



# THE HOWLER

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT SFA

FALL 2014

**Student Editors**  
Evan Kubick  
Annie Wadovick

**Student Newspaper Staff**  
Samantha Barton  
Adam Cummings  
Madison Mayhall  
Marc Piadade  
Abby Simpson  
Matthew Sweatt

**Faculty Advisors**  
Michael Jeffrey  
Eileen Scrivener

## Blackbeard Comes Ashore!

**By: Abby Simpson**

This year, for the annual production of Missoula Children's Theatre, SFA students presented the musical *Blackbeard the Pirate*. This year's production included the tale of Blackbeard and his faithful pirates as they go through the dangerous and unruly waters of the sea. Jolly Roger, the narrator and long-time enemy of Blackbeard, reminisces about the fearsome pirates and their leader. Students in Kindergarten through eighth grade were able to audition. This made it

possible to add the adorable and lovable characters of crabs, beach bums, seaweed creatures, mermaids, crocodiles, sailors, parrots, pirates, and, of course, Blackbeard himself. Annie Wadovick, one of the "beach bums" said, "It was hard work, but it turned out great. I had a lot of fun!" This play was enjoyable, entertaining, memorable, and charming, a feat the Missoula Theatre manages to maintain year after year.



## A New Priest Joins St. Francis

**By: Evan Kubick**

Although many of you have seen him walking down hallways and celebrating Mass, a majority of you probably don't really know our new priest. To start, his name is Father Robert D. Ballman, and our school is his very first assignment.

Fr. Robert was born on October 13, 1969, in Wynne, Arkansas, where he grew up. He attended Arkansas State University and went on to work as an insurance agent after graduating. Throughout his years of working as an agent, he constantly remained in love with Catholicism and the Church. In 2009, after heavily considering his options, he decided that he wanted to become a priest. Fr. Robert traveled to Hales Corners, Wisconsin, and attended seminary at Sacred Heart School of Theology. He studied there until June of 2014 when he was given his first assignment at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.

Fr. Rob claims that the students, or "young adults" as he calls them, have done

an excellent job with welcoming him to the school. His favorite thing about our community is the sense of humor that seems to live in almost every person across the campus. St. Francis is a great example of why Fr. Rob loves being a priest---he gets to see new faces and meet new and very diverse people!

Outside of being a priest, Robert has many passions. He is immensely fascinated by the outdoors and nature. He enjoys outdoor games like geocaching. In geocaching, you use GPS to both hide and seek a container that could be hidden anywhere in the world. When you find the container, you write your name and the date on a piece of paper inside the container and leave it for the next seeker to find.

Of course, there are the little things that count. Fr. Rob's favorite foods are spaghetti and hamburgers. Like most of the "young adults" at SFA, he enjoys watching sports. His favorite teams are the Arkansas Razorbacks, the Memphis Grizzlies, the Saint Louis Cardinals,

and the Carolina Panthers.

Fr. Robert is already a huge part of the whole SFA community even though he's only been here for a few months. After talking with him, I found that he is passionate and serious about his faith but can be very laid back and hilarious at other times. If you see Fr. Robert walking down the hallway, definitely be sure to wave and give him a warm welcome.



Father Robert D. Ballman

## Memphis Public Art

**By: Madison Mayhall**

This year the eighth-graders are attempting a cross curricular project entitled Memphis Public Art. Mr. Sweeney says the project “is designed to have our students use technology to explore the public art of Memphis.” The students will be learning how to build a sculpture in art. In science they will be creating a kinetic sculpture of their own design; writing a letter to the Memphis Board of Public Art to request funding and a location to install their sculptures in Memphis in English.; calculating how much money a full sized installment of the piece would cost in math.; translating

a description of our sculpture into Spanish in Spanish; researching and learning about the history of public art in history; debating controversial art in literature.; and finally we are making a presentation of religious art in religion class. The students have been working on this project alongside their regular schoolwork.

“I think the project was inspiring and fun.” Evan Kubick, one of the eighth-graders, said when I asked him what he thought of the project. Another student, Marc Piadade, believes the project to be “difficult but worth participating in.”



Fifth grader, Mark Hieatt, rises to the occasion and wins the 2014 St. Francis **Spelling Bee** with the word “epicurean.” Right behind him was runner-up, seventh grader, Samantha Barton. This year’s participants had the added challenge of a vocabulary section in which they also had to use words properly in sentences.

## Clubs at SFA - How to Get Involved

**By: Adam Cummings and Samantha Barton**

As a competitive school with an incredible academic curriculum, SFA also has a large diversity of extracurricular activities in which anyone and everyone can find something interesting. If you do not like sports, there are many clubs that might suit you. From fine arts to math and science to current events, we have almost everything here.

There are many fine arts clubs such as choir, band, seasonal plays, and forensics, just to name a few. Choir rehearses during the specials days in order to perform well at competitions as well as sing in mass. Band also practices during the specials days and performs during pep rallies, the Christmas concert, and the end of the year concert. There are also seasonal plays that the Missoula company does. Recently they have done performances such as *Blackbeard the Pirate* and *Finian's Rainbow*. Forensics is the speech and drama club which performs in local and regional competitions. Selected by auditions, students practice weekly after school. Students compete in the sections of prose, poetry, radio broadcasting, duo interpretation, storytelling, improvisation, duo improvisation, humorous and dramatic interpretation.

If you’re not into fine arts, there are academic clubs such as Mathcounts, Robotics, Chess, Academic Team, and Model UN. Mathcounts is the math club in which students practice extremely hard math problems in preparation for two competitions. They also learn skills and shortcuts for arithmetic and algebra. In Robotics, participants learn how to program a robot to do specific missions. Chess Club is not very well-known; in fact a lot of people don’t know about it at all. In this club, strategy and planning ahead are very important. Students gifted in multitasking, or who enjoy a challenge, will likely appreciate this club. Academic team is the trivia club, which competes in tournaments. This is preceded by Newsbowl for the younger grades. It is followed up by the Knowledge Bowl team in high school, in which you could earn a college scholarship. Model UN, short for Model United Nations, is the debate club. Here, you research about individual countries and debate about current events in those countries. Model UN is also generally available at the high school and college levels for students interested in furthering their debate skills.

So, from math and science to drama and music, SFA has almost every club imaginable. Pick one and join the fun!

## SFA’s Technological Advances

**By: Marc Piadade**

Well, like the rest of the world today, St. Francis is quickly evolving not only educationally but also electronically. Due to new technological advancements such as the Smart Board, the laptop carts equipped with MacBook Airs, we are becoming a more modern school. This school has been skyrocketing with various different electronic advances! A good example of the school evolving in technology is its new Facebook page. How about convincing the faculty to make a Twitter page? In related tech news, the kindergarteners now have iPads! Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Mandy Hunt, said, “The kindergarteners love the iPads. They each get one and are allowed to work on a variety of apps.” But, while the kindergarteners get iPads, we, being in middle school, have laptop carts. An eighth grade student, Adam Cummings, stated his opinion. “The computer carts are awesome; they allow us to use many different styles of learning, each to his own individual pace. For me at least, I really like it.” Our school has also been adapting to Google and Schoology as well as Duolingo for Spanish classes. It’s the digital age, a SFA is immersed in it.



The fifth and sixth grade cheerleaders showed their paw power at one of their spirit-filled football games.



The fifth and sixth grade girls' volleyball team finished off their season by winning their volleyball tournament.



The seventh and eighth grade soccer team went all the way to the championship game.



M.J. Hughes, Owen Tyrone, Parker Massa, Jesse Hollingsworth, Will Thomas, Riley Palmer, and Mathew Burton, the St. Francis golf team members, were undefeated all season.



Seventh and 8th grade cheerleaders won first place at the PAA competition.

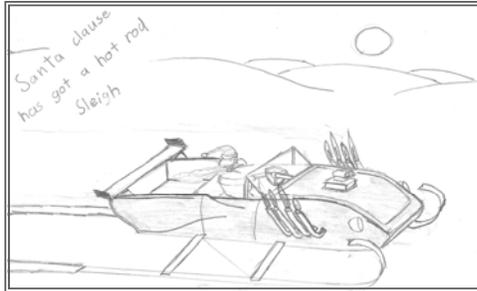


Football player, Mathew Covington, threw some amazing passes.



*Frilled-neck Lizard*

*Frilled Neck Lizard*  
Samantha Barton, 7th grade



*Santa's Hot Rod Sleigh*  
Matthew Mullins, 7th grade



*Colorful Roses*  
Kelly Olchawa, 7th grade



*Fawn*  
Lydia Gillock, 7th grade



*Girl in Motion*  
Maggie Alexander, 7th grade



*Christmas Cardinal*  
James Finkelstein  
6th grade



*Christmas Truck*  
Chase Schaber, 7th grade



*My Last Cat*  
Matthew Ripberger, 5th grade



*Jesus in the Manger*  
Kaitlyn Muck, K



*Christmas Stocking*  
Mia Baker, JrK

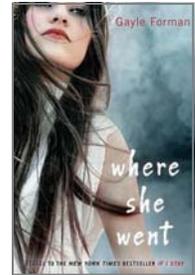


*Rudolph*  
Chloe O'Brien, K

### Book Review by Abby Simpson

#### *Where She Went*

A concluding sequel to the thrilling and thought-provoking book *If I Stay*, *Where She Went* delivers a satisfying end to the first installment of this story. In order to understand *Where She Went*, the reader really must have read the first book. *Where She Went* is the inspirational story of Mia Hall and how she copes with the tragedy that occurred in *If I Stay*. Heart-wrenching and romantic, this book lives up to the tremendous shadow of its predecessor.



Congratulations to Ian Blaylock, 8th grade, whose artwork has been selected to be featured on this year's SFA Christmas Card.



Maggie Alexander

~~~~~  
 Congratulations to Maggie Alexander, 7th grade, for her winning entry in the Lions Club Peace Poster contest. In keeping with this year's theme of *peace, love, and understanding*, Maggie responded, "Love and peace are in OUR hands."  
 ~~~~~