



# THE SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL

## Tuesday Note Home Our Weekly Community Newsletter

Week of April 2, 2018



(North Class) Cricket meets quail chick!

## Upcoming Dates

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**Monday, April 2-Wednesday, April 4**

4th Grade Trip

**Monday, April 2-Saturday, April 7**

8th Grade Trip

**Tuesday, April 3-Friday, April 6**

6th & 7th Grades Outdoor Education

**Wednesday, April 4**

Public Purpose Committee

8:45-9:45 am

**Monday, April 9-Friday, April 13**

Spring Break

**Monday, April 16**

School Resumes

Diversity Committee Meeting  
8:00-9:30 am

**Thursday, April 19**

Portola Library Neighborhood School Art Show Opening  
4:00-5:00 pm

**Friday, April 20**

Olympics Day for 1st-7th Grades  
1:30-3:00 pm

[Full Calendar](#)

## In the Spotlight...



*Last week I had one of the absolute best days of my 14-year SFS career - I had the great privilege of shadowing a 2nd Grade student from drop off until pick up.*

*For those of you who are not aware, this past January, SFS embarked on a year-long Schedule Redesign process. Under the guidance of a firm called **Leadership+Design**, we convened a committee of thirteen faculty and administrators to reimagine our schedule from preschool through 8th grade. Our plan is to reveal our new schedule in January of 2019 (to be put in place for the fall of 2019). However, we are prototyping small tweaks to our existing schedule already as we truly hope to make an impact that serves our students as soon as possible with this process.*

*As part of our Schedule Redesign process, committee members are taking an empathy-based approach. What that means in this case is that each committee member, plus me, shadows an individual student for an entire day (spanning all of the grades). This will give us an opportunity to gain insights from the perspective of the lived experience of our most important “users” - our students. In becoming anthropologists in our own school, we are gaining an understanding of a student’s day from start to finish, allowing us to gather stories and snapshots that will*

*ultimately help us frame student needs and opportunities for growth while creating our new schedule.*

Read more about Steve Morris's day in 2nd Grade in the latest installation of [Hedspace!](#)

## School News

### Division Head Rebalance for 2018-19

We have decided to rebalance the Division Head positions starting July 1, 2018. After that date, Maggie Weis's title will be the Lower School Head and she will oversee PS – 3rd Grades. Nancy Nagramada will be the Upper School Head, and she will oversee 4th – 8th Grades. Student, staff, parent/guardian, and program oversight will fall along this divide. However, it is important to note that the 4th and 5th Grades will still be a part of the overall elementary program. We made this decision for a number of reasons:

- Allows for a better balance of students, staff, and families between two positions
- Social-emotional alignment and activities usually coincide with 4th-8th grade (i.e., Health education and other SEL matters)
- Impact of technology/social media on student life is more aligned (iPads introduced in 4th grade, many students get first phones/iPods in the upper elementary or middle school years, etc.)
- MAP testing begins in 4th grade
- Introduction of a 4th/5th grade math and science teacher next year is better aligned with program structure in MS

We may find that there are more ways in which these grades align as the year progresses. We continue to solve for several matters that come with this change; for example, what impact this realignment might have on classroom spaces. If you have questions or thoughts, please feel free to talk with Steve Morris, Nancy Nagramada, or Maggie Weis.

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### Reminder: Board of Trustees Nominations

In accordance with the bylaws of The San Francisco School, the Board has approved the slate of new trustee candidates and presents it to the community for consideration. Ballots have been sent by mail to each family for the election or re-election of Class A trustees (parents or guardians of current students). Please remember to review the nominees' biographical information [here](#), then complete and return your ballot forms to school by **Friday, April 20, 2018 at 6:00 pm**. Questions? Email Jeanie Chang, Chair of the Nominating Committee ([jeanettekeichang@gmail.com](mailto:jeanettekeichang@gmail.com))

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**SPEAK Presents Dr. Laura Kastner**



On **April 25**, **SPEAK** will be hosting its final speaker for the year, Dr. Laura Kastner, who will be speaking on the topic, "Getting to Calm: Raising Healthy, Caring, and Successful Children in Our Angst-Ridden World Today." This event is free for SFS families because SFS is a member of SPEAK, a coalition of SF K-8 schools that have joined together to enhance parent education. Please see details below on the event and how to RSVP.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 25th, 2018

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Location:** Katherine Delmar Burke School, **7070 California Street**

**To RSVP for this event, please visit:** <https://laurakastner.eventbrite.com>

Dr. Laura Kastner's talk will focus on how parents can be effective and skillful in handling typical parenting challenges, with the understanding that we all share the all important goal of maintaining a loving, reliable and affectionate bond with our children even when it feels like kids are pushing limits almost all the time.

The last five decades have produced solid research about what kinds of parenting predict high achievement, social and emotional competence and a strong character. Pulling it off is quite another matter. Amidst good intentions, parents end up fighting with their kids about school achievement, disrespect, noncompliance, lazy work habits and all manner of household hassles. With touch screens as a constant source of entertainment and distraction, families have a tougher time than ever figuring out how to raise healthy children.

#### **About Laura Kastner, Ph.D**

Laura Kastner, Ph.D. is a clinical professor in both the Department of Psychology and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at University of Washington. Dr. Kastner is a nationally recognized author and speaker and has appeared on *The Today Show* and many TV news programs, has written for parenting magazines, and has authored five parenting books.

