



Keeping Grades in Perspective By John Delautre

As part of the progressive educational tradition, St. Francis is a school that focuses as much on the *process* of learning as on the grade achieved. That's because individual grades are fleeting, while *attitudes about learning*, such as curiosity and internal motivation, endure a lifetime.

The truth is that we live in a time when educational *outcomes* and "objective" measurements of learning such as grades and standardized tests monopolize the school landscape. The assumption seems to be that those who win the "grade race" are guaranteed success in the next level of education and, indeed, in life itself.

Of course, upon reflection, the fallacy of this reasoning is self evident. We all know that objective standards measure only very narrow skills, and are incapable of gauging such qualities as compassion, perseverance, and personal contentment - qualities that research proves as integral to professional success as any academic ability. That is why, as leading educational commentator Mel Levine has stated so convincingly, the current American over-emphasis on grades and test scores is producing more than its share of college graduates fit only for *more schooling*, and dramatically unfit for success in the workplace and in life.

As we approach midterm reports, we ask our parents to help students understand the proper place of grades, and what elements of the learning process are *more* important. At St. Francis, grades are meant to represent a child's temporary progress along a long path of growth. And it is that growth – in understanding, in capacity for work,

and in wonder – that really matters.

Recently, I read a quote amounting to the claim that "*information* was not education," and this idea helps us put assessment, and grades in general, in their appropriate context. *Some* parts of the learning process can indeed be measured, and both parents and students need that feedback. Yet we should always keep in mind that there are more important values at stake here, and that these constitute the true goal of our education.

A Most Impressive Find!

Ryan Thebert and Max Faulkner (5th graders) found a Cecropia Caterpillar on our grounds earlier this week. It is approximately *4 INCHES* long and beautiful. The caterpillar changes color as it grows. At the time it was found, it was green and covered with blue and yellow knobs and 4 red tubercles.

It is currently in Jan Alexander's science room where it has started to pupate. It is building the cocoon it will live in over the winter. When it emerges, it will have a wing span of 4 to 6 inches. This colorful moth, also called a Robin Moth, has beautiful markings and is popular with collectors.



Take the Tour!

Alumnus and current parent John Clay Stites helped us create an incredible feature on our website! It is a Website Demo and you access it by clicking the link on our home page. The demo was recorded by John Delautre and runs for about 4 minutes. As you watch your screen, John takes you through the various pages of our site and gives you a good overview of the information that can be found. Check it out!

Information Distribution

As you know, we are reviewing the ways in which we communicate with our constituents in an effort to be more efficient and environmentally friendly. We have decided to move to printing the newsletter once a month rather than weekly. However, we will still prepare **weekly messages that will be e-mailed on Fridays**. These messages will be similar to the one that was sent last Friday.

If we do not have an e-mail address for you, please send it to Bob Deitel at BDeitel@stfrancisschool.org.

If you do not have e-mail, please call the office and let us know. We will print a copy of the weekly message and send it home with your child.

Calendar of Events

Please visit our website for a complete listing of upcoming events. We have two calendars for the Goshen Campus. The reason for this is the unavoidable frequency of changes to the athletic schedule! Rosanne Conlan has agreed to be our athletic calendar keeper and we are incredibly grateful!

Music Lessons Offered

St. Francis School continues our partnership for the second year with **The Academy of Music at St. Francis**. **Piano** lessons are offered on-site at our Goshen campus on Wednesday afternoons. The academy has recently added an experienced **vocal teacher**, Elizabeth Hewling, who will be teaching on Monday afternoons/early evenings at St. Francis Church. Openings are available for **guitar** with teacher Chris Tolbert and **violin** with Paola Manrique. They also have openings for **piano** lessons. All interested students and families should contact their Business Manager, Eleanor Boris or Nancy Albrink, Artistic Director at 228-1157. Feel free to contact Kathy Collier, Music Specialist, for further information (ext. 244).

Thank you....

Our World Language teachers want to thank everyone who helped make the festival such a tremendous success. We could not have done it without the support of our parents and the enthusiastic participation of our students.

PLEASE HELP...

Senora Dearie brought in several hats to help the staff and faculty get in the spirit for the World Language Festival. One of the hats is missing. It is a Russian hat with dark brown fur that her husband purchased while in Russia.

If you have seen it or know where it might be, please let her know.

Wanted: Animal Pictures

1st graders are studying animals, and we need pictures of as many different kinds of animals as possible. If you have something like old calendars or magazines that have lots of animal pictures you would be willing to donate, we will make good use of them. These will be cut up, so do not send anything you would want returned. Please send pictures to the attention of Mrs. Stevenson.

Student News

Olivia Vittitow, a third grader in Ms. McKenzie's class had been cast in the role of a "Flower Fairy" in The Louisville Ballet's production of The Nutcracker. Please congratulate her when you see her!

The following students qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program by scoring in the 95 percentile on at least one section of the ERB:

Brianna Barnett
Cameron Brown
Cooper Burton
Chase Carlson
Sam Henney
Claire Johnson
Lexie Lancaster
Katherine Mackin
Marc Maquire
Olivia Rosenberg
Olivia Tennant
Claire Wetterer
Turner White

Alumni News

Book Signing

Elizabeth Hickey, class of 1985, will be at Carmichael's Bookstore on Sunday, Sept. 25 to sign copies of her first novel, "The Painted Kiss." The book is set in Vienna in a world filled with artists, composers and writers. The New York times has called it "an investigation of art and artifice." Elizabeth is a resident of Portland, Oregon.

Jazz It Up!

Sarah Stivers, class of 1979, will be performing at The Jazz Factory (815 W. Market St.) on Oct. 11. Her shows start at 7:30 and 9:30pm. According to several of our faculty and staff, she is an incredible jazz singer!

Her performance is part of a series of events to benefit the Lerman Memorial Music Library and the Music Therapy Department at Norton Audubon Hospital. The library was established as a tribute to Dr. Robert Lerman, father of SFS alumni Sam ('01), Josh ('97) and Sarah. Dr. Lerman was a fine musician and the library has over 2,000 CDs that can be checked out by patients.

Some recent alumnae news:

2005 St. Francis graduate Chelsea Carlson sends this news from Phillips Andover, her new boarding school in Massachusetts. We're hoping Chelsea will update us periodically on her experiences there, and we invite other recent alumnae to do the same.

"Just wanted to say hi and tell you what I've been up to. The first few weeks of school have been pretty hectic: I've been getting used to the workload and signing up for clubs and playing sports.... All my classes are great, and very intellectually stimulating. Every single person here is extraordinary in some way. Each person is a great thinker and offers something totally different to the school. As odd as it may sound, Andover is really just like any other high school aside from the resources and the academic standards that it maintains. It's really a great place to go."

Staff Additions

You have probably heard about our two newest hires, but just in case...

Meredith Gault has joined St. Francis as our new **Director of Development**. Meredith is a Louisville native, a graduate of Atherton High School, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville with a Masters in Public Administration. She has extensive experience in fundraising and marketing for non-profits, most recently with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. Meredith knows our school well, is a believer in our approach to education, and is a St. Francis Preschool parent. We are very fortunate to have Meredith aboard and know that you will help us welcome her into our community. If you would like to contact Meredith, she will be on campus Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings.

Julie Marks, our **Director of Student Services**, will begin working onsite full-time on Monday, Sept. 26th. Julie is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She has been working with us on Thursdays this month while she finished her prior professional commitments.

Parent Association News

By Kim Mackin

Wow! What a great response we had from St. Francis families with our bake sale for Hurricane Katrina relief! Thank you so much for baking and/or purchasing all of the tasty treats!

The **Innisbrook Gift Wrap Sale** ended this past Monday. All packets should be returned to your child's lead teacher or advisor. Many thanks go to Cathy Flowers and Katy Bade for their hard work in organizing this year's Innisbrook fundraiser. They will be tabulating and placing orders soon. Thank you to all for participating! We will keep you updated on our success...

Upcoming Events:

St. Francis Day, Friday, September 30, 1:15

Parent volunteers without pets needed to man the information table and direct families with pets to the appropriate areas behind the school. Please call Kim Mackin @ 228-3383 if you can help.

Centennial Olivet Baptist Church Tutoring

On Tuesday evenings throughout much of the school year, groups of St. Francis 7th and 8th grade students will be tutoring at Centennial Olivet Baptist Church. If your child will be participating, please consider volunteering your time to drive. If possible, we also ask that you stay and help tutor. This would be a wonderful opportunity for some of the men in our community to participate and truly make a difference in the lives of these children. The tutoring dates are as follows. On Oct. 18 and Nov. 22 the tutoring will take place on our Goshen Campus.

October 4, 11, and 18
November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
December 6 and 13



Parent Handbook

The SFS Parent Handbook is now available on our website at www.StFrancisSchool.org. You can get to it by using the Quick Links pull down menu at the top of our website or by clicking the link on the bottom of our home page. We will be sending the handbook to a printer and will distribute paper copies as soon as possible. However, in the spirit of St. Francis, patron saint of the environment, we are giving you the opportunity to opt out of receiving a paper copy.

If you **DO NOT NEED A HARD COPY** of the Parent Handbook, please clip this note and return it to school or send a message to Lori Dabney at LDabney@StFrancisSchool.org.

Eagle Festival, Sunday, October 23, 1:00 - 5:00

Spend the day at St. Francis with family and friends at our community-wide fall festival. And contact co-chairs Susie Bright or Ann Hendren or your room rep if you can help. We will need lots of volunteers!

Parent Rep Meeting, Tuesday, October 4, after car-pool. You will receive Eagle Festival information packets from co-chairs, Susie Bright and Ann Hendren.

Volunteers Needed...

Parent volunteers needed to help on **Picture day**. Call Kim Mackin @ 228-3383

October 11: 10:00 - 12:00

November 1: 8:30 - 10:00
10:00 - 12:00

We'll soon focus our efforts on our largest event, this year's **Auction: Friday, March 3, at The Olmsted**. Mark your calendars!

Teacher Appreciation Luncheons 2005 - 2006

October 21 - 6th grade
November 11 - 7th grade
December 9 - 8th grade
January 20 - 5th grade
February 10 - 3rd & 4th grades
March 10 - 1st & 2nd grades
April 21 - Kindergarten

Parent reps will contact parents to send in food, drinks, decorations, and to help with setup and cleanup for these luncheons. Please mark these dates on your calendars so you can join us in honoring the wonderful faculty and staff at SFS.

Student's Name

Parent's Signature

Scheduling Your Conferences

Please call Cindy Wood beginning Monday, Sept. 26th to schedule your parent/teacher conferences. If she is not available, please do not leave requests for conference times on voice mail. You need to speak to her to schedule the conference. The last day to make conference arrangements is Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Conferences are a very important communication tool. Please take the time to meet with your child's teachers. You may make appointments for lead teachers, specialists and middle school advisors.

Register for Enrichment by Sept. 29th!

We have two spaces remaining for Enrichment on Friday, Oct. 7. Students of all ages are eligible to attend. On that day, the students will go on a field trip to the Louisville Zoo. Enrichment will run from 8:00 until 6:00. The cost is \$68 and participants need to bring a lunch and drink. You can register by calling Cindy Wood at 228-1197 or Neisja Yenawin (ext. 124).

Buddy Day is Coming!

You have probably already heard that our students have been matched with their 'buddies.' This is an annual tradition that pairs a middle school student with a lower school student.

The first buddy day this year is Tuesday, Sept. 27th. The students will be working on a **Blankets for Comfort** project. The buddies will make fleece hearts to be stitched onto blankets for Hurricane Katrina survivors. Lead teachers will collect the completed hearts. If you are willing to help stitch the hearts onto blankets, please let your child's lead teacher or Judy Haaga know. Judy is spearheading this effort with her usual zeal and enthusiasm!

The next buddy day is Thursday, Oct. 20 and will include a Teddy B.E.A.R. Picnic. For anyone who hasn't heard the libraries theme, it is Be Excited About Reading!

Additions to Directory

New students.

Alexandra 7th Grade

Ms. Katherine Waters
3503 Sycamore Court
Prospect, KY 40059
742-6314

Mr. James Waters
27 Poplar Hill Road #2
Louisville, KY 40207
550-7887

Christin Rutley 3

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Rutley
4020 Deer Lake Circle
Prospect, KY 40059
228-5155

Katie Nagaraj Four Day 4s (pm)

Mr. and Mrs. Neil Nagaraj
5038 Wolf Pen Woods Drive
Prospect, KY 40059
Phone TBA

Returning Students:

Mustafa Gardezi 3

Ahmed Gardezi 7
Dr. and Mrs. Nasir Gardezi (Naushin)
5204 Eagles Peak Way, #101
Louisville, KY 40242
(606) 682-0448

Address Changes:

JennyWren Hammers 2

Ms. Leesa Hammers
401 Landis Lakes Court
Louisville, KY 40205
254-9695

Ishaan Gupta P4

Mr. and Mrs. Vineet Gupta (Vinita)
15405 Crystal Spring Way
Louisville, KY 40245
254-2920

2005-06 Student Council

Earlier this month our middle school students selected the following people to be their student Council representatives.

President: John Kinney

8th Grade Officers:

Meghan Clark

Allie Dixon

Brenna Murphy

Grade Level Representatives:

7A—Cameron Brown

7B—Bradley Fischer

6A—Healey Loeffler

6B—Harrison Fowler

Burton Class—Olivia Loeffler

Miller Class—Audra Kinney

WHAT A SHOW OF SUPPORT!!!

By Annie Russell

I always knew the St. Francis community was exceptional, but I had no idea how quickly and effectively everyone could come together. As you know, we held a bake sale during Spirit Day. This was some bake sale! The school raised \$539.92 for the American Red Cross to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. A parent matched that with a \$500 check. Our family then took the money to Lowes and they doubled the amount!

Even after the bake sale, there were enough goodies to FILL the back of my car! The aroma was far more pleasing than the more common scent that accompanies sweaty athletes! On Saturday, we took the remaining items to the Wayside Christian Mission the next day.

The evacuees staying there were very excited to receive the treats--especially the children. Clayton learned a very valuable life lesson through all of this. His face was beaming when we presented in the money and the cookies.

It touches my heart to know that the families of St. Francis are so generous and caring. Thank you.

From the Science Department

We want to thank the following people for their support.

Kimberly and Quinn Hillerich for their donating a set of magnets.

Dr. Andre Thebert and Cynthia McAfee for supervising students while picking apples on our property. The experience provided a fabulous opportunity for our students to learn about the various ways apples can be used by people, animals and insects. Mrs. Alexander will be providing a tangible experience when she treats the children to homemade apple sauce!