

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of October 16

### All School

#### **Kitty Elliott Coat Drive Is This Week**

The Kitty Elliott Coat Drive for Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) will take place this week from Sunday, October 16, through Sunday, October 23. The annual children's coat drive, which is sponsored by members of our Middle School's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and our Upper School's National Honor Society (NHS), supports MAM by collecting new and used coats so they are available to those in need before the cold temperatures hit. Donations will be accepted on both campuses.

### PINEY POINT CAMPUS

- Lower School students should take their coat donation to their classroom.
- Middle School students should take their coat donation to their advisory.
- Donations may also be left with the St. Francis Episcopal Church Office.

### COUPER CAMPUS

- Donation boxes for Primary School will be at the cottages in front of the carpool line.
- Donation boxes for Upper School will be in the Crum Athletics Center.

#### **Announcing Our New Director of Library Services**

We are pleased to announce that Alison Salinas has stepped into the role of Director of Library Services. Mrs. Salinas has served St. Francis Episcopal School as a curriculum and instruction specialist since 2016. She will continue teaching two sections of Advanced Fifth Grade English throughout this school year and will begin work to earn library certification in the spring semester. Mrs. Salinas earned a BA degree from Georgetown University in linguistics and Spanish, an MA degree from Georgetown in applied linguistics, and an EdS in reading and curriculum from the University of Virginia.

We would like to thank Dana Kenningham, who stepped in at the beginning of school to serve as Acting Director of Library Services. Mrs. Kenningham has done an excellent job, and we are grateful for her service to SFES, and also grateful that she will continue in the transition to serve in the Crum Library and assist Mrs. Salinas. This is good news for the Crum Library and for St. Francis Episcopal School.

### **Poinsettias Are Almost Gone: Order Yours Today**

**Only 50 left!** Grown by The Brookwood Community, Friends of Fine Arts's red poinsettias make great gifts! All sales benefit St. Francis's arts programs and students. Each poinsettia is \$16 and includes a foil cover.

[Click here](#) to buy your poinsettias today. Pickup will be on the afternoon of Thursday, December 1, and the morning of Friday, December 2, on the Couper Campus. Contact [Melissa Reeves](#) for more information.

### **Friends of Fine Arts News**

- Thank you to all who joined us for the Middle School performance of *Cinderella Confidential!* Congratulations to our talented actors and crew—and a huge thanks to the parents who partnered with us to provide snacks and meals for the students. **BRAVO!**
- Mark your calendars for the Upper School musical performance of *Beauty and the Beast* on November 11, 12, and 13. We have a special "Cupcakes With the Characters" event planned for Sunday, November 13, for our younger Disney fans. Stay tuned for more information!

### **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

### **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.

## **Primary School**

### **From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction**

I hope you are enjoying this fall weekend!

**"Commit yourself to lifelong learning. The most valuable asset you'll ever have is your mind and what you put into it." —Albert Einstein**

All dedicated educators would tell you that their inspiration as a teacher is to create passionate, lifelong learners. This is one of the most important lessons we can model for and teach to our students. We should all strive to improve our craft and stay current with new learning and research if we are to serve our constituents to the best of our ability.

With that said, I wanted to share how the St. Francis faculty is doing just that!

**Our Primary School faculty continue to learn more about the Reggio Emilia approach to teaching and learning**, which is the foundation for our Primary program. Two teachers are going to Vancouver, Canada, for the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance's fall conference to enhance their understanding of this child-centered approach, and trainers from this organization will be on campus on January 2 to conduct workshops with the Primary faculty. In April, a team of six faculty and administrators will also be traveling to Reggio Emilia, Italy, to attend a weeklong, in-depth group study. This training is what enables our faculty to continue to provide a program that truly sets our Primary School apart from other programs in the country.

**Our Lower School teachers are continuing their study in current, research-informed instructional practices via a yearlong book study on *The Power of Making Thinking Visible***. They are learning more about implementing instructional practices that help students share their thinking and about reflecting on successes and challenges related to implementing these practices in their classrooms. Ashley Stephenson, one of our Curriculum and Instruction Specialists, is leading the work in this area. She is also continuing her work in helping to support the transition from Primary to Lower School, ensuring our young friends have a smooth transition from one division to another.

**Several Middle School faculty have attended or will be attending workshops and conferences in person and virtually**. These are amazing opportunities for content teachers to learn from the experts and to collaborate with others:

- Teachers' College, Columbia University
  - "Book Clubs in Middle School: Honing Kids' Skills With Critical Reading and Literary Conversations"
  - "Supporting Students With Dyslexia in Reading Workshop and Across the School Day"
- Science Teachers Association of Texas
  - Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching
- National Council for the Social Studies
  - Annual Conference
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
  - Annual Conference
- International Society for Technology in Education
  - Creative Constructor Workshop

**As our Upper School expands the AP program, our teachers have continued to learn more about these courses by attending several trainings this past summer and this fall.** One of the English teachers will be attending the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in late November in Anaheim, CA. Conversations centered around Middle and Upper School division alignment are a continued area of focus as we strive to make the transition between divisions seamless.

**Our four music faculty members will be joining thousands of music educators from all over the state at the annual Texas Music Educators Association convention** in San Antonio.

**A group of administrators and teachers will be attending the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented conference** here in Houston in early December to continue our work in meeting the needs of our advanced learners.

Professional development opportunities are not only to fill our “professional buckets,” but also to help us grow in our commitment to service and to others. An important aspect of our professional growth at St. Francis centers around our school motto of becoming “people for others” by learning how to make this a more welcoming school community for all students and their families. For many years, the National Association of Independent Schools has sponsored annual conferences to help independent schools in this work. The **People of Color Conference** is for independent school faculty and staff, and the **Student Diversity Leadership Conference** is for upper school–level student leaders (grades 9–12) from across the US and abroad. **This will be our third year to send a group of students, faculty, and staff to these two conferences**, held this year in San Antonio.

As you can see, we are practicing what we preach.

I hope you have a great week, and thank you for entrusting us with the hearts and minds of your children.

**"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." —Proverbs 18:15**

Fondly,

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

### **Primary School Hearing and Vision Screenings Are Wednesday**

St. Francis will be offering hearing and vision screenings for **students who turned four years old by September 1, 2022**. Screenings will be provided by Pine Woods Screening Services this **Wednesday, October 19**.

Here's what else you need to know:

- State-certified screeners will conduct the screenings during school hours.
- A copy of the results will be 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 should bring them to school.
- We do not refer to the screening as a “test.” Please help us by doing the same. The teachers will explain the process to our students, and they will discover that they are playing two games with the screeners.
- 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 any questions, please contact School Nurse Debbie King, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6167.

## Mark Your Calendar

### 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 Head of Curriculum and Instruction**

I hope you are enjoying this fall weekend!

**"Commit yourself to lifelong learning. The most valuable asset you'll ever have is your mind and what you put into it." —Albert Einstein**

All dedicated educators would tell you that their inspiration as a teacher is to create passionate, lifelong learners. This is one of the most important lessons we can model for and teach to our students. We should all strive to improve our craft and stay current with new learning and research if we are to serve our constituents to the best of our ability.

With that said, I wanted to share how the St. Francis faculty is doing just that!

**Our Primary School faculty continue to learn more about the Reggio Emilia approach to teaching and learning**, which is the foundation for our Primary program. Two teachers are going to Vancouver, Canada, for the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance's fall conference to enhance their understanding of this child-centered approach, and trainers from this organization will be on campus on January 2 to conduct workshops with the Primary faculty. In April, a team of six faculty and administrators will also be traveling to Reggio Emilia, Italy, to attend a weeklong, in-depth group study. This training is what enables our faculty to continue to provide a program that truly sets our Primary School apart from other programs in the country.

**Our Lower School teachers are continuing their study in current, research-informed instructional practices via a yearlong book study on *The Power of Making Thinking Visible***. They are learning more about implementing instructional practices that help students share their thinking and about reflecting on successes and challenges related to implementing these practices in their classrooms. Ashley Stephenson, one of our Curriculum and Instruction Specialists, is leading the work in this area. She is also continuing her work in helping to support the transition from Primary to Lower School, ensuring our young friends have a smooth transition from one division to another.

**Several Middle School faculty have attended or will be attending workshops and conferences in person and virtually**. These are amazing opportunities for content teachers to learn from the experts and to collaborate with others:

- Teachers' College, Columbia University
  - "Book Clubs in Middle School: Honing Kids' Skills With Critical Reading and Literary Conversations"
  - "Supporting Students With Dyslexia in Reading Workshop and Across the School Day"
- Science Teachers Association of Texas
  - Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching
- National Council for the Social Studies
  - Annual Conference
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
  - Annual Conference
- International Society for Technology in Education
  - Creative Constructor Workshop

**As our Upper School expands the AP program, our teachers have continued to learn more about these courses by attending several trainings this past summer and this fall**. One of the English teachers will be attending the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in late November in Anaheim, CA. Conversations centered around Middle and Upper School division alignment are a continued area of focus as we strive to make the transition between divisions seamless.

**Our four music faculty members will be joining thousands of music educators from all over the state at the annual Texas Music Educators Association convention** in San Antonio.

**A group of administrators and teachers will be attending the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented conference** here in Houston in early December to continue our work in meeting the needs of our advanced learners.

Professional development opportunities are not only to fill our “professional buckets,” but also to help us grow in our commitment to service and to others. An important aspect of our professional growth at St. Francis centers around our school motto of becoming “people for others” by learning how to make this a more welcoming school community for all students and their families. For many years, the National Association of Independent Schools has sponsored annual conferences to help independent schools in this work. The **People of Color Conference** is for independent school faculty and staff, and the **Student Diversity Leadership Conference** is for upper school–level student leaders (grades 9–12) from across the US and abroad. **This will be our third year to send a group of students, faculty, and staff to these two conferences**, held this year in San Antonio.

As you can see, we are practicing what we preach.

I hope you have a great week, and thank you for entrusting us with the hearts and minds of your children.

**"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." —Proverbs 18:15**

Fondly,

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

### **NeuroWhereAbouts Program Continues This Week**

Keeping our students’ frontal lobes healthy and free from high-risk behavior is the mission of *NeuroWhereAbouts*, our social–emotional learning and prevention program. ([Click here](#) to read more about it.) This week, we are continuing to learn about the brain!

Students will have an opportunity to learn more about the brain in their advisory classes. You can help reinforce this learning by engaging in a few activities at home with your child:

- Watch a related video with your child at home. Select the video from the links below based on your child's grade:
  - For grades K–2, watch “My Good Choices (K–2)” at home:  
<https://vimeo.com/757245423/2126a8dabd>

- For grades 3–5, watch “Risky Behavior and the Brain (3–5)” at home: <https://vimeo.com/757262238/03f9ffbb2b>
- For grades 6–8, watch “Risky Behavior and the Brain (6–12)” at home: <https://vimeo.com/759712405/2ef2d01032>
- Ask your child what they remembered from the video.
- Praise them for whatever they remembered!
- Use the following discussion and activity handouts to reinforce the material at home:
  - [Grades K–2 Handout](#)
  - [Grades 3–5 Handout](#)
  - [Grades 6–8 Handout](#)
- Answer any questions your child might have about the topic.

### **Lower School Hearing and Vision Screenings Are Tuesday**

**Lower School hearing and vision screenings are this 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 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. in Crum Library*
-

## **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*
- 

## Monday, October 31

- *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 Book Character Day (All Saints' Parties)*
- 

## Wednesday, November 2

- *LS Late-Start Day: Classes start at 10:00 a.m.*
- 

## Thursday, November 3

- *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.
- 

## Saturday, November 5

- *Lower School Open House: 1:00–2:30 p.m.*

## **Middle School**

### **From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction**

I hope you are enjoying this fall weekend!

**"Commit yourself to lifelong learning. The most valuable asset you'll ever have is your mind and what you put into it." —Albert Einstein**

All dedicated educators would tell you that their inspiration as a teacher is to create passionate, lifelong learners. This is one of the most important lessons we can model for and teach to our students. We should all strive to improve our craft and stay current

with new learning and research if we are to serve our constituents to the best of our ability.

With that said, I wanted to share how the St. Francis faculty is doing just that!

**Our Primary School faculty continue to learn more about the Reggio Emilia approach to teaching and learning**, which is the foundation for our Primary program. Two teachers are going to Vancouver, Canada, for the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance's fall conference to enhance their understanding of this child-centered approach, and trainers from this organization will be on campus on January 2 to conduct workshops with the Primary faculty. In April, a team of six faculty and administrators will also be traveling to Reggio Emilia, Italy, to attend a weeklong, in-depth group study. This training is what enables our faculty to continue to provide a program that truly sets our Primary School apart from other programs in the country.

**Our Lower School teachers are continuing their study in current, research-informed instructional practices via a yearlong book study on *The Power of Making Thinking Visible***. They are learning more about implementing instructional practices that help students share their thinking and about reflecting on successes and challenges related to implementing these practices in their classrooms. Ashley Stephenson, one of our Curriculum and Instruction Specialists, is leading the work in this area. She is also continuing her work in helping to support the transition from Primary to Lower School, ensuring our young friends have a smooth transition from one division to another.

**Several Middle School faculty have attended or will be attending workshops and conferences in person and virtually**. These are amazing opportunities for content teachers to learn from the experts and to collaborate with others:

- Teachers' College, Columbia University
  - "Book Clubs in Middle School: Honing Kids' Skills With Critical Reading and Literary Conversations"
  - "Supporting Students With Dyslexia in Reading Workshop and Across the School Day"
- Science Teachers Association of Texas
  - Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching
- National Council for the Social Studies
  - Annual Conference
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
  - Annual Conference
- International Society for Technology in Education
  - Creative Constructor Workshop

**As our Upper School expands the AP program, our teachers have continued to learn more about these courses by attending several trainings this past summer**

**and this fall.** One of the English teachers will be attending the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in late November in Anaheim, CA. Conversations centered around Middle and Upper School division alignment are a continued area of focus as we strive to make the transition between divisions seamless.

**Our four music faculty members will be joining thousands of music educators from all over the state at the annual Texas Music Educators Association convention** in San Antonio.

**A group of administrators and teachers will be attending the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented conference** here in Houston in early December to continue our work in meeting the needs of our advanced learners.

Professional development opportunities are not only to fill our “professional buckets,” but also to help us grow in our commitment to service and to others. An important aspect of our professional growth at St. Francis centers around our school motto of becoming “people for others” by learning how to make this a more welcoming school community for all students and their families. For many years, the National Association of Independent Schools has sponsored annual conferences to help independent schools in this work. The **People of Color Conference** is for independent school faculty and staff, and the **Student Diversity Leadership Conference** is for upper school-level student leaders (grades 9–12) from across the US and abroad. **This will be our third year to send a group of students, faculty, and staff to these two conferences,** held this year in San Antonio.

As you can see, we are practicing what we preach.

I hope you have a great week, and thank you for entrusting us with the hearts and minds of your children.

**"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." —Proverbs 18:15**

Fondly,

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

### **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 this 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 this 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 AND FIFTH-GRADE MOVIE—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28**

Friday, October 28, is a big day for our Middle Schoolers!

- During the day, fifth graders will go to the movies at Studio Movie Grill.
- The Middle School Dance (grades 6–8) will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. More details to come.

### **LATE-START DAY—WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

Parents, please note that our second Late-Start Day will be Wednesday, November 2. On this day, classes will begin at 10:00 a.m.

### **NeuroWhereAbouts Program Continues This Week**

Keeping our students' frontal lobes healthy and free from high-risk behavior is the mission of *NeuroWhereAbouts*, our social–emotional learning and prevention program. ([Click here](#) to read more about it.) This week, we are continuing to learn about the brain!