We are also excited to continue our SPEAK Community Coffee discussions. We realize the SPEAK event is at an inconvenient time for some. Whether you can or cannot attend the event, please join us for a rich discussion and a chance to build community.

#### **Community Coffee:**

**Date:** Friday, April 27th, 2018

**Time:** 8:00-9:30 am

**Location:** South Class Yard

Thanks to the Family Association for providing us with coffee and yummy treats to fuel our discussion!

**Want to read Dr. Kastner's book *Getting to Calm*?** We have copies to borrow at the front desk!

Please feel free to contact the SFS SPEAK Team with any questions or

concerns: Divya Silbermann ([dindib@gmail.com](mailto:dindib@gmail.com)), Michelle Manzo ([michelle.manzo@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.manzo@gmail.com)), and Nadya Ramsaroop ([nadyakr@yahoo.com](mailto:nadyakr@yahoo.com))

## Reminder: Lost & Found

Please remember to check the Lost & Found for any items your child(ren) may be missing! We will be donating any unclaimed lunch containers, water bottles, or clothes after school on **Friday, April 20**.



"I still haven't found what I'm looking for."

## Save the Date for Pride 2018 & Help Make it Better Than Ever!



Once again, The San Francisco School will have a contingent of students, parents and staff marching down Market Street in the LGBT Pride Parade. This year the parade will be on the morning of **Sunday, June 24**. We want to make this the best year ever for the SFS contingent and would love your

help! If you're interested in helping us increase participation, think of new ways to show our pride, or anything else, please let Stewart ([sdorsey@sfschool.org](mailto:sdorsey@sfschool.org)) know!

## In Search Of...

Furnished 3 bedroom home with garage and garden for rent in Noe Valley for June and July this summer. For more information, please contact Theresa Meuniot at [sfnoehome@gmail.com](mailto:sfnoehome@gmail.com) or 415.533.4662.



## What's Cookin' This Week?\*



**Wednesday:** Baked Chicken & Polenta w/ Green Salad & Fruit

**Thursday:** Black Rice & Beans w/ Roasted Veggies & Fruit

**Friday:** Picnic Lunch (for Preschool/Kindergarten)

**Monday:** No School - Spring Break

**Tuesday:** No School - Spring Break

\*Menus subject to change due to delivery changes and general human fallibility

## News from the Family Association

Thank you to those who attended the FA members meeting last week. We were happy to share results of the survey and discuss the direction for the FA next year based on those results. [Here's a link](#) to the meeting minutes!

### **FA Community Coffee - Friday, April 27, 8:15-9:30 am**

Please save the date for the next Community Coffee. There will be warm beverages & tasty breakfast goodies. Thank you to those who attended the last coffee and to our new Board Chair, Anne Hipskind Roberts!

### **Save the Date – Saturday, May 5th! Adventure Playground Work Day.**

Join us from **9:00 am-12:00 pm on May 5th** to work in the Adventure Playground! Our children are lucky to have such an amazing outdoor space available to them, but it does need our community to come together and help maintain it now and then. Projects may include cleaning the barn and gazebo, adding new plywood to one side of the barn, weeding, and adding sand to the sand pits. Lunch will be provided.

## Beyond the Gates

### **Doug Goodkin & The Pentatonics at SFJazz Center**



Doug Goodkin and his band The Pentatonics will be appearing with some very special guests in a family matinee at the SFJazz Center on **Saturday, May 12 at 11:00 am!** They're part of the "From Roots to Branches: Jazz for All Ages" series, bringing live jazz and music education to Bay Area families. Doug reports that tickets are selling quickly - make sure to buy yours now!

<http://www.sfjazz.org/tickets/productions/doug-goodkin-and-the-pentatonics-family-matinee/>

## **2nd Annual SF Public Library/Portola School Art Exhibit**

Artists from SFS will be contributing their work for the second annual exhibit at

the SFPL Portola branch in April. Celebrating the flora, fauna, and the many schools of the Garden District, families and staff of the Alta Vista School, ER Taylor Elementary School, and SFS are invited to the Opening Reception on **Thursday, April 19 at 4:00 pm**. SFS's own Nico Berry (parent of Saskia, 2nd Grade, and Simone, 7th Grade) will speak at the reception about his murals, many of which are known and loved throughout the Portola.

## Common Sense Media Tip of the Week

You're driving home from school and suddenly your kid asks, "Hey, where did my baby cousin come from?" Often, we have to tackle the biggest topics with the least amount of warning. And sometimes they come up because of something we're listening to or **watching together**. Between birth, death, and all the other big issues, we may sometimes find ourselves tongue-tied, grasping for the best way to answer the toughest questions.

Thankfully, you don't have to go it alone. So many topics have a book to help you, from the **death of a pet** to **puberty**. When parents split up, kids have a lot of questions, and **these movies** might be a solid starting place to open a dialogue. When it comes to explaining the violence and cruelty in the world, it's never an easy conversation, but **here are some tips** that will help get you through so you can take a breath before the next tough conversation.



### The San Francisco School

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[Visit Our Website](#)

TNH Submissions  
(Deadline: Mondays  
at 12:00 pm!)

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