

November 17, 2006

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

Our last full week of school before the Thanksgiving break was very busy, and very productive. Please remember that next Tuesday is a half day of school. First trimester **report cards** will be going home that day. Two copies will be sent home with your student(s). Please be sure to sign one copy and return it to your student's teacher.

Monday, November 13, was Father Lavalley's 15th anniversary here at St. Francis Xavier School and Parish. On Tuesday, at our school Mass, we recognized the anniversary with some beautiful words by Robin McCormick, our school board chairperson, and the students presented Father with some truly wonderful cards that they had made.

On Sunday, Hettena Wright and Horton, CPAs hosted their 4th annual Death by Numbers Chili Cook-off. This year they were raising money for Women Helping Battered Women. We had several entrants from St. Francis Xavier School Kathryn Boyles, Chris Horton, Kevin Lavalley, and Ryan and Jerry Thornton. Kevin Lavalley took the third place trophy. Vel Marcotte won the 50/50 raffle and Kathryn Boyles won a membership to the YMCA. Laurie Hammond, parent of St. Francis graduate Tia Tripodi, of Triple Loop, donated the Chili King costume. Chris Horton and HWH sponsor our softball team, and we are happy to have so many members of our St. Francis Xavier community participate in this event.

Thank you for your generosity in supporting our **Thanksgiving food drive**. The food drive is yet another way we share the blessings of our school with others in the community. St. Joseph House was very happy to receive the grocery bag items that will be given to families and individuals in need. Extra items that were brought in will go to the St. Stephen's food shelf. We will continue to collect non-perishable food and items for families in need for the Christmas Season. More information on that collection is forthcoming.

Now that fall sports are over, we have had several students ask about our after school programs. We are still accepting **registrations** for **Drama, Woodshop, Martial Arts, Instrumental Music and Chorus**. Additional information about these programs and registration forms are available at the front office.

Things are progressing well with the organization of a **cheerleading program** for girls in grades 5 through 8. If you are interested, please call Nicole Goulette at 655-9727.

The **6th graders** announce their second **Christian Service Project**. Through contacts with the Benedictine nuns at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Monastery in Westfield, VT, they have learned how to make rosaries out of cord. They will be selling their colorful creations, particularly at the November 18th Craft Fair. Any profits from sales will benefit the Monastery.

The **5th graders** have begun their **Christian Service Project**. They will be fundraising throughout the year to support Mississippi Home Again. This non-profit organization is helping victims from Hurricane Katrina get back into their homes. For more information, please visit their website: . Their first fundraiser is to collect donations in the collection box that will be located at the front

office. Thank you for your support, and we will keep you updated on their service project as the year progresses.

Last year Mrs. Magnani contacted the Visiting Nurse Association to arrange for a flu shot clinic for our faculty and staff. This year, we would like to offer this to our families. We will have flu shots here at school on December 7 from 11 AM to Noon. Shots cost \$25 and are available to family and friends who are 18 and older. If you are interested, please contact Charlotte Magnani, our school nurse, to arrange a time.

Every day we are reminded of the many blessings we have and for which we are so grateful. We sincerely thank you, our families, for your presence here in our school and for sending us such wonderful students. We always keep you in our prayers of thanksgiving. Have a nice weekend and wonderful Thanksgiving next week!

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis