

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of October 9

### All School

#### **St. Francis Connections: Join Us October 27**

Understanding and coping with stressful life events can be tough for anyone. It can be even more challenging to talk about these experiences with children.

Join us on Thursday, October 27, at 11:30 a.m. to explore ways parents and caregivers can navigate difficult conversations with children and teens. Guest speaker **Marisa Nowitz** will offer a brief overview of how to recognize signs of distress in children who have been exposed to trauma and/or loss. In addition, we will explore the “cost of caring” and strategies to promote resilience in parents and caregivers who are helping to support children.

Light lunch will be served. RSVP by clicking on [this link](#) or on the image below.

## St. Francis Connections

S P E A K E R   S E R I E S



### **MARISA B. NOWITZ, MSW, LCSW-S**

*Senior Director of School and Community Engagement  
Trauma and Grief Center*

*“Navigating Difficult Conversations with Children and Teens”*

**Thursday, October 27, 2022 | 11:30 AM**

FINE ARTS CENTER | PINEY POINT CAMPUS

### **Let's Go 'Stros!**

To show our love for the Houston Astros as they start their run to the World Series, students are invited to wear Astros shirts with their uniform bottoms on all home game days during the playoffs. For this week, that's Tuesday, October 11, and Thursday, October 13.

### **Last Week to Register for the Sporting Clays Classic**

Our annual Sporting Clays Classic is less than two weeks away! The event will take place at Greater Houston Sports Club. Come join us for fun, fellowship, and friendly competition. Register your team today!

- 8:00 a.m.—Registration/Light Breakfast and Coffee
- 8:15 a.m.—Warm-ups
- 9:30 a.m.—Safety Briefing
- 9:45 a.m.—Shoot Begins
- 12:00 p.m.—Games/Lunch and Beverages
- By 2:00 p.m.—Event Concludes

**[Click here to register.](#) Registration will close this Sunday, October 16.**

### ***Cinderella Confidential* Is This Weekend: Get Your Tickets Today**

Our Middle School play, *Cinderella Confidential*, is this coming weekend! Please join us for humor and talent on the stage as we witness a new spin on the Cinderella drama. **The show will be in the Fine Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, October 14, and at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 15.** You and your family will not want to miss it! For tickets, reserved seating, and more information, **[click here](#)**. Please **[email Kristal St. Clair](#)** with questions, or call our box office number at 713.458.6498.

### **Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest Is on Halloween This Year!**

Our popular Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest will be held on Monday, October 31, this year!

- We have added an additional pumpkin drop-off option, due to parking and carpool limitations. Please drop off on one of the following:
  - Sunday, October 30, 3:00–5:00 p.m. by the Dining Hall
  - Monday, October 31, 7:15–8:15 a.m. by the Dining Hall
- Pumpkins must be picked up by 5:00 p.m. on October 31, or they will be thrown away.
- There will be no parent judges this year. School administration will be judging.
- Online entry forms will be sent out as we get closer to the event.
- Below are the winning categories:
  - Best in Your Grade, Best Pumpkin Overall, Best "Collab" Pumpkin (Family, Friends, or Class Pumpkin), School Spirit Award, Best Book Character, Most Detailed, Most Unique, Most Adorable, Best TV/Movie

Character, Best Food, Best Person, Best Animal, Silliest, Grossest, Spookiest, Best Sports Theme, and Best Carved Pumpkin

Please contact [Kaylen Meserve](#) or [Lauren Wuertz](#) with any questions.

### **Mark Your Calendar: Upper School Musical Is Next Month**

Mark your calendars for the Upper School musical performance of *Beauty and the Beast* on November 11, 12, and 13. We've got a special event planned for Sunday, November 13, for our younger Disney fans. Stay tuned for more information!

### **Friends of Fine Arts: Next Meeting Is October 11**

Friends of Fine Arts' next meeting is this Tuesday, October 11, at 8:30 a.m. at the 9000 Westheimer building.

### **Important Details About Grandparent and Grandfriends Days**

#### **UPDATE GRANDPARENT INFORMATION ON YOUR VERACROSS PROFILE!**

We will be welcoming grandparents and grandfriends to the Piney Point Campus on the dates and times listed below. Invitations will be sent soon, so we need your help ensuring we have the correct contact information. **Please make sure the grandparent information is current on your Veracross profile!**

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

We will be organizing Middle School Grandparents and Grandfriends Day differently this year—alphabetically by student last name, allowing siblings and cousins to enjoy time together, as well! The Middle School event will be held on Wednesday, November 16, as follows:

- Students with last names that start with A–K will host their grandparents and grandfriends from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- Students with last names that start with L–Z will host their grandparents and grandfriends from 1:00 to 2:15 p.m.

#### **LOWER SCHOOL: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

Lower School Grandparents and Grandfriends Days will be organized the same as in previous years—by grade level!

- **Thursday, November 17**
  - **Kindergarten:** 8:45–10:30 a.m.
  - **First Grade:** 12:30–2:15 p.m.
- **Friday, November 18**
  - **Second Grade:** 8:45–10:30 a.m.
  - **Third and Fourth Grades:** 12:30–2:15 p.m.

With questions regarding Grandparents and Grandfriends Days, please contact Alaina Stephens at 713.458.6169 or via [email](#).

## **Primary School**

### **From the Primary II Team**

On any given day, as you peruse the cottages in the Primary School, you will become innately aware that something magical is happening. You may notice a mural of a large mushroom, the sun exploding from white pieces of paper with black backing, rainbows illuminating beautiful bands of color, a host of carefully illustrated bugs crawling about, and so much more. You are observing the many projects that transpire in our creative and curious learning environment.

The Primary School employs the project approach to learning as a central component of following the child's interest. This is a core principle of being Reggio-inspired. This approach allows students to experience in-depth exploration and understanding of topics that are of genuine interest. Students are encouraged to investigate, research, and represent their learning in various ways. Using the children's inquiries and ideas as guidance, teachers provide real-world, hands-on opportunities for children to explore, discover, and gain knowledge together. Through these projects, children's natural curiosity of how the world works guides the learning that happens in the classroom and allows children to have a voice in their curriculum.

In Primary II, we get to know the children's interests and wonders by talking to them, listening as they chat with their friends, and observing as they play and explore at school. When the teachers notice a common curiosity among the children, we provide books and other materials to gauge their interest level. If they are excited, we cultivate their enthusiasm—planning all things around the “project topic.” Learning experiences can include literature, writing activities, art activities, dramatic play, guest experts, real materials and artifacts, and so much more! When a project concludes, it is important to celebrate the learning that has happened. This usually involves sharing new knowledge with others and honoring the hard work that has been done by the students.

St. Francis supports project work for its endless benefits to children's development. One of these benefits is the positive impact on children's feelings about themselves as learners. Through their contributions to a project, children feel that their opinions and ideas are valued and respected by others. Moreover, they have knowledge to share with others, while also appreciating their peers' ideas. Most importantly, they gain a lifelong love of learning.

We may not be able to predict the future professions of our children, but we know that we want them to become curious, purposeful, thoughtful, collaborative citizens. The project approach to learning helps our children become just that!

Sincerely,

Marissa Capasso and Amanda Acton; Emily Hughes and Ryan Roussett; Janene Owens and Alex Theis; and Diane Wiener and Julie Mills  
The Primary II Team

### **Sign Up for Fall Conferences on October 31**

Fall conferences will take place on Monday, October 31. Please click below on the name of your child's teacher to sign up for a fall conference.

#### **PRE-PRIMARY**

- [Mrs. Biehl](#)
- [Mrs. Britton](#)
- [Ms. Greenwood](#)
- [Mrs. Husain](#)
- [Mrs. Oteiza](#)

#### **PRIMARY I**

- [Mrs. Agee](#)
- [Ms. Breckenridge](#)
- [Mrs. Ferguson](#)
- [Mrs. Peden](#)
- [Mrs. Scriber](#)

#### **PRIMARY II**

- [Mrs. Capasso](#)
- [Mrs. Hughes](#)
- [Mrs. Owens](#)
- [Mrs. Wiener](#)

### ***From Cottage to College—Join Us on October 26!***

It's been said that the days are long, but the years are short when you're raising children. Though yours are just starting their educational journey, it's likely you've already thought about their path toward high school and beyond. At this special event, our [director of college counseling](#) will discuss what Primary School parents should know about the college admission process and how, from Primary through Upper School, St. Francis walks alongside you as your children develop into imaginative, critical thinkers and *people for others*. Afterward, we'll take you on a tour of our beautiful new Student Life Center.

Wednesday, October 26

8:45 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

Student Life Center, Couper Campus

Attendance is limited to 50 people. Click [here](#) to reserve your space now. (*We will plan another event if we are unable to accommodate everyone who wants to attend on October 26.*)

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Monday, October 10**

- *Fall Break Holiday:* School closed
- 

### **Tuesday, October 11**

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend
  - *Primary II Chapel Drama (Hughes and Wiener)*
- 

### **Wednesday, October 12**

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend
- 

### **Sunday, October 16**

- *Episcopal School Sunday:* 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services at St. Francis Episcopal Church
- 

### **Monday, October 17**

- *Open Library:* 3:15 p.m.
- 

### **Tuesday, October 18**

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

### **Wednesday, October 19**

- *Chapel:* 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend
-

### **Friday, October 21**

- *Sporting Clays Classic*
- 

### **Monday, October 24**

- *Open Library: 3:15 p.m.*
- 

### **Tuesday, October 25**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.*
  - *Primary II Sings in Chapel (Hughes and Wiener)*
- 

### **Wednesday, October 26**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend*
  - *"From Cottage to College" Parent Meeting: 8:45–9:30 a.m. in the Student Life Center on Couper Campus; click [here](#) to reserve your seat (max. 50 attendees)*
- 

### **Monday, October 31**

- *PS Parent Conference Day: Student holiday*
- 

### **Tuesday, November 1**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary II parents may attend*
- 

### **Wednesday, November 2**

- *Chapel: 9:30 a.m.; Primary I parents may attend*

## **Lower School**

### **From the Third-Grade Teachers**

As teachers, nothing brings us more joy than watching students grow in the core academic areas. However, some of the most rewarding student growth involves independence, grit, and personal responsibility. These life skills are developed each day in class through the lens of academic and enrichment subjects.

Throughout the school day, students are encouraged to persist, even when the going gets tough. When students notice an obstacle in completing a task, we encourage them to take the initiative to come up with an idea to complete or attempt to fulfill the assignment despite missing a piece. In third grade, this might look like writing out their word sort on notebook paper if they forget to bring home their word-study journal.

This practice can also be helpful when extended to your home environment. Finding the right opportunity to give your child control can be challenging as a parent. An excellent way to start handing over responsibility to your child is to provide opportunities for them to take ownership of routines that directly impact their day. Packing their backpack the night before school with the WOLF Folder, snack, and water bottle is an excellent way for your child to show autonomy and have a smooth start in the morning. If something is forgotten at home, have no fear! Let these items stay at home so that your child may problem-solve and persist through this unexpected challenge. They will develop resilience as a result of this logical consequence.

These small learning moments and opportunities for increased responsibility will help prepare your child for third grade and life beyond. We look forward to a wonderful year working together with you as a team!

Warmly,

Christina Gonzales, Alison Johnston, Charlotte Morales, and Linden Womack  
The Third-Grade Team

### **Parent Lunches With Students Begin October 11**

Beginning this Tuesday, October 11, we will kick off our parent lunches with students. Due to space and safety concerns, lunch visitors are subject to important guidelines:

- All lunch visitors must follow established check-in/checkout procedures and will receive a name tag upon arrival, which must be worn at all times while on campus.
- Lunch visitors are asked to follow the dining procedures on pages 31–32 of our *Lower School Handbook*, as follows: “Any commercially prepared off-campus foods (e.g., fast food, smoothies, cakes) can distract from our goal of encouraging healthier dining choices and are NOT allowed; please do not bring these foods for either parent or student. Please do not bring anything with nuts or nut butters, since many of our students suffer from allergies.”

