

St. Francis School Newsletter

St. Francis Xavier School, with family partnership is dedicated to the development of the whole child through the spiritual and academic excellence of Catholic education November 22nd, 2019

Father Gregory McCallum - 347-4133 Adam Dobrowolski-347-3651 ext. 426 School Office-347-3651

Dear St. Francis School Families,

Over the previous few weeks, we have had some important events at St. Francis Xavier School.

Earlier this week we held our parent-teacher conferences after school. Conferences between parents and teachers are an important component of the partnership between the school and school families. Having a shared understanding of what is challenging, for each student, what is easy for an individual student, and discussing the goals for each child sets each child up for success. In the spring, parents and teachers may request a conference during our spring conference time. If at any time a new concern arises, it will become important to communicate with your child's teacher.

We had the annual PTO Turkey Bingo two weeks ago. Many thanks to our PTO volunteers for tirelessly working to make it a wonderful evening and successful fundraiser. Thank you to all the sponsors of Turkey Bingo. Among many school programs that the PTO supports, we look forward to the school assemblies this year that our PTO is supporting. In January, we welcome

Value Up: Mike Donahue and his message of positive self-value, being a good friend, respect, and the power of words. In February, there will be an assembly on the Science of Music, in which students will learn about music's evolution, Edison's phonograph, ear anatomy and how we hear. A new program that has started at SFX is called "Try it Tuesday". The second Tuesday of each month students in our K-5 classes will be introduced to a variety of locally sourced produce, which may or may not be prepared in a way they are not accustomed to. In November, our students tried sweet potato brownies. After trying the food, students can vote that they "loved it", "like it", or "tried it". The program encourages kids to be open minded to trying different foods, and to respect what somebody else enjoys eating. One of the mantras of this program is that "one person's yuck is somebody else's yum". St. Francis parents Beth Kavanaugh and Kathy Coveyou have led the roll out of this program. Beth is the Food Service Director at Chartwell's and this program has been introduced to other schools as well. If you are interested in volunteering to help for an upcoming Try it Tuesday, let us know.

Growth vs. Fixed Mindset

Dweck, C.S., Mueller, C.M., *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. Praise for intelligence can undermine children's motivation and performance. 1998 July; 75(1):33-52.

Student growth is central to the work of each teacher and each classroom. Effort and persistence to overcome challenges are highly sought characteristics of our students that are indicative of a growth mindset. Researchers Carol Dweck and Claudia Mueller conducted a study in 1998 in which they divided children into two groups and asked students to work on a challenging puzzle task. One group was initially praised for their intelligence and ability. The other group was praised for their effort rather than innate ability. When the task became more challenging the children that were praised for their intelligence preferred to continue on easier tasks, while students praised for their effort exhibited more grit and progressed to more challenging tasks.

The takeaway from this study has been backed by subsequent studies on learning in that students praised on effort seek challenges and are motivated by learning goals, while praise for intelligence, such as "you are so smart!" can lead to less persistence, less gratification, and worse performance than praise for effort. Praise for ability rather than effort had a strong correlation to children believing that their success was a fixed or unchangeable quality. A growth mindset is developed when praise for effort and perseverance are emphasized, and students believe that their performance can improve.

Yours in Christ,

Adam Dobrowolski



#iGIVECATHOLIC

#iGiveCatholic starts 11/18 and goes until 12/3. For more information about how to give please visit our webpage by clicking on the above icon on our home page.

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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

With the weather getting colder, students are now allowed to wait in the foyer of school until the first bell (7:55am). School starts at 8:00am. Students arriving after 8:05am must stop in the school office for a tardy slip. If you need care *before* or *after school* please contact the CDC at 347-3860.

If you have any good condition snow pants (size 5-10) or gloves your child may have outgrown we would love to have some extras available for backup. Also, be sure to sign up for BE ALERT on our homepage to receive school closing alerts.

A MESSAGE FROM MR. PAUL

“Dear Students, teachers, staff, parents, and friends of SFX School - Thank you for the memories!”

We wish Mr. Paul a blessed retirement and thank him for all of his years of service to our school!

MCLEAN AND EAKIN

Thank you for mentioning SFX School when you make purchases at McLean and Eakin. When you do, 10% of the sale returns to SFX School for purchasing books for our library. Thank you!



VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: SELF CONTROL AND OBEDIENCE

The following Saint Francis Xavier students were awarded certificates for being the students within their homerooms that best displayed the virtue of self-control and obedience for the month of October. Back row-left to right: Lukas Nemeč (4B), Ellie Daniel (4A), Griffin Dunn (3B), Rafael Miranda (7th), Olivia Bielaczyc (3A), Audrey Smock (8th) and SophiaMarie LaGasse (6th). Front Row: Rocarla Salmon (5th), Hudson Stringer (2B), Louis Doud (K), Ashton Lambert (K), Andrew Ustes (1A), Liam Murphy (1B), and Jane Horsburgh (2A).

HONOR ROLL

Congratulations to the following students for making honor roll for the 1st quarter - Gold: Aidan Cleary, Emily Crittenden, Charlotte Gagnon, Lily Harris, Piper Krug, Anne Mercer, Brian Pike, Lillian Schoenborn, Audrey Smock and Madylin Wieman. (8th), Gabrielle Cesario, Mitchell Eberhart, Korbin Sulitis and Breanna Wcisel (7th) William Cleary, Clare Gengle, Lindy Harris, Taylor Keiswetter, SophiaMarie LaGasse, Margaret Mercer, Daniel Murphy, Claire O'Donnell, Katie Parker, John Rasmussen and Leah Sulitis (6th), Silver: Victoria Kavanaugh, Luke Kendziorski, and Ariel Nguyen (8th) Zealan Abbitt, Margaret Gietzen and Jack Robinson (6th), Bronze: Andrew Licata, Marlee Mays and Marley Spence (8th), Reghan Hoffman (7th), Simon Licata, Adam Nguyen and Evelyn Sharapova (6th).



5th GRADE C.S. LEWIS PRESENTATIONS

5th grade performed their C.S. Lewis “The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe” soliloquys on October 18th. The students did a fantastic job and really got into character.

LOOKING AHEAD

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| 12/3 | #iGiveCatholic |
| 12/4 | 7 th & 8 th Band concert at 7:30pm |
| 12/5 | Christmas Concert, 6:30pm. Children arrive in cafeteria at 6:15pm. |
| 12/6 | 8 th Grade fundraiser-Parking cars for Petoskey Open House |
| 12/10 | Reconciliation for 3 rd -8 th – 10:30am |
| 12/17 | 6 th Grade Band concert 7:30- 8:30 |
| 12/18 | 5 th Grade Ellis Island |
| 12/19 | Field Trip to Petoskey Cinema |
| 12/20 | Kindergarten Nativity Play and 4 th Grade Raffle/Non-uniform day |
| 12/23-1/6 | No School-Christmas Break |
| 1/6 | Return to school |