

# St. Francis School Monthly News

May 2007

**One year ago this month, to coincide with the dedication of the new St. Francis sculpture, we declared the "Year of St. Francis" to celebrate the end of our fourth decade as a school.**

**At that time** we had a good idea that the year's activities would have an environmental focus. However, we did not yet know that the Year of St. Francis would culminate in a spectacular organic children's garden.

Last Friday, our students, staff and trustees celebrated our own version of Earth Day. We gathered to dedicate the garden and commit ourselves to its care and cultivation. The day began with a brief musical meditation and then, throughout the morning, groups of children, teachers and volunteers dug, planted, watered and mulched individual plots designated for each class. As the various grade-level projects took shape, something wonderful came into view: a visible symbol of our school's commitment to a sustainable planet. We wrapped up the day with some student dancing, singing and a concert by environmental singer John Gage.

I hope you have already learned of your child's involvement in the garden. Months ago each grade chose a curricular theme to guide their plot's design and flora. Junior Kindergarten chose Beatrix Potter, third grade the five senses, and eighth grade Big South Fork. Ask your child about his or her contribution, if you have not done so already. Better still, if you have not yet taken the "garden tour," enlist your child as a guide.

What we inaugurated on Earth Day is only a beginning. In years ahead we will continue to care for our garden, celebrate its place in our school's life and explore the curricular opportunities it offers. We expect that students will grow attached to the areas they have worked and will take the lessons of the garden with them.

So, congratulations and thanks to everyone who brought our children's garden into being. To the teachers who so adeptly adapted their curriculum to new needs, to Richard Vowels and his crew who took on so many new and difficult tasks, to Dace Maki, Tracey Williams, Tom Cowley and Steve Paradis who volunteered countless hours, and to Kelly Stevenson who coordinated the sundry garden constituencies, a huge vote of gratitude. This was an Earth Day to remember, and your efforts will benefit St. Francis students for decades to come.

**One final note:** Gardens need weeding! We are still planning the tending of the garden over the summer, so don't be surprised if you are asked to enlist, and please do plan to lend a hand.



## EARTH DAY & THE ST. FRANCIS CHILDREN'S GARDEN

### PLEASE RETURN ALL SFS LIBRARY BOOKS!

Search <sup>HIGH</sup> and <sup>LOW</sup> for library books that remain in your possession. Our shelves will need company during the long summer ahead. Thanks!



### CALLING ALL CARS, SUVS AND VANS: GET CLEAN TOMORROW AT OUR CAR WASH

Bring your vehicles to our 8th Grade Car Wash, 10 AM-3 PM tomorrow at the Dairy Queen on U.S. 42 in Prospect. All proceeds will go toward the annual 8th Grade gift to the school.

**NOTE:** We need more student washers for the 10-11 shift; and we need 1 adult supervisor per hour from noon-3.

### 8:10-9 AM TUESDAY: PARENT BRIEFING ABOUT PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Meet Tuesday at school with experts from FCD Educational Services, a non-profit organization that provides substance-abuse prevention education.

FCD health educators will be on our campus most of the week to provide students and teachers with knowledge and strategies to prevent substance abuse. This includes information on the physiological and psychological effects of alcohol and other drugs; recognizing early signs of use and abuse; strategies for intervention; and empowering young people to make healthy, responsible choices.

Ask questions at the parent workshop and learn how to provide support and guidance in helping our children enjoy a drug-free adolescence. For more information about FCD, visit <http://www.fcd.org>.

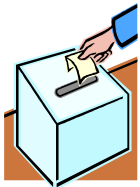
### 5:30 TONIGHT: TARC TO UN- VEIL BUS COVERED WITH ART- WORK BY 12 AREA STUDENTS including Bell Dishman, 4th grader, and Samantha Farmer, 3rd grader.

The ceremony will be at Mellwood Arts Center, 1860 Mellwood Ave.



### REMINDER: ALWAYS SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE WHEN YOU ENTER THE SCHOOL

All visitors must stop by the office and sign in before proceeding to their destinations. **You MUST sign in even if one of our staff members lets you into the building; we need the written record of your visit.** This goes for all visitors – those dropping off homework, classroom visitations, lunchroom volunteers, every visitor for any reason. We must be able to document and identify all visitors at all times. Thanks!



## **SURVEY DEADLINE APPROACHES: PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK ONLINE ON HOW WE'RE DOING**

To help us evaluate and improve our program offerings, our Admissions Office has developed a brief online survey. Follow this link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=604213710502>

Please take a few moments to offer your thoughts. (You can respond anonymously, too.) Our deadline is Thursday.



