



December 23, 2008

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

Last night was our annual Christmas Pageant and it was the first time we held it in the Church. It was very well done and it was clear how hard our faculty and students worked to prepare. We had an amazing turnout, and we thank everyone who shared this special evening. Thank you also for your flexibility in enabling us to postpone the performance in response to the weather on Friday. We appreciate your help and your support.

The **teachers would like to express their thanks** to the families who have worked so hard to help with the pageant, and for your thoughtful contributions and generous gifts. Thank you to the Home and School Association for their presentation at the pageant. It means a lot to all of us, and **your generosity is very much appreciated.**

A Message from Father Richard Lavalley:

We Have Met – and Exceeded The Challenge!

I am so humbled and grateful to the many donors who enabled us to raise more than \$19,000 toward the *Meet the Challenge Grant*. George and Jacqueline Bouffard, Co-Chairs of the 2009 Annual Fund and Sister Carmen Proulx, Honorary Co-Chair, join me in thanking each of you for this enormous response to benefit Saint Francis Xavier School.

All of us recognize the value of Catholic education for our children. We are deeply committed to the school's mission focused on academic excellence and the development of the Catholic faith. In these uncertain times, it is wonderful to know that you have given so generously to help us maintain the quality Catholic education you expect at Saint Francis Xavier.

We hope all of you have a happy and prosperous New Year. God Bless You!

We would like to thank Father Lavalley for his ongoing and unwavering support of St. Francis Xavier families, faculty and staff. We are blessed to have him as our pastor.

Cub Scout Corner

Our first meetings of the New Year, to be held at school at 6 PM, for January are scheduled as follows:

Den Meetings
Monday, Jan 12th

Pack Meetings
Monday, Jan 26th

It is 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/>.

We are 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.

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

With the arrival of the snow, we have had the opportunity to go **sledding** on the hill between the Church and Rectory and school parking lot. For years students at St. Francis Xavier School and members of the local community have used this hill. Sledding is a fun winter activity and, when done in a responsible and careful manner, provides healthy, physical exercise for participants. However, almost every activity carries a risk of injury and sledding is no exception to this. Saint Francis Xavier School does not wish to deprive students of fun, traditional activities during recess and as part of the Extension Program, but the School also does not wish to assume responsibility for injuries which a student may suffer when engaging in these activities.

Therefore, **students will not be allowed to sled on school or church property during school hours or as part of the Extension Program unless they return the waiver we sent home on Friday signed by a parent or legal guardian.** If you need another copy of the waiver, you can find it on our web site. Please note that even if a student does return a signed form, the School and its agents, employees and volunteers have an absolute right to prohibit any or all students from sledding on school or church property during school or Extension Program hours for any reason, including, but not limited to, dangerous ground or weather conditions, irresponsible, reckless or dangerous behavior by the student while sledding, overcrowding on the hill.

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

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 very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne