

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of January 28

All School

This Is Us Cultural Festival: Sign Up by Tomorrow

If you have not yet signed up to participate in our inaugural *This Is Us Cultural Festival*, you still have time. The deadline has been extended to tomorrow—Monday, January 29. We have over 20 countries/cultures signed up and would love to add yours!

- [Click here](#) to register.
- Our first planning meeting will be held via Zoom this Tuesday, January 30, at 6:30 p.m.

This Tuesday: Uniform Resale and NEW Spirit Wear Pop-up

Exciting new Spirit Wear styles have just landed in the Spirit Store! The St. Francis Parents Organization will be hosting a joint **Spirit Store/Uniform Resale Pop-up on Tuesday, January 30, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. in the Gay Foyer on Piney Point Campus.**

- We have new outerwear in both Youth and Adult sizes, as well as multiple new T-shirt designs for spring!
- We carry sizes 3T to XXXL in most Spirit Wear items, and we have SFE hats, visors, and hair bows, too!
- Come shop the new designs, as well as gently used uniforms and SFE-branded goods for Wolves of all ages.

Online Re-enrollment Opens Thursday

We want you to come back to the pack! Online re-enrollment opens this Thursday, February 1. Please note that if you have students moving from one division to another, you do not need to reapply—you simply need to re-enroll them. Keep an eye on your email for details and specific instructions on how to re-enroll.

Book Your Room for Gala: Discount Deadline Is February 1

If you plan to stay overnight at the Post Oak Hotel the night of the St. Francis Gala—Saturday, February 24—there are a limited number of rooms available at a discounted rate. Please [use this link](#) to reserve your room by Thursday, February 1, to receive the discount.

This Friday: Nothin' but Net and Nachos . . . and Senior Night!

Middle School Night at the Varsity Boys Basketball game—Nothin' but Net and Nachos—is this **Friday, February 2!** Come out and enjoy nachos with friends while cheering on the Varsity Boys Basketball team as they take on Northland Christian in Crum Gym. We will also be celebrating our senior athletes that night.

- 6:00–6:45 p.m.—Swag, photo ops, and free nachos for all students (while supplies last)!
- 7:00 p.m.—Varsity Boys Basketball game against Northland Christian

New This Year: Eighth graders may enter a raffle to participate in a three-point shooting contest at halftime.

Can't wait to see you there—go Wolves!

Thank You for Supporting the Woolrich Fund for Faculty!

We appreciate those of you who attended the Woolrich Luncheon on January 23 and all of you who have donated to the fund. We are excited to announce this year's recipients:

- **Jennifer Choi**, Upper School Counselor, will travel to Norway, ranked as one of the happiest places on earth, to visit schools and learn about their social- and emotional-health programs. When she returns, she will share her research with faculty, counselors, and parents.
- **Liat Goldstein** and **Ximena Allub**, Upper School Science and Spanish Faculty, will travel to Iceland to experience its unique ecosystem and will be positioned to work with students in an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to influence change at St. Francis.
- **Hope Hooper**, Lower School Religion Faculty, will engage in learning the holy language of Hebrew through a 28-week e-learning program.
- **Alison Johnston**, Lower School Humanities Faculty, will travel to Yellowstone National Park, catalog her experience, and bring it back to her third-grade learners.
- **Eric Murillo**, Middle School Music Faculty, will experience Anglican choral tradition in the UK by observing choirmasters and conductors in action with a variety of choirs.

There's No Place Like Home: Buy Your Copy Today

A book that truly encompasses what it means to be part of the St. Francis community, *There's No Place Like Home* contains pieces written by faculty, staff, alumni, and students from every grade level—all in honor of our beloved Father Wismer!

- Proceeds from the book will be combined with Paddles Up, a Gala-night tradition, to create **The Father Bob Wismer "People for Others" Endowed Fund for Tuition Assistance**.
- [Click here](#) to purchase your copy today!

Nominations Now Open for SFPO Officers

It's time to start thinking about the 2024–25 St. Francis Parents Organization Executive Committee! This is your chance to get involved and “be the change” to help enhance the everyday school experience for all students of SFE.

- If you are interested in serving on the SFPO Executive Committee—or know someone who is interested—please fill out [this form](#).
- [Click here](#) to view the list of positions for which nominations are currently being accepted.

Primary School

From the Performing Arts Teachers

In Performing Arts, classes meet to sing, dramatize, and discover the power of self-expression. As students demonstrate and celebrate self-expression, they grow confident in themselves and their abilities. They develop a deeper, more meaningful understanding of music and drama, while connecting the body and mind through creative movement and musical exploration. **Through song, students discover their voice and feel empowered to use it. Through dramatic play, they explore their internal and external worlds while joyfully continuing to develop their social-emotional skills.**

As a Reggio-inspired Primary School, the image of the child we carry within us informs our student relationships, interactions, and expectations. Our image of the child must align with our commitment to student self-expression and self-discovery through the arts. In Performing Arts, we reach toward an image of the child that creates empowering, aspirational, and delightful classroom and performance experiences beginning in Pre-Primary, continuing in Primary I, and culminating in Primary II.

- Beginning in **Pre-Primary**, students learn that the Performing Arts classroom space belongs to them. It is a place where they are loved, accepted, and encouraged to explore in their unique way.
- The trust that is built emboldens them as they move into **Primary I**. They begin to apply story structure, more complex character choices, and unique creative perspectives to their dramatic play and musical exploration. They have their very first performance experiences by observing their peers and singing together for loved ones. This creative exploration is foundational to creating positive performance experiences.

- This past December's **Primary II** performance of the Nativity Story is a wonderful example of how creative exploration in the performing arts classroom provides a foundation for a successful performance. We worked collaboratively with Sra. Schoelman and the classroom teachers in supporting the Primary II students as they prepared to tell the Nativity Story. During their performances, our Primary II students were brave, vulnerable, and confident. They were excited to bring their best to performing for an audience, which is something that was new for many of them.

Looking forward, the **students will learn about jazz and inspiring black musicians in honor of Black History Month**, listening to classics by Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, and more. They will explore stories that reflect their similarities and differences in positive ways.

Neuroscience studies show that music can increase brain function in children, stimulating and improving the brain's structure by forming new neural connections. Listening to different genres of music, singing songs from other cultures, and learning about where they came from strengthens social-emotional, language, and literacy skills while making our world more connected!

As we move through the spring, our **students will also learn about classical music and how song and sound can be used to tell a story or represent an animal, season, or emotion**. They will listen to *Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saens and embody the animals depicted in the music. Using Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, the students will listen to *Winter* and visualize the music with movement by ice skating around the room using paper plates. They will visualize the music of *Spring* and paint while listening to the piece. We are excited to see how this musical exploration will enhance the children's storytelling endeavors this spring.

Our Primary I and Primary II students are busy learning and practicing the songs they'll perform at our upcoming Grandparents and Grandfriends Day event. They are excited to sing for their special visitors!

Warmly,

Brittney Bush, Primary School Drama Teacher
Skyler Sinclair, Primary School Music Teacher

Please RSVP by Friday: PS/US Grandparents & Grandfriends Days Are February 8 & 9
Grandparents & Grandfriends Days for Primary School and Upper School (ninth and twelfth grades only) are happening soon!

- **Please remember to update grandparent contact details in Veracross and to RSVP by the Friday, February 2, cutoff date.**
- To RSVP, please [click here for Primary School](#), or [click here for Upper School](#).

The general schedule for Primary School and Upper School Grandparents and Grandfriends Days is below. (An email with detailed schedules and valet instructions will be sent out to parents and grandparents this week.)

PRIMARY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- **Thursday, February 8:** Primary II (9:00 a.m.)
- **Friday, February 9:** Pre-Primary (10:00 a.m.) and Primary I (9:00 a.m.)

UPPER SCHOOL SCHEDULE (NINTH AND TWELFTH GRADES ONLY)

- **Friday, February 9:** Ninth and twelfth grades at lunch (12:00 p.m.)

We can't wait to see all of our Grandparents and Grandfriends!

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, January 30

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith):* Primary II parents may attend
 - *Spirit Store/Uniform Resale Pop-up:* 12:30–2:00 p.m. in the Gay Foyer on Piney Point Campus
-

Wednesday, January 31

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend
-

Monday, February 5

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
-

Tuesday, February 6

- *No Chapel*
-

Wednesday, February 7

- *No Chapel*
-

Thursday, February 8

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Primary II: 9:00 a.m.*
-

Friday, February 9

- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Primary I and Pre-Primary*
 - **Primary I:** 9:00 a.m.
 - **Pre-Primary:** 10:00 a.m.
-

Monday, February 12

- *Open Library: 3:00 p.m.*
-

Tuesday, February 13

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith): Primary II parents may attend*
-

Wednesday, February 14

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton): Primary I parents may attend*
 - *Valentine's Day Parties (Students Only)*
-

Monday, February 19

- *Presidents' Day Holiday: No school*

Tuesday, February 20

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith):* Primary II parents may attend

Wednesday, February 21

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend

Friday, February 23

- *Darla McNay Rodeo Day*
- *Go Texan Day:* No guns or spurs, please

Saturday, February 24

- *St. Francis Gala*

Monday, February 26

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 27

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith):* Primary II parents may attend
-

Wednesday, February 28

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend

Lower School

From the Lower School Spanish Teachers

Spanish in the Lower School focuses on language acquisition and usage while teaching about Spanish culture and traditions. From kindergarten through fourth grade, students are involved in classroom learning experiences that support learning through repetition, singing, games, projects, reading, writing, and sharing activities. Each grade level is provided with opportunities to learn new words and practice using their Spanish in an age-appropriate context.

In addition to learning and speaking, we include weekly cultural facts about different Latin American countries, where students are exposed to Latin traditions, songs, prayers, and more. One example of this is in third grade. Every month, third-grade students learn about a Spanish-speaking country—beginning with Venezuela, our home country, and continuing with any Latin country to which our students' families may relate. Some countries our students have studied have been México, Guatemala, Spain, Colombia, El Salvador, Bolivia, Argentina, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica.

At each grade level, students also learn songs to sing together in Chapel, as well as at special performance, such as when they sang *Villancicos y Aguinaldos* for the Christmas program. Learning about other cultures promotes an appreciation of beliefs and perspectives that are similar and different, while encouraging students to be open-minded.

We are blessed to have the opportunity to teach Spanish and Latin culture to your children.

Best regards,

Mariauxi Capecchi and Mercedes Perli
Lower School Spanish Teachers

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 29

- *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.

Tuesday, January 30

- *Kindergarteners Celebrate 100th Day of School*
- *Spirit Store/Uniform Resale Pop-up: 12:30–2:00 p.m. in the Gay Foyer on Piney Point Campus*

Wednesday, January 31

- *Fourth-to-Fifth Step Forward Day: Fourth graders visit fifth grade*

Thursday, February 1

- *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.

Monday, February 5

- *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.

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

- *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.

Middle School

From the English Department

As the Seventh-Grade English Teacher and Middle School English Department Chair, I wanted to give you a quick overview of what's happening in our department. I am joined in the Middle School English Department by four talented teachers: Courtney O'Brien in fifth grade, Samantha Sullivan in the fifth-grade ELA lab, Leslie Germarino in sixth grade, and Addie Eliades in eighth grade.

PROGRAMS

The English Department has added two new programs to enhance student learning: Membean and NoRedInk.

Membean is an online vocabulary program that offers several benefits:

- It automatically differentiates and personalizes to each student's skill level.
- It prioritizes higher-order thinking and word consciousness over memorization.
- It promotes multiyear retention instead of focusing on short-term performance.
- It addresses student accommodations and special needs.

NoRedInk is an online grammar program that has really caught the students' attention!

- It delights students with exercises that feature interests they've selected themselves, including their favorite celebrities, characters, and historical figures.
- It provides practice exercises that help students target and master key writing and grammar skills. The hands-on exercises use a variety of question types to guide students from the sentence level to the paragraph level to the passage level. Students get to drag and drop punctuation; restructure sentences; and highlight claims, evidence, reasoning, and more. Because practice is adaptive, students see hints, lessons, and extra questions when they're struggling and see more challenging questions when they get things right.

ALLEY THEATRE PARTNERSHIP

The English Department is pleased to be partnering with the Alley Theatre. This year, each grade level will have the opportunity to work with an Alley Teaching Artist, focusing on the following residencies:

- **Grade 5—Slam Poetry:** Slam poetry builds confidence by bringing language to life. Local professional slam poets guide students through the process of writing and performing their own slam poems while also exploring dynamic literary techniques.
- **Grade 6—Storytelling:** Storytelling transforms memories into personal narratives. Students explore a combination of playwriting and creative nonfiction techniques to generate stories.
- **Grade 7**
 - **Shakespeare (*Twelfth Night*):** Shakespeare's plays were meant to be performed, so students shake off the "Shakes-Fear" while bringing his stories to

life. Students investigate the universal themes represented in his work and how it applies to the modern day, while learning fundamental concepts such as poetry and characterization.

- **A Christmas Carol Alley Theatre Performance:** The seventh-grade class began their study of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* by reading a graphic novel of the story followed by the novel. The highlight of the unit was attending an Alley Theatre performance of the Dickens' classic. Students attended a "Talk-Back" after the performance, where they were surprised to learn that the budget for the performance was \$3 million!
- **Grade 8**
 - **Slam Poetry:** The culmination of the Alley Theatre slam poetry residency in eighth grade, St. Francis holds a slam poetry contest, and the top three winners represent the school at the Alley Theatre Slam Poetry Contest. It is exciting for the students to perform on the Alley Theatre stage!
 - **Shakespeare (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*):** One of the most frequent comments from St. Francis alumni is how happy they are that they had the opportunity to study the language of Shakespeare. It gives the students confidence when they study his various works in Upper School.

Finally—and as always—the English Department team wants to thank all parents for providing your children with the time and space to read!

Sincerely,

Carol Bedard
English Department Chair

Middle School Spring Sports Information

Middle School spring sports will begin tomorrow for those students who are not scheduled in Fine Arts rehearsals. All cast and crew will have rehearsals Monday through Wednesday of this week, and will not participate in Athletics practices. We look forward to welcoming those students to spring sports on Thursday.

For those students not scheduled in Fine Arts rehearsals, practices will begin tomorrow after a brief meeting. The first week will look a little different from the remainder of the season, so please review the details below. Students should bring the necessary equipment, clothing, and footwear for spring sports. Sport-specific information will be sent to team rosters and parents.

For this week, please note the following exceptions:

- **Tennis:** We will hold a team meeting on campus tomorrow—Monday, January 29. There will be no off-campus practice. Carpool pickup will be at 3:30 p.m. Off-campus practices will begin this Tuesday, January 30.

- **Boys Lacrosse:** Team meetings/practices will be held on Piney Point Campus this week from Monday through Friday, with carpool pickup from the Dining Hall at 3:30 p.m.

REGULAR-SEASON PRACTICE AND CARPOOL SCHEDULE*

SPORT	ARRIVAL TIME	START TIME	END TIME	CARPOOL PICKUP	CARPOOL LOCATION	PRACTICE LOCATION
PE Exempt	N/A	N/A	N/A	2:40 p.m.	Piney Point Campus Dining Hall	Off Campus
Golf (Primary Sport Golfers)	N/A	N/A	N/A	2:40 p.m.	Piney Point Campus Dining Hall	Off Campus
MSPE	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	3:25 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	Piney Point Campus Dining Hall	Piney Point Campus
Track & Field	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	3:50 p.m.	Piney Point Campus Dining Hall	Piney Point Campus Field
Tennis (M-Th)	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	AD in Tennis Center	AD in Tennis Center
Baseball	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	Piney Point Campus Dining Hall	Piney Point Campus Field
Softball	2:40 p.m.	2:50 p.m.	4:00 p.m.	4:05 p.m.	Piney Point Campus Dining Hall	Don Hicks Field at Piney Point Campus
Girls Lacrosse	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Crum Gym	Couper Campus Fields
Boys Lacrosse	2:40 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	4:10 p.m.	4:15 p.m.	Crum Gym	Couper Campus Fields

* Last class dismisses at 2:35 p.m.

Canstruction: Can Collection Starts February 12

We will begin collecting cans during Advisory starting Monday, February 12. We will be using the cans for Canstruction on Friday, February 23. More information to follow next week!

This Friday: Nothin' but Net and Nachos . . . and Senior Night!

Middle School Night at the Varsity Boys Basketball game—Nothin' but Net and Nachos—is this **Friday, February 2!** Come out and enjoy nachos with friends while cheering on the Varsity Boys Basketball team as they take on Northland Christian in Crum Gym. We will also be celebrating our senior athletes that night.

- 6:00–6:45 p.m.—Swag, photo ops, and free nachos for all students (while supplies last)!
- 7:00 p.m.—Varsity Boys Basketball game against Northland Christian

New This Year: Eighth graders may enter a raffle to participate in a three-point shooting contest at halftime.

Can't wait to see you there—go Wolves!

Last Call for Summer Travel: Registration Deadline Is Tuesday!

Please note the following important updates to our St. Francis Travel Program for summer 2024:

- Our travel partner, ACIS, has allowed us to reopen registration for the summer trips to Japan and Spain/France! **Sign-ups close this Tuesday, January 30.** [Click here](#) for trip details and information on how to register.
- The Spain/France trip has been moved to June 17–27, 2024.
- Financial assistance for summer travel with the St. Francis Travel Program is still available through the Patrick Nicosia C.A.R.E. Fund. [Click here to apply.](#)

Please [email Ted Lakoski](#), Director of Experiential Travel, with any questions.

A Note About Community Service Hours

St. Francis Episcopal School recognizes and celebrates students who involve themselves in helping others. During the 2023–24 school year, **students in each grade level are required to complete a minimum number of service hours**, as follows:

- **Fifth Grade:** 10 hours
- **Sixth Grade:** 10 hours
- **Seventh Grade:** 15 hours
- **Eighth Grade:** 20 hours

At the Recognition and Awards Ceremony in the spring, **students in any grade level who have completed 20, 30, 50, or 100+ service hours during the school term will receive a certificate recognizing their achievements.** In addition, one graduating student will be recognized for exemplifying and representing the quality of being a “person for others.”

To submit your service hours, complete this [Community Service Hours Request Form](#) and drop it off in the Middle School Office or email it to [Sarah Flores](#).

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, January 29

- *“B” Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
-

Tuesday, January 30

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Spirit Store/Uniform Resale Pop-up: 12:30–2:00 p.m. in the Gay Foyer on Piney Point Campus*
-

Wednesday, January 31

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Fourth-to-Fifth Step Forward Day: Fourth graders visit fifth grade*
-

Thursday, February 1

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
-

Friday, February 2

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*
- *Club 1*
- *MS Play Preview*

- *Nothin' but Net and Nachos*: 6:00 p.m.
-

Saturday, February 3

- *Middle School Play (The Alibis)*: 7:00 p.m.
-

Sunday, February 4

- *Middle School Play (The Alibis)*: 2:00 p.m.
-

Monday, February 5

- *"A" Day*
 - *Dress Uniform*
 - *Middle School Chapel*: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
-

Tuesday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Late-Start Day*: Classes start at 10:00 a.m.
-

Thursday, February 8

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

Friday, February 9

- “A” Day
- Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans
- Club 2

Upper School

From the Interim Head of Upper School

Several years ago, when I was at my previous school, I learned a lesson in standardized testing. While scanning the item analysis of one grade’s standardized test results, I stumbled upon a problem. Here was a question that nearly everyone in the grade had missed—and most had given the same wrong answer, to boot! A red flag immediately went up in my mind as I surmised that we must have some curriculum problem.

Searching through the test book, I finally found the question. It consisted of a series of sentences that the student must put in the correct order. “Interesting,” I thought. “How did such a question lead an entire grade to find the same incorrect answer?” To find out why, I examined the question.

The statements for this question pertained to the proper order in making a bed. Being a writing question, the concept was to put the sentences in the proper order. The sentences were clear enough:

- “Put on the bottom sheet.”
- “Put your stuffed animal by the pillow.”
- “Put on the bedspread.”
- “Put on the top sheet.”

Then, I froze—could it be that our students didn’t know how to make a bed? But that explanation didn’t quite make sense. If the students truly *didn’t* know how to make a bed, wouldn’t there be a wide range of incorrect answers?

I just couldn’t identify the source of the problem, so I looked closely at the wrong choice most of the students had selected. They had chosen an order that was correct except for the step that involved putting on the bedspread.

