

# WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

## News for the Week of February 11

### All School

#### **Re-enrollment Deadline Is Tomorrow: Will You Be Back With the Pack Next Year?**

The deadline to re-enroll current students for next school year is tomorrow—Monday, February 12—at 4:00 p.m. To secure your spot for the fall, log into the [Parent Portal](#); click on the blue re-enrollment button; and fully complete the process, including submitting your signed contract and deposit.

- **After the deadline, we will begin to offer any available spaces to highly qualified applicants in our waiting pool.** (We have a record number of applications for the 2024-25 school year, so be sure to re-enroll by the deadline so that your child's spot is not given away!)
- If you have any questions, please [contact Jennifer Glover](#), Head of Admissions and Enrollment Management.

#### **Gala: Silent Auction and Sign-up Parties Go Live Tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.**

The Silent Auction, which includes Sign-up Parties, will be live from tomorrow—Monday, February 12—at 10:00 a.m. through Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00 p.m.

- [Click here](#) to preview now, then start bidding on Monday!
- **We strongly encourage you to register and log in before the start of the Silent Auction** to ensure you have access and are familiar with the items—especially with the Sign-up Parties being offered. If you have any issues with registering on the website or viewing items, please [contact Alaina Stephens](#).
- Additional Gala information was sent via email on Friday. [Click here to view it.](#)

### **Seeking Truck for Construction Delivery!**

Do you drive a pickup truck or large SUV? If so, **we would love your help delivering canned goods to the Fair Haven Food Pantry on Wednesday, February 21.**

- Each year, Middle School students collect thousands of canned goods and compete in Construction, where they build imaginative structures with these cans. Afterward, all cans are donated to the Fair Haven Food Pantry.
- If you would like to help with pickup and delivery, please **[contact Lauren Sutherland](#)** for details. Thank you!

### **Reminder: Update Your Child's Info in the New E&E Registration Portal**

With Summer on the Point (SOTP) registration opening March 1, it's a good time to ensure that your child's medical information is updated in the new **[Explore and Extend Registration Portal](#)**, and that all outstanding balances are resolved.

- In addition to SOTP registration, you will also **use the new portal to register for monthly extended care, School of Music classes, enrichment classes, and Explore and Extend drop-ins.** (Please note that you MUST be registered in the new portal to do an Explore and Extend drop-in.)
- With questions, please **[email Traci Callender](#)**.

### **New Pickup Location for Certain Enrichment Classes**

For optimal efficiency during pickup from Explore and Extend Enrichment Classes, we have changed the dismissal/pickup location to the Explore and Extend Building for the following classes:

- Archery
- Cooking
- Flag Football
- Tae Kwon Do
- Tumbling
- Woodwork

All other Piney Point Campus Explore and Extend Enrichment classes will continue dismissing from the Dining Hall. Please Note: The Explore and Extend Building is also the pickup location for Explore and Extend After-School Care. To help us ensure student safety during pickup, **please wait to pull up to the pickup location until the exact time your child's class ends.** With questions, please **[email Traci Callender](#)**.

### **Summer on the Point 2024: Registration Opens March 1**

Mark your calendar! Registration for Summer on the Point 2024—St. Francis's summer program for ages preschool through high school—will open on Friday, March 1. Stay tuned for details!

## **Announcing the 2024–25 Art à la Carte Managing Board**

We are pleased to announce the 2024–25 Art à la Carte (AALC) Managing Board. Congratulations to the following AALC docents who were nominated, have accepted their positions, and were approved by the Head of School. We look forward to their service!

- **Chair:** Annie Hartigan
- **Vice-Chair:** Reid Nelson
- **Chair of Training:** Amanda Ollison
- **Co-Chair of Training:** Lynsey Ward
- **Chair of Finance:** Alison Meyer
- **Chair of Technology:** Vanessa Gerard
- **Chair of Program Resources:** Rita Pace
- **Chair of Lower School Field Trips:** Jessica Keegan
- **Chair of Middle School Field Trips:** Whitney Moore

## **Next FoFA Meeting Is February 16**

Join us this Friday, February 16, at 8:30 a.m. for the next Friends of Fine Arts (FoFA) meeting, which will be held in the Advancement Conference Room of the Administration Building (9000 Westheimer Rd.).

## **Parents Night Out Is February 23: Register Today!**

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 **Explore and Extend Registration Portal**.

## **Primary School**

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

Primary II Explorations is an important and rewarding component of the PII approach to learning. There are many benefits to this open-ended exploration for the children. We offer PII Explorations for one hour, three times per week. The teachers work together to plan meaningful experiences for the children in the pod area, two classrooms, the Atelier, and the outside playscape. Students look forward to the days that we have PII Explorations on our daily schedule.

During PII Explorations, children can usually find other children with similar interests, which may spark new friendships. PII Explorations provides an environment to foster these new

friendships because of the freedom and many options for play. Early childhood friendships have endless benefits for children's development, and strong friendships contribute to a child's self-confidence and self-esteem. Playing with other children and developing friendships is how children learn to communicate, share, and role-play—and, over time, they also learn listening skills, patience, empathy, and cooperation.

Reconnecting with old friends is just as important to children as it is to adults. We're sure all of us can remember a time when we didn't have one of our good friends in the same class one year, and hoped we were lucky enough to spot them out on the playground so we could reconnect. During PII Explorations, students have substantial time to seek out their old friends and make new memories. The children benefit from growing their circle of friends—both old and new.

With all these different options, **our students engage in another important benefit of PII Explorations—making choices**. Giving children choices in structuring their time helps them feel empowered and more independent. It helps them learn time management and strengthens their ability to make decisions. These are all crucial skills that will follow and benefit them throughout their journey into adulthood.

### **VISITING DIFFERENT CLASSROOMS**

Some of the benefits of children being able to visit a PII classroom other than their own include playing with a variety of different classroom materials and having new experiences. There may be different learning provocations set up in another classroom that create a genuine desire to learn more about a subject. For example, perhaps there is a student who is especially interested in books and is excited to learn more about Mrs. Hughes's bookmaking project, or a student who becomes more interested in bridges after walking across the bridge the students in Mrs. Capasso's class made as part of their Brooklyn Bridge and New York City class project.

### **OUTDOOR EXPLORATION**

Outdoor play and exploration are essential parts of childhood development, as well. Getting enough vitamin D and exercise are some obvious benefits, but children gain so much more from being outside. Working with other children in a less structured environment is vital for children's social and emotional development.

Children's creativity and imagination are evident in the games they invent or in how they use the materials in new or creative ways. For example, one time, we noticed a child standing at the top of the slide that is built inside a hill and others pretending to hand the child something before sliding down. We soon discovered that they were passing the child a "ticket" for the "rollercoaster," and the children riding down the slide pretended to hold a safety bar on their way down.

During outdoor exploration, children learn to appreciate nature and discover all the many treasures that can be found while outside, such as a leaf that has fallen to the ground displaying the many shades of fall or a ladybug on a flower. These hidden gems sometimes stir up enough student curiosity that it can ignite a classroom project.

## **ATELIER**

The Atelier in our Reggio Emilia–inspired school encourages experimentation and self-directed creativity. The wide variety of materials allows for free expression of ideas. The Atelier is supported and set up by two teachers. This unique space invites children to invent, create, and explore their interests through art.

Sincerely,

Marissa Capasso & Krystal Polk; Emily Hughes & Dominique Dorsey; Janene Owens & Alex Theis; and Diane Wiener & Ryan Roussett  
The Primary II Team

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **Monday, February 12**

- *Re-enrollment Deadline for Returning Students*
  - *St. Francis Gala Silent Auction Opens at 10:00 a.m.: [Click here for details and to bid](#); Silent Auction closes on Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00 p.m.*
  - *Open Library: 3:00 p.m.*
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### **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*
  - *PS Valentine's Day Parties (Students Only)*
- 

### **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
  - *St. Francis Gala Silent Auction Closes at 10:00 p.m.:* [Click here for details and to bid](#)
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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
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### **Friday, March 1**

- *Summer on the Point Registration Opens:* Stay tuned for details!
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### **Monday, March 4**

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
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### **Tuesday, March 5**

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith):* Primary II parents may attend
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### **Wednesday, March 6**

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend
  - *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Agee, Ferguson, and Scriber)*
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### **Monday, March 11–Friday, March 15**

- *Spring Break:* No school
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### **Monday, March 18**

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
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## **Tuesday, March 19**

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith):* Primary II parents may attend
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## **Wednesday, March 20**

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend
  - *Primary I Sings in Chapel (Avila and Greenwood)*
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## **Monday, March 25**

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
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## **Tuesday, March 26**

- *Chapel for Primary II and Pre-Primary (Husain, Oteiza, and Griffith):* Primary II parents may attend
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## **Wednesday, March 27**

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend
  - *Primary II Fathers and Friends Picnic:* 11:00 a.m.; bring lunch for you and your child
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## **Friday, March 29**

- *Good Friday Holiday:* No school
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## **Monday, April 1**

- *Easter Monday Holiday:* No school

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## Tuesday, April 2

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

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## Wednesday, April 3

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton):* Primary I parents may attend
- *Primary I Fathers and Friends Picnic:* 11:00 a.m.; bring lunch for you and your child

## Lower School

### From the Division Head

At Chapel last Thursday, I spoke to the children about love—specifically the love of learning and the importance of lifelong learning. The Scripture for this Chapel was I Corinthians 13, which connects with Valentine’s Day next week. In Lower School, we are a community of learners, and our teachers are passionate about their work and about discovering ways to engage students in classroom learning. Our shared goal is to provide students with experiences that meet each child where they are and challenge them to continue to grow and ask questions that lead to more learning.

During this re-enrollment season, I encourage you to reflect on the wonderful first half of the school year and on the great start we are having to the second half. I hope memories of Lower School experiences like Chapel, Christmas concerts, Grandparent’s & Grandfriends Day, Lower School Night at an Upper School basketball game, and more will help you confidently decide to re-enroll your child in the Lower School here at St. Francis Episcopal School. We know you have a choice in the school you select for your child’s education, and we value this opportunity to partner with your family in developing your child’s academic, social, and spiritual acumen.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Head of Lower School. If you have any questions I can help with as we undergo re-enrollment season, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

Kindly,

Clifton Walker, MEd  
Head of Lower School

### **Carpool Morning Drop-off Reminder**

Please remember that cars containing Lower and Middle School students must drop off all students in the **Lower School** carpool line at the south entrance Dining Hall/Library. Middle School morning carpool is a dedicated drop-off location for students in Middle School only. Thank you for your help in keeping our carpool procedures safe and efficient.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

#### **Monday, February 12**

- *Re-enrollment Deadline for Returning Students*
  - *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.
  - *St. Francis Gala Silent Auction Opens at 10:00 a.m.: [Click here for details and to bid](#); Silent Auction closes on Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00 p.m.*
  - *Fourth-Grade Valentine's Day Party (Students Only): 1:00–2:15 p.m.*
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#### **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.*
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#### **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.*
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#### **Thursday, February 15**

- *Art à la Carte Field Trip for Second Grade: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.*
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#### **Friday, February 16**

- *Joyful Sounds Field Trip*

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## Monday, February 19

- *Presidents' Day Holiday: School closed*

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## Wednesday, February 21

- *Fairy Tale Day for Grades K–2 (Students Only)*
- *St. Francis Gala Silent Auction Closes at 10:00 p.m.*

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## Thursday, February 22

- *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.
- *Fairy Tale Day for Grades 3–4 (Students Only)*

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## Friday, February 23

- *Trimester 2 Ends*
- *Go Texan Day*

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## Saturday, February 24

- *St. Francis Gala*

## **Middle School**

### **From the Middle School Theatre Director: Highlights From the MS Play + Invitation to the MS Musical**

And that's a wrap on our Middle School play, *The Alibis*! Thank you to all who were in the audience last weekend watching our cast, ensemble, and crew shine! We received fantastic feedback and were truly proud of our work as an ensemble.

I was overcome with joy by the students' growth throughout this journey, from rehearsal to performance. For some, this was their first experience on stage or backstage. For others, this was a transformative experience as they expanded their skill set as actors or technicians. For all students, they strengthened their abilities to focus, demonstrate social and emotional confidence, and collaborate creatively within a group.

The show was clearly a success, as I have had countless students approach me this week asking how they can be involved in our next production—the Middle School musical *Legally Blonde Jr.* That production will premiere on May 10 and 11.

I'm thrilled to see the performing arts motivate our students to try new experiences and to join our St. Francis theatre community!

We hope to see you all in the audience for *Legally Blonde Jr.* this May!

Sincerely,

Scott Gibbs  
Middle School Theatre Director

### **Carpool Morning Drop-off Reminder**

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### **Reminder: No Food Deliveries During Lunchtime**

As a reminder, students should not have food delivered to them at lunchtime. They can bring their own lunches, and parents can request to eat lunch with students.

### **Eighth-Grade White Shirt Day Is February 23**

On Friday, February 23, all eighth-grade students will participate in the filming of a portion of their eighth-grade video, as well as take a class photograph. Students are asked to wear the following clothing (which will fit right in since February 23 is also Go Texan Day):

- **Boys' Tops:** White button-down shirt, tucked in with a belt
- **Girls' Tops:** White blouse or nice white top (school-appropriate—no tank tops)
- **Bottoms:** All students must wear blue jeans (no holes or rips).
- **Shoes:** Students may wear any school-appropriate shoes for this day. Boots are absolutely OK!

White Shirt Day is a long-standing St. Francis Episcopal School tradition for the eighth-grade class, and the media created on this day forms a special portion of the eighth-grade video

that will be shared at their Completion Ceremony.

### **Canstruction: Now Collecting Cans!**

We are now collecting cans during Advisory for Canstruction. 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 just 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**

#### **Monday, February 12**

- *Re-enrollment Deadline for Returning Students*
- *“B” Day*
- **Regular Uniform**
- *Bring in Cans for Canstruction*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
- *St. Francis Gala Silent Auction Opens at 10:00 a.m.: [\*\*Click here for details and to bid\*\*](#); Silent Auction closes on Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00 p.m.*

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**Tuesday, February 13**

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Bring in Cans for Canstruction*

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**Wednesday, February 14**

- *“B” Day*
- ***Dress Uniform***
- *Bring in Cans for Canstruction*
- *Ash Wednesday Chapel: 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*

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**Thursday, February 15**

- *“A” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Bring in Cans for Canstruction*

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**Friday, February 16**

- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*
- *Club 1*
- *Bring in Cans for Canstruction*

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**Monday, February 19**

- *Presidents' Day Holiday: No school*
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## Tuesday, February 20

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Bring in Cans for Construction*
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## Wednesday, February 21

- *“B” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Construction*
  - *St. Francis Gala Silent Auction Closes at 10:00 p.m.: [Click here for details and to bid](#)*
- 

## Thursday, February 22

- *“A” Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
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## Friday, February 23

- *“B” Day*
  - *Go Texan Day*
  - *Grade 8 Dress: White shirt and jeans for White Shirt Day*
  - *Grades 5–7 Dress: Student’s choice of regular uniform, St. Francis Spirit shirt and jeans, or Western Wear for Go Texan Day*
  - *Club 2*
- 

## Saturday, February 24

- *St. Francis Gala*

## Upper School

### **From the Interim Head of Upper School**

A new element of the Upper School program this year has been the addition of a mandatory Speech class for all freshmen. Designed as a one-trimester class, each freshman student takes Speech in one of the three trimesters during the 2023–24 school year. After lecture and discussion during the first few classes on how to write, practice, and deliver a speech, the class shifts to the students making speeches on a weekly basis. By the end of the trimester, each student will have given eight or nine speeches, including a final speech that must be a minimum of ten minutes long.

In addition to providing the opportunity for students to practice speaking in front of a group, there have been some hidden positive outcomes to the class. First, although I am the Interim Head of Upper School, I teach the class. After each assignment, I meet with every student for a few minutes to assess the student’s speech. Preparation, content, and delivery are all discussed, and we focus on the student’s personal positives and challenges with the presentation. By year’s end, I will have taught the entire freshman class. This allows me to get to know each student well. Furthermore, this also means that I have regular positive contact with several students. I get to know them, and they get to know me. This enables me to be more embedded into the fabric of the Upper School than I would be if I were simply “that guy in the office” they see when there is trouble.

The second positive is how every section has become its own community. Although the class consists of a variety of students with differing backgrounds, schools, experiences, and speaking abilities, they all share one thing—having to speak in front of one another. This has created a bonding effect in every section. In short, they support each other. After every speech, they cheer and clap for one another—and that includes everyone. No one has ever been left out. When one of them has struggled, the support for that student has intensified. Whether it be a student freezing or forgetting where they are, or emotions and tears overtaking the student, the other students are right there to lift that person up and support them.

This support has created a close-knit community in each section. Although they still must deal with the nervousness of public speaking, they know that their classmates won’t let them down. Furthermore, because of the trust they have for one another, they are willing to be vulnerable and share experiences they might not normally share.

Not only has Speech created a community, but also it has established deep connections among students who might not normally connect in such a positive way. It has also touched my life. By providing me with an opportunity to further connect with students, Speech has allowed me to be part of each little community. I am grateful for the class I teach.

Warmly,

Mark Kelly  
Interim Head of Upper School

## The Social Institute: 'Find Your Influencers'

In the past week, each advisory group ran a specific Social Institute lesson on the topic of "Find Your Influencers," guiding students on how to surround oneself with positive role models and credible influences. 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 and Tenth Grade**: "Analyzing the Impact of AI-Generated Misinformation in Our Feeds"
- **Eleventh Grade**: "Understanding Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) and Its Impact on Student-Athletes"
- **Twelfth Grade**: "Planning a Smooth Transition Into College Life and Building a Supportive Network Around You"

## Mark Your Calendar

### 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.

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### Monday, February 12

- *Re-enrollment Deadline for Returning Students*
- *St. Francis Gala Silent Auction Opens at 10:00 a.m.*: [Click here for details and to bid](#); Silent Auction closes on Wednesday, February 21, at 10:00 p.m.

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### Wednesday, February 14

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

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### Friday, February 16

- *No Chapel*
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## Monday, February 19

- *Presidents' Day Holiday: School closed*
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## Tuesday, February 20

- *"A" Day/Special Schedule*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Special Guest: Dr. Becca North speaks to students*
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## Wednesday, February 21

- *"B" Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
  - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym*
  - *St. Francis Gala Silent Auction Closes at 10:00 p.m.: [Click here for details and to bid](#)*
- 

## Thursday, February 22

- *"A" Day*
  - *Regular Uniform*
- 

## Friday, February 23

- *"B" Day*
  - *SFES Spirit Dress: Wear a St. Francis Spirit shirt with full-length jeans or uniform bottoms*
  - *Trimester 2 Ends*
  - *Upper School Chapel: 10:00–10:30 a.m. in Crum Gym; celebrating Black History Month*
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## Saturday, February 24

- *St. Francis Gala*

## **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](mailto:SallyJoFlores@stfrancis.org) 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](http://stfrancis.org).

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

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

- Tuesdays at 7:00–8:00 a.m.
  - **Study:** Exodus
  - **Contact:** [Fr. David Price](mailto:DavidPrice@stfrancis.org)
  - **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](http://www.thecornerbakery.com) (9311 Katy Fwy.), breakfast included
  - **Contact:** [Sally Jo Flores](mailto:SallyJoFlores@stfrancis.org)

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

- Wednesdays at 9:00–10:00 a.m.
  - **NEW Study:** The Apostles' Creed (**Study began February 7.**)
  - **Contact:** [Louise Richman](mailto:LouiseRichman@stfrancis.org)
  - **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](mailto:GeorgeHippard@stfrancis.org)

### **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.