

September 1, 2006

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We have had a wonderful week here at St. Francis Xavier School. On Tuesday, we had our first school Mass of the year, and it was very nice having the school community join the parish community again. Later that day, our Home and School Association hosted the beginning of school barbecue. We were pleased to see so many family members and friends join us. Father Lavalley was also present and blessed our new playground. It was a beautiful way to start our school year.

School Picture Day is Tuesday, September 5. This is a Mass day and students must wear their Mass uniforms for the group pictures (class and whole school). They may change for individual pictures. You are not required to purchase pictures; however, all students will have a picture taken for our yearbook. Order forms are being sent home with this letter.

Please review **the Family Handbook** with your student(s) and sign and return the last page to the homeroom teacher of your oldest student by **Tuesday, September 5**. If you need another handbook, please let us know.

If you wish to order **physical education uniforms** with the St. Francis Xavier Phys Ed logo, please submit your order forms with payment by **Tuesday, September 5**. We want to get the order in as soon as possible, so we can receive the uniforms in a timely manner. Thank you for your assistance.

A note to our new families, and a reminder to everyone else that the **parking lot is restricted to faculty and staff** only. This is a serious safety issue, as we do not want to have cars entering and leaving while students are out and about. Also, please remember that St. Peter Street is one way from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM, and 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Thursday, September 7 there will be a **Home and School meeting and Open Classrooms at 6 p.m.** This is a great time to meet teachers and see your student's class. Traditionally, the day after a Home and School meeting is a dress down day.

The **first practice** for our **Cross Country Team** will be **Tuesday, September 5 from 2:45 to 4:30**. Registration packets, including a practice/meet schedule, are available at the front office.

Miss Harvey is delighted to be working with all the students in General Music this year and looks forward to starting Band and Chorus soon. The **first meeting for Band and Chorus** combined will be after school on **Wednesday, Sept. 6th**. This is an **informational and organizing meeting** for both groups. If any students are interested in joining band, chorus or both, they should attend the meeting on September 6th. Band instruments will be demonstrated in General Music classes. Rehearsals for each group will begin the week of September 11. Miss Harvey will be at the Home and School meeting on September 7. If any parents want to contact Miss Harvey with questions, they can e-mail her at harvey@ricehs.org.

We are accepting **registrations** for our **Drama, Woodshop, and Martial Arts After School programs**. Additional information about these programs and registration forms are available at the front office. We anticipate beginning **Drama** and **Martial Arts** on **Monday September 11**, and **woodshop** begins on **Tuesday, September 12**. If your student is interested in these activities, yet is currently participating in fall sports that conflict, please talk to the teacher(s). In most cases, they are able to make accommodations.

We are participating in the **Price Chopper Tools for School Program**, and a letter with information on this program is going home along with this letter. If you have not registered your AdvantEdge card, you may do so online, at Price Chopper, or here at the school. We are also continuing to **collect ink and toner cartridges, and outdated cell phones. Boxtops for Education and Campbells Soup Labels** ongoing; you may drop those off here at school or at the back of the church at any time. Please pass the word about these programs. They are an easy way to help our school.

We are looking for a **second crossing guard** to assist from 2:25 to 3:50. If you are interested and available any weekdays, please sign up at the office. We are also looking for **additional volunteers** to help with **servicing lunch and/or supervising students on the playground during lunchtime recess**. Both of these help keep our students safe and we would like to have people start as soon as possible. Your volunteer efforts count toward service hours.

Thank you again to all the students, faculty, families and friends who work so hard to make our school and our school community such a special place. We are looking forward to a magnificent and exciting school year.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis