

February 9, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

During Catholic Schools Week last week, we had the opportunity to celebrate many of the wonderful aspects of our school community. Today, we had our Good News Assembly in which we were able to share and acknowledge our students' successes. It truly is fun to hear all the great things our students have done, and again gives us reason to reflect on all our blessings.

The 8th Grade class shared the good news about our Catholic Schools Week collection for the Right to Life Baby Booties. As a school we collected \$147.90 for this important charity. The Eighth Graders collected the highest per student amount: \$4.23 (\$71.93 total). Well done!

Following the assembly, Mr. Vincent Hammer of the Winooski Knights of Columbus provided information on the Knights' **Columbian Squires program** (for Catholic boys and young men ages 10-18). Interested students were given a program brochure that should go home with them today. If you would like to learn more about the program, feel free to contact Mr. Hammer at 578-5508 or go to www.kofc.org. Additional brochures are available at our office.

Tomorrow, **February 10**, we will be at the **KidsVT Camp and School Fair at the Wyndham from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** We will have information and registration forms for our summer programs. Here are the summer programs we have scheduled so far:

- **August 6-10 (M-Th 8 AM – Noon, Fri 8:00-4:30) Woodshop**, taught by Mr. Irish, Grade 5-Adult, Cost: \$100 St. FX & Rice High School students/families, \$125 Students from other schools.
- **July 23-27 or July 30-August 3 (8:30 AM – 2:30 PM) Drama**, taught by Ms. Nicole Ruggeri Grades 4-8, Cost \$100: St. FX students, \$125 non-St. FX students
- **July 16-20 (8:30 AM – 2:30 PM) Survivor**, taught by Ms. Bethany Rice and Mr. Hal Friday Ages 6-13 Cost \$125 St. FX students, \$150 non-St. FX

All costs include a \$25 non-refundable registration fee. We are working to schedule several other programs and details on those will be forthcoming as we have them.

This week was National School Counseling Week, and our faculty and staff took a moment to thank Mrs. Marcotte for all she does. She has made such a positive impact on our school and we are all very grateful for her contribution. This week was also Pride in Food Service Week, and we took this opportunity to give a big thank you to Mrs. Jane McCormick, Mrs. Clarissa Gibbons, Mr. Bob Gray, and all the volunteers who help out in our lunch room. Some of the volunteers are Therese McCormick, Marty Jansen, Jackie Bombardier, Tonya Martell, Beth Jacobs, Robin McCormick, Michelle Barber, Theresa Dieringer, Carol Carlson, Lori Laquerre, Jean Asselin, Cindy Van Horn, Melissa Roberge, and Andrea Senecal. As you can see, we have quite a few people who help make our lunch program run efficiently. Thank you to everyone!

Last week we wrote about the very successful and fun 100th day of school celebration. All our teachers helped with this occasion; however we want to give special thanks to Ms. Krista Mercure. She came up with the idea and coordinated it all. While she works very hard behind the scenes, and seems to prefer to remain out of the limelight, she deserves a special recognition for organizing this phenomenal event. Thank you, Ms. Mercure!

Saturday, Feb. 3 & Sunday, Feb. 4 was the first weekend of the month. We would like to thank the students who helped with the school collection at St. Francis Xavier weekend Masses. We encourage our students to help every month. We also want to thank the students who read their essays on their experience at our school. They did a great job, and Father received many compliments after Masses.

With the arrival of the snow, we have had the opportunity to go **sledding** on the hill between the Church and Rectory and school parking lot. For years students at St. Francis Xavier School and members of the local community have used this hill. Sledding is a fun winter activity and, when done in a responsible and careful

manner, provides healthy, physical exercise for participants. However, almost every activity carries a risk of injury and sledding is no exception to this. Saint Francis Xavier School does not wish to deprive students of fun, traditional activities during recess and as part of the Extension Program, but the School also does not wish to assume responsibility for injuries which a student may suffer when engaging in these activities.

Therefore, **students will not be allowed to sled on school or church property during school hours or as part of the Extension Program unless they return the attached waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian.** Even if a student does return a signed form, the School and its agents, employees and volunteers have an absolute right to prohibit any or all students from sledding on school or church property during school or Extension Program hours for any reason, including, but not limited to, dangerous ground or weather conditions, irresponsible, reckless or dangerous behavior by the student while sledding, overcrowding on the hill.

Please take part in our magazine drive. In order to make it easier for families and friends to support our school by renewing or purchasing new magazine subscriptions, we have added a link to the news section of our web page. Please visit our site at www.sfxwinooski.org.

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.

As a way to recognize students who volunteer, Kohl's is sponsoring a Kids Who Care scholarship. This scholarship **rewards outstanding young people, ages 6 through 18, for their community service.** To nominate someone you know, visit www.kohlscorporation.com. They will accept nominations from February 1 through March 15, 2007. Young volunteers will be recognized at three levels. Two winners from each store nationwide will receive a \$50 Kohl's gift card; 170 Regional Winners will receive a \$1000 scholarship for post-secondary education; and 10 National Winners will be rewarded with a \$5,000 scholarship for post-secondary education and a \$1000 grant to his/her charity of choice. We have so many students who volunteer in so many ways. We would love to see them get nominated and recognized for their efforts.

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 4th, 5th, 6th – 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 are truly blessed here at St. Francis, and we are grateful to all who work so hard to make our school and our school community such a special place. Thank you all, and have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis