



St. Francis School

JK-8 News

February 2008



On Tuesday of this week, our entire seventh grade boarded a St. Francis bus to downtown Louisville and the headquarters of Youth Alive! on Catalpa Street. In case you haven't heard of our friends at YA, they are a nationally recognized model program that supports at-risk young people through after-school and summer programs.

STUDENT-SERVICE OUTREACH HITS THE STREETS

- by Mr. Delautre

Our partnership with Youth Alive has resulted in the addition of one student to our school, and we are hopeful that this number will grow. In the meantime, this association has provided our students an opportunity to lend a helping hand. Tuesday's trip involved a big cleanup for the Youth Alive organization, and our students – under the direction of faculty Jane Cox, Sarah Wallace and Lou Armstrong, and parent volunteer Lori Dabney – threw themselves into this work with lots of paper towels, brooms, Windex and determination.

At the end of a long day, the YA offices were spotless, packed-up and ready for their impending move to new digs. And the stories our seventh-graders brought back about their exploits made it clear this was time well spent. Congratulations all round on a job well done.

This wonderful example of service outreach is a direct result of our new focus on community-building, and I want to thank our St. Francis Parents' Association for playing a leading role in organizing this activity. In fact, you should know that every grade level, and therefore every St. Francis student, is involved in a hands-on outreach project this year.

Here is a sample of the work our students are accomplishing:

- * constructing dog beds for the Animal Care Society
- * collecting and donating books for the Center for Women & Families
- * supporting the efforts and morale of the nurses at Baptist Hospital
- * preparing food for the families who stay at Ronald McDonald House
- * collecting mittens for The Home of the Innocents
- * reading to the blind
- * delivering cards and singing for nursing home residents
- * volunteering at the site of Neighborhood House in Portland
- * participating in Operation Brightside to clean up downtown Louisville
- * helping to eradicate the invasive garlic mustard plant near the Falls of the Ohio

* working (for the 3rd consecutive year) with Living Lands and Water to clean up nearby banks of the Ohio River

What an impressive list. The best part of this work is that it puts our SFS community in touch with so many who had been previously strangers to us. These service projects allow our children to learn about the needs of those around them and to make a difference in their lives. Along the way, we are able to live the mission of St. Francis in the wider community with greater meaning.

STUDENT SERVICE OUTREACH continued on Page 3 —>

REMINDER: This Wednesday we dismiss at 2:15 PM for faculty professional development.

WINTER BREAK CHILDCARE OFFERED FOR JK-4

If you have children in grades JK-4 and want optional childcare during our Winter Break -- Feb. 18-22 -- please let us know by next Friday, Feb. 8. Contact Janet Saborsky at jsaborsky@stfrancissschool.org.

The cost: \$65 per child per day. Hours: 8 AM-4 PM. Children must bring a sack lunch.

Don't procrastinate. If we don't sign up enough students, childcare will not be offered.

TODAY (Friday, 2/1) IS THE DEADLINE to submit PRESCHOOL enrollment contracts for next school year, 2008-2009. Don't miss out!

CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN to Elizabeth Whitman, Rebecca Whitman, Julia Bache and Kaitlyn Heit for making this year's Kentucky All-State Children's Chorus.

These girls have been working hard on their music and will soon join 200 other children from across the state to rehearse for and perform in what is always a fantastic concert.

Under the direction of Francisco Nunez, director of the Young People's Chorus of New York City, the children will perform a number of challenging, beautiful and inspiring pieces during their concert at 6 PM Thursday, Feb. 7, in Whitney Hall at The Kentucky Center in downtown Louisville.

The girls would love to see parents, teachers and friends in the audience. **Tickets are only \$8 and available at the Kentucky Center box office,** at 584-7777, 800-775-7777 or <http://www.kentuckycenter.org>.

WHAT'S UP IN THE GARDEN?

- by **Kelly Stevenson**, SFS environmental coordinator

January may not find the St. Francis School Children's Garden foremost in your thoughts. However, those of us working to make the garden a reality this spring and summer have been hard at work planning for an even bigger and better garden this year.

In addition to the pre-existing themes that grade levels came up with last year, teachers were told this year to think about at least one food crop that would engage their students and curriculum. From that challenge, some teachers have changed the theme of their garden this year (for example, sixth grade). Others have thought of ways to modify what they were doing to incorporate foods (as in the fifth grade). Many others will be maintaining their existing plot, while adding the work of an additional plot to grow food.

Our hope is that all students get the experience of eating things they have grown themselves. Depending on the crop, that could be late this spring as school wraps up or early next year when we return – and hopefully both! My own mouth started to water at the idea when packets of seeds started arriving last week.

Given the fact that gardening is always subject to outside forces such as weather, below are the current plans for the Children's Garden this year.

- Junior Kindergarten will continue to have a Peter Rabbit theme to its garden, which will be full of interesting and unusual child-friendly vegetables students can eat themselves after watching them grow.
- Kindergarten will continue with the fairy theme. One new aspect of their plot this year will be interesting plants growing over the wonderful tunnel that graces their site. They will also be growing some child-friendly vegetables to sample.
- First graders were busy this fall planting daffodil bulbs in the "petals" of their sunflower-shaped plot. We will grow sunflowers in the center section again this year. First graders will also work with second graders to establish at least one pumpkin patch on the property. Second graders will continue to support the bird garden as well.
- Third graders will attempt a "salsa garden" this year. We have picked out a variety of plants to grow that will allow students to make their own salsa with the ingredients next fall.
- Fourth graders will grow a native acorn squash in their Kentucky garden.
- Fifth graders will again design a quilt square pattern. We are actually hoping to be able to pull off two quilt squares this year – an early one in different varieties of lettuces that will be turned into salads toward the end of the school year, when it will be time to plant the herbs and flowers to make the summer quilt.
- Sixth graders learned about the potato famine in Ireland in Social Studies, so they will grow their own potatoes.
- Seventh graders will continue to maintain the beautiful Impressionist garden. They have also planted some daffodil bulbs for early color, and many of their other flowers should return. In addition, they will be starting a French-style vegetable garden – un jardin potager.
- Eighth graders will continue to nurture the fire circle, as well as grow some spring vegetables such as spinach and chard that they can enjoy before they graduate.

TONIGHT: "OUR GOOD EARTH," THE ANNUAL SFS EAGLE GALA AUCTION, 6:30 PM at The Henry Clay

Parking for tonight's AUCTION GALA is free, with available lots located directly across the Henry Clay in the 500 and 600 blocks of South Third Street.

The Henry Clay is at 604 S. Third (corner of Third and Chestnut streets) in the heart of downtown Louisville.

Here are driving directions:

* From I-64 Westbound: Take Third Street Exit 5B toward River Road/ Downtown. Stay straight on Third Street.

* From I-65 Southbound: Take Exit 136C to Jefferson Street. Turn LEFT onto Third Street.

* From I-65 Northbound: Take Exit 136B, going straight onto Brook Street. Turn LEFT onto Muhammad Ali Boulevard. Turn LEFT onto Third Street.

* From I-64 Eastbound: Take Ninth Street at Roy Wilkins Avenue Exit 4 toward downtown. Turn LEFT onto Market Street. Turn RIGHT onto Third Street.

Have a great time! For last-minute shopping ideas, view our online catalog: <http://stfrancissschool.maestroweb.com>.

Come ready to eat, drink and be a very merry bidder.

**IF YOU FIND
YOURSELF
NEEDING** a house-sitter, after-school transporter, child-watcher, pet-sitter or help with other, similar duties, our school might be able to refer you to a candidate. Call us if you wish.

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

by **Tracy Lattis**, PA president

The PA is already planning for the next school year. If you are interested in chairing a committee or helping with a certain project, please e-mail Tracy Lattis at tracy_lattis@hotmail.com. We have many opportunities and are always open to new ideas. Once we have all the chairs for the committees, we will send out a volunteer form to each family.

- Box Tops For Education -

Thank you to Reed Van Inwegen for separating and submitting the box tops that all of you drop off at school. We received a check for \$521.10, so those box tops do add up! Keep collecting and bring them into the collection box located by the main office.

- Coupon Book fundraiser -

Thank you to Vlasta Ross for coordinating the sale. We made around \$1,500! Thanks to everyone who purchased books and also for those who returned books.

SFS & YMCA SPRING/SUMMER SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR LOWER SCHOOL STUDENTS

Forms and payment are due Tuesday, Feb. 5. (If you bought a coupon book through our recent Parents Association fundraiser, the book includes a \$10-off coupon for Y sports!)

Return your form and payment to our school office, to the attention of "Spring/Summer sports." Returning the form to school will ensure that our students be placed on the same teams (and that we can field additional teams if large numbers of our students participate).

If you choose to register online directly through the YMCA, be sure to specify Northeast Branch, put St. Francis School Team in the "special request" box, and e-mail parent Tracy Lattis so she can keep track of the number of students participating. She'll then request the correct number of teams. Contact me at tracy_lattis@hotmail.com or 339-0487.

Coming Events . . .

Feb. 5 – Lower School Sports Forms Due

Feb. 8 – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon sponsored by the 2nd grade

SEE YOU AT TONIGHT'S AUCTION

STUDENT SERVICE OUTREACH *continued from Page One ...*

This increase in service outreach will continue to grow and to define our school. Our firm, board-supported intent is to create and sustain relationships with groups such as Youth Alive! Through these efforts we will share the strengths of our program with those around us, but also be enriched and inspired by the friends we meet.

Thanks to all who are making our commitment to service a reality. We appeal to every member of the St. Francis community to lend a hand.



SEVENTH-GRADER MAX ABNER SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING RE- PORT about this week's student work at Youth Alive:

St. Francis' 7th grade "outreach program" was Tuesday, January 29, at Youth Alive!, an excellent after-school program which also offers summer activities and after school study programs.

It's a safe place for kids to just hang out. In fact, a St. Francis' parent, Lori Dabney, is on the Youth Alive board.

We arrived at 10 a.m. and helped move files, computers and fans, and we helped sort through and package their books. We then took a short lunch break at McDonalds. When we arrived back to the Youth Alive center, a small team of 7th graders went off to the new center to help re-organize the library. The rest of us stayed behind and cleaned, cleaned and cleaned.

By the end of the day you could actually see through the once foggy brown windows.

It was definitely a great and moving experience for the whole 7th grade and the advisors who came along. It is an amazing feeling when you help others. We definitely need to keep our connection with Youth Alive ... alive!



FEBRUARY LUNCHROOM VOLUNTEERS

Please find a substitute if you are unable to work on your scheduled day. If you are unable to find someone to work for you, please call Chef Matt Gasper (228-1197 x112) AND parent Dianne Siciliano (292-3295) before your scheduled date.

Monday, February 4 - Michelle Monda, Michelle Jurige, Susan Tecktiel
Tuesday, February 5 - Carolyn Thebert, Shannon Jones, Sherry Stevens
Wednesday, February 6 - Denise Waggener, Ellen Thalacker, Lisa Fleming
Thursday, February 7 - Ann Hendren, Pam Smith, Karen Smith
Friday, February 8 - Julie Eckert, Kristin Donovan, Tess Krebs

Monday, Feb. 11 - Liz Bevarly/David Beard, Margaret Bond, Laurie Kinney
Tuesday, February 12 - Karen Riley, Holly Winebrenner, Katey Stone
Wednesday, February 13 - Jill Shiflet, Dena Wilson, Suzy Bagga
Thursday, February 14 - Ann Hendren, Holly Cooper, Eliana D. Brunner
Friday, February 15 - Liz Cole, Weasy Middleton, Courtney Foster

Monday, February 18-22 NO SCHOOL; Winter Break

Monday, Feb. 25 - Liz Bevarly/David Beard, Denise Ragland, Dena Wilson
Tuesday, February 26 - Laurie Kinney, Suzy Bagga, Robin LeMastus
Wednesday, February 27 - Kim Mackin, John Lenihan, Joe Malone
Thursday, February 28 - Ann Hendren, Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee
Friday, February 29 - Debbie Morgan, Risa Koby, Shannell Thompson

COUNSELORS' CORNER

- by **Julie Marks** (extension 122) & **Nikki Durst** (x214)

ECHO, the Exploited Children's Help Organization, will be at school this month to present programs to our K-5 students on the importance of personal safety. These are age-appropriate, preventative programs that will teach our children invaluable skills to empower them to stay safe.

on Tuesday, Feb. 12, students in grades K-3 will hear a presentation called "What Tadoo." This 30-minute program includes a video and discussion about basic safety concepts, how to handle uncomfortable situations and how children can protect themselves. Fifth-graders will participate in a program called "Yes, You Can Say No" -- a 40-minute video and discussion on basic safety concepts, personal safety and a child's right to say "no." On Monday, February 25, 4th grade students will participate in the "Yes, You Can Say No" presentation.

Please use this as an opportunity to talk further to your child about personal safety and what they may have learned from the presentation.

For more information, visit ECHO online at <http://www.echolou.org>, or call our Counseling Office at 228-1197 (ext. 122 or 214).

VALENTINES DAY "LISC" DANCE AT SFS NEXT FRIDAY

Our annual "Cupid's Valentine's Dance" -- open to students in grades 6-8 at member schools of the Louisville Independent Schools Council -- will be 7-10 PM next Friday, Feb. 8., in our school gym. Admission is \$5. Our faculty will chaperone, but parents are welcome to help. If you wish to join in, contact Mr. Gabhart at rgabhart@stfrancisschool.org or 228-1197 x125.

THIRD GRADE BROWNIES next meeting: 3-4:30 PM Thursday, Feb. 14.

REPEAT REMINDERS

* **DIVERSITY TASK FORCE** -- Join the group, or add your comments, as we define diversity for our community, consider how to increase and support diversity among our students and faculty and explore the role diversity plays in the curriculum. Contact teacher Lin Lavallee at llavallee@stfrancisschool.org.

* **"PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION/PARENTING" GROUP** will meet the first Friday morning of each month at our Goshen campus to discuss selected readings on progressive education and parenting. If you are interested but Friday mornings don't work for you, contact parent Shelly Ward at shellyward@msn.com to let her know your availability; there is the possibility of establishing a second group with an evening meeting time off campus.

* **EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION PLANNING MEETING:** 6:45 PM Monday, Feb. 11, at Java Brewing Company in Prospect. All parents of 8th graders are invited.

* **LET US RECYCLE YOUR USED PRINTER INKJET & LASER CARTRIDGES AND YOUR OLD CELL PHONES.** We earn money that we can re-invest in our own technology equipment. Bring your empties to the front office, and we'll take them from there.

* **DONATE YOUR OLDER LAPTOP COMPUTER TO SFS.** If you have a new laptop computer and don't need your older model, consider donating it to us. We're always looking for easy, economical ways to stretch our tech resources.