



September 4, 2009

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

This was a beautiful week. We feel lucky to be working with such wonderful children. They truly are a blessing to us all. We are starting to get into our daily school routine. Part of our preparation for the school year was a conference with students from each grade. Two students from each grade joined Mr. Becker and Mr. Gaudette in the library to create school rules for the year. They are as follows: (1) **We are all one community acting in the image of God, we must be role models for each other;** (2) **I am responsible for myself in what I say, how I act, what I do, and how I treat others;** (3) **We are here to work hard, cooperate and stay focused. Each class brought input to the meeting, and we developed rules together. Each class is creating posters that state these rules for all the school to see.**

We were very impressed with the leadership the students represented as part of this process. Great job!

Safety

We have a few **safety notes and reminders**. The **parking lot is restricted to faculty and staff** only. This is a serious safety issue, as we can not have many cars entering and leaving while students are out and about. Please remember that **St. Peter Street is one way** from Weaver St. toward North St. from **7:30 AM to 8:30 AM, and 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM**. This affects the direction in which you can park, and people have been ticketed for facing the wrong direction.

Thank you to the parents who are volunteering their time as crossing guards at dismissal. This is a great help and they work hard to keep our students safe. They have asked us to remind people to **please cross at the cross walks and not between cars**. We do need more folks to serve as crossing guards. If you are able to do so, please let us know.

Religious Program

The Diocesan annual conference for adult formation called "**Gifts for the Kingdom**" will be held at St. Michael's College on October 10th. Bishop Matano will celebrate Mass at 9:00, followed by the keynote speaker, then lunch on campus. There is a choice among 9 different workshops in the afternoon, as well as a special track geared to catechists and parents as the primary educators of their children. Please consult the flyer that is being sent home with your eldest student for more detailed information. This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen our Faith and enjoy fellowship with others. Hope to see you there!

"Every Child Brings Us God's Smile". This is the theme of this year's **Respect Life Sunday**, October 4th. Bishop Matano will celebrate Mass at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral at 11a.m. This will be followed by an Art Show Reception. Catholic School students are invited to submit artwork illustrating this theme. The deadline is October 1st. Please see the info sheet for more details.

News from the Library

Summer Reading Programs: Any K-5 student who completed a summer reading program through a local library or business is encouraged to bring in your certificate of completion. If it wasn't convenient for your family to enroll in one of these programs, a note from parent or guardian vouching for what your child read over the summer will be acceptable. Please send in these certificates/letters by September 14 to Mrs. Finn; we will offer a dress-down day later this fall to these students in recognition of *not* going on vacation from reading!

New picture book bins and computers: Over the summer Mr. Palmer Irish, our woodworking teacher, built some beautiful and sturdy new picture book bins--they are fabulous and will make it much easier for all to find picture books. (Sometimes we *do* judge a book by its cover!) We also have brand-new computers for student research use in the library thanks to a grant from our friends at IBM.

Extra-Curricular News

We are accepting **registrations** for our **Drama, Woodshop, and Martial Arts After-School programs**. Additional information about these programs registration forms are available at the front desk. If your student is interested in these activities, yet is currently participating in fall sports or other activities that conflict, please talk to the teacher(s). In most cases, they are able to make accommodations.

The **Cross Country Team** has started practicing! Students in grades 5-8 are encouraged to join. If any student is interested in joining please speak with Ms. Ruggeri or Mrs. Unrein. Practices are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3-4:30pm. Thanks also to **Mrs. Eustis** who is offering her talents as a coach.

Volunteer Reminders

The Diocese of Burlington implemented “**Shield the Vulnerable,**” a **law based program**, for all priests, deacons, teachers, and other persons in a position of trust. **All volunteers, which include the majority of our families, and other persons in positions of trust who spend time with students, are required to complete the Shield the Vulnerable online training program.** The program takes about 90 minutes and completely internet based. Access Shield the Vulnerable at <http://www.shieldthevulnerable.org/>. **If you do not have internet access, please let us know.** If we have families in that situation we will schedule some times in our computer lab so that our families can complete the course. If families have completed the program for Rice or another organization, please let us know and provide us with a copy of the certificate of completion.

The Charter also requires that we must complete a background check on **all volunteers**. **If you have not yet had a background check done, please submit the form provided in the registration packet.**

Help our School

We are also continuing to **collect ink and toner cartridges, outdated cell phones, Boxtops for Education, Hood SoxTops, and Campbell’s Soup Labels**; you may drop those off here at school or at the back of the church at any time. **Please pass the word about these programs; they are easy ways to help our school.** If you are interested in helping us with these programs, please let Louise Lynch or a member of the Home and School Association know. Many aspects of these programs can be done at home.

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. We look forward to seeing you tonight.

A Special Thank you

We would like to take a moment to specially recognize the Society of Saint Jean Baptiste for continuing to support our library program. Their generosity over the years has greatly improved the state of our library.

Have a wonderful weekend. God Bless!

Mr. Jesse Gaudette

Mr. Eric Becker

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne