

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of February 4

### All School

#### **Get Ready for Gala!**

It's the month of our much-anticipated St. Francis Gala! There is so much happening before the big night on February 24, and we hope you're excited.

- **Our silent auction AND Sign-Up Parties will be live at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 12.** Remember that the silent auction is open to the entire community, so feel free to share the link with friends and family.
- There's an important step you can take before the silent auction begins, and that's to register online and update your contact and credit-card information. You can do all that by [visiting the bidding page](#) and clicking the "Get Started" button.
- A preview of all items for Gala—silent auction, big board, and live auction—will be available this week. Stay tuned!
- There are still a few hotel rooms left in the room block at Post Oak Hotel for the evening of the Gala. Please [email Alaina Stephens](#) if you are interested in booking!

#### **Join Us! Next SFPO General Meeting Is Tuesday**

All are invited to attend the St. Francis Parents Organization's next general meeting this **Tuesday, February 6, at 8:30 a.m. in the Hogan Board Room**. We hope to see everyone there!

#### **Parents Night Out Is February 23**

Want to go to the Rodeo Cookoff, but can't find a babysitter? Do the kids want a playdate with their friends? On Friday, February 23, we will be hosting our Parents Night Out—Rodeo Style!—from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

- Attendees will enjoy dinner, a Mr. Softee Ice Cream Truck, fun games, and crafts, and we'll end the night with popcorn and a movie.
- Cost is \$45 per student.
- Register through the Parent Portal today!

### **Is Your Country on the List?**

Is your country on the list for our inaugural *This Is Us Cultural Festival*? We have more than 25 countries represented so far!

- Please view the list of countries [here](#) and contact the point person for your country to get involved.
- There are a few countries that do not have a point person yet, so please [email Wlede Frankfort](#) if you would like to participate with that country.

### **Summer on the Point 2024: Registration Opens Next Month**

Planning for Summer on the Point 2024 is underway! Registration will go live in early March. Be on the lookout for more information in *Wolf Watch* later this month.

## **Primary School**

### **From the Assistant Head of School**

Even if you're one who likes to make New Year's resolutions, you may have already moved on from your plan, now that February is here. I don't make resolutions, but something I read last month has influenced me and helped me set a vision, rather than a goal, for 2024. Tara Parker-Pope, Well+Being editor for the *Washington Post*, suggests that picking a "nudge word" can be more helpful than a resolution in developing a new mindset. Through a series of categories with a vast number of choices, the reader narrows down the list to discover "a topic that reflects your values or an area of your life that needs attention." The category that I chose was "Growth." From there, an additional culling of choices led to the word that would "nudge" me toward positive change. That word is "Journey."

I don't often stop and count the number of years I have lived and loved the world of school life. There is so much to love about working in schools. I began teaching in January of 1981. I knew so little about what I was doing. The learning curve was very steep. Since then, I've held numerous positions and worked on so many committees, projects, and initiatives that I can't recall them all.

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but it's happening. I love that I've been able to see and be part of that change in students, families, colleagues, schools, and myself.

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The word designed to nudge me toward growth as a positive change in 2024 is "Journey." My family, my faith, and my career are all part of my evolving journey. My daughter often refers to the possibilities of my "encore career." This is in reference to retirement, and the possibilities of the journey shifting to places where hobbies and passions intersect. For me, that might be working at a bakery to learn how to make artisan breads, or in a library or children's bookstore where joyful children and great literature come together. While there isn't an internal compass to navigate my path, there are people, experiences, and infinite faith that will help me continue to grow and nudge me along the way.

If you're not a fan of resolutions, but think a nudge word could help you choose a mindset for 2024, I encourage you to [read the \*Washington Post\* article here](#).

Cheers to a wonderful 2024!

Amy Whitley, MA  
Assistant Head of School

### **PS Grandparents and Grandfriends Days are THIS WEEK!**

We can't wait to welcome all of our grandparents and grandfriends to the Primary School this week! Please be sure that your child's guests have the correct session information:

- **Primary II:** Thursday, February 8, 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- **Primary I:** Friday, February 9, 9:00–10:00 a.m.
- **Pre-Primary:** Friday, February 9, 10:00–11:00 a.m.

You should have received an email earlier this week with additional details and parking instructions. Please contact [Lauren Sutherland](#) with any questions. We look forward to seeing everyone!

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **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.*
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## **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*
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## **Wednesday, February 14**

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

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**Monday, February 19**

- *Presidents' Day Holiday*: No school

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**Tuesday, February 20**

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

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**Wednesday, February 21**

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

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**Friday, February 23**

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

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**Saturday, February 24**

- *St. Francis Gala*

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**Monday, February 26**

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

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**Tuesday, February 27**

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

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**Wednesday, February 28**

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

## **Lower School**

### **From the Assistant Head of School**

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I don't often stop and count the number of years I have lived and loved the world of school life. There is so much to love about working in schools. I began teaching in January of 1981. I knew so little about what I was doing. The learning curve was very steep. Since then, I've held numerous positions and worked on so many committees, projects, and initiatives that I can't recall them all.

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Cheers to a wonderful 2024!

Amy Whitley, MA  
Assistant Head of School

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **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.
- 

### **Monday, February 12**

- *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.
  - *Fourth-Grade Valentine's Day Party (Students Only)*: 1:00–2:15 p.m.
-

## Tuesday, February 13

- *Kindergarten Valentine's Day Party (Students Only):* 1:00–2:15 p.m.
  - *First-Grade Valentine's Day Party (Students Only):* 12:00–1:15 p.m.
- 

## Wednesday, February 14

- *LS Ash Wednesday Chapel:* Ashes only, no Eucharist; 8:20–8:50 a.m.
  - *Second-Grade Valentine's Day Party (Students Only):* 12:15–1:30 p.m.
  - *Third-Grade Valentine's Day Party (Students Only):* 1:00–2:15 p.m.
- 

## Thursday, February 15

- *Art à la Carte Field Trip for Second Grade:* 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
- 

## Friday, February 16

- *Joyful Sounds Field Trip*

## Middle School

### **From the Assistant Head of School**

Even if you're one who likes to make New Year's resolutions, you may have already moved on from your plan, now that February is here. I don't make resolutions, but something I read last month has influenced me and helped me set a vision, rather than a goal, for 2024. Tara Parker-Pope, Well+Being editor for the *Washington Post*, suggests that picking a "nudge word" can be more helpful than a resolution in developing a new mindset. Through a series of categories with a vast number of choices, the reader narrows down the list to discover "a topic that reflects your values or an area of your life that needs attention." The category that I chose was "Growth." From there, an additional culling of choices led to the word that would "nudge" me toward positive change. That word is "Journey."

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### **Canstruction: Can Collection Starts Tomorrow**

We will begin collecting cans for Canstruction during Advisory starting tomorrow—Monday, February 5. Please make sure that the cans brought in have a label, are not expired, and are not dented.

- We will be using the cans for Canstruction on **Wednesday, February 21.**
- This will be our eighth year to participate in this very worthwhile event. Canstruction began in 2017 as the "Souper Bowl of Caring" Food Drive and Canstruction contest, celebrating the Super Bowl coming to NRG Stadium that year. This event has taken off as an effective way to tackle hunger and a great way to be People for Others.
- Last year, we collected a little over 3,500 cans. Let's see if we can rock it and top that this year!

### **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

### Sunday, February 4

- *Middle School Play (The Alibis): 2:00 p.m.*
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### Monday, February 5

- *“A” Day*
  - *Dress Uniform*
  - *Can Collection for Construction Starts Today*
  - *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*
  - *Middle School Chapel*: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary
- 

### **Friday, February 9**

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

### **Monday, February 12**

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

### **Tuesday, February 13**

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

### **Wednesday, February 14**

- *“B” Day*
  - *Dress Uniform*
  - *Ash Wednesday Chapel*: 9:35–10:20 a.m.
-

## Thursday, February 15

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

## Friday, February 16

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

## Monday, February 19

- *Presidents' Day Holiday: No school*

## Upper School

### **From the Assistant Head of School**

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Assistant Head of School

### **Trimester 3 Elective Selection Due This Friday**

Students will receive Trimester 3 elective selection sheets early next week. Students should return selections to Dr. Staller or their advisor by this **Friday, February 9**, so we may schedule their Trimester 3 classes.

### **Grades 9 and 12: Grandparents and Grandfriends Day Is Friday**

We can't wait to welcome all of our ninth and twelfth graders' grandparents and grandfriends for lunch at the Upper School this week! Please be sure that your student's guests have the correct session information:

- **Ninth and Twelfth Grades (Only):** Friday, February 9, 12:00–1:00 p.m.

You should have received an email earlier this week with additional details and parking instructions. Please contact [Lauren Sutherland](#) with any questions. We look forward to seeing everyone!

## Mark Your Calendar

### 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.
-

## Monday, February 12–Friday, February 16

- *Immersion and Explorations Week*: Dress code for the week will be Spirit Wear, unless there are exceptions due to the nature of the Immersion and Explorations activities. Teachers will keep students informed of any changes.
- 

## Wednesday, February 14

- *Ash Wednesday Chapel*: Ashes only will be administered at Chapel; 3:20–3:50 p.m. in Crum Gym

## Church

### **Ash Wednesday Services Are February 14**

Begin your Lenten journey that leads to the Cross and the Joy of the Resurrection with the imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist on Ash Wednesday, February 14. The first day of Lent is a special day of Holy Obligation. Services will be held at 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., and 7:00 p.m. to accommodate your schedule that day.

### **The Letter of James: Wednesday Evening Lenten Study Begins February 21**

Come along and take a good look at The Letter of James. Utterly unique among the works of the New Testament, this letter is loaded with practical and spiritual help for real life. James addresses things such as the difference between genuine faith and counterfeit faith. How do we know our faith is real? Can we know joy even in trials? Can we know patience in suffering? We'll cover the five chapters in The Letter of James in five sessions. Each will take place at **7:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: February 21, February 28, March 6, March 13, and March 20.**

Join us for the full Wednesday Evening Program:

- **6:00 p.m.**—Holy Eucharist in the St. Clare Chapel
- **6:30 p.m.**—Dinner (\$15 per person at the door)
- **7:00 p.m.**—Teaching and discussion on James, taught by Fr. Stuart Bates and Fr. David Price

Contact [\*\*Fr. David Price\*\*](#) for more information.

### **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, [visit the St. Francis Episcopal Church Outreach page](#) or 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.
- The **Fair Haven Food Pantry** needs volunteers and donations of non-perishable food and the following items:
  - Baby wipes
  - Tissues
  - All-purpose cleaner
  - Deodorant
  - Shaving cream
  - Toothpaste
  - Toothbrushes
  - Lotion
  - Body soap
  - Shampoo
  - Diapers in sizes 3 and 4

### **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 special events, 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
- 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.
  - **NEW Study:** The Apostles' Creed (**Study begins February 7.**)
  - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](#)
  - **Location:** Via Zoom (Contact Louise for passcode.)

#### **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](http://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.