

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of November 3

All School

Join the Head of School This Wednesday

Please join us this Wednesday, November 6, for one of two sessions with Head of School Steve Lovejoy. Steve will share an update on the academic year so far, about the progress that's been made on the school's strategic initiatives, and information on the future of St. Francis.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

- November 6 at 8:15 a.m. in the Primary School Library
- Please help us plan—[click here to RSVP](#).

COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATION WITH THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

- November 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room
- Please help us plan—[click here to RSVP](#).

St. Francis Fund: New Automated, Recurring Giving Option

St. Francis now offers donors the ability to make automated, recurring payments for their St. Francis Fund gift. Check out our new, streamlined [online giving site today!](#)

Buy Tickets to *The Snow White Variety Show*



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!

- Stay after the show for a special meet-and-greet with cast members!
- There will be no intermission, so concession stands will be open before and after the show.
- [Buy your tickets online here](#) before the show sells out!

Grandparents/Grandfriends Days: November 21-22

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 a grade level–specific schedule for our grandparents and grandfriends. For detailed information, please view [the invitation](#) that has been mailed out to all grandparents.
- **Primary School Grandparents/Grandfriends Days will take place on Wednesday, February 12, and Thursday, February 13, 2020.**

- If you have not updated your child's grandparent information or if you have any questions about the event, please contact Anne Chisholm at 713.458.6141 or via [e-mail](#).

Admissions Is on the Hunt for New Wolves

Please spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and coworkers about our upcoming admissions events! All tours take place at 9:00 a.m.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Thursday, November 7
- Friday, December 6

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Friday, November 8
- Tuesday, December 3

UPPER SCHOOL

- Wednesday, November 13
- Wednesday, December 11

Athletics Booster Club: The Wolf Is Back!

St. Francis yard signs are now in stock!



[Buy yours today](#), and support your St. Francis Wolves!

Next Wolf Wear Sale Is Friday

The Athletics Booster Club will host its next Wolf Wear sale this Friday,

November 8, from 7:45 to 9:00 a.m. in the concessions area near the Main Campus gym. All the reorders are in, as well as the new **yard signs!**

November Virtue of the Month: Courage

During the month of November, the St. Francis community is focusing on the virtue of courage. This is also one of the St. Francis Cornerstones. Watch [this short video](#) to learn what courage means and how to sign it in American Sign Language.

Our virtue verse is Joshua 1:9: *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”* Try to memorize it as a family.

Primary School

From the Division Head

Last summer, a team of Primary School teachers and administrators had the amazing opportunity to attend the Summer Symposium at the Opal School in Portland, Oregon. The Opal School is known worldwide for its Reggio-inspired philosophy and project work in the United States. We were inspired by what we experienced at this school, by the speakers at the symposium, and by the discourse with other participants representing schools around the globe.

The conference title, Growing Changemakers, sparked conversation about the definition of this term and what our school environment needs to be in order to nurture a changemaker. We want our students to become successful, confident citizens who are prepared and empowered to create a better and more just world—in other words, to become changemakers.

Over the next few months, we will share highlights from the Opal School Summer Symposium, how our teachers were inspired by this experience, and the ways in which we are using this valuable professional development opportunity to shape our approach to teaching and learning in the Primary School.

In this first edition, we feature the reflections of Leah Burrow from Primary I and Diane Wiener from Primary II on the impact of the school environment.

“As I toured the classrooms, studios, and outdoor spaces of the Opal School, I was awed by the school’s natural beauty, the students’ project work, the immense and varied amount of natural materials and loose parts, the dedicated faculty and staff members, and the documentation that filled the school. While the St. Francis landscape does not mirror that of the Pacific Northwest, our environment is equally unique and offers endless opportunities for outdoor learning and exploration. Our hallways, outdoor learning spaces, classrooms, dedicated and knowledgeable faculty and staff, documented and displayed student work, and focus on the use of natural materials and loose parts very much rivals that of the Opal School. Because of our shared vision and the ability and means to realize it, in many ways I felt at home at the Opal School. The sense of pride I felt when realizing that I was attending a conference at one of the country’s leading Reggio-inspired schools and noticing such strong similarities between our two programs was powerful. It provided me with palpable confirmation that St. Francis is on the forefront of American Reggio-inspired programs. My experience at the Opal School was extensively enriching. The knowledge and exposure I gained there will continue to influence and elevate my approach to teaching. Learning that our program could easily stand up to one of the country’s premier Reggio-inspired schools was truly satisfying and was evidence that we are among the leaders of this educational movement.”

—*Leah Burrow, MEd, Primary I Teacher*

“Providing classroom spaces that honor children’s needs is an important consideration in establishing an effective classroom environment. While most classrooms provide large- and small-group spaces for children, few have options for one or two students to quietly visit a topic of interest. For some students, having quieter ‘nooks’ in the classroom may encourage and allow them to more deeply explore materials or concepts. Similarly, this provides an opportunity for children to reflect on their work with little distraction. We know that children need time and space for reflection, and providing this for them demonstrates that we value that process. Establishing these spaces in the classroom also supports students who do not typically choose to participate in larger group settings due to their preferences for more intimate, quiet spaces and fewer people to collaborate with. As with learning styles and temperament, we must also acknowledge and support our students’ preference for work ‘space’ in a learning environment where they can thrive.”

—*Diane Wiener, BA, Primary II Teacher*

Professional development is a foundational part of our work with young children. The opportunity to learn from other professionals who are passionate about best practice in early childhood education is imperative in our journey as lifelong learners. In December, we will feature reflections from other teachers inspired by the Opal School Summer Symposium.

Sincerely,

Amy Whitley, MA
Head of Primary School

Step-up to Lower School Is November 12

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 on 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 5

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

Wednesday, November 6

- *Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School:* 8:15 a.m. in the Primary School Library
- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.
- *Chapel Dramatization (Dominick)*
- *Primary School Individual Picture Makeup Day*
- *Cocktails and Conversation With the Head of School:* 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room

Thursday, November 7

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

Friday, November 8

- *Wolf Wear Sale:* 7:45–9:00 a.m. in the Concessions Room on the Main Campus

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)*
-

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 on the Main Campus*
-

Thursday, November 21

- *Fall Book Fair on the Main Campus*
-

Friday, November 22

- *Fall Book Fair on the Main Campus*
-

Monday, November 25–Friday, November 29

- *Thanksgiving Holiday: No School*
-

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

Lower School

From the Assistant Division Head

We had such a great time cheering on the Astros last week! Equally exciting were our All Saints' parties. Thank you to all of our parent volunteers for making this such a special day for our students!

On Friday, October 25, the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES) held its biennial conference here in Houston. The keynote speaker was Dr. Tina Payne Bryson, a pediatric and adolescent psychotherapist who specializes in child development, child-rearing, and interpersonal neurobiology. She is also the author of many books for both parents and educators. Her keynote address is worth sharing with all of you.

At the event, Dr. Bryson highlighted a simple concept of green, red, and blue zones as described in her book *The Yes Brain*. This is important information for parents, because learning is affected by your state of mind, which she calls "zones."

- **Green Zone:** People are in their green zone when they feel calm, alert, and in control of their bodies and decisions. They can think logically and access all the parts of their brain so they can listen, process information, access their memories, and learn new things. When in the green zone, people are resilient, stable, flexible, open, and receptive to learning, because the green zone is considered a "window of tolerance." The green zone enables them to consider their options and respond by making reasonable and responsible decisions.
- **Red Zone:** When the nervous system is triggered into high alert by something like anger, anxiety, frustration, or fear, people head out of the "window of tolerance" into the red zone. Those in the red zone feel rage, fear, stress, and high anxiety. Learning is not possible when in the red zone, because one can only access what is necessary for safety and survival: fighting (or becoming defensive), fleeing (or actively avoiding),

or freezing (physically or mentally). The ability to think logically is lost, leaving feelings of being overwhelmed, enraged, rigid, obsessive, or chaotic. This causes them to react, saying or doing things they later wish they hadn't. Often, this can elicit a reactive response from others, creating more stress and making it even more difficult for them to move back into the green zone.

- **Blue Zone:** Those who are in the blue zone are in a state of under-arousal, such as shutting down, becoming apathetic or depressed, disconnecting, or dissociating. They are rigid, tired, numb, and withdrawn. Those around someone in the blue zone will usually react with empathy by jumping in to rescue him or her. This results in more feelings of inadequacy since others are relaying the message that the person in the blue zone is incapable of solving his or her own problems or making the right decisions.

