



September 11, 2009

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

This was a very active week for our students. It is a pleasure to see so many smiling young faces through the course of the day. We feel blessed to be a part of this wonderful community.

It was superb to see so many new families at the first Home and School meeting. Thank you to all the wonderful Home and School volunteers that make an event like that possible. We are very encouraged to see all the volunteers that have signed up to help the school.

We will be having a ½ day on *September 18th* for **Parent/Teacher Conferences**. There will be another day on *September 24th*. Call Ms. Nancy in the office to schedule a time.

Website

Have you checked out the school's website today? (www.sfxwinooski.org) We are updating and adding news to the website every day. School events, community news, extra-curricular schedules, and family opportunities will all be regularly updated.

Family Directory

The Family Directory is now available in the office. Donations are appreciated to offset the cost of printing. Please see Ms. Nancy Ryan if you would like a copy for your family.

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.

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.

Development Office

Saint Francis Xavier School will be honored at the Vermont Centennial Nonprofits Awards ceremony on Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at the State House in Montpelier. Saint Francis is being recognized as one of the oldest nonprofits in Vermont. Four representatives from our school will be on hand to receive the award from Vermont Secretary of State Deb Markowitz.

A New Opportunity

Zumba is coming to St. Francis! Zumba is a Latin dance/exercise using mostly Latin music. Classes will start at 6:15pm on Wednesday September 30th in the St. Francis Xavier School gym. For more information please see the School's Website (www.sfxwinnoski.org) for more information. I hope to see you all there!

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!

So far about 7 students have turned in their **Summer Reading Program** certificates or other documentation; I have a feeling there are quite a few more K-5 students who completed a summer reading program. Please try to turn in these documents by Monday, September 14. A dress-down day awaits those who do!

Cub Scout Corner

We'll be having a recruitment night on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at Saint Francis Xavier School from 6:30pm-8:00pm. All 1st through 8th grade families are welcome to attend if interested in joining Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts. Hope to see you there!

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.

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.**

Family News

Louise Lynch, parent and school board member, is updating the school's collection of email addresses. We use the lists for special projects, announcements, and for notifications of emergency closings. Email addresses included in the Family Directory will be added to her list. If you do not want your email on the list please let Louise know. Email Louise at ptweasie@gmail.com with any questions.

God Bless. Have a wonderful weekend.