



LOWER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 24, 2024

UPCOMING DATES: OCTOBER

- 21 Free Dress Pass Week (students were given a bracelet to wear)
- 24 Storybook Pumpkin Decorating Contest winner announced
- 24 Junior Cheer Practice in US Gym from 3-5 p.m., Annual Fund Bingo Night
- 25 Men's Breakfast at 6:45am, Dads on Duty, Kinder/Senior Buddies: 50th Day
- 25 Parents are welcome to view the pumpkins from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in Library
- 25 Junior Cheer performance at FBCA varsity football game

LOOKING AHEAD: NOVEMBER

- 1 CPE Day - No school for students
- 4 PSIA Spelling (2nd-4th) and Math (3rd) Tests begin
- 11 Veteran's Day Program (wear chapel uniforms, no uniforms required on 11/13)
- 13 James and the Giant Peach Jr. Preview - MS Musical (during the school day)
- 10 Veterans Day Program at 8:30 a.m. in Upper School Gym
- 18-22 Fall Book Fair: Literati
- 19 Kinder/Senior Buddy Thanksgiving Activities
- 21 PK/K Thanksgiving Feast from 10:30-11:15 a.m. in the classrooms
- 22 Men's Breakfast at 6:45 a.m.
- 25-29 Thanksgiving Break - no school for faculty/staff or students

NOTE FROM MRS. CLAYTON, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL:

Dear Lower School Families,

I hope you're having a fabulous week! Our students have enjoyed dressing up for Free Dress Week. It's been so amazing to see all of the creativity with the Storybook Pumpkin Contest as well! Parents are welcome to view the pumpkins from 2:30-3:30 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, October 25. Please remember to check-in at the front desk and have your SchoolPass id ready.

Thank you so much for those of you that have already contributed to the [FBCA Annual Fund](#). If you haven't already, it's not too late! I'd love to see 100% of our Lower School faculty/staff and families committed to supporting our Annual Fund! Every donation makes a difference.

I wanted to express my gratitude for your patience as we've navigated some obstacles this year with the uniform company. Thankfully, we've already solidified a new uniform company, Risse Brothers, and we are very hopeful that the new company will help us move forward. For more information, please see the email sent yesterday.

Thank you for your ongoing support in your child's education. We couldn't do it without your partnership and dedication. We hope to see you this evening at Bingo Night in the Upper School Gym!

With Gratitude,
Stephanie Clayton

LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

Parent Survey: If you haven't had a chance to do so, please use the link [here](#) to provide insight into what FBCA does well and where we can make improvements. This will help us reflect on our practices and ensure we gain valuable insight in planning and moving forward.

Outerwear: As we are approaching the cooler weather, please remember that students are required to wear only FBCA outerwear (jackets, sweaters, etc) when they are inside the building. These items can be purchased through our [Spirit Wear Store](#). Please make sure to label your child's items in the event they get misplaced. We do have a lost and found near the Cafetorium that you're welcome to visit.

Storybook Pumpkin Decorating Contest Winners: We are excited to announce the winners of the library's annual Storybook Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Our students showed off their creativity by turning pumpkins into amazing characters from their favorite books. We appreciate our wonderful faculty and staff for taking the time to vote! Your support made this event a great success.

Congratulations to our winners:

- Outstanding Effort: Ellie Bounds – *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*
- Most Original Design: Blake Bedore – *The Lost Deer Camp*
- Most Artistic: Amelia Roberts – *The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross*
- Most Creative Use of Materials: Oliver Moores – *Knight Owl*
- Most Detailed: Charlotte Gaw – *Tangled*
- Most Imaginative: Hayden Bennett – *The Rainbow Fish*
- Most Realistic: Madison Morgan – *Donald Trump: America's 45th President*
- Most Adorable: Noah Lew – *Marley: Not a Peep!*
- Biblical Inspiration: Anna Jones – *Audrey Bunny*
- Best in Show: Owen Rose – *Wings of Fire*

A big thank you to all the students who participated! Your pumpkins were all incredible and brought the pages of our favorite stories to life. Stay tuned for more fun activities!

Veterans Day Program: submit pictures – Please remember to submit pictures of your veterans by November 1 to veteransdaypics@fortbendchristian.org. We are looking forward to a wonderful Veterans Day Program on Monday, November 11 at 8:30 a.m. in the Upper School Gym.



PSIA Academic Team (1st – 4th grade): Letters will be going home on November 5 sharing PSIA team results. 2nd-4th grade spelling tests and 3rd and 4th grade math tests are the first week of November. We are looking forward to another successful PSIA season! Please reach out to TDibble@fortbendchristian.org with any questions.

1st – 4th Grade Parents – This is just a reminder that in order for your child to have the option to get ice cream on Fridays, you'll need to ensure there is not a \$6 limit or any dessert restrictions on LunchTab. Ice cream treats cost \$1.50. Please reach out to taher@fortbendchristian.org with any questions.

REMINDERS

School Times

Pre-K and Kindergarten: 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

1st – 4th Grade: 8:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Lunch Times

Pre-K, Kindergarten: 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

1st Grade, 2nd Grade: 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

3rd Grade, 4th Grade: 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**We love having parents visit for lunch. Please remember to bring lunch just for your child and only visit the Cafetorium while you're here. If you need to connect with your child's teacher, please set up a conference to do so. We want to make sure they get to enjoy their lunch as well. Thanks so much for your attention to this matter. **

Uniforms

As a reminder, students are required to wear uniforms. We are aware that some families are waiting for ordered uniform pieces to be delivered. Please let your Lower School Administration know if you are not able to wear proper uniform attire due to missing items.

Extended Care

Morning Care: 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

After School Care for PK/K: 2:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

After School Care for 1st – 4th: 3:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Extended Care will be available beginning the first day of school. If you have any questions, please contact our Assistant Head of Lower School, Riki Garcia at

rigarcia@fortbendchristian.org

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Morning Drop-off

To help with the flow of traffic for FBCA, we encourage parents to turn right on Lakeview from Gillingham from the direction of Jess Pirtle. Also, left turns from Lakeview to enter the parking lot are prohibited during morning and afternoon carpool times.

In an effort to help with the traffic flow for nearby businesses, we ask that you do not use Schlumberger's parking lot and driveway as a turnaround or waiting point to get in the FBCA carline.

We are asking families to approach our campus as follows:

Take Highway 90 to Eldridge

Head north on Eldridge to Seventh Street

Turn right on Seventh Street

Turn right on Gillingham

Turn right on Lakeview until you reach our parking lot

Left turns on Lakeview to enter the Lower School/Middle School parking lot are prohibited.

Morning drop-off for Lower School begins at 7:30 a.m. Enter the parking lot and circle around to form one line. On-duty staff members, Dads on Duty, and CIA (Courtesy-In-Action) students will assist your child(ren) in exiting your car. For the safety of students, do not allow children to exit vehicles unassisted or to exit from the left side of your vehicle. In order for traffic to flow continuously and so that others are not kept waiting, please have backpacks ready to unload and kisses and hugs already given! Your child will be escorted into the building and attended in the LS/MS gym until our staff is dismissed from morning devotion at 7:50 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE: Children dropped off prior to 7:30 a.m. must be escorted by a parent into Morning Care. Regular Extended Care charges will be applied to your child's tuition account.

After School Pick-up

Traffic flow for after-school pick-up of Lower School students:

- PK/Kindergarten students are dismissed at 2:45 p.m.
- Prominently display your carline tag from your rearview mirror
- Enter the lot and proceed to the covered area by the second door (gym and extended care entrance) and form two lines
- Attending staff will escort student(s) to your car
- At 3:00 p.m., remaining students will be taken to extended care prior to the middle school dismissal and regular Extended Care fees will be charged.

- PK/K students riding with older Lower School or Middle School students will be supervised in a designated area until 3:15 p.m.
- Middle School students are dismissed at 3:05 p.m.
- If you arrive before the Middle School dismissal has concluded, please line up on Lakeview Drive.
- 1st – 4th grade students are dismissed at 3:15 p.m.
- Hang Carpool tag on your mirror
- For parents picking up one child – Single carline: Please display the carpool tag from your rearview mirror. As you enter the parking lot, two lines will form. The *left* lane is for parents picking up one child – no siblings or carpools. Circle around to the first row of parking spaces and proceed until near the covered porte cochere. Your child will be waiting in a designated area and placed in your car by a staff member.
- For parents picking up multiple students, including carpools and middle school students: Please display the carline tag from your rearview mirror. As you enter the parking lot, two lines are formed. The right lane is for parents picking up two or more children including carpools Your child(ren) will be escorted and loaded into your car by a staff member.
- At 3:35 p.m. students will be escorted to Extended Care. Childcare charges will be applied to your tuition account.

Important Updates from the IT Department

Blackbaud (MyFBCA) is the core system for student and parent information for FBCA. Please go through and update the following information if changes have occurred:

Parents, please ensure the contact record on your account, spouses account or guardians account contains an updated phone number and email address. This is important for you to receive emails and information.

SchoolPass

If you have not done so already, please download the SchoolPass mobile app and ensure it is up to date. SchoolPass will be the primary way to communicate attendance change; late arrivals, notifying the school of early departures, reporting absences.

Student Profile Photos

Teachers and cafeteria service personnel would love to see a student's picture associated with their profile. Please know this is optional, but the step(s) below:

1. Login to MyFBCA
2. Select your student
3. Click Contact Card
4. Edit Photo and upload

Calendar

The calendar in MyFBCA has been enhanced to show not only a student's schedule but also the instructional calendar, traditions calendar, events by divisions, and athletic events by divisions. The same calendar with the exception of the students schedules is integrated on the FBCA website and mobile app. Parents have the option to unselect calendars they do not want to see and subscribe to calendars. Click here to watch the MyFBCA overview video.

LunchTab

The Cafeteria System, MyPaymentsPlus, has been replaced for the 2024-2025 school year with a system called LunchTab. LunchTab integrates with MyFBCA for student information and leverages the same login. Other features include:

- POS will support a faster lunch line by offering biometric scanning (MS and US only) to look up student accounts. Student ID QR codes for Upper School will still be an option.
- Parents and caregivers have control of their child's meal choices and full visibility of spending.
- Parents and families can manage how children are allowed to spend money from the family account daily (for example, only one snack per day).
- Automatic email notifications for a variety of specific events. These include low balances, overdrawn accounts, order confirmations, reminders, and more.
- A LunchTab welcome email will be sent the week of August 5 from the email address: support@lunchtab.io

Nurse's Office

Next week, the nurses will be conducting vision and hearing screenings for all Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 3rd grade students. These are state mandated screenings to catch any issues with hearing or vision. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us.

Please make sure you have filled out the online Snap Health Portal. The health portal is used for all health condition updates and permission for medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, and Tums). If you have any questions about the health portal, please contact Danielle Herndon, dherndon@fortbendchristian.org.

- Link to Snap Health Portal: <https://www.studentehr.com/>
 - If you cannot locate your welcome email, click the “forgot password” link.

Click here to watch a Parent Tutorial Video from the FBCA IT Department on How to use the SNAP Health Portal.

- On the SNAP Health Portal, parents will need to update their students’ record
 - Demographics- give permission to treat and transport in an emergency
 - Health conditions and other alerts
 - Medications- Give permission for nurses to administer OTCs such as tylenol, benadryl, ibuprofen, tums and sudafed (12 years and up) in the clinic.

Nurse Contact Information:

Lead Nurse, Lower/Middle School (PK-8): dherndon@fortbendchristian.org

Lower/Middle School (PK-8): aclements@fortbendchristian.org

COUNSELORS CORNER

We are wrapping up the value of empathy next week. Our next value that we will feature on is kindness during the month of November!

Empathy:

The ability to see things from another's perspective and feel their emotions. Putting yourself in another person's shoes might lead you to act with compassion and do what you can to improve their situation.

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 7:12.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mrs. Stephanie Clayton, Head of Lower School

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Mrs. Riki Garcia, Assistant Head of Lower School

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Mrs. Jade Hawkins, Lower School Counselor

JHawkins@fortbendchristian.org

Ms. Liz Thorton, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

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Mrs. Kelly DeLozier, Lower School Administrative Assistant

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Lower School Attendance

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Nursing Staff

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