



THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL TIDBITS

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
AUGUST 28, 2018

"The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord." PS 15

Parent Information Night K-5 Tonight!

Thanks to those who came out last night for Parent Information Night at the Middle School.

At 6:00 PM, tonight, Tuesday, August 28th, our elementary school parents will get the chance to visit with their HR teachers and our specials teachers and see what the year holds for their student! Please be sure to make your way to where the specials teachers are located so you can learn about what we offer in the arts and for electives. These opportunities to engage in interests outside the Core Classes enhance and enrich your students experience, and we have great teachers in those roles at TFS. Come meet them!

Bridges Notes

Please Note: No Bridges on this Friday, August 31st Even though this Friday August 31st is a full school day, we will not have Bridges that afternoon in deference to the holiday weekend.

Morning and Afternoon Car Pool

I want to thank everyone, seasoned experts and new families, for making car pool run smoothly so far. Thanks to all for your patience and participation, and thanks to our seasoned parents who have helped to initiate our new parents into the "controlled chaos" that is car pool!

A couple of small reminders:

1. Please follow the directions of our faculty and staff supervisors, they are also happy to help if you have questions or are mistakenly in the wrong car pool!
2. Please be respectful of our neighbors by trying to avoid blocking Leesville Rd. when possible. If we back up on to Leesville in the morning at MS drop off, please pull through the left lane of the driveway, park, and walk your student to the crosswalk to be crossed. (We are currently in "discussions" with RPD and our public school colleagues regarding speeding on Leesville Road by our school and Sycamore Creek in the mornings)
3. In the mornings, please do not try to enter the school lot from the Church lot; it is one way in the mornings from the TFS lot into the Church lot.
4. In the afternoon, only those with a pass may park in the Church lot. Please do not abuse this privilege and be considerate of the parish activities.
5. Also in the afternoon for 2nd and 3rd car pool, just a gentle reminder to parents/grandparents, babysitters/responsible adult(s) that they will need to come to the curb to pick up their child/children from the teacher at the covered walkway. This is to assure all of our students' safety.

Thanks for your attention to these items and for your perseverance in following our car pool procedures.

Hill Center Study Skills Opportunity for MS Students at TFS

The Hill Center, an educational non-profit serving students with learning differences for over 40 years, is excited to partner with The Franciscan School to offer an Executive Function: Study Skills class for students in grades 6-8 on our campus. This 8-week offering, led by a Hill Center teacher, will be held on Mondays from 4:15 - 5:15 PM. Instruction will focus on teaching students executive function strategies, such as organization, following directions, notetaking, test prep, self-advocacy, and goal setting.

Please click on the following link to learn more about this offering: <https://conta.cc/2P9vmSQ>.

Come Honor our 8th Graders

On Friday September 7th, at Morning Prayer, come join us as we “Commission and Charge” our 8th graders as the student leaders of TFS. We take very seriously the role our 8th grade students have in modeling good scholarship, embracing service to others, and serving as role models of our Catholic Faith to our younger students. We give them these responsibilities and privileges as student leaders in full confidence of their ability to serve in this role in their final year at TFS. Congratulations 8th graders!

(Their 1st “Eight Day” dress out will be Monday September 10th)

Nurse Notes from the Health Office

7th Graders: Updated immunization records for 7th graders are **due no later than Monday, September 17th**. All 7th graders need a **DTaP and Meningococcal** vaccine, to be in compliance with the state laws. We are missing several at this time. Email any questions to joanne.sullivan@stfrancisraleigh.org

Kindergarten: All Kindergarten students need a current physical and immunizations on file to be in compliance with the state laws. We are still missing several. **This is due no later than Monday, September 17th**.

All K-students are required to have the following:

5 doses- DTaP

3 doses-Hep B

3-4 doses-HIB

4 doses-Polio

2 doses-MMR

2 doses- Varicella

Please email questions to joanne.sullivan@stfrancisraleigh.org

RenWeb Updates

Student Accounts

We will send out information to 5th – 8th grade students this Friday, August 31st, giving instruction on how to access student accounts for the RenWeb Learning Management System (LMS).

Any existing Student Accounts, created by the student and not issued by TFS, will be deleted and new accounts will be created to be in compliance with TFS guidelines. The user accounts will be created to streamline with existing student Google accounts.

Any questions should be directed to Sami Burnette at sami.burnette@stfrancisraleigh.org

Parent Forms

We are working on creating parent web forms so that you can update your demographic, student medical, pick up lists, etc. within RenWeb. This will make it easy to update your account with just a few clicks. We will send instruction on how to access the forms in next week's Tidbits.

Until the web forms are operational, please send names of authorized pick-up persons, demographic changes, medical changes, etc. to Sami Burnette at sami.burnette@stfrancisraleigh.org."

Hot Lunch at TFS

We have had a good response to our new hot lunch vendor, My Hot Lunch Box, and things ran relatively smoothly last week as we kicked off the lunch service for the year. The students really like the options, and some of our staff have noticed much less food being tossed away as the options seem to be more preferable than were offered in years past. We expect that this week, and going forward, we will become even more efficient and timely as we work out a regular schedule with our vendors and they get more comfortable with our set up. Thanks for your patience as we strive to improve our lunch options for your students!

If you haven't signed up yet, but would like to try the new hot lunch, here is how to join the hot lunch program:

My Hot Lunchbox is excited to be partnering with your school as the hot lunch provider for this school year. To begin ordering lunches, click the link below and follow the instructions on the attached registration letter to create your free account!

[ORDER NOW!](#)

If you have any questions, please give us a call at (888) 894-8295 or email us at info@myhotlunchbox.com. We are looking forward to serving your school! You may also reach out to our wonderful staff member, Alex Rommel, who is glad to help alex.rommel@stfrancisraleigh.org or ext. 351.

MS Sports kickoff and Spirit Day

The week AFTER Labor Day we kick off our Fall sports seasons. The first event is Cross Country on September 5th and then soccer and volleyball start their campaigns on the 6th. To support our T'Wolves, and have some fun, we will have a Spirit Dress Out Day on **Friday Sept. 7th** (Not this Friday 8/31!). Show your T'Wolf Pride as we celebrate the start of the Fall Seasons and initiate our 8th graders as Student Leaders of TFS!!

Two Great Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome parents to be part of two great volunteer and stewardship opportunities here on campus during lunch. This is a great way to see your children and their friends, and give back a little service to the school!

This can be on a rotating basis that works with your schedule, be it once a week, month, or quarter.

Milk Parents

Join in the fun of collecting Milk Tickets in exchange for a carton of milk at the kitchen window. Please contact Karen

Munroe at kdm822@yahoo.com or at (717) 269-2610.

Hot Lunch Volunteers

Come join us as we debut our new hot lunch “grab and go”. Thanks in advance for making this kick off a success! Special invitation to all Kindergarten and brand new TFS parents – this is a great way to get involved! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b45aba72ba13-hotlunch>

Bridges Enrollment Links

Bridges enrollment links were sent to all current Bridges families as well as all new families in May. The Bridges links that were previously sent will no longer work due to the changeover in our online systems. If you wish to register your child for Bridges, please use this link: [TFS 2018-19 Bridges Registration](#)

Early Daytime Release from TFS

A student may be released during the school day from TFS only at the personal request of the parent/guardian. Students **will not** be released after 2:20 PM from school as early departure during this time disrupts the regular dismissal process. Please refer to our Community Handbook [click here](#) for more guidelines.

Community Handbook

There is a wealth of information on our website to guide both new and seasoned families in the TFS Community Handbook. From academics to carpool logistics, [click here](#) for more information. As always, give us a call if you need anything at all.

Photo Permission

TFS assumes that we have your permission to share photos of your children via the newsletter, website, and any other electronic communications belonging to TFS. In giving this permission, please know that no names are ever used on any media that is not password protected by parents.

If you prefer that your child's photograph not be in TFS publications of any kind, we must have it in writing from you. Please email terri.layer@stfrancisraleigh.org for “no permission for media”

TFS National Junior Honor Society Meeting

The first meeting of the National Junior Honor Society will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5th after school in the chapel. All seventh and eighth graders who are members of NJHS should plan to attend, as attendance at the monthly meetings is one of the requirements of being a member of NJHS. Attendance will be taken at the meeting. The meeting will conclude by 3:25 P.M., and students should be picked up outside the chapel at that time (or will be taken to their after-school sports practice by a faculty member). Anyone who normally attends Bridges after school will be escorted to Bridges after the meeting. Please contact Mrs. Linda Sullivan (linda.sullivan@stfrancisraleigh.org) with any questions regarding NJHS.

Odyssey of the Mind

TFS is actively seeking caring adults to volunteer as coaches for the Odyssey of the Mind program. This is an international, creative, problem-solving program that incorporates theater, instruction, and design. The students work from early in the school year to develop and perform a solution to a complex, long-term problem. Odyssey teaches students to see problems as opportunities and develops divergent thinking, cooperation, and team work. If you have an interest in volunteering for this program, please email your name and your contact information to Audrey.harrington@stfrancisraleigh.org

Chess Club

The TFS Chess Club will be holding its first club meeting of the school year on Friday, September 7, in room 776 in Siena Hall. The meeting will begin at 3:15 p.m. and end at 4:15 p.m. Pick-up will be at 4:15p.m. in the Breezeway outside Siena Hall. This meeting is open to all grades. If your child is in K-5, email me the name of your child's teacher and CC your teacher on the email so they will be aware that I will be collecting them in the Courtyard outside Thea Hall at release from school. If you do not email me, your child will not be able to attend. Thank you,
Email: stuartlong@westat.com"

Golf

Now open to K thru 5 students on Wednesdays for six weeks September 5-October 10 from 3:00 PM 4:15 PM. Students will meet in the courtyard, or in Jacoba if part of Bridges program. For more information, [click here.](#)

Afterschool Piano Group

Learn to play piano right on campus after school with TFS's very own Mr. Burdett! This year-long program is available to all interested current 1st through 5th grade TFS students on Mondays and Wednesdays after school either from 3:15-4:15 p.m. or 4:25-5:25 p.m. Students will learn with a group of their peers in a one-hour format that includes group instruction, individual practice, games, and more! Hosted by Family Piano Academy, this program utilizes the Diamond Piano Method to enable students to learn music theory concepts while simultaneously learning piano. Visit diamondpiano.com to learn more about this method and preview its recently updated contents! For more information about TFS group classes, email Tamara Peters at FPAoutboundprograms@gmail.com or sign up using the Google form located at the URL: bit.ly/TFSpiano2018

Safe Environment Process

We are committed to providing a safe environment on our campus for all minors. All employees and those in leadership positions with children and youth, *including field trip chaperones*, are required to be current Level C certified, as defined by the Diocese of Raleigh. One step in the Level C process is attending a "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse" training class at least every 5 years. The next class offered at St. Francis is **Saturday, September 8 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in Founders Room**. This training can serve as your initial training or your five year renewal training. The steps involved to become a Level C Volunteer: (1) attend the Safe Environment class, (2) submit a Level C Application, original, (3) three original written references submitted for your file, and (4) pass a background check. For more information or to sign up for a class: http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/safe_environment/ If you have any questions please contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

Wrestling Club

Grades 3-8 are invited, the club and team is a combination of the students from the Catholic Schools in the area and is run out of Cardinal Gibbons High School. Please contact Instructor Mike Gundry at gundry4077@gmail.com for more information.

Cardinal Gibbons High School Announcements

Family Fun Night

Mark Your Calendars!!! TFS Families are invited to attend the annual Family Fun Night at Cardinal Gibbons High School, September 7th from 5-7pm! Pre-register online (www.cghsnc.org/familyfootballnight) to receive free admission to the football game! TFS, along with all of the other local catholic middle schools, will also have a tailgate located in the parking lot right in front of the stadium. If you plan to attend, and want to participate in the tailgate, we ask that you bring a dish to share: A-N Salty...M-Z Sweet! If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Garcia (Stephanie.garcia@stfrancisraleigh.org) or Karen Migdal (kemigdal@gmail.com). We hope to see you there!

Percussion Clinic

Cardinal Gibbons Percussion Department is offering a FREE Percussion Clinic for elementary and middle school percussionists on Saturday, September 8, at the school's 1401 Edwards Mill Road campus. The clinic runs from 9 – 10:30 AM for 5th and 6th graders, and from 11 AM – 1 PM for upper level middle school students. For more information and to register, please contact Hal Sargent, Gibbons Percussion Educator at hsargent@cghsnc.org.

High School Freshman Retreat

Sunday, September 9, 2018

Falls Lake State Recreation Area – Rolling View Area

The Freshman Retreat, **open to all parish rising high school freshmen**, is a spiritual and social **day retreat**, which offers participants an opportunity to have fun and build community while renewing themselves in mind, body and spirit! The retreat consists of a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including hiking, beach time (swimming optional), a mixture of small and large group discussions, witness talks, music, prayers, games, and concludes with Sunday night 5:30pm Mass back at St. Francis. There will be ample amount of time to enjoy the company of old friends as well as meet new ones. The retreat will provide an excellent opportunity to form community with youth from your high school as well as the parish community. Be sure to invite any new friends from St. Francis that you may have met over the summer!

Departure/Return: We will meet in the St. Francis Community Center parking lot at 8:30am. (Youth should have eaten breakfast before arrival.) We will return to attend the 5:30pm Mass at St. Francis. The retreat will end at the conclusion of Mass.

Cost: \$60.00

Visit <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/formation-retreats/> for more information and to register.

The deadline to Register is Wednesday, August 29th.

HSA

Welcome to the HSA

All TFS parents are considered members of the HSA – you don't need to sign up or pay any dues! The HSA is led by a Board of volunteers that coordinate Fundraising efforts, and many events including Field Day, the Father-Daughter Dance, the Advent Pancake Breakfast, 8th Grade Graduation Reception, and many more. We encourage all parents to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure – keep an eye out in Tidbits and on Facebook for opportunities to support TFS. Find the TFS HSA Facebook Group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/308136653044208/>

Room Parent Training Next Week

And we're off! Most likely room parents have been selected and it's time to get these Very Important Parents up to speed. If you've been selected as a room parent, you will need to attend one of two options: Wednesday, September 5th at 8:30am OR Thursday, September 6th at 6:00pm. Learn from the veterans and gain new perspective from the newbies. Keep an eye out for communications coming from those coordinating this effort. Thank you in advance, VIPs, for your time, support and creativity!

Save The Date: HSA General Meeting – Wednesday, September 19th

Please join us for the first HSA meeting of this school year in Jacoba Hall from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Principal Mike Watson will provide an administrative update, followed by a brief overview of the Home and School Association. Our guest speaker for the evening will be **Alison Bell, Director of College Counseling** at Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy in Florida. In a recent survey of PreK-12 grade independent school parents, those most interested in learning about the college and admissions process were those parents of elementary school students as opposed to those of high school students. Alison will speak to considerations for grade school parents relative to sports, academics, and extra-curricular activities and how we can best prepare our children during these formative years for success in high school, with the college application process in mind, as well as address any questions our parents may have.

Design the Staff Christmas Card – Art Contest

Well, it's official. With Starbucks bringing back its pumpkin spice latte today, we're just two shakes of a cinnamon stick away from turkey and tinsel. Students, channel your inner Christmas and submit your best creation! The HSA is holding a student art contest to help us design the **2018 TFS Staff Christmas Card**. Submit a one-page drawing/sketch/painting on 8 1/2 x 11 white cardstock. The HSA Board will choose one winner from the elementary school and one winner from the middle school. Bring your entry to the Thea Hall front desk OR the Siena Hall front desk between the dates of September 17th and September 27th. Any questions, please send an email to tfshsboard@gmail.com.

The Franciscan Experience – Spotlight on Auction Favorite

Speaking of pumpkins, let's talk about a fan favorite that is only offered through The Franciscan Experience: **Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 26th**! That's right – tickets to this event can ONLY be purchased via the auction. Anticipation for this event builds all October long! Participation ranges from full on vehicle decoration with themes/games/music to those who just want to have a fun night out and appreciate the creative efforts of others. Sure, a bucket of candy (or snack size Cheetos) and a smile is all that is needed. Trunks up, treats down, this is a fun night! Here is a testimonial from a satisfied auction winner:

“We heard Trunk or Treat was a lot of fun in its initial year, so we bought the ‘one ticket=one car’ last year. The kids collect treats but also dance and socialize and parents are able to as well. Everyone loves to see the creativity that comes out in costumes and decorated cars. You couldn’t ask for a better TFS community event for the price and it also benefits the programs of TFS. We look forward to the event again this year.” – the Dean Family

Remember, we still need **Auction Champions** – while we have great turn key events like Trunk or Treat and many more, we still need YOUR suggestions for experiences/items to keep the auction FRESH – please reach out to tfsfundraiser@gmail.com today with a suggestion!

Let’s Win an Extra \$100 – Link your VIC Card

We have the chance to earn even MORE cash just by increasing the number of TFS-VIC links by 25% by October 9th, 2018. If you haven’t done so already, this is great time to link your Harris Teeter VIC card to TFS. Or maybe you think you don’t shop enough at Harris Teeter. For this promotion, purchasing doesn’t matter! It’s all about the number of links. If we can increase the number of cards linked up by 25%, we win a cool 100 bucks. Links will be compared to total number of links TFS had on October 10, 2017. Learn more [here](#). Our school code is **4140**. Easy to link up in-store or online!

Parish Community Center Notes

St. Francis Youth Basketball League

Registration is **NOW OPEN!** The 29th season of the popular St. Francis Youth Basketball league is open for registration! For information on the program and to register, please visit our website at:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/youth-basketball-general-information/>

St. Francis Basketball League Skills Clinics

Registration is **NOW OPEN!** Are you looking to improve your game? We are offering 4 skills clinics for our Youth Basketball League players. The clinics will be held on the following Sundays: September 16, 23, 30 as well as October 7. Clinics for our 1st-4th graders will be 12:45-2:45 PM; 5th – 8th graders will be 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Registration fees for each clinic is \$25, or register for all 4 for \$80! Clinics are limited to the first 50 participants. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/cl-youth-basketball-clinic/>

Fall Parent Child Classes

Registration is now open for Fall classes! Are you looking for a fun filled activity to do with your young child? Want to learn sign language to better communicate with your infant or toddler? Want to connect with your toddler or preschooler with music?

Check out Community Life’s Parent Child Classes. All Parent/Child Classes are located in the Cupertino room of the Assisi Community Center. For more information, visit our website:

<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parent-child-classes-2/>

Important Dates	
August 28th, 2018	Parent Information Night For K-5 Parents, 6:00 p.m.
August 31st, 2018	Long Weekend – NO BRIDGES After School Care this Friday
September 3rd, 2018	Labor Day -- NO SCHOOL
September 7th at Morning Prayer	8th Grade Commissioning Morning Prayer
September 12th- 14th 2018	Camp Hanes
September 19th, 2018	Student Individual Picture Day Wear Full Uniform, bring P.E. clothes for P.E.
September 25th, 2018	The Franciscan Experience Begins
September 28th, 2018	Teacher In Service -- NO SCHOOL