

St. Francis School Monthly News

October 2007

Because St. Francis is a progressive school, and because the contemporary educational environment is decidedly *un*progressive, it is important that we continue to educate our community about the content of our tradition.

EDUCATION IN CONTEXT

The great legacy of progressivism in schools is what I call education *in context*, and there are three fundamental areas in which this principle plays out.

First, progressive schools address the *social context* in which its students live. Rejecting the notion of an immutable, one size fits all curriculum, we seek to educate young people for the needs of a particular time and particular place. We ask, "What will our graduates need to thrive in and meet the challenges of the 21st century?" That question is the origin of our current emphasis on environmental curriculum and sustainable practices.

But progressive educational practice must also honor the *context of an individual student's life*. Because no two human beings are identical, with identical strengths, weaknesses and interests, it is unrealistic to impose the same academic or personal expectations on them all. Though all must master the basic skills and content, and all learn to collaborate with others effectively, children thrive only where their individual choices are respected. As we grow their strengths, address their challenges and encourage their interests, St. Francis students learn to love learning as a path to personal growth.

Lastly, progressive education takes place within the *context of scientific research* on how children learn. Dependence on this data is one of our tradition's earliest strengths, dating to the beginning of the 20th century. Simply put, if the educational research demonstrates convincingly that hours of homework and a competitive classroom atmosphere actually *diminish* cognitive growth in young people, that an emphasis on grades alienates students from the learning process, and that most standardized testing is a consistently poor measure of real understanding, then we cannot in good conscience ignore these findings! (And just *why* so many schools and school districts perpetuate these dead-end strategies is a mystery indeed.)

As we pursue the theme of building community this year, we want our parents to know and share the school's underlying philosophy and mission. If you check our Web site, you will find a new bibliography containing some useful reading on best educational practices that I hope you will explore.



REMINDER — CLASSES WILL NOT BE IN SESSION ON THESE DAYS:

* **Fall Break** -- next Friday, Oct. 5, and Monday, Oct. 8

* **Parent-teacher Conference Days** -- Thursday and Friday, Oct. 18-19

NEED CHILDCARE DURING FALL BREAK OR PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE DAYS?

IF enough students sign up, optional childcare will be provided by our Enrichment Program. The cost: \$65 per child per day. Hours: 8 AM-4 PM. Children must bring a sack lunch.

To register for Oct. 5 or 8, contact Kelly Hovey in the main office by this Monday (10/1), at khovey@stfrancissschool.org. To register for Oct. 18 or 19, contact Kelly by next Tuesday, Oct. 9.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE SIGN-UPS TO BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Conferences will be held in 15-minute blocks (with 5 minutes between each) from noon-8 PM Thursday, Oct. 18, and 9 AM-5 PM Friday, Oct. 19.

The **sign-up period** begins at 8:30 AM Wednesday, Oct. 10, and continues through Monday, Oct. 15.

To sign up, call either Kelly Hovey at 228-1197 x100 or Kristan Murphy at 228-1197 x107. You **MUST** speak to Kelly or Kristan directly; don't attempt to set your appointments by voicemail.

SEE YOU AT THE EAGLE FESTIVAL: 1-5 PM THIS SUNDAY

BRING YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY FOR A FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON FEATURING: * Arts & crafts booths * Carnival booths

Live music from The Pauly Zarb Band (bring a blanket and chairs)

* Animals from the Louisville Zoo

* "Eco-booths" promoting environmental responsibility * Hay rides * Bouncies * 12" hardy mums for sale

* Spirit Wear & our limited edition Eagle Fest shirt for sale * St. Francis School Used Book Sale

* Soccer demonstrations by high school & college players * Stephen Foster players in costume, 1-2:30

* Great food, including grilled delights Bison burgers & dogs, Dippin' Dots ice cream, cookies from "Cookie Lady" Elizabeth Kizito, Kettle Korn popcorn & corn on the cob

OUR CONDOLENCES GO TO THE FAMILY OF KIM SEIBERT, a former SFS Preschool parent who died last Saturday at age 46.

Kim was the mother of two of our past preschoolers, **Carter** and **Jack**. Even after her sons went on to public school in Oldham County, Kim would call the preschool for advice on how to organize a thriving Parents Association like ours.

Funeral services were Tuesday at St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church.

Kim is survived by her two sons and her husband, Ken.

ALTA VISTA FARM, our neighbor and friend up the road from us off U.S. 42, is once offering an extracurricular Horseback Riding and Horsemanship program exclusively for SFS students.

The program provides hands-on experience with horses, from care to riding. The program is open to SFS students ages 5 to 13. Hours are 2:30-4:45 PM on the following Fridays: October 12 & 26 and November 2, 9, 16 & 30. Cost is \$300 per child.

To register, email Angela Ariatti at ariattieq@bellsouth.net and put St. Francis in the subject line.

DO YOU RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL?

Once a month we send home a paper newsletter – such as today's – but we also send home a weekly, supplemental newsletter via e-mail. (For your convenience, we also send home this monthly version via e-mail, and we post it at <http://StFrancisSchool.org>.)

If you haven't already received e-mail news from us, please notify us at news@StFrancisSchool.org.

FYI: INDEPENDENT "SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB" REGROUPS FOR NEW SEASON

Former SFS parent Mike Schafer reports that he has reorganized his ski & snowboard club. The club, which is independent of SFS, is open to students in grades 6 and higher. The club will not have organized trips during the season but will collect names and contact information of those who would like to carpool to the slopes.

Membership entitles students to reduced-price passes at Perfect North Slopes, in Lawrenceburg, Ind.

Pass options and prices may be viewed at <http://www.perfectnorth.com>. Select "Club Members Log-In" at the upper right of the main page. Enter the group name – Snow Miser – and this password: Farside. Follow the online instructions from there. (Note: Prices rise after Nov. 4.)

For more information, contact Michael Schafer at mike@mikeschaferlaw.com or 292-0407.

CHANGE IN SCHEDULE: AFTER-SCHOOL "STITCHERY & TEXTILES" ART CLASSES COMBINE TO MEET ON TUESDAYS

All children who have signed up for after-school Stitchery & Textiles will meet on Tuesdays. (We previously had offered two sections: one on Tuesdays, the other on Thursdays.)

The class, taught by art teacher Neisja Yenawine, is open for students in grades 3-6. A few openings remain. To enroll, please contact teacher Neisja Yenawine at 228-1197 x124 or NYenawine@StFrancisSchool.org.



SFS HALLOWEEN DANCE
7-10 PM Friday, Oct 12
for grades 6-8

COUNSELORS' CORNER

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

ATTN: STUDENTS CHOOSING HIGH SCHOOLS

1. The annual Jefferson County Public "Showcase of Schools" will take place from 3-7 PM Oct. 12 and 10 AM-3 PM Oct. 13 at the Kentucky International Convention Center in downtown Louisville.

2. Our own SFS "High School Night" will be 6:30-8:30 PM on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Our event is tailored especially for our 7th and 8th graders and their families. Many area schools will have representatives to answer your questions about their programs.

At 6:30, St. Francis High School will provide a 30-minute panel presentation by students and parents about the St. Francis High School experience. The rest of the evening will be in "open house" format.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS by Tracy Lattis, PA president

This will be a busy, fun weekend and week to come. On this page and elsewhere in this newsletter, please read about our **Barnes & Noble book fair** (tonight and tomorrow), an action-packed **Eagle Festival** (Sunday) and our **St. Francis Day** "blessing of the animals" (Thursday).

-- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon --

Thank you to all the 7th & 8th grade families who made a special lunch to share with our faculty and staff.

-- Lower School Soccer --

The soccer season is off and kicking with 40-plus Lower School students on St. Francis teams in the YMCA soccer league. The JK-K team is coached by Dave Kern and Aaron Jaffee; the 1st and 2nd grade team is coached by J.B. Wilson and Tony Varda; and the 3-4 team is coached by Andy Thurstone and Tim O'Brien. A big thank you to our coaches for their time and talent in coaching and teaching the basics of the sport to our children. It will make our teams that much better as they get older and join the Middle School teams.

-- Lower School Basketball --

We are continuing our Lower School sports program with winter basketball. Forms and details should be in your child's backpack today. (If one did not come home, you can download one at <http://www.ymcakentucky.org> and go to the Northeast branch.)

To sign up, please fill out the form, attach payment and return it to school to the attention of Ann Hendren. We'll turn in the forms as a group, asking for the appropriate number of teams based on the number of students.

All forms are due at school by Tuesday, Oct. 16. You **MUST** send in your form by this date to ensure a spot for your child. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Hendren at 228-1903 or annhendren@insightbb.com.

EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL— KROGER GIFT CARDS, TARGET VISA CARDS & GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS

If you haven't heard, we have been promoting the **Kroger Card fundraising program** to our parents for the past two years. And with good reason! Since the program's inception in July 2005, St. Francis families have bought \$306,000 in groceries with their cards, with St. Francis School receiving 4% of that total. That's **\$12,240!** What is more amazing is that the school received that benefit with only a fraction of our parents participating in the program.

If you returned your volunteer form earlier this year and you received your pre-charged Kroger card, fill it up and use it; you'll help the school raise even more money, and it doesn't cost you a thing. If you need a new card, you may purchase one in the office for \$5 — and it comes pre-loaded with a \$5 credit.

You then add money to the card at the Kroger customer service desk or check-out. You can use your own credit cards to "reload" your Kroger card; and the Kroger card is accepted in all Kroger stores throughout the U.S., so friends and family out of state can also help St. Francis.

We thank the following families who used their card this past June-August:

Aberle	Abner	Bagga	Beard	Bendon	Bond	Borders
Carrigan	Chandler	Clark	Cooper	Cote	Cowley	Dabney
Ebel	Goldberg	Griggs	Hart	Haupt	Hendren	Hoag
Jackson	Kinney	Knepshield	Lattis	Lancaster	LeMastus	Manni
McLeroy	Monda	Morgan	Norman	Norris	Pyke	Scott
Siciliano	Stevenson	Stone	Thebert	Thomas	Thompson	Wachtel
Waggener	Whitman	Wood				

TONIGHT AND TOMORROW: SFS BOOK FAIR AT BARNES & NOBLE

Buy books at Barnes & Noble today and tomorrow, and a portion of your purchases goes to St. Francis School. Simply show the cashier your SFS certificate (sent home with students) or say you are with St. Francis Goshen, and the school will get credit.

Also, at 6:30 tonight and 11 AM tomorrow at the Barnes & Noble at The Summit, some of our 7th and 8th graders will read stories for younger students. Bring your preschoolers for story time.

EAGLE FESTIVAL – 1-5 PM this Sunday

Support your class by helping out in your booth. Bring your friends and family along to enjoy the festivities. SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS

WINE & CHEESE Parent Community Gathering – 7-9 PM Friday, Oct. 12, in the Multi-purpose Room at our Goshen campus

The Parents Association invites all parents of SFS students, preschool through 8th grade, to a wine and cheese community gathering.

Have a kids-free night and join your fellow parents for a fun night of adult conversation — including a short talk by Mr. Delautre on "What makes St. Francis School Different."

Please bring an appetizer and a bottle of wine to share from one of these categories: organic, local or "favorite under \$20." Book your babysitter now for this great event!

Target "Take charge of education" Visa

If you have a Target Visa card you can go to Target.com, click on "take charge of education" and designate St. Francis as your school of choice — and the school will receive 1% of your charges. It is that simple. Friends and family all over the country can support our school in this way.

General Mills Box Tops

Keep collecting and sending in your box tops from specially marked items. We will be sending in our next batch at the end of October, so please collect yours and put them in the bin in the Main Amp.





OCTOBER 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, October 1 - Michele Monda, Charity Ghali, Amy Dishman
Tuesday, October 2 - Carolyn Thebert, Courtney Foster, Lisa Fleming
Wednesday, October 3 - Sherry Stevens, Ellen Thalacker, B.W. Madry
Thursday, October 4 - Ann Hendren, Pam Smith, Karen Smith
Friday, October 5 - NO SCHOOL; FALL BREAK

Monday, October 8 - NO SCHOOL; FALL BREAK
Tuesday, October 9 - Karen Riley, Courtney Foster, Holly Winebrenner
Wednesday, October 10 - Vlasta Ross, Jill Shiflet, Dena Wilson
Thursday, October 11 - Ann Hendren, Holly Cooper, Eliana Brunner
Friday, October 12 - Liz Cole, Weasy Middleton, Laurie Kinney

Monday, October 15 - Katey Stone, Betsi Faulkner, Michelle Jurige
Tuesday, October 16 - Courtney Foster, Lisa Fleming, Kathy Baucom
Wednesday, October 17 - Diane Fowler, Katy Bade, Dace Maki
Thursday, October 18 - NO SCHOOL; PARENT CONFERENCES
Friday, October 19 - NO SCHOOL; PARENT CONFERENCES

Monday, October 22 - Margaret Bond, Liz Bevarly, Dena Wilson
Tuesday, October 23 - Courtney Foster, Suzy Bagga, Robin LeMastus
Wednesday, October 24 - Vlasta Ross, Kim Mackin, John Lenihan
Thursday, October 25 - Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Ann Hendren
Friday, October 26 - Tracy Lattis, Debbie Morgan, Shanell Thompson

Monday, October 29 - Michele Monda, Charity Ghali, Vlasta Ross
Tuesday, October 30 - Shannon Jones, Dianne Siciliano, Courtney Foster
Wednesday, October 31 - Sherry Stevens, Denise Waggener, Ellen Thalacker
Thursday, November 1 - Ann Hendren, Pam Smith, Karen Smith
Friday, November 2 - Kay Chandler, Risa Koby, Kristin Donovan

HARRISON FOWLER'S "EAGLE SCOUT" PROJECT TO HELP SFS; VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON SATURDAY, OCT. 13

— by **Kelly Stevenson**, environmental curriculum coordinator

Eighth-grader Harrison Fowler is organizing an Eagle Scout project that will benefit our school. After many discussions, he has decided to create an outdoor classroom that will serve our faculty and students.

Harrison now needs volunteers to make this project a reality. Students will get service hours if they come help.

When: 9 AM Saturday, Oct. 13

Where: SFS

Please plan on joining us!



Attached to the e-mail version of this newsletter is an updated list of our staff members' school phone voice mail and extension numbers. This list replaces the one we attached last week. To reach any staff member's voice mailbox or phone, dial the extension as soon as you reach our automated answering system.

ST. FRANCIS DAY & THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: 2:15 PM THIS THURSDAY, Oct. 4

See the attached flyer for information, permission form and map.

Students and faculty will gather at 2:15 in the Main Amp for a reverent assembly. Blessings will begin at 2:30 on the soccer field directly behind school. Parents with family pets must gather outside on the soccer field; teachers and students will join you following the assembly.

SECOND NOTICE OF CALENDAR CLARIFICATION:

Some of our early calendars incorrectly listed Nov. 8-9 as vacation days. We DO have school on those days.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE SFS GRADUATES who were honored by Trinity High School for their academic performance last year:

Steven App, Thomas Clark, Perry Falk, Clark Flowers, Bart Freibert, Sunny Jane, John Kinney, James Maguire, Lepe Seetane, Palmer Simpson and Nick Spalding. (Recall from last week's newsletter that Perry Falk also is a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.)

MRS. CLARK SETS HELP-SESSION TIME FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

From 3:15-3:45 PM this Tuesday (10/2) and continuing each subsequent Tuesday, science teacher Carol Clark will hold study sessions on how to respond to scientific questions.

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION PLANNING MEETING

All parents of 8th graders are invited to attend the second meeting of the planning committee at 8:15 AM Monday, October 22, at Java Brewing Company in Prospect. Please join in the planning!

LET US RECYCLE YOUR USED PRINTER INKJET & LASER CARTRIDGES. 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.