

# News From St. Francis School

September 9, 2005

## How to Talk with Your Child About Hurricane Katrina

The occasion of a natural disaster, especially one of such momentous scale, presents a challenge for processing the information with our children. One wants to be sensitive to the emotional limits and informational needs of younger children, while also striving to assess the impact of the omnipresent media images on them. What do they know and how much should one try to talk about it? On the other hand, it is often even more difficult to know how to address the reactions of adolescents that seem to range from deep concern to (apparent) indifference.

Knowing the appropriate reaction is made more difficult by a lack of personal precedents for Katrina: very few of us have experienced firsthand a disaster of this magnitude. And even if some of the feelings and fears of 9/11 are re-energized by this recent event, the comparison between the two does not seem very appropriate or helpful.

Our new Director of Student Services, Julie Marks, offers the following thoughts as a starting point for these discussions:

- Assess your child's ability to understand and absorb information. Talk with your child about what they've seen, heard, or worry about, and gauge your input according to the comfort level and curiosity they display. They may only need a little information at a time.
- Monitor the messages and images that your child receives through the media and Internet. Take family breaks from the news media and ensure that younger children are not exposed to disturbing images and stories.
- Young children especially are more susceptible to fears and pick up on the anxieties of adults around them. It is important for parents to reassure the child that everything is being done to keep people safe.
- For older children, discuss the situation openly and answer questions truthfully while focusing on positive aspects of rescues and assistance.
- Helpful activities include being active as a family in offering assistance to victims, making cards, sending money jointly, prayer, and donating blood. Activities such as these are ways families can share a sense of making a difference in these difficult circumstances.

This seems the proper occasion to introduce Julie into our community. Her qualifications as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist are rare in a school setting, and she will both oversee our counseling needs and coordinate learning support for individual students. Besides her Master of Science in Social Work, Julie also has an M.Ed, and has logged hundreds of counseling hours with children. She is a Louisville native, is married to Rodney Marks, and they are the parents of 20 month old Sydney.

We are very fortunate to welcome a professional of Julie's caliber into our midst, but we must wait two more weeks until she can join us full time on the Goshen campus. In the meantime you may communicate your (pressing) questions to her by email at [jmarks@stfrancissschool.org](mailto:jmarks@stfrancissschool.org). Julie will also be on campus on Thursday afternoons until she joins us full time.

## New Students

Two students displaced by Hurricane Katrina have joined our community. We hope everyone will extend a warm St. Francis welcome.

Whitney Speck 1  
 Christine and Stephen Speck  
 c/o Jeff and Tanya Goldberg  
 2517 Meadowlark Drive  
 Prospect, KY 40059  
 292-2144

Whit Porter 5  
 Gregg and Weezie Porter  
 c/o Mr. and Mrs. John Welch  
 3913 Elfin Avenue  
 Louisville, KY 40207  
 895-4592

## The Week Ahead ...

### Monday, Sept. 12

"B" Field Hockey at Noe  
 Varsity Soccer at C.A. Ind.  
 Drama Practice

### Tuesday, Sept. 13

Field Hockey Practice, 3:00—5:00  
 Soccer Practice, 3:00—5:00

### Wednesday, Sept. 14

**2:00 Dismissal**  
 (Professional Development)  
 International Dress Day  
 Coffee for Parents of **7th & 8th** graders,  
 8:30  
 1st Grade Reading Screening  
 Brownie Troop 509, 3:00—4:30  
 Dev. FH for 2nd—4th grade, 3:15—5  
 Varsity Soccer vs Summit, 5:00  
 "C" Soccer vs Collegiate, 4:00  
 "A" Field Hockey vs St. Patrick, 5:00  
 Drama

### Thursday, Sept. 15

1st Grade Reading Screenings Continue  
 Field Hockey Practice, 3:00—5:00  
 Soccer Practice, 3:00—5:00  
 World Language Festival, 5:30—7:00,  
 (Park in Athletic Lot)  
 Brownies

### Friday, Sept. 16

Dev. FH for 2nd—4th grade, 2:15—4  
 "A" Field Hockey at Kammerer, 5:00  
 "B" Field Hockey vs KCD, 4:00  
 Varsity Soccer at C.A.L., 4:30  
 JV Soccer vs Collegiate, 3:00

## EARLY DISMISSALS

School will dismiss at 2:00 on the following Wednesdays!

Sept. 14	Jan. 18
Oct. 5	Feb. 8
Nov. 16	March 15
Dec. 14	April 19
	May 10

## Parent Association News

The PA hopes to see many of you today at Spirit Night. Go Eagles! Not only will there be great food and friendship, but you can help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We will be selling raffle tickets for a Mini IPOD and baked goods provided by St. Francis families. All proceeds will go to the American Red Cross for hurricane relief.

### INNISBROOK WRAPPING PAPER SALE—August 30-September 19

Please continue buying and selling. Remember, this is the Parent Association's major fundraiser, and all profits come directly back to school to support your children's education.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Middle School Parents' Night: September 22

Eagle Festival: October 23, 1:00-5:00. Look for volunteer sign-up sheets on Parents' Night.

### THANK YOU TO,,,

Clayton (5th grader) and Annie Russell for organizing the Spirit Night bake sale to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina

Families who have donned aprons to make delicious treats and/or for opening their wallets to purchase those treats!

Lesley Henney and the Spirit Committee for all of their hard work grilling, selling refreshments and spiritwear, and making Spirit Night enjoyable for everyone

Deirdre Barnett for organizing the Mini IPOD raffle to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina

Susie Bright and Ann Hendren for volunteering to co-chair the Eagle Festival

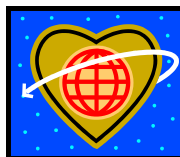
Kim Mackin  
Parent Association President

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## St. Francis Day September 30, 2005

Please review the attached flier for important information concerning St. Francis Day. If you have any questions, please call the school office or Kathy Collier, who is leading our efforts to celebrate the philosophy of our namesake.

## World Language Celebrations



We encourage all of our families to participate in the activities planned to help us celebrate not only different languages, but different cultures.

On Wednesday, Sept. 14, we are encouraging children to dress as a person from a different culture. Students might choose to dress in traditional wardrobe reflecting their own heritage or any other culture they admire or wish to honor. Please do not go purchase costumes or clothing for this event. If a child has headgear or a T-shirt that is reflective of another culture, that is sufficient.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, we will host an event of fun, music, food and games for our students and friends who might be interested in seeing SFS doing what it does best...celebrating people and individuality! A flier was sent home earlier that listed several events students may compete in. They include: musical performances, international athletic competitions, Tour De Goshen and much more!

**Participation in any activities related to this celebration is completely optional. No students will be penalized if they are unable to attend.**

*We look forward to  
seeing you!*

*Hasta la vista...a bientot.*

### World Language Festival Preparedness Checklist

\_\_\_\_\_ Requested donation items have been sent in. As a reminder, they are:

- K—napkins
- 1—oranges/lemons (3)
- 2—clear plastic cups
- 3/4—tortilla chips
- 5—Mild salsa
- 6/7—2 liters bottle of Sierra Mist
- 8—Red Grape Juice

\_\_\_\_\_ Picnic Blanket (or chairs)

\_\_\_\_\_ Bicycle and helmet (if participating in Tour De Goshen)

\_\_\_\_\_ Soccer gear (if participating in tournament)

## A Few Words About Communciation

As I grow into my position and attempt to discern the ways I can be of most service to the families of St. Francis, I am always aware of a primary element in communication...LISTENING. In our technological age, the ways people can 'listen' to their constituents has expanded exponentially.

We realize that sending a printed newsletter home weekly is not the most effective way to communicate. The majority of the information in this newsletter is available on our website. The remainder is information that could come directly from the teachers. For those reasons and several others, including our concern for the environment, we will be changing the frequency of distribution of printed newsletters. In the near future, we will be meeting with representatives from our various constituencies to discuss communication needs and the various ways we can meet those needs. In the meantime, I want to let you know that there will not be a newsletter next week.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I really want to know what is on our parents' and students' minds.

Lori Dabney

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**Save the Date!  
September 28, 2005**

You will soon receive an invitation from the Board of Trustees to a reception for John Delautre. This will also be our opportunity to thank the members of our Search Committee. We hope you can come, especially if you haven't yet had an opportunity to visit with John.

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### LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

Monday—Lisa Wiley, Christina Ullum, Carolyn Wetterer  
Tuesday—Jeanne Sullivan, Holly Winebrenner, Steven Paradis  
Wednesday—Amy Dishman, Kay Chandler, Georgette Kidwell  
Thursday—Dianne Siciliano, Cynthia McAfee, Michelle Heit  
Friday—Tanya Greenberg, Charlotte Stites, Carolyn Thebert

Diane Fowler, who has organized our lunch service volunteers for several years, asked us to pass along her thanks for last weeks response to her request for more volunteers.