



February 8, 2008

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We began the season of Lent with a special school Mass on Ash Wednesday. It is gratifying to know that our students are very thoughtful about this season and what it means to us as Catholics. When our students discuss “giving things up” for their Lenten sacrifice they also make a point of including positive things to do such as improving their relationships with their families and friends and helping others. **Lent offers each of us a time to look deeply within ourselves and to grow closer to God.**

In addition to the Rice Bowls and Vermont Right to Life Baby Booties for Life fundraisers, we are continuing to help our Winooski community by contributing to the Winooski United Methodist Church food shelf. They are very grateful for our assistance. **You may bring non-perishable food and basic toiletries in to your student’s classroom at any time.**

**Registration packets went home today.** We printed the forms from our new administrative software, and you will notice that they look very different. **To help us ensure that our data is accurate, please review the information and write any updates or corrections necessary on the forms.** We will be working with the software developer to revise these forms and we hope to be able to include custom fields next year. Until that process is complete we are using forms similar to the forms we used last year for new families and new students. **For current families and students we included some additional forms requesting the information needed to complete/update those custom fields. You will find those forms within our registration information packet.** You will also find the Information Acceptable Use Policy and Photograph Information and associated signature forms in the Registration Information Packet. If you need additional forms, please ask at the office.

We are sending home a postcard booklet for SchoolMall with each student. SchoolMall is a portal similar to SchoolPop and St. Francis Xavier School can receive up to 40% on purchases with a wide variety of well-known stores placed through this portal. If you are ordering online, please check both SchoolPop and SchoolMall to see if you can connect to the company through either portal. The price doesn’t increase and our school benefits. The postcard booklet is a way to let family and friends know about SchoolMall. There is no obligation on their part, and for each completed booklet, St. Francis Xavier School earns \$2.25. Students who return a completed booklet are eligible to win a vacation to Orlando, FL.

**St. Francis Xavier Girls’ Softball Pitching Clinic** is held on **Saturdays from 12 PM to 2 PM** in the gym. Any girl in grades 5 through 8 who wishes to play softball is welcome! **Parishioners and girls who attend other schools without a softball team are invited to participate on our team.** Girls who wish to play should sign up at the office. For more information, please call the office at 655-2600 or Coach Chris Horton at 865-2777.

Last year St. Francis Xavier School Board created a marketing sub-committee comprised of Steve Eustis and Brian Senecal. The committee's goal is to increase enrollment in the school and get our name out in the area. To that end, they implemented some initiatives and we are continuing them this year. Two in particular are of interest to current families.

- With the idea that the more people talking about St. Francis the better, any current family that gets at least one new family to take a tour of the school gets to waive their registration fee for one student the following year (\$50). For each new family they refer who enrolls children in the school, they get a \$300 discount on their total tuition cost for the following year.
- Saint Francis wants to encourage families of all sizes to consider a Catholic education. We all recognize, however, that larger families have larger expenses. To make an education at St. Francis accessible, the maximum tuition we will charge any family in one year is for three children. Your 4th, 5th, 6th – however many children beyond three that you have enrolled at the same time – attend tuition free.

If anyone has specific ideas for the marketing committee and the full board to consider, please contact Brian (893-4998) or Steve (878-4385).

**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 weekend.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne