

May 4, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We have had another very busy week. In addition to the great accomplishments within our classes, we celebrated **Cinco de Mayo** today. Each class was able to show off a dance from another country to the rest of the school community. Thanks to Sonia Rivadeneira for coordinating the celebration, and to all the teachers for their support in making this happen.

This Sunday is a very special occasion – the **First Communion** for our Second Grade students. We invite families and friends to join them at the 9 AM Mass. We wish to congratulate the students as they receive Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

Next week we will be conducting **standardized testing** for students in grades K through 8. Please help your students do their best by encouraging them to eat a good breakfast each day, bring healthy snacks and water bottles, and perhaps get a bit more sleep than they might usually get at this time of year.

Beginning next Monday and through the rest of the year students are permitted to wear the **seasonal school uniform**. Please read the section on Uniform and Dress Code in your Family Handbooks (p.33-36) for details.

On Friday afternoon before our break we had a Good News Assembly, and more happened than we were able to include in our April 20 letter. April 25 is Administrative Professionals Day and we **acknowledged the contributions of Kathryn Boyles**, our bookkeeper and assistant to our Development Director Kathleen Conlin, **Diane Potvin**, Administrative Assistant to Father Lavalley at the rectory, and **Nancy Ryan**. We appreciate all they do for us. We also want to **celebrate Nancy in a special way – this is her 30<sup>th</sup> year here at St. Francis Xavier School**. She is truly the heart of St. Francis and we are grateful for her continued dedication and commitment to our entire school community. Thank you, Nancy!!!

Nancy would like to express her thanks to everyone for the lovely celebration. She is touched by the outpouring of support.

When we ran the Middle School Honor Roll list for second trimester we made a mistake and several students did not receive the recognition they deserve. We apologize to Will McCormick, who earned High Honors, and Vishnu Premsenkar, Tim Bolger, Lena Cruickshank, Dan Bolger, and Christian McCormick, who earned Honors. Here is the **corrected Honor Roll for the second trimester**:

Grade 6 High Honors: Christian Scanlon

Grade 6 Honors: Elizabeth Fell, Ian Horton, Braelynn Leppert, Sarah Lesage, Kevin Lynch, Vishnu Premsankar, Ryan Thornton

Grade 7 High Honors: Caitlyn McCain

Grade 7 Honors: Elizabeth Babcock, Tim Bolger, Jenna Campbell, Natalie Crowley, Lena Cruickshank, Jacob Jansen

Grade 8 High Honors: Will McCormick, Nora Varhue

Grade 8 Honors: Dan Bolger, Brigitte Gagne, Lauren Guilmette, Christian McCormick

**“Le Grand Concours”**: During February and March, Saint Francis Xavier students in Grades 4 through 8 took part in the National French Contest sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Each student was competing regionally as well as nationally. We are proud to announce the following results:

In Division 2A: **Patrick Asselin** ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in New Hampshire and Vermont, and 13<sup>th</sup> nationally.

**Alicia McCormick** ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in NH / VT, and 14<sup>th</sup> nationally.

In Division 3C: **Fleur Diambou** ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in NH / VT (As French is Fleur's native language, she was not ranked nationally).

Five Saint Francis Xavier students qualified for the National "Tableau d'Honneur" Award:

**Fleur Diambou, Patrick Asselin, Pierrette Lumumba, Christian Scanlon, Ryan Thornton**

In Level 01B, **Kylie McAuliffe, Timothy Bolger and Caitlyn McCain** ranked **21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**, respectively (NH/VT).

In Level 1B, **Will McCormick, Lauren Guilmette, and Ellen Fitzgerald**, ranked **30th, 32nd, and 33rd**, respectively (NH/VT).

**BRAVO!** To every one of our students who participated and met this challenge. We are proud of you!

**Congratulations to Saint Francis Xavier Girls' Softball team who opened its 2007 season with a decisive victory over Milton Junior High School** on Tuesday. The team plays **3 games next week** including a home game (Landry Park) against Camels Hump Middle School on Monday, a game at Essex Middle School on Wednesday, and a Milton Middle School rematch at home on Friday.

**Congratulations** also to the **St. Francis Xavier Boys Baseball team who opened its 2007 season with a win over Vergennes** on Wednesday. They tied their next game against St. Albans on Thursday. They have another game against St. Albans town on Friday, May 11 at 6 PM at Landry Park. The boys will be playing several exhibition and intersquad games starting at 3 PM at Landry throughout the week.

During the break we had folks working in various ways to help the school. On Saturday April 21, Small Dog Electronics in South Burlington held an "Electronics Roundup" in which they accepted old, outdated, and broken computer and other electronics equipment. We took this opportunity to clean out the computer storage room on the third floor. On Friday, Mr. Lewis and his 8<sup>th</sup> grade religion class brought down all the equipment and put it near the library. On Saturday, Eric Becker, Anthony Graffeo, Rachel and Kevin Lavallee, and Tyler Scott (a former student) loaded up 2 vans, a pickup truck, an SUV, and a car and brought everything over to Small Dog. On Wednesday, Eric Becker, Nicole Ruggeri, Ian Horton, and Tyler Scott came in to work on the drama storage area of that room. It looks great. Thank you to everyone who helped with these projects.

**Thank you** to everyone who has submitted **registration paperwork**. We have received the majority of our enrollment forms. **If you have not yet brought yours in, please get it to us as soon as possible.** This will simplify our planning process.

We are continuing our **summer program planning**. Please **submit your registration paperwork** for summer programs of interest. We will have to make decisions about these within the month. Last year we had several families who were disappointed because we canceled programs for which they were planning to register. Please don't let that happen again this year. Also, please remember that our **Extension Program is open throughout the summer**; students who take part in our summer programs can then join the Extension Program.

The **Fifth Grade** will be having their last fundraiser of the year for their **Christian Service Project**. They are holding a **flower sale** to raise money for **Mississippi Home Again**. **Order forms went home earlier, and you can pick them up at the office. Orders are due by May 8, and flowers will be delivered Tuesday, May 15.**

**The Diocese of Burlington Youth Congress 2007** is scheduled for August 4-5. The Congress "gathers hundreds of Catholic teens from around Vermont to experience their Catholic Faith to its fullest. The all-day Saturday and Sunday event is organized by the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC), who prayerfully discern how Christ is leading their generation. They turn this reflection into two days of fun and powerful experiences of Eucharist, music, awesome Catholic speakers, deep prayer in adoration and reconciliation, workshops, group discussions, great food, and creative opportunities with many other young Catholics. (from the Diocese Youth Ministry flyer). The Congress costs \$100, including one overnight and meals. Early-bird registration deadline is May 1st. Interested 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students and/or parents may pick up information and forms at the office.

We continue to be blessed here at St. Francis Xavier School. Thank you all, and have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne

Mr. Simeon Lewis