

September 7, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We had a very busy week this week, and we are so pleased to see how well everything is coming together. Last night was our first Home and School Meeting and Open Classrooms. It was good to see everyone, and the turnout for the meeting was excellent. Next Friday is a half-day (dismissal at noon) for parent/teacher conferences. If you did not have an opportunity to sign up for conferences, please contact the office.

After our letter was printed last week, we realized there was a typographical error in one of our notices. It should have read: Also, please note that **skirts and skorts are not part of the Early Education or Elementary girls' uniform**. Jumpers can be purchased online through www.schoolpop.com at French Toast, Kohl's, JC Penney, and Land's End.

We are looking for **crossing guards** to assist from 2:25 to 2:55. If you notice that we don't have two crossing guards on a particular day, please feel free to ask Nancy for a sign and take a post at one of the two pedestrian crosswalks. Your help is very much appreciated.

We still have some family members using the parking lot during pick up and drop off. Please remind anyone who is going to be picking up or dropping off students that the **parking lot is restricted to faculty and staff only**. This is a serious safety issue, as we can not have many cars entering and leaving while students are out and about. We realize that the stair work at the parish has further reduced the available parking and we apologize for the inconvenience. Please remember that **St. Peter Street is one way** from Weaver St. toward North St. from **7:30 AM to 8:30 AM, and 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**.

There is a letter and registration form going home today from **Ms. Ashley O'Brien** regarding **chorus and band sign-ups**. **Chorus and band are open to all students in grades 4 and up**. We hope you will consider participating in these fun and educational activities.

We also are accepting **registrations** for our **Drama, Woodshop, and Martial Arts After-School programs**. Additional information about these programs and registration forms are available at the front office. **Drama** will be held on Mondays and will begin on September 10 and is **open to students in grades 3 through 8**. **Martial Arts** will be held on Thursdays, we anticipate it beginning on September 20, and is **open to students in grades 3 through 8**. **Woodshop** runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays and begins on **Tuesday, September 11**. **Woodshop is open to students in grades 5 and up (Rice High School Students are welcome!)** and students may attend either Tuesday, Thursday, or both days. If your student is interested in these activities, yet is currently participating in fall sports or other activities that conflict, please talk to the teacher(s). In most cases, they are able to make accommodations.

Mr. Becker is sending home a note with information about Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart. This is always a fun event, and we will pray that we have a beautiful day as we did last year.

Mr. Becker and Mr. Gaudette are excited to announce the beginning of the Cross Country Running season for students in grades 5-8. The first practice is today, and the first meet will be next Wednesday. Please contact Mr. Becker if you are interested in having your student join.

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 nationally recognized Child Lures program for all of our students. If you would like to learn more about the **Child Lures** program, you may be interested in a **one hour presentation on Saturday, September 15, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Burlington First Unitarian Universalist Society** building (top of Church Street, in the Sanctuary). The program is free and open to the public and will be conducted by Ken Wooden, the developer Child Lures Program. This presentation will provide information on the following:

- How much of a threat are sexual predators, offline and online?
- Learn the 16 child Lures™ used by sexual predators, both offline and online.
- Discover how to identify and outsmart the lures used in predatory crimes against kids.
- Learn how your school and community can help keep children safe.
- Leave this seminar feeling informed, prepared, and optimistic.

The Diocese of Burlington implemented “**Shield the Vulnerable,**” a law based program, for adults. **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 is completely internet based and takes about 90 minutes, although you do not have to complete it in one sitting. 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. When you have completed the program, please bring in the certificate of completion. If families have completed the program for Rice or another organization, please let us know and provide us with a copy of the certificate of completion.

The diocese is working to streamline the process of completing background checks to make it easier for everyone. As part of the process, they have given us a new form to be used. We are sending one home with each letter, and additional forms are available at the office. **All volunteers must submit the form for a background check.** If you have already gone through the background check, you do not need to go through it again. If you have a background check with fingerprints on file at another location, such as a school district, there is another form you can fill out so that information can be sent to the diocese. Nancy has that form also.

Please note, **background checks and the Shield the Vulnerable Program are required.** We must document our participation in order to be in compliance. Please let us know if you have any questions, or if we can help in any way. We appreciate your assistance.

The Winooski chapter of Catholic Family Life Insurance and its New England division, Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, cordially invite you to a seminar, geared towards the entire family, presented by Catholic Family Financial Services, LLC. There will be two opportunities to attend: Wednesday, September 19th at 10 a.m. at the Winooski Senior Citizens Center and again at 6:30 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School. L'Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste, Winooski Chapter #35, will donate \$10 per adult attending this seminar, not to exceed \$1,000., to be donated to charity. CFLI will match up to \$500, the money given by USJB Chapter #35 based on seminar attendance. St. Francis Xavier School students will participate in the distribution of the gift. RSVP toll-free 1-800-225-8752, ext. 1334, and ask for Lynn.

We are participating in the **Price Chopper Tools for School Program** again this year. Point accrual began August 26 and runs through December 15. In years past we have been able to get some computer equipment and additional materials to use in math, music, and physical education. Every year we earn more points and are able to get more equipment. Please help us continue this increase. **As a special incentive, the top 100 schools will also get a projector that can be used with a laptop computer.** If you or your family members have not registered your AdvantEdge card, you may do so online at <http://www.pricechopper.com/>, at Price Chopper, or here at the school. **Our school code is 15195.**

We are also continuing to **collect ink and toner cartridges, outdated cell phones, Boxtops for Education and Campbell's Soup Labels** on an ongoing basis; you may drop those off here at school or at the back of the church at any time. We are sending home a booklet with coupons for Campbell's products with this newsletter. Please pass the word about these programs; they are easy ways to help our school. If you are interested in helping us with these programs, please let Louise Lynch or Kim McCain know. Many aspects of these programs can be done at home.

Thank you again to all our students, faculty, families and friends who work so hard to make our school and our school community such a special place. Have a wonderful and safe weekend!

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne