

WOLF WATCH

— WEEKLY E-NEWS —

News for the Week of March 31

All School

April 2–5: Let's Rock Some Socks for the St. Francis Fund

While we have brought in an amazing \$1.4 million so far, parent participation (currently at 57%) could use a boost! This year, 100% of faculty and staff made their gift, so please help us make this the year that 100% of parents are “all in”!

The ***Let's Rock Some Socks*** parent-participation challenge, where parents reach out to others to encourage giving, will launch on Tuesday, April 2, and end on ***Friday, April 5—our official Rock Your Socks Day***. Every student whose parents participate will receive a pair of socks to wear to school that day. If you have already made a gift to the St. Francis Fund, your socks were distributed to your oldest child's class for them to bring home last week.

You can also **give now** to help us get to 100% parent participation. ***Thank you, and save the date for April 5!***

Mark your Calendars: Rescheduled Pack the Park Is April 18

The rain can't keep us away! Pack the Park has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 18, at 6:00 p.m. at Memorial Park Baseball Field 6. We'll cheer on our Varsity Baseball Team as they play Alpha Omega. **Click here** for directions and parking information. James Coney Island hot dogs are first come, first serves, so get there early. Wear your school colors and SFE gear! Can't wait to see you there!

Volunteers Needed for Pack the Park!

Please **click here** to sign up to help out at this event. We particularly need help with setup and clean-up crews.

Reminder: Late-Start Day on Monday, April 29

Get ready to snooze your alarm clock the morning after Festival, because we are bringing back a long-lost tradition! As previously announced, Monday, April 29, will be a 10:00 a.m. late-start day for students, faculty, and staff in all divisions. Please note, there will NOT be an option to drop off students during regular carpool hours. In the coming weeks, your division office will share more details about carpool drop-off and the schedule for this special late-start day.

Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr

We are currently in the holy month of Ramadan, and would like to take a moment to share some information about this significant time in the Islamic calendar. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, during which Muslims around the world fast from dawn until sunset. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and is observed to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad.

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Eid al-Fitr, which is a festival that marks the end of the fasting period. It is a time of joy, feasting, giving thanks, and helping those in need.

If any of our Muslim parents would like to share more about the significance of Ramadan and Eid, or if you have any traditions or practices you would like to share with the school community, please feel free to [email Mrs. Frankfort](#). We would love to hear from you and learn more about your culture and traditions.

Have You Downloaded Our Dining App?

Get the FREE Touch of SAGE® Mobile App to stay up-to-date with everything related to dining! View our menu, create a custom allergen profile, rate and provide feedback on menu items, view events, and more! [Click here](#) for information on using the app (available on Android and iOS systems), and be sure to [follow @sage at stfrancis on Instagram](#).

Summer on the Point 2024 News

Registration continues for Summer on the Point 2024—St. Francis's exciting summer program! Following are just a few of the camps on offer. Learn more by viewing the SOTP course catalog, [here](#)!

CREATIVE WRITING SUMMER CAMP (GRADES K–12)

The week of July 8–12, Writers in the Schools and Rice University will be hosting their Creative Writing Summer Camp. This will be for rising K–4 students. Students in grades 6–12 have the option to do a two-week virtual course on June 17–28. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP AND PRIVATE LESSONS

This year, Summer on the Point will be hosting its very first Summer Music Camp. Under the supervision of Dr. Andrew Nishikawa, students will have the chance to expand their musical

knowledge through various fun and exciting music classes. Students may also choose to start or continue private lessons with their favorite instructors this summer. (For private lessons, students are not required to participate in Summer on the Point.) For more information, please [email Andrew Nishikawa](#) or [Traci Callender](#).

Volunteers Needed: Employee Appreciation Luncheons Are April 4 and 5

The St. Francis Parents Organization is looking for volunteers to help with our Spring Employee Appreciation Luncheons. This is a fun opportunity to serve our teachers and staff and to thank them for all they do! Please consider helping us with your time and support by signing up via one of the links below:

- **Thursday, April 4:** [Click here](#) to sign up for the Piney Point Campus Luncheon.
- **Friday, April 5:** [Click here](#) to sign up for the Couper Campus Luncheon.

If you have any questions, please [email Alicyn Gawryliuk](#). Thank you!

Help Us Welcome Our New Wolves: Pickup Parade Is April 7

We are asking any and all St. Francis families to help welcome our newly enrolled families on Sunday, April 7, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

- Please come dressed in your favorite St. Francis Spirit Wear or colors, and bring your cowbells, pom-poms, and homemade signs with special messages such as “Welcome New Wolves,” “Congratulations,” “Welcome to the Pack,” or whatever else you can think of!
- St. Francis families will line the circle drive around the Student Life Center. New families will drive through campus to pick up their swag bags and yard signs, and when they do, we will all be there showing our welcoming spirit and love to our new families.

Primary School

From the Primary I Team

In Reggio Emilia–inspired programs, families are considered their child's first teachers and play an important part in the classroom and a key component in their child's learning. This year in Primary I, we began an initiative to encourage a member from each child's family to sign up for a time to come into the classroom and engage the children in an activity. This has given parents an opportunity to become partners in their children's education and active participants in the larger educational community, allowing them to connect to all students in the class.

Parents have partnered with teachers to plan activities connected to the ongoing learning in the classroom or have thought of an activity that could lead to new learning.

- In one class, they planted carrots, arugula, and lettuce. After three months, the children were able to harvest the vegetables and make a delicious salad with a drizzle of lime and honey for the dressing! This inspired a few children in the class to visit the Botanical Gardens.
- Another class took their gardening out onto the playscape and planted broccoli, corn, cucumbers, carrots, pumpkins, tomatoes, and herbs. The students decided to make signs to add to the gardens to encourage respect for the growing plants and share information about what is growing. When the carrots were ready for harvest, Primary I and Primary II students worked together to pull up the crops, wash them, and share them in their classes.
- Another parent volunteered to have the children participate in making smoothies. The children helped by adding pieces of fruit, yogurt, juice, and ice to the blender, and the parent then guided the children on how to operate it. They learned the importance of hygiene when handling food, as well as of portion control. This inspired the class to create a smoothie bar in the play kitchen and inspired a lot of talk about germs.

Other creative ideas brought into our Primary I classes include making stained-glass windows, making lemonade, painting rocks, making playdough, creating salt-dough ornaments, learning about the Houston Rodeo, taking nature walks, and making jewelry. Parents are also invited to school for read-alouds, birthday walks, Chapel birthday celebrations, and birthday-canvas painting.

Our parent community has not only enriched the lives of our students, but has also brought us closer together. We are learning what it means to be *people for others*, and we appreciate everyone who has participated in our Primary I community involvement so far this year.

Sincerely,

Cassi Agee, Lili Avila, Annie Ferguson, Elizabeth Greenwood, and Andrea Scriber
The Primary I Team

Special Open Library Is April 15

On Monday, April 15, at 3:00 p.m., please join us for a special reading of *The Cat in the Hat* during Open Library in the Primary School Library. You and your child will be treated to an in-character reading by one of our Upper School drama students. We look forward to seeing you there!

Reminder: Late-Start Day on Monday, April 29

Get ready to snooze your alarm clock the morning after Festival, because we are bringing back a long-lost tradition! As previously announced, Monday, April 29, will be a 10:00 a.m. late-start day for students, faculty, and staff in all divisions. Please note, there will NOT be an option to drop off students during regular carpool hours. In the coming weeks, we will share more details about carpool drop-off and the schedule for this special late-start day.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 1

- *Easter Monday Holiday: No school*
-

Tuesday, April 2

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

Wednesday, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

- *Crazy Sock Day*
-

Friday, April 5

- *Primary II Field Trip*
 - *Wear Your St. Francis Fund Wolf Socks!*
-

Monday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

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

Friday, April 12

- *Primary II Plays*
 - 9:00 a.m.—Hughes
 - 10:00 a.m.—Wiener
 - 11:00 a.m.—Owens
 - 12:00 p.m.—Capasso
-

Monday, April 15

- *Open Library:* 3:00 p.m.
 - *Primary II Field Trip to Piney Point Campus*
-

Tuesday, April 16

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

Wednesday, April 17

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

Friday, April 19

- *PS Parent Conference Day*: Student holiday
-

Monday, April 22

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

Tuesday, April 23

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

Wednesday, April 24

- *Chapel for Primary I and Pre-Primary (Labarthe and Britton)*: Primary I and Pre-Primary parents may attend
 - *Pre-Primary Mothers and Others*: 1:30 p.m.
 - *Primary School Book Fair*: 12:00–4:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library
-

Thursday, April 25

- *Primary II Mothers and Others*: 1:30 p.m. **(Please note time change.)**
 - *Primary School Book Fair*: 12:00–6:00 p.m. in the Primary School Library
-

Friday, April 26

- *Primary I Mothers and Others*: 11:00 a.m.
 - *Primary School Book Fair*: 7:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. in the Primary School Library
-

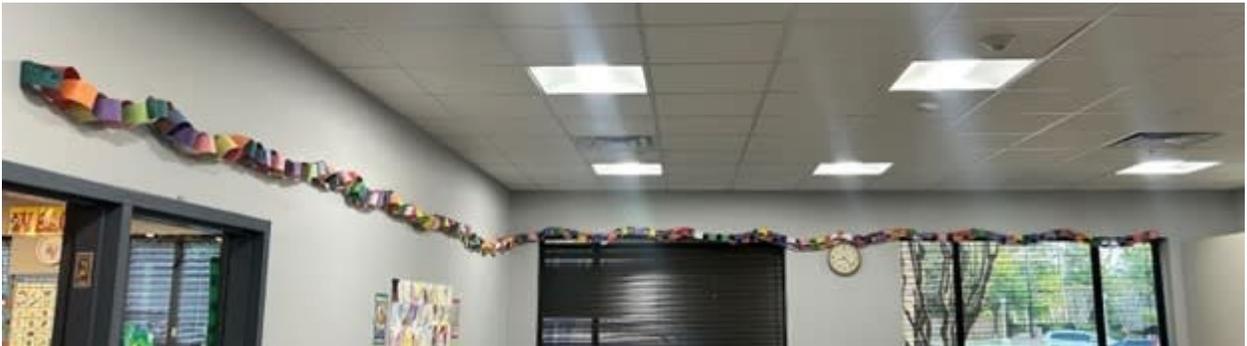
Sunday, April 28

- *St. Francis Festival*

Lower School

From the Lower School Counselor

During the month of February, our Lower School students and staff participated in a Kindness Challenge. The goal was simple: Complete as many acts of kindness as possible by following the challenge for the day. Once an act was completed, students were able to add a link to their classroom chain to show the positive impact that simple acts of kindness can make. We were thrilled to see our students recognize the power that a simple act of kindness can create at school, at home, and in our community.



“One of the most positive things I saw from the Kindness Challenge was seeing my students recognize acts of kindness in each other,” said Kindergarten Teacher Emily Senchuk. “It was special to hear them report to me all the kind things their friends were doing!”

Fourth-Grade Teacher Ilona Rosa had a similarly positive experience. “The kids loved watching the kindness chain grow each day,” she said. “It also created some great conversations about empathy and what it feels like to put yourself in someone else’s shoes.”

We are hopeful that our students are inspired to continue their acts of kindness each day and to be people for others long after their time at SFE.

Kristin Bryan, MEd
Lower School Counselor

A Note About Late-Start Days: April 2 & April 29

Please note there will be two late-start days in April:

- **Tuesday, April 2**, will be a late-start day for students in our Lower, Middle, and Upper School divisions.
- **Monday, April 29**, will be a late-start day for students, faculty, and staff in all divisions. Please note, there will NOT be an option to drop off students during regular carpool hours. In the coming weeks, our division office will share more details about carpool drop-off and the schedule for this special late-start day.
- Wednesday, May 1, will no longer be a late-start day.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 1

- *Easter Monday Holiday*: No school
-

Tuesday, April 2

- *Late-Start Day*: School starts at 10:00 a.m.
-

Thursday, April 4

- *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.
 - *Biome Bonanza*: In the second-grade pod
 - 10:00–10:45 a.m.—Quine/Wagner
 - 12:45–1:30 p.m.—McCormick/Shindler
-

Monday, April 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.
-

Wednesday, April 10

- *Third-Grade Art à la Carte*: 8:30–9:20 a.m.
-

Thursday, April 11

- *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 Middle School History Faculty

During grade-level History Days earlier this month, students unloaded cars with backpacks and historical artifacts that they hoped would attract spectators in the Fine Arts Center to learn more about their topic of interest. The FAC was a buzzing scene of excitement as students put the finishing touches on their research projects and displays.

The trifold displays were filled with photos, newspaper clippings, and interview quotes documenting each student's chosen historical topic. Some projects covered weighty events like the 1955 murder of Emmett Till and its connections to the modern Black Lives Matter movement. Other groups analyzed the significance of women and the enslaved in the advancement of the Texas Revolution. Still other exhibits had students researching, writing expository essays, and then becoming living-history displays by dressing up and acting out the roles of colonial figures or discussing how particular Spanish missions helped form the state of Texas.

Through this opportunity to dig into real historical research, students practiced skills that historians use—gathering sources and evidence, uncovering neglected perspectives, and piecing together fact-based accounts to shed light on past events. By examining history through this lens and making connections to modern times, the curriculum aims to develop the next generation of informed, engaged citizens ready to shape the future.

The goal of these research projects was for middle schoolers to apply historical thinking and research techniques to perform an in-depth investigation into a particular historical topic of their choice. Students did not just read the textbook—they analyzed primary sources like old documents and photos, conducted interviews with experts, and visited museums and libraries. Their task was to evaluate all the evidence, question traditional narratives, and use what they discovered to separate historical truth from fiction, producing a well-researched and written paper and product.

Whether exploring the demise of the feudal system due to the 100 Years War and the Black Death, unearthing the origin of the American flag, telling a different interpretation of the Texas Revolution, or even talking about their families' own experiences of historical events, students learned that history is not just about memorizing names and dates. It is a vibrant kaleidoscope of perspectives, contributions, and impacts that often get overlooked in textbooks. Making those connections between past and present helped bring history alive for our students.

To aid their research, students tapped into new technology resources like the academic database JSTOR. Some classes used AI tools like Claude to translate complex original-source materials into more understandable language for a middle school reading level; others used it to organize an outline. Students created engaging video documentaries with iMovie, seamlessly using visuals, narration, and music to breathe life into their topics.

To move beyond the computer screen, students immersed themselves in their projects. They did more than just memorize facts and figures. They experienced firsthand the important roles and perspectives different people, races, and social classes played in shaping history.

This research experience developed real-world skills in critical thinking, empathy, and understanding the need for multiple points of view. It nurtured the type of personal growth that will shape students into civic-minded adults who can drive positive change. By struggling with the complexities of history, students build analytical muscles and self-awareness that will help them thoughtfully navigate modern-day issues.

Providing opportunities for this level of academic achievement and civic engagement is so valuable. It produces well-rounded, enlightened students primed to become knowledgeable, empathetic citizens capable of improving their world. It is also fun!

We very much enjoy sharing our passion for the subject with those students who possess the curiosity and creativity to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Dinh Prince, Fifth-Grade Teacher
Matthew Rovengo, Sixth-Grade Teacher
Catherine Sullivan, Seventh-Grade Teacher
Shannon Shrader, Eighth-Grade Teacher

A Note About Late-Start Days: April 2 & April 29

Please note there will be two late-start days in April:

- **Tuesday, April 2**, will be a late-start day for students in our Lower, Middle, and Upper School divisions.
- **Monday, April 29**, will be a late-start day for students, faculty, and staff in all divisions. Please note, there will NOT be an option to drop off students during regular carpool hours. In the coming weeks, our division office will share more details about carpool drop-off and the schedule for this special late-start day.
- Wednesday, May 1, will no longer be a late-start day.

This Tuesday: Advanced Academic Testing

The in-house assessments for Advanced Academic Courses will be administered this Tuesday, April 2. The English exam will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Math Placement Test from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

- Students should arrive by 7:15 a.m. in order to make it to the testing room on time.
- Students who are only taking the Math Placement Test may arrive at 8:15 a.m.

Tuesday, April 2, is a late-start day, so students will follow a regular late-start schedule after completing the assessment.

This Summer: Middle School Athletic and Academic Camps

Middle schoolers, your coaches and teachers have formulated a summer program that will get you in gear both academically and athletically! To register for any of the following Summer on the Point camps, please [click here](#).

- **Athletes:** We will be hosting a three-week **Preseason Football Training Camp in July**, overseen by the entire coaching staff. During the final week, the camp will end with preseason games between our students and teams from other schools in the area. Sign up today!
- **Academics:** We will be offering the following two academic camps, which will be the Middle School version of Jumpstart:
 - **Beyond the Books (Rising Grades 5–8):** This camp will help students not only reintegrate back into school, but also strengthen executive-function skills like planning, organization, perseverance, and self-control through games, brainteasers, and activities. While this camp will be helpful for all Middle School students, it will be especially useful to fifth graders who will be new to the Middle School environment.
 - **Step Up to Math (Rising Grades 6–8):** Help set your student up for success in algebraic process math with this review of foundational fifth- and sixth-grade math. One of our Middle School math teachers will cover fractions, decimals, and basic whole number operations, as well as the ability to analyze a problem and use critical-thinking skills to solve it.

