

St. Francis School Monthly News

February 2007

This month my newsletter has an unusual purpose: to direct you to another school publication we recently made available on our Web site home page.

Unveiling the new St. Francis Viewbook

Some of you know that we have been planning a new "viewbook" for an entire year, and now, after much hard work, this effort has finally come to fruition. Just go to <http://StFrancisSchool.org> and click on "Download Viewbook" in the lower right-hand corner to see the entire piece in a full-color PDF file. (You may need to adjust the "view" tab in the toolbar to enlarge the pages.)

Why does this publication amount to a milestone? For one thing, it fills a void in our outreach efforts. The viewbook is the school's primary means of communicating our mission to those outside our community, allowing us, in a very efficient way, to reach those who don't yet know about St. Francis. Our hard-working Admissions office has needed a piece of this nature for several years.

But the real excitement of the viewbook derives from its content: at last we have the means to share our story with the substance, clarity and enthusiasm worthy of our program. In addition to some truly eye-catching graphics and photographs, the text elucidates the aims of progressive education as well as the benefits of a PreK-to-grade-8 school over other approaches. A page of testimonials from current and past families communicates the special quality of a St. Francis education with warmth and credibility.

As always, the school depends on you to spread the word, so please familiarize yourself with the viewbook and help us reach the children and families who need to be a part of our community. If you would like a hard copy of the viewbook to share with a neighbor or friend, including an application and other Admissions materials not found in the online version, please ask the school office. Though this year's admissions activity has already surpassed last year's record levels, we will continue actively to seek qualified candidates for the spaces that remain.

Lastly, we all owe thanks to St. Francis parent Bo LeMastus and Modern Marketing graphic artist Mark Groves, whose combined generosity and talent have made our viewbook dreams a reality. At last word, this publication has been nominated for an "Addy" award for advertising excellence. What a great validation of the St. Francis message.



EIGHTH GRADERS TO MEET WITH "LOST MOUNTAIN" AUTHOR ERIK REECE

- by Brianna Barnett, 8th grader

Erik Reece, author of *Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness*, will visit our eighth graders on Feb. 9 to discuss writing and environmental journalism.

Reece, who teaches writing at the University of Kentucky, has been published in Harper's, Orion and The Oxford America, among other publications. Our class is currently reading Reece's book, a chronicle of the devastating environmental and economic consequences of radical strip mining, aka "mountain top removal," in the mountains of Appalachia, as part of our ongoing study of pressing environmental issues.



REENROLLMENT DATES

* Do you have a child returning to our **preschool** next fall? Reenrollment contracts were due Jan. 22.

* Reenrollment contracts for our **Goshen campus** were mailed Wednesday and are due back Feb. 15. This is a bit earlier than usual and is due to high demand. With so many prospective new students in the wings, we must determine how many spaces will be available next fall in grades K-8. Please return your contract(s) by Feb. 15 so we can extend offers to new families.

* If you have a child who will be **new** to our Goshen Campus next fall, you will be mailed a New Student Contract on Feb. 15.

As always, call us at 228-1197 and ask for our Admissions Office or Business Office if you have any questions.



SFS STUDENTS TO ENJOY ORCHESTRAL TREAT

We extend our gratitude to the Pusateri family (Clayton, 1st grade) for a wonderful gift of music we'll be enjoying:

* On Monday, a string ensemble from the Louisville Orchestra will visit our classrooms and perform for the entire school.

* On Feb. 13, grades 3-6 will take buses to the Kentucky Center to hear the full orchestra in a noon concert. The orchestra, under the direction of Stuart Chafetz (known as Maestro Stu), will conduct works by Vivaldi, Elgar and Adolphe as well as John Williams's Star Wars Suite.

Curriculum has been provided to prepare our students for both of these enriching musical experiences. Bravo!

THANK YOU TO the following parents who served as our chaperones at last week's LISC dance at Collegiate:

- * Yulee Schafer
- * Ellen Troutman
- * Jennifer Carl
- * John Hillerich



Our Good Earth: the 2007 Eagle Gala
Friday, March 9, at The Olmsted

**AUCTION UPDATE:
YOUR ASSIGNMENT**

1. Please log on to <http://StFrancisSchool.Maestroweb.com> and register to view or donate goods or services for this year's Eagle Gala: "Our Good Earth."

We have a growing catalog of wonderful silent and live auction items, but we're looking for more. In particular, we need sporting event tickets or memorabilia, unique items for home or garden, and travel or entertainment experiences. The deadline for soliciting or donating items is Feb. 15.

2. Help us seek corporate sponsorships. Sponsorships start at \$1,000, which brings the donor a table for ten, Web advertising, acknowledgement in the auction catalog, and signage at the event.

3. Honor a student, class or teacher in this year's full-color auction tribute catalog – to be formatted as a 15-month calendar! Return your tribute forms to the Advancement Office as soon as possible. The deadline is Feb. 15.

4. Buy and sell your Split-the-Pot cash raffle tickets. Last year's winner took home more than \$3,000.

Eagle Gala invitations will be mailed soon. Event tickets are \$75 per person, or \$750 to reserve a table for ten.

If you have any questions, please e-mail auction chair Amanda Fields, at amfieldsart@yahoo.com, or SFS staff member Cindy Wood at CWood@StFrancisSchool.org. Or call us at 228-1197.



**CHILDREN'S GARDEN
UPDATE & REQUEST
FOR TOOLS, SHED**

This year, SFS will celebrate Earth Day on April 20, and it will mark a milestone in the ever-developing St. Francis School Children's Garden.

We are planning a wonderful event, full of activities, to celebrate the garden and our natural environment.

To date, we have tilled soil, plotted trees and started composting; but there is still much to do. We need your help:

✿ If you have a green thumb and would be willing to lend a hand in these early stages of planning and implementing, we could use your help with such tasks as mulching, watering and garden beautification. Please contact parent Dace Maki or Greg Borders to join our volunteer list.

✿ The Children's Garden Committee is seeking donations of garden tools: shovels, rakes, hoes, tillers, pruners and hand tools of all shapes and sizes.

✿ Also needed is an unused tool shed or old outdoor playhouse to serve as temporary home for our garden tools. We can arrange to pick it up. Please contact the school office at 228-1197.

**TRACK & FIELD
PRACTICE
BEGINS FEB. 12**



We welcome motivated students, regardless of athletic ability, to join us this spring. If you're willing to work hard and attend practices regularly, we're eager to work with you. The world of track is demanding and challenging but also fun -- a lot of fun!

Our philosophy is to develop the following in our athletes:

- desire to strive toward excellence
- realization that nothing of value is ever achieved without hard work and dedication
- healthy attitude toward competition and sportsmanship
- spirit of cooperation
- Self-confidence

Practices are 3:15-4:50 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Meets will begin in April. Mike Black, Teresa Saborsky and Lou Armstrong return as our coaches. Interested students should see Mr. Armstrong for an information packet and registration form.

FOURTH GRADE SCIENCE CLASSES STUDY NUTRITION

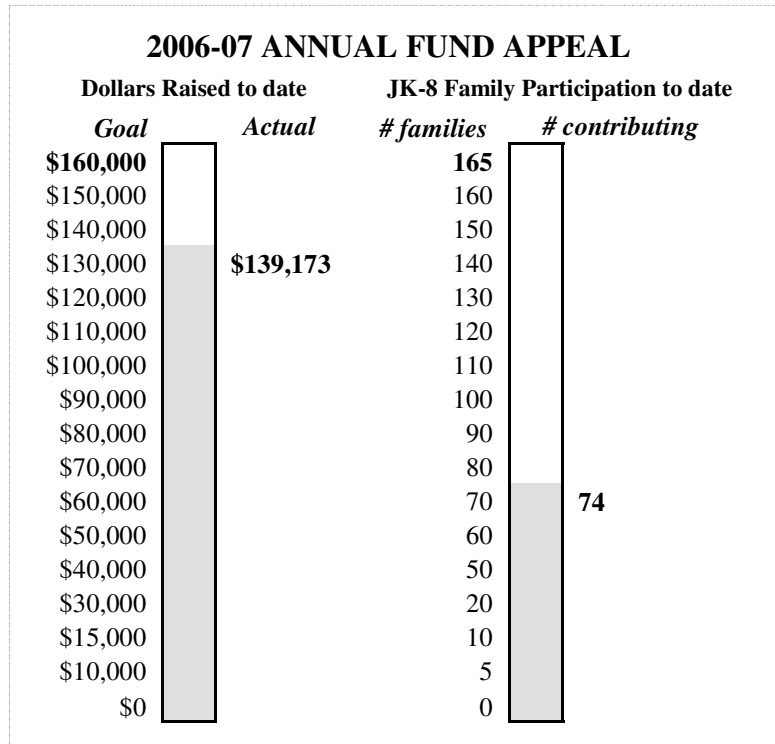
The fourth graders are finishing a nutrition unit in science class by comparing nutrition labels of healthy and unhealthy foods. Their teacher, Mrs. Alexander, reports that she went online and found a great article about healthy snacks that might be of interest to the entire St. Francis community: parents, teachers, cooks and students. Go to <http://www.humboldt.k12.nv.us/foodservice> and follow the link that says **Click Here to receive information on [Healthy Snacks](#)**.

"ANNUAL FUND" UPDATE

Please help us reach our Annual Fund goal.

If you haven't had the opportunity to send in your gift or pledge, please know that your gift, no matter the size, is important!

We continue to stress our hope for 100% family participation; without everyone's assistance, we cannot achieve the programmatic and extra-curricular goals we set at the beginning of the year.



SAMI McDONALD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We have received wonderful response to our request for your help in establishing the school's first named need-based financial scholarship. To date, parents and friends of St. Francis have donated \$3,545 to the Sami McDonald Scholarship Fund.

In loving memory of Sami, our goal is to raise enough money to have the memorial scholarship fund perpetually provide tuition assistance for a student at our Preschool campus who may not otherwise be able to attend. For more information about the Sami McDonald Memorial Scholarship, or to donate, please contact the SFS Advancement Office at 228-1197 x108.

ALTRUISIM MADE EASY: KROGER CARDS, TARGET CARDS & SCHOOLPOP CONTINUE TO PAY OFF FOR SFS

Thanks to all who turn their shopping into cash for our school. If you haven't yet joined in, here are options:

* **Kroger Gift Cards.** Request a card from our school office; the cost is \$5, but the card comes with \$5 credit. You then add more money to the card at the Kroger customer service desk or check-out. Our school receives 4% of your expenditures, and it costs you nothing extra. What's more, you can use your own credit cards to "reload" your Kroger card.

* **Target Visa or Target Red Card.** Sign up for a card at <http://target.com/tcoe>, (800) 316-6142 or a Target store. Our school will receive donations totaling 1% of your purchases at Target (and ½ % of purchases elsewhere with your Target Visa).

* **SchoolPop.** Register for free at <http://www.SchoolPop.com>, and then use SchoolPop.com as your starting point when you shop online at hundreds of name-brand merchant sites. The merchants then pay us typically 2% to 5% (sometimes more) of your purchases, at no extra cost to you.

AND DON'T FORGET to keep bringing in General Mills Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Labels for Education, and old cell phones and empty printer cartridges for us to recycle. We recently submitted another 55 printer ink and toner cartridges for recycling, which will earn us nearly \$180.

Since last July 1, thanks to your shopping habits, our school has reaped these cash benefits:

- Kroger cards: \$3,745
- Target cards: \$1,721
- SchoolPop.com: \$520

TOTAL: \$5,986



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, January 29 - Jeannette Gettelfinger, Weasy Middleton, Janet Hodes
Tuesday, January 30 - Nancye Faulkner, Holly Winebrenner, Rene Prys
Wednesday, February 31 - Amy Dishman, Abby Yelton, Beverly Lancaster
Thursday, February 1 - Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Ann Hendren
Friday, February 2 - Laurie Kinney, Debbie Morgan, Levetta Perry

Monday, February 5 - Ginger Campbell, Mary Ann Pollard, Heather Varda
Tuesday, February 6 - Lana Tyulmenkova, Michele Monda
Wednesday, February 7 - Carolyn Wetterer, Vlasta Ross, Gretta Manni
Thursday, February 8 - Nancy Scott, Patti Adkins, Ann Hendren
Friday, February 9 - Karen Siladi, Risa Koby, Christine Speck

Monday, February 12 - Lisa Wiley, Christina Ullum, Rene Prys
Tuesday, February 13 - Robin LeMastus, Suzy Bagga, Dianne Siciliano
Wednesday, February 14 - Sherry Stevens, Kim Mackin
Thursday, February 15 - Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Ann Hendren
Friday, February 16 - Laurie Kinney, Catherine Chandler, Tracy Lattis

February 19-23 -- NO SCHOOL; WINTER BREAK

Monday, February 26 - Jeannette Gettelfinger, Weasy Middleton, Janet Hodes
Tuesday, February 27 - Nancye Faulkner, Holly Winebrenner, Rene Prys
Wednesday, February 28 - Amy Dishman, Abby Yelton, Beverly Lancaster
Thursday, March 1 - Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Ann Hendren
Friday, March 2 - Laurie Kinney, Debbie Morgan, Terri Erwin

PROPS SOUGHT FOR SPRING PLAY, "THE MATCHMAKER"

Be famous on the SFS stage—or rather, let your furniture be famous! We need props for Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker," set in the 1880s. You can leave items, labeled with your name, on the Main Amp stage. We promise to take care of them. We need:

- burlap sacks
- rack to display multiple hats
- folding screen to divide rooms
- large, fancy mirror that stands on its own
- candelabras
- fake potted plants
- bird cage
- parasol
- tall wooden desk, like an accountant's desk, preferably with matching stool
- 2 small tables with a total of 6 matching chairs, preferably curly wrought iron

Also, we would love help getting period costumes, especially for the women. If you have an 1880s-style dress with a bustle, corset and mutton sleeves, or an enormous fancy hat, we hope you'll consider lending it.

Questions? E-mail Jessica Leader at JLeader@StFrancisSchool.org.

REMINDER: Dr. Edward "Ned" Hallowell -- psychiatrist, author and expert on health issues including ADD and ADHD -- will lead a forum 1-5 PM Sunday, Feb. 11, at Keneseth Israel Synagogue, 2531 Taylorsville Road. Registration will begin at noon. Topics of the forum:

- * Attention Deficit Disorder: Celebrating the Strengths & Meeting the Challenges
- * Worry & Stress: Hope and Help for a Common Problem

Although the forum is designed to provide continuing-education credits for teachers and mental health professionals, the general public is invited to attend for a reduced price: \$15 for pre-registration, or \$25 at the door. To register, call Beverly Bromley, at 452-6341, at Jewish Family & Vocations Services, the event's sponsor.

NEED "WINTER BREAK" CHILDCARE?

Thursday, Feb. 1, is the deadline for signing up your Lower School student for optional childcare during Winter Break (Feb. 19-23). The care is provided by our after-school Enrichment Program. To sign up, call the office, 228-1197.

MORE LUNCHROOM VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS APPRECIATED

To sign up for substitute duty, please contact parent Dianne Siciliano at DianneSiciliano@Insightbb.com or 292-3295.

SUMMER "CAMP INVENTION" RETURNS FOR K-5TH GRADERS; ALSO BRINGS JOB OPPORTUNITY

Be sure to leave June 18-22 free for your child to attend Camp Invention, our summer camp for inquiring minds.

Take advantage of the discounted pricing by enrolling early. For more information, please contact camp director Brigitte Muennich at BMuennich@StFrancisSchool.org.

-- Employment Opportunity, too --

If you know of a responsible teenager or college student interested in being a counselor at Camp Invention, please have him or her contact camp director Brigitte Muennich by Feb. 14.

CARPOOL SOUGHT BY CRESTWOOD FAMILY

The parents of Billy Kitchens-Ogden, 4th grader, are looking for another Crestwood-area family interested in carpooling to school. The family lives at 7007 Quarry Drive. Contact Renee Ogden at 290-3348 or renee@northtechmachinery.com.



DO YOU RECEIVE OUR NEWSLETTERS & ALERTS VIA E-MAIL?

We rely on e-news updates and alerts to provide much information to you. If you aren't receiving our e-mailings, contact us at News@StFrancisSchool.org