



Parent Partnership By John Delautre

One of the hallmarks of progressive education is the participation of parents in school life. In fact, the very idea of a “parent-teacher association” originated in a progressive school over a hundred years ago: the Frances W. Parker School in Chicago. Since that time, a strong parental role has been essential to schools like St. Francis, because the nature of our mission requires it.

For one thing, the values that lie at the center of our program need to be reinforced twenty-four hours a day if they are to take root firmly. Children learn to practice respect for others, and for individual differences, when they see this behavior modeled all around them, and when it is expected of them consistently in all areas of their lives. The same holds true for environmental stewardship and the importance of the arts: the impact of the school’s commitment to these ideals can be strengthened powerfully in the home.

The partnership of school and parent is also central to a child’s successful academic performance. Our commitment to engage each student individually, and to differentiate our curriculum to maximize student growth, needs your feedback to be effective. For this reason, we welcome your questions and comments on conference days and throughout the year, and we encourage you to be in conversation with your children about their school experience. After all, if you’re child is truly growing as a learner at school, you’ll know about it at home.

Of course, parents who choose our school do so because they embrace its convictions already, and this like-mindedness has created at St. Francis a level of parental support and volunteerism unique in my twenty-five years of experience. I’ve never met such committed, supportive families, nor a body of parents so willing to pitch in no matter what the task. But then it makes sense: changing the world one child at a time requires a focused, communal effort.

November 1 marks the unofficial beginning of admissions season in independent schools, and this month we would like to call on our parents once again to render an important service to the school. Because our mission is unique (and so distinct from local educational alternatives), our prospective parents often need a personal explanation of our program, and a little extra human touch, before they understand what we can do for their child. You can join our recruiting efforts, and help us reach the families who don’t yet know about St. Francis, by inviting friends and neighbors to our November 10 Open House, or by passing an admissions brochure their way. And of course, Krista Wilson and I are always very willing to initiate these contacts with your prompting.

As I enter my fourth month at St. Francis, I am more convinced than ever of the unique relevance of our school to the needs of children today. It is also very clear that there are many families in Jefferson and Oldham counties who do not yet know what St. Francis can do to prepare their children for happy, productive lives. I know you will want to join with us to spread that word.

Where are they now...

It is true confession time. We don't have as much information about our alums as we would like. We are fortunate that many former students have maintained a bond with their favorite teachers. The teachers occasionally get an update on what is going on in their lives and they will pass it on. The faculty is always eager to hear about the accomplishments and silly antics (oops...life experiences) of our grads!

Please contact Meredith Gault or Lori Dabney with information about our graduates, and we will spread the news. Please also pass on the news below.

Alumni Reception

On December 21, we will host an alumni reception on our Goshen Campus. This is an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and see how the school has changed (and how it hasn't!) Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be available. Please help spread the word to our alums. If they are able to attend, please ask that they call Cindy Wood at 228-1197 to RSVP.

Late Pick-up from Study Hall

If your child is attending Study Hall and you have not arrived to pick him or her up by 5:15, your child will be taken to the Enrichment Clubhouse in the Gym. If possible, please phone Neisja Yenawine on her cell phone at 548-1792 to alert her to your anticipated arrival time.

Children who attend Study Hall or Enrichment are eligible to ride the 5:00 activities bus. Tickets can be purchased in the office. They are \$6 each or \$54 for 10. The bus makes numerous stops along US 42. The stops and estimated arrival times are as follows:

St. Francis in the Fields Church	5:15
The Temple	5:20
Holiday Manor	5:22
Christ Church United Methodist	5:24
Rite Aid (Chenoweth and US Hwy 42)	5:28

Lunch Volunteer Schedule

Monday, Nov. 7—Debbie Morgan, Jan Cogburn
Tuesday, Nov. 8—Steven Paradis, Jeanne Sullivan, Holly Winebrenner
Wednesday, Nov. 9—Kay Chandler, Amy Dishman, Georgette Kidwell
Thursday, Nov. 10—Lori Buse, Janet Roxworthy, Karen Siladi
Friday, Nov. 11—Tom Cowley, Kelly Farmer, Anita Meyer

Monday, Nov. 14—Christina Ullum, Carolyn Wetterer, Lisa Wiley
Tuesday, Nov. 15—Kay Chandler, Nancy Falukner, Angie Koss
Wednesday, Nov. 16—Katy Bade, Sherry Stevens
Thursday, Nov. 17—Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Dianne Siciliano
Friday, Nov. 18—Tanya Greenberg, Charlotte Stites, Carolyn Thebert

Monday, Nov. 21—Ginger Campbell, Jan Cogburn, Mary Ann Pollard
Tuesday, Nov. 22—Kathy Broude, Robin LeMastus, Jeanne Sullivan
Wednesday, Nov. 23—NA, Early dismissal
Thursday, Nov. 24—No School
Friday, Nov. 25—No School

Monday, Nov. 28—Jeannette Gettelfinger, Mary Ann Pollard, Christina Ullum
Tuesday, Nov. 29—TBA
Wednesday, Nov. 30—TBA
Thursday, Dec. 1—Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Nancy Scott
Friday, Dec. 2—Tanya Greenberg, Laurie Kinney, Carolyn Thebert

November Dates of Note

Nov. 3 & 4, No School,
ISACS Conference

Nov. 8, Preschool Open House,
7:00—8:00pm

Nov. 9, Auction Committee Meeting,
9:00 at the Preschool

Nov. 10th Open House,
6:30—8:00pm

Nov. 11, Teacher Appreciation Spon-
sored by the 7th Grade

Nov. 11, LISC Dance at KCD

Nov. 15, Preschool 2006-07
Re-enrollment Forms Due
Open Enrollment Begins

Nov. 15, 6th grade fieldtrip to Cincin-
nati, 8:00—4:00

Nov. 15, Preschool 4s visit Goshen
Campus

Nov. 16th, 2:00 Dismissal

Nov. 16th, 8th grade visits St. Francis
High School

Nov. 17, Preschool
Thanksgiving Luncheons, 11:00am and
1:00pm

Nov. 17, Parent-to-Parent, Java Brewing
Company, 6:00

Nov. 18, Preschool
Thanksgiving Luncheon, 11:00am

Nov. 22, Parents Attend Dress Rehearsal
for Grandparents' Day

Nov. 23, Grandparents' Day
11:30 Dismissal Goshen
Campus

Nov. 23, Preschool Early
Dismissal, 1:00

Nov. 24 & 25, Thanksgiving Holiday
Break

For a full listing of activities and events,
please visit our website at
www.StFrancisSchool.org

Parent Association News By Kim Mackin

The 7th grade will sponsor the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon on Nov. 11. Room reps will be calling for your help with food, drink, set-up, and clean-up. Thanks in advance for your support of our wonderful faculty and staff!

There is an auction meeting, Nov. 16 at 9:00 at the Preschool. It's not too late to volunteer. A huge thank you to Elise Whitman for chairing the committee.

Thank you to Cathy Flowers and all of the volunteers who helped unload and distribute the Innisbrook wrapping paper last week.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and participants of the Eagle Festival. A great time was had by all, despite the weather! Thanks to Susie Bright and Ann Hendren for chairing, and Lori Dabney for her assistance.

Request for Household Goods for Victims of Hurricane Katrina

Barbara Moon, mother of Charis Moon and an assistant in our Enrichment Program, is coordinating efforts to provide housing and necessary household goods to three families who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. These families are in need of ALL types of household items. Items of particular need include:

Furniture, especially beds
Linens
Pots and pans
Silverware/kitchen utensils
Basic maintenance tools

If you are able to provide any items to assist these families, please bring small items to the school and notify Barbara Moon of any larger items needing pick up. You can reach her on her cell phone at 938-2849.

If you are able to provide a truck and assist with delivery, it would be a tremendous service to these families.

Auction Update

Can you believe we are already talking about the 2006 SFS Auction! We have an extremely energetic and creative team beginning to plan for the 2006 auction! Elise Whitman has agreed to Chair the Auction and Suzy Bagga has agreed to Chair the Acquisitions Sub-committee. As you know, an auction is only successful by virtue of the items to be bid upon! Please begin thinking of who you might be able to ask for a donation of a good or service and any items you may be able to donate yourself. Are you an amazing cook or do you just know how to throw a darn fine party...entertainment items are always well received.

High School Shadowing Visits

Our 8th graders have reached the bitter-sweet point when they must consider their options for education beyond St. Francis School in Goshen. As you are planning your shadowing visits to area high schools, we ask that you do not plan any visits from Nov. 14—23. The presence of all of our students during final rehearsals for Grandparents' Day helps ensure the best performance possible.

NAGC Conference

The National Association for Gifted Children is holding its annual conference in Louisville Nov. 9—13. Saturday, Nov. 12th is a day of workshops designed for parents to teach you to support and advocate for your gifted child. For more information, please visit their website at www.nagc.org.

The Eagle Festival

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who worked at the Eagle Festive on Oct. 23rd and the families who attended. It was **COLD**, but a good time was had by all (or at least most)!

If you prepaid for a KidPrint Identification card but were unable to attend, please contact Diane Ellison for a refund.

Annual Fund Kickoff

The 2005-06 Annual Fund Drive is about to move into high gear. The St. Francis School Annual Fund sustains, and ensures the quality of a St. Francis education. Through the Annual Fund, St. Francis receives the resources to maintain superior academic, athletic and fine arts programs, competitive faculty compensation and unique student activities.

Consistent with national independent school norms, St. Francis tuition dollars cover less than 80% of the real costs of our program. The remaining 20% must come from the St. Francis community, including current parents, past parents, the Board of Trustees, alumni, faculty and grandparents. Local and regional companies also support St. Francis School through their matching gift programs.

Proceeds from the Annual Fund enable St. Francis School to sustain its commitment to the students and students' families to provide the most exceptional education opportunity an independent school may offer.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Meredith Gault at MGault@StFrancisSchool.org or by calling 228-1197, ext. 108.

Please Help Welcome Our Neighbors

You may have noticed that we have new residents in the house on our property. Julie Price and her daughters, Micayla (8) and Blair (14) will be staying with us until they are able to return to their home in New Orleans.

Julie asked me to pass along her gratitude to the SFS community and to say that they are very comfortable and happy. She said Micayla loves animals and is enjoying seeing the 'wild life' on our campus...something they didn't get to witness while living in the heart of New Orleans.

Please take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself.

Parent Involvement Required

As John's lead article indicates, the success of our school is significantly affected by the involvement of our parents in spreading the word about our school. We are asking for your involvement in the following ways this month:

Preschool Open House, Nov. 8th, 7:00—8:00pm **Goshen Open House, Nov. 10th, 6:30—8:00pm**

In order to have a successful enrollment season, we need our parents to encourage their friends to attend an open house event, schedule an individual tour or even just request information via our website at www.StFrancisSchool.org. You could even join them on their visits! It would be a great opportunity to share your experiences and learn more about SFS and what lies ahead.

Please spread the word about these events so we can share the message about the unique educational experience we provide that is unparalleled in the greater Louisville market.

Parent-to-Parent Gathering, 6:00pm on Nov. 17th **at Java Brewing Company in Prospect**

Please join John Delautre and Krista Wilson at Java Brewing for a discussion focused on how St. Francis School serves our children and how you can help friends, neighbors and associates appreciate the unique, time tested and proven approach we take to educating young minds.

Car Decals

A car decal was sent home with your child earlier this week. The decals were designed by middle school Spanish teacher Alex Taylor and we are very grateful. The oval design is intended to invoke an international mindset which goes along with St. Francis School's acknowledgement of the global challenges facing our planet. Our 8th grade students are beginning their participation in a global problem solving exercise focusing on providing 'education for all.' We have been paired with a school in South Africa for this exercise.

But I digress...if you would like an additional car decal for second car, family member, or friend you can pick them up in the office or contact Cindy Wood at 228-1197 and we will get them to you.

More information will be provided about our participation in the global challenge in the coming weeks.

Holiday Wish Fund

The Holiday Wish Fund is a *voluntary* program that is an alternative to individual gift giving to teachers and staff. It was created to relieve some of the stress of season. Also, it is an opportunity to make sure all teachers and staff are recognized for their important contributions to SFS.

Donations will be accepted Nov. 11—Dec. 9. More information will be provided in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact Deirdre Barnett at drbarnett@insightbb.com or 228-6958.

Support Our Wonderful Art Teachers

Janet Britt, Nita Duechle, Neisja Yenawine and Teresa Saborsky are having an art show and reception this Friday, Nov. 4 at Bittners downtown. Teresa is known to many of us as a SFS coach and frequent assistant in the front office. Bittners is one of the stops on the First Fridays Trolley Hop.

Please take this opportunity to see what the teachers who draw so much talent from our children do on their own time!



Shopping Tips!

SFS is holding its annual Scholastic Holiday **Book Fair** Dec. 5—9. Please begin making your list and checking it twice (or better yet, ask librarian Judy Haaga to check for omissions!) for all the book lovers in your life!

Pick up a copy of *A la Abacus* and count on good cooking! This cookbook is a compilation of recipes from St. Francis parents, faculty and staff. Each recipe was kitchen tested by a team of dedicated SFS volunteers. The books are \$15 each and can be purchased in the front office. Proceeds from the sale go to the parents' association.

Kroger gift cards make a terrific holiday gift for college students, employees, and childcare providers just to name a few. Please contact Lori Dabney if you would like to purchase a gift card.

How it works:

This is a very simple fundraiser. The cards are already loaded with \$5, so we sell them to you for \$5. You take them to Kroger and reload them (up to \$500 at the customer service desk or up to \$100 at check out - before beginning your transaction). The school gets 4% of all you spend! This includes food, prescriptions, gas and postage (you can buy books of stamps in the check out lane and rolls at the customer service desk). When the card runs out, you just reload it. The current balance on the card is shown on the receipt you receive at checkout.

- You can use any form of payment to add money to the card (debit cards, checks, credit cards, or cash).
- You can still use your Kroger Plus card and there is no minimum balance that needs to be maintained on the card. If you use your School Pop Visa card to reload the Kroger card, SFS still even gets 1% from School Pop!
- The cards can be reloaded indefinitely and they do not expire.