## **MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING**

by **Sue Holloway**, Middle School science teacher

**As a part of our many Earth Day activities last week, our Middle School students attended a presentation on global warming.** Our visiting speaker, Sue Archibald, holds degrees in meteorology and climatology from the Air Force Academy and has traveled extensively studying the environment.

Last year she also was one of 1000 individuals chosen to attend a seminar sponsored by former Vice President Al Gore about his movie, "An Inconvenient Truth." Those attending the workshop were trained to speak to environmental groups and schools around the country about the effects of pollution on our atmosphere.

Ms. Archibald discussed the scientific evidence of global warming and its effects on worldwide air temperatures, ocean temperatures, wildlife and sea levels. Students learned ways to help reduce carbon emissions from their homes and cars.

If you are interested in having Ms. Archibald speak to a group, please contact me for details.



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 7TH GRADERS WHO PARTICIPATED THIS WINTER IN THE DUKE UNIVERSITY TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM'S TALENT SEARCH**

Those students were: Maggie Baucom, Eli Beard, Elizabeth Buse, Griffin Cote, Katie Cote, Barrett Donovan, Harrison Fowler, Megan Hart, Tahlia Hodes, Paul Lacher and Frankie Wiley.

Three of our students qualified for State Recognition, a significant honor that indicates they scored in the top 25% of the Talent Search pool. Those students are: Griffin Cote, Barrett Donovan and Paul Lacher.

**Congratulations also** to 5th grader Benjamin Koby, who participated in the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth talent search. Benjamin performed well enough on the test to receive a State Award with High Honors.

## **TRACK & FIELD NEWS**

### **1. TODAY AFTER SCHOOL: 8th Annual St. Francis Relays, 4 PM**

**Join us for exciting competition -- plus grilled chicken, hot dogs, beef and veggie burgers and brats** -- as our Track & Field team takes on athletes from Westport Middle School, Oldham County Middle School, South Oldham Middle School, Anchorage, KCD and Whitefield Academy. Food service begins at 2:30.

### **2. SFS TEAM TAKES 4TH CONSECUTIVE "CONFERENCE MEET" TITLE**

Congratulation to our boys and girls track & field athletes for once again finishing #1 at the Conference Meet, at Carroll County on Monday. Kudos also to coaches Lou Armstrong, Mike Black and Teresa Sabor-sky.

We competed against teams from Henry, Owen and Carroll counties as well as Capital Day School and Lexington Christian School. Competitors included the state's top-ranked middle school girl in shot put and discus throw, two of the Top 10 middle school sprinters and a high school all-state cross-country runner.

Our girls' 1st Place finishes included Whitney Eberenz in 100 hurdles, 300 hurdles and high jump; Lilly Campbell in discus; Barrett Donovan in 100 and 200; and our girls 4x400 relay team of Megan Hart, Ellie Najewicz, Olivia Tennant and Lilly Campbell. Also scoring for the team were Healey Loeffler (2nd in both the shot and discus), Olivia Loeffler, Julia Bendon, Katie Cote, Cole Jordan, Tahlia Hodes and Anna Cowley. Anna finished the evening by setting a new school record in the Turbo-Javelin with a throw of 63' 6".

The boys were led by Harrison Fowler who won the 800 and 1600 and anchored the winning 4x400 relay team. The boy's performance was truly a team effort as Paul Lacher, Cam Brown, Turner White, Patrick Hall, Chris Ullum, Frankie Wiley, Justin Bright, Daniel Siladi, Colton Kirby and Connor Murphy all contributed significantly to our team score. Connor capped the evening by winning the Turbo-Javelin.

The evening also brought stories that represent the spirit of our athletes. Here are two:

\* Lilly Cambell was winning the 100 meter hurdles when she tripped and fell on the 6th hurdle. Most athletes then quit the race or jog to the finish line. Not Lilly. She quickly gathered herself and sprinted, finishing a mere 1.5 seconds behind the leader and good enough for 5th place.

\* Daniel Siladi is not a long jumper, but he volunteered to try when our long jumpers were unable to attend the meet. Daniel jumped 13', the longest jump on the team this year. He earned 2nd Place. He also now is a long jumper.

# LET US HELP PLAN YOUR CHILDREN'S SUMMER

## 1. SIGN UP YOUR LITTLEST ONES FOR SUMMER CAMP AT OUR PRESCHOOL

Our 12th annual summer camp at our preschool campus is for children who'll be 2 by October 1 through children who'll enter First Grade in the fall. This year's camp – Away We Grow! – offers three 3-week sessions:

- \* Critters in the Backyard (May 29-June 15)
- \* Our Good Earth (June 18-July 6)
- \* Earth Artists (July 9-27)

We offer 2-day, 3-day and 5-day options. (Also, you may sign up for just two weeks in any session, if that better fits your schedule.)

Come join us as we investigate our environment – from the insects that whirl and slink around us to the earth that provides for us – and ways we can care for our world by recycling and reusing. Our older children will take a field trip, and visitors will entertain the entire camp each session. We'll also have Splash Days and weekly visits from Miss Cindy, our music and movement specialist.

For more information or to request a brochure, please call the preschool at 228-0165.

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## 2. ONLY A FEW SLOTS REMAIN IN OUR SUMMER "CAMP INVENTION" FOR K-5

Don't delay further if you want to enroll your K-5th grader. This year's camp for inquiring minds will run for one week, June 18-22. For more information, e-mail our camp director, Brigette Muennich, at [bmuenich@stfrancisschool.org](mailto:bmuenich@stfrancisschool.org). You also may visit <http://www.invent.org/campInvention>.

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## 3. ST. FRANCIS SUMMER WORKSHOPS PROVIDE AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES

Our new summer program offers exciting choices for rising fifth through eighth graders. Opportunities include **drama, studio art, Web design, building your own PC, creative writing, fashion design, digital photography, rock music, basketball, soccer, field hockey and cooking**. Instructors are experts in their fields, and group sizes will be limited to maximize the growth for each child.

Middle School workshops begin the week of June 11, and most will be at our Goshen campus.

In addition to our middle school offerings, St. Francis High School is presenting opportunities for students in grades 8-12. Most of these workshops will occur at the high school, at Third and Broadway in downtown Louisville.

For complete information, visit <http://www.stfrancissummerworkshops.org>, or click the link from our school Web home at <http://stfrancisschool.org>.

Students from other schools, too, are welcome; sign up your child with a buddy from elsewhere. For other information, contact Summer Program Director Howard Cooper at 228-1197 x235 or [info@stfrancissummerworkshops.org](mailto:info@stfrancissummerworkshops.org).

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## 4. LEARN CHESS AT SFS, Aug. 13-17

Emir Sefo, coach of our SFS Chess Team, will conduct a one-week chess camp open to all students who wish to improve their chess skills.

Camp hours will be 10 AM-1 PM Monday-Friday, Aug. 13-17. The fee is \$100 per student. Each participant should bring a snack. To enroll, contact parent Ann Hendren at 228-1903 or [annhendren@insightbb.com](mailto:annhendren@insightbb.com) before June 30.



## MR. GUPTON HONORED BY PRESTIGIOUS 'PRICHARD COMMITTEE'

Congratulations to Ed Gupton, our Middle School French teacher, for receiving a Prichard Committee letter and certificate of commendation as "an educator who has had a life-long influence on learning and quality of life."

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is a Kentucky-wide non-partisan, non-profit, independent citizens advocacy group that since 1983 has worked to improve education at all levels in the Commonwealth.

The committee is known for its work in informing the public, legislators, governors and other education officials as well as working with local parents and other citizens. More information is available at <http://www.prichardcommittee.org>.

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## TO: PARENTS OF EIGHTH GRADERS

1. We'll soon send out a schedule of end-of-year activities regarding your graduating 8th grader. Watch for it!

2. Have you submitted a yearbook tribute for your graduating 8th grader? The tribute is free and will be published in the 2006-07 yearbook.

Your typed tribute must fit within a layout box 2 inches high by 3 inches wide. Attached to the paper version of this newsletter is form containing a text box of the correct size. Fill it out and submit it to teacher Rosanne Conlan. Tributes must be submitted by next Friday (5/4). Help us make this yearbook special for your 8th grader.



## DONATE YOUR PAPER TOWEL AND WRAPPING PAPER TUBES TO "CAMP INVENTION"

Remnant cardboard tubes become popular building components at our summer Camp Invention (see item #2 at left). Recycle yours by bringing them to school, and we'll provide them to our campers.



## MAY 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, April 30 - Ginger Campbell, Mary Ann Pollard  
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Tuesday, May 1 - Lana Tyulmenkova, Michele Monda  
Wednesday, May 2 - Carolyn Wetterer, Vlasta Ross, Gretta Manni  
Thursday, May 3 - Nancy Scott, Patti Adkins, Ann Hendren  
Friday, May 4 - NO SCHOOL; OAKS DAY

Monday, May 7 - Lisa Wiley, Christina Ullum, Rene Prys  
Tuesday, May 8 - Robin LeMastus, Suzy Bagga  
Wednesday, May 9 - Sherry Stevens, Kim Mackin, Diane Fowler  
Thursday, May 10 - Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Ann Hendren  
Friday, May 11 - Laurie Kinney, Catherine Chandler, Tracy Lattis

Monday, May 14 - Dace Maki, Mary Ann Pollard, Amanda Fields  
Tuesday, May 15 - Kathy Baucom, Steve Paradis, Lisa Fleming  
Wednesday, May 16 - Katy Bade, Georgette Kidwell, Laurie Kinney  
Thursday, May 17 - Mary Herrmann, Ann Hendren, Patti Adkins  
Friday, May 18 - Amy Lavin, Carolyn Thebert, Tanya Greenberg

Monday, May 21 - Jeannette Gettelfinger, Weasy Middleton, Janet Hodes  
Tuesday, May 22 - Nancye Faulkner, Holly Winebrenner, Rene Prys  
Wednesday, May 23 - Amy Dishman, Abby Yelton, Beverly Lancaster  
Thursday, May 24 - Michelle Heit, Cynthia McAfee, Ann Hendren  
Friday, May 25 - NO SCHOOL; HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY SUMMER

**HATS OFF TO NINA ROSENBERG,** mother of 8th grader Olivia, for being named a winner in the national "Chrysler Sebring Hats Off to the Derby" hat design contest!

Nina is one of three finalists whose hat designs have now earned them a weekend at the Derby. (Nina doesn't have as far to go as the other two finalists, who are from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Charleston, West Virginia.)

Contestants sketched hat designs "inspired by" the Chrysler Sebring Convertible and the Kentucky Derby. Designs then were posted online by Chrysler for public voting. Fifteen quarterfinalists were chosen. Chrysler then selected five semifinalists and provided money and "convertible top fabric" to produce their hats.

See Nina's creation now at [www.Chrysler.com/SebringHatsOffToTheDerby](http://www.Chrysler.com/SebringHatsOffToTheDerby)

There, she describes her creation thusly: "The elegant lines and details of the roadster inspired me to apply subtle jewels, soft leather, fine silver chains, and khaki strips (the soft-top fabric!) to an open-weave straw hat. The removable scarf ties at the neck, yet flows in the breeze. What a perfect compliment to this elegant winner's-circle-worthy new ride!"

One more honor awaits: A Grand Prize designer, chosen from the threesome, will receive an actual 2008 Sebring convertible.

**THANK YOU TO THESE FAMILIES FOR PROVIDING FOOD FOR LAST FRIDAY'S "THUNDERBALL" DANCE:** the Lachers, Barnetts, Beard/Bevarly, Cotes, Murphys and Winebrenners.

Thank you, too, to chaperones Reed Gabhart, Neisja Yenawine and Joanne Greaver.



## LOWER SCHOOL CARPOOL: "TWO LINES" REMINDER

Drivers are SUPPOSED TO FORM TWO LINES IMMEDIATELY upon entering the SFS driveway when picking up their Lower School children in the afternoon. Don't wait for the first row to fill up — and please don't chastise other drivers who DO know they're supposed to form a second line. THEY are correct!

Then, take turns merging into one row at the gray double doors leading to the Middle School section of the building, just before you reach the main front doors.

Too many drivers are forgetting the double-lane strategy, and traffic is backing up onto Highway 42. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.



## REPEAT REMINDERS

\* Sign up for 7th annual St. Francis School Golf Scramble, to be Monday, June 4, at Harmony Landing Country Club. The event begins with lunch at 11:30 AM and a shotgun start at 1 PM. All skill levels are welcome. Call Cindy Wood in the St. Francis School Advancement Office, 228-1197 x108.

\* Order "birthday cookies" online at <http://StFrancisSchool.org>. Click the Menus and Calendars link. Under the FORMS heading, you'll see "Order Birthday Cookies here."

\* Bring in your empty printer cartridges and old cell phones for us to recycle.

\* Keep collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education. Look for collection box in the Main Amp.

\* Request a Kroger Gift 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.

\* Sign up for a Target Visa or Target Red 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).