

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of October 24

All School

Parent Survey—We Want to Hear from You!

We have partnered with a third party to conduct our annual survey regarding your family's experience at St. Francis Episcopal School. **You will receive an e-mail with a link to the survey on Wednesday, October 27, and the survey will close on Friday, November 5, at 11:45 p.m.** We appreciate your participation in this process to help us enhance the St. Francis experience for all.

Let's Go 'Stros!

The Astros are heading to the World Series! Let's root for our home team-- **wear your Astros shirts/jerseys with uniform bottoms on Tuesday** for Game 1!

Gala: Calling All Cooks!

Love to cook or bake? Or maybe you fancy yourself more a mixologist or finger-food savant? Doesn't matter—we want it all!

This year's Gala Special Projects Committee is asking families, grandparents, alumni, and teachers to dust off, dig out, and share their culinary best for a commemorative cookbook celebrating 70 years of St. Francis. We are looking for recipes pertaining to the following categories:

- Drinks and appetizers
- Soups and salads
- Entrées
- Sides
- Desserts
- Breads and breakfast

Please consider submitting your family favorite by **clicking [here](#) and following the *online instructions*** for the chance to have your recipe included in this special fundraising endeavor. We can't wait to see all the delightful entries that roll in!

Pumpkin-Carving Contest Is Tomorrow

Students in kindergarten through twelfth grade can use their originality and artistry to carve or decorate a pumpkin for the St. Francis Pumpkin-Carving Contest, which will be held tomorrow—**Monday, October 25.**

- **[Click here](#)** for contest instructions.
- **[Click here](#)** to print out the entry form.
- If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please **[email Lauren Wuertz](#)**.

Last Chance: Buy Tickets to *Lions in Illyria*

The Middle School production of the hilarious *Lions In Illyria* is a one-night-only event in the Fine Arts Center on Friday, October 29, at 7:00 p.m.

- This production is suitable for all ages and is approximately sixty minutes in length, with no intermission.
- To purchase *Lions in Illyria* show tickets and/or Friends of Fine Arts Preshow Dinner tickets, **[click here](#)**.
- The window to purchase Preshow Dinner tickets in advance closes Wednesday, October 27, at midnight. Presale show tickets must be purchased by Thursday, October 28, at midnight.
- Walk-up tickets will be available for purchase Friday, October 29, at 6:00 p.m. in the Gay Foyer (FAC lobby).

ABOUT THE SHOW

Giraffes are gentlemen, aardvarks are card sharks, and animals rule the world in this retelling of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. When young lioness Violet is separated from her twin brother by a storm at sea, she must find her way alone in an unknown country. Disguised as a boy, she finds work helping a preposterous peacock win the love of the most graceful gazelle in town. But it's not long before Violet is torn between multiple masters, and the whole menagerie is tangled in matters of the heart. Travel to the weird and wonderful land of Illyria in this clever, magical comedy.

Sporting Clays Classic: A Resounding Success!

At Friday's sixth-annual Sporting Clays Classic, presented by Collectors Firearms, participants enjoyed a lighthearted day of fun and fellowship. This year's event was led

by 2021 event chair Dan Meyer '96, vice chair Christina Blackwell '95, founding chair Clarke Anderson, and honorary chair Carol Lee Lyons, along with a stellar committee.

With sincere appreciation, we thank all the [participants, sponsors](#), and volunteers who made this year's event possible. Keep an eye on your inbox—we'll be sending you information about the funds raised, the list of winners, and a link to our highly anticipated photo gallery soon.

Funds benefit the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund, which supports cultural, academic, and recreational enrichment opportunities for St. Francis students who otherwise might not be able to participate. See you next year!

Parent Volunteers Needed: Two Upcoming Opportunities

SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

Amy Chandler, the Middle School art teacher, needs volunteers the week of November 1 to help spread Christmas cheer!

- Each year, students create ornaments to put on their grade-level Christmas tree on their respective campus. Mrs. Chandler needs elves to cut and sort supplies in the Middle School Art Room on Piney Point Campus in preparation for the annual ornament-making week.
- Click [here](#) to sign up to volunteer.
- If you have any questions, please [email Amy Chandler](#).

ART CHANGEOUT

Friends of Fine Arts needs your help on Monday, November 8. Have you ever wondered who changes all the beautiful student artwork on display at St. Francis? It's parent volunteers just like you. It's a fun time with 12–14 parents working in teams.

- What do we need to do? Clean the acrylic frames, install the new art pieces, and carefully return the old art pieces to be distributed back to students.
- No prior experience is necessary—anyone can help. If you would like to assist with this art changeout, please use the SignUpGenius link [here](#).
- If you have any questions, please [email Rita Pace](#).

COVID Dashboard

St. Francis is updating the following COVID Dashboard weekly to track the number of active cases and total year-to-date cases for students and faculty/staff. This dashboard can also be found on the Parent Portal.

COVID Dashboard

STUDENTS	FACULTY/STAFF
ACTIVE Cases	ACTIVE Cases
Total Active COVID+ Students	Total Active COVID+ Faculty/Staff
0	0
YTD Cases	YTD Cases
Total YTD COVID+ Students	Total YTD COVID+ Faculty/Staff
37	13

*Updated 10/21/21 at 9:00 a.m.

Mask-Optional Policy Begins This Week

We have been monitoring active and year-to-date COVID cases in the St. Francis community and are pleased to report that our data has been trending downward since mid-September.

- **Beginning this week, we will implement a mask-optional policy for all divisions.**
- *As people for others*, we will support all students and faculty who continue to wear masks.
- Please understand that, at any time, we may transition back to a mask-required policy if there are significant changes to our institutional data or to a specific division or classroom.

- With questions, please email HealthResponse@StFrancisHouston.org.

Thank you for your continued partnership in support of the health and safety of our community.

Support the Home Team!

The Athletics Booster Club invites you to come out and support our Wolves at this week's home games. We will be selling concessions at all games—most items are \$1. Exact change is much appreciated. [Click here](#) and scroll to “Upcoming Events” to see the game schedule for the week.

Primary School

From the Primary I Lead Teachers

Children learn how to write in the same way they learn to walk. It happens in stages. A child may first learn how to sit up, crawl, and stand before they eventually learn to walk. In a similar way, children will naturally hold crayons in a different way as their hand and arm muscles strengthen.

First, they might try holding a crayon with a closed fist using their shoulders to make marks on a paper. Then they may move to a palmar grasp, where they use their fingers, pointing them down toward the paper. Next, they might grasp the crayon using their index, middle, and thumb digits, still dependent on the wrist for movement. Eventually, children will be able to use their fingers and thumb to move the crayon using a tripod grasp. In this stage, a child will be able to write and draw with detail.

In Primary I, you might see your child progressing from making lines and swirls on paper to writing their name, copying letters and numbers, and even drawing themselves or their family and friends.

We provide many fine-motor activities, routines, and opportunities that involve writing in the classroom. In addition, we model writing by recording news, storytelling, taking group stories, creating lists as a class when brainstorming a project, and creating class books.

There are also opportunities for the teacher and child to write together and independently. The students may sign in by writing their names and may also copy posted words, as well as write words. Each classroom has a writing center with various writing tools to facilitate such learning.

Your child can do the following activities to strengthen fine-motor skills at home:

- Paint using brushes, squeezing pipettes, or droppers.
- Pick up and transfer pom-poms using tongs or tweezers.
- Help bake cookies by scooping, pouring, stirring, rolling dough into balls, and piping icing.
- String beads on pipe cleaners or thread.
- Thread fabric strips or straws through holes in cardboard.
- Peel painter's tape off of a surface.
- Open and close snack bags.
- Roll, flatten, cut, and squeeze play dough.
- Zip and unzip zippers.
- Cut paper.

We are grateful to work with our Primary I children as they become empowered writers, and we look forward to their exponential growth this school year.

Sincerely,

Marissa Capasso, Annie Ferguson, Leah Peden, and Andrea Scriber
Primary I Lead Teachers

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 25

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, October 26

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Mrs. Wiener's and Mrs. Owens's classes attend in person*
 - *Primary II Sings in Chapel: Mrs. Wiener's and Mrs. Owens's classes*
-

Wednesday, October 27

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person*
-

Friday, October 29

- *Student Holiday*

- *Primary School Parent-Teacher Conference Day*
-

Monday, November 1

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, November 2

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
 - *Chapel Drama: Mrs. Owens's class*
-

Wednesday, November 3

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person*
-

Thursday, November 4

- *Primary School Admissions Tour: 9:30 a.m.*
-

Sunday, November 7

- *Primary School Admissions Open House: 2:00–4:00 p.m.*
-

Monday, November 8

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, November 9

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II attends in person*

Wednesday, November 10

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person*
-

Monday, November 15

- *Primary I Parent Step-up*
 - *Lunch on the Lawn for Primary I*
-

Tuesday, November 16

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II attends in person*
 - *Primary II Parent Step-up: 10:15 a.m. on the Piney Point Campus*
 - *2-Day Pre-Primary Parent Step-up*
 - *Lunch on the Lawn: Primary II and Mrs. Oteiza's 2-day class*
-

Wednesday, November 17

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I attends in person*
 - *Pre-Primary Parent Step-up*
 - *Lunch on the Lawn for Pre-Primary*
-

Friday, November 19

- *Primary School Thanksgiving Feast: Students only*
-

Monday, November 22–Friday, November 26

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*
-

Monday, November 29

- *Primary School Open Library: 3:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library*
-

Tuesday, November 30

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II attends in person*

Lower School

A Note From Ms. Nguyen, Fourth-Grade Math Teacher

“We don’t need students to calculate quickly in math. We need students who can ask good questions, map out pathways, reason about complex solutions, set up models, and communicate in different forms.” —Jo Boaler, author and professor of mathematics education

For generations, math curricula have been designed in favor of a certain type of learner—one who can memorize and calculate quickly. However, every student is created with individual strengths and gifts and deserves to learn in a setting that values all types of learners.

With this in mind, combined with findings from brain research, educators have developed content and strategies that target critical, divergent thinking rather than just procedural competency.

This is not to say that memorization of content (i.e., math facts) is not valuable. Rather, it is a step toward being able to think deeply about math. Today’s math emphasizes reasoning, problem-solving, and creativity—all elements that are required in our world’s ever-changing landscape of post-education life.

Bridges in Mathematics, Lower School’s research-based math curriculum, incorporates these elements through hands-on exploration, real-life problem-solving projects, and game play where students learn to work collaboratively as math concepts and standards are reinforced. Students develop multiple strategies for a single solution, fortifying their depth of understanding and their ability to assess for efficacy and efficiency.

Math is a multi-dimensional subject built for multi-dimensional students, and the way we teach math at St. Francis embraces this fact.

Warm regards,

Christine Nguyen, MEd
Fourth-Grade Math Faculty

Step Forward to Middle School Is November 5

The Middle School is excited to host a *Step Forward to Middle School* day for current fourth-grade parents on Friday, November 5, at 8:15 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room. We hope you will join us to see Middle School classes in action, hear from our faculty, learn more about our educational philosophy and curriculum, and much more.

Please help us plan! Let us know you are coming by completing the RSVP at [this link](#). Thank you!

LS Field Hockey Clinic Is Saturday

Students in kindergarten through grade 5 are invited to join us for a field hockey clinic, offered through Velocity, this Saturday, October 30, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Come learn the fundamentals of this growing sport!

- The \$50 registration fee includes a T-shirt and field hockey stick.
- Register by emailing [Margaret Newsom](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 25

- *Chapel for Grades 3–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 24–30 birthdays
 - *Grade 4 ERB Testing*
-

Monday, October 25-Thursday, October 28

- *Grade 4 ERB Testing*
-

Thursday, October 28

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 24–30 birthdays

Friday, October 29

- *Storybook Character Day*
 - *All Saints'/Halloween Parties:* In classrooms
-

Monday, November 1

- *All Saints Eucharist for Grades 3–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 31–November 6 birthdays
-

Wednesday, November 3

- *Late-Start Day:* Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.
 - **Regular Carpool:** 7:00–8:00 a.m.; students will be supervised by staff in the Dining Hall
 - **Late-Start Carpool:** 9:30–9:55 a.m.; students will be supervised in the Dining Hall until 9:50 a.m., when they will be released to go to class
-

Thursday, November 4

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating October 31–November 6 birthdays
 - *Classroom Group Pictures and Individual Makeup Pictures:* Individual pictures are at 9:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall; group pictures are outside to enable social distancing
-

Monday, November 8

- *Chapel for Grades 3–4*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating November 7–13 birthdays
-

Thursday, November 11

- *Chapel for Kindergarten Through Grade 2*
 - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
 - Celebrating November 7–13 birthdays

Middle School

From the Division Head

This has been a very challenging week for the St. Francis community. As individuals have worked through myriad thoughts and emotions surrounding the tragic loss of a student in our Upper School, I have witnessed a sense of camaraderie and solidarity among our Middle School students and faculty. The support our community members have offered one another has been a bright spot in a difficult time.

Throughout the week, we have made counselors available to talk with students and staff who needed to process their thoughts and feelings. Mr. Lakoski, Fr. Wismer, Coach T, and others will continue to be available to students seeking a trusted adult.

The death of a peer often brings up challenging questions for kids, and you may find yourself having discussions about suicide, death, and self-harm with your child in the days and weeks ahead. To help equip you for these conversations, we are taking the steps outlined below:

- This Monday, Dr. Crystal Collier will be making a special presentation to our seventh- and eighth-grade students.
- On Wednesday, Dr. Collier will be conducting a session for parents at 7:45 a.m. during our scheduled Middle School Parent meeting.

In addition to resources like Dr. Collier, we are fortunate to have Mr. Lakoski and Dr. Curtis on our team. Please read the letter from Mr. Lakoski, below, for some specific resources and advice for parents on how to talk with their child about suicide and self-harm.

Chris Bertha, MA
Head of Middle School

Message From Director of School Counseling Ted Lakoski

The sudden loss of a beloved student in our school community to suicide has left all of us in shock and disbelief. Unfortunately, this tragedy is being replayed throughout schools across the country—as depression, anxiety, and suicide rates in young people are on the rise. The best defense against this mental health crisis is knowing the

symptoms and warning signs to look for in our children. **Please join us for Dr. Collier's parent presentation on Wednesday, October 27, at 7:45 a.m.** It will be an eye-opening talk and a good launching point for more discussion.

Additionally, please take the time to check out the following resources, which will offer guidance on how to talk to your child about death and suicide. These are hard conversations on topics that none of us would ever imagine having with our children. However, hard conversations are what are needed to help keep our kids safe.

- Talking to your child about a suicide death is difficult, and this document from Texas Children's Hospital outlines tips and strategies to help you navigate the conversation: [**Talking to Your Child About a Suicide Death: A Guide for Parents and Caregivers**](#)
- Is this normal or is my teen depressed? Many parents ask this each day—and it is a hard question to answer! This is a great overview for your teen, and a good conversation starter: [**NIH Infographic on Teen Depression**](#)

Know that the counselors at St. Francis are on call to help answer your questions, listen to your fears/concerns, and work with our students to make sure they feel known and cared for. Please [**reach out to me**](#) with any questions or concerns you might have. It takes a village to raise a child, and we are so fortunate to have the community of St. Francis to help us.

Be well, and I will see you at the morning carpool line!

Ted Lakoski, MA
Director of School Counseling

Attendance Reminder

If your child will be late or will be absent from school, we ask that you please enter this information through the Parent Portal using the "Update Attendance" button. You may also contact the Middle School Office and your child's advisor.

Upcoming Special Dress Days

Wednesday, October 27, and Friday, October 29, are special dress days for Middle School students. See below for details and for St. Francis's Casual Dress Guidelines.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27—PINK OUT FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Students and faculty are welcome to wear pink tops and/or bottoms in accordance with the Casual Dress Guidelines. Students not wearing pink are expected to wear the regular uniform.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29—HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP

Students and faculty are invited to wear Halloween costumes in accordance with the Casual Dress Guidelines. Students not wearing a costume are welcome to wear St. Francis Spirit Wear with uniform bottoms or jeans.

Students' Halloween costumes should not include the following:

- Blood or weapons
- Immodest dress
- Cigarettes, alcohol, or drugs

CASUAL DRESS GUIDELINES

On Casual Dress Days, students are expected to follow dress code guidelines, as follows, and may also wear appropriate T-shirts and blue jeans.

- Leggings permitted with long T-shirts
- Jeans, slacks, or shorts the same length as uniform shorts
- No tank tops, spaghetti straps, or basketball jerseys, except over a T-shirt

If your child does not wish to wear a costume, he or she should wear St. Francis Spirit Wear with uniform bottoms or blue jeans.

Winter Sports Information

All Middle School winter sport athletes will meet in the Piney Point Gym at the start of practice. Brief announcements will be shared with the students, and then they will be released to their practice locations as listed below. Students should bring the appropriate shoes and equipment necessary for practice: basketball shoes, soccer cleats, shin guards, wrestling shoes, etc.

Students with fine arts commitments will report to Fine Arts until the production is complete. These students will be evaluated upon their return to Athletics.

Team/Group	Time	Location	Carpool Pickup
Swimming	2:45 p.m. Pickup	Piney Point Campus	Front of School
MS PE	2:45–3:50 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	Dining Hall
MS Boys Basketball	2:45–4:15 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	Dining Hall

Team/Group	Time	Location	Carpool Pickup
MS Boys Soccer	2:45–4:15 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	Dining Hall
6th Girls Soccer	2:45–4:15 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	Dining Hall
Wrestling	2:45–4:15 p.m.	Piney Point Campus	Dining Hall
MS Girls Basketball	2:45–4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Crum Gym
7th Girls Soccer	2:45–4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Primary School
8th Girls Soccer	3:00–4:15 p.m.	Couper Campus	Primary School

Summer Travel to Greece and Italy

It's not too late to sign up for the optional summer trip to Greece and Italy!

- The trip dates are June 7–15, 2022. [Click here](#) to see the itinerary and trip site, and [click here](#) to print the required application to join the trip. (The application also includes additional details on deadlines and how to register.)
- If you'd like to see a sneak preview of the trip, [click here](#) for a video from the 2015 St. Francis trip to Greece and Italy.
- Mr. Knesek hosted a Zoom information meeting for parents in September. If you missed it, you may view it [here](#).
- The trip application interest form is due to Mr. Knesek, and online registration with ACIS is due by Monday, November 1, for the lowest possible price.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 25

- *"B" Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:21–9:46 a.m.*
- *Pumpkin-Carving Contest*

Tuesday, October 26

- **"C" Day**
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Studies (Grade 8 Girls/Grade 7 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*

Wednesday, October 27

- **"E" Day**
- *Pink Out Dress Day: Wear pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (see guidelines above) or wear your regular uniform*
- *Middle School Parent Meeting With Dr. Crystal Collier: 7:45–8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room*
- *Bible Study (Grade 8 Boys): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*

Thursday, October 28

- **"D" Day**
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Studies (Grade 6 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:21–9:46 a.m.*
- *Middle School Matinee Performance of **Lions in Illyria**: 11:00 a.m.; students only*

Friday, October 29

- **"A" Day**
- *Halloween Dress-up Day: See guidelines above; alternately, students may wear St. Francis Spirit Wear with uniform bottoms or blue jeans (no athletic shorts)*
- *Bible Studies (Grade 5 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Middle School/Upper School "Halloween Hauntcert" Choir Performance: Student-only event*
- *Middle School Performance of **Lions in Illyria**: 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*

Monday, November 1

- *"B" Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Middle School Eucharist*

Tuesday, November 2

- *"C" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Bible Studies (Grade 8 Girls/Grade 7 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*

Wednesday, November 3

- *"D" Day (Modified)*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Late-Start Day: Classes begin at 10:00 a.m.*

Thursday, November 4

- *"E" Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Individual Makeup Student Photos: Dress uniform for students having pictures done*
- *Bible Studies (Grade 6 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:21–9:46 a.m.*

Friday, November 5

- *"A" Day*
- *St. Francis Spirit Wear With Uniform Bottoms or Blue Jeans (No Athletic Shorts)*
- *End of Trimester 1*
- *Bible Studies (Grade 5 Boys and Girls): 7:15–7:45 a.m. in the Christian Education rooms at the end of the Middle School hallway*

Wednesday, November 10–Friday, November 12

- *ERB Testing*

Wednesday, November 17

- *Grandparents Day Lunch for Middle School*

Monday, November 22–Friday, November 26

- *Thanksgiving Holiday*

Upper School

Message From the Head of Upper School

This has been a devastating week for our community. For many of our students, this is the first time that someone they know has passed, and of course so many students knew Alex intimately. It has been doubly difficult for our students, because Alex had such a profound impact on our community. He was a leader and took time to know all at our school—it seems that everywhere you look, you can find something Alex built or a place where he was prominent.

I want to let you know what last week looked like. We began the day Tuesday with a school assembly, and with permission from Alex's parents, told the students that Alex had passed by suicide. While we were still going to hold classes, we let students know that they did not have to attend. They could gather and talk with one another; they could speak with counselors; and lastly, they could talk with teachers and administrators. On Wednesday, the school shortened class periods and invited Dr. Crystal Collier, who specializes in adolescent brain development and trauma experiences, to speak to our students, parents, and faculty and staff. Counselors were still available to students for them to talk with at any time in the day.

We are so grateful to River Oaks Baptist, Duchesne, and Kinkaid for sending their school counselors to help with our students this week.

One of the hardest things for adolescents to understand is why we strive to return to normalcy. *Does the school understand what we're feeling? Do they care? How can we*

be expected to function? And that's just it. We all process grief differently. Some students cannot be in class. For them, counselors will continue to be present for as long as needed. Some students need the structure of class; they need support; they need the ability to take their minds off what just happened.

But we all have to return to some sense of routine and normalcy. In the coming days, it will be hard for those closest to Alex to emerge from their grief, and we hope that the upcoming celebrations and remembrance of Alex will help us begin to turn our sadness at his loss into gratitude for the many gifts he bestowed on us.

I am so proud of the St. Francis community in the wake of this tragedy. It has been humbling to see our community come together to support the Haug family and our students. There have been emails, phone calls, flowers, and food. Parents from all grades have stepped forward to volunteer. Our students have especially come together to support each other.

Speaking of students coming together—in what is a first for me—the seniors conspired to tacitly alter the uniform guidelines in tribute to Alex and to remember his patriotism. They decided that Wednesday would be a great day for wearing red, Thursday white, and Friday blue.

The first photo below shows Alex's senior parking space, where his love of the Texas flag is on proud display. In the second picture, students are wearing red and are gathered in front of the shed where Alex did so much work for our theater program.





Seeing this indomitable spirit in our students reminds me of the community that I saw on my visit last year, and why I knew St. Francis was a special place. Together, we will continue the path to healing and remembering, relying on each other and the community we hold dear.

Thank you for your continued support.

Marc Addington, MA
Head of Upper School

Freshmen and Sophomore Retreats

Freshmen and sophomore retreats have been rescheduled for February 10–11, 2022. We will still be going to Camp Allen. The cabins are heated and are prepared for cold weather.

Junior Ring Ceremony Rescheduled to April 7

The Junior Ring Ceremony has been rescheduled for the evening of April 7, 2022. We will hold this event in St. Francis Episcopal Church on Piney Point Campus.

Stay tuned for information about ordering rings. We will have a representative from Balfour on campus during the month of December so that students and families may view options.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 25

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform*
 - *Upper School Individual Pictures Makeup Day: 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Primary School Library*
 - *Pumpkin-Carving Contest: Students participating in the contest can deposit their pumpkins on the white tables under the tent near the football field.*
-

Tuesday, October 26

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform*
-

Wednesday, October 27

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform: Students attending the Mass in celebration of the life of Alex Haug may dress in formal attire*
 - *Early Release: 12:00 p.m.*
-

Thursday, October 28

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular School Uniform*
-

Friday, October 29

- *"A" Day*
- *Students May Dress in Halloween Costumes*
- *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:35 a.m.*
- *Middle School/Upper School "Halloween Hauntcert" Choir Performance: Student-only event*
- *"Dead Day": Students will have classes, but no new material or assessments*

Monday, November 1

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular School Uniform*
- *"Dead Day"*: Students will have classes, but no new material or assessments

Tuesday, November 2

- *Exams*
- *Regular School Uniform*
- *Upper School Admissions Tour: 9:30–11:30 a.m.*

Wednesday, November 3

- *Exams*
- *Regular School Uniform*
- ***No Late Start Today***

Thursday, November 4

- *Exams*
- *Regular School Uniform*

Friday, November 5

- *Exams*
- *Regular School Uniform*

Church

In-Person Worship

The Holy Eucharist is offered at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. We 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.

Music Ministry: Music by Purcell This Wednesday

This Wednesday, October 27, members of the St. Francis Music Ministry will perform music by Purcell in the church, following the Wednesday evening Eucharist service at 6:00 p.m. in St. Clare Chapel and dinner in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. Come for an enjoyable evening, dinner, and beautiful music. Dinner is \$10 per person. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

SFSA Recognition Sunday Is October 31

On Sunday, October 31, we will celebrate our St. Francis Sports Association, our coaches, and our student participants. Our student-athletes are invited to wear their uniforms to church and bring a sports-equipment item for a special blessing.

Moms, Join Us for Bible Study

The **SFES Moms' Bible Study** meets on **Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m.** and is led by **Allison Devlin**, director of family ministry. Please contact Allison via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725 for more meeting details.

Join Mrs. Devlin for In-Person Let It Shine!

Join Mrs. Devlin each Sunday for in-person Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout. All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate.

Middle School Bible Study: Meets Every Sunday

We invite your Middle School-aged children to meet for Bible study each Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. service.

- **Who:** Middle School students
- **What:** Bible study and fellowship
- **When:** Meets every Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service
- **Where:** CE212 (GLOW room, upstairs above church office)
- **Why:** New study on *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

For more information, please contact Allison Devlin [via email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

High School Bible Study: Next Meeting Is November 3

The high school Bible study continues meeting every other week at the Houston Racquet Club, with the next meeting planned for Wednesday, November 3. The group meets at 6:30 p.m. to have dinner and to study *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. All high schoolers are invited to attend. For additional information, please contact Allison Devlin [via email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

The Men of St. Francis: Next Meeting Is November 9

The Men of St. Francis continue their study and discussion, led by Fr. Bates. The group meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. in the Wheatcroft Parish Hall. Breakfast is provided. Please [contact Fr. Bates](#) for additional information.

Veterans Day Recognition Is November 14

On Sunday, November 14, we will honor and celebrate our veterans, giving thanks for all who have served honorably in the U.S. military. If you have a name to add to the Veterans Day publication we produce annually, please provide the name and rank of the person to be listed to Sally Jo Flores no later than Wednesday, November 10. You can reach Sally via [email](#) or by phone at 713.782.1720.

Help Meet MAM's Updated Supply Needs

Memorial Assistance Ministries recently let us know that your generous donations have been helping to keep the organization's pantry well supplied. Thank you! They do still have some urgent needs, so if you are able to help, please consider donating the following items:

- Laundry detergent
- Baby wipes
- Size 2 diapers
- Size 3 diapers
- Size 5 diapers
- Size 6 diapers

For additional information, contact our church liaison, Andrea Eubanks, [via email](#) or at 713.859.1448.

Fair Haven Food Pantry Needs Canned Vegetables

The Fair Haven Food Pantry needs our help! The ministry, which has been providing food assistance to people in the Spring Branch/Memorial area since 1975, has requested donations of **canned vegetables** in October.

- The pantry also needs your help to sort and box produce from the Houston Food Bank and to distribute food boxes in the drive-through pickup line.
- To volunteer, please [click here](#).
- For additional information, email [Jessica Antel](#).

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 two months.

Upcoming Events and Days to Remember at St. Francis

St. Francis is hosting the following events, either in-person, via Zoom, or both. To join a Zoom 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:** New study on the book *Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn From Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/651248716>
 - *To participate, email Louise Richman.*

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Acts and After You Believe
 - **Contact:** [Martin O'Malley](#)
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- Second Tuesday of each month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is November 9**)
 - **Meeting:** The Men of St. Francis Breakfast and Bible Study
 - **Study:** Simply Good News
 - **Location:** Wheatcroft Parish Hall
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Acts of the Apostles
 - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84213782442>
 - **Meeting ID:** 842 1378 2442
 - **Passcode:** 1c6HEL

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** The Book of Job
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room (St. Francis Episcopal School)
 - **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 10:00–10:45 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** GLOW Middle School
 - **Study:** C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*
 - **Location:** Classroom CE212
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)
- Wednesdays at 6:30–8:00 p.m. (**Every other week; next meeting is November 3**)
 - **Meeting:** High School Dinner and Bible Study
 - **Study:** C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*
 - **Location:** Houston Racquet Club
 - **Contact:** [Allison Devlin](#)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **In-Person Meeting Place:** The Bride's Room
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 05741
- Wednesday Night Eucharist, Program, and Dinner (**\$10 per person**)
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** Church and Wheatcroft Parish Hall
- Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **In-Person Meeting Place:** The Bride's Room
 - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
 - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
 - **Passcode:** 057417
- Thursdays at 6:15–6:45 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/79725936159>
 - **Meeting ID:** 797 2593 6159
 - **Passcode:** 678123
- Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.
 - **Meeting:** Spiritual Enrichment
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
 - **Location:** The Bride's Room

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 Worship Services" button. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available. If you prefer to watch from Facebook or YouTube, click on the links to go to those streaming servers.

Prelude music will begin on the livestream 10 minutes before the service to allow time for your connection and your inspiration. If you miss the live video, a recording of the service will also be available on [St. Francis's YouTube channel](#).