We, as educators, strive for students to “live” in a green zone. If you sense your child moving frequently into the red zone or blue zone at home, please reach out to your teachers so we can work together to move your child into the optimal zone.

Both the red zone and the blue zone are states of dysregulation. When dysregulated, one is not able to listen or learn. People must move back into their green zone first before they can have a conversation or learn anything. Often this requires soothing, sensory supports, or strategies to calm down.

The zone in which someone spends the most time is the zone that becomes their default. Some of us have a wide green zone and handle a great deal of stress, sadness, or frustration without it triggering dysregulation. Some of us have more reactivity. When a person's green zone is smaller, it is easier to head into the red zone or blue zone with only a small amount of emotion or stress. Our green zone can be widened with mindful practice. It expands the more we become aware of it, and more awareness helps us to practice returning to it when we become dysregulated.

As parents, take notice of when you and your child are approaching the limits of your green zone. Notice when you cross that threshold. If you have a reactive child who moves easily into the red zone or blue zone, help them learn about their green zone and develop some visualizing and soothing strategies so they can practice returning to it again and again.

You can learn more from Dr. Bryson's blog [here](#) and from her books: *The Whole-Brain Child*; *The Yes Brain*; *No-Drama Discipline*; and *The Power of Showing Up* (to be released in January 2020).

Have a great week!

Debbie McColloch, MEd
Assistant Head of Lower School—Academics

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.

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.

Congratulations, Pumpkin Contest Winners!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the pumpkin-carving contest! We had so many wonderful and creative pumpkins ([see them all here](#)).

Congratulations to the following winners:

- **Best in Kindergarten:** Puff the Magic Dragon by Beach T.
- **Best in First Grade:** Witchy by Eliza O.
- **Best in Second Grade:** Home Sweet Home by Sofia P.
- **Best in Third Grade:** Eye See You by Elle W.
- **Best in Fourth Grade:** Santa Clause and His Nine Pumpkin Reindeer by Madeline P.
- **Best in Fifth Grade:** Mr. Bones by Mallory M.
- **Best in Sixth Grade:** Altuve's Shoes by Ellison A.
- **Best in Seventh Grade:** The Dark Wolf by Theodore B.
- **Best in Eighth Grade:** Throwback to First by Quinn L.
- **Best in Lower School:** Vampire Couple by Clare W.
- **Best in Middle School:** Tin Man by Betsy M.
- **Best Family Award:** Pennywise by Olive and Charlie P.
- **Best Faculty Award:** Where's the Pumpkin? by Carlo M.
- **Best in Show:** Go Astros by Wyatt A.

- **Best in Show Runner-up:** Hoppy Halloween by Hudson W.
- **Best TV Character:** Harry Potter by Valentina T.
- **Funniest:** Donald Trump by Carter W.
- **Grossest:** Stomach Ache by Luke G.
- **Most Detailed:** Lego Apocalypse by Chase F.
- **Most Adorable:** Deer in the Woods by Frances M.
- **Most Original Design:** Cereal Bowl by Carter M.
- **Most Outrageous:** Swamp Hamtol House Pumpkin by Case J.
- **Most Unique:** Robber by Brooks D.
- **Scariest:** Count Dracula by Christopher B.
- **Silliest:** The Pitch Who Fell in Her Pot by Olivia N.
- **Spirit Award:** The Howler by Ashton L.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Is Tuesday

If you are bringing items for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon this Tuesday, November 5, please deliver them to the warming kitchen next to the Hogan Board Room between 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. that morning. With questions, or if you need to cancel last minute, please contact Audrey Chin at 972.897.6107 or [via e-mail](#). Our teachers really appreciate these events, and we could not do it without the generosity of our parents!

Step-up to Middle School Is November 15

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 on **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](#).

Join Us for Second-Grade Share the Music Days

Parents and friends of second graders, mark your calendars! Join us in November for Share the Music Days, where you'll attend music class with your child's homeroom to sing, dance, and play.

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 4

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between November 3–9 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Tuesday, November 5

- *Individual Picture Makeup Day*
-

Wednesday, November 6

- *Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School:* 8:15 a.m. in the Primary School Library
 - *Cocktails and Conversation With the Head of School:* 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room
-

Thursday, November 7

- *Kindergarten Words Their Way Parent Training:* 8:15 a.m. in the HBR
-

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
-

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 Hogan Board Room
 - *Second-Grade Share the Music Days (Wagner)*: 2:00–2:40 p.m. in the Music Room
 - *Eighth-Grade Production of The Snow White Variety Show*: 7:00 p.m. in the FAC
-

Saturday, November 16

- *Eighth-Grade 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*
-

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.
-

Monday, November 25–Friday, November 29

- *Thanksgiving Holiday: No school*

Middle School

From the Division Head

This week's entry is hard for me to write because my feelings about your childrens' recent slam poetry performances are deep and complex. I literally walked out of performances this week with goosebumps on my skin and tears in my eyes. Your students confidently and passionately shared stories and

feelings with classmates and teachers, and no topic was off limits. With teachers' and coaches' help, students wrote and performed about dyslexia, loss of loved ones, relationships, overcoming challenges, refugees, and so much more.

Throughout the week, I heard a few students bemoaning their impending recitations—but when it was time to perform, they brought their full selves to the effort. Moreover, the respect and appreciation students showed for one another throughout the week was impressive. Your children and their teachers created and cultivated an environment where even the most reluctant participants felt comfortable enough to share pieces of their inner selves.

If you have not had the chance to see your child perform his or her poem, I strongly encourage you to do so! Weeks like these are special, and I am so grateful to be a part of the St. Francis community.

Best regards,

Chris Bertha, MEd
Head of Middle School

Calling All Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Families!

Did you know? You have the opportunity to visit the Upper School to see the transformational experience our ninth- and tenth-grade students are having!

- **Step-up Day for Eighth-Grade Parents:** Tuesday, November 5, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Please RSVP to [Jennifer Glover](#).
- **Taste of Upper School for Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Families:** Thursday, November 7, at 6:00 p.m. in Andrews House on the South Campus. For additional details, please [click here](#) to view the invitation.
- **A Day in the Den Shadow Days for Eighth-Grade Students:** Shadow Days are an opportunity for your eighth-grade student to spend time on the South Campus, visit classes, and hear from Upper School students. To schedule yours, please contact [Jennifer Glover](#).

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- 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.

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- **Most Detailed:** Lego Apocalypse by Chase F.

- **Most Adorable:** Deer in the Woods by Frances M.
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Mark Your Calendar

Monday, November 4

- *Grade 5:* ERB Special Schedule/**Regular Uniform (No PE for Grade 5)**
- *Grades 6, 7, and 8:* Monday Schedule/Regular Uniform
- *ERB Testing for Fifth Grade:* 7:50–11:00 a.m.
- *Chapel:* 10:45–11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, November 5

- *Grade 5:* ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform (**No PE for Grade 5**)
- *Grades 6, 7, and 8:* Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform
- *ERB Testing for Fifth Grade:* 7:50–11:00 a.m.
- *Bible Study for Eighth Graders:* 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway
- *Middle School Individual Picture Makeups:* 8:30–10:30 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall; full dress uniform required for these
- *Eighth-Grade Parent Step-up Day:* 8:30–10:30 a.m. on the South Campus

Wednesday, November 6

- *Grade 5: ERB Special Schedule/Regular Uniform (No PE for Grade 5)*
- *Grades 6, 7, and 8: Wednesday Block Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *ERB Testing for Fifth Grade: 7:50–11:00 a.m.*
- *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School: 8:15 a.m. in the Primary School Library*
- *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m.*
- *Cocktails and Conversation With the Head of School: 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room*

Thursday, November 7

- *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 5: ERB Makeup Testing*
- *Washington, DC, Trip Meeting (Parents Only): 9:15–10:00 a.m. in the HBR*

Friday, November 8

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire: Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms*
- *First Trimester Ends*
- *Grade 5: ERB Makeup Testing*

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 Opening Night: 7:00–9:30 p.m. in the FAC*

Upper School

From the Director of Fine Arts

Who done it? We all did.

Clue! The Musical completed a seven-show, sold-out run last Sunday and was a resounding success. Just as we learned who did it, in what room, and with what weapon, we learned about ourselves. We learned what it feels like to work as one ensemble. We also learned the invaluable, and nearly unteachable, lesson of follow-through. We all "rolled the dice" and played "the cards we were dealt" and came together to build ramps, make props, move furniture, hang lights, build platforms, plan meals, deliver snacks, take photos, and make playbills together—not to mention rehearsing and performing the actual show! I relished the sight of parents and faculty working under the direction of our student leaders to reach a goal. Then, we all undid everything and left no trace. My favorite quote of strike was Sarah Anderson announcing, "Freshman parents, you are officially initiated!" I am proud to have pledged myself to be a part of this community of talented young artists and parents.

I am equally honored to work with a fantastic group of art colleagues who regularly answer my call with, "Yes, and...!" Thank you, Krissy Richmond and Kathy Elder, for your trust and your commitment to making something dynamic in the Upper School Arts Program. The Upper School arts team has something exceptional—you. Thank you to Steve Lovejoy for clearing the way and allowing the Andrews House as a venue for the production. I cannot imagine this production being done in a traditional theatre setting. Thank you to the facilities staff, Curt Wissmiller and Jose Alcala, for troubleshooting. We are unbelievably fortunate to have T Riley as a partner in the athletics department, and we recognize his support and the support of the Upper School team.

Finally, thank you to the generous parents and all who volunteered to take on production-related duties. We all know who you are, and we are indebted to

you. A particular word of appreciation for those "swag bag" thank-you gifts. You know us too well!

As we move away from the show, be prepared for the post-show doldrums to set in. We miss them and they miss each other already. That is the bittersweet ephemeral beauty of live performance. This was a "you had to be there" experience that defies description, so I have included some photos to remind us of our time together (view [photo #1](#), [photo #2](#), and [photo #3](#)).

If you thought the US musical was fun, the "art car" is right around the corner (hint, hint).

See you at the art car,

Justin Doran
Director of Fine Arts

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 4

- *Special Schedule/Field Trip*
- *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 5

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Swim Practice: 6:45–8:00 a.m. in the Houston Racquet Club*
- *Chapel: 10:20 a.m. in Andrews House*

- *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
-

Wednesday, November 6

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform (Dress Uniform if Taking Makeup Portrait)*
 - *Swim Practice*: 7:00–8:00 a.m. in the Houston Racquet Club
 - *Coffee and Conversation With the Head of School*: 8:15 a.m. in the Primary School Library
 - *Chapel*: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House
 - *Makeup Student Portraits (Dress Uniform)*
 - *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
 - *Cocktails and Conversation With the Head of School*: 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room
-

Thursday, November 7

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Swim Practice*: 6:45–8:00 a.m. in 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
-

Friday, November 8

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Trimester 1 Ends*
 - *Drivers' Ed*: 4:15–6:15 p.m. in FAB 105 on the South Campus
 - *Boys' Basketball Game vs. John Cooper School*: 5:30 p.m. in Crum Gym
-

Saturday, November 9

- *Fall Dance*: 8:00–10:00 p.m. on the South Campus
-

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. in 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 Explorations*
 - *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Swim Practice*: 7:00–8:00 a.m. in 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*
- *Swim Practice*: 6:45–8:00 a.m. in 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

Friday, November 15

- *Immersions and Explorations*
- *SFES Spirit Wear*
- *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*

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. in 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*

Wednesday, November 20

- *Immersions and Explorations*
- *SFES Spirit Wear*
- *Swim Practice: 7:00–8:00 a.m. in the Houston Racquet Club*
- *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*

Thursday, November 21

- *Immersions and Explorations*

- *SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Swim Practice*: 6:45–8:00 a.m. in 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
-

Friday, November 22

- *Immersions and Explorations*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Grandparents/Grandfriends Days Celebration*: 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in the Andrews House
 - **Early Release**: 2:30 p.m.
-

Monday, November 25–Friday, November 29

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*: School closed

Church

Forgiveness Seminar Starts November 16

Father Bates will lead a forgiveness workshop on **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 Starts This Morning

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

In this brand-new series, 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 series will run November 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 10:00 a.m. 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.

Register Today for SFSA Sports

Registration is now open for basketball, T-ball, softball, and volleyball through the St. Francis Sports Association. [Click here](#) to register, and please note:

- We are happy to announce that, this year, we are offering Primary II basketball.
- For more information or with questions about registration, please [e-mail Ragan Cain](#).

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.