

HURRICANE WATCH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

March 2024

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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- March Calendar
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- "Developing Core Beliefs" by Dr. Leonard Kupersmith
- PTO Updates
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Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

As we bid farewell to the winter chill and welcome the vibrant spirit of spring, I am filled with gratitude for the blessings that surround us at our school. March brings with it a sense of renewal and growth, both academically and spiritually, as we continue our journey of learning and faith together.

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Just as the blossoming flowers and budding trees herald the arrival of spring, let us also embrace this season of renewal in our own lives. It is a time to let go of the past, to shed old habits and attitudes, and to welcome new opportunities for growth and transformation.

At First Baptist School, our mission is not only to foster academic excellence but also to infuse every aspect of education with a Christian perspective. This mission guides us in shaping the minds and hearts of our students, preparing them not only for success in the world but also for lives rooted in faith, compassion, and integrity.

In line with our mission, our dedicated faculty and staff continue to provide a nurturing environment where students can flourish academically, spiritually, and socially. Through rigorous academics, meaningful extracurricular activities, and opportunities for service and leadership, we aim to equip our students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to make a positive difference in the world.

As we look ahead this month, it is important to note that final preparations for our production of Peter Pan are in full swing. Tickets are available on the school website beginning March 1st. This musical is a celebration of student work through their on-stage performances, collaborative work on costumes & sets and extending to student choreography and program design. We cannot wait to see our students' hard work.

Congratulations are in order for our Varsity Girls basketball team advancing to the state semi-finals. The season ended with a heartbreaking overtime loss to the overall top seed in the tournament, but their incredible run was filled with passion, heart, and determination that will not be soon forgotten. We also want to congratulate Cooper Kowalski for being named the SCISA 4A Region III Player of the Year! Cooper is joined on the all-region team by teammates, Taye Robinson and James Pojani. Yannah Seaberry, Ava Rush, and Gabby Moore were named to the girls all-region team. We want to thank all of our basketball players and coaches for their tremendous effort all season. Spring sports are underway and we look forward to seeing all of our teams in action. We encourage you to stay connected by visiting our athletic social media pages.

As we embrace the season of renewal, let us approach each day with a spirit of gratitude, embracing the opportunities for growth and renewal that come our way. Together, let us continue to uphold our commitment to academic excellence with a Christian perspective, inspiring one another to reach new heights and make a positive impact in our school, our community, and beyond. May God's blessings be upon you and your families as we journey through this season of renewal and growth.

We invite you to stay up-to-date with current events by following First Baptist School's social media and our school webpage. #WeAreFB

Be blessed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".



CALENDAR

MARCH 2024

MAR
14 & 15

FBS Fine Arts Presents: Peter Pan

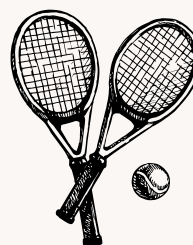
MAR
25-29

Spring/Easter Break - **No School**

School resumes Tuesday, April 2



[View Athletic Calendar](#)



IN THE KNOW

school happenings



Kids Heart Challenge

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Kids Heart Challenge! We are less than \$500 away from our \$10,000 goal! If you'd like to help, please [register here!](#)

Mother Son Kickball Game (K5-8) on March 9

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our first Mother Son Kickball Game! We can't wait to see the fun on Saturday, March 9!



Spring Break Camp (K3-4)

We are excited to hold a three-day Spring Break Camp for grades K3-4th! Campers will enjoy fun and learning, including seasonal crafts and activities! [Register here](#)

FIRST BAPTIST SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow along with our daily happenings on our social media pages! Below are the official school social media pages.

SCHOOL



FINE ARTS



ATHLETICS



WANT TO SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US? BE SURE TO TAG US AND USE OUR SCHOOL HASHTAG!

#WeAreFB

FBS FINE ARTS PRESENTS

Peter Pan



MARCH 15 & 16, 2024

6:00 PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!





WATER MISSION

WALK FOR WATER

March 23, 2024

In order to bring awareness to the water crisis our world is currently suffering, First Graders have partnered with Water Missions International! We plan to participate and recruit other students and their families to join us in the annual "Walk for Water". In some parts of the world, millions of women and children spend several hours a day collecting water, walking about 4 miles and the water is mostly dirty. During this walk, we will be asked to carry a bucket of water in order to get a glimpse of what it is like to walk in less fortunate shoes. The walk will be held in North Charleston on Saturday, March 23rd! To join our team, please visit the link below: We are FBS HELPING HURRICANES!

Walk with us!





Developing Core Beliefs

Diversity flourishes in a community of respect for others, for institutional policies and procedures, and for vested authority.

WRITTEN BY DR. LEONARD KUPERSMITH

When politics usurps our language, we are in trouble. Take DEI initiatives, which are in free fall since the recent exposure of the Ivy League establishment for behavior that is anything but inclusive, equitable, or respectful of diversity. What happens when inclusion is exclusion, equity is favoring one group over another, and diversity is a celebration of the party line? We grasp reality through the agency of language. When language undergoes a radical facelift, it's hard to know real from fake, right from wrong, truth from lies.

The Orwellian vision of language corruption for political ends has taken hold in precincts that once were a safe harbor for the expression of diverse opinions. We grow through exposure to different points of view. Schools have been a protected sanctuary for open discourse in a civil environment in which we respect the dignity of each individual. Schools have historically served to instill social skills that prepare a young person for active participation in communities.

What a sad state for those growing up today. It is dangerous to express an opinion without the censors from both ends of the political spectrum crying foul. What a disservice to the maturation of young minds and hearts to be constrained by the language police ready to pounce on and punish comments outside of their exclusionary and forcibly monitored boundaries. Teachers are employed to enhance knowledge with verifiable information, inspire the pursuit of knowledge, and referee a vigorous exchange of ideas and opinions. Teachers are arbiters, not ideologues. The “safe spaces” that they protect allow open dialogue. In the illiberal parlance of much of the academic world, a “safe space” lends license to behavior that threatens others and muzzles their freedom of expression. The space is safe only to the anointed to whom school leadership deeds the exclusive space.

This preamble brings me to my theme: diversity as we knew it before educators designed a language catechism. Our youngest daughter is a senior VP for Amazon leading teams in assessing performance. She took a PhD at the University of Tennessee in Industrial Organizational Psychology. During her undergraduate years, at Hendrix College, in Conway, Arkansas, she worked on a project designed to determine the influence of diverse values on the performance of teams. Their particular study (I am confident that the devil is in the details in understanding this project) disclosed that teams with shared values did better on their assignments than those with disparate values. In my career, I have hired a good number of senior management leaders. Compatibility with institutional core values topped my list of essential traits. In a landmark **Harvard Business Review** piece, Jim Collins, the **Good to Great** author, and Jerry Porris, the co-author with Collins of **Built to Last**, cogently argue that leadership searches will be unsuccessful if there isn't close alignment between the candidate's core values and corporate core values. In what might be a dissenting opinion, Malcolm Gladwell in a **New Yorker** magazine at about the same time as our daughter's study offered a variant conclusion based on a study of the decision dynamics of the leadership team that served Franklin Roosevelt in the thirties, a

model that I endorse for a management team. Roosevelt encouraged a free-for-all among the participants of his inner circle making high-level decisions.

The best of both worlds combines a team of leaders who have diverse points of view coupled with a presiding commitment to a shared view of the good of the organization.

To relate this discussion to our high-school community at First Baptist, I see diversity at its best in the program that we have recently inaugurated on the model of the **This I Believe** series on NPR. Fourteen members of our senior class of fifty-one have presented their statements of core beliefs. Every statement has been absorbing, positive, and personal. The roster will be complete at the end of April. Teachers and staff have also been invited to present TIB remarks. The core beliefs have run a gamut from the virtues of a comfortable chair to the benefits of silence to the conviction that everything happens for a reason, a foreordained pattern woven into the Divine tapestry. These values reflect the diversity of our student body as a whole. Our students are not clones, but independent-thinking adolescents with convictions grounded on faith and fact. Diversity flourishes in a community of respect for others, for institutional policies and procedures, and for vested authority. Our students see things as individuals with diverse experiences and family traditions. I cherish the harmony of these differences in the mosaic of our FBS community.

Executive Functioning

Written by Katherine Ladd,
Learning Specialist

The phrase "executive function" refers to a set of skills. These skills include how to plan ahead, meet goals, and follow multi-step directions.

According to the Center of Developing Child at Harvard University, when a child has trouble staying on task, controlling emotions, or gets easily distracted, these children are not "bad kids." Instead of punishing them, an adjustment to their demands is more effective. "A safe and predictable environment offers the sense of security needed for successful behavior change to occur."

Teachers and adults can help children learn and practice the skills by creating routines, breaking big tasks into smaller chunks, and helping the child prepare by seeing the big picture. This "scaffolding" may eventually build back up to the original larger task at hand. The teachers at First Baptist use these strategies to help executive functioning skills with their students daily.