Seventh-Grade Medieval Faire Day Is This Wednesday!

This year's seventh-grade Medieval Faire Day is this Wednesday, April 3.

ABOUT MEDIEVAL FAIRE DAY

A fun-filled day spent exploring multiple cultures during the medieval time period, Medieval Faire Day has been celebrated in seventh grade at St. Francis since 1987. During the event, students immerse themselves in different cultures by participating in interactive and hands-on activities that highlight art, music, food, clothing, weaponry, and daily life in Medieval Europe, Japan, and the Arabian Peninsula. This event fully aligns with the seventh-grade World History curriculum students have been studying this year. **You should have received an email from Mrs. Sullivan with costume recommendations**, which have been assigned by region per advisory.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON APRIL 3

In order for this event to be a success, we need parent volunteers all day for the Faire this Wednesday, April 3. If you are unable to give your time, donations toward our event are greatly appreciated!

- [Click here](#) to volunteer. For those parents who are also helping as an advisory volunteer or a regional-activity volunteer, your sign-up would be in addition to your volunteer assignment on April 3.
- With questions, please contact Jacqui Mackel via [email](#) or at 832.721.8571.

Thank you in advance for your time and support as we continue this special tradition for our seventh graders!

Huzzah!

Medieval Faire Chairs Maggie Baker, Sarah Cotting, Jacqui Mackel, and Lauren Wuertz

Submit Community Service Hours by May 3

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**. **The deadline to submit Community Service Hours for the 2023–24 school year is Friday, May 3.**

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 1

- *Easter Monday Holiday:* No school

Tuesday, April 2

- *Late-Start Day:* School begins at 10:00 a.m.
- *“B” Day*
- *Regular Uniform*
- *Advanced Academics Testing:*
 - **English Placement Test:** 7:30–8:30 a.m.; arrive by 7:15 a.m.
 - **Math Placement Test:** 8:30–9:30 a.m.; arrive by 8:15 a.m.

Wednesday, April 3

- *"A" Day*
- *Grades 5, 6, & 8: Regular uniform*
- *Grade 7: Medieval attire strongly encouraged*
- *Seventh-Grade Medieval Feast*

Thursday, April 4

- *"B" Day*
- ***Regular Uniform***
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*

Friday, April 5

- *Rock Your Socks Day!*
- *"A" Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*

Monday, April 8

- *"B" Day*
- *Dress Uniform*
- *Middle School Chapel: 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
- *Solar Eclipse*

Tuesday, April 9

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Sixth-Grade Art à la Carte Field Trip*
-

Wednesday, April 10

- *"B" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Fifth-Grade Art à la Carte Field Trip*
-

Thursday, April 11

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Seventh-Grade History Day*
 - *Middle School Chapel: 9:55–10:20 a.m. in the St. Francis Episcopal Church Sanctuary*
 - *Middle School Spring Pep Rally: 2:00–2:30 p.m.*
-

Friday, April 12

- *"B" Day*
- *Regular Uniform or St. Francis Spirit Shirt and Jeans*

Upper School

From the Interim Head of Upper School

"Hey, man. How's the baby?" I asked. Hearing his voice on the other end of the line, I was anxious to catch up on the news. The caller was the son of my best friend, who had died suddenly the previous fall. Shortly after his passing, his son and his wife had found out they were expecting their first child. Too late, I'm afraid, for my friend, but just the right news for his widow.

Anyway, his son had called me two weeks prior with the news that the baby had been born, and he would be going to collect mother and son the following day. Our carefree chat indicated that everything seemed to be good. Thus, there was nothing alarming about not hearing from them for a couple of weeks. When he called again, I was glad to hear his voice, but something didn't seem quite right.

"Well, we found out that the little guy has cystic fibrosis. It was a blow, to be sure, but we are doing OK." Slightly stunned, I asked the questions one might ask about how they found out, what the odds were, what the future would bring. I also asked how they were doing. "We gave ourselves about a day to be mad at God, question everything, feel sorry for ourselves—you know, the usual. Then we were over it. We are doing OK now. You have to play the

cards that are dealt to you. We figured we had better let a few people know, and we knew you would understand. I imagine you have been there.”

I have, indeed. I remember well the night my son was born—the euphoria, the instantaneous sense of love for the little being, and the glow that seemed to lift me off the floor. He was our first child, and I floated around the room. And then all the air was let out of the building when we found out that he had Down syndrome. Driving home that night, I wept openly. I had hit rock bottom. Why us? Why did this happen? Could we manage? Arriving home, I plunked down on the couch in the dark. Feeling sorry for myself, I couldn't shake the feeling.

But then things changed. Suddenly, a scene appeared in my mind. I could see God conversing with some angels, and they were talking about my son, Adam. “We will need some very special parents for little Adam here—ones who are patient and who will love him and care for him despite his condition. Let's give him to the Kellys.” I was given a new perspective on the situation. The “why us” became a different question. Instead, quite frankly, it became “why *not* us?” It occurred to me that if I was going to complain about this being unfair, then I had better be prepared to complain just as hard when things go my way. That isn't fair, either. We just never see it that way.

That scene and the resulting change of thought made me feel better, and I haven't wavered since. That isn't to say there weren't a few difficult moments along the way, but that happens to all parents.

My son's condition—and their son's condition—doesn't change how we feel about our children. It doesn't change how we parent them. It doesn't change how we see them, or that we have expectations for them. The expectations are simply different, but they are there. And people don't need to feel sorry for us, either. My wife and I are fine, just as my friend's son and his wife are. They already have it figured out, and have moved forward in a positive way.

Even though they wouldn't see it this way, their attitude is an inspiration of sorts. Their son is a lucky young man who is now about to turn 15. He is growing up in a loving home with two loving parents, surrounded by a loving extended family. Years from now, they will look back and see how lucky they have been.

It's just a matter of playing the cards you are dealt.

Warmly,

Mark Kelly
Interim Head of Upper School

A Note About Late-Start Days: April 2 & April 29

Please note there will be two late-start days in April:

- **Tuesday, April 2**, will be a late-start day for students in our Lower, Middle, and Upper School divisions.
- **Monday, April 29**, will be a late-start day for students, faculty, and staff in all divisions. Please note, there will NOT be an option to drop off students during regular carpool hours. In the coming weeks, our division office will share more details about carpool drop-off and the schedule for this special late-start day.
- Wednesday, May 1, will no longer be a late-start day.

Sign Up Now: For-Credit Summer Geometry Class

This summer, St. Francis will be offering a for-credit geometry class for SFES students in rising grades 10–12. Register now through our Summer on the Point (SOTP) [summer camp web page](#).

- The four-week course will be held on Mondays through Thursdays from June 17 to July 18, with a break over the week of July 4 when campus is closed. Sessions will be held on Couper Campus and will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. daily.
- More information—including the course description and details on cost and required materials—can be found on pages 28–29 of the SOTP course catalog, [here](#).
 - With registration questions, please [email Traci Callender](#).
 - With class-related questions, please [email Jared Staller](#).

Be sure to check out our Specialty Camp offerings in the SOTP course catalog ([here](#)), as we are also offering Fine Arts summer camps geared toward Upper School students.

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, April 1

- *Easter Monday Holiday*: No school
-

Tuesday, April 2

- *"A" Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *Special Schedule/Late-Start Day*: 10:00 a.m.
-

Wednesday, April 3

- *"B" Day*

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

Thursday, April 4

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Friday, April 5

- *“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*
-

Monday, April 8

- *“A” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Tuesday, April 9

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
-

Wednesday, April 10

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

Thursday, April 11

- *“B” Day*
 - *Regular Uniform*
 - *ISAS Art Festival: April 11–13*
-

Friday, April 12

- *“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*

Church

Join Us This Sunday for Our Family Easter Service

He is risen! Join us this 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 Break Until After Easter)

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](#).

- **Memorial Assistance Ministries** has an urgent plea from the pantry team. For additional information, contact the church's Director of Outreach
- **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.

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://www.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. (**Next meeting is April 9.**)
 - **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.
 - **Study:** Waiting for God (**New study begins April 3.**)
 - **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:** Minor Prophets
- **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.