



May 22, 2009

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

Today is a half-day to allow for our teachers to participate in an Inservice. Our Extension Program will be open. Thank you for your flexibility. This afternoon, at 4 PM, our **softball team** will be playing a game at Hunt Middle School in Burlington. If you are able, they love to have family and friends there to cheer. Please note that our last day of school is June 12 –Fun Day.

On Monday, **May 18<sup>th</sup>** there was a **Convocation to Celebrate Catholic Schools** at St. Michael's College. The day began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Matano at 10:30. At the end of the Mass, it was announced that Monsignor Lavalley received the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) **Distinguished Pastor of the Year Award**. NCEA is the largest private professional education organization in the world, representing 200,000 Catholic educators serving 7.6 million students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools, in religious education programs, in seminaries and in colleges and universities.

After lunch, Sr. Clare Fitzgerald spoke about the value of Catholic Schools to Priests, Seminarians, and parents. Our middle school faculty and students heard John Halligan, and elementary students and faculty saw presentations by Kids on the Block Vermont on Bullying Prevention and School Safety. It was a marvelous day and truly heartwarming to see students from every Catholic school in the state of Vermont. Thank you for your ongoing support. We appreciate and value the sacrifices that you make to sustain our mission.

#### **Library News: "Poetry Guy" Visited on Thursday, May 21**

Young writers at St. Francis Xavier got to spend the day with children's poet Ted Scheu (pronounced "shy"). Scheu presented some of his own poems in a dynamic and fun opening assembly for students and teachers. He then conducted three imaginative, funny and lively poetry writing workshops with grades 1-7, inspiring students and teachers alike. 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. We would also like to thank our librarian, Kathleen Finn, for coordinating this wonderful event for our school.

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."

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 10:20; 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.

**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 Memorial Day weekend.

Mrs. Maria Horton

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne