



February 22, 2008

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We had a very busy day on this last day before winter break. This morning we held our Good News Assembly. It is always so enjoyable to hear of all the wonderful things our students are doing. This afternoon the Student Council sponsored our 2nd Annual Talent Show. The talent show was a great success and all the students did an excellent job. Thank you to Mrs. Richards for her work coordinating the show, and to the families who supported our student participants.

To assist with our planning for next year, **please return your completed registration forms for the 2008-2009 school year 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.

We are **changing our uniform policy** starting in March. We have been working on a policy that will be easier for our families, will look neater and be more comfortable for our students. Both the old and new uniforms will be accepted for the rest of this year and throughout the 2008-2009 school year. We are attaching information that will hopefully answer the frequently asked questions and the updated policy.

On Saturday, our **MathCounts teams** participated in the **regional competition** held at the University of Vermont. St. Francis Xavier School was ably represented by the following students: Raghav Balu, Jenna Campbell, Chris Farnam, Braelynn Leppert-Hill, Ian Horton, Zachary Martinez, Kylie McAuliffe, Caitlyn McCain, Alicia McCormick, Vishnu Premsankur, Christian Scanlon. Thanks to all the families who supported our students throughout their practice and competition, and special thanks to Mrs. Varhue who coaches the teams and coordinates our participation in this event.

Yesterday, our **Cub Scout troop held their Pinewood Derby.** Everyone had a wonderful time making their derby cars and racing them. Casey Keenan came in first for both the Pack and Den 1. Jon Clark came in 2nd for Den 1, Isaiah Ellis-Monaghan came in 3rd for Den 1. The results for Den 2 are as follows: Jennsen Clark – 1st, Colin McKay - 2nd, John Rousseau – 3rd, Frankie Ellis-Monaghan – 4th, and James Gibbons – 5th. Jon Clark won for Best Design, and Jennsen Clark won for Most Creative. Colin McKay earned his Bobcat Badge. Congratulations to everyone!

“Le Grand Concours” For the second year, our students in grades 4 through 8 are participating in the National French Contest sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Grades 4, 5 and 6 met the challenge this week. Grade 7 and 8 will do so during the first week of March. Students who do exceptionally well in Listening and Reading are selected to compete in Speaking as well. **Bonne chance** to all our contestants!

Our Science Fair will be held on Thursday, March 6. Families are invited to see students’ projects from 6 PM to 6:45. The presentation of awards will begin at 6:45. The students have worked hard on these projects and are eager to show off what they have learned. We look forward to seeing you there!

Special thanks to Kevin Lavalley who **coordinated the recent donation** from General Electric of **24 computer chairs** for the computer lab and **over a dozen computer tables** for our classrooms. The chairs

look great, and the tables are an excellent addition to the classrooms. They will make things much better and easier for our faculty and students.

The new issue of the WildCats Roar, our school newspaper is out!. The journalism students are doing an excellent job. If you have ideas for future stories, please contact a member of the journalism class or Mr. Fuller.

The Winooski Community Center will have its Grand Opening Celebration on Monday, March 31. Our students are invited to attend, and more details will be forthcoming. As a school community we are pleased about this exciting project and we would like to show our appreciation for all the hard work that has gone into making this a reality. To that end, we are holding an **“in-school” bottle drive during the week of March 10** and the money raised will be donated to the Community Center.

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

We have a note from Kathleen Conlin in our Development Office:

Saint Francis Xavier School will launch the 2008 Annual Fund on Monday, March 10, 2008. We are very pleased to announce that Thomas and Kathryn LaVigne are this year’s Co-Chairs. They are excited about the chance to support Saint Francis Xavier School because of their many years of involvement with the school, the parish and their community.

Your gift to the Annual Fund will help us in so many ways: (1) attract and retain a highly qualified faculty, (2) offer financial aid and scholarships to students, and (3) fund new programs. These are essential needs if we are to move forward in the coming years. When you receive your Annual Fund letter, please give as much as you can to help us continue to benefit your children, grandchildren, current students, and the entire Saint Francis Xavier community.

We have already received a very generous challenge grant to Kick-Off the 2008 Annual Fund. For the second year in a row, the Saint Jean Baptiste Society has announced, through their spokespersons, George and Jackie Bouffard, which they will match the first \$500 we receive for our 2008 Annual Fund. This is a tremendous boost to the start of our Annual Fund campaign. Thank you!

For more information on the 2008 Annual Fund, or to make a donation, please contact Kathleen Conlin, Development Director, 802.655.7690.

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 winter break.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne