



October 23, 2008

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We have a **½ day today and no school tomorrow** to allow our faculty and staff an opportunity to take part in a faculty/school board retreat, and some of the educational seminars offered by the Vermont NEA. Our Extension Program is open this afternoon and tomorrow. Thank you for your flexibility. We had our first **Good News Assembly** this morning and there was a lot of good news to share. The Cross Country Team finished a great season on Tuesday in Shelburne. Congratulations to the whole team! **Progress reports went home today.** Please return the signature sheet to your student's homeroom teacher on Monday, October 27.

The Home and School Halloween Party will be here at school tomorrow (Friday, October 24) from 3 to 6 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

Next Thursday, October 30 is International Night. Families and friends are invited to visit classrooms from 6:00 until 7:00. Students and teachers have been working very hard to prepare for this event, and our students are eager to show off what they have learned. We look forward to seeing you there! Friday, October 31 will be a dress down day.

Candygram order forms are **due by Tuesday, October 28.** Candygrams will be delivered on Friday, October 31, and they are a fun way to send good wishes to students, faculty and staff. Each Candygram is \$1 and the money raised goes toward the **8th grade class trip.** You can get additional forms from our website (go to Class Pages and then Eighth grade) or ask at the front office.

Make up day for school pictures is Tuesday, October 28. If you would like to have your students' picture retaken, please have him/her bring any photos back in. You should keep the class picture, since they will not reissue class pictures unless a new class picture has been taken. Students who missed the first picture day are welcome to have their pictures taken on the 28th.

Scrapping for a Cure! On **Saturday, October 25, from 9 AM to 9 PM in the gym there will be a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.** Come scrapbook for the day and help a great cause along the way. Cost is \$30. There will be door prizes and raffles. A Creative Memories Consultant will be on site with supplies and a Close to My Heart Consultant will also be on site. Bring your own lunch; pizza and soda will be provided for dinner. Please call ahead to reserve your spot, as seating is limited. For more information or to RSVP please call Patty Brunelle 373-5379 or Robin Riley 879-0762.

We have a note from Kathleen Conlin, Development Director

I am so happy to announce the winner of our Christmas Card Project. I truly appreciate all the work the students did to participate. The winner is **Vi Ann Tran, Grade 5!** I also want to acknowledge **Christian Scanton, Grade 8,** who suggested the verse to be used in the card. Look for the card in your mail in a few weeks. It is our way to thank all of you for everything you give to support Saint Francis Xavier School.

Many families have friends and family members who live out of state and they would like to keep them apprised of all the good things happening here at St. Francis. We are sending home a form so you can add them to our mailing list. They will then receive our Christmas card, newsletter, invitations to special events, and other information. Please return the forms to Nancy. If you need additional forms, you will be able to print them from our website shortly, or ask for them at the front office.

PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR STARS

Sunday, November 9, 2008 we are hosting our first Annual Recognition Reception!

We want to recognize and extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our generous supporters. You have helped ensure the continued success and vitality of Saint Francis Xavier School for nearly 150 years! **A Celebratory Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Francis Xavier Church. Our celebrant will be Father Richard Lavalley, Pastor of Saint Francis Xavier. The Recognition Reception from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. will follow at Saint Francis Xavier School.** An array of festive food and drink will be served. There is no need to RSVP, please just join us! If you have any questions, please call Kathleen Conlin, Director of Development at (802) 655-7690.

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 see it in our parking lot. They did a fantastic job! Delivery within Chittenden County is included. Please register soon! Contact Ms. Nancy for more information.

We have some notes from Mr. Becker:

I would like to take this opportunity to **thank you for another successful Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart.** It was a great day all around and the kids had a wonderful time. Thank you to the seventh grade class for setting up the stations and to Mrs. Jane McCormick and Mrs. Garrow for helping set up and run the wonderful snack table for all the kids. As a school we were able to raise a total of \$1874.75. I am grateful to everyone for supporting the school and this great cause.

Are you looking for a way to stay in shape this winter or just want to come and have some fun? Consider **Saint Francis Xavier adult open gym. On Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 pm Saint Francis** will welcome any adult (18 and over) members of our Saint Francis Xavier families. Each week we will feature a different activity. Adult Gym begins Wednesday November 5 with the game of volleyball. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mr. Becker.

We are sending home **a newsletter from Mr. Becker** that highlights some of the activities available to families in the surrounding towns. If you have questions or would like to add something to the next sports newsletter, please let Mr. Becker know.

We have a note from Mr. Steve Eustis:

The Green Mountain Athletic Association (GMAA) would formally like to thank St. Francis Xavier School for helping at the October 18 Green Mountain Marathon in South Hero. 188 runners from 20 states, Ontario and Quebec competed in this year's race. For many it was their first visit to Vermont, and for others it was their first marathon. One thing we always hear is how polite, well-mannered, and encouraging the St. Francis students are. Runners are very appreciative of all the students do for them at the aid stations. The GMAA is grateful to work with such a great group, and it helps our organization tremendously. The GMAA will make a \$400 donation to St. Francis Xavier again this year in recognition of the school's great effort, and hope to see St. Francis Xavier again at the 39th annual Green Mountain Marathon on October 17, 2009. On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone who gave encouragement, water, and Gatorade out on the course. It is difficult to overstate my positive experience. I finished my positive experience! I finished in 3:48:44 in 74th place.

Thank you Steve, and 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