Renweb is an amazing resource to use weekly and daily with your child. You can pick one night to review the upcoming week. You can copy the



upcoming work onto a calendar at home. That action of transferring the assessments and assignments will help the student and family remember. Then the student can write a checklist based on the assignments, asking questions like, "What can we do to study for this?" Creating the daily checklist will help everyone stay on track. A weekly calendar, and daily checklist can help the entire family see what is due, get involved, and accomplish each goal. This helps create a predictable environment to help students thrive. Perhaps there is reward at the end of the week of all that have accomplished most of their goals!

Continued on next page...

Whether it be a sound, a spelling word, or a Social Studies term, the act of creating the good old traditional flashcards is helpful to help a child review and retain information. With consistent review, the student feels more confident in class, and can focus better. Step 2. Draw an illustration or symbol to help remember. Step three, color code. Use colors to highlight the key parts. Lastly, review daily. With consistent review, the student feels more confident in class, and can focus better.

If any parents feel like their child is struggling with executive functioning, reach out to your teacher. The teachers at First Baptist are here to help. Take advantage of the extra help sessions offered. Other factors that may affect executive functioning are sleep, diet, physical activity and screen time. Your pediatrician can also serve as a helpful resource. It takes a village, and First Baptist is thankful to be part of the team for your child.

VOTING NOW OPEN!
CLOSES SEPT. 1, 2024

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL OF CHARLESTON

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

2025

Vote! →



The First Baptist Athletic Department is proud to announce that voting is now open for the second class of the First Baptist Hurricane Athletic Hall of Fame. Voting will close September 1, 2024.

*Student nominations must have graduated by 2018 at the latest. *Coaches/contributors must have completed their time (at least 5 years) at FBS prior to the Fall of 2018.

Midlife and Fairy Hair

BY CRYSTAL HAWKINS,
LOWER SCHOOL



There's a negative stigma in our culture today about hitting the middle point of your life. We call it the "midlife crisis". Not that I would know from personal experience (ahem), but things just get weird. You look into the mirror and you don't recognize the tired face looking back at you. You contemplate your life and wonder how in the world the pick-up-sticks of your life landed where they did. You ask yourself the hard questions: "Am I doing what God created me to do?", "Do my children love Jesus?", "Is my marriage thriving?". Not all of the answers are pretty nor tied with a nice, neat bow.

Half a life... Now that is something to ponder. If we view it like our culture views it, it is a glass half-empty. Thankfully, we have God's Word to inform our thinking. Because of Him, we can see that the glass is half-full. What if the midlife crisis is a gift? It gives us a chance to give our concerns to our Maker and let Him guide us. If our boat has traveled off-course, what better time to reroute it than now? "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (James 1:5)

A few weeks ago, I was in the middle of teaching class when a student blurted out, "Mrs. Hawkins, your fairy hair is so pretty!" To which I responded, "What is fairy hair?" The student then explained, "It's the tinsel pieces you tied in your hair." I said, "Thank you, mi amor!" I didn't have the heart to tell her that the silver strands in my hair were *au naturel*, but I treasured her compliment.

I choose to see this stage of life as a gift. It is hard and messy, but it is a gift nonetheless. God has given me an opportunity to ponder my life— past, present, and future, and to give my concerns to Him. He is a loving Father who promises to guide me and to never leave me. He says the silver strands in my hair are a "crown of splendor." (Proverbs 16:31) So as awkward as this season of life is, I choose to walk forward in confidence that God is with me and to revel in the beauty of my fairy hair.

PTO UPDATE

by Lindsay Loewer, PTO President

Have you been wondering what the PTO has been up to?!? Here's a quick recap of the last few months:

In the spirit of showing our gratitude in November, the PTO funded a delicious lunch for the staff and teachers on November 7th catered by 82 Queen. Thank you to the Kish family for partnering with the PTO! Additionally, faculty and staff were treated to Pnut Brown's famous cinnamon rolls as a special Thanksgiving treat!

In December, the PTO provided Christmas cookies for The Star / Polar Express movie day on the downtown campus!

Before the start of Christmas break, all faculty and staff on both campuses received jumbo chocolate chip cookies from Charlotte Downs @ CND Treats!

As we closed out 2023, the PTO was excited to provide financial support for the School Pass Visitor Management software that supports both campuses!

We kicked off the new year with a professional development breakfast for all FBS faculty and staff on January 2nd!

Later in the month of January, all primary and special area teachers on both the downtown campus and high school campus were gifted \$100 towards Amazon wish list items for their classrooms!

We were also able to financially support the purchase of a small refrigerator for the faculty and staff to have in the office / lunch break area of the high school campus.

The Room Moms continue to be actively engaged in supporting the teachers and administration, and I continue to be amazed at the support that is shown by our incredible FBS families!

Next up: Teacher Appreciation Week will be hosted April 22nd - 26th this year! Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you for all that you do to support the PTO and our amazing school!



College Counseling

SHANNON ROY
COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we progress through the academic year, I would like to take a moment to update you on the recent activities in our college counseling program at First Baptist School of Charleston.

Over the past couple of months, I have had the opportunity to meet with Juniors, parents/caregivers individually to discuss crucial aspects of college readiness. These meetings have covered a range of topics including transcript analysis, graduation requirements, and the results of the Principles You assessment. I've also provided feedback on initial college lists, offered guidance on SAT/ACT preparation, and assisted in locating additional information and resources to aid in the decision-making process. Additionally, we've engaged in conversations about investigating majors and navigating the next steps towards higher education.

It has been inspiring to see our Junior students actively participating in these discussions and showing enthusiasm for their future plans. However, we understand that this time can also be overwhelming as they navigate the pressures of post-high school decisions. Rest assured, I am here to offer support every step of the way.

As we transition into March, I will begin meeting with our Sophomores individually. The focus will be on utilizing the YouScience assessment to uncover each student's unique aptitudes and interests. By connecting these aptitudes to potential career paths and educational opportunities, we aim to empower students to find relevance in their education and confidence in their future endeavors. I will also address the transcript and the importance of grades going forward.

Looking ahead, scheduling for the upcoming academic year will soon be underway. More information regarding this process will be provided by our administrators, Dr. Kupersmith and Ms. Grant. We encourage you to stay tuned for updates and reach out with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your student's academic and college planning journey.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and future aspirations. We are committed to providing comprehensive support to ensure their success beyond high school.

Warm regards,

Shannon Roy

College Counselor
First Baptist High School

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL OF CHARLESTON



11TH BIENNIAL LIVE

—◆— AND —◆—

SILENT AUCTION



please join us on

04.13.2024

AT SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

**THE HARBOUR CLUB AT WESTEDGE
22 WESTEDGE STREET, SUITE 700
CHARLESTON, SC 29403**

to view and purchase ticket options, please visit

EVENT.GIVES/FBSAUCTION2024

ADVANCEMENT

UPDATES



Thank you to our sponsors!

11th Biennial Live and Silent Auction

The FBS 11th Biennial Live and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024, at The Harbour Club at WestEdge. The school auction is always a wonderful time of great fun, food, music and raising much needed funds for our school.

Limited tickets available!

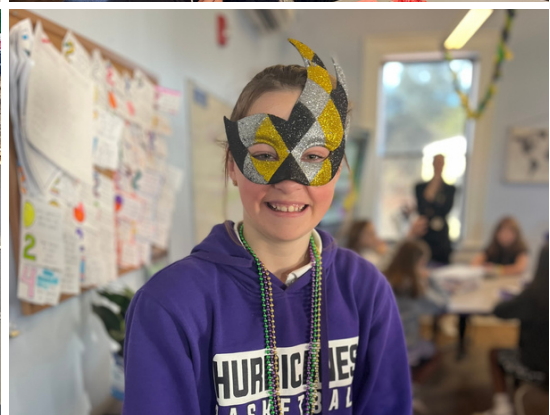
Event Schedule

5:45 PM - Registration
6:00 - 7:30 PM - Hors d'oeuvres
6:00 - 8:30 PM - Silent Auction
7:30 PM - Dinner
8:30 - 10:00 PM - Live Auction

If you are interested in donating an auction item, please contact Beth Switzer at switzerb@fbschool.org.



Around Campus



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



FACTS
LOGIN



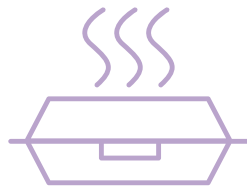
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

PTO

PARENT TEACHER
ORGANIZATION(PTO)



SMART TUITION
LOGIN



SCHOOLHOUSE
FARE LUNCH



DRESS CODE



FACULTY/STAFF
DIRECTORY



ACADEMIC
CALENDAR



ONLINE
GIVING

These resources can always be found on the [Resources](#) page of our website.