



September 12, 2008

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Home and School meeting last Friday. It was nice to see so many people. If you have not signed up for the Friday, September 19 Parent Teacher Conferences and would like to do so, please call the office. **Next Friday, September 19, will be a half-day, and our Extension Program will be closed so that the faculty can be available for conferences.**

It's United Way Campaign Time

Many of you are part of United Way campaigns in your workplace. ***Did you know that you can make a donation to Saint Francis Xavier School through the United Way?*** The process is very simple. If you are donating to the United Way by an outright donation, or through payroll deduction, just designate Saint Francis Xavier School as the recipient of your United Way dollars. This is a wonderful way to support our school and we are very grateful for these designated donations.

The St. Francis Xavier School Board is offering a new tuition discount offer effective 8/14/08. Any new St. Francis family will receive a **\$1,000.00 tuition discount** for each new child enrolled in grades 5, 6, or 7. This special discount applies to the first 5 new children in those grades or until 12/31/08. The school board is offering this tuition discount to these grades since it will cost the school little extra money to add children in these smaller grades and having a larger class benefits both the students and the school.

The **journalism** program/school newspaper will begin this Friday, September 12. Mr. James Fuller will be the advisor. This is open to students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Students in other grades are encouraged to contribute articles, stories, poems and photos to the newspaper.

Cub Scout Signup Night

Cub Scout Pack 658 invites you to our Pack Information and Signup Night at Saint Francis Xavier School, Tuesday, September 23; at 6:00 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 for the boys, and learn more about Saint Francis Xavier Cub Scouts and our exciting programs and outdoor adventures!!! Check us out on the Web: www.bsapack658.org

Saint Francis Boy Scouts - 85 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 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 85 years, Saint Francis Xavier 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.

The Home and School Association is working on our Cookbook fundraiser and they need everyone's

help. They want to have the cookbooks completed by the middle of November so they will be available to sell at the Craft Fair. This has been very popular in the past, and the recipes have been wonderful. We need more recipes! **A pre-order form with information about how to submit recipes online went home earlier this week, along with a paper form you can use to submit recipes. These forms are available online by clicking the Home and School Association link on our website: www.sfxwinooski.org. Please submit recipes by Wednesday, September 17.** Recipes from family and friends are welcome.

Chess club will be after school on Fridays. Because next Friday is a ½ day, due to conferences, and Friday the 26th we will be closed in order to attend a full-day inservice for all faculty/staff in the diocese, Chess Club will start on Friday, October 3.

October is the month of the Rosary and Right-to-Life month. **Bishop Matano** will be celebrating the Diocesan Mass for Respect for Life Month on Respect for Life Sunday, the first Sunday of October. **The Mass will be at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 5, 2007 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception** and will fulfill the Sunday obligation. Before the Mass, at **3:15 p.m.**, Elementary and Middle School students are invited to lead the **Family Rosary for Life**. Please consider participating in this as a family and turn in the signed commitment form to your student's Religion teacher by **Wednesday, October 1st**. Saint Francis faculty members will be present, including Mrs. Winchester, Mme. Hawes, Mr. Gaudette and Mr. Badillo.

Raffle Tickets for the 6x12 Storage Shed are still available. The shed was built by the woodworking students during the summer program, and you can take a look at it in our parking lot. They did a fantastic job! Delivery within Chittenden County is included. Please register soon!

Students must be picked up immediately after school or their specific after school program, or be enrolled in the Extension Program. **If students are not picked up by 3:10, they will be sent to the Extension Program and families will be charged the applicable rate.** We are concerned for the safety of our students and cannot permit them to remain unsupervised. Thank you for your help.

The Diocese of Burlington implemented "**Shield the Vulnerable,**" a law based program, for all priests, deacons, teachers, and other persons in a position of trust. **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 takes about 90 minutes and completely internet based. 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. 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. **There will be update on Bullying that is scheduled to be available by mid-September, and all faculty, staff, and volunteers are required to complete this update by November 1.**

The Charter also requires that we must complete a background check on **all volunteers.** **If you have not yet had a background check done, please submit the form provided in the registration packet.** Nancy has additional forms if needed. Nancy, Kathryn Boyles, Maria Horton, and Diane Potvin can notarize the form for you. If you have already gone through the background check through St. Francis Xavier or another organization within the diocese, 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.

We are participating in the **Price Chopper Tools for School Program** again this year. **Our school code is 15195.** Point accrual begins September 14 and runs through February 14, 2009. In years past we have been able to get some excellent 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. **If you or your family members have not registered your AdvantEdge card, you may do so online at <http://www.pricechopper.com/>, at Price Chopper, or here at the school.**

We are also continuing to **collect ink and toner cartridges, outdated cell phones, Boxtops for Education, Hood SoxTops, and Campbell's Soup Labels**; you may drop those off here at school or at the back of the church at any time. **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 a member of the Home and School Association 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 weekend.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne