

June 1, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

The week started out beautifully, and now it looks like we have some rain to help our plants and gardens. Last night we had our May Home and School meeting and annual Spring Pageant. The students did a phenomenal job in their concerts, and the drama students (and Mr. Jesse Gaudette) deserve a huge round of applause for all their hard work. The enthusiasm was apparent after the program last night, and this morning many, many parents approached us with glowing comments. Thank you to the members of the Home and School Association for all the work they do. Many thanks also to Ms. Ann Harvey, Mrs. Lucy Dupont, and Ms. Nicole Ruggeri for coordinating this program and giving us a chance to be together as a school community in such an enjoyable way during this busy time of year.

The Student Council has organized an end-of-the-year **dance** with a summer theme to be held this Saturday, June 2 from 6:30 to 9:30. All 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders are invited. The cost is \$5 per student and music will be provided by Super Sounds. To ensure that the dance is a safe, appropriate and fun event, we remind all students of the school's **conduct and dress expectations** for the dance.

The Fifth Grade wants to thank everyone who helped contribute to their Christian Service Project. Over the course of this year, their class raised a total of \$430 for the Mississippi Home Again Organization. Thank you for your support!

The Kindergarten would like to say thank you to all who donated books for our Christian Service Project. We were able to collect **1,175 books**. Since we collected so many books, Joseph's House recommended that we donate some of the books for the children's room at the Varney House on Cherry Street in Burlington. Again, thank you for your generosity.

We have some news to share from some of our faculty members. Mrs. Dianne Brown will be moving back to her hometown in the Buffalo, NY area. Ms. Krista Mercure is going to begin a new adventure; she is moving to Savannah, Georgia. We are sorry to see them leave. We wish them both well, and thank them for all they have done for our students and families.

We would like to announce our new faculty members. **Ms. Virginia Yandow** will be our **First Grade** teacher. She graduated from Johnson State College and in 1998 she earned an MA in Curriculum Development. She taught for 32 years in Milton, and has extensive experience teaching Transitional Grade 1 through Grade 4. **Mrs. Susan Catozzi** will be teaching **Second Grade**. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Castleton State College, and has 11 years of experience teaching 2nd grade in a Catholic school. She has met the Vermont Highly Qualified Teacher requirements in both reading and elementary education and has a strong background in teaching literacy and experience as a Title 1 teacher. **Mrs. Deborah Lajoie** will be teaching **Art to Grades 4 through 8**. She attended Hunter College of the City University of New York, and graduated from Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts. She is a certified art teacher and has met the Vermont Highly Qualified Teacher requirements in art. She has broad experience as an artist and in teaching art to a variety of grade levels. Welcome!

We are working on scheduling a step-up event so that students and families can meet our new classroom teachers. Details will be forthcoming.

Please **submit your registration paperwork** for **summer programs** of interest. Right now there are several programs in danger of cancellation. 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 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 8th 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