**St. Francis uses SignUpGenius for scheduling family lunch dates** to ensure efficient organization of highly attended dates when limited space is available. (Please note that lunch times for each grade level are listed at the top of the sign-up page.)

- **To sign up for a day to have lunch with your child or children, [click here](#).**

Parents are encouraged to eat with their Lower School child at the tables along Main Street or at outdoor picnic tables in the courtyard adjacent to the Fine Arts hallway. Students are not allowed to invite their friends to eat with their parents and them.

### **Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings Are October 18**

**Lower School hearing and vision screenings are Tuesday, October 18.** This is for kindergarten, first grade, third grade, any new second graders, and any new fourth graders. [Click here](#) to read the letter from Pine Woods Screening Services.

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- **If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her.**
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- **Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.**
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take him or her to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Fay Gant, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6128.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Monday, October 10**

- *Fall Break Holiday:* No school
- 

#### **Thursday, October 13**

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
    - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
    - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
  - *Lower School Students Attend Special Matinee of Middle School Play:* 1:30 p.m.
-

## **Sunday, October 16**

- *Episcopal School Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services at St. Francis Episcopal Church*
- 

## **Monday, October 17**

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
    - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
    - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
  - *Lower School Parent Meeting With Dr. Collier on the Family Code: 9:15–10:15 a.m.*
- 

## **Tuesday, October 18**

- *Lower School Hearing and Vision Screening: All students in grades K, 1, and 3; new students in grades 2 and 4*
- 

## **Wednesday, October 19**

- *Lower School Hearing and Vision Screening (Makeups)*
- 

## **Thursday, October 20**

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
    - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
    - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
- 

## **Friday, October 21**

- *Lower School Joyful Sounds Field Trip: 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.*
-

## Monday, October 24

- *Chapel for Grades K–4*
    - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
    - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
- 

## Thursday, October 27

- *All Saints Eucharist Chapel for Grades K–4*
    - 8:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
    - Please be advised that there are limited parking spots in front of the school.
- 

## Friday, October 28

- *Lower School Setup for Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest*

## Middle School

### **From the Division Head**

After standing in the batter's box motionless in Doss Park on Houston's Northside for three strikes in a row and taking that long walk back to the dugout, my dad would remind me, "Son, you can't hit the ball if you don't swing!" I knew this was true, but I didn't hesitate to swing because I disagreed with his advice. I didn't swing because I was certain when the pitch left the pitcher's hand that it was going to be a ball, not a strike. In fact, many times, after the ball hit the catcher's mitt, I was still confident that the pitch was a ball and that the umpire was wrong. Time after time, my dad would remind me, "Son, you can't hit the ball if you don't swing."

While my dad's coaching did help me make the varsity baseball team in ninth grade, neither his coaching nor my skill propelled me to a Major League roster. However, I hear my dad's voice multiple times a week: "You can't hit the ball if you don't swing."

I almost didn't apply for the Head of Middle School job here at St. Francis because I was afraid that I might not get the job. I almost didn't apply for the EdD program at Texas A&M University for fear that I might get one of those thin but brutal rejection letters on official Aggie letterhead. Sometimes we strike out in life, sometimes we get lucky and get a walk, and sometimes we get hit by a pitch—but we can't get a hit unless we swing.

We are encouraging our middle schoolers to swing. They have a chance to run for Student Council and Chapel Council. Those who run and don't get elected will have the

wonderful chance to practice resilience and the invaluable art of bouncing back. Plus, they can be leaders in their clubs, which will be starting up later this month. We are also introducing a Middle School People for Others Council that will lead our recycling program and help with other service projects around the school.

There are tests, quizzes, projects, and homework this week. There is a real possibility that some students will not earn the grade that they want on those assessments. Rather than giving up and accepting defeat or hoping for the academic equivalent of a walk, encourage your students to swing for the fence. Encourage them to study, to attend tutorials, to email their questions to their teacher, to quiz one another, to make a Quizlet, and to turn in their homework. They won't always get the grade they want. They won't always win the election. They won't always get the lead role. They won't always hit the home run.

Aaron Judge is having an MVP-worthy season for the NY Yankees. He's hit 62 home runs so far this season, but he has 175 strikeouts. If you won't believe my dad or me, believe Aaron Judge: "You can't hit the ball if you don't swing."

Warmly,

Byron R. Williams, EdD  
Head of Middle School

### **Upcoming Dates in the Middle School**

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL HEARING AND VISION SCREENINGS—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, AND WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19**

Middle School hearing and vision screenings are Tuesday, October 18, and Wednesday, October 19. This is for fifth graders, seventh graders, and any new eighth graders. [Click here](#) to read the letter from Pine Woods Screening Services. Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- **If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her.**
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
- **Students who wear glasses or contacts should bring them to school.**
- Screenings are nondiagnostic and are not intended to be an equal alternative to an in-depth exam by a licensed physician or specialist. If you have concerns about your child, do not hesitate to take him or her to your personal physician or specialist for evaluation.
- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Fay Gant, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6128.

#### **SEVENTH-GRADE OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCE (OLE): FORM DUE OCTOBER 21**

Seventh-grade parents, please remember to fill out [this form](#) and have your student

turn it in by Friday, October 21. Outdoor Learning Experiences are at Camp Olympia again this year, with seventh grade's OLE taking place November 2–4.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28**

The Middle School Dance is Friday, October 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. More details to come.

### **Middle School Play Is This Weekend: Buy Tickets Now!**

The Middle School play, *Cinderella Confidential*, is this Friday, October 14, at 7:30 p.m. and this Saturday, October 15, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Come out and support your Middle School artists! For tickets, reserved seating, and more information, [click here](#). Please [email Kristal St. Clair](#) with questions, or call our box office number at 713.458.6498.

### **Episcopal School Sunday Is October 16**

Episcopal School Sunday is Sunday, October 16. The Middle School choir will be performing at the 11:00 a.m. service.

### **Sign Up Now: International Trip for Grades 6–11**

It's not too late to sign up for the optional summer trip to Austria, Germany, and Switzerland! Please [click here](#) for more information, including on dates, price, itinerary, and registration instructions.

- International Trip for Grades 6–11: Edelweiss Tour to Germany/Austria/Switzerland
- June 6–15, 2023
- Trip Leader: Chad Knesek

### **Middle School Winter Sports Update**

We are excited for this coming week and for the remainder of our fall sports season! Looking ahead to the Middle School winter sports season, please see important details below:

- Winter sports will begin on Monday, October 24.
- Winter sport options include the following:
  - Boys' Basketball, Boys' Soccer, Coed Swimming, Wrestling
  - Girls' Basketball, Girls' Soccer, Coed Swimming
- Winter sports rosters are uploaded in Veracross. It is very important that rosters are accurate for planning purposes. Students and parents should check their winter sport to confirm. If a change is requested, please [email T Riley](#).

### **Join Us for Middle School Bible Studies**

Bible studies are meeting every other week, with eighth grade and seventh grade meeting on Fridays, and sixth grade and fifth grade meeting on Mondays. Boys' Bible

studies will meet in Mrs. Flores's room, and girls' Bible studies will meet in Mrs. Gutierrez's room. Both rooms are right off of the library.

- The next time fifth grade will meet is Monday, October 17, at 12:45 p.m.
- The next time sixth grade will meet is Monday, October 24, at 12:45 p.m.
- The next time seventh grade will meet is Friday, October 21, at 12:15 p.m.
- The next time eighth grade will meet is Friday, October 14, at 12:15 p.m.

### **A Note About Community Service Hours**

St. Francis Episcopal School recognizes and celebrates students who involve themselves in helping others. At the Recognition and Awards Ceremony in the spring, students who have completed 20, 30, 50, or 100 hours of service during a school term will receive a certificate recognizing their achievements. Additionally, one graduating student will be recognized for exemplifying and representing the quality of being "people for others."

- **Use this form** to submit your community service hours. You can drop the form off in the Middle School Office or email it to **Kelly Murray**.
  - Fifth Grade: 10 hours
  - Sixth Grade: 10 hours
  - Seventh Grade: 15 hours
  - Eighth Grade: 20 hours

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Monday, October 10**

- *Fall Break Holiday*: No school
- 

#### **Tuesday, October 11**

- *Regular Uniform*
  - *Middle School Play Dress Rehearsal*: 4:00–7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
- 

#### **Wednesday, October 12**

- *Regular Uniform*
  - *Middle School Play Dress Rehearsal*: 4:00–7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center
-

## Thursday, October 13

- *Regular Uniform*
  - *Middle School Chapel: 9:50 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
- 

## Friday, October 14

- *SFES Spirit Dress: St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms*
  - *Eighth-Grade Bible Study: 12:15 p.m. in Mrs. Flores's room (boys' Bible study) and Mrs. Gutierrez's room (girls' Bible study); both rooms are right off of Crum Library*
  - *Middle School Play: 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
- 

## Saturday, October 15

- *Middle School Play: 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center*
- 

## Sunday, October 16

- *Episcopal School Sunday: Middle School Choir performs at the 11:00 a.m. service*

## Upper School

### **From the Division Head**

At St. Francis, an integral part of our education is social-emotional formation. As such, we build into our advisories and our Chapel services a robust program with monthly topics.

This week, we are focusing on self-awareness. Students are learning how to identify triggers and warning signs of stress. They are becoming aware that these signs can be emotional and physical, as well as behavioral. The goal when teaching this is that they be able to recognize a rise in stress level in order to intervene effectively to prevent potential breakdown or crisis.

Next, we will learn how to find support and what support is appropriate. Many of us can point to times in our lives when our best friends were there for us. In fact, that might have been the moment when you felt you *had* a best friend. However, it is important to recognize healthy boundaries. When is a friend in crisis asking too much of me? How do I help them find the right support? How do I help a friend while protecting my

personal well-being with healthy boundaries? When would my friend need their parents or a trained adult for intervention?

As we approach the midpoint of the first trimester, it is normal for students to experience academic stress. There are also other life challenges that our students undergo. Our hope is that this curriculum can help our students to grow in resiliency and learn both how to support each other in a healthy way and when to seek professional help. As we go through the year, we will focus on a social-emotional learning topic each month. Last month, we focused on personal responsibility; next month, we plan on looking at healthy relationships and communication.

Warmly,

Marc Addington, MA  
Head of Upper School

**Hearing and Vision Screenings for New US Students Are October 19**  
Upper School hearing and vision screenings are Wednesday, October 19. This is for any new Upper School students. [Click here](#) to read the letter from Pine Woods Screening Services.

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners conduct the screenings during school hours.
- **If your child has had any problems we should be aware of, please send a note with him or her.**
- A copy of the results is provided for school files. Students who have not passed a screening will receive a referral form for follow-up with a physician or specialist.
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- If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Fay Gant, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6128.

### **Sign Up Now: International Trip for Grades 6–11**

It's not too late to sign up for the optional summer trip to Austria, Germany, and Switzerland! Please [click here](#) for more information, including details on dates, price, itinerary, and registration instructions.

- International Trip for Grades 6–11: Edelweiss Tour to Germany/Austria/Switzerland
- June 6–15, 2023
- Trip Leader: Chad Knesek

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, October 10

- *Fall Break Holiday: No school*
- 

### Tuesday, October 11

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### Wednesday, October 12

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *PSAT Day*
  - *Chapel for Freshmen and Seniors Only: 10:00–10:30 a.m.; location TBD*
- 

### Thursday, October 13

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### Friday, October 14

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### Sunday, October 16

- *Episcopal School Sunday: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services at St. Francis Episcopal Church*
-

## Monday, October 17

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

## Tuesday, October 18

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

## Wednesday, October 19

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
  - *Hearing and Vision Screening for New Upper School Students*
- 

## Thursday, October 20

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

## Friday, October 21

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*

## **Church**

### **Weekly Worship Schedule**

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.

## **Pre-K to High School: Sunday Morning Programs**

### **LET IT SHINE! CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSON**

Join Mrs. Devlin each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for Let It Shine! Children's Bible Breakout. All children from Pre-K to middle school are invited to participate in Let It Shine! during the adult sermon.

### **LIGHTHOUSE EXPRESSIONS IN ART**

Each Sunday after the Family Worship Service, children are invited to join other children in the People Place (across from the Dining Hall) to create an art project based on that day's Let It Shine! lesson.

### **G.L.O.W. FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS—VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We need our middle school students to serve as volunteers each week at Lighthouse Expressions in Art after the Family Worship Service. Come help younger children make the craft project of the week! Contact Allison Devlin via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725 to sign up and receive service hours.

### **HIGH SCHOOL REVIVAL—THAT'S IN THE BIBLE?**

High school students are invited to come to the People Place (across from the Dining Hall) each week after the Family Worship Service. Come read and discuss some intense Bible stories that aren't always talked about in Sunday School. We will read the Bible "in context" and reflect on how God is sharing His truth with us. Learn how pride ended up killing Absalom, how God used Rahab, deeper truths about the Exodus plagues, how God really is the Alpha and the Omega, about Balaam and the donkey, and so much more. Along with these riveting Bible passages, we will learn how to use Anglican Prayer Beads, practice Lectio Divina, and introduce Christian meditation. High School Revival is led by Nichole Hilgert.

## **Volunteers Needed for the Woodview Elementary Reading Buddies Program**

The Reading Buddies program has returned to Woodview Elementary for the 2022–23 school year. **Volunteers are still needed!**

- The program begins in October and will include a brief one-hour training session for all volunteers. St. Francis volunteers will be partnered with second-grade students who are on the "brink of success," where SBISD has found that reading intervention can significantly improve outcomes in later years.
- Volunteers will be expected to read with their assigned student for 30 minutes each week; last year's time slots were generally either first thing at 8:00 a.m. or midday at 12:45 p.m.
- For more details or to volunteer, please contact [Tim Blaine](#) or call 832.247.8667.

## **Mark Your Calendar: Music Concert on October 12**

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m., for a concert by guitarist Marc Garvin and harpist Emily Klein. RSVP to Julie Lowery by [email](#) to let us know you might come.

### **AGAPE: Join Us October 16 for Fellowship, Dinner, and Fun**

Join us this coming **Sunday, October 16, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center** for prayers and music led by our children and youth, followed by dinner, pumpkin painting, and fall crafts. Children and teens will have the opportunity to say prayers, read Scripture, act out skits, play musical instruments, and sing. Your kids will love having an important role in this service. Ask how your family can be a part of AGAPE! For more information or to volunteer, contact [Allison Devlin](#).

### **October 16–23: Donate Coats to Kitty's Coat Drive**

Several years ago, teachers in Spring Branch ISD noticed that many children were not wearing coats during a year of cold winter weather. As a result, MAM was asked to help collect coats and distribute them to children in need. St. Francis Episcopal Church and School answered the call. In honor of Kitty Elliott—who organized the original coat drive—it has been officially named The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive. Collection areas will be set up at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 16, and Sunday, October 23. Please bring coat donations on these Sundays or to the church office during that week.

### **Be Still Yoga: Next Session Is October 20**

Join other women for an hour of yoga and meditative prayer every other Thursday. In stillness, God speaks to our hearts and fills us with the refreshing presence of His Spirit.

- Bring a yoga mat if you have one!
- Refreshments to follow.
- The group meets at 11:30 a.m. every other Thursday in CE212. The next class is on October 20.
- For more information or to RSVP, please contact Allison Devlin via [email](#) or at 713.882.0725.

### **Veterans Day Recognition: Submit Names by October 27**

On Sunday, October 30, we will honor and celebrate our veterans, giving thanks to all who have served honorably in the United States military. If you have a name to add to the Veterans Day publication we produce annually, please send the name and rank of the person to be listed, plus any other pertinent information, to Sally Jo Flores via [email](#) or at 713.782.1270 by Thursday, October 27.

### **Join Us Tuesdays for Mom's Bible Study**

This fall, the **SFES Moms' Bible Study** meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays in CE212.

- The study is on the book "**Never Alone: Parenting in the Power of the Holy Spirit**" by Jeannie Cunnion.
- In this seven-session study, **discover how the Holy Spirit's presence and power transform how you lead and love your kids.** You'll be invited to wrestle

through the question, "Do I really know how to parent in the power of the Holy Spirit, or have I settled for parenting in my power?" Good news, Mom! The Holy Spirit is championing you in the holy work of motherhood. Where you can't, He can! He is faithfully at work. You are never alone in your pursuit to point your kids to the love of Jesus.

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

### **Help Meet MAM's Urgent Supply Needs**

Memorial Assistance Ministries has an urgent plea from the pantry team. Demand for pantry products has again peaked, and they are running very low on several items. Here is their latest list of needs:

- **Meals to Go**
  - Individually wrapped cheese/peanut butter crackers
  - Fruit strips
  - Trail mix
  - Vienna sausage
- **Hygiene Items**
  - Size 6 diapers
  - Baby wipes
  - Tissues
  - House cleaner
  - Deodorant for men and women
  - Lotion
  - Shaving cream

Many families continue to need help with the basics. Please keep the pantry in mind if any of your classes, youth groups, or other groups are looking for a project. For additional information, contact the church's director of outreach, [Heather Burkhart](#).

### **Fair Haven Food Pantry Needs Volunteers/Donations**

The Fair Haven Food Pantry has been providing food to help people in the Spring Branch/Memorial area since 1975.

- **October Food Collection Item: Canned Vegetables**
- Now operating under a client-choice model, **the pantry needs friendly volunteers** to help clients shop for their families, restock shelves, and assist with registration. Feeding the needy is part of serving one another, and as we serve others, we are serving Christ.
- Thank you for not donating any glass containers or expired items.
- For additional information, email [Jessica Antel](#). To volunteer, [click here](#).

Many families continue to need help with the basics. Please keep the pantry in mind if any of your classes, youth groups, or other groups are looking for a project.

### **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.

### **Wednesday Night Eucharist, Program, and Dinner**

On Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m., join Fr. David Price for Eucharist in St. Clare Chapel, followed by a program and dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Hogan Board Room.

- Fr. Price is leading a program titled “The Face—Jesus in Art.” These narrated video lessons trace the dramatically different ways in which Jesus has been represented in art by people throughout history and around the world. It is tantamount to a travelogue of art and monuments from the early 3rd Century to the present: from ancient Rome to 21st Century America. The first video covers “The Gospel According to Giotto in Padua.”
- The cost of dinner is \$10 per person at the door.
- Contact [Fr. Price](#) for more information.

### **Bible Studies at St. Francis**

St. Francis is hosting the following Bible studies, either in-person, via Zoom, or both. To join a Zoom call, use the event link listed below.

#### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES**

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** Daniel
  - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
  - **Zoom Meeting Link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83321039436>
    - **Meeting ID:** 833 2103 9436
    - **Passcode:** 649679

#### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES**

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
  - **Contact:** [Martin O'Malley](#)
  - **Location:** La Madeleine
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**Next meeting is October 11.**)
  - **Study:** The Life of Abraham
  - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
  - **Includes Breakfast**
- Thursdays at 6:30–8:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** Romans
  - **Contact:** [The Rev. Stuart Bates](#)

- **Zoom Meeting Link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84206856514>
  - **Meeting ID:** 842 0685 6514
  - **Passcode:** Bi6Ga0

### **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** The Gospel of Luke and Paul's Letter to the Romans
  - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
  - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)

### **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AND PRAYER**

- Tuesdays at 4:00 p.m.
  - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
  - **Location:** The Bride's Room
  - **Zoom Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/203726298>
    - **Meeting ID:** 203 726 298
    - **Passcode:** 05741
- Thursdays at 7:00 a.m.
  - **Meeting:** Christian Meditation
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)
  - **Location:** 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](http://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\*\*](#).