday, November 29

- *Thanksgiving Holiday: No School*
-

Monday, December 2

- *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens: 10:00 a.m.*
 - *SFSA Basketball Registration Closes Today*
-

Tuesday, December 3

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Open Library*: 2:45–3:45 p.m.
-

Wednesday, December 4

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

Friday, December 6

- *Explore and Extend Parents' Night Out*: For students in Primary II through grade 5
-

Tuesday, December 10

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

Wednesday, December 11

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

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope you have had a lovely weekend enjoying the cooler weather!

Part of our ongoing communication process with you is providing you with your child's **trimester report card**. It will be in My BackPack on **Monday, November 11**.

With this in mind, I thought now would be a great time to explain a bit about our assessment instrument and the standards by which your child is assessed. First, let me define a few "education" terms for you:

- **Assessment Instrument:** Any document used to provide feedback to students and/or parents
- **National Grade-Level Standards:** Standards that define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K–12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs
- **St. Francis Standards:** Based on national standards
- **Objectives:** Specific learning goals correlated to larger standards
- **Benchmarks:** The expectation at a given time in a specific area of academic development
- **Indicators:** The descriptors that indicate where a child is performing in a specific object at a specific time
- **Norms:** A norm group is a nationally representative sample of several thousand students in the same grade at the same point in the school year.

We use a **standards-based assessment instrument with indicators given for each standard and objective**. This is common practice in most independent lower schools, as this provides a comprehensive picture of your child’s development in every facet of his or her educational development. The indicators on which your child is assessed on the standards are as follows: AS for Area of Strength, MS for Meeting Standards, PS for Progressing With Support (toward grade-level standards), and NS for Not Meeting Standards at this time.

You might be thinking, “Where do they get the grade-level standards?” Schools base their standards or grade-level benchmarks on a variety of standards and objectives. **We choose to use nationally based standards**—except with social studies, because there are no national social-study standards appropriate for lower school students. Therefore, we use the Texas state standards in this area. We also use norms from our standardized assessment, the CTP by ERB. This assessment is given in third and fourth grades, and we use this normed data to compare our students’ progress in our program with the progress of students in other independent schools across the world.

Additionally, part of our **re-accreditation process with Independent Schools of the Southwest (ISAS) and the Southwest Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES)** is to provide evidence that our programming is, indeed, standards based. We are actually going through the re-accreditation process this school year. It is quite rigorous and detail oriented, but it is a process that demands that we continually examine and update our practices and standards. All independent schools that are members of these accrediting agencies must adhere to these strict requirements, as well. If you are interested in reading our standards by subject, grade level, and correlation to our curriculum, please reach out to me. I am happy to share those documents with you.

Our reading and writing standards, or benchmarks, are **correlated to the national Common Core standards**. These standards guide our instruction and assessments, which are delivered via the Units of Study for Reading and Writing from Teachers College, Columbia University. Every grade level has a band of reading and writing

levels (based on national norms) that we use as our school benchmarks. Children who are reading on those levels and utilizing appropriate comprehension, fluency, and rate are “Meeting Standards” for “comprehends texts at grade level.” If they are slightly below that benchmark, they are “Progressing With Support.” If your child is reading fluently, at an appropriate rate, and comprehending above the grade level benchmarks, that would be considered an “Area of Strength.”

We know that all children develop at a variety of rates and may even have a tremendous rate of progress and then stall out for a bit. This is completely normal; we must look at each child’s growth as individuals while maintaining grade-level benchmarks as goals. By providing the content objectives under each subject standard, you can get a comprehensive picture of how your child is progressing in each content area. A grade-based system would give a grade of 88 in reading, for example, but it doesn’t give any indication of how your child is developing in the many facets (objectives) of reading development.

Our **Bridges in Mathematics** learning objectives are also based on the national Common Core standards. If children are understanding and demonstrating knowledge of the mathematical concepts of a particular grade level, they are, indeed, “Meeting Standards.” If they are working in a more advanced group, that is an “Area of Strength.” If a child needs extra support to master grade-level material, he or she may receive a “Progressing With Support” for math concepts.

Our STEAM, music, art, and Spanish curriculum standards are based off of national standards, as well.

As far as **Approaches to Learning** and **Social-Emotional Learning**, your child’s content teachers confer and agree upon indicators for every child. These are the standards the enrichment team uses to evaluate your child in his or her class. A great deal of effort is made to ensure you receive a comprehensive snapshot of your child’s progress in all areas of school life.

Your child’s narratives, written by his or her teachers, should provide an explanation of the standards, objectives, and indicators on the report cards. If you have questions about where your child is performing in an area, do not hesitate to reach out to his or her teachers. They are always happy to discuss your child with you!

If you'd like to review detailed explanations of report card standards and objectives, please [click here for grades K, 1, and 2](#), and [click here for grades 3 and 4](#). The faculty wrote these as a way to ensure consistency in evaluating between teachers and grade levels.

I hope this helps you understand our standards-based assessment and evaluation process.

Have a wonderful week!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Fall Book Fair: Arctic Book Blast

Come warm up with a good book! On the Main Campus only, we'll open our doors to the Fall Book Fair on **Wednesday–Friday, November 20–22**, when our grandparents and grandfriends visit St. Francis.

Be sure to stop by on Thursday, November 21, when **Terri Havens**, owner of the Cal-a-Vie Health Spa near San Diego will be signing Cal-a-Vie's newest cookbook from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. This makes a great gift for the holidays!

Fall Book Fair hours are as follows:

- Wednesday and Thursday: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Friday: 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Step-up to Middle School Is Friday

Before you know it, you will be movin' on up to Middle School—check out the next step and see what it's all about.

Our *Step-up to Middle School* program will introduce current **third- and fourth-grade parents** to all of the innovative teaching methods used in Middle School. Join us this **Friday, November 15, from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room** to see Middle School classes in action; hear from our faculty; and learn about our educational philosophy, Episcopal identity, curriculum, athletics program, arts, and much more!

Please help us plan by letting us know you are coming. RSVP [here](#).

Second-Grade Share the Music Days Are This Week

Parents and friends of second graders, join us this week for Share the Music Days, where you'll attend music class with your child's homeroom to sing, dance, and play. **(Due to the nature of the activities and classroom space, we ask that only invited adult guest(s) accompany the student. Thank you!)**

Each class's event will take place from 2:00 to 2:40 p.m. in the Music Room, according to the following schedule:

- Monday, November 11—McCormick
- Tuesday, November 12—Quine
- Wednesday, November 13—Pena
- Friday, November 15—Wagner

Come experience the process of developing musicianship skills through interactive, collaborative, highly kinesthetic fun! Hope to see you there!

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 11–Thursday, November 14

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

Monday, November 11

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between November 10–16 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*
 - *Second-Grade Share the Music Days (McCormick): 2:00–2:40 p.m. in the Music Room*
 - *LS Trimester 1 Report Cards Posted to My BackPack*
-

Tuesday, November 12

- *Second-Grade Share the Music Days (Quine): 2:00–2:40 p.m. in the Music Room*
-

Wednesday, November 13

- *FAC Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*
 - *Second-Grade Share the Music Days (Pena): 2:00–2:40 p.m. in the Music Room*
-

Friday, November 15

- *Step-up to Middle School (Current Third- and Fourth-Grade Parents): 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. in the HBR*
 - *Second-Grade Share the Music Days (Wagner): 2:00–2:40 p.m. in the Music Room*
 - *Middle School Production of The Snow White Variety Show: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Saturday, November 16

- *Middle School Production of The Snow White Variety Show: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, November 18

- *Birthday Chapel: Students with a birthday between November 17–30 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today*
-

Wednesday, November 20

- *No Chapel*
 - *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Thursday, November 21

- *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Friday, November 22

- *Grandparents/Grandfriends Day and Book Fair*
 - Kindergarten: 8:00–10:30 a.m.
 - First and Third: 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
 - Second and Fourth: 12:00–2:30 p.m.
 - *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, November 25–Friday, November 29

- *Thanksgiving Holiday: No school*
-

Monday, December 2

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between December 1–7 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Registration for Spring Explore and Extend Classes Opens:* 10:00 a.m.
 - *SFSA Basketball Registration Closes Today*
-

Wednesday, December 4

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

Middle School

From the Division Head

The close of the first trimester offers us a time to reflect on the opening months of the year and chart a path forward with confidence gained through experience. In schools, this is true for students as well as for our faculty and staff.

This week in advisory, your children will be reviewing the goals they set at the start of the year and reflecting on their progress. They will also have the opportunity to revise their personal goals or create new ones based on their experiences thus far.

For the Middle School Office, the close of the first trimester offers an opportunity to make shifts in operations and practices that will enable us to better serve you and your children. As one example, our fifth graders will begin trimester 2 with a schedule more closely aligned to their colleagues in grades 6–8. This adjustment will slow down the pace of their week, offer more time during the day to interface with teachers, and increase the time they spend in elective courses.

As you reflect on the opening months of the year, please feel free to reach out to me with constructive and positive feedback you would like to share. I am also working on securing a date and time for a chance to meet with Middle School parents, where we will be able to engage in open dialogue about your St. Francis experience so far in 2019–20. Be sure to check *Wolf Watch* for the date, time, and location. I look forward to hearing from you!

Best regards,

Chris Bertha, MEd
Head of Middle School

Baseball Workshop for Grades 6–8 Is December 14

Students in grades 6–8 are invited to join us **Saturday, December 14**, for a Baseball Showcase Workshop with Coaches Mike August and Koby Clemens. The workshop will take place from **9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** and costs \$60.

- Players will participate in a pro-style workout and will receive guided instruction in hitting, position play, pitching, catching, and baserunning. The workshop will wrap up with a controlled scrimmage and a review of program philosophies.
- Coach August is our new head baseball coach at St. Francis. He comes to us both having played Division I college baseball and having coached it for 8 years. He has 17 years of coaching experience in all and has had 10 players drafted into Major League Baseball (MLB).
- Coach Clemens is our new associate head baseball coach. He was drafted by the Astros; played 10 seasons of MLB with Houston and Toronto; and is a four-time All-Star, high school All-American, and Houston-area high school MVP.
- To register, [e-mail Margaret Newsom](#) or go to Program Registration in My Backpack and sign in to select Baseball Showcase.

Buy Tickets to *The Snow White Variety Show*



- **Tickets are now on sale**—[buy them online here](#) before they sell out!
- All the fun of just about every TV-show genre you can imagine is jam-packed into our Middle School fall production, *The Snow White Variety Show*—a wild and fast-paced comedy!

- Lower School students must be accompanied by an adult supervisor.

Fall Book Fair: Arctic Book Blast

Come warm up with a good book! On the Main Campus only, we'll open our doors to the Fall Book Fair on **Wednesday–Friday, November 20–22**, when our grandparents and grandfriends visit St. Francis.

Be sure to stop by on Thursday, November 21, when **Terri Havens**, owner of the Cal-a-Vie Health Spa near San Diego will be signing Cal-a-Vie's newest cookbook from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. This makes a great gift for the holidays!

Fall Book Fair hours are as follows:

- Wednesday and Thursday: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- Friday: 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Register Now for SFES's Greece and Italy Summer Travel

Register by **Sunday, December 1**, for our summer trip to Greece and Italy. The trip is scheduled for June 9–17, 2020, and students in grades 6 through 10 are eligible to attend. Click [here](#) for more information. [Financial aid](#) may be available to assist families in need.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 11

- *Grades 5, 7, and 8*: Monday Schedule/Regular Uniform
- *Grade 6*: ERB Special Schedule/**Regular Uniform**
- *Chapel*: 10:45–11:15 a.m.
- *MS Fall Play After-School Rehearsal (Tech Run-through)*: 2:30–6:00 p.m. in the FAC

Tuesday, November 12

- *Grades 5, 7, and 8*: Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform
- *Grade 6*: 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
- *MS Fall Play Dress Rehearsal*: 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. in the FAC

Wednesday, November 13

- *Grade 5: Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Grade 6: ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Grades 7 and 8: Wednesday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the FAC*
- *MS Fall Play Dress Rehearsal and Photo Call: 2:30–6:30 p.m. in the FAC*

Thursday, November 14

- *Grade 5: Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Grades 6, 7, and 8: Thursday Block 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*
- *Grade 6: ERB Makeup Testing*
- *MS Fall Play After-School Rehearsal: 2:30–6:30 p.m. in the FAC*

Friday, November 15

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire: Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms*
- *Step-up to Middle School (Current Third- and Fourth-Grade Parents): 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
- *Eighth-Grade Fall Play Performance: 7:00–9:30 p.m. in the FAC*

Saturday, November 16

- *Eighth-Grade Fall Play Performance: 7:00–9:30 p.m. in the FAC*

Monday, November 18

- *Monday Schedule/Full Dress Uniform*
- ***MS Group Photos: Rescheduled during electives***

- *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, November 19

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Glaze Christmas Ornaments in Advisory: 10:45–11:15 a.m.*
 - *Brown Bag Dance Series: 1:30–2:00 p.m. in the People Place*
-

Wednesday, November 20

- *Grade 5: Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Grades 6, 7, and 8: Wednesday Block 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*
 - *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Advisory: 10:45–11:15 a.m.*
 - *Glaze Christmas Ornaments (SIR/Grade 8): 11:20–11:55 a.m.*
-

Thursday, November 21

- *Special Schedule/Dress 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*
 - *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days for Grades 5 and 6: 8:00–10:30 a.m.*
 - *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days for Grades 7 and 8: 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
-

Friday, November 22

- *Special Schedule/Friday Attire: Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Deadline for Spring 2020 PE/Athletics Registration (Online)*
 - *Fall Book Fair: 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Monday, November 25–Friday, November 29

- *Thanksgiving Holiday:* No school

Upper School

From the Division Head

During the first trimester, two St. Francis Technology Department members—Steve Eisenberg and Floyd Brown—volunteered to teach Computer Science I and II classes in the Upper School. We are so grateful for their time and expertise! Below, please find their reflections on the experience.

Appreciatively,

Cara Henderson, EdD
Head of Upper School

From the Technology Department

Teaching St. Francis ninth and tenth graders has been an interesting and exciting experience, to say the least. We had the opportunity to develop classes in which students learned programming concepts, JavaScript, and the language of the web (in ninth grade) as well as Python, a versatile programming language (in tenth grade).

Our ninth graders learned how to create calculators and web pages. Last week, each student presented his or her final project—an “About Me” web page. The class was thoroughly entertained during the project presentations, as evidenced by the joyous cheers and raucous applause!

Our tenth graders’ final project was to create an application in Python. It was amazing to see the range of ideas and skills the class acquired over the course of the trimester.

Having fundamental programming techniques under their belts, our students have the tools to learn any other programming language in the future. We also wanted our students to have real-world problems to solve and relevant projects to create. In both classes, the students were encouraged to find solutions to problems they encountered on their own prior to coming to us for answers, practicing persistence and perseverance through obstacles—an important skill in any class.

We look forward to future opportunities to engage with these talented students, collaborating on exciting projects and solving intriguing problems.

Sincerely,

Steve Eisenberg, Head of Technology
Floyd Brown, Technology Specialist

Register Now for SFES's Greece and Italy Summer Travel

Register by Sunday, December 1, for our summer trip to Greece and Italy. The trip is scheduled for June 9–17, 2020, and students in grades 6 through 10 are eligible to attend. Click [here](#) for more information. [Financial aid](#) may be available to assist families in need.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 11

- *Immersions and Explorations*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice*: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
-

Tuesday, November 12

- *Immersions and Explorations*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Swim Practice*: 6:45–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club
 - *Boys' Basketball vs. Awty*: 5:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
-

Wednesday, November 13

- *Immersions and Exploration*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Swim Practice*: 7:00–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice*: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
-

Thursday, November 14

- *Immersions and Explorations*

- *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
 - *Swim Meet*: 4:30 p.m. at The British School
 - *Boys' Basketball vs. St. Constantine*: 5:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym
-

Friday, November 15

- *Immersions and Explorations*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice*: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym
 - *Middle School Fall Play Performance*: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus
-

Saturday, November 16

- *Middle School Fall Play Performance*: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus
-

Monday, November 18

- *Immersions and Explorations*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice*: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
-

Tuesday, November 19

- *Immersions and Explorations*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Swim Practice*: 6:45–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club
 - *Boys' Basketball vs. St. Thomas*: 5:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
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Wednesday, November 20

- *Immersions and Explorations*
- *SFES Spirit Wear*

- *Swim Practice*: 7:00–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club
 - *Fall Book Fair*: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus
 - *Boys' Basketball vs. Houston Christian*: 5:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
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Thursday, November 21

- *Immersions and Explorations*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Swim Practice*: 6:45–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club
 - *Fall Book Fair*: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice*: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
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Friday, November 22

- *Immersions and Explorations*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Fall Book Fair*: 7:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus
 - *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days Celebration*: 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in the Andrews House
 - **Early Release**: 2:30 p.m.
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Monday, November 25–Friday, November 29

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*: School closed

Church

Register Today for SFSA Basketball

You don't want to miss out on another great season of St. Francis Sports Association basketball!

- This year, we will kick off our first season of Primary II basketball.
- We will also be offering our SFSA basketball families some amazing opportunities to join us for clinics. These will be hosted by SFE coaches, and the cost is covered by the registration fee.
- **Registration closes Monday, December 2.**

- To register, please [click here](#).
- If you have questions or need assistance, please [e-mail Ragan Cain](#).

Forgiveness Seminar Starts Saturday

Father Bates will lead a forgiveness workshop this **Saturday, November 16, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Hogan Board Room**. This is a time to consider whom you need to forgive and work through a process of learning to release others and yourself.

Please RSVP to Sally Jo Crowson via [e-mail](#) or at 713.782.1270 if you plan to attend.

Habits of a Healthy Marriage Continues This Morning

In the four-lesson seminar Habits of a Healthy Marriage, pastor, counselor, and best-selling author Dr. Paul David Tripp shows you how to improve your marriage by implementing healthy habits and eliminating toxic habits.

You'll learn how to:

1. Develop good habits;
2. Pull weeds and plant seeds;
3. Deal with your differences; and
4. Protect your marriage with prayer.

The second session in the series will be held this morning at 10:00 a.m., and the final two sessions are at 10:00 a.m. on November 17 and 24. All sessions take place in the Hogan Board Room.

With questions, contact Allison Devlin via [e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2988.

Bible Study for Moms on Wednesdays

Moms, give yourself the gift of studying God's Word with other St. Francis moms! Seeking God first puts everything in perspective. **Join us Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m. in the Andrews House on the South Campus**. Come whenever you can—in workout or work wear! We are studying the book of **Ephesians**.

Please contact Allison Devlin via [e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2988 with any questions.

Sundays at St. Francis Episcopal Church

- **Service Times:**
 - **8:00 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist, Rite I (casual and contemplative service)

- **9:00 a.m.:** Family worship with Holy Eucharist (kid-friendly; updated music; all ages welcome)
- **11:00 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist with organ and choir (traditional worship with beautiful music)
- **5:00 p.m.:** Holy Eucharist, Rite I (casual and reflective service)
- **Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout:** After the children's message during the 9:00 a.m. service, all children in pre-K through middle school are invited to follow the cross to participate in the Let it Shine! Children's Bible Breakout. Children will learn lessons from the Bible, act out Bible stories, memorize key verses from Scripture, and pray together. They will return to the service during the announcements.
- **LightHouse Expressions in Art:** During the 10 o'clock hour, children in pre-K to middle school are invited to meet in the Guild Room to create an art project reinforcing the Bible lesson and key verse discussed during Let it Shine! High school youth are invited to serve as leaders and helpers during this time.
- **God Lights Our Way (GLOW):** Students in grades 5 to 8, join us at 10:00 a.m. in CE 212 for *Moments 'til Midnight* to explore some of the more important ideas and events of Paul's life.
- **Breakfast Bites and Fellowship:** Please join us in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and light bites after the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.