

August 28, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

Welcome Back! We hope you had a fantastic summer. While it is always difficult to see summer end, it is great to see everyone again, and we are excited about this school year. It is also wonderful to see all the new faces here, and we welcome all the new families to our school.

Thank you very much to the Home and School Association for hosting the Coffee and Donut Welcome Breakfast and the Opening Day Barbecue. They did an exceptional job and made a gorgeous day even more special. We are so appreciative of all the work they do, and particularly all the work they did to make the first day of school go so well for our students and our families.

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. 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. The Diocese of Burlington implemented “**Shield the Vulnerable,**” a law based program, for all priests, deacons, teachers, and other persons in a position of trust. **All volunteers, which include the majority of our families, and other persons in positions of trust who spend time with students are required to complete the Shield the Vulnerable online training program.** The program takes about 90 minutes and completely internet based. You can access Shield the Vulnerable at <http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org/>. If you do not have internet access, please let us know. If we have families in that situation we will schedule some times in our computer lab so that our families can complete the course. If families have completed the program for Rice, please let us know. If you have completed it for another organization, please let us know and provide us with a copy of the certificate of completion

There were many people who put in a lot of time over the summer helping to prepare for this school year. We would like to make special mention of some of those people. Mr. Bob Gray worked exceptionally hard to make sure everything was in tip-top shape for the beginning of school, and the school has never looked better. Ms. Jacqueline Pell spent a great deal of time in the library, with the assistance of Sr. Doris Gastonguay, working to classify books and continue moving forward on making the library more accessible to all our students and families. Mr. Kevin Lavalley and Mr. Anthony Graffeo spent time in the computer lab this summer working to upgrade our server and make other improvements. Mrs. Nancy Ryan spent a lot of extra time this summer working entering data into our new administrative software and learning how to use it. Thank you to the people mentioned above, and to everyone who helped over the summer.

Please review the Family Handbook with your student(s). Please sign and return the last page to the homeroom teacher of your oldest student by Tuesday, September 4. If you need another handbook, please let us know.

Thank you again to all the students, faculty, families and friends who work so hard to make our school and our school community such a special place. We are looking forward to a magnificent and exciting school year.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne