



St. Francis School Monthly News

June 2007

What an extraordinary year of activity and growth this has been. Many thanks to all our families for the role you have played in our success. Your good will and many volunteer hours are much appreciated.

THE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS

I hope we will always remember 2006-07 as the Year of St. Francis, a time when our community renewed its commitment to the school's historic progressive values. Among the many meaningful accomplishments of the last 12 months, our creation of the organic Children's Garden and the restatement of our school's Mission and Core Values will surely have the most lasting benefit. The keystone of our mission, that we must "cultivate joyful, compassionate, confident learners" will serve as a trustworthy compass for many years to come.

We have many exciting plans for the future, and we will continue to call on our parents to help us achieve them. For one, you can be sure that our implementation of sustainable practices and our efforts to educate children about the environment will only grow. We must build on the foundations we have put in place this year.

I would also be remiss to wrap up the year without thanking all who have helped spread the word about our program. Your efforts have contributed to significant growth in our enrollment for next year. We are officially full at several grade levels, and we have added a third Kindergarten section. As a result, we have also engaged some wonderful new teachers who will add wisdom and experience to our already estimable faculty.

On behalf of the entire staff of St. Francis School, from preschool through 8th grade, I wish you all a wonderfully rich summer, full of family time, good books and fun. As ideas occur to you concerning ways we can strengthen our program, and especially our environmental commitment, please jot them down to share when we convene again. Till then, all the best.

BUS RIDERSHIP, GAS PRICES AND THE ENVIRONMENT



As you make plans for next school year, please consider whether your family would benefit from bus transportation to and from school.

Given the rising price of gas and our concern for the environment, you may well want to subscribe to the bus service we make available every morning and afternoon (along with a 5 PM Activity Bus)

Look for more bus information in the mail early this summer. Our routes cover the major areas of eastern Jefferson County, including the Highlands and St. Mathews. The more riders we have, the more we can limit the costs we pass on to parents. Think about it!



LS "TALENT SHOW" GETS BIGGER

Due to great response, the Lower School Talent Show will start earlier and last longer than previously planned. The show will begin at 1:30 PM this Wednesday in the Main Amp. A five-minute intermission at 2:15 will allow some of the student audience to leave and others to arrive.

The show will conclude by regular dismissal time. For more information, please contact teacher Nicole DeNosky at ndenosky@StFrancisSchool.org.



SAGE DINING AT SFS ADDS KENTUCKY BISON TO THE MENU - by Chef Matthew Gasper

I have begun using the KY Bison Company for all ground-meat items, including for use in chili, sloppy Joes and tacos. Buffalo meat is sweet, slightly rich-flavored and much leaner than its cattle counterpart. It has more protein with fewer calories and less fat. Furthermore, KY Bison is raised here in Goshen without any growth hormones or stimulants. The result is a product that is naturally better-tasting and healthier for your children. Feel free to contact me with any comments. And enjoy!



SFS "ANNUAL REPORT" IN THE WORKS; ALL DONORS TO BE SALUTED

Our Advancement Office has begun compiling our school's Annual Report, to be published in early September and mailed to our entire database of parents, grandparents, alumni and other friends of the school.

The report will include features on alumni, faculty, students and school life. We'll also reflect the tremendous generosity of each and every St. Francis supporter by listing all who have financially supported our school mission during the 2006-07 school year. That of course includes those who have contributed to our important Annual Fund. Without this support, we would not be able to provide the wealth of learning opportunities for our students and faculty.

If you still wish to contribute to the Annual Fund and be included in our publication, please contact our Advancement Office. Donations for 2006-07 will be accepted through June 30.

ST. FRANCIS
GOSHEN & HARRODS CREEK
KENTUCKY



SFS CHESS TEAM CAPTURES FOURTH PLACE AT NATIONALS

More than 2,000 players from 45 states gathered last weekend at Nashville's Opryland Hotel for the 2007 National Elementary Chess Championship. When the playing ended, only three teams from New York City schools stood above our very own K-3 Championship Division team.

Our K-3 players were **Gilman Bagga, Justin Stevens, David Hendren, Alex Koby** and **Braden Barnett**.

Congratulations also goes to **Benjamin Koby**, who was our lone K-5 Division competitor.



SFS "CHILDREN'S GARDEN" SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS: 4-8 PM TUESDAYS ARE SUMMER GARDEN DAYS

- by **Tracy Lattis** (2007-08 Parent Association president) and **Kelly Stevenson** (faculty liaison for the garden)

TO KEEP OUR NEW Children's Garden beautiful and thriving, we'll need your help during the summer. Families are welcome to stop by and work in the garden at any time, but work is more fun when it is shared. Therefore, **we are dedicating Tuesdays as Summer Garden Days.** (If a Tuesday is rained out, come on Thursday.)

Two grade levels are assigned to help each week. Come any time between 4-8 PM. Please note: These are family events. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE DROPPED OFF UNATTENDED.

Feel free to bring a picnic dinner to eat before or after you have worked. Your child will be able to see classmates as they work and discover "how their garden grows."

Don't feel constrained by the designated time; come whenever it's convenient. But if you come on your own, bring your own tools (such as weeding tools and a watering can); we cannot promise access to the school's tools outside 4-8 PM.

Among the tasks needed:

- * Weeding all areas
- * Refilling and washing Bird Feeders
- * Maintaining flowers (dead buds need to be removed to encourage more growth)
- * Watering by sprinkler or by hand in areas out of reach of sprinkler
- * Picking vegetables (take them home for yourself until school starts and the kitchen can use the vegetables)

Here are the grade-level ASSIGNMENTS and CONTACTS. Each day is a Tuesday, and the hours are 4-8 PM:

June 5 - Rising 1st & 2nd graders; contact Kelly Stevenson, 899-3548

June 12 - Rising 7th & 8th graders; contact Lyn Gregory (Kirby), 241-8349.

June 19 - Rising JK & Kindergarteners; contact Jill Shiflet, 326-5540

June 26 - Rising 3rd & 4th graders; contact Tracy Lattis, 339-0487

July 3 - Rising 5th & 6th graders; contact Lori Dabney, 228-0183

July 10 - Rising 7th & 8th graders; contact Lyn Gregory (Kirby), 241-8349

July 17 - Rising JK & Kindergarteners; contact Jill Shiflet, 326-5540

July 24 - Rising 3rd & 4th graders; contact Tracy Lattis, 339-0487

July 31 - 2007 Graduating Class & Alumni; contact Cindy Wood, 228-1197

Aug. 7 - Rising 5th & 6th graders; contact Lori Dabney, 228-0183

Aug. 14 - Rising 1st & 2nd graders; contact Kelly Stevenson, 899-3548



SFS TRACK & FIELD TEAM = ANOTHER STELLAR SEASON

- by **Lou Armstrong**, teacher and head coach

There are so many ways to define success, and every athlete has to decide his or her own definition.

It could be mustering the courage to step to the starting line, knowing that all eyes, or at least the ones you care about, will be watching you; it could be finishing a race after colliding with a hurdle or developing a stitch; it could be extending yourself to run faster than ever before; it could be winning a medal or breaking a school record. Regardless of the definition, the goal must include some measure of risk or challenge to be truly meaningful and rewarding.

Our athletes took up that challenge at the recent KCD Invitational, and succeeded:

* 41 times our athletes ran, threw or jumped farther than ever before, and 8 of our relay times were fastest of the year

* 53 medals were earned

* 3 varsity SFS records were set by 7th graders - **Harrison Fowler** in the 800 and **Healey Loeffler** in discus and shot put

* 2 JV SFS records were set - **Patrick Hall** in shot put and **Clayton Russell** in 100 m hurdles

* as a team, we had the highest combined score, and we placed First in girls Varsity and boys JV divisions, and our girls JV team was just 2 points behind First Place finisher North Oldham.

I'm proud of our athletes' efforts throughout the season. We had strong, positive leadership from our 8th graders: **Julia Bendon, Lilly Campbell** (captain), **Whitney Eberenz, Olivia Tennant, Cam Brown** (captain), **Bo Clay, Daniel Siladi, Chris Ullum** and **Turner White**. All will be missed!

We also had great leadership from our 6th and 7th grade captains: **Barrett Donovan, Harrison Fowler** and **Anthony Perry**.

I'm fortunate to work with two of the best track & field coaches in Kentucky - at any level - in **Teresa Saborsky** and **Mike Black**. They are not only knowledgeable about the sport, they understand middle school students and know how to make practices fun.

Finally, thanks to all the parents who supported our program - working meets, working concessions, taking pictures, carpooling athletes and cheering on every student. I'm already looking forward to next season!



PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

HEADING INTO 2007-08 - by Tracy Lattis, incoming PA president

A special Thank You to our outgoing president, Deirdre Barnett. She worked tirelessly for the school and helped make the year a success. She was instrumental in the planning and management of all Parents Association programs. If you see her, give her a pat on the back for all her hard work! We have big shoes to fill.

1. Parent Volunteer Forms are due back to school by this Monday (5/21). Please fill these out ASAP and get them back to school.

2. Mark your calendars for a new event: Next school year we will host skating parties at Champs Rollerdome on LaGrange Road. The parties will be for St. Francis preschool-8th grade students only. Each party will be from 6-8 PM on the following Wednesdays: September 12, November 14, January 16, March 12 and May 14

FAREWELL TO 2006-07 - by Deirdre Barnett, outgoing PA president

This has been a busy and productive year for our Parents Association. As a group we have accomplished a lot:

- * Our Fall Fundraiser reaped about \$13,000. Proceeds helped fund 3 areas that benefit all students at St. Francis: audio and video upgrades in the Main Amp and Multipurpose Room, an upgrade of the school's security system, and a compost tumbler for our Children's Garden.
- * The Eagle Festival was a special day for our community and was enjoyed by many.
- * The Used Book Sale and Scholastic Book Fair together raised \$2,467 for our library.
- * We sold about 160 Coupon Books, raising \$3,100-plus for our Children's Garden
- * Other fundraising successes were Kroger Cards (\$6,206), Target (\$2,579) and SchoolPop (\$822).
- * Through your generosity, our Holiday Wish Fund provided all teachers and staff a well-deserved gift certificate as a holiday "thank you" for all they do for our school.
- * The Auction was a great event, due to dedicated parent volunteers and the many parents who attended. The Children's Creations, organized by the Room Parents, were fantastic!
- * Our generous parents hosted seven delicious Teacher Appreciation Luncheons.
- * The Spirit Committee provided several fun and exciting Spirit Days for our students and parents, and track meet concessions alone raised \$1,400-plus for our Athletic Department.
- * Many box tops and labels were donated to our drive. We're still counting!

Our Committee Chairs and Room Parents all worked very hard this year and donated many hours of their time. **Thank you to:**

Katy Bade	Laura Johnson	Jill Shiflet
Kay Chandler	Laurie Kinney	Dianne Siciliano
Erica Curtis	Lynn Kirby	Christine Speck
Lori Dabney	Beverly Lancaster	Sherry Stevens
Jennifer Daunhauer	Tracy Lattis	Charlotte Stites
Terri Erwin	Monica Lipman	Carolyn Thebert
Amanda Fields	Kim Mackin	Reed Van Inwegen
Robin Finkelstein	Anita Meyer	Carolyn Wetterer
Lisa Fleming	Michelle Monda	Mary Laura Griggs White
Tanya Greenberg	Debbie Morgan	Holly Winebrenner
Amy Hanekamp	Rebecca Najewicz	Abby Yelton
Ann Hendren	Levetta Perry	

My thanks also to our PA Vice Presidents Carolyn Thebert (Middle School) and Tracy Lattis (Lower School) for all their support throughout the year.

I would also like to thank the parents who volunteered in so many other ways, from working at the Eagle Festival, bringing food to a Luncheon, shelving books in the library, helping teachers in the classroom or selling (and buying!) items for our fundraisers. The list is long! There were so many parents who helped make all activities a success. Your participation is very much appreciated. Thank you!

And last but not least, thank you to all the teachers, staff and administration for all you do to make St. Francis such a special place for our children. Have a great summer!

BIRTHDAY PARTY REAPS REWARDS FOR SFS LIBRARY

Our kindergartners recently celebrated Wyatt Ware's birthday by contributing books to the school library in lieu of traditional gifts. As a result, our book collection grew by a whopping 43 volumes. As Wyatt's mom put it, "This is a lot better than a bunch of plastic toys he won't use much." What a great idea. Thanks to all for keeping St. Francis in mind.



A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY OF JACK WELLS, 5TH GRADER:

"We are moving to Miami at the end of this month. Dan and Dorothy Wells and son Jack would like to say goodbye and thank you to everyone at this wonderful school. To the fantastic teachers and staff, fellow parents, Cub Scout families through the years, and to all Jack's friends, we just want to say: You are the greatest! We'll always remember the good times and great educational experiences here at St. Francis School."



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, 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

COMING UP

(NOTE: Schedule is subject to change. Check our <http://StFrancisSchool.org> calendar & e-mail news for updates.)

MONDAY, MAY 21

TARC bus (w/SFS art) visits, 10-11 AM

TUESDAY, MAY 22

8th Grade Class Day, 9 AM in Multipurpose Room

We'll serve coffee to parents who bring their students to school and wish to stay for the program. Graduation and departmental awards will be presented. Entire Middle School attends; girls should wear skirt/dress slacks and blouse or simple dress, boys should wear dress slacks and collared shirt. An 8th grade musical performance and tree dedication will immediately follow. Eighth graders may leave with their parents after the program. Regular dismissal for the rest of the school.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

8th to SF Episcopal Church for graduation practice

Students will attend an after rehearsal class party at the Bendon home and will return to school for pick-up at the regular dismissal time.

LS Talent Show, 1:30

THURSDAY, MAY 24

Last Day of School

Blue/White Field Day

Lunch cookout

Final assembly, 12:30-1:45

Includes year-in-review video, Elizabeth Archibald year-end Effort Honor Roll and 7th graders' "taking of the chairs"

2:15 PM Dismissal

FRIDAY, MAY 25

Graduation @ St Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church, 2 PM

Graduates should be at the church **no later than 12:30 PM**; meet in the Preschool Commons Room to receive flowers, organize for group photo and line up for processional; girls should wear white or off-white dress, boys should wear dark jacket, tie, dress slacks and dress shoes

ATTENTION: PARENTS OF 8TH GRADERS

Please note this correction to the letter that went out to 8th Grade Parents about end-of-year activities:

For graduation next Friday, students need to be at the church no later than **12:30 PM**.

REGISTER NOW FOR ST. FRANCIS SUMMER WORKSHOPS

By now you already should know that our new St. Francis Summer Workshops are for students in grades 5-12. For middle school students, we offer sessions in Magic, Soccer, Build Your Own PC, Field Hockey, School of Rock, Drawing, Painting, Writing the High School Essay, Digital Photography, Ceramics, Drama, Basketball and Culinary Arts.

The next step is for you to enroll your children.

Visit <http://StFrancisSummerWorkshops.org> or call us at 228-1197 for more information.



PLAY IN THE 7TH ANNUAL SFS GOLF SCRAMBLE, Monday, June 4, 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. Entry fee is \$800 per team of four. Call the St. Francis School Advancement Office, 228-1197 x108.



REPEAT REMINDERS

- * 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.