

St. Francis School Monthly News



December 2007

NOTE FROM MR. DELAUTRE: This month, in lieu of my usual newsletter piece, I asked our environmental curriculum coordinator and SFS alumna, Kelly Stevenson, to share a few thoughts.

Thanksgiving is the truly American holiday, and I hope you enjoyed a joyful time with your families as I did with mine. Part of what this holiday represents is time with families. It also made me think of the St. Francis family and the caring community that we have here.

On a long car ride last weekend, my son asked me to tell him a story and I found myself sharing experiences from my time as a St. Francis student. I hold many special memories from St. Francis, both from my seven years as a student here and my dozen more as a teacher. There is something special about this place. It is not the building that makes it special – though the unique architecture certainly is a key to our identity. It is the people who really make St. Francis special.

Another teacher recently was surprised when I mentioned that I was still in touch with a good friend from third grade. We went through lots of changes as we grew up, but we remain close because of our time at St. Francis. The number of teachers and current parents who were students here themselves speaks volumes about this community, which in many ways does function like a family.

The other essential element of Thanksgiving is, of course, food – food that really is about an American harvest. While families have individual traditions, the traditional foods of the holiday are all native to this country, celebrating the bounty of our land. It made me think about the bounty we were able to get from our small kitchen garden plot at St. Francis this year.

Even though we started small, and without a lot of planning time, we ended up with an admirable harvest. We enjoyed many cantaloupes and tomatoes in the lunchroom that came from right outside the door. Some onions, green peppers, cucumbers, other melons, eggplants and beans occasionally found a place in our kitchen as well. The students who enjoyed eating the food from our garden were thankful for it, as well as proud of their work to make it possible. It was a wonderful start to this project. However, it was just a start.

Winter brings two great things for a gardener. First, there is precious little you actually have to be doing in the garden, and the respite is welcome. But even more important, it is the time to dream about next year. How can next year be even better? What new things can we grow? In our case, the questioning has also included, "Where can we create more garden space to enable us to fulfill these dreams?"

These are the kinds of questions that teachers and staff at St. Francis have begun asking themselves lately. Soon, these questions will expand to include the students so that everyone in this community will be involved in all steps of our garden again this year.

We are planning to expand our food production, and I have been working with our kitchen staff to meet their needs as well as our students' educational needs. When everyone is involved, we can make this a wonderful, worthwhile project that can change the lives of the students. And that seems like a goal to be thankful for.

THANKSGIVING REFLECTIONS - by Kelly Stevenson



ANNOUNCING THE NEW ST. FRANCIS ATHLETIC & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER!

- by Mr. Delautre

By now you probably have heard of our announcement on Grandparents' Day, or have seen the new sign on campus: Plans already are well underway for a new gym that also will expand our performing arts program!

Stay tuned for more information about the features of the new building and how your participation can hasten its arrival.

RSVP NOW BY EMAIL FOR TUESDAY'S "FAMILY PEACE EDUCATION NIGHT"

If you plan to attend but haven't told us, please RSVP **immediately** to parent Lori Dabney at lori_dabney@yahoo.com.

Bring your entire family to learn about and participate in activities from the Peace Education Program our children have experienced. Pizza and drinks will be served at 5:30 PM; activities start at 6:30.



SFS LIBRARY BOOK FAIR, Dec. 10-14

Shop for quality holiday gifts AND support our school library. Find books for everyone on your list.

STILL NEEDED: LUNCHROOM VOLUNTEERS FOR JAN.-MAY

Volunteer even if you can help for just one or two days! Shifts are 10:50 AM-12:45 PM. Please contact lunchroom volunteer coordinator Dianne Siciliano at DianneSiciliano@Insightbb.com or 292-3295.

HOLIDAY BREAK REMINDER: Please note that this year's Holiday Break begins with regular 2:15 PM dismissal on Friday, Dec. 21, and ends when we return to school on MONDAY, JAN. 7. That means that Monday, Jan. 7, is a regular school day.

FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

by **Reed Gabhart**, head of Middle School

I hope that you were able to spend time with your children reviewing their First Trimester progress reports – and that you found the assessments informative and meaningful. Below you will see our first Effort Honor Roll for this school year. I also thought a reminder of the process might be useful.

The Middle School Effort Honor Roll is based on a numerical average of all the effort ratings given by teachers during the trimester. To make the cut, a student must achieve an effort average between 1 and 1.5. This has proven to be a meaningful accomplishment, as a little less than 50 percent of our Middle School students have distinguished themselves by making the list. They were honored at morning meeting on Wednesday.

This also is a good time to remind students about the Elizabeth Archibald Effort Honor Roll, which brings a certificate and recognition at the end of the year. To make the Elizabeth Archibald Effort Honor Roll, a Middle School student must make the Effort Honor Roll two of three trimesters, with the third term being mandatory. This also allows for students who missed on the first term to set new goals and strategies.

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work in making the Effort Honor Roll for Trimester 1, 2007-08:

5th Grade

Julia Bache
Adam Cantrell
Bridget Cantrell
Samantha Dabney
Anna Finkelstein
Kaitlyn Heit
Annie Stone

6th Grade

Lila Asher
Mariah Curtis
Erin Didier
Alma Herovic
Tristan Krebs
Grace Lancaster

De'Ja Miller
Gavi Shandler
Marti White
Rebecca Whitman
Elizabeth Whitman

7th Grade

Max Banner
Teddy Finkelstein
Sharon Greene
Caroline Johnson
Audra Kinney
Emily Lacher
Kendall Malone
James Manni
Ellie Najewicz
Hank Paradis
Anthony Perry
Megan Schrader
Reed Smith
Ryan Thebert

8th Grade

Maggie Baucom
Eli Beard
Duncan Cooper
Katie Cote
Barrett Donovan
Harrison Fowler
Amanda Greenberg
Megan Hart
Tahlia Hodes
Paul Lacher
Healey Loeffler
Kienan McCusker
Connor Murphy
Hanan Shandler

GEAR LIST FOR 7TH GRADE TRIP

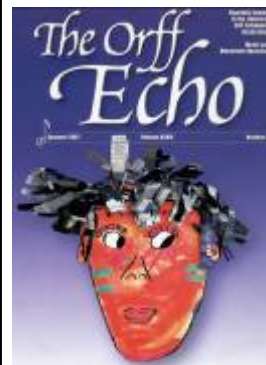
Some parents of 7th graders suggested that we determine before Holiday Break the gear list for the March trip to Hoosier National

Forest. That way, some needed items might show up as gifts during the holiday season. As a result, Mike Black met with the 7th graders Thursday and gave them the list. We'll soon publish it on the school Web site, too. Send any questions to MBlack@stfrancisschool.org.

ART NEWS...

Megan Hart's Cover Art

- by **Janet Britt**, art teacher



Four years ago, I was encouraged by former music teacher Kathy Collier to submit student artwork to The Orff Echo, a national music educator's magazine.

To my delight, I learned just recently that the editor had

chosen Megan

Hart's mixed-media portrait, created when she was a 4th-grader, for the cover of the magazine's summer edition. Congratulations Megan, a current eighth-grade artist.

SFS Student Art Again Graces Holiday Cards for CASA, the Court Appointed Special Advocates Project of Jefferson County

- by **Nita Duechle**, art teacher

Artwork by two SFS students was among only six pieces chosen to adorn this year's holiday cards sold to support the volunteer efforts of CASA, a local advocacy program that provides a powerful voice on behalf of abused and neglected children in Louisville.

Congratulations to **Lilly Campbell** and **Ahmed Gardezi**, both of whom graduated from SFS last spring. Here's a peek at their winning work:



Santa's Sleigh Ride
By **Lilly Campbell**

Happy Snowman
By **Ahmed Gardezi**



For a better look — and to order online — visit http://www.casajc.org/holiday_card.htm

The cost is \$12 for each 12-card package (and \$7 of that may qualify as a tax-deductible contribution). A pack can contain all of one design or an assortment. To save shipping cost, you may pick your cards up at the CASA office, 514 W. Liberty St., #139, in downtown Louisville. Call ahead: 595-4911.



SFS WINTER RUNNING FOR 6TH-8TH GRADERS

Students in grades 6-8 are welcome to join avid runner/track coach/math teacher Mr. Armstrong for brisk runs on Mondays after school. All abilities are welcome. They'll run a few easy miles around campus and then play games that involve running outside or workouts in the gym.

Bring sweats, hats and gloves, and consider bringing old shoes to survive mud.

Running begins this Monday (12/3) and will be 3:30-4:30 on school days, regardless of the weather.

TO RUN EVEN MORE, join Mr. A from 3:30-4:30 Wednesdays for his longer runs (4 or more miles) off campus into surrounding neighborhoods. For these, you must be able to run comfortably at a pace of 8:30 per mile for 4 miles. If you haven't run 4 miles previously with Mr. Armstrong, you must start with the Monday group to be sure you're ready for the tougher runs.

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

by Tracy Lattis, PA president

Coupon Book Sale: PLEASE RETURN the books or money ASAP! We MUST ACCOUNT for EVERY BOOK that was sent home.

SFS Bookstore: Visit the bookstore to shop for holiday gifts. Among the many items you can order or buy on site, you'll find short-sleeved and long-sleeved T-shirts in stock. See Admissions Director Krista Wilson for a tour.

Special Thank You to: parent Abby Yelton for helping to coordinate Grandparents Day and to all who brought muffins and offered help.

Coming Events . . .

- Dec. 4 - Family Peace Education Night
- Dec. 10 - Holiday Wish fund donations due
- Dec. 19 - All-school Skating Party, 6-8 PM

Family Peace Education Night: This Tuesday, all St. Francis families – JK–8 plus siblings – are invited to learn about and participate in activities with instructors of the Peace Education Program our children have experienced. Pizza and drinks will be served from 5:30–6:30 PM; activities will start at 6:30. Please RSVP to Lori Dabney TODAY at lori_dabney@yahoo.com.

Skating Party: Our schoolwide skating party will be 6–8 PM Wed., Dec. 19, at Champs Rollerdom on LaGrange Road. We rent the whole rink, so only St. Francis Families will be admitted. Bring your family and get some exercise. Cost is \$4 per person, plus \$1 for skate rental.

Save the date for our next Parent Association Forum: Meet the SFS Board of Trustees, 6-7:30 PM Thursday, January 10. Learn about the board's role and vision for our school during the next 5 years. Childcare will be provided for this event.

December 10 is the deadline to contribute to the Parent Association's Holiday Wish Fund - the popular alternative to individual gift-giving to SFS teachers and staff members.

Relieve some stress of buying, wrapping and distributing multiple gifts to your children's teachers -- **and** recognize all teachers and staff for their contributions to St. Francis. This program is lets everyone receive a wonderful "thank you" gift.

Your participation is voluntary; each family decides what, if anything, they would like to do to recognize the teachers and staff during the holiday season.

Here's how it works: Between now and Dec. 10, contributions will be accepted in any amount. Collections will be handled on a confidential basis by parent Kim Mackin, the project's co-chair. She will be the only one to receive donations -- either by mail or drop-off in an envelope marked "Holiday Wish Fund" in the school office. Make all checks payable to St. Francis Parents Association. Mail your contribution to: Kim Mackin, 11607 Chapel Hill Road, Prospect, KY 40059

Meanwhile, a Wish Fund box has been placed in the Teachers' Lounge, and teachers and staff members have been asked to submit gift-certificate wishes. On Dec. 10, the gift-certificate amounts will be determined based on total contributions received.

When the gift certificates are purchased, each will be signed "from the Children of St. Francis" and be distributed before school lets out for the holiday break. A card recognizing all contributing families will be included, however, all amounts will be kept confidential. Questions? Please call Kim Mackin at 228-3383 or Carolyn Thebert at 228-4880.



SALLY FOSTER FUNDRAISER RESULTS: Our students sold items or received donations that brought nearly \$12,000 for our greenhouse project. A committee now is studying the best way to build, and best location for, the greenhouse.

The project's estimated start time is late spring/early summer. For more information, contact Greg Borders, director of Advancement. Thanks to all who supported this project. Special thanks goes to Michelle Jurige for leading this effort. Remember, too, that you can buy from Sally Foster all year and designate St. Francis for the proceeds. Go to <http://www.sallyfoster.com>.

Here are our prize winners:

- I-Pod** – Nicolas Eckert
- Portable DVD player** – Paige Didier
- Class w/ total participation** – Dr. Lavalley's Ks
- Highest % of sales** – Madame DeNosky's 4th graders

Top 10 sellers (dollar amount):

1. Anna Finkelstein	\$1,109	6. Gary Jurige	\$522
2. John Jurige	774	7. David Hendren	440
3. Nicholas Eckert	641	8. Jenny Wren Hammers	413
4. Rebecca Kline	567	9. (tie) Jackie LeMastus	409
5. Esme Tyler	557	Adam Prys	409
		10. Caroline Mackin	407

In addition to our Top 11 sellers, students who sold more than \$250 will take a field trip to Puzzle's Fun Dome (date TBA). Those students are Caroline Frederick, Sophia Goldberg, Grace Herrmann, Aaron Lattis, Sydney Lattis, Lillian Lenihan, Grace Malone, Anna Grace Moss-Brown, Molly O'Brien, Afton Putney, Sara Scott, Zachary Stahlman, Tom Stevenson, Harrison Stites, Andrew Thurstone, Daniel Ward, Jacob Ward & Wyatt Ware.

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION PLANNING MEETING: 8:15 AM Monday, January 14, at Java Brewing Company in Prospect. All parents of 8th graders are invited.



DECEMBER 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, December 3 - Margaret Bond, Liz Bevarly\David Beard, Rene Prys
Tuesday, December 4 - Karen Riley, Suzanne Gorman, Holly Winebrenner
Wednesday, December 5 - Vlasta Ross, Jill Shiflet, Dena Wilson
Thursday, December 6 - Ann Hendren, Holly Cooper Eliana Brunner
Friday, December 7 - Liz Cole, Weasy Middleton, Laurie Kinney

Monday, December 10 - Katey Stone, Betsi Faulkner, Michelle Jurige
Tuesday, December 11 - Lisa Fleming, Kathy Baucom, Joseph Malone
Wednesday, December 12 - Diane Fowler, Katy Bade, Dace Maki
Thursday, December 13 - Nancy Scott, Ann Hendren, Shannon Jones
Friday, December 14 - Kay Chandler, Bill Bond, Debbie Morgan

Monday, December 17 - Margaret Bond, Liz Bevarly/David Beard, Dena Wilson
Tuesday, December 18 - Eliana Brunner, Suzy Bagga, Robin LeMastus
Wednesday, December 19 - Vlasta Ross, Kim Mackin, John Lenihan
Thursday, December 20 - Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Ann Hendren
Friday, December 21 - Tracy Lattis, Julie Eckert, Shanell Thompson



ANNUAL "TOURING PLAY" READIES FOR THE ROAD

Our Drama Project's 2007 touring play, "The Emp's Kool Klothes (or 14 Actors in Search of an Audience)," will travel to other area schools from Monday-Friday, Dec. 10-14.

The play is a mini-musical adapted by Mr. Gupton. In the acting company are Adam Cantrell, Graham Cote, Sam Cowley, Erin Didier, Kaitlyn Heit, Alma Herovic, Mackenzie Kirby, Benjamin Koby, Kyle Muennich, Annie Stone, Alext Thebert, Gray Thurstone and Matt Ullum. Crew members are L'il Bird Hernandez, Colton Kirby and James Manni.

The travel and performance schedule:

- Monday, Dec. 10: Depart SFS by 9 AM for performance at Fairmont Elementary (New Albany) at 10 AM and Brandeis Elementary (Louisville) at 1:30 PM. (Lunch around 11 AM at Greentree Mall in Indiana.)
- Dec. 11: Depart SFS by 9 AM for performance at St. Anthony School (Clarksville) at 10 AM and Kennedy Montessori School (Louisville) at 1:30 PM. (Lunch around 11 AM at Greentree Mall in Indiana.)
- Dec. 12: Depart SFS by 8:30 AM for performance at Walden School (Louisville) at 9:30 AM. Return to SFS.
- Dec. 13: Depart SFS by 9:30 AM for performance at Chance School (Louisville) at 10:30 AM and Summit Academy (Louisville) at 1 PM. (Lunch around 11:30 AM at Mall St. Matthews.)
- Dec. 14: Depart SFS by 9am for performance Ellen Jones School (New Albany) at 10 AM. Return to SFS for lunch and final performance at 1 PM.

NOTES:

- * The traveling students will always return to SFS in time for regular dismissal.
- * Parents of the performers are welcome to attend any performance and/or have lunch "on the road" with the cast and crew.
- * All travels will be secured by a strict buddy and teacher system.
- * On Wednesday, Dec. 19, during Projects time, there will be a cast and crew party for all who worked on the traveling play AND the recent "Creatures" play.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY to help organize families to sell concessions at our boys and girls basketball home games

This commitment involves scheduling families to work concessions sales at just one or two games per family. That will spread the workload for this important athletics fund-raising effort. **Please contact parent Laurie Kinney at lpkinney@bellsouth.net or 228-5772.** She will help you get started.



LUNCHROOM ADDS "WHITE-WHEAT" BREAD - by Chef Matthew Gasper

In our ongoing quest to meet the nutritional needs of your growing children -- and because our standard whole wheat bread wasn't being consumed very quickly -- we've added white-wheat bread to our Deli Bar.

Whole grains are as nutritionally important as fruits and vegetables; we sought a product that provides for nutritional needs as well as appeals to children's palates. White-wheat bread is made with whole grain Albino Wheat and provides the same nutritional benefits as red wheat (the ingredient in standard whole wheat bread) but is milder and sweeter. The result is a whole grain bread that looks and tastes like white bread.

Questions? Feel free to contact me anytime at the school. Thank you, and enjoy!

UPGRADING YOUR "PlayStation" this holiday season? If so, Youth Alive, a local non-profit youth advocacy agency, can use your old PlayStation2. To donate a game console, accessories and/or games, please call Kelly Hovey, at 228-1197 in our main office, by Dec. 14.

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.

ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER is the December calendar. For the very latest, check our <http://StFrancisSchool.org> calendar.

GIVE YOUR CAR A HOLIDAY GIFT

Stop by our office for a new "SFS" bumper sticker.

THE 2007-08 ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN BEGINS

We hope you received an appeal in the mail requesting your participation. In support of the campaign, which is the most important fundraising activity of the year, we have established grade-level Class Captains who will be following up the annual fund mailing with personal contacts with their "classmates" in an effort to garner support.

We offer our sincerest appreciation to those who have committed their time and services on behalf of this important effort:

Junior Kindergarten: Aly Goldberg

Kindergarten: Catherine Fogarty, Denise Ragland & Janice Moss-Brown

First Grade: Vlasta Ross

Second Grade: Christian Thalacker & Anita Hoag

Third Grade: Kelly Norman

Fourth Grade: Lori Dabney

Fifth Grade: Mary Cantrell & Lyn Gregory

Sixth Grade: David Bright & Elise Whitman

Seventh Grade: Levetta Perry, Rebecca Najewicz & John Kinney

Eighth Grade: Liz Bevarly & Diane Fowler

For each class that achieves 100% grade-level participation in the Annual Fund, the school will plant a tree on our campus to honor the solidarity and support of the school and its mission. Look for contact from your Class Captain beginning December 7-14.

Supporters may now provide a gift online through the school's Website at: <http://stfrancisschool.org/alumni/giving.asp>

We are also gearing up for Eagle Gala 2008! Please be looking for your auction packet in the mail next week!

PREVIEW: JK-8 CALENDAR FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR, 2008-09

Here are the main dates of our **2008-09 school year** calendar for our Goshen campus only. (NOTE: Our Preschool will open on August 25. Most other Preschool dates will correspond with our Goshen calendar, but we'll publish the preschool calendar when preschool contracts are mailed.)

Wed, Aug 13	Faculty Returns
Thurs, Aug 14	All School Picnic
Mon, Aug 18	First Day of Classes (Goshen only)
Mon, Sept 1	No School-Labor Day
Sun, Sept 28	Eagle Festival
Mon-Fri, Sept 29-Oct 3	6th Grade to Pine Mountain
Tues, Sept 30	No School, Professional Development (Goshen only)
Wed, Oct 8	St. Francis Day
Thurs-Fri, Oct 9-10	No School, Fall Break
Thurs-Fri, Oct 23-24	No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences
Mon-Fri, Oct 27-31	8th Grade to Big South Fork
Wed, Nov 26	Grandparent's Day
Thurs-Fri, Nov 27-28	No School-Thanksgiving Break
Mon-Fri, Dec 22-Jan 2	No School-Winter Holidays
Mon, Jan 5	Classes Resume from Holiday Break
Mon, Jan 19	No School-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Mon-Fri, Feb 16-20	No School-Winter Break
Thurs-Fri, March 12-13	No School-Parent-Teacher Conferences
Mon-Fri, Apr 6-10	No School-Spring Break
Fri, May 1	No School-Oak's Day
Thurs, May 21	Last Day of Classes
Fri, May 22	Graduation