

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of December 8

All School

Letters to Santa Mailing Monday, December 16!

Santa's making his list and checking it twice—help your kids write him a letter that's nice! If you've seen the red mailboxes on our campuses, you know we have a direct line to the North Pole. To give Santa and his busy elves enough time to reply, please make sure your child's letter is in the mailbox by **Monday, December 16**, with the following information:

- Student's first and last name
- Grade
- Return address on the envelope

Thanks for helping us spread some Christmas cheer!

An Important Note About Avoiding the Flu

The cold and flu season is in full swing. [Click here](#) for a few reminders to help you and your family stay healthy and reduce the spread of infectious conditions. As we enter this fun, activity-filled holiday season, please use thoughtful judgment when sending your children to school, plays, concerts, parties, etc. Here's to a healthy holiday season!

Register Today for Spring Explore and Extend Classes

Registration for spring 2020 Explore and Extend enrichment classes, as well as for School of Music lessons, is open through Program Registration in My BackPack. For class descriptions, [visit our web page](#).

To view which classes still have space available, [click here](#).

'Tis the Season! Donate to the PA Christmas Collection by Tuesday

Please help the Parents Association recognize and honor our wonderful faculty and staff by making a contribution to the Christmas Collection by this **Tuesday, December 10**. Make your contribution via credit card or PayPal in the PA app or online [here](#). For additional details, [click here](#).

Pick Up Your Holiday Poinsettias on Wednesday

If you ordered poinsettias from Friends of Fine Arts, please **pick them up from the Andrews House (South Campus) this Wednesday, December 11, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. or from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.** If you ordered more than 25, we will deliver them to you for free!

Forgot to order poinsettias? No worries! We have a few extras that will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Poinsettias are \$16 each.

School of Music Recitals Are This Week

School of Music students will be holding their fall semester recitals this week:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 5:30 p.m. on Main Street: Students of Callie Denbigh (voice)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 1:30 p.m. in the FAC: Students of Marc Garvin (guitar), Sylvia Ouellette (violin and viola), and Vessy Smith (piano)
- 3:00 p.m. in the FAC: Students of James Johnson (piano) and Andrew Nishikawa (piano and percussion)

Registration for spring School of Music lessons is open in My BackPack through Program Registration. For more information, please e-mail [Margaret Newsom](#).

Volunteers Needed for PA Teacher Appreciation Christmas Party on December 16

The Parents Association will host the annual Christmas Cookie Party for our beloved faculty and staff on **Monday, December 16**, on both the Main and South campuses. We need your help to bake or buy lots and lots of cookies!

- To volunteer for the Main Campus party, [click here](#).

- For the South Campus party, [volunteer here](#).

Nominations for the 2020–21 PA Board Are Now Open

It's hard to believe, but it's already time to start thinking about the 2020–21 Parents Association executive officers! The deadline to submit names via [this nomination form](#) is **Friday, January 10, 2020**. For further details on submitting a nomination, [click here](#).

Summer on the Point Registration Opens February 18

Registration for Summer on the Point 2020 will open to rising Primary I through eleventh graders on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. [Click here](#) for further details.

December Virtue of the Month: Faith

During the month of December, the St. Francis community is focusing on the cornerstone of faith. Our virtue verse is Hebrews 11:1: *"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."* Try to memorize it as a family. You can also watch [this short video](#) to learn ASL for faith.

Table Talk: Play "pass the story." One family member starts a story and each family member adds a new part. See how many examples of faith you can add to the story. For an extra challenge, use the following words: "candle," "Christmas," "stocking," and "yo-yo."

Primary School

From the Music Teacher

Music gives us a common "language" and unites us. Aesthetic reasons, while arguably important, are not the only reasons a quality music education is necessary for children.

Fun facts about music:

- The first fully functioning sense is the auditory system. It functions at 6 months of gestational age, when babies detect speech and pitch.
- Musically trained students have twice the auditory working memory of non-musicians.
- Musically trained students are better at reading because they practice timing, rhythm, and fluency.
- Learning music increases auditory comprehension (like hearing instructions in a busy classroom).

While it may appear that we're merely singing in a circle, we're doing so much more:

- We are developing other ways of learning beyond what is visual.
- We are including movement activities that help children stabilize emotionally and improve spatial awareness, focus, and balance.
- We are giving words meaning.
- We are having fun and making both friends and beautiful music, all through joyful play.

If you're interested in learning more on this subject, [click here](#).

Warmly,

Nicole Fair
Primary/Lower School Music Teacher

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, December 10

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Deadline to Donate to PA Christmas Collection*
-

Wednesday, December 11

- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 7:30–8:30 a.m. and 2:30–4:30 p.m. in the Andrews House on the South Campus*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Thursday, December 12

- *School of Music Recital: 5:30 p.m. on Main Street; students of Callie Denbigh (voice)*
-

Friday, December 13

- *Pre-Primary Christmas Party (Mrs. Brecevich's Class Only): 1:30 p.m.*
-

Sunday, December 15

- *School of Music Recitals in the FAC*
 - 1:30 p.m.—Students of Marc Garvin (guitar), Sylvia Ouellette (violin and viola), and Vessy Smith (piano)
 - 3:00 p.m.—Students of James Johnson (piano) and Andrew Nishikawa (piano and percussion)
-

Monday, December 16

- *Primary I Christmas Parties: 1:30 p.m.*
 - *Christmas Concert (Grades 1–10): 6:00 p.m. at Chapelwood Methodist Church*
-

Tuesday, December 17

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Pre-Primary Christmas Parties (Meriwether 2-Day and Oteiza): 1:30 p.m.*
-

Wednesday, December 18

- *No Chapel*
 - *Pre-Primary Christmas Party (Meriwether 3-Day and Britton): 1:30 p.m.*
-

Thursday, December 19

- *Primary II Pageants and Parties*
 - *Staller—Pageant at 9:00 a.m./Party at 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Owens—Pageant at 9:40 a.m./Party at 10:10 a.m.*
 - *Dominick—Pageant at 10:20 a.m./Party at 10:50 a.m.*
 - *Hughes—Pageant at 11:00 a.m./Party at 11:30 a.m.*
 - *Wiener—Pageant at 11:40 a.m./Party at 12:20 p.m.*

Friday, December 20–Monday, January 6

- *Holiday Break: No School*
-

Tuesday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 8

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

Thursday, January 9

- *Primary School Admissions Tour: 9:00–11:00 a.m.*

Lower School

From the Division Head

The Christmas spirit was alive and well in our Lower School this past week!

The students were incredibly generous as they donated gifts for “Toys for Tots.” Last year, this amazing organization donated more than 97,000 toys to 24,000+ children. The Village Fire Department came to campus on Friday, and each class came down to the People Place with their toys. Santa was there to greet the students as they gave their toys to the officers. It warms my heart to see our students living the “people for others” mission!

I came upon [this wonderful article](#), which offers many suggestions on how to promote a generous spirit during the holiday season. It is so important to model for our students that it is in giving that we truly receive the best gifts in life.

Every student also participated in making an ornament for our school Christmas trees. In art class, some made origami ornaments, while others made wooden

ornaments. Your child will bring home his or her creation before the holiday break so that you can hang it on your family tree.

We are looking forward to our kindergarten friends' Christmas concert this coming **Wednesday, December 11, at 9:00 a.m.** This presentation always gets everyone in the celebratory spirit!

We are looking forward to a wonderful week!

Fondly,

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 9

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between December 8–14 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Tuesday, December 10

- *Deadline to Donate to PA Christmas Collection*
-

Wednesday, December 11

- *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup:* 7:30–8:30 a.m. and 2:30–4:30 p.m. in the Andrews House on the South Campus
 - *Kindergarten Christmas Concert:* 9:00 a.m. in the FAC
-

Thursday, December 12

- *School of Music Recital:* 5:30 p.m. on Main Street; students of Callie Denbigh (voice)
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Sunday, December 15

- *School of Music Recitals in the FAC*
 - 1:30 p.m.—Students of Marc Garvin (guitar), Sylvia Ouellette (violin and viola), and Vessy Smith (piano)
 - 3:00 p.m.—Students of James Johnson (piano) and Andrew Nishikawa (piano and percussion)
-

Monday, December 16

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between December 15–31 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Christmas Concert (Grades 1–10)*: 6:00 p.m. at Chapelwood Methodist Church
-

Wednesday, December 18

- *NO Chapel*
-

Thursday, December 19

- *Dress Uniform Day*
 - *Christmas Parties and Polar Express Day*: Students may bring a robe and slippers to wear at school
 - *Lessons and Carols (Students Only)*: 9:00 a.m.
 - *Sing-a-Long (Students Only)*: 2:00 p.m.
-

Friday, December 20–Monday, January 6

- *Holiday Break*: No School
-

Tuesday, January 7

- *Classes Resume*
-

Wednesday, January 8

- *Dress Uniform*
- *Epiphany Eucharist: 8:05 a.m.*

Middle School

From the Division Head

I hope you and your family have settled back into the routines of school after the Thanksgiving break! I have a request related to attendance and healthy students this week. My message is not intended to be a follow-up to a specific incident, but is a general reminder as we prepare for winter.

This is the season when illness seems to strike at school communities, and this makes it especially important that families send *healthy* children to school each day. We want your children here with us whenever possible, but certain illnesses (stomach bug, fever, and flu, as a few examples) are better treated or managed from home. Illness distracts focus from schoolwork and exposes classmates and adults in the community to infection. In many cases, a dose of medicine can alleviate the symptoms of a common cold, and kiddos are fine throughout the day. However, if your child is truly ill, please keep them home so they can rest, recover, and help us keep others at St. Francis healthy.

In partnership,

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.
- To register, [e-mail Margaret Newsom](#) or go to Program Registration in My BackPack and sign in to select Baseball Showcase.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 9

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

Tuesday, December 10

- *Grades 5, 6, and 8: Tuesday schedule/regular uniform*
 - *Grade 7: Special schedule (field trip to Alley Theater)/**dress 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*
 - *Deadline to Donate to the PA Christmas Collection*
-

Wednesday, December 11

- *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*
 - *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 7:30–8:30 a.m. and 2:30–4:30 p.m. in the Andrews House on the South Campus*
 - *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the Chapel*
-

Thursday, December 12

- *Thursday Block Schedule*
 - *Grades 5, 6, and 8: Regular uniform*
 - *Grade 7: **Casual dress** per Head of School for the Day Aspen Toussaint*
 - *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*
 - *School of Music Voice Students Recital: 5:30–6:30 p.m. on Main Street*
-

Friday, December 13

- *Friday Schedule/Friday Attire: Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms*

Saturday, December 14

- *Baseball Showcase Workshop with Coaches August and Clemens*: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; cost is \$60; register via Program Registration on My BackPack
- *Eighth-Grade Musical Rehearsal*: 1:00–5:00 p.m. in the FAC

Sunday, December 15

- *School of Music Recitals in the FAC*
 - 1:30 p.m.—Students of Marc Garvin (guitar), Sylvia Ouellette (violin and viola), and Vessy Smith (piano)
 - 3:00 p.m.—Students of James Johnson (piano) and Andrew Nishikawa (piano and percussion)

Monday, December 16

- *Monday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel*: 10:45–11:15 a.m. in the Chapel
- *Christmas Concert (Grades 1–10)*: 6:00 p.m. at Chapelwood Methodist Church

Tuesday, December 17

- *Tuesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Study for Eighth Graders*: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway

Wednesday, December 18

- *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

Thursday, December 19

- *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*
-

Friday, December 20–Monday, January 6

- *Holiday Break: No School*
-

Tuesday, January 7

- *Classes Resume*

Upper School

From the Humanities Department Chair

Happy holidays! I can't believe we're already at the end of 2019. As I reflect on the first part of the school year, I feel so grateful to work with faculty and students who are passionate and creative.

My philosophy about humanities is really simple: Humanities is the study of what makes us human. No matter what text we read or what story we tell or what history we remember, we're always trying to answer the big question: What does it mean to be human? The Xhosa people of Southern Africa have a philosophy that I love. They say: *Ubuntu ngubuntu ngabantu*. It translates literally to, "A person is a person through other people," and it means that a human is a fully realized person through his or her relationships with other people.

I'm blessed and excited to be able to teach and learn about our shared human connections in humanities at St. Francis. I'm thankful for Dr. Matt Jones, who is doing a fantastic job teaching our ninth and tenth graders. Dr. Henderson and the whole Upper School team have welcomed both Matt and me into the fold and made the transition easier for both of us. The students bring their curiosity and energy to our program. And, I'm grateful for the support of our parents, who do so much work behind the scenes for both students and teachers and help make our program a success. I'm looking forward to an excellent year in humanities in 2020!

Best wishes,

Jared Staller, PhD
Chair, Humanities Department

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 9

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Tuesday, December 10

- *Day 1 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Swim Practice: 6:45–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *Chapel: 10:20 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Boys' Basketball vs. Awty: 6:00 p.m. at Awty International School*
 - *Deadline to Donate to the PA Christmas Collection*
-

Wednesday, December 11

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Swim Practice: 7:00–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *FoFA Poinsettia Pickup: 7:30–8:30 a.m. and 2:30–4:30 p.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, December 12

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Swim Meet: 4:30 p.m. at British International School*
 - *Boys' Basketball vs. Post Oak HS: 5:30 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *School of Music Recital: 5:30 p.m. on Main Street; students of Callie Denbigh (voice)*
-

Friday, December 13

- *Day 4 Schedule/SFES Spirit Wear*
- *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*

Sunday, December 15

- *School of Music Recitals in the FAC*
 - 1:30 p.m.—Students of Marc Garvin (guitar), Sylvia Ouellette (violin and viola), and Vessy Smith (piano)
 - 3:00 p.m.—Students of James Johnson (piano) and Andrew Nishikawa (piano and percussion)
-

Monday, December 16

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
 - *Christmas Concert (Grades 1–10): 6:00 p.m. at Chapelwood Methodist Church*
-

Tuesday, December 17

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 10:20 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Swim Meet: 4:30 p.m. at British International School*
 - *Boys' Basketball vs. HCYA: 6:45 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Wednesday, December 18

- *Day 1 Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Swim Practice: 7:00–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *Lessons and Carols: 9:30 a.m. in the Primary School*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, December 19

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, December 20–Monday, January 6

- *Holiday Break: No School*
-

Tuesday, January 7

- *Day 3 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Swim Practice: 6:45–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *Chapel: 10:20 a.m. in the Andrews House*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Wednesday, January 8

- *Special Schedule/Dress Uniform*
 - *Swim Practice: 7:00–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *Eucharist Chapel: 11:00 a.m. in the Main Campus Chapel*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Thursday, January 9

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Swim Practice: 6:45–8:00 a.m. at the Houston Racquet Club*
 - *Boys' Basketball Practice: 4:15–6:00 p.m. in the Crum Gym*
-

Friday, January 10

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Wear*
 - *Boys' Basketball vs. St. Thomas: 4:00 p.m. at St. Thomas*
-

Saturday, January 11

- *Tomball Swim Meet: 7:45 a.m. at Tomball ISD Aquatics Center*

Church

Be an Angel, Shepherd, or Soldier: Christmas Eve Pageant Needs Participants!

Join us on Christmas Eve at either the 2:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. service for the annual St. Francis Christmas Pageant. Come be an angel, shepherd, or soldier as Father Wismer narrates the Christmas story!

For more information, contact Allison Devlin via [e-mail](#) or at 832.325.2988.

***Habits of a Healthy Marriage* Continues Next Week**

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 last two sessions will be held on **Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on December 15 and 22**. All sessions will 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.
- **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.