That’s odd—why would they choose that? Mulling over this question for a couple of minutes, I was suddenly struck with the answer, and my own seventh-grade daughter’s bed helped me figure it out. The problem wasn’t that they didn’t know how to make a bed; they simply didn’t know what a bedspread was, for they all had comforters on their beds. In fact, not only did they prove that they actually *did* know how to make a bed, but also they made an intelligent incorrect assumption by deducing that a “bedspread” must be what a mattress pad actually is.

And herein lies a fundamental problem with standardized testing. As educators, we all know that there are many ways to get questions wrong. Children can panic; they can feel ill; they may inadvertently skip questions and fill in the wrong ovals on an answer sheet; they can be made to feel anxious by time; and they can be distracted. *And*, as the bedspread question indicates, the problem can be cultural. Thirty years ago, those same students would have likely recognized the correct answer and seen the question as easy. But not today.

Some years ago, I began the practice of looking closely at the item-analysis results both for the group and for the individual to ascertain what was happening with a class or a child. I have discovered that much can be determined; it simply takes a great deal of time to wade through the questions.

This practice has provided enough insight so that we can often create a profile of the test-taking habits of a child. Sometimes, we can even learn how to make a bed.

Warmly,

Mark Kelly
Interim Head of School

Please RSVP by Friday: PS/US Grandparents & Grandfriends Days Are February 8 & 9
Grandparents & Grandfriends Days for Primary School and Upper School (ninth and twelfth grades only) are happening soon!

- **Please remember to update grandparent contact details in Veracross and to RSVP by the Friday, February 2, cutoff date.**
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The general schedule for Primary School and Upper School Grandparents and Grandfriends Days is below. (An email with detailed schedules and valet instructions will be sent out to parents and grandparents this week.)

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- **Thursday, February 8:** Primary II (9:00 a.m.)
- **Friday, February 9:** Pre-Primary (10:00 a.m.) and Primary I (9:00 a.m.)

UPPER SCHOOL SCHEDULE (NINTH AND TWELFTH GRADES ONLY)

- **Friday, February 9:** Ninth and twelfth grades at lunch (12:00 p.m.)

We can't wait to see all of our Grandparents and Grandfriends!

Social Institute Lesson: 'Protect Your Privacy'

In the past week, each advisory group ran a specific Social Institute lesson on the topic of "Protect Your Privacy," examining ways to stay in control of one's personal information. Please click on your student's grade link below for further information on the curriculum and for resources to help you continue the conversation at home.

- **Ninth Grade**: "Polishing Your Privacy Setting for Your Go-To Apps and Devices"
- **Tenth Grade**: "Sharing Our Stance on Screenshots and Debating When They Are vs. Aren't Off-Limits"
- **Eleventh Grade**: "Auditing What Shows Up When Colleges, Coaches, or Future Bosses Search Your Name Online"
- **Twelfth Grade**: "Protecting Our Data and Dollars on Popular Payment Apps, From Venmo to PayPal"

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-

Wednesday, January 31

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

Thursday, February 1

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, February 2

- *“A” Day*
 - *SFES Spirit Dress: Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms*
 - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
-

Monday, February 5

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, February 6

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, February 7

- *“B” Day/Special Schedule*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Late-Start Day: Classes start at 10:00 a.m.*
- *Upper School Chapel: 1:05–1:40 p.m. in Crum Gym*

Thursday, February 8

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, February 9

- *“B” Day*
- *SFES Spirit Dress:* Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms
- *Upper School Chapel:* 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym
- *Grandparents and Grandfriends Day for Ninth and Twelfth Grades Only:* 12:00–1:00 p.m.

Church

Palm Sunday Passion Pageant Is March 24

Join us on Sunday, March 24, at 9:00 a.m. for our annual LIVE Palm Sunday Passion Pageant. Children and teens are invited to participate as we re-enact the events of Holy Week, waving palm branches as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey and reciting the Passion Gospel.

Walk to Calvary Is March 29

Children, join us for an interactive journey of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 29, at noon. Families are welcome to participate with their children. Please Note: Children ages 6 and up can be dropped off while parents attend the Good Friday service in the church at noon.

Easter Sunday Celebration Is March 31

He is risen! Join us on Sunday, March 31, at 9:00 a.m. for our Family Easter Service, where we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After the service, children will have an opportunity to pet and feed bunnies, and will enjoy an Easter egg hunt. (Please bring a basket!)

May 12: High School Graduate Blessing

Graduating from high school and heading off to college or other pursuits is a life-changing

event. We invite all high school graduates to join us on Sunday, May 12, at 6:00 p.m. in the church for a short service of prayers and blessings to mark this momentous event.

Spring Events at St. Francis

We have so many fun events planned over the next few months!

- [Click here](#) for details on church events and volunteer opportunities in spring 2024.
- To sign up to volunteer, please [click here](#).

Join Us Each Sunday for Our Family-Focused Service and Events

- **Sunday Family Worship Service:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Let It Shine Children's Bible Lesson:** On Sundays during the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service, join Mrs. Devlin to learn about the Bible as we act out Scripture with costumes and props and pray together.
- **Coffee, Donuts, and Crafts:** Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. (after the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship Service), get a cup of coffee and enjoy fellowship while young children color, create an art project based on the lesson learned at Let it Shine, and have fun with friends.

Students, Join Us for Weekly Book Studies on Sundays

On Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the cafeteria, join your friends for weekly meetings to talk about some amazing, Biblically inspired stories. Books will be provided. Please contact [Allison Devlin](#) to sign up.

- **Grades 1–4:** *The Dead Sea Squirrels* by Mike Nawrocki
- **Grades 5–8:** *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis

Now on Spotify: Sermons From St. Francis

St. Francis has launched [Sermons From St. Francis](#) on **Spotify**. You can listen on an Apple or Android device, on your desktop computer, or on your tablet. The Sunday sermons are available anytime you want to be inspired while on the go. No Spotify account is necessary. [Click here](#) to start listening today!

Outreach Ministries: Opportunities to Serve

For additional information about any of the following outreach opportunities, please contact the church's Director of Outreach [Heather Burkhart](#).

- **Lord of the Streets** needs weekday volunteers between 8:00 a.m. and noon to serve our homeless neighbors. Over 300 hot meals are served daily. St. Francis also collects men's clothes on an ongoing basis—men's shoes are always needed.

- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** has an urgent plea from the pantry team.
- The **Fair Haven Food Pantry** needs volunteers and non-perishable food donations.

High School and Adult Volunteer Opportunities: Sign Up Now

This year, we are tracking and giving awards to high school students and adults for completing hours of service at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

- There will be a Gold Wolf Award for completing 50+ service hours, a Silver Rabbit Award for completing 25–49 service hours, and a Bronze Bird for completing 10–24 service hours. Award recipients will be recognized in May on Mother’s Day.
- We need volunteers to help lead weekly book clubs and First Communion Classes, set up crafts and supervise kids on Sundays, serve at events like the Children’s Christmas Party, and much more!
- To sign up, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code below with your mobile phone:



Healing Prayers and Anointings Available

Healing prayers and anointings are always available after Sunday Eucharist services, or you may schedule an appointment with a priest. For more information or to schedule an appointment, email [Sally Jo Flores](#) or call 832.325.2983.

Share Your Prayer Requests Online

Share your prayer requests with us using the “Prayer Requests” link on the [St. Francis Episcopal Church home page](#).

Bible Studies at St. Francis

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Exodus
 - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](#)

- **Location:** La Madeleine (1st, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays of each month)
- Second Tuesday of Each Month at 8:00–9:30 a.m. (**The next meeting is February 13.**)
 - **Study:** The Book of Genesis (Life of Jacob)
 - **Location:** [The Corner Bakery](#) (9311 Katy Fwy.), breakfast included
 - **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](#)

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Women of the Old Testament
 - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
 - **Location:** Via Zoom (Contact Louise for additional information.)

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

- Sundays at 10:00–11:00 a.m.
 - **Study:** Articles of Religion
 - **Location:** Hogan Board Room
 - **Contact:** [George Hippard](#)

How to Watch Sunday Service Via Livestream

To join St. Francis Episcopal Church's 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Sunday service via livestream, open an Internet browser on your computer, laptop, or phone. Type in the St. Francis website—sfch.org. Click on the "Watch Live Stream Worship Services" button. Either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service will be available.