

HURRICANE WATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

March 2023

Monthly Newsletter



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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- March & April 2023 Calendar
- School Happenings
- Teacher Appreciation Week
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- High School Counseling
- Health & Wellness

Head of School Update

By Dr. Justin Mitchell

Greetings, First Baptist Community!

As we prepare for the Easter season, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice Christ paid for our sins. As Christians, we celebrate His resurrection on the third day, not His death.

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Matthew 28:5-6 provides an account of Christ's resurrection: "The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.'" Let us meditate on the resurrection as we enter the weeks to come.

Spring is almost here! We are once again met with the beauty of God's creation as everything begins to wake up from winter. The Daffodil Project began at FBS last year by C.R.E.A.T.E as a memorial to the 1.5 million children victims of the Holocaust. The bulbs they planted last year are blooming beautifully again this year and serve as a reminder of the memory of those who perished, honor survivors, and remind us to stand up for those suffering around the world today. If you are on the James Island Campus any time soon, be sure to check out the daffodil beds directly behind the main academic building.

We have new faces joining our community. The first introduction is Mr. Jamaal Birch, who is joining us as the new head football coach and academic mentor. Coach Birch grew up in Charleston but has most recently been serving at Providence Day School in Charlotte, NC. Coach Birch became a Christian at a young age and has fond memories from his childhood of attending church and Bible Studies with his siblings, his grandmother, and God Mother. He currently attends Elevation Church in Charlotte and is looking forward to getting reconnected to a church home here in Charleston. Coach Birch earned his bachelor's degree in Sports Management from MacMurray College and is currently completing his master's degree in organizational leadership through Southern New Hampshire University. Coach Birch's strong faith, infectious enthusiasm, passion for students, and love of football will serve our school community well.

Additionally, we are excited to announce that we will be adding a high school Assistant Principal beginning in June. Ms. Marshelle Grant is also a Charleston native, raised in Mt. Pleasant. She is currently the Dual Enrollment Coordinator at Trident Technical College. FBS partners with TTC for its dual-credit classes. Trident Tech has an enrollment of over 10,000 students. She graduated from Wando High School, holds a BA in History from Winthrop University, and a Master of Arts in Education from the Citadel. Ms. Grant has had a career in education since July 2001. She is an active member of Olive Branch AME Church in Mt. Pleasant, where she serves on the Ministerial Staff, as Christian Education Director, Adult Sunday School Class Instructor, as well as in youth ministry as the Youth Church-Co-Director. Ms. Grant's faith, love of students, warm disposition, and professional experiences will make her an excellent addition to our school community.

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Both campuses have so many exciting opportunities for students happening now and in the near future. We are beginning our Boosterthon fundraisers to upgrade books in our Downtown Campus library, purchase a sign for the entrance to our James Island Campus, and to purchase iPads for our Kindergarten through 2nd-graders. Our middle school students recently traveled to the SC State House, where they had the opportunity to meet Governor McMaster, have him provide a tour of his office to our students, and then recognize our students and school on the State House Floor. After their visit to Columbia, they went to Biltmore Estate. Our seniors are excited as they are preparing for their upcoming annual trip to Disney. During the week of March 6th-10th, PTO is leading the charge for Teacher Appreciation Week. Please join us in helping our teachers feel special for all of the hard work they do day in, and day out, for our students. Additionally, both campuses are working hard to prepare for our upcoming SAIS Accreditation Visit from April 30th through May 2nd.

The arrival of spring brings with it a flurry of activity in the Fine Arts Department. After months of developing skills and exploring the creative process, our students are preparing for several upcoming events where their growth and efforts will be showcased. On March 9th and 10th, our middle and high school theatre students will present "Heroes & Villains," a musical tribute to some of Broadway's most loved heroes & villains. The creative process for this event has been led by our theatre director, Mrs. Kelsey Nelson, with assistance from our music and choir director, Mrs. Reagan Lethco. Our student performers have played an active role in selecting scenes & songs, brainstorming costumes, and refining an original script for the performance. We are proud of these students and their leaders for exploring and growing through all areas of theatre in their process this semester.

In April, several of our high school dance students will be traveling to New York City to perform in an outdoor concert and take master classes on Broadway. This is the first time since COVID that this special event has been offered and we are thrilled to once again send representatives from our school! Our choir and band programs will share the spotlight together on Sunday, April 23rd, in a collaborative spring concert featuring student performers from both music programs. The following week, our K3-12th grade dance students will take the stage in their annual Spring Dance Showcase. The end of April ushers in a weeklong high school visual art and photography show, which will feature displayed student work on our James Island campus. We hope you and your family will join us at one or more of these arts events, celebrating the many diverse talents of our student body and creative faculty. Please follow our fine arts accounts on social media to see behind-the-scenes progress and previews of these upcoming performances and events.

Our Athletic Department is also very busy. Basketball season was an absolute success for our teams from top to bottom. Our elementary and middle school teams made strong progress throughout the year as they focused on fundamentals and learning the game. Our 7th-8th grade

Continued on next page...

girls proved it on the court and in the classroom with a 9-3 record on the court and an academic award for the highest grade average in their league! Our varsity basketball teams were the only 4A teams in the state to both make the state semifinals this past weekend. We are so proud of all of you!

Spring sports are off to a fast start with baseball and both soccer programs earning wins in their early scrimmages and first games of the season! We have many nights this season during the Spring where both soccer programs and baseball are playing at home at the same time. The boys golf team and track teams are just getting started and look to have a strong year on the course and on the track! We also want to welcome two of our newest spring head coaches to FBS with our new girls soccer coach, Marc Simpson and our new boys golf coach, Jacob Redmond. We hope you can make plans to join us to watch all of our teams in action. Please follow our athletic calendar and the athletic social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for the most up to date game information.

As a reminder, Easter Break is April 3rd-10th. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our students, families, each other, and you, our First Baptist community. 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, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "M".

MARCH 2023

School Calendar

- 3 Boosterthon Fun Run & Color Run
- 6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 9-10 Middle & High School Theatre Production
- 17 Professional Development for Faculty/Staff - **No School**
- 18 FBS Father Daughter Dance
- 31 Family Friday & Dress Down Day

APRIL 2023

School Calendar

- 3-10 Easter & Spring Break - **No School**
- 11 School Resumes
- 23 Spring Choir & Band Concert
- 29 High School Art & Photography Exhibit Opening
- 30 K3-12th Grade Spring Dance Showcase

[Click here](#)
for Athletic
Schedule



IN THE KNOW

school happenings



Spring Break Camp (K3-4th Grade)

We are excited to hold a two-day Spring Break Camp on April 3rd & 4th of break for K3-4th grade.

Time: 7:30-2:30 (Early drop off will start at 7:30 and camp will officially start at 8:30)

Location: Downtown Campus

Cost: \$75 per day or \$125 for both days.

[Register here!](#)

Summer Enrichment Camp (1st-6th Grade)

Summer may seem far away, but it's never too early to plan ahead! Our Summer Enrichment camp is back for rising 1st-6th graders to get a jump start on the 23-24 school year!

July 17-21, 2023, 8:30am-3:00pm

\$275 for the week

[Register here!](#)



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

#WeAreFB

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





WATER MISSION PROJECT

In order to bring awareness to the Global Water Crisis our world is currently suffering, First Grade has partnered with Water Mission! 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. Dirty water makes people sick and walking each day prevents children from attending school.

WHAT IS WATER MISSION?

Water Mission is a Christian engineering nonprofit that builds safe water, sanitation, and hygiene solutions in developing countries and disaster areas. Since 2001, Water Mission has served more than 7 million people in 57 countries. [Click here](#) to learn more.

WHAT IS THE WALK FOR WATER?

Participating in The Walk for Water provides the opportunity for us to empathize for a brief moment, what so many less fortunate communities must do daily to survive. Each participant will carry an empty bucket of water, walk several miles to fill it up, and then walk back to fill a large pool of water with their contributions. This sends a powerful message to each participant of what it might be like if they had to do this day after day after day. This year's annual walk is scheduled for Saturday, March 25th, 2023!

Join our team and walk with us! Follow the link below to register or donate to this beautiful cause.

WALK FOR WATER

Saturday, March 25, 2023

[Join Our Team](#)



CANES NEWS



ARE YOU A LIFEGUARD OR INTERESTED IN BECOMING ONE?

FBS Swim is looking for anyone interested in helping out as a lifeguard during the swim season from Aug. 1 - Oct. 1. You can be certified in just one weekend and get paid to be a lifeguard while the FBS swim team practices. Please contact our AD, Graham Haley, at haleyg@fbschool.org, if you are interested!



Certification includes:

- become CPR certified
- shallow rescue training
- deep rescue training
- spinal training
- practice with different scenarios



B-TEAM TENNIS SCHEDULE

The tentative B-team tennis schedule is available [here](#)!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to both varsity basketball teams on great seasons! Both teams made it to the SCISA 4A state semifinals! #WeAreFB



Fine Arts Events

MAR
9 & 10

Heroes & Villains
Upper School Theatre Performance

APR
23

Band & Choir Spring
Concert

APR
29

High School Art &
Photography Exhibit
Opening

APR
30

Spring Dance
Showcase

Tickets and information will be available for
all events at fbschool.org/campus-events

MARCH 2023

PTO News & Updates

Lindsay Loewer, PTO President

Mark your calendars for a week of spoiling our fabulous FBS teachers! There are a few things parents can help with:

- PTO is providing breakfast/lunch & spirit wear to the staff throughout the week. In addition, they are sending take-home dinners on Monday 3/6. Go to fbschool.org/pto if you want to 'sponsor' a dinner.
- Volunteers are needed to help distribute all the goodies. Sign up if you would like to help!

See below for the full schedule!



Upcoming Events

Booster Fun Run

March 3, 2023

Teacher Appreciation Week

March 6-10, 2023

Dress Down Day

March 31, 2023

PTO Meeting (DT)

April 18, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Dress Down Day

April 28, 2023

Contact Us



PTO website:
fbschool.org/pto



E-mail the PTO:
pto@fbschool.org

PTO PARENT
TEACHER
ORGANIZATION
FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

TEACHER & STAFF APPRECIATION Week

MARCH 6-10

MONDAY: BAGELS FOR BREAKFAST
SPONSORED BY PTO
Dinner sent home
from FBS families / PTO

TUESDAY: BESSINGERS BBQ LUNCH
SPONSORED BY PTO
Surprise your teacher
with something from
their "Favorites List"

WEDNESDAY: CHICK-FIL-A BREAKFAST
SPONSORED BY
FB CHURCH VOLUNTEERS
Surcie Shirt
from the PTO

THURSDAY: QUEEN STREET HOSPITALITY
LUNCH
SPONSORED BY FBS ADMIN
Share a sweet note
with your teachers

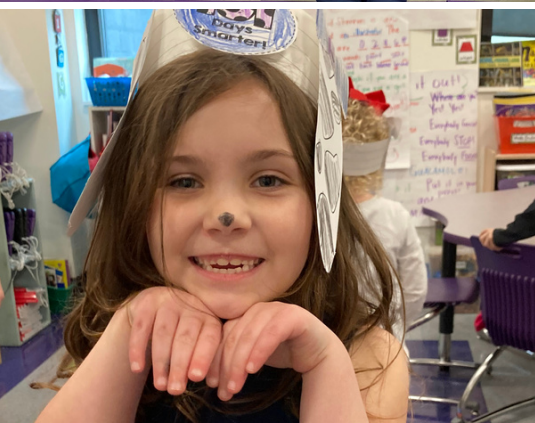
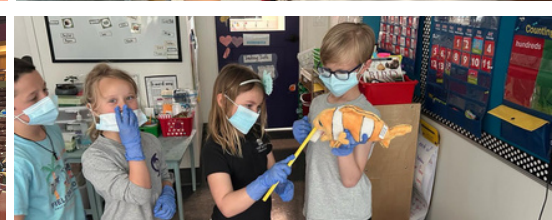
FRIDAY: KAIROS LUNCH SPONSORED BY
FB SCHOOL BOARD

And we know that in all things,
God works for the good
of those who love Him,
who have been called
according to His purpose.
ROMANS 8:28





Around Campus



HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING

This month marks the start of spring which feels more like the start of summer lately, but I will not complain because where I hail from (Boston), it's still freezing and March can be brutal (*rain, snow, cold, oh my*)!

I'm excited to tell you all that the Class of 2024 (Juniors) have begun the exciting process of college searching/visits. This is a wonderful time of exploring options. We have introduced a new program called YouScience that we are trialing and so far, the response has been favored. What is YouScience? YouScience gives students hope, relevance, and direction by expanding their vision of opportunities. Unlike traditional interest surveys, YouScience uses fun, engaging 'brain games' to capture real measures of aptitudes (natural abilities most important to career choice).

Alongside YouScience, we have also introduced SCOIR. The goal of SCOIR is to help students search colleges and universities and keep their applications organized. It will also be used by myself to electronically send out official transcripts when that time comes for students.

On the heels of Juniors, I will see every single sophomore this month. This group tends to get "lost in the shuffle" so to speak, but my plan is to have a quick meeting to introduce myself as their school counselor and what my role is. We will also be discussing their transcript, what it all means, and how picking classes for Junior year really matters for colleges/universities. Keep an eye out for emails from me for any important information regarding those visits and about scheduling for next year.

Have a great March!

Shannon Roy

High School Counseling

FBS Counselor
Rose Cummings



FINISHING STRONG

Beginning with February's recap for The Social Institute, our 5th-12th graders learned about "Finding their Influencers." One topic discussed was about vetting videos, posts and articles we find online to find out if they're legitimate. Some of our high schoolers talked about finding mentors and role models online to elevate their interests. Some of our students have really grasped the idea of using online tools to support their roles in youth activism and we share their enthusiasm!

While I am still a fan of limiting online time and devices in the home, be sure to encourage your child to use their time wisely, to glorify God, to stand up for purposes and causes that they are passionate about and to discuss them with you. It is my hope that if our children see that we are interested in what they are doing online, they will share more with us and will feel more invested in the decisions that they are making both on and offline.

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I can hardly believe that mid-March we will be in the last quarter of school! Help your child tackle this last portion by making some new habits to refresh their zest for school! Maybe buy some new notebooks or pencils, add something to the breakfast routine or say a prayer for renewed strength and energy as we tackle this portion of the school year. There is much left to do, and we want to keep up that momentum!

The Father Daughter dance is coming up, hosted by the Counseling Department this year, on March 18th. We will have music, DJ Scott Sain from Plane Jane, a fun boomerang selfie station, treats and more! I hope many of you with daughters will join us! Check your email for more details!

Save the date!



FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

RESOURCES



RENWEB
LOGIN



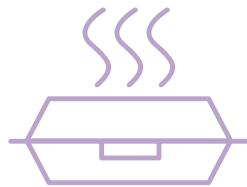
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

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.