Students will have an opportunity to learn more about the brain in their advisory classes. You can help reinforce this learning by engaging in a few activities at home with your child:

- Watch a related video with your child at home. Select the video from the links below based on your child's grade:
  - For grades K–2, watch “My Good Choices (K–2)” at home: <https://vimeo.com/757245423/2126a8dabd>
  - For grades 3–5, watch “Risky Behavior and the Brain (3–5)” at home: <https://vimeo.com/757262238/03f9ffbb2b>
  - For grades 6–8, watch “Risky Behavior and the Brain (6–12)” at home: <https://vimeo.com/759712405/2ef2d01032>

- Ask your child what they remembered from the video.
- Praise them for whatever they remembered!
- Use the following discussion and activity handouts to reinforce the material at home:
  - [Grades K–2 Handout](#)
  - [Grades 3–5 Handout](#)
  - [Grades 6–8 Handout](#)
- Answer any questions your child might have about the topic.

### **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 Athletics Update**

As the fall sports season winds down, we want to congratulate all fall-sport student-athletes, coaches, and teams on a successful season. There were many accomplishments on the field, court, and trails this season. We also want to thank the parents for your help and support with our teams throughout the fall. Good luck to all teams still competing this week!

Looking ahead to the winter season, please see below for some important updates:

- Fall sports will conclude this Friday, October 21.
- Winter sports will begin on Monday, October 24. Students should already be signed up for Boys/Girls Basketball, Boys/Girls Soccer, Coed Swimming, Wrestling, or MS Physical Education. Rosters are loaded in Veracross.
- Students should be prepared for winter sports practices beginning Monday, October 24. Students should bring athletic clothing, basketball shoes, soccer cleats, shin guards, or wrestling shoes (if already owned) for their particular sport.
- The last day for MS winter sport change requests will be Tuesday, October 25.

### **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 28, 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 17**

- *Middle School Chapel:* 9:50 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
  - *Fifth-Grade Bible Study:* 12:45 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
- 

#### **Tuesday, October 18**

- *Regular Uniform*
  - *Hearing and Vision Screenings*
- 

#### **Wednesday, October 19**

- *Regular Uniform*
  - *Hearing and Vision Screenings*
- 

#### **Thursday, October 20**

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

---

## Friday, October 21

- *SFES Spirit Dress*: St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Seventh-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

## Upper School

### From the Head of Curriculum and Instruction

I hope you are enjoying this fall weekend!

**"Commit yourself to lifelong learning. The most valuable asset you'll ever have is your mind and what you put into it." —Albert Einstein**

All dedicated educators would tell you that their inspiration as a teacher is to create passionate, lifelong learners. This is one of the most important lessons we can model for and teach to our students. We should all strive to improve our craft and stay current with new learning and research if we are to serve our constituents to the best of our ability.

With that said, I wanted to share how the St. Francis faculty is doing just that!

**Our Primary School faculty continue to learn more about the Reggio Emilia approach to teaching and learning**, which is the foundation for our Primary program. Two teachers are going to Vancouver, Canada, for the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance's fall conference to enhance their understanding of this child-centered approach, and trainers from this organization will be on campus on January 2 to conduct workshops with the Primary faculty. In April, a team of six faculty and administrators will also be traveling to Reggio Emilia, Italy, to attend a weeklong, in-depth group study. This training is what enables our faculty to continue to provide a program that truly sets our Primary School apart from other programs in the country.

**Our Lower School teachers are continuing their study in current, research-informed instructional practices via a yearlong book study on *The Power of Making Thinking Visible***. They are learning more about implementing instructional practices that help students share their thinking and about reflecting on successes and challenges related to implementing these practices in their classrooms. Ashley Stephenson, one of our Curriculum and Instruction Specialists, is leading the work in this area. She is also continuing her work in helping to support the transition from Primary to Lower School, ensuring our young friends have a smooth transition from one division to another.

**Several Middle School faculty have attended or will be attending workshops and conferences in person and virtually.** These are amazing opportunities for content teachers to learn from the experts and to collaborate with others:

- Teachers' College, Columbia University
  - "Book Clubs in Middle School: Honing Kids' Skills With Critical Reading and Literary Conversations"
  - "Supporting Students With Dyslexia in Reading Workshop and Across the School Day"
- Science Teachers Association of Texas
  - Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching
- National Council for the Social Studies
  - Annual Conference
- American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages
  - Annual Conference
- International Society for Technology in Education
  - Creative Constructor Workshop

**As our Upper School expands the AP program, our teachers have continued to learn more about these courses by attending several trainings this past summer and this fall.** One of the English teachers will be attending the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention in late November in Anaheim, CA. Conversations centered around Middle and Upper School division alignment are a continued area of focus as we strive to make the transition between divisions seamless.

**Our four music faculty members will be joining thousands of music educators from all over the state at the annual Texas Music Educators Association convention** in San Antonio.

**A group of administrators and teachers will be attending the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented conference** here in Houston in early December to continue our work in meeting the needs of our advanced learners.

Professional development opportunities are not only to fill our "professional buckets," but also to help us grow in our commitment to service and to others. An important aspect of our professional growth at St. Francis centers around our school motto of becoming "people for others" by learning how to make this a more welcoming school community for all students and their families. For many years, the National Association of Independent Schools has sponsored annual conferences to help independent schools in this work. The **People of Color Conference** is for independent school faculty and staff, and the **Student Diversity Leadership Conference** is for upper school-level student leaders (grades 9–12) from across the US and abroad. **This will be our third year to send a group of students, faculty, and staff to these two conferences,** held this year in San Antonio.

As you can see, we are practicing what we preach.

I hope you have a great week, and thank you for entrusting us with the hearts and minds of your children.

**"An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge." —Proverbs 18:15**

Fondly,

Carol Christ, MEd  
Head of Curriculum and Instruction

**Hearing and Vision Screenings for New US Students Are Wednesday**  
**Upper School hearing and vision screenings are this 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.
- **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 Debbie King, RN, via [email](#) or at 713.458.6167.

### **Upper School Summer Travel Opportunities**

#### **ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS ISLANDS TRIP**

Parent information Zoom meetings for the optional summer trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands are this **Thursday, October 20**. [Click here](#) for information on joining the Zoom meetings and for trip details.

- Grades 9–11: Trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands
- June 5–14, 2023
- Trip Leader: Liat Goldstein

#### **GERMANY, AUSTRIA, AND SWITZERLAND**

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.

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

## Mark Your Calendar

### Monday, October 17

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Winter Sports Season Begins*
- 

### Tuesday, October 18

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### Wednesday, October 19

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

### Thursday, October 20

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### Friday, October 21

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

## Monday, October 24

- "A Day"
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

## Tuesday, October 25

- "B" Day
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

## Wednesday, October 26

- "A" Day
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
- 

## Thursday, October 27

- "B" Day
  - *SFES Spirit Wear: Because students will wear the Dress Uniform for Eucharist on Friday, October 28, they may wear Spirit Wear today.*
- 

## Friday, October 28

- "A" Day
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Upper School Eucharist: 10:00–10:45 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**

High school students are invited to come to the People Place (across from the Dining Hall) each week after the Family Worship Service. Join other students for fellowship, learning, and a question of the day. REVIVAL is led by Nichole Hilgert. For more information, [email her](#) or call 713.468.3996.

### **Find Your Adventure in Girl Scouts**

Join the Tall Pines Hill Girl Scout community, where all girls from kindergarten through eighth grade are welcome. Join other girls for service, camping, STEM, badges, leadership, and sisterhood! For more information, [email the troop leaders](#).

### **AGAPE: Join Us November 13 for Fellowship, Dinner, and Fun**

Join us on **Sunday, November 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Outdoor Learning Center** for prayers and music led by our children and youth, followed by dinner and Thankful Turkey 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](#).

### **This Week: 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 today and next Sunday, October 23. Please bring coat donations today or next Sunday, or to the church office this 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.

- 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 November 8.**)
  - **Study:** The Life of Abraham
  - **Location:** The Corner Bakery (9311 Katy Fwy.)
  - **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](#).