

January 20, 2006

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We have certainly been having some different weather. This past Saturday teased us with a taste of spring, only to have the full force of winter back by the end of the day. The rest of this week has been equally odd. Vermont weather certainly keeps us on our toes!

**Progress reports** went home today, and we will have a ½ day next Friday for **Parent Teacher conferences**. If your student's teacher(s) have requested a conference, or if you would like to set one up, please contact the office. Teachers are available for conferences during the hours of 12:00-3:00 and 4:00-6:00. Nancy will have the middle school teacher's schedules sheets available.

We had an excellent **Spirit Week**, and everybody participated at least some of the days. Thanks to the Student Council for coordinating this, and to all the faculty and families who helped make this happen. Today, Mr. Becker held special physical education classes in which younger students joined with their older church buddies to take part in a variety of different challenges for the chance to win prizes. It was a fantastic way to end Spirit Week.

**Thursday, January 26, at 6 PM** there will be a **parent information meeting** on the implementation of the Child Lures curriculum. This will be held in **conjunction with the Home and School** meeting for January. We encourage everyone to attend to hear more about this important program. To allow for frank discussion, we ask that parents not bring children if at all possible.

**Family Day/Open House** - St. Francis Xavier School is hosting an open house on Wednesday, February 1 from 7:30 to 10:30 and 12:15 to 2:00 PM. Current and prospective families, friends, and parishioners are welcome to join us for breakfast from 7:30 to 9:00 AM and then tour the school. Tours will also be offered from 12:15 to 2:00 PM and light refreshments will be served. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. If you will be a guest, please call St. Francis Xavier School at 655-2600 by January 31.

The assembly honoring the **winners** of the **Stock Market Game** was held yesterday. **Professor Art Woolf**, an economist from the University of Vermont and the Statewide Coordinator for the Stock Market Game in Vermont, presented the winning team, **Theo Francis and Kevin Lynch**, with certificates and a \$50 savings bond each. He also presented certificates to the other two teams, **Sam Lecuyer and Andre Paul** who came in second in the state, and **Gavin Buckley and Tim Bolger**, who came in third in the state. Professor Woolf explained that not only did these teams come out ahead of the other elementary school teams, but the third place team came in 83 out of a total of 500 teams in the state that are comprised of students in elementary, middle and high school. The second place team came in 64 out of 500, and the winning team came in the top 5% in the state. Professor Woolf was joined by **Myron Sopher**, the president of Sopher Investment Management and the **chair of the Vermont Council on Economic Education**. Congratulations to all, and we look forward to having Grades 4 through 8 participate this spring.

The Price Chopper Tools for Schools Promotion for 2005 has ended. We received over 14,000 points. While this did not put us in the top 100 schools (so we did not win a camcorder) it will provide us with some needed equipment. Thank you for all your help, and we look forward to next year."

A reminder about our **girls' softball team**. This team is open to girls in grades 6 through 8. We had some girls sign up this fall, and we ask that others who are interested sign up at the office. We need at least three or four more girls – and the team is open to students from other schools without a softball team and homeschoolers. We are looking forward to having a great inaugural season!"

If you have any softball equipment that you are no longer using, please consider donating it to our team. We are looking for catcher's gear, extra gloves, 11" and 12" softballs, batter's helmets, and bats. Thank you.

With the arrival of newer software and computer equipment, we find ourselves with quite a bit of older equipment and software that we are unable to use. While it no longer meets our needs, much of it is still very functional. We would prefer to see this equipment go to people who can make use of it. If you are interested in taking any of this equipment, please call the office at school: 655-2600, to set up an appointment.

Our Early Education Center is in need of good scrap paper for the students to use in their classes. If you have any, please consider bringing it in for them. Thank you for your help.

Nicole Beal, a 12 year old girl who is a friend of Mrs. Brown's family, is in need of a kidney transplant. We have a donation box in the lobby for the Children's Organ Transplant Association, and we ask that you keep Nicole and her family in your prayers.

We are truly blessed here at St. Francis and we thank all the students, faculty, families and friends who work so hard to make our school and our school community such a special place. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis