

September 21, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

What a gorgeous week. Our students and teachers were able to enjoy the beautiful weather before school and during recess. Today, we held our annual **Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart** event. Our St. Michael's buddies were able to join us and it was just a fabulous day. Thank you to Mr. Becker for all the work he put in to coordinate this annual event.

School pictures came in this week. We have scheduled a **picture re-take day** for **Tuesday, October 9**. If your student was absent on picture day, he/she can have pictures taken for retakes. It is a Tuesday, and all students should be in Mass uniform. Students who are having pictures taken can change into other clothes for pictures if families wish them to do so. We have a note to share with you from our Boy Scouts:

### **WINOOSKI SCOUTING - 84 YEARS OLD**

Boy Scouting is an exciting program for youth and adults who want to share in the development of young people. In 1923 Saint Francis Xavier Church became the charter organization establishing Winooski Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 658. In signing the charter, church leaders made the commitment to adopt the program concepts and values of the Boy Scouts of America as an integral part of their outreach to the youth of the community.

For over 84 years, Winooski Boy Scouts has provided that educational program for our boys and young adults. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to serve others by helping to instill values in our young people and, in other ways, to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. Our purpose is to build character, to train in the responsibilities of citizenship and to develop personal fitness.

### **FALL ROUNDUP**

**Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 658** invite you to our **Fall Orientation Night and Sign-up** at **Saint Francis Xavier School, Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 pm**. Information will be provided to inform parents and boys about Boy Scouting and The Boy Scouts of America. Join us for an evening of fun activities, and learn more about our exciting programs and outdoor adventures!!! For information, call 655-2600

We had a Cub Scout pack here in years past, along with our Boy Scout Troop. **We would love to bring Cub Scouts back to St. Francis and we need leaders**. If you would be interested, please contact the office.

We also have an opportunity to have a Destination Imagination Team and participate in the Scripps Spelling Bee. We need families to volunteer in order for our students to take advantage of these opportunities. If you are interested, please contact Louise Lynch.

**Chess Club is back!** Zach Martinez will be running the Chess Club on **Fridays from 2:40 to 4:00 PM** in the **library**. Chess Club is open to all students in grades K through 8. It starts today, September 21.

On Wednesday the **Winooski chapter of Catholic Family Life Insurance and its New England division, Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste**, held a seminar at our school. A packet of information went home last week. 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. We are pleased to announce that the attendance was such that they qualified for the matching grant, St. Francis Xavier School students will participate in the distribution of the gift. If you were unable to attend the seminar and would like more information, please let us know.

We still need **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.

Chorus and Band with **Ms. Ashley O'Brien** start next week. **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. Registration forms are available at the office, and you may turn them in at the office or with Ms. O'Brien.

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 began on September 10. It is **open to students in grades 3 through 8.** **Woodshop** runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays and began 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.

Martial Arts will begin on **October 4, 2008 at 5:30pm** in the **St. Francis Xavier School gym.** Spots are still available in the class for students' grades 3-8. All students interested should talk to Mr. Gaudette.

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.

Please remember that **all volunteers must submit a 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.

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.** We hope that you will encourage people to sign up as soon as possible; a projector would be a great benefit for our students. If you, your family members and friends have not registered your AdvantEdge card, please 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, Hood SoxTops, 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. **The Hood SoxTops promotion ends on October 31.** 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