

**Volume 5, Issue 1 – September 6, 2017**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Thur, Sept. 7th**

* Instrumental Recruitment Assemby; 10:00 a.m.
* Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. (busing provided)
* Extended Day Program provided

**Fri, Sept. 8th**

* Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. (busing provided)

**Mon, Sept. 11th**

* Opening Day for Pre-K and Kindergarten program
* Hot Lunch program begins
* Grade 8 Yankee Candle Fundraiser begins

**Wed, Sept. 13th**

* Back to School Night for Parents (grades 1 – 5) from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

(grades 6 – 8) from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Thur, Sept. 14th**

* Open of School Liturgy; 8:45 a.m. All are Welcome!

**Fri, Sept. 15th**

* Dress Down Day

**Tue, Sept. 19th**

* Grade 8 Field Trip to the Kennedy Institute

**Mon, Sept. 25th**

* Grade 8 Yankee Candle Fundraiser ends

**Tue, Sept. 26th**

* Professional Day – No School

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The school bells are once again ringing at St. Francis of Assisi School. We enjoyed welcoming our students in grades 1 – 8 back to school today and look forward to the arrival of our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students on Monday. There was great excitement and energy in our classrooms and halls as our students entered to learn.

We look forward to this new academic year. In collaboration with you, our parents, we strive to offer the best Catholic school experience possible in assisting your child(ren) to grow spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

Please keep the St. Francis of Assisi School community in your prayers for a safe, healthy and rewarding academic school year.

**A Word of Welcome:**

It is with great pleasure to welcome and introduce Ms. Marta Rodriguez and Ms. Carol Costello, as they join us at SFA in the capacity of our Spanish teacher and Guidance Counselor.

**School Nurse Position Available** – It is with great regret to announce that Ms. Michelle Margeson, our school nurse will be leaving us. She has accepted a new position and I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thank her for her fine work that she has given to our students and school. She will certainly be missed.

Therefore, St. Francis of Assisi School is currently seeking a full-time nurse to join our school for the 2017 – 2018 academic school year. The school nurse is responsible for maintaining the school’s health policies and programs. The primary role is to promote health education and to provide preventative health services to facilitate the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth of our students. If interested in applying, please send a letter of interest, resume and license(s) to Brian Cote, St. Francis of Assisi School, 850 Washington Street, Braintree, MA 02184 or via email at bcote@sfab.org. For more details regarding this position, contact Brian Cote at 7811-848-0842 x12 or via email.

**Pre-K & Kindergarten Open House:**

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten “Open House(s)” will be held on tonight, September 6th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. It is an opportunity for the children to meet their teachers and classmates before the actual starting date, as well as parents will become acquainted with the classroom and informed of classroom/school procedures and the curriculum. Most importantly, it will make this educational milestone a family experience.

**Expectation Night (Grades 1 – 8):**

Our “Expectation Night” for grades 1 – 8 will take place on Wednesday evening, September 13th at 6:00 PM for grades 1 – 5 and 7:00 PM for grades 6 – 8. This evening will give you an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and learn of plans and curriculum for the year. Please mark your calendar and make plans now to attend the parent information meeting, as this is an important even in the life of your child and his/her teacher. We are well aware that many of our parents have more than one child; however, this format seems to work the best for all involved and accommodations will be made (for example: the teacher will repeat the presentations, as well as have a handout of expectations).

**MAP Testing**

St. Francis of Assisi School, along with all of our schools in the Archdiocese of Boston will continue to use and implement the *NWEA MAP* on-line assessment tool for all students in grades one through eight. This testing is not done to measure one school against another or solely to identify a student’s strengths or weaknesses. Test results are evaluated by teachers to assure that individual academic growth occurs and that the flow of curriculum avoids repetition and allows for our curriculum to fully benefit each child.

Listed below is the proposed Fall 2017 schedule:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 118:15 – Gr. 8 Math8:15 – Gr. 7 Math9:00 – Gr. 6 Math | 128:15 –Gr. 4 Math8:15 – Gr. 3 Math | 138:15 – Gr. 8 Reading8:15 – Gr. 7 Reading9:00 – Gr. 6 Reading | 14 | 15 8:15 – Gr. 8 Lang.9:00 – Gr. 7 Lang.9:00 – Gr. 6 Lang. |
| 188:15 – Gr. 1 Math | 198:15 – Gr. 4 Reading8:15 – Gr. 3 Reading | 209:30 – Gr. 2 Math | 218:15 – Gr. 5 Math | 22 |
| 258:15 – Gr. 1 Reading | 26 | 279:30 – Gr. 2 Reading | 288: 15 – Gr. 2 Reading | 29 |
| 28:15 – Gr. 5 Lang.  | 38:15 – Gr. 4 Lang.8:15 – Gr. 3 Lang.  | 4 | 58:15 – Gr. 2 Lang. |  |

**Dress Down Day –** On Friday, September 15th, our school community will be holding our first Dress Down Day of this school year for the Catholic schools and all those affected by Hurricane Harvey. The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), which all Catholic schools are members are asking every Catholic school around the contry to sponsor a Dress Down Day and contribute at least $1 per students to help Catholic schools impacted by the storm to rebuild, reopen and re-enroll students. “Student to Student: A Catholic School Response to Hurricane Harvey” is a powerful opportunity for us to engage our students in living the Gospel message of compassionate service and generosity to others.

**All-School Liturgy**

On Thursday, September 14th, our school will be attending an All-School Liturgy at 8:45 a.m. as we celebrate our Opening of School. Our grade 6 teacher and students are planning and coordinating this special liturgy. All are welcome to attend.



**SAVE-THE DATE**

**Fifth Annual SFA Pumkin Run/Walk**

**Saturday, October 21st at 10:00 a.m.**

**Forms** – The start of any new school year is always overwhelming and busy with various new forms. I thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in completing these forms and returning them to school in a timely fashion. Today the oldest/or only child should have brought home a brown folder containing the following required forms to be completed: 1 Emergency Card, Medical Card, Electronic Mail & Internet Code of Conduct, ipad Acceptable Use Policy, Field Trip Permission (French’s Common & Thayer Library), Locker, School Bus Contract, Parent/Student Handbook Agreement, and Helping Hands forms.

Also attached to this email, we will find the following information: Helping Hands form, School Cancellation Procedure, Asbestos Management Letter, physical education schedule and Memos from Mrs. Daly, as well as various information/forms from the Braintree Food Service Department (September Lunch Menu, 2017-2018 Prepayment Information and MA Free and Reduced Price School Meal Instructions and Application.

Listed in the side bar of our weekly newsletters, you will find important upcoming dates that we would like to draw to your attention. In addition to this valuable communication piece, our 2017 – 2018 academic and monthly school calendars are available on our school’s website ([www.sfab.org)](http://www.sfab.org)).

**Upcoming Enrichment Programs**

**![C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Local Settings\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\L8XLP95G\MC900150959[1].wmf]()Small Group Piano Lessons** - Piano Playtime offers a unique music education experience using peer group motivation and a playful approach to teach children the piano. The program reaches younger children on their level using an age-appropriate curriculum and color coded system, workbooks, songs, props, and improvisation to keep them engaged. Lessons for older children include traditional studies of notation, theory, and staff music, which is easily transferable to other instruments. This approach gives students a solid foundation of musical knowledge, while balancing these concepts with a lighthearted, exciting tone to keep their attention. Group lessons have no more than three students per class which is the lowest student teacher ratio available in this setting. Our classes will be conveniently held at the SFA campus after school on Mondays.  Tuition is very affordable at only $65 per month with a onetime $25 registration fee for new students. Children between the ages of 3 and 14 are welcome to participate. For more information please visit www.pianoplaytime.com or call or e-mail Molly Howard at 617-999-8794 or pianoplaytime@yahoo.com.

**Individual Piano Lessons** – Mrs. Murray, our music teacher at SFA has limited spots available for individual piano lessons. For more information, please contact her at school 781-848-0842 or email her at lmurray@sfab.org.

**Chess Wizards** – Once again, SFA presents Chess Wizards for the Fall 2017! Chess Wizards is a premier chess education company providing fun, informative and challenging chess lessons to students. Chess Wizards teaches children many important life concepts, such as learning the ability to win graciously and accept defeat with dignity and sportsmanship. Students will be divided into groups according to their chess experience. At the end of this session, each student will have had the chance to participate in a mini-chess tournament. Attached to this email is a flyer outlining this enrichment program, dates, and registration information.

**Facebook** – Make sure you check and like us on our school’s facebook page.

[**https://www.facebook.com/sfabraintree**](https://www.facebook.com/sfabraintree)