



December 12, 2008

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

A number of families have asked about the possibility of having an early dismissal on December 23. After meeting with the faculty and consulting with Father Lavalley we decided to make December 23 a ½ day. The Good News Assembly will begin at 11:25 and students will be dismissed at noon. The Extension Program will be open until 5:30.

Student Council is sponsoring a **Spirit Week** next week. Students are encouraged to come to school each day dressed in the following themes:

**Monday** - Pajama Day; **Tuesday** - Hat Day (hats can not be worn to Mass); **Wednesday** - Character Day (come dressed as your favorite book, movie or TV character - be able to explain who you are!); **Thursday** - Twin day (or triplet or quadruplet day!); **Friday** - Dress Down Day/Crazy Hair Day (this is a dress down day -crazy hair is optional). All clothing must comply with the dress down day guidelines found in the handbook. Be creative and have fun!

**Christmas Pageant** is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the St. Francis Xavier Church. It will be one presentation with all of the school included. We would love to see you there!

**Adult Open Gym** will be held Wednesday, December 17 from **6 to 7:30 pm in the gym**. We welcome any adult (18 and over) members of our Saint Francis Xavier families. Each week we will feature a different activity! There will be no Open Gym on during Christmas break. It will return on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Please remember that we are collecting **non-perishable food items for the food shelf**, and we will continue to do so throughout the rest of the school year. Items may be dropped off at any time in your student's classroom and will be donated each month. We will donate items this month prior to the Christmas break. We appreciate your ongoing support.

We are also looking for **good, used games for younger and middle grade students**. Our interns are going to be holding snack groups to focus on improving student skills and helping them work together more effectively. Games and puzzles can help. If your students have outgrown some of their games and puzzles, please consider donating them. Thank you for your help.

Traditionally, November and December are months when people turn their thoughts to giving. Our families and friends are always generous, and the faculty and staff of St. Francis Xavier School are so appreciative of all the kind and thoughtful gifts we receive. This year we are hearing from area service organizations that the number of families in need is greater than they have seen in a long time. We would like to encourage those families who are considering purchasing presents for us to send contributions in our names or help us provide food or gifts for the families served by those organizations. The teachers in early education are working with the **Winooski Family Center**. We know that many of our families are facing financial challenges and other difficulties, and we ask that you keep all members of our community in your thoughts and prayers.

The Winooski Knights of Columbus together with the Daughters of Isabella & Saint John the

Baptiste Society will be hosting monthly **Communion Breakfasts** again this winter on the **second Sunday** of each month starting on December the 14th. All profits will be used to support our seminarians studying for the priesthood. The breakfast will be held from 8:00AM to 12:30PM at the Winooski Senior Center. The cost will be \$ 5.00 for adults and \$ 4.00 for children 6-12; children under 6 will be free. No family will be charged more than \$18.00. For more information please call 893-4998.

**Old Calendars Wanted** If you have any calendars with nice pictures or artwork, Mrs Lajoie would like to use them in art. Thanks.

As outlined in the Family Handbook, each family is required to provide a minimum of 30 hours of service to the school each year. This can be done in many ways, and contributions of extended family members such as aunts, uncles, and grandparents can be applied to your **service hour requirement**. Forms used to keep track of your family's service hours are available at the front desk and on our website. The forms can be turned into Nancy at the front office by December prior to dismissal and by the first week in June. For those families who cannot meet or are unable to participate, there is an additional fee of \$20 for every hour not completed which will be collected at the end of the school year. There is a list of approved activities on the bulletin board in the front lobby and on the website. Activities outlined in the Volunteer Book at the front office and the Home & School Sign-up Sheets are approved. If you have questions, need ideas for service hours, or would like to inquire about approval, please contact Louise Lynch at [ptweasie@gmail.com](mailto:ptweasie@gmail.com) or 658-2432. All new activities will be presented to the school board for approval.

#### **Good News about our Graduates:**

A number of our graduates have made the honor roll in High School. **Rice announced their 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Honor Roll** recently and several of our graduates are on the list. **Grade 9 Second Honors:** Natalie Crowley and Lena Cruickshank. **Grade 9 Honorable Mention:** Elizabeth Babcock and Jacob Jansen. **Grade 10 Second Honors:** Christian McCormick, Will McCormick and Nora Varhue. **Grade 10 Honorable Mention:** Daniel Bolger and Philip Jansen. **Grade 11 Second Honors:** Isaac Potvin. **Grade 11 Honorable Mention:** Hannah Remillard. **Grade 12 First Honors:** Hannah Dieringer, Shawn Fitzgerald, Joseph Perron and Clayton Willets. **Grade 12 Second Honors:** Sara Campbell and Tia Tripodi. **Grade 12 Honorable Mention:** Kristen Coombs. If you have good news about any of our graduates, please send it along. We would love to share!

#### **There is still time to help us "Meet the Challenge"**

Reverend Richard Lavalley recently donated \$10,000 to Saint Francis Xavier School in the form of a Challenge Grant. Father hopes donors will "Meet the Challenge" with their contributions before December 31, 2008. All funds raised will benefit the school.

George and Jacqueline Bouffard, Co-Chairs of the 2008- 2009 Annual Fund, and this year's Honorary Co-Chair, Sister Carmen Proulx, Superior, Sisters of Providence, were gratified by the opportunity presented by Father Lavalley to generate much needed funds for Saint Francis.

"In this season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we want to thank everyone who has shared their time, talents and treasured resources with Saint Francis Xavier School," said Mr. & Mrs. Bouffard in announcing the grant. "Father's Meet the Challenge Grant", combined with the generosity of our supporters will help us maintain the quality Catholic education which has been a hallmark of Saint Francis Xavier School for almost 150 years."

For more information, please contact Kathleen Conlin, Development Director at (802) 655-7690. To make a donation, please send your gift to Development Office, Saint Francis Xavier School, 5 Saint Peter St., Winooski, VT 05404-1316.

**The Student Council has started a school store.** We've started out small but we've got BIG ideas! There is an assortment of small school supplies ranging in prices from. \$.25 to \$3.50. Snacks are

also being offered. Hours of operation are Wednesday morning 7:30 to 7:50 and Tuesday and Thursday afternoon 2:30 to 2:50. They will also be selling popcorn on Friday afternoons. Stop by and check it out. All proceeds will go towards Student Council to help defray the costs of school dances and other projects.

**Raffle Tickets for the 6x12 Storage Shed are almost gone.** 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! Tickets are \$10 each and delivery within Chittenden County is included. Please register soon! Contact Ms. Nancy for more information.

### **Cub Scout Corner**

We had a fabulous pack meeting last night making Christmas cards for wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center & have begun the famous derby car creations! The beautiful, Vermont made Christmas wreaths and swags have arrived, if you haven't picked yours up you can find it at the office. Thank you to all that continue to support our scouting efforts, it is greatly appreciated! A BIG THANKS goes out to Mr. Palmer Irish for donating his time in the woodshop last evening as well as for our upcoming meetings to help our boys with their derby cars.

We've had a change to our December meeting schedule; please see the new schedule below.

Den Meetings

Pack Meetings

Monday, Dec 15th

Monday, Jan

Monday, Jan 26th

It's not too late if there are any other interested families! As always you can check for the latest information on our website at <http://www.bsapack658.org/>.

The heating season is here. It is important to remind all families to make sure you have a **carbon monoxide detector** installed in your home. Regularly check it and test it to be sure it is working properly.

**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.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne