

November 20, 2009

Dear St. Francis Xavier Families,

This was a very productive and active week at school. We have a full day of school on Monday, and a half day of school on Tuesday November 24<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers will be attending a staff In-Service that afternoon. The **After School Program will be closed on November 24<sup>th</sup>** through our Thanksgiving Break. It will re-open on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Grade 6 Service Project:**

This year's 6<sup>th</sup> graders are continuing the tradition of making cord rosaries, which we learned how to do from the Benedictine nuns in Westfield, Vermont. We will be selling our rosaries and decades, and taking orders at the SFX Craft Fair tomorrow.

The rosaries are hand-made with love and prayer, one-of-a-kind, and very durable. Proceeds will be shared between the Benedictines and our school. Thank you for your support!

### **A Special Event**

Bishop Matano will celebrate a special Mass here at **St. Francis Xavier Church at 7pm on Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Monsignor Lavalley asks for our attendance as a school. This will be the school's weekly Mass. We will not have a regular Tuesday Mass, but will gather as a community to celebrate with the Bishop. Thank you for your support!

### **Library News:**

We have started this year's **Red Clover Award** program (picture books) for Grades 1-3 and the **Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award** program (chapter fiction and non-fiction) for Grades 4-8. Enthusiasm for both these programs is running high thanks to our participation in them last year. Students in Grades 1-3 will be introduced to 10 outstanding picture books during their library time over the course of the next few months and vote for their favorite sometime next spring. Students in Grades 4-8 have been introduced to 30 various noteworthy fiction and non-fiction books and, after reading at least five of them, will vote for their favorite next spring. We have at least one copy, and some duplicates, of all the books from both programs; but if you are visiting your local public library with your children, the DCF titles might be books to be looking for.

**Lost Books:** Our standard rule of thumb for checking books out is "two at a time." (An exception is made for additional books needed for class research projects.) If a student has not returned a book, we will give them a month or two to try and find and return it. But that means one (or maybe two) less books a student can check out until the missing book is accounted for. If, after two months of looking, a student can't find a book, we will mark it "Lost." That means we will have to charge the family for the lost book at the end of the year. But it also means the student can start checking out two books again. Do try to help your student develop a special spot at home where library books are kept, preferably *not* in a regular household bookshelf where it can easily "disappear." Some ideas are a bedside table or the family room coffee table. Often these "lost" books do surface again, months later; be assured we will be happy to take them back at any time and waive the book replacement fee.

**After-School Library Hours:** Mrs. Finn usually is in the library after school until at least 3 Mon-Thurs. IF your child needs to find or return a book, they should feel free to stop down after dismissal.

## **Student Council News**

### **School Store**

The Student Council has been responsible for the new and improved school store. The **school store is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2:30 – 2:50**. Popcorn is also available on Friday afternoons.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade News**

**The 7<sup>th</sup> grade** studied Afghanistan for their International Night presentation. As part of our study, we learned about Greg Mortensen. Mortensen raises money and builds schools in rural Afghanistan and Pakistan. “Ignorance breeds hatred, and the simplest way to stop that is to educate kids,” he says. Through his project Pennies for Peace he has built schools to educate more than 28,000 students. Why pennies? In Pakistan and Afghanistan a penny will buy a pencil!

We are collecting money for Pennies for Peace. If anyone is interested you can contribute, too. Please send your pennies or spare change to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We hope to send in our contribution before Christmas.

### **Development News**

A few words from the sponsors of the annual fund:

#### ***Renew the Commitment***

“George and I are honored to have been asked to Co-Chair the 2009-2010 Annual Fund. We are very pleased that Monsignor Wendell Searles will join us as Honorary Co-Chair. We were asked to “renew our commitment” to Saint Francis Xavier School and we gladly accepted.

In just a few days you will be receiving a letter requesting you to join us in renewing your commitment to our school. Monsignor Lavalley once again leads the way by showing his own love for and commitment to our school. Our pastor, for the second year in a row, is providing a \$10,000 Challenge Grant from retirement funds bequeathed to him by his late father, Mr. Harry A. Lavalley. Monsignor Lavalley is using those funds he inherited to meet each donation, from now until the end of December, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000!

The money we raise is critical. Without donor support, Saint Francis cannot maintain and enhance its programs, facilities, and, most importantly, provide the best Catholic education for our students.

We recognize our economy has put financial strain on many of our supporters. However, we are asking you to “renew your commitment” to Saint Francis and give as generously as your circumstances will allow. Thank you for your support.”

*George and Jacqueline Bouffard, Co-Chairs, 2009-2010 Annual Fund*

*Have a great weekend!*

Jesse Gaudette

Mr. Eric Becker

Mrs. Kathryn LaVigne