



May 15, 2009

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

We had another exceptional and very busy week. Some of our classes have been able to take advantage of educational opportunities in the area. Wednesday, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders attended Conservation Field Day at the **Ethan Allen Homestead**. The students spent the day learning about the rivers that surround our area of Lake Champlain and the fish that live there. It was a beautiful day and a wonderful way to learn how we can conserve our earth. Thank you to our chaperones, Mrs. Garrow and Ms. Maskell, for joining us. Thursday, our Kindergarten students went on a field trip to **Shelburne Farms** to learn how farms run and about locally made products such as cheese and woolen yarn. Thanks to all the families who were able to help transport and chaperone our students. Your assistance makes these trips possible.

On Friday, as part of their **ecology unit** our 7<sup>th</sup> grade traveled to **Starksboro**, VT for a day long nature hike. They studied the different natural communities of trees and plants. The focus of the trip was the importance of good stewardship in maintaining all we have here in Vermont. Thanks to Steve Eustis for all his work to make this trip possible, and to the Eustis family for sharing their property with us for the day.

The **Seventh Annual St. Francis Xavier Stampede** was held on Saturday and we had a great turnout – 105 participants – the largest ever! **Thank you to all the teachers, families, and students (45 students!) who participated, and a special thanks to those who recruited co-workers and other friends to come run, walk or volunteer.** Thanks also to Steve Eustis for coordinating this wonderful and fun event, and to Fleet Feet, in Essex, for their support and generous contributions. Every paying participant should have received a \$10 gift certificate to Fleet Feet. If you left early and did not receive your certificate, please see Nancy.

#### **Library News: “Poetry Guy” Coming Thursday, May 21**

Young writers at St. Francis Xavier will be fastening their seatbelts, loosening up their “laughers,” and sharpening their poetic pencils in anticipation of a visit by children’s poet Ted Scheu (pronounced “shy”) on Thursday, May 21. Scheu will present some of his own work in an opening assembly for students and teachers, and then conduct three writing workshops with grades 1-7. Scheu lives in Middlebury and travels all over the country as a visiting author; he is visiting St. Francis Xavier thanks to a generous grant from the **Amy E. Tarrant Foundation**.

Ted Scheu’s own poems, published in over a dozen anthologies, spring from his childhood memories, as well as from his experience as an elementary teacher and parent. “I try to capture in my poems the silliness and sadness, the worries and the wonders of being a kid—whether it’s school life, or the surprising things that happen at home and with friends,” says Scheu. “My goal in my own writing, and especially in my teaching, is to help kids find their own voices. Poetry is the best way I’ve found to get kids revved up about their writing. Its simple format and easy emotional connections seem to open hearts and get pencils dancing.”

**The St. Francis Xavier Baseball and Softball Teams will be at the Kids Day Parade on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>.** Our softball and baseball schedules, as they now stand, are on our website

On Monday, **May 18<sup>th</sup>** there will be a **Convocation to Celebrate Catholic Schools** at St. Michael's College. Early Education students (grades PK and K) will not be attending. The day will begin with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Matano at 10:30. Then there will be lunch, and all students will need to bring bagged lunch, followed by a presentation. Sr. Clare Fitzgerald will be speaking about the value of Catholic Schools to Priests, Seminarians, and any parents who would like to attend. Our middle school faculty and students will hear John Halligan, and elementary students and faculty will see Kids on the Block Vermont. All parents are welcome to join us – if you would like to attend, please let your student(s) teacher(s) know.

We have 84 students signed up to participate in the First Annual **St. Francis Xavier Spelling Bee** (grades 1 – 8) which will be held on Tuesday, May 26 in the gym. Grades 1 and 2 will be at held from 9:25 to 10:25; grades 3-5 from 10:25 to 11:25 and grades 6-8 from 1 to 2 PM. This is within our school and next year we hope to be able to participate in the statewide spelling bee through the Vermont Principals' Association. Thank you to Ms. Pell for coordinating this event.

Planning is in full swing for the **Summer Extension Program**. If you are interested in having your student(s) attend the program, please **sign up outside of the Extension Program classroom**. It is important to know if you are planning to attend so that we may staff appropriately.

Almost everyone has submitted re-enrollment paperwork, and we thank you for getting us your forms and registration fee. **It helps with our planning for next year.** If you have not yet submitted your forms **please return your completed registration forms for 2009-2010 as soon as possible.** If you have questions or need more information, please let us know.

**Do you know of a family that might be interested in learning more about St. Francis Xavier School?** Please have them contact us. We would be happy to schedule a visit at their convenience. We have seen a lot of recent interest in the school, and we are meeting with a lot of families. Thanks to all our parents for spreading the word. We are planning an **Open House on Friday, May 29**. We will be available to speak with interested families, answer questions, and show them around our school. There will be light refreshments available.

### **Cub Scout Corner**

The Family Camporee at Camp Sunrise will be the weekend of May 30th. Please see your Den leader or the Green Mountain Council website (<http://www.scoutingvermont.org/>) for more information. Our next meetings to be held at school at 6 PM, are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, May 28th

Pack Meeting

Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>

Den Meetings

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/>.

### **Boy Scout Corner**

To learn more about our Boy Scout Troop, please see us at: [www.bsatroop658.org](http://www.bsatroop658.org)

**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