



St. Francis School

JK-8 News

March 2008



Now is the season when independent schools are preoccupied with planning the next school year, and St. Francis is no exception. We are in the midst of discussing two interesting innovations, and I want to invite your feedback about both.

LOOKING AHEAD

- by Mr. Delautre

For some time we have been considering moving to a weekly schedule that remains consistent and unchanging from week to week, while also creating some much-needed meeting time for the faculty. What we propose then is an 8:00 to 3:05 school day every day except for each and every Wednesday, when we will dismiss at 2:00 PM.

At a glance, this is what the new dismissal schedule offers:

- Monday: 8:00 – 3:05 (activity bus at 5; enrichment till 6 PM)
- Tuesday: 8:00 – 3:05 (activity bus at 5; enrichment till 6 PM)
- Wednesday: 8:00 – 2:00 (activity bus at 5; enrichment till 6 PM)
- Thursday: 8:00 – 3:05 (activity bus at 5; enrichment till 6 PM)
- Friday: 8:00 – 3:05 (activity bus at 5; enrichment till 6 PM)

There will be a few obvious exceptions to this pattern, such as the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (usually a noon dismissal); but apart from that, every week's dismissal schedule would remain the same, month in and month out. The most obvious departure from our current practice would be the elimination of the once-monthly Wednesday early dismissals for Professional Development: now every Wednesday dismissal would be earlier than the other days.

Under the new scheme, Friday dismissal would now be the same – 3:05 – as that of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

The school would continue to take one or two entire days off each year, announced well in advance, for more in-depth professional development as is expected by our accrediting body (ISACS). Apart from these exceptions, all of the faculty's meeting needs – for professional growth, departmental work and divisional business – would be addressed on Wednesday afternoons.

Though this change preserves the same number of hours in the school week overall, there would be a net benefit of less guesswork for our families and higher quality communication among the faculty. It has been increasingly difficult to create opportunities for meaningful faculty planning time and conversation during the work week, and this approach offers significant improvement for this important activity.

We realize that we will need to prepare for increased enrollment in Wednesday afternoon enrichment, but that is a welcome challenge. We intend to offer new Wednesday afternoon activities that will appeal to both students and parents.

Though we have vetted this change in several meetings, we invite your questions and comments. Please email me at jdelaure@stfrancisschool.org if you have input that will benefit our planning. We will also devote some time to discussing the new schedule at the Parents Association forum at 8:15 AM March 27 (the focus will be "Your Child, Technology, and the Media") so please plan to attend. We hope every family will send at least one representative to this gathering.

LOOKING AHEAD continued on Page 3 —>

SFS CHESS PLAYERS WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

See how on next page —>

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE SIGN-UPS TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Conferences will be held in 15-minute blocks (4 conferences per hour) from noon-8 PM Thursday, March 13, and 9 AM-5 PM Friday, March 14. (Each conference needs to end a few minutes before the 15 minutes is up to allow you to travel to the next conference.)

The sign-up period begins at 8:30 AM Wednesday, March 5, and continues through Monday, March 10.

To sign up, call either Kristan Murphy at 228-1197 x100 or Cindy Wood at 228-1197 x108. You **MUST** speak to Kristan or Cindy directly; don't attempt to set your appointments by voicemail.

OPTIONAL CHILDCARE FOR JK-4 STUDENTS ON CONFERENCE DAYS

School is not in session on parent-teacher conference days (March 13-14); but if demand is sufficient, we'll have optional childcare for students in JK-4.

The cost: \$65 per child per day.

Hours: 8 AM- 4 PM.

Children must bring a sack lunch.

To sign up, please contact Janet Saborsky at jsaborsky@stfrancisschool.org no later than next Friday, March 7. Don't wait; we need to know if numbers are sufficient.

SFS "PROGRESSIVE EDUCATION/PARENTING GROUP" sets its next two meetings:

* 8:15 AM, Friday, March 21

* 8:15 AM, Friday, April 25

Meetings are open to all. The group was formed to discuss selected readings on progressive education and parenting. For more information, contact parent Shelly Ward at shellyward@msn.com.



SFS CHESS PLAYERS WIN K-5 KENTUCKY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to our chess team for winning the K-5 Division State Championship at last Saturday's Kentucky Chess Association State Scholastic Team Tournament at Crosby Middle School.

Our victory was listed in The Courier-Journal on Sunday; but here's the story behind the story: While our team was the pre-tournament favorite based on our players' individual records, this tournament involved a more challenging format than the typical chess tournament.

First, only top teams from around the state were invited. Then, each team competed as one entity, with players matched against others by their ratings. That is, our highest ranked player battled (on Board #1) the highest ranked players from other schools; our second-highest rated player faced the second-rated players from other schools (on Board #2); and so forth. Each player competed in four rounds, and a team won a round (and scored 1 point) by taking 2.5 of 4 matches per round.

Our SFS lineup:

Board #1: Gilman Bagga, team captain

Board #2: David Hendren

Board #3: Justin Stevens

Board #4: Braden Barnett

Alternate: Jonathan Simpson (Alternates played in a separate tournament that occurred simultaneously)

Our players won all 4 games in each of rounds 1 and 2. We then won 2.5 games to take Round 3 (and remain 3-0 as a team). Being the only undefeated team going into the final round, we needed only to tie Round 4 to win Team Championship.

Braden and Justin gave us those two wins. David and Gilman played two extremely strong players (5th graders) from Lexington Meadowthorpe Elementary, whose #2 player could have played #1 at other schools and ended up defeating David. Gilman's game took the longest, and his victory sealed a decisive, undefeated championship run for our team. What's more, Braden won a "perfect score" trophy.

Our K-3 Team was invited to fill a vacant spot at the State Championship. Our players were Chris Barker, Alex Koby, Adam Prys, Theo Taylor and Will Yelton. Congratulations to all!

A week before the State Championship, some of our younger players competed in a KSCC Chess Tournament. Will Yelton competed in the K-3 Section. Our K-1 Section team took 3rd Place. Players and awards:

Grace Bagga - 2nd Place Under 400

Emily Chu

Eston McLeroy

SFS BOOKSTORE REOPENS MARCH 4

Our "St. Francis Mercantile" has drawn lots of student-patrons each Tuesday morning before school, with T-shirts, dog tags, water bottles, art kits and school supplies popular among students and parents alike. The store closed for Winter Break and this week, but will reopen March 4 with great new items for spring.

Thanks to Tracy Lattis, Audrey Kline and the 5th and 6th grade Student Council reps for keeping the Mercantile in business! Come see us on the 4th.

FINE ARTS & WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENTS TO PRESENT: "ONE ENCHANTED EVENING" ON APRIL 17

Save the night of April 17 for a spectacular SFS presentation, as our World Languages and Fine Arts departments collaborate to present "One Enchanted Evening."

Join us to celebrate an evening of cultural richness through language, art, music and dance. Each child will have a role in the evening, and we anticipate a joyful experience for all. Performance schedules will be announced soon.

BABY NEWS: Mrs. Durst Delivers

Nikki Durst, of our Student Services Dept., and her husband Matt, welcomed daughter **Madalyn Grace** into the world at 7:40 AM Wednesday. Madalyn arrived 3 weeks early but weighed a healthy 7 pounds 5 ounces. Please join us in wishing Nikki and Matt well.

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION PLANNING MEETING: 6:45 PM Monday, March 10, at Java Brewing in Prospect. All parents of 8th graders are invited.

SIXTH-GRADE SCIENCE BEGINS "WORMS EAT MY GARBAGE"

The project began this week when the science class adopted a bucket of worms from **Mr. Tom Cowley**. Mrs. Clark and her students became acquainted with their new critters and settled them into their new bedding. The class will feed the worms leftover coffee grounds from the Teachers' Lounge and vegetable and fruit matter from the kitchen.

The worm bin will be used to teach about soil, composting, the food web, decomposers, worm anatomy (we won't dissect them) and their lifecycle. Volunteer "visitors" in the bin will be identified and examined under microscopes. When spring brings time to plant in the garden, the worm castings will supply nutrient-rich, organic fertilizer.

WALDEN SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION SPONSORS SPEAKER, MARCH 18, ON "RAISING HEALTHY CHILDREN IN CHALLENGING TIMES"

All parents are invited to hear author and psychologist Rob Evans talk about the dilemmas and strategies of raising children and adolescents in today's fast-paced, media-driven environment. Evans, a clinical and organizational psychologist in Wellesley, Mass., has written many articles and two books: "Family Matters: How Schools Can Cope with the Crisis in Childrearing" and "The Human Side of School Change."

This free presentation will be 7 PM Tuesday, March 18, at The Olmsted, on Frankfort Avenue in eastern Louisville. To reserve a seat, call Jan at Walden School, 893-0433 x322.

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

by Tracy Lattis, PA president

Coming Events:

March 12 - Skating Party, 6-8 PM
March 20 - Monthly Spirit Wear orders due
March 21 - Progressive Education/Parenting Group meeting, 8:15 AM
March 27 - Parents Forum - "Your Child, Technology, and the Media"
March 28 - Teacher Appreciation Lunch sponsored by 1st grade families

Skating Party: Our schoolwide skating party, 6-8 PM Wednesday, March 12, at Champs Rollerdomo on LaGrange Road, is just for SFS families. Bring your family and get some exercise. Cost is \$4, plus \$1 for skate rental.

Parents Forum: We meet at 8:15 AM Thursday, March 27, for coffee and an examination of the technological issues that affect young people today. We will use materials from Common Sense Media - www.common sense media.org - a leading source of information about the Internet, entertainment and media.

Lower School Sports: This winter, St. Francis has fielded 4 basketball teams through the YMCA league. Thanks to the following coaches who have given their time and talents to our young student athletes:

- * JK, K & 1st grade team - Tyson Gorman & John Jurige
- * 2nd grade team - Charlotte Stites, Joe Pusateri & Christopher Chandler
- * 3rd grade team - Mark Lattis & John Jurige
- * 4th grade team - Michael Hendren & Sam Hendren.

Our spring sports will start soon. We'll field these teams: 1st grade field hockey; 2nd & 3rd grade field hockey; 4th & 5th grade field hockey; JK, K & 1st grade soccer; and 2nd & 3rd grade soccer. **Also, our summer co-ed baseball teams are still accepting players.**

EIGHTH GRADE CAPSTONE PROJECT

- by teachers **Michael Mahoney** (social studies) & **Patrick Donovan** (language arts)

Next year the rising 8th grade will embark on an exciting journey, taking on a challenge that will be both educational and fulfilling. As the culmination of their St. Francis experience, each 8th grade student will create, research and present an independent project. The project, defined by an essential question, will explore a subject in great depth. Our oldest students will have an invaluable opportunity to pursue topics of burning interest, of individual passion. They will apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information, then communicate thoughts, conclusions and even additional queries to an audience of peers, teachers, and parents.

Taking ownership of one's work and seeing it through to a successful, satisfying conclusion is a primary goal of this inaugural project. In addition to the intellectual and creative pleasure that comes from independent learning, each student will reap the benefits of mentorship from a chosen topic advisor. Advisors will be selected according to their area of interest or expertise. Our hope is that Capstone Project will provide a rewarding educational experience for our students as they prepare for high school. Students will begin working on the project in late winter 2009, then wrap up probably in April.

After Spring Break this year, parents of rising eighth graders should expect a meeting (date and time TBA) to learn more about the Capstone Project. Parents are encouraged to begin discussing the project with their children, to generate some possible topics and bounce around ideas. In a sense the project has begun. So let's dig in.



LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA ENSEMBLE TO VISIT; CONCERT FIELD TRIP AHEAD

Thanks to a generous gift from the Pusateri family - parents Joe and Vickie and 2nd grader Clayton - St. Francis students will explore connections between math and music during a full-school assembly on Monday. A five-musician jazz combo will perform for the whole school, and some lucky classes will get to spend time with individual musicians.

Then, next Friday, 4th and 5th graders will attend a Louisville Orchestra concert at U of L's Comstock Hall. The concert will include music from Williams' "Harry Potter" themes, Mozart, Gershwin, Tchaikovsky, Ravel and Gabrielli.

LOOKING AHEAD

continued from Page One ...

The second innovation we are planning for next school year is a "Capstone" project that will affect 8th graders only. Please look below to Michael Mahoney and Patrick Donovan's explanation of this exciting new opportunity for St. Francis graduates.

Finally, as I mentioned earlier, please save the morning of March 27 for our next Parents Association Forum: "Your Child, Technology, and the Media." We will meet at 8:15 AM for coffee and an examination of the technological issues that affect young people today. We will use materials from Common Sense Media, a leading source of information about the Internet, entertainment and media. Visit them at www.common sense media.org to prepare for our discussion.

We will take a few minutes at the end of the forum to field questions about next year's proposed dismissal schedule as well.



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, March 3 - Michelle Monda, Michelle Jurige, Susan Tecktiel
 Tuesday, March 4 - Carolyn Thebert, Shannon Jones, Sherry Stevens
 Wednesday, March 5 - Denise Waggener, Diane Fowler, Lisa Fleming
 Thursday, March 6 - Ann Hendren, Pam Smith, Karen Smith
 Friday, March 7 - Julie Eckert, Kristin Donovan, Tess Krebs

Monday, March 10 - Liz Bevarly/David Beard, Margaret Bond, Laurie Kinney
 Tuesday, March 11 - Karen Riley, Holly Winebrenner, Katey Stone
 Wednesday, March 12 - Jill Shiflet, Dena Wilson, Joe Malone
 Thursday, March 13 - NO SCHOOL; Parent-Teacher conferences
 Friday, March 14 - NO SCHOOL; Parent-Teacher conferences

Monday, March 17 - Suzy Bagga, Betsi Faulkner
 Tuesday, March 18 - Lisa Fleming, Kathy Baucom, Sherry Stevens
 Wednesday, March 19 - Ellen Thalacker, Katy Bade, Dace Maki
 Thursday, March 20 - Nancy Scott, Ann Hendren, Shannon Jones
 Friday, March 21 - Tracy Lattis, Kay Chandler, Catherine Forgarty

Monday, March 24 - Liz Bevarly/David Beard, Denise Ragland, Dena Wilson
 Tuesday, March 25 - Suzanne Gorman, Robin LeMastus, Dianne Siciliano
 Wednesday, March 26 - Kim Mackin, John Lenihan, Walter Denham
 Thursday, March 27 - Ann Hendren, Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee
 Friday, March 28 - Debbie Morgan, Risa Koby, Shannell Thompson

Monday, March 31 - Michelle Monda, Michelle Jurige, Susan Tecktiel



PROPS & COSTUME ITEMS NEEDED FOR SPRING PLAY

We've had good response from parents and SFS community members about our request for props and costume pieces for our spring show, "The Man Who Came to Dinner!" (Thank you, and look for your name in our program.) **But we're still seeking quite a few items.**

The play takes place in the 1940's, so we're looking for artifacts from that era (or facsimiles of artifacts).

In props, we need:

- * "cockroach farm" (a modified ant farm?)
- * classy chandelier and some candelabras
- * couch and two parlor chairs for a nice living room (the furniture won't suffer any abuse)
- * coffee table and 2 end tables for the living room
- * old-fashioned table phone (candlestick?)
- * serving trays and platters, covered dishes
- * pair of old fashioned ice skates
- * old, period camera
- * 2 old microphones (table top or in a stand)
- * old headphones (two pairs)
- * appropriate framed pictures

In costumes, we'll take anything resembling the era: gowns, fedoras, ladies' hats, fake furs, thick-lens eyeglasses, ladies "cats eye" glasses on a chain, overcoats, pinstripe suits, fake jewelry, tams, vests, bow ties, etc. **We also**

need these specialty costume items:

- * glamorous gowns for our Hollywood starlet
- * 2 convict outfits * ascot * monocle
- * 7 matching choir robes for young girls * police uniforms
- * knickers or jodhpurs * loud sports coat for a "dandy"

To help, please contact Mr. Gabhart at rgabhart@stfrancissschool.org or 228-1197 x125.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT LOWER SCHOOL CARPOOL

When picking up your children during carpool, PLEASE remember to form TWO lanes at the top of the circle and then merge into a single lane again at the first Middle School door. **Specifically:**

1. Start a second row immediately upon entering the SFS driveway. Don't wait for the first row to fill up.
2. Take turns merging into one row at the gray double-doors in the Middle School part of the building, just before you reach the front doors.

This procedure is necessary to prevent cars from backing onto HWY 42 and risking an accident, **so please allow cars to form a 2nd lane beside you.** They are not trying to "cut" ahead. They are doing as we keep asking for safety's sake. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during carpool crunch.

SPRING SPORTS "SPIRIT NIGHT" IS SET FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 15

Bring the whole family after school to cheer on our Track & Field athletes as they compete in the big LISC Meet, beginning at 4 PM. Enjoy delicious grilled food, reconnect with old friends and enjoy a fine spring day at beautiful SFS.



HELP IS NEEDED WITH TRACK & FIELD CONCESSIONS SALES

The SFS Spirit Committee needs helpers at the concession stand during the three home Track & Field meets. The money raised supports the St. Francis Athletic Department. We need 8-12 adults per meet; and there are extra hours on April 15 & 18 because we serve grilled food during these events.

Here are the available shifts:

Mon., March 31	3-4:30 & 4:30-6 PM
Tues., April 15	2-4 , 4-6 & 6-7:30 PM
Fri., April 18	2-4 , 4-6 & 6-7:30 PM
Mon., May 5	3-4:30 & 4:30-6 PM

To volunteer, please e-mail Rebecca Najewicz at RNajewicz@insightbb.com with the shifts you can work.

NEXT FRIDAY: SF HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS COFFEE FOR PARENTS OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Drop by St. Francis High School any time from 8:30 AM-noon next Friday (3/7) for coffee, a tour and classroom visits. No reservations are necessary. The school is at Third Street and Broadway in downtown Louisville. For more information, call 736-1009.

FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

We hope you had a wonderful winter vacation with your family, or at least enjoyed simply being together. The time between winter and spring breaks is very active with lots to look forward to:

* **Sixth and seventh grades** are taking a wonderful field trip to Stage One to see a production of Lois Lowry's "The Giver," an excellent and thought-provoking novel they all have read.

* **Fifth grade (and fourth-graders)** will go see the Louisville Orchestra.

* **Eighth grade** will continue a recent tradition of participating in an Ohio River clean-up as their outreach project in late March.

* **The Seventh grade** camping trip to Hoosier National Forest is getting closer. (Look for more at this article's end.)

Also, Mr. Armstrong is happy as the track team is now off and running (and throwing, hurdling, etc.), gearing up for spring meets; and our spring drama production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" has six weeks to get ready for our productions just before Spring Break. (Please note our prop and costume plea elsewhere in the newsletter!)

And those are just the "extras" as the usual hubbub is back in full motion.

At Wednesday's morning meeting, the second trimester Effort Honor Roll was announced. I noted to the kids that there were students who made it the first term but not the second, and vice versa, which is to be expected. The good news is all of these students are still eligible to make the Elizabeth Archibald Effort Honor Roll at year's end. Our criteria stipulate that students must make the Honor Roll either the first or second term, but must be on it for the third trimester. We discussed the reasons for this and applauded them for all of their hard work.

At St. Francis we have always rewarded effort, attainable by all, over sheer academic performance. Our year-end honor roll is named for longtime St. Francis teacher and administrator Beth Archibald and reflects her commitment and dedication both to hard work and St. Francis.

Congratulations to these Effort Honor Roll students:

5th Grade

Julia Bache
Lucia Burton
Adam Cantrell
Bridget Cantrell
Samantha Dabney
Cody Farmer
Anna Finkelstein
Ryan Fischer
Kaitlyn Heit
Jule Hulsman
Josh Kidwell
Caroline Mackin
Erin Murphy
Annie Stone

6th Grade

Lila Asher
Jamia Butler
Mariah Curtis
Erin Didier
Alma Herovic
Victoria Jackson
Tristan Krebs
Grace Lancaster
De'Ja Miller
Gavi Shandler
Alex Thebert
Marti White
Elizabeth Whitman
Rebecca Whitman

7th Grade

Max Abner
Anna Cowley
Teddy Finkelstein
Caroline Johnson
Audra Kinney
Emily Lacher
James Manni
Ellie Najewicz
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
Connor Murphy

As I mentioned above, preparations are underway for the seventh grade trip to Hoosier National Forest. Mr. Black, St Francis Alum Eric Holt ('94) and I will visit the area soon to scout camping and hiking locations and plan some of the events for the three-day trip. We sent out a gear list for parents before the holidays, and the list also is on the Web:
<http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/pe/hoosier.cfm>

St Francis teachers (and campers extraordinaire) Rosanne Conlan and Nita Duechle will be joining us on the trip, and we are looking forward to a meaningful and fun experience in the woods with the kids. More information will be heading to seventh grade parents as we get closer to the trip.

SFS ALUMNI FILL ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

In our ongoing effort to report on SFS graduates' success in high school, we proudly congratulate the following alumni for earning spots on the First Semester Honor Roll at St. Francis High School:

9th Grade: Julia Bendon, Cooper Burton, Bo Clay, Claire Johnson

10th Grade: Charlotte Delautre, Wyatt McMurry, Mackenzie Priest, Kathryn Sullivan

11th Grade: Brennan Clark, Daisy Logan

12th Grade: Alex Bloch, Hilary Briggs, Isaac Hodes, Michael Risle, Emma Sharps, Tommy Skaggs

And congratulations to Brennan Clark for receiving a Gold Key Award in the Scholastic Art Award Competition.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED BY HIGH SCHOOL; SFS STUDENTS RISE TO TOP

A number of our current 8th graders were among students from around the area who participated in the **St. Francis High School Incoming 9th Grade Scholarship Competition**, consisting of standardized testing, an essay and a science experiment.

SFS students swept the awards!

* **Eli Beard** was named St. Francis Scholar and receives a 50 percent merit scholarship.

* **Griffin Cote** was named St. Francis Math/Science Scholar and receives a 25 percent merit scholarship.

* **Katie Cote** was named St. Francis Humanities Scholar and receives a 25 percent merit scholarship.

All judging is done anonymously, so the Scholarship Committee did not know until it was over that SFS students had taken all three awards; but our friends at St. Francis High School say they couldn't be more delighted by the success of SFS students!



"GREEN" PROJECTS AROUND ST. FRANCIS

- by Kelly Stevenson, SFS environmental coordinator

Last month, I told you about our exciting garden plans for this year.

At the same time, many other things are going on as part of our work to be an environmentally responsible school. Of course, we continue to take such measures as using recycled paper and recycling all we can in our classrooms and offices, but our work goes far beyond that. I thought you might like some updates.

Our proposed ARTS AND ATHLETICS CENTER is slated to be environmentally friendly in many ways. Early planning has included research into environmentally sound construction practices. In addition, we are looking at ways to educate and inform our community, in particular our students, about the environmental aspects of the new building.

We are working on plans for our GREENHOUSE. I know many of you were happy that your fall fundraiser money went to support this venture, and I just wanted to let you know that we have not forgotten! The process has reached the Facilities Committee, and we will unveil final plans as soon as we can.

We are continuing relevant discussions about creating some NATIVE GRASSLAND space on our campus. So far, we have made many contacts (from a representative of the Fish and Wildlife Service, to a professional, to some SFS parents with experience with similar projects) that will help us develop our plan in the most sensible way possible.

Later this year, St. Francis will host a WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS on teaching about alternative energy. Teachers from around Kentucky will be invited to hear representatives from the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED Project) and Kid-Wind Project talk about how to teach students about alternative energy.

The KITCHEN is another place where much more is going on than you probably know. We all know about the delicious, healthy lunches that the SAGE staff provide for us every day, but Head Chef Matthew Gasper is also very involved in our environmental movement. These two concerns come together in choices of food that is locally and/or organically grown. Not only does this food tend to taste better and be healthy, it is better for the environment. In addition to our organic milk, in the near future other dairy products such as cottage cheese, sour cream and yogurt will all be organic.

We will also have organic dried fruit, orange juice and whole wheat flour (for our scratch-made pizza dough). Chef Gasper uses as many local foods as possible, many of them farmed organically. These include produce, local brown eggs, beef and bison.

In addition to food choices, the products used by the kitchen are important. We try to use reusable trays, plates and cups as much as possible. However, when we do need disposables, those are always environmentally friendly, too. All "plastic" cups are actually made from agricultural waste from crops such as corn and potatoes. They are fully biodegradable. Those "paper" bowls and plates are actually made from Bagasse — a great alternative fiber that is made from sugar cane in the sugar-refining process. These are also completely biodegradable. And even though our napkins are paper, they are 100 percent recycled (90 percent minimum post-consumer) and unbleached.

You can help us maintain these important efforts. At our annual Eagle Gala auction earlier this month, the SFS "Children's Tree" was introduced in support of the environmental program. The tree, now displayed outside the main office, currently holds 40 personalized copper leaves purchased by auction-goers.

Please consider adding your support. Each leaf costs just \$25 and may be personalized with a student or family name (up to 20 characters). All proceeds go directly to our environmental program.

To help our tree "grow," either submit the form below **or** send an e-mail pledge and information to Cindy Wood in the Advancement Office: cwood@stfrancissschool.org. Thank you!

Cut & submit

Cut & submit

Yes, I want to order a Children's Tree leaf to help support the SFS environmental program.

* Number of leaves wanted _____ x \$25 each = \$_____ total.

* Name (up to 20 characters) to be inscribed on leaf/leaves:

Leaf #1. _____ Leaf #2. _____ Leaf #3. _____

Please make check to St. Francis School and direct the check and this form to the attention of our SFS Advancement Office.

NOW TAKING REGISTRATIONS: Alta Vista Farm's Special Horseback Riding Program for SFS Students

Our good neighbors at Alta Vista Farm are again offering a spring horseback riding and horsemanship program designed especially for St. Francis students. Alta Vista Farm is located east of our school at 2114 Liberty Lane, off US 42, in Starlight, KY.

Who: Any student age 5 to 13 who is interested in animals and the outdoors.

What: Hands-on experience with horses, including general care, veterinary basics, farrier science, the basic seat and how to ride. Adult instructors, safe horses and helmets are always used. This is a great way for a student to learn balance and coordination as well as enjoy nature.

When: A six-week course, from 2:30-4:45 PM every Friday starting March 28 (but excluding May 2). One hour will be spent learning horsemanship and one hour will be spent riding.

Transportation: Activity Bus from SFS to the farm.

Cost: \$315 (half the cost of regular lessons). You will also receive 10% off all other camps offered at Alta Vista Farm.

To Register: Contact Angela Ariatti at ariattieq@bellsouth.net, and put "St. Francis" in the subject line. Limited space is available.

More information about Alta Vista Farm can be found at <http://AltaVistaFarm.com>.