

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

On Thursday, the **5<sup>th</sup> graders** distributed the **CookieGrams** for their **Christian Service Project**. It was warm reminder (on a very, very cold day) of how much our community members mean to each other. Last night was the **January Home and School Association**. There was not a large turnout, not surprising given the weather, yet the enthusiasm and excitement were very much in evidence. There are many great initiatives in the works and more are being considered. At the meeting, two special donations to the Playground Project and the Home and School Association were announced, one by the St. Jean de Baptiste Society, represented by Mr. and Mrs. George Bouffard and Ms. Janet Deforge, and another from Catholic Family Life Insurance. Thank you to the Home and School Association and to all the families who help on all the various activities.

Today we held Parent-Teacher conferences. If you were not able to meet with your student's teacher(s) and would like to arrange a time, please call the office.

Next week is **Catholic Schools Week**, and we have an opportunity to celebrate all the wonderful reasons we belong to the St. Francis Xavier School community. Here are some highlights from our Catholic Schools Week schedule:

**Monday:**

- Opening Prayer Service with Fr. Lavalley at 8:45 AM in the gym.
- Right to Life baby booty charity drive begins.

**Tuesday:** Parish/School Mass for entire school at 8:00 AM. Families and friends invited.

**Wednesday:**

- Dress Down Day for students in Grades Pre-K through 3. Teachers serve lunch!
- Catholic Schools Week Festival and Mass with Bishop Matano at Rice High School for Grades 4-8. Estimated departure 8:15 and return by 12:30. Students bring bag lunch to be eaten upon return.

**Thursday:**

- Family Day / Open House. St. Francis Xavier School Home and School Association is hosting an open house on Thursday, February 1 from 7:30 to 10:30. Current and prospective families, friends and parishioners are welcome to join us for breakfast from 7:30 to 9:00 AM and then tour the school. Tours will also be offered from 12:15 to 2:00 PM and light refreshments will be served.
- 100<sup>th</sup> Day Celebration.
- Drama performance at 12:15 in gym for 20-25 minutes.

**Friday:**

- First Friday Rosary at 9:10 in the church for approximately 25 minutes. Middle School classes will lead the rosary, and all other classes and family members are welcome to join. Class visits to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. 8:30-12:00.
- Students in Grades 4-8 will have dress down day and have their lunch served by teachers today.
- Charity drive ends.
- Talent Show in the gym at 1:30.

**Saturday, Feb. 4 & Sunday, Feb. 5:** Student participants serve and collect for school at St. Francis Xavier weekend Masses.

On **Friday, February 2**, there will be a **blood drive at the Winooski Senior Center from 12:00- 5:30**. It is being **sponsored by the Winooski Knights of Columbus, the daughters of Isabella and the St. Jean the Baptiste Society**.

We have an opportunity to work with **Educational Opportunities of New England** to have **International Students** attend St. Francis Xavier School next year. This is a program in which **students from Mexico in**

**grades 6, 7, and 8 live with a host family and attend our school for a year.** This is very exciting, and we hope that you might **consider being a host family for a year.** There is more information at the office, and Dr. Turcotte of EONE is available to answer any questions.

The **St. Francis Xavier School Board** has created a **marketing sub-committee** comprised of Steve Eustis and Brian Senecal. The committee's goal is to **increase enrollment** in the school and **get our name out in the area.** Several initiatives are being started over the next few months in order to achieve these objectives. Two in particular are of interest to current families.

- With the idea that the more people talking about St. Francis the better, **any current family that gets at least one new family to take a tour of the school gets to waive their registration fee for one student the following year (\$50).** For **each new family they get to enroll children in the school, they get a \$300 discount on their total tuition cost for the following year.**
- Saint Francis wants to encourage families of all sizes to consider a Catholic education. We all recognize, however, that larger families have larger expenses. To make an education at St. Francis accessible, the maximum tuition we will charge any family in one year is for three children. Your 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> – however many children beyond three that you have enrolled at the same time – attend tuition free.

If anyone has specific ideas for the marketing committee and the full board to consider, please contact Brian (893-4998) or Steve (878-4385).

We've added an additional way to provide information about school closings. There is now a space on our web site so we can post notices. Please note that during inclement weather, internet connections can sometimes be tricky, so if you don't see any information on the site you should also check the standard television and radio station notices.

We are continuing to work on organizing our **summer programs.** If you are interested in offering a summer program, please speak with Mrs. Horton. Our programs have been very successful in the past, and we would like to continue to provide a variety of opportunities to our students.

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