

December 1, 2006

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break. When we returned everyone got right to work, and we've had a great week.

Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent, a season of preparation for Christmas. Classes are already busy working on their **Christmas Pageant** skits. Our annual Pageant will be held on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars.

Thank you again for your generosity in supporting our Thanksgiving food drive. As mentioned last week, we are **continuing to collect non-perishable food for the St. Stephen's food shelf during Advent**. You may send items to the classrooms at any time until Monday, December 18.

There have been some questions regarding the dates of the Christmas break. **Our break extends from December 21 to January 2, with a return to school Wednesday, January 3.** The After school / Extension program will not be held during the break.

Next week we will be celebrating **the Feast of the Immaculate Conception** on Friday, December 8 with a school and parish Mass at 8:00 a.m. We will not attend Mass on Tuesday morning. As part of the parish celebration of the Holy Day, **Bishop Matano** will preside at the vigil Mass at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 7. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow, continuing through the night. All are invited to attend.

The Student Council has organized a school **Spirit Week** for next week, December 4-8. Monday is Pajama Day, Tuesday is Dress Down Day, Wednesday is Crazy Hair Day, Thursday is Favorite Team Day, and Friday is Hat Day. Please remember to wear your Mass uniform on Friday.

Four students from St. Michael's College have created a variety of after school programs for Middle School students at St. Francis Xavier. Next Friday, December 8, the students will offer a session on **study skills**. The program will present time management skills and techniques for enhanced learning including studying, note-taking, and proofreading. It will take place immediately after school, and will last approximately one hour. Participating students should meet in the lobby. A sign-up form is going home today that needs to be signed by a parent/guardian. Please note that signing up for one program does not oblige students to participate in other programs held later in the school year.

On Wednesday, 7th and 8th Graders attended a special presentation about **Rice Memorial High School** by Director of Admissions Jeanette Voss and St. Francis alumni Joey O'Brien, Gabrielle Remillard, and Mary Crowley. An Open House for prospective students will be held on Sunday, December 3 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. For more information about Rice High School, please visit their website at <http://www.ricehs.org> and click on "Add Me to your Mailing List" or call Jeanette Voss in Admissions at (802) 862-6521 or email <mailto:voss@ricehs.org>

A special announcement from Third Grade: This Friday, Vi Ann Trinh will be participating in a multicultural festival celebrated annually by the Sarah Holbrook Center. Vi Ann will be using her

gift of singing to perform the Vietnamese song, Ung Ngoc nho Ngain. It's wonderful to have one of our students sharing her talents with the wider community.

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.

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.

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. Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis