

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of January 3

All School

From the Head of School

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed your break and were able to celebrate the season with loved ones. We are so excited to welcome our Wolves back to campus on Tuesday, January 5. We are looking forward to even more growing, exploring, and joyful learning in the new calendar year.

For those of you who are planners (like myself), I wanted to share some preliminary information on the calendar for the 2021–22 school year. While the full 2021–22 school year calendar is still in process, the major dates are outlined below:

- **August 18, 2021:** School Begins
- **October 11, 2021:** Fall Break
- **November 22–26, 2021:** Thanksgiving Vacation
- **December 20, 2021–January 3, 2022:** Christmas Vacation
- **March 14–18, 2022:** Spring Break
- **April 15–18, 2022:** Easter Holiday
- **May 21 & 22, 2022:** Upper School Baccalaureate and Graduation
- **May 27, 2022:** Last Day of School

Once again, I hope you had a wonderful break. We are looking forward to a great week ahead!

In partnership,

Steve Lovejoy, MEd
Head of School

Virtue of the Month: Generosity

During the month of January, the St. Francis community is focusing on generosity. Our virtue verse is 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Try to memorize it as a family. You can find Virtue of the Month resources [here](#).

Table Talk: *What is the first image or story that comes to mind when you hear the word "generosity"?*

New Spirit Store Orders Will Be Delivered in January

Please note that, due to the Christmas holidays, any orders placed between December 3 and January 4 will not be delivered until the week of January 14.

- **Link:** https://stores.inksoft.com/STFRANCIS_HTX_SPIRITSTORE/shop/home
- **Password:** wolves

COVID Hotline: Reporting Cases After Hours

St. Francis has created an after-hours COVID hotline that parents should call to report a positive COVID case after the school day has ended. Between **4:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.**, you may call **832.306.4519** to let us know that your student or a family member has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please save the number **832.306.4519** in your contacts. The phone will be monitored by a member of our administrative team. Once again, calling this number is the best way to get in touch with us after hours, and it will ensure that we are able to communicate quickly with the teacher(s) and parents in your child's class. Thank you for your help!

From the Library: Please Help Us Round Up Lost Books

The library is rounding up any lost or wayward books that may not have made their way back to the Crum Library since this past spring's school closure. There will be a St. Francis bar code on the upper left-hand corner of the book if it belongs to us. We would love to see the books back in our library!

Primary School

From the Division Head

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family had a safe and fun Christmas break. As I reflect upon the first half of the school year and my first year as the head of Primary

School, I am grateful for all that we have endured, learned, and been able to accomplish together to support and educate our students in the Primary School and at SFES during the pandemic.

The second half of the school year brings many developmental milestones as our children mature in age, gain more experiences, and develop closer bonds with their teachers and classmates. There are many exciting Primary School events and activities to look forward to during this second half of the school year—Pajamarama, Step-up Days, Easter, Splash Day, Spring Developmental Continuums, and more. I look forward to a safe and successful conclusion to the school year in partnership with you!

Sincerely,

Clifton Walker, MEd
Head of Primary School

From the Primary II Team: Please Donate Your Used Christmas Trees

Primary II team members are excited to support their students in designing and constructing another tree fort this year. **Our goal is to collect about 20 Christmas trees on Monday, January 4, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.**

Please [e-mail Mr. Dominick](#) if you would like to donate your tree.

Building our tree fort promotes many 21st century skills through the project approach. The finished fort is fun for both Primary I and II students to use on the outdoor playscape. Thanks in advance for your scheduled tree donations.

Kind regards,

The Primary II Team

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 4

- *Primary II Christmas Tree Drop-off: 9:00–10:00 a.m.*
-

Tuesday, January 5

- *School Resumes*
-

Monday, January 18

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No school*
-

Tuesday, January 19

- *Pajama Ingathering Begins*
-

Friday, January 22

- *Pajama Ingathering Ends*
 - *Pajamarama: Students only*
-

Thursday, February 4

- *Language and Literacy Series: 12:00–1:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, February 15

- *Presidents' Day: No school*
-

Wednesday, February 24

- *Teacher Inservice: Student holiday*

Lower School

From the Division Head

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday! This is always such a wonderful time to wind down and reflect on everything for which we are so grateful.

We have a calm few weeks ahead, and the teachers are looking forward to starting the new year off by revisiting routines and engaging our students in rigorous academic work. They are also looking forward to meeting with you to share your student's progress and ongoing goals at our upcoming parent-teacher conferences. **Be looking for an e-mail from Mrs. St. Clair tomorrow regarding sign-ups.** Remember, students in grades 2–4 will participate in the Zoom conferences alongside their parents.

We know returning to school after a long break can be challenging for some kiddos. Make sure they get plenty of rest their first week back. Please also reinforce home practice routines, and let your child's teacher know if he or she is experiencing any challenges.

If your child is learning remotely, please refrain from scheduling appointments and extracurricular activities during the school day. It is expected that students participate in the academic portions of the day, including enrichment classes. We appreciate your help!

Just a reminder that we will have materials pickup for remote learners tomorrow—Monday, January 4—from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the carpool line.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on our team if you have questions!

Cheers, and welcome back!

Carol Christ, MEd
Head of Lower School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 4

- *Materials Pickup for Remote Learners: 1:00–2:00 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, January 5

- *School Resumes*
-

Wednesday, January 13

- *Student Holiday*
 - *Parent Conferences:* SignUpGenius links will be sent out on January 4
-

Monday, January 18

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day:* No school

Middle School

From the Division Head

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you relaxed and refreshed. As your family prepares for our return to classes on Tuesday, I have an update and a few reminders to share.

UPDATE

Beginning this Tuesday, we will have one grade level at a time gather, socially distanced, in the FAC from 7:20 to 7:50 a.m. While in the FAC, students will be able to socialize together, but will not have access to tutorial sessions unless set up in advance with a specific teacher. Days and grade levels are as follows:

- **Fifth Grade:** Wednesdays
- **Sixth Grade:** Tuesdays and Thursdays
- **Seventh Grade:** Mondays
- **Eighth Grade:** Fridays

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

If you know your child will be absent for any part of an individual school day, please log on to the Parent Portal and share that information with us via the “Update Attendance” button. These notifications are shared directly with our office.

- If your child plans to be learning remotely this week (or at another point in the future), please send an e-mail to the MS Office and your advisor so that we can prepare appropriately.
- It is very difficult for us to coordinate early pickups from athletics. If you need to pick up your sixth, seventh, or eighth grader at any point after 3:05 p.m., we

strongly encourage you to e-mail your child's coach and make arrangements with Leigh Williams in the MS Office for a 3:05 p.m. pickup with other students who are leaving at that time. Please e-mail all parties involved by 1:00 p.m. that day.

SCHEDULE REMINDER

Our last day of school before the break was a "D" day, and our schedule resumes with an "E" day this Tuesday, followed by "A," "B," and "C" days to complete the week.

If you have any questions about schedules, programs, or the upcoming weeks and months, please reach out to us in the MS Office and we will be happy to help you. Welcome back, and happy 2021!

Best regards,

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Welcome to the Den Conferences Are January 13

Welcome to the Den conferences are **Wednesday, January 13, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.** (no scheduled classes). Conference sessions will be conducted via Zoom. Each conference is 20 minutes long and includes the student, advisor, and parents/guardians. Please be on the lookout for an e-mail from your advisor with a link to sign up for a conference time that works for you and your child(ren).

Welcome to the Den conferences are an opportunity for students and parents to talk with each other and their advisor about high points and challenges during the first half of the school year, and to revisit hopes, expectations, and goals that may have been discussed during the previous Welcome to the Den conference in September.

Welcome to the Den conferences are mandatory for all students and at least one parent/guardian. If a scheduling conflict prevents you and your child from joining a conference together on Wednesday, January 13, please work with your advisor to arrange an alternate time that week.

To ensure that all families have a conference with their advisor on this day, we do not offer conferences with teachers other than the advisor. If you desire a meeting with another teacher or teachers in addition to a meeting with your child's advisor, please reach out to those individuals after conference day to find a meeting time.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 4

- *Teacher Inservice*: Student holiday
-

Tuesday, January 5

- *Classes Resume*: Students back on campus
 - *"E" Day*
-

Wednesday, January 6

- *"A" Day*
-

Thursday, January 7

- *"B" Day*
-

Friday, January 8

- *"C" Day*
-

Monday, January 11

- *"D" Day*
-

Tuesday, January 12

- *"E" Day*
-

Wednesday, January 13

- *Welcome to the Den Conferences: 7:30 a.m.–4:20 p.m. via Zoom*
 - *No Classes Today*
-

Thursday, January 14

- *"A" Day*
-

Friday, January 15

- *"B" Day*
-

Monday, January 18

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day: School closed*

Upper School

From the Interim Head of Upper School

Happy New Year! I hope the holidays have been joyful for your family. It feels good to begin a new year.

While I don't always advocate resolutions at the start of a new year, I don't think it's a bad idea to have a healthy refresh or reset on some practices. One of the things I have noticed in my first month in the Upper School is a tendency for students to submit assignments late, after the deadline. I receive an electronic notification for these submissions each day. Getting into a cycle of falling behind can lead to stress and feeling overwhelmed. Another observation I have made related to these electronic notices is the late evening hours they are often time stamped. **Adequate sleep is so important for teenagers' growth and performance.** If your child does not typically get enough sleep, you may want to consider this the focus of a goal for the second half of the school year.

To help provide students with academic support, morning tutorial sessions take place from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. Students with a grade of "C" or below are required to attend tutorials. This time is also available to other students interested in attending.

Students not required to attend morning tutorials may have free time upon arrival, or may arrive as late as 8:45 a.m., before the start of Morning Meeting.

We look forward to welcoming our counselor, Mrs. Jennifer Choi, back to campus this week. She has been missed. We are grateful to Dr. Laurie Curtis, head of student support services; Mr. Ted Lakoski, director of school counseling; and Ms. Marion Tolon, assistant head of Middle School, for their support of the Upper School during Mrs. Choi's family leave.

We are eager to see you all on Tuesday, January 5. Enjoy these final days of the holiday, and rest up! We'll see you soon.

Take good care,

Amy Whitley, MA
Assistant Head of School/Interim Head of Upper School

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 4

- *Teacher Inservice*: Student holiday
-

Tuesday, January 5

- *Classes Resume*
 - *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Wednesday, January 6

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Thursday, January 7

- *Odd Day*
- *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*

Friday, January 8

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Monday, January 11

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Tuesday, January 12

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Wednesday, January 13

- *Parent-Student Conferences*: Student holiday; sign-up link will be sent January 4
-

Thursday, January 14

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Friday, January 15

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Monday, January 18

- *Martin Luther King Jr. Day: School closed*
-

Tuesday, January 19

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Wednesday, January 20

- *Even Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Thursday, January 21

- *Odd Day*
 - *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*
-

Friday, January 22

- *Even Day*
- *On-Campus and Remote-Learning Schedule*

Church

We Are Open for In-Person Worship!

The Holy Eucharist will be offered at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sundays. We will also offer an evening Eucharist on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing all those who are ready to return. For those who are not comfortable returning to in-person worship, we will continue to livestream our worship service on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Access the livestream via our church [website](#), [YouTube channel](#), or [Facebook page](#). Instructions for livestreaming are included at the bottom of this section.

- In-person worship guidelines are available [here](#).
- NOTE: Sunday School has started again and will be held outside to maintain safe distancing.
- Only a limited number of participants can be safely seated according to the distancing guidelines. To ensure we comply with these guidelines, please sign up each week, indicating you would like to come to worship. To do so, go to the St. Francis Episcopal Church [website](#), click "Sign Up for In-Person Worship," choose the date, and sign up to attend the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service.

Join Fr. Wismer for *The Goodnight Show* on Tuesdays

Join Fr. Wismer for ***The Goodnight Show*** on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 7:15 p.m. on the [St. Francis Facebook page](#). Preschoolers, younger school children, and the young at heart can enjoy music, stories, and prayers . . . and you can send in requests! It is the perfect way to relax and get ready for bed.

[Click here to watch on the St. Francis Episcopal Facebook page.](#)

Watch Let It Shine! In-Person and on YouTube

Join Mrs. Devlin for in-person Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout: All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate. Children will learn lessons from the Bible, act out Bible stories, memorize key verses from Scripture, and pray together outside following safe-distancing guidelines.

We will continue to put the Let It Shine! videos on the St. Francis YouTube channel, but we've created a dedicated channel for Let it Shine! This is a great way for us to reach children everywhere with these amazing Bible-based video teachings by Allison Devlin, our director of family ministry.

- Please share this channel with anyone you might know who has children and who's looking for entertaining, informative videos that help lead children to Jesus.
- [Click here to visit the channel.](#) **Be sure to like, subscribe, and turn on notifications!**

Teens, Join Us for GLOW!

GLOW is now meeting in-person after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service. We will meet (socially distanced) in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. Middle and high school students are invited to participate in weekly lessons and discussions. A Zoom option will continue to be available for those who are unable to attend in person.

- In the current series, learn about the Nicene Creed—why we say it, and how it applies to our daily lives. You may purchase the book *Hope for Us* through Amazon.

- For further details, contact [Allison Devlin](#).

Moms, Join Us for Bible Study

The **SFES Moms' Bible Study** is on **Fridays at 11:00 a.m.**, led by **Allison Devlin**, director of family ministry. Please contact Allison via [e-mail](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Moms in Prayer

Join other mothers for a time of prayer together on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Please contact Allison Devlin via [e-mail](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Share Your Prayer Requests Online

Share your prayer requests with us using the “Prayer Requests” link on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church home page](#). Please feel free to submit prayer requests for yourself or for someone you know. All prayer requests are confidential and will not be added to the spoken prayer list, but will be prayed for by our staff and Pastoral Care Council over a two-month period.

Upcoming Events at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following events on a regular basis via Zoom. To join an event listed below, please click the provided link or copy and paste it into your web browser’s address bar. Then, enter the meeting ID and passcode when prompted.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Proverbs (Current study on the Gospel of Mark)
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651248716>
 - *Passcode required to join; e-mail Louise Richman to participate.*
- Fridays at 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
 - **Study:** *Mom Set Free* by Jeannie Cunnion
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - *E-mail Allison Devlin for meeting location*

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [Lew Arend](#)
- Monthly on the second Tuesday at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (Next meeting is January 13)

- The Men of St. Francis (TMOSF)
- **Study:** The Gospel of Mark
- **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86423240761>
 - **Meeting ID:** 864 2324 0761
 - **Passcode:** sW9R20

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81068388948>
 - **Meeting ID:** 810 6838 8948
 - **Passcode:** 767200

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS—BIBLE STUDIES AND MEETINGS

- Sundays at 10:30–11:30 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** GLOW
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4394746544>
 - **Meeting ID:** 716 183 992
 - **Passcode:** 476823
- Tuesdays at 7:00–7:15 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** The Goodnight Show
 - **Contact:** [Fr. Bob Wismer](#)
 - [Facebook Livestream](#)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 057417
- Wednesdays at 7:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Prayer Session (We read Scripture and go through a prayer cycle of praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession.)
 - **Contact:** [Heather Burkhart](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72098767051>
 - **Meeting ID:** 720 9876 7051
 - **Passcode:** 678123
- Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

- **Meeting:** Contemplative Café
- **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
- **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74432391081>
- **Meeting ID:** 744 3239 1081
- **Passcode:** 043097
- Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 057417
- Thursdays after carpool drop-off
 - **Meeting:** Prayer Session
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
 - *E-mail Allison Devlin to get meeting location*
- Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Contemplative Café
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74432391081>
 - **Meeting ID:** 744 3239 1081
 - **Passcode:** 043097

How to Watch Sunday Service Via Livestream

If you would like to join St. Francis Episcopal Church's **9:00 a.m.** or **11:00 a.m.** Sunday service via livestream, here's how to watch:

1. Open an Internet browser on your computer, laptop, or phone. Type in the St. Francis website—sfch.org.
2. Click on the “**Watch Live Stream**” button. Choose to watch from the website or from Facebook or YouTube.
3. Prelude music will begin on the livestream 10 minutes prior to the service to allow time for your connection and for your inspiration. If you miss the live video, a recording of the service will also be available on St. Francis's [YouTube channel](#).