

May 5, 2006

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

Wow! What a great first week back. It is absolutely astounding how quickly everyone got right back to work after the spring break. We all know that after a long winter it can sometimes be a bit difficult to focus on things happening inside when the weather outside is so nice. While we certainly take time each day to enjoy the gorgeous spring weather, our faculty and students continue to work hard and accomplish what they need to do

May is the month of Mary, and on Tuesday we held our annual **May Crowning ceremony**. After the crowning, the school returned to the church for the rosary. We are pleased that families, friends, and parishioners were able to join us.

Last night our Drama Program presented their production of "Snow White". We also kicked off our Cinco de Mayo celebration with performances by our second grade and sixth grade. Everyone did a great job. The festive mood continued today where the students all enjoyed a Cinco de Mayo gala within their Spanish classes.

It was fitting that our sixth grade performed Baseball Fever last night - **our baseball team** is beginning their 3rd season with a double header at Landry Park today. The first game is a team scrimmage starting at 4 PM and the second, the first official game of the season, follows immediately after (approximately 6 PM.). They had two games rained out earlier this week and are eager to begin playing. **Our girls' softball team** kicks off their inaugural season with an away game at Twinfield beginning at 4 PM. We have not had a softball team before and our girls are excited to have the opportunity to represent our school. We hope that you will be able to catch some games for each of our teams.

This Sunday is a very special occasion – the **First Communion** for our second grade students. We invite families and friends to join them at the 9 AM Mass. We wish to congratulate the students as they receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

It was just brought to our attention that we inadvertently left one of our students off the honor roll list. Jenna Campbell in 6th grade earned Honors. We apologize for the error. Congratulations, Jenna!

We also want to announce the **St. Francis Xavier Teacher of the Year, Mary Ellen Varhue**. Yesterday Mrs. Varhue attended a special Mass and luncheon sponsored by the Diocese. Mrs. Varhue was selected for the outstanding work she does in middle school science and algebra, along with coaching Cross Country and MathCounts, and coordinating the St. Francis science fair and the St. Francis students who participate in the Vermont State Science Fair. Thank you, Mrs. Varhue, for your dedication and commitment to our students.

Next week we will be conducting **standardized testing** for students in grades K through 8. This year the diocese determined that all schools will be using the Terra Nova tests. These tests are similar to the SAT-9 tests that students have taken in the past. Please help your students do their best by encouraging them to eat a good breakfast each day, bring healthy snacks and water bottles, and perhaps get a bit more sleep than they might usually get at this time of year.

Next Thursday Kohl's Department Store and Fletcher Allen Healthcare are sponsoring a safety awareness event in which they will donate a bicycle helmet to each of our students. All students in grades Pre-K through 8 will be fitted to ensure they receive the proper helmet. We appreciate their time and effort in coordinating this event, and we thank them for their generosity

We have a lot of great summer programs this year, and our list has grown since we first sent it out. We have four programs for younger students. These programs are open to all students so please feel free to invite friends and family. We are sending one registration home with each letter, and additional registration forms are available at the office. A lot of people have indicated interest in a variety of programs. Please register as soon as possible to help with our planning. Here is the list as it now stands:

- **June 21-July26 Wednesdays – Woodshop**, taught by Mr. Irish (5:30 – 8:30 PM), Grade 5-Adult, Cost: \$175 St. FX & Rice High School students/families, \$250 Students from other schools

- **June 26-30 – Sports Math**, taught by Mr. Friday (8 AM to 10 AM), Grades 4-8
Cost \$40 St. FX students, \$65 non-St. FX
- **July 3-14 – Storytelling: Ancient Heroes**, taught by Mr. Friday (8 AM to 10 AM) Grades 4-8
Cost \$75 St. FX students, \$100 non-St. FX
- **July 3-14 – Frisbee Olympics**, taught by Mr. Friday (1 PM to 3 PM) Grades 4-8
Cost \$80 St. FX students, \$105 non-St. FX
- **July 10-21 – Drama Camp**, taught by Miss Ruggeri (8 AM-12 PM) Grades 4 through 8
Cost: \$200 St. FX students, \$250 Students from other schools
- **July 17-28 – Storytelling: Medieval Heroes**, taught by Mr. Friday (8 AM to 10 AM) Grades 4-8
Cost \$50 St. FX students, \$75 non-St. FX students
- **July 17-28 – Guitar I**, taught by Mr. Friday (1 PM to 3 PM) Grades 4-8
Cost \$125 St. FX students, \$200 non-St. FX
Materials fee of \$120 for each student, includes cost of guitar
- **July 24-28 – Painters Wanted**, Ages 4-8 , Maximum of 20 (9AM-11AM)
Cost \$75 for St. FX students, \$100 for Non-St. FX students
- **July 31-August 4 – Stories & Art Jamboree**, Ages 4-8 Maximum of 20 (9AM-11AM)
Cost \$50 for St. FX students, \$75 for Non-St. FX students
- **August 7 – 11 – Sculpture Craze**, Ages 4-8 Maximum of 20 (9AM-11AM)
Cost, \$75 for St. FX students, \$100 for Non-St. FX students
- **July 31-August 11 – Guitar II**, taught by Mr. Friday (1 PM to 3 PM) Grades 4-8
Cost \$115 St. FX students, \$165 non-St. FX students
- **August 14-18 – Arts and Crafts Fun**, Ages 4-8 (9AM to 11AM) Maximum of 20, Cost \$50 for St. FX students, \$75 for Non-St. FX students
- **August 14-18 – Songwriting**, taught by Mr. Friday (1 PM to 2 PM) Grades 4-8
Cost \$70 St. FX students, \$120 non-St. FX students
- **Discount Rate for Guitar I, Guitar II, and Songwriting:** All three classes for \$325 plus one non-refundable \$25 registration fee, and \$120 materials fee for St. FX students. All three classes for \$475 plus one non-refundable \$25 registration fee and \$120 materials fee for non-St. FX students.

Please note that all programs require a non-refundable \$25 registration fee. This fee is not included in the cost of the program.

The Diocese of Burlington Youth Congress 2006 is scheduled for August 5-6. The Congress “gathers hundreds of Catholic teens from around Vermont for the best presentation of our faith to youth by youth. The all-day Saturday and Sunday event is awesome and packed with fun because it is organized by the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC), who carefully consider how Christ is leading their generation. They turn this reflection into two full days of powerful experiences through music, keynotes, incredible prayer, video, small group interactions, workshops, games, and creativity opportunities. High Schoolers are given the unique opportunity to dare to be Catholic with the strength of their numbers.” (from the Diocese Youth Ministry webpage). The Congress costs \$100, including one overnight and meals. Early-bird registration deadline is April 28. Interested 8th Grade students and/or parents may pick up information and forms at the office.

Brochures for this summer’s **Camp Tara-Holy Cross** are also available at the office. For more information about this opportunity for children ages 7-15 visit the website at <http://www.vermontcatholic.org/CampHolyCross> or call the Camp Office at 658-6110 ext. 110.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers here at school – your efforts are noticed and appreciated. We are truly blessed here at St. Francis and we are grateful to all the students, faculty, families and friends who work so hard to make our school and our school community such a special place. Last night, after the performances, we were graced with a beautiful rainbow that spanned from the convent to our church. It was the perfect opportunity to reflect on the gifts that have been bestowed on us and give thanks to our Lord. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis