



February 15, 2008

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

The winter weather has certainly given us some extra challenges this year. Despite some of the setbacks created by the irregular schedule, our faculty and students continue to work hard and get their tasks accomplished. Today we have a previously scheduled ½ day to allow our faculty to participate in an inservice.

Registration packets went home last week. 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.** For current families and students we included some additional forms requesting the information needed to complete/update 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.

To assist with our planning for next year, **please return your completed registration forms as soon as possible.** We are offering a discounted **registration fee of \$50 per student until Monday, March 3.** The fee is **\$100 per student after that date.** Applications for tuition assistance are due by Friday, April 18.

The date for our spring pageant has been changed. It is now scheduled for Friday, May 2. Details will be forthcoming.

Last Friday was a special birthday – the Boy Scouts of America were founded on February 8, 1910. We have attached a brief note about scouting written by Mr. Fuller. We are very fortunate to have Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownie Girl Scouts, and Daisy Scouts here at St. Francis. We thank all the families and friends who make it possible.

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.**

Last week we sent 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 access the store through either portal. There is no increase in price 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

Happy Birthday, BSA

By Sgt. James Fuller

It was a very special birthday last Friday. No one person's but the birthday of a group that has affected the lives of millions of men, women, and children. Let's look back in time a little first:

American businessman William D. Boyce was lost on a foggy street in London in 1909 when an unknown Scout came to his aid, guiding him to his destination. The boy refused Boyce's tip, explaining that he was a Boy Scout and was merely doing his daily good turn. Soon thereafter, Boyce met with General Baden-Powell, who was Chief Scout at the time. Boyce returned to America, and, four months later, founded the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910.

Since that time Scouting has had many transformations, remakes, new uniform designs, and program changes. Throughout it all one thing has remained constant: dedication to the goal of boys achieving a strong character on their journey to manhood.

These days there isn't much said or written on the topic of character. It almost seems that the notion of a strong moral personality has gone out of vogue. But let us look for a moment of some Scouts that came before us.

Famous Eagle Scouts and Other Well Known Scouting Alumni

Famous Eagles

Bill Alexander, U.S. Representative from Arkansas
Gary Anderson, U.S. Representative from New York
Charles Bennett, U.S. Representative from Florida
William Bennett, Former Secretary of Education
Bill Bradley, Pro basketball star and U.S. Senator from New Jersey
Milton Caniff, Comic Strip Artist "Steve Canyon"
William Dannemeyer, U.S. Representative from California
Arthur Eldred, (First Eagle Scout)
Gerald Ford, 38th President of the U.S.
Murphy J. "Mike" Foster, Governor of Louisiana
James Lovell - Astronaut
Richard Lugar, U.S. Senator from Indiana
Sam Nunn, U.S. Senator from Georgia
Ellison Onizuka, Challenger Astronaut
J.J. Pickle, U.S. Representative from Texas
Samuel Pierce, Former Secretary of HUD
Harrison Salisbury, Pulitzer Prize winning Author
William Sessions, Former FBI Director
Steven Spielberg, Film Director/Producer
Wallace Stegner, Pulitzer Prize winning Author
Percy Sutton, Chairman of CBS
John Tesh, TV Celebrity
James Stewart - Actor
James Brady, Former Press Secretary to President Reagan
William C. DeVries, M.D., Transplanted first artificial heart
Walter Cronkite - Journalist, T.V. commentator
J. Willard Marriott, Jr., President, Marriott Corporation
H. Ross Perot, Chairman, EDS Corp.
Daniel J. Evans, Former US Senator and Governor of Washington state

Famous Scouts

David Hartman, Actor (Life Scout)
Henry "Hank" Aaron, Baseball Superstar (Boy Scout)
Richard Gere - Actor
Bruce Jenner - Olympic Gold Medal Decathlon (Cub Scout)
Merlin Olsen, Actor, Sportscaster (Boy Scout)
Eddie Rabbitt, Country/Western singer (Boy Scout)
Richard Roundtree, Actor (Boy Scout)
Alberto Salazar, 3-time winner, NYC Marathon (Life Scout)
John Schneider, Actor/Singer (Cub Scout)
Howard K. Smith, Former ABC-TV commentator (Boy Scout)
Mark Spitz - Olympic Gold Medal Swimmer (Cub Scout)

George Strait - Country/Western Singer (Cub Scout)
Joe Theisman, Sportscaster, former NFL player (Life Scout)
Peter Ueberroth, Former Commissioner of Baseball (Cub Scout)
Paul Winfield, Actor (Cub Scout)
Steve Young, NFL Quarterback

ASTRONAUTS

EAGLES:

Adamson, Armstrong, Bagian, Bluford, Bowersox, Brady, Carr, Carter, Chaffee, Covey, Creighton, Duke, Eisele, Fullerton, W. Gregory, Griggs, Hoffman, Jones, Lee, Lind, Llewellyn (King's Scout, U.K.), Lovell, McCulley, O'Leary, Onizuka, Oswald, Parazynski, Reightler, Searfoss, See, Tanner, Truly, D. Walker

LIFES:

Anders, Basset, Brand, Bridges, Casper, Cooper, Evans, Fabian, G. Gardner, Givens, Gregory, Kregel, Low, Mattingly, McArthur, Mitchell, D. Scott, Spring, Springer, Van Hoften, C. Williams

STARS:

Barry, Cameron, England, W. Fisher, Garriott, R. Gibson, Gordon, Grissom, Haise, Lounge, McNair, Stafford

1ST CLASS:

J. Allen, Bean, Clifford, Coats, Engle, Freeman, D. Gardner, E. Gibson, Hammond, Henize, Linnehan, Nelson, Overmyer, Schirra, Schweickart, W. Scott, Shepard, Veach, Worden

2ND CLASS:

Bolden, Buchli, Carpenter, Cernan, Culbertson, Mullane, Parker, Pogue, Shriver, Swigert, W. Thornton, White, Young

TENDERFOOT:

Aldrin, Bursch, Hawley, Lousma, McDivitt, Michel, Schmitt, S. Smith

EXPLORER:

O'Connor, D. Williams

GIRL SCOUT:

E. Collins, Davis, A. Fisher, Helms, Jernigan, Lawrence, Seddon, Sherlock, Sullivan, K. Thornton, Janice Voss, Weber

CUB SCOUT:

A. Allen, C. Brown, Conrad, Foale, Gernhardt, Henricks, Leestma, Lopez-Alegria, McBride, Meade, Readdy, Rominger, Shepherd, Thomas, Thuot, Wolf (Germany)

The list goes on and on. As an Eagle Scout and proud parent of two current Scouts I want to both thank and congratulate each and ever parent, boy, sister, brother, (even aunts and uncles) who support, encourage, transport, camp with, and build pinewood derby cars with their young boys. You are the nucleus in the creation of our next generation of scientists, businessmen, astronauts, actors,..... our future.

As for you boys, keep it up. Don't let negative opinions get to you. If a friend thinks that they are "too cool" to be a Scout, tell yourself when you get up in the morning at camp, eat, swim, fish, shoot (at summer camp that is), run around, learn to build a fire with sparks, that if this isn't cool then nothing else is either.

The road to Eagle Scout isn't easy. Not everyone makes it. However, I can guarantee you that you will learn more, do more, have more fun, and yes – develop more character on the way – than you ever imagined.

If you need a reminder of what it means to build character, just look at the words of the Cub Scout Promise:

CUB SCOUT PROMISE

I, (say your name), promise
to DO MY BEST
To do my DUTY to GOD
And my Country
To HELP other people, and
To OBEY the LAW of the Pack

There are about 9,500,000 registered members of the BSA. Now that's a lot of character! Happy Birthday.