

November 16, 2007

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We wish to note that this week marks the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Lavalley's arrival at St. Francis Xavier. His leadership, love, and support for St. Francis Xavier Parish and school are wonderful, ongoing gifts to all of us.

During the week we were all reminded of how much of a community we are, and how much we are valued by the community around us. Our week started out on a horrible note when we discovered our cemetery had been vandalized. Shortly thereafter, offers of assistance started to arrive, including those from a Boy Scout troop in Southern Vermont, the Knights of Columbus, employees at the Chittenden Bank, employees from local monument companies, and many other individuals and groups. We were touched by the Christian spirit demonstrated by everyone. As Father Lavalley said during his homily, "We are St. Francis Xavier and we will get through this." Thank you to everyone who offered help, support, and prayers.

On Sunday, many faculty and friends from St. Francis Xavier School attended the Hettena Wright and Horton Chili Contest and fundraiser. This year HWH contributed to the Sam Cohn Foundation, and they raised \$5500. Four members of the St. Francis Xavier community submitted chilis – Kathryn Boyles, Christopher Hill and Braelynn Leppert-Hill (grade 7), Kevin Lavalley, and Jerry and Ryan Thornton (grade 7). The competition was fierce and the votes were close. Christopher Hill and Braelynn placed second in the mild chili category. Thank you to everyone who participated – we know it takes a significant contribution of time and money to compete – and to those who attended. Your presence is another reminder of our role in the surrounding community.

We have yet another example of the positive community spirit this week. On Tuesday grades 3 through 6 and our journalism students attended the groundbreaking for the Winooski Community Center. We are pleased that we were invited to participate, and our students and faculty represented our school well.

Spirit week was a great success. Thanks to everyone who participated, and to the student council for coordinating this event.

As a reminder, **report cards** will be going home on **Tuesday November 20**. As you know, we implemented new administrative software this year, and that has impacted the process and the look for our report cards. Please bear with us as we work through our new processes.

There will also be a student council bake sale in the lobby on Tuesday, November 20, right after school. They are raising money for a special activity for middle school students. More details will be forthcoming.

As a school community we collected goods for the **St. Joseph's House** in Burlington. Each homeroom we put together **bags of goods** to be distributed to families in need. Thank you for your assistance.

Traditionally, November and December are months when people turn their thoughts to giving. Our families and friends are always generous and the faculty and staff of St. Francis Xavier School are so appreciative of all the kind and thoughtful gifts we receive. This year we are hearing from area service organizations that the number of families in need is greater than they have seen in a long time. We would like to encourage those families who are considering purchasing presents for us to send contributions in our names, or to help us provide food or gifts for the families served by those organizations. Nancy Ryan and the teachers in early education will be working with the Winooski Family Center. As a school we will be collecting food for St. Joseph's House or the St. Stephens Food Shelf (if they make the decision to reopen), and grades 2 and 5 will be collecting gloves, mittens, and hats.

The **Cross Country team party** was held on **Tuesday, November 13**. Thanks to our coach, Mr. Becker. Thanks also to Mr. Lewis, Ms. Ruggeri, and Mr. Gaudette for their assistance and to all the families and friends for their support.

We would like to remind families to contact the school if your student will be absent. When a student will be absent unexpectedly from school, a parent/guardian should call the office by 8:30 each day of the absence. If the office does not receive a call, a parent/guardian will be contacted. This policy is for the protection of St. Francis Xavier School students. In the event of a planned absence from school, parents must notify the front office and all affected teachers of the dates **in writing** as soon as feasible,

We have good news about our **physical education uniforms**. Families are able to order uniforms, both plain blue and with our logo, through [www.buckheaduniforms.com](http://www.buckheaduniforms.com). Our **school code is 418** and you can also search using our school name. Thank you for your patience.

The school has recently acquired some television sets. We would like to pair these sets with a **VCR and DVD player**. If you or someone you know has a VCR/DVD to donate that would be a great help. Please contact Mr. Gaudette at 655-2600 or [gaudette\\_stfrancis@yahoo.com](mailto:gaudette_stfrancis@yahoo.com) for other information.

**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