

January 5, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

Welcome Back! We hope you all had a wonderful and blessed Christmas and New Year holiday break. It is nice to be back and 2007 is off to an excellent start.

Today our Middle School students attended the **Ordination Mass of Dallas St. Peter to the Diaconate** at St. Francis Xavier Church. Dallas is a former St. Francis Xavier teacher, and spent the summer working with our current 8th grade students in various service projects. It was wonderful to have so many students, alumni and community members present to see him ordained. The solemn Mass was celebrated by Bishop Matano and concelebrated by Father Lavalley and many other priests from near and far. Following the Mass, a reception was held at the school hosted by the Winooski Knights of Columbus.

During this break there were many people in our community who continued their hard work that makes our community so remarkable. There are so many, and we are grateful to you all. We feel we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge your efforts, and we apologize for leaving anyone out. We would like to **thank the families who worked bingo** throughout the holiday, and those who volunteered their time on the New Year's Day holiday bingo. **Thank you also to Mr. Bob Gray**, who put in extra time over the break to install a thermostat in the gym in twelve classrooms; clean out the air filters in the gym; replace light switches, ceiling tiles, and florescent bulbs/fixtures throughout the school; rewire, add breakers and electrical supply in the room off the library for the new laminator; install shelves in the bingo storage room; install new door closers on the first and second floor; install speakers in the faculty room and Mr. Lewis' office; and complete several other tasks that are difficult to do while school is in session.

Kevin Lavalley also spent time in the computer lab installing updated software on our network to provide an additional level of security for our users. This software provides more robust internet site blocking and tracking and we are appreciative of his efforts to continually ensure the safety of our students.

The **5th grade class** is once again working on their **Christian Service Project** by raising funds for **Mississippi Home Again**. The 5th graders are selling cookie grams! Each cookie gram will consist of a bag of 4 chocolate chip cookies, tied up with a brightly colored ribbon. Cookie grams cost \$1.00 each. Orders need to be received by January 18th and will be delivered on January 25th. Order forms will be going home today and extras can be found at the front office. Thank you for your support!

Softball pitching clinic for St. Francis Xavier students begins **Saturday, January 6 at 1:30**.

Girls in grades 5 through 8 are welcome to attend. We are also asking that girls who are interested in playing on the St. Francis Xavier Softball Team sign up at the office. Our team is open to St. Francis Xavier students and parishioners, and students of other schools who do not have a softball team. Last year was the first year in the history of St. Francis Xavier School that we fielded a team, and the girls did an exceptional job. We look forward to having another great season!

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With the new year, we know that families are looking at new opportunities and activities to try. We are 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. If you are interested in our **cheerleading program** for girls in grades 5-8, please call Nicole Goulette at 655-9727.

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. Volunteer efforts, and donations of time, energy and money enable us to provide an exceptionally strong and well rounded program for our students. Your commitment and dedication is unmatched. Thank you all, and have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis