

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of March 8

All School

Announcing the New Head and Assistant Head of Primary School!

After a nationwide search, we are thrilled to announce that Clifton Walker will step into the role of head of Primary School and Kenyetta Wynn will join St. Francis as assistant head of Primary School, starting in the 2020–21 school year. [Click here for details.](#)

New Web Page Will Provide Updates on St. Francis's Coronavirus Efforts

St. Francis is tracking news and information about the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in our region. We encourage you to check [this web page](#) routinely to stay up-to-date on our efforts, learn what you can do to help keep our community safe, and find additional resources concerning COVID-19. Also, if you missed our first update to the community in last week's *Wolf Watch*, you can [view it here](#).

Woolrich Luncheon Is Tuesday

We hope you've purchased tickets to attend the 16th Annual Sarah W. Woolrich Fund for Faculty Luncheon this Tuesday, March 10. [Click here for details about the event.](#)

Save the Date—Festival 2020: A Birthday Celebration

Happy Birthday, Festival! Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate 50 years of Festival at this *birthday party to rival all birthday parties*, set for **Sunday, April 19**. [Click here for details.](#)

Virtue of the Month: Forgiveness

During the month of March, the St. Francis community is focusing on forgiveness. Our virtue verse is 1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” Try to memorize it as a family. You can watch [this short video](#) to learn the ASL for forgiveness.

***Table Talk:** Virtue sightings—where do you see examples of forgiveness in books, films, and life?*

Primary School

From the 2020–21 Division Head

Words cannot express how honored and excited I am to be named the next head of Primary School. Working alongside Amy Whitley for three years as assistant head of Primary School, I have seen firsthand how our Reggio-inspired program provides students with learning experiences that engage their minds, bodies, and spirits through play. It is rewarding to work with such a talented and caring team that makes positive and lasting connections with our students every day.

As head of Primary School, I will continue this spirit of collaboration, while building upon research-based best practices for early childhood learners. As Primary School faculty, we will continue our work in strengthening our division’s connection to Lower School. I look forward to partnering with the new assistant head of Primary School, Kenyetta Wynn, to support families, faculty, and staff to continue our tradition of excellence.

Sincerely,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Head of Primary School (starting in the 2020–21 school year)

Primary School Dining Hall Menu

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

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, March 10

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
- *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Capasso and Ferguson)*

- *Woolrich Luncheon*: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Main Campus
-

Wednesday, March 11

- *Chapel*: 9:30 a.m.
 - *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Burrow and Scriber)*
-

Monday, March 16–Friday, March 20

- *Spring Break*: School Closed
-

Tuesday, March 24

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

Wednesday, March 25

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

Thursday, March 26

- *Looking Forward: Life in Lower School (for Primary II Parents)*: 8:20–9:20 a.m. in the Primary School Multipurpose Room
-

Friday, March 27

- *Explore and Extend Parents' Night Out for PS Students*: 5:30–8:30 p.m. on the South Campus
-

Tuesday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 1

- *Parents Association Spring Luncheon*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Friday, April 3

- *Step-up to Lower School: 8:30–10:00 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, April 7

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Primary II Fathers and Friends: 11:00 a.m.*
-

Wednesday, April 8

- *Primary I Fathers and Friends: 8:15–8:45 a.m.*
 - *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Friday, April 10

- *Good Friday: No school*
-

Monday, April 13

- *Easter Monday: No school*
-

Tuesday, April 14

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

Wednesday, April 15

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

Thursday, April 16

- *Primary II Drama Performances:*
 - Dominick: 9:00 a.m.
 - Wiener: 9:40 a.m.
 - Staller: 10:20 a.m.
 - Owens: 11:00 a.m.
 - Hughes: 11:40 a.m.
-

Sunday, April 19

- *St. Francis Festival Day: 12:00–4:00 p.m.*

Lower School

Exciting News From the Assistant Division Head

I am writing this week to share some exciting news involving several of our kindergarten and first- and second-grade classrooms. Because of our ongoing commitment to the social-emotional development of our students and the Responsive Classroom approach, St. Francis has been chosen to participate in a social-emotional learning (SEL) pilot program called Fly Five.

The Fly Five program is a research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum created by the Center for Responsive Schools (CRS). We are piloting this program in some of our classrooms during morning meetings to assist CRS in determining the effectiveness of the program as they are preparing for publication. St. Francis was chosen to be **one of just 17 Lower and Middle schools across the nation** to test this curriculum; and, of just 100 educators chosen nationwide, 12 of our Lower School educators are participating in this pilot initiative.

The teachers will deliver and give feedback on daily lessons that directly teach social competencies that have been shown to correlate with success—both in and outside of school: cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control. Fly Five consists of lessons that integrate rich children’s literature, key vocabulary, mindfulness activities, and school-to-home connections. The lessons will be conducted during classroom morning meetings and will help students see direct connections between the skills practiced and their daily lives.

We are excited to be a part of this program and look forward to the continuation of our students’ SEL development. The teachers piloting the curriculum will most certainly share their new learning with their teammates. Feel free to reach out to me if you would like to learn more about this exciting pilot curriculum!

Fondly,

Ryan Kochel, MEd
Assistant Head of Lower School—Student Life

St. Francis Fund Ice Cream Truck Celebration Is April 2

Congratulations to our first- and second-grade families on winning the St. Francis Fund Class Participation Challenge with 80 percent participation! We are so grateful to each family that participated. **We will be celebrating with an ice cream truck on Thursday, April 2, and parents of first and second graders are invited!**

- **First Grade: 1:00–1:45 p.m.**
- **Second Grade: 2:00–2:45 p.m.**

Please Volunteer: Staff Appreciation Luncheon Is March 31

We are honoring our fabulous Lower and Middle School teachers on the Main Campus with a staff appreciation luncheon on Tuesday, March 31. Please help us make it a special day! For more details and to sign up to shop, cook, or bake, [click here](#).

Join Us This Week for Kindergarten Share the Music Days

Parents and friends of kindergarteners, 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 limited classroom space, we ask that only invited adult guest(s) accompany the student. Thank you!) ***Please check Seesaw for information on your child’s group and number.***

Each group’s event will take place from **9:05 to 9:45 a.m. in the HBR**, according to the following schedule:

- **Monday, March 9—Group 4**
- **Tuesday, March 10—Group 1**
- **Wednesday, March 11—Group 5**
- **Thursday, March 12—Group 3**
- **Friday, March 13—Group 2**

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 9

- *Birthday Chapel*: Students with a birthday between March 8–14 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
 - *Kindergarten Share the Music Days (Group 4)*: 9:05–9:45 a.m. in the HBR
-

Tuesday, March 10

- *Kindergarten Share the Music Days (Group 1)*: 9:05–9:45 a.m. in the HBR
 - *Woolrich Luncheon*: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the FAC
-

Wednesday, March 11

- *Kindergarten Share the Music Days (Group 5)*: 9:05–9:45 a.m. in the HBR
-

Thursday, March 12

- *Kindergarten Share the Music Days (Group 3)*: 9:05–9:45 a.m. in the HBR
-

Friday, March 13

- *Kindergarten Share the Music Days (Group 2)*: 9:05–9:45 a.m. in the HBR
 - *Art Car Parade*: 1:00–2:00 p.m. on the Main Campus; students only
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Monday, March 16–Friday, March 20

- *Spring Break:* No school
-

Monday, March 23

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between March 15–28 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Tuesday, March 24

- *STEAM Fair:* 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in the FAC
-

Wednesday, March 25

- *Second-Grade AALC Field Trip:* Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; 9:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.
-

Friday, March 27

- *Joyful Sounds Choir Field Trip:* Singing at The Buckingham and Treemont retirement communities; 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
 - *Explore and Extend Parents' Night Out for Students in Grades K–5:* 6:00–10:00 p.m. on the Main Campus
-

Monday, March 30

- *Birthday Chapel:* Students with a birthday between March 29–April 4 will receive a birthday pencil in Chapel today
-

Tuesday, March 31

- *Fourth-Grade Field Trip:* Texas A&M Sea Camp, Galveston; 8:15 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1

- *Parents Association Spring Luncheon*
- *FAC Chapel: 8:05 a.m.*

Thursday, April 2

- *Second-Grade Field Trip: Mounted Patrol Barn; 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. (two homerooms in each group, with more details to come)*
- *First-Grade St. Francis Fund Ice Cream Truck Celebration: 1:00–1:45 p.m.; **parents are invited***
- *Second-Grade St. Francis Fund Ice Cream Truck Celebration: 2:00–2:45 p.m.; **parents are invited***

Friday, April 3

- *Parent Step-up to Lower School: 8:30 a.m. in the HBR*
- *Third-Grade Field Trip: Taste of Texas and San Jacinto Monument; 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.*

Middle School

From the Division Head

Through the events and performances at St. Francis over the past few weeks, our community has had the opportunity to see our students' special interests and considerable talents on display.

Two weeks ago, we gathered together for a special presentation honoring Black History Month. The assembly featured vignettes, historical accounts, and musical and lyrical performances by Middle School faculty and Upper School students. The assembly honored the historical and cultural contributions of individuals like Etta James (singer/songwriter), Katherine Johnson (NASA mathematician), and Sojourner Truth (abolitionist and women's rights activist).

We have also been treated to a series of events featuring the arts. As part of the recent Brown Bag Dance Series, Krissy Richmond's dance students performed contemporary pieces in the People Place during lunch. In addition, Amy Chandler organized three

weekends of community participation in decorating the SFES Art Car (aka “Fan Glambulance”); seventh-grade art classes helped to paint the set and stage for *Frozen JR.*; and the team of Julia Traber, Carlo Minotti, Kathy Elder, and Krissy Richmond worked with our eighth-grade theater classes to put on an incredible show.

Each of these events reminded me that kids thrive in environments where they tap into personal interests and share their talents with us and each other. Kudos and bravo to our students and faculty for their hard work, and to you for supporting their growth as scholars, artists, athletes, and performers!

In partnership,

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Concessions Available After Art Car Parade on March 13

Attention, Middle School parents! Friends of Fine Arts will host a concessions table after the Art Car Parade on **Friday, March 13, in the OAC**. Please send money with your child if you would like them to purchase food or snacks. **Cash only.**

St. Francis Fund Food Truck Celebration Is April 2

Congratulations to our sixth-grade families on winning the St. Francis Fund Class Participation Challenge with 79 percent participation! **We will be celebrating with a visit from the Curbside Sliderz Food Truck on Thursday, April 2. This will take the place of the students' regular lunch.** We are so grateful to each family that participated and can't wait to celebrate!

Please Volunteer: Staff Appreciation Luncheon Is March 31

We are honoring our fabulous Lower and Middle School teachers on the Main Campus with a staff appreciation luncheon on Tuesday, March 31. Please help us make it a special day! For more details and to sign up to shop, cook, or bake, [click here](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 9

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

- *Grades 5–7: Tuesday schedule/regular uniform*
 - **Grade 8: Special schedule/white shirts**
 - *Bible Study for Eighth Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - **Grade 8 White Shirt Photo: 8:00–10:00 a.m. on the Main Campus playground**
 - *Woolrich Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the FAC*
-

Wednesday, March 11

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m.*
-

Thursday, March 12

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

Friday, March 13

- **Special Schedule/Friday Attire:** Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms
 - *Art Car Parade: 1:00–2:00 p.m. around the carpool route*
 - *MS FoFA Concessions Social: 3:00–3:30 p.m. in the OAC*
-

Monday, March 16–Friday, March 20

- *Spring Break: No school*
-

Monday, March 23–Friday, March 27

- *Medieval Feast Setup*
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Monday, March 23

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

Tuesday, March 24

- *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*
 - *STEAM Fair: 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in the FAC*
 - *Honors Parent Information Coffee: 2:45–3:45 p.m. in the HBR*
-

Wednesday, March 25

- *Wednesday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Seventh Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Chapel: 10:45–11:15 a.m.*
-

Thursday, March 26

- *Thursday Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Bible Study for Fifth and Sixth Graders: 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
 - *Grade 8 White Shirt Photo Makeup Day (If Needed): 8:00–10:00 a.m. on the Main Campus playground*
 - *Medieval Feast Parent Preview Party: 6:00–9:00 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall*
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Friday, March 27

- *Grades 5 and 8*: Friday schedule/Friday attire (Wolf Wear or SFES spirit gear with blue jeans or uniform bottoms)
- **Grade 6: Special schedule (Art à la Carte field trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science)/Friday attire**
- **Grade 7: Special schedule (Medieval Feast)/casual dress**
- *Medieval Feast for Seventh Graders*: 8:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- *Explore and Extend Parents' Night Out for Students in Grades K–5*: 6:00–10:00 p.m. on the Main Campus

Upper School

From the Division Head

By now, you have likely had the opportunity to review grades and narrative comments with your children. I encourage you to find some time to celebrate successes and to discuss areas where improvement is needed. Invite your children to share with you the Trimester 3 goals they set for themselves a couple of weeks ago in Advisory. Feel free to suggest that they schedule follow-up conversations with specific teachers and/or their advisor, as needed.

Looking ahead to April 1, I hope you will be attending the St. Francis Parents Association Luncheon. That day, we have the fabulous opportunity to hear and learn from Julie Lythcott-Haims, author of *How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success*. I have had the honor of hearing Lythcott-Haims speak on a couple of occasions and, if you haven't already, I strongly suggest that you make plans to attend this special event. To whet your appetite, please enjoy the short video linked [here](#). Stay tuned for an invitation to join me after spring break (but before the PA luncheon) for an Upper School book discussion.

Finally, please enjoy the following message from Loure Dews-Gray, director of the volleyball program and physical education teacher.

Gratefully,

Cara Henderson, EdD
Head of Upper School

A Note From Loure Dews-Gray

There are no "lone wolves" here at St. Francis Episcopal School. Wolves, as they say, run with the pack.

Before joining St. Francis, I was used to having a lone wolf mindset as a coach and former collegiate athlete. However, since joining the St. Francis family as the volleyball program director and a physical education teacher, I have confirmed my belief that there is strength in running with the pack.

The Upper School allows the autonomy to teach and coach with passion and love. This, in turn, allows the students and teachers in the sports programs to grow with each other. The administration of the Upper School looked at my strongest talents and fostered an environment where there is joy in teaching. In my short time here, the autonomy and support I have received have allowed the physical education classes to flourish. We don't merely work out. We move with intention. The students helped design the syllabus and, as a result, we have added in fencing, jujitsu, Pilates, pickleball, and weight lifting, while instilling team concepts.

With the support of the administration, we have started an Upper School health and wellness classroom curriculum, which uses digital resources provided by the EVERFI learning platform. Every sophomore receives social-emotional information, nutrition guidelines, and body system information. We provide a safe and structured place to ask questions and seek facts about health.

The St. Francis Upper School allows development of both student and teacher. All are allowed to grow within an ever-changing educational environment. It is a pleasure to be part of a cutting-edge educational system that allows the freedom to be creative. St. Francis is a place where a lone wolf can truly run with the pack.

Sincerely,

Loure Dews-Gray
Volleyball Program Director/Physical Education Teacher

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, March 8

- *Golf Tournament:* All day at Wolfdancer Golf Club, situated at Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa

Monday, March 9

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Golf Tournament:* All day at Wolfdancer Golf Club, situated at Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa

Tuesday, March 10

- *Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Grade 9: PSAT*
- *Grade 10: PSAT*
- *Woolrich Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center on the Main Campus*

Wednesday, March 11

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
- *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in Andrews House*

Thursday, March 12

- *Day 6 Schedule/Regular Uniform*

Friday, March 13

- *Day 1 Schedule/SFES Spirit Wear*
- *US/PS Art Car Parade: 11:30 a.m. on the South Campus; students only*

Monday, March 16–Friday, March 20

- *Spring Break: School closed*

Monday, March 23

- *Day 2 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, March 24

- *Day 3 Special Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *STEAM Fair: 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. in the FAC on the Main Campus*
 - *Track and Field Meet: TBD at The John Cooper School*
 - *Golf Tournament: All day at Sharpstown Park Golf Course*
-

Wednesday, March 25

- *Day 4 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
 - *Chapel: 9:50 a.m. at Andrews House*
-

Thursday, March 26

- *Day 5 Schedule/Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, March 27

- *Day 6 Schedule/SFES Spirit Wear*

Church

Creative Prayer Training Is Next Sunday

This Lent, learn how to use creative prayer methods anchored in the Christian tradition to deepen and stretch your experience of prayer. We'll explore the use of Anglican prayer beads and of Bible verses as the root of prayer sessions at our **Creative Prayer Training on Sunday, March 14, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Bride's Room**. Prayer beads will be provided.

Forgiveness Workshop Scheduled for April 4

Father Bates will lead a **forgiveness workshop on Saturday, April 4, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Hogan Board Room**. This will be a time during Lent to consider whom you need to forgive, and to work through a process of learning to release others and yourself.

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

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

Register for the GLOW/Youth Summer Mission Trip—Save the Date!

All middle and high school students are invited to attend the **GLOW mission trip to Galveston, TX, on June 4–7**. [Register online here](#). Additional information will be provided after registration is completed. With questions, please [e-mail Allison Devlin](#) or [Joanie Kirksey](#).

Special Prayer Offerings for Lent

Please join us for special prayer offerings for Lent in the St. Clare Chapel.

- **Morning and Evening Prayer:** Monday–Thursday, March 2–April 2, at 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- **Contemplative Prayer:** Monday–Thursday, March 2–April 2, at 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

All of these prayer offerings are concise sessions, fitting within a 30-minute time frame.

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 Andrews House on the South Campus**. Come whenever you can—in workout or work wear! We are studying the book *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer.

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.