

February 16, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We have had quite the week for weather! Record breaking snow storms and now we are expecting brutally cold temperatures over the weekend. Thank you to everyone for your patience as we dig out.

Please note that **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 waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian.** We have attached another copy of the waiver. 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, and overcrowding on the hill.

Good luck to the **St. Francis Xavier MathCounts team!** They will be competing at UVM tomorrow. They have worked very hard and we look forward to hearing positive reports on Monday.

We have a Middle School **Science Fair** update. Students have been working very hard on their projects. They have completed their background research and conducted their experiments. Next week they will be working in class on their display boards and tying up loose ends before vacation. Please make sure your student brings in any pictures, charts, graphs, diagrams and anything else they will need for their boards.

As hard as it is to think right now, summer will be here before we know it. We are running a number of programs this summer. Please pick up registration forms at the office. Here are the summer programs we have scheduled so far:

- **July 9-13 (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) Sci-Fi Academy**, taught by Mr. Hal Friday, Ages 8+
Cost \$100 St. FX students, \$125 non-St. FX
- **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
- **July 23-August 3 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM) Baseball Clinic**, taught by Mr. Hal Friday
Grades 4-8, Cost \$150: St. FX students, \$175 non-St. FX students
- **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
- **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.
- **August 13-17 (9 AM – 2:00 PM) History is Boring**, taught by Mr. Hal Friday, Ages 11-14,
Cost: \$100 St. FX, \$125 Students from other schools.

All costs include a \$25 non-refundable registration fee.

We are sending home the postcard books for SchoolMall today. The postcard books are a way to inform family members and friends about this fundraising opportunity. SchoolMall is a portal similar to SchoolPop that gives us up to 40% of all paid orders, and there is no additional cost to us or to them. For each completed postcard book, St. Francis Xavier School receives \$2.25.

(over, please)

In 2005, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops revised the Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth. The Charter re-affirms a deep commitment to creating a safe environment for young people and provides the focus for a consistent, ongoing, and comprehensive approach to doing so. The educational efforts outlined in the Charter include children, youth, parents, youth ministers, Pastors, educators, and volunteers. As part of the educational effort for children and youth we implemented the Child Lures program for all of our students. This year the Diocese of Burlington is implementing the “VIRTUS program –Protecting God’s Children” for all priests, deacons, teachers, parents, volunteers, and other persons in positions of trust. We have attached a schedule of the VIRTUS training sessions that are being offered locally if you would like to attend. The Diocese is planning to hold sessions for parents later this year.

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.

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