

# 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

February 21, 2020

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

Dear Families,

During Catholic Schools Week, I wrote an article for the church bulletin asking the question of “why Catholic schools?” Part of the answer I suggested is that parents value that Catholic schools offer an extension of the values that they are taught at home. Practicing their faith daily in the school with prayer, weekly Mass, educating our students on being virtuous, studying Scripture, and service projects all provide a necessary foundation in the Catholic faith and preparation for life.

Each generation of parents grapples with a new set of challenges that society can present that may differ from the challenges of prior generations. Preparing our children for the path ahead is not always easy. One of my favorite “secular” authors, Tim Elmore, writes on developing leaders and preparing our children with the right perspective, skills, and experiences for them to be “successful” adults. The idea that we cannot prepare the path for the child, but rather we need to prepare the child for the path ahead is central to Elmore’s message on developing leaders.

The society that we are preparing our children for today involves a shift in traditional social norms such as reliance on social media, and detachment of face-to-face interactions. Society also emphasizes individualism and tolerance, which much good has occurred as a result, in that we treat all people equal before God. However, in an individualistic age there are drawbacks. In Catholic schools, we hope that students do not merely tolerate others, but know, love, and serve God, by knowing, loving, and serving others. In a society that values majority rule, we hope that students recognize that the majority does not determine moral truth; but that God has established one Truth of what is moral or immoral. Research from the Fordham Institute in 2018 identified the ways that Catholic schools succeed at fostering the development of self-discipline in their students, which affects academic excellence, and serving the common good of society. Another study published in 2012 out of Northwestern University found that students in religious schools were less likely to participate in unwanted risky behavior. In yet another study from the Cardus Religious Schools Initiative, they found Catholic School graduates are more apt to be civically engaged in volunteering, voting, and supporting charitable causes. The findings in these studies likely comes as no surprise to many that have seen it first hand or have an awareness of the rich tradition of Catholic education. The daily habit formation, which is virtue education,

creates enduring habits, which become the mechanism through which we help the students we serve become who God meant for them to be. In the world we live in, with fewer social constraints than there used to be, Catholic schools are perhaps a more important investment now than they ever have been.

Yours in Christ,

Adam Dobrowolski, Principal



## VIRTUE OF PERSEVERANCE

The following Saint Francis Xavier students were awarded certificates for being the students within their homerooms that best displayed the virtue of Perseverance for the month of January. Back row, left to right: Victoria Kavanaugh (8<sup>th</sup>), Liam Cleary (6<sup>th</sup>), Jared Johnston (5<sup>th</sup>), Josie Bielaczyc (5<sup>th</sup>), Roanna Salmon (4A), and Cooper Sober (4B). Front row, left to right: Janelle Holzschu (3B), Jackson Kanine (3A), Carter Kolinski (2B), Danny O'Donnell (3B), Lucy Horsburgh (KB), and Beau Dunn (KA). Missing from photo: Izzy Robinson (1A), Keira Long (2A), and Bre Wcisel (7<sup>th</sup>).

## PLAYGROUND HOURS

**Just a reminder that there are only 71 more days of school left!** Have you completed your 4 hours of lunch duty? If not please schedule your hours as soon as possible by calling (347-3651) or stopping by the school office. To report your volunteer hours, email [hours@petoskeysfx.org](mailto:hours@petoskeysfx.org). In the subject line, provide your family name. In the message indicate the activity and note the amount of time for each volunteer activity.

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## CATECHISM BEE



Clare Gengle (6<sup>th</sup>) won the Catechism Bee! She will compete at the Diocese level May 7<sup>th</sup> to represent SFX school. Way to go!



## HONOR ROLL

We are pleased to announce the Honor Roll for the Second Quarter. Gold : Aidan Cleary, Charlotte Gagnon, Lily Harris, Victoria Kavanaugh, Piper Krug, Ariel Nguyen, Brian Pike, Lillian Schoenborn, Audrey Smock, & Madylin Weiman (8<sup>th</sup>), Gabrielle Cesario, Mitchell Eberhart, Korbin Sulitis, & Breanna Weisel (7<sup>th</sup>), William Cleary, Clare Gengle, Lindy Harris, Taylor Keiswetter, SophiaMarie LaGasse, Margaret Mercer, Daniel Murphy, Claire O'Donnell, Katie Parker, John Rasmussen, & Leah Sulitis (6<sup>th</sup>) Silver: Emily Crittenden (8<sup>th</sup>) and Margaret Gietzen (6<sup>th</sup>), Kirstin Holzschu, Marlee Mays, & Marley Spence (8<sup>th</sup>), Russell Vandermus (7<sup>th</sup>), Jerome Fate, Jack Robinson, Allison Saunders, & Evelyn Sharapova (6<sup>th</sup>).

## 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE USED BOOK SALE

Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be having a gently used book sale March 9<sup>th</sup>-March 13<sup>th</sup> before school, during lunch and after school. If you have books to donate to the cause, please bring to the office. This is also a great opportunity to get some new books for your students. All proceeds go towards the 5<sup>th</sup> grade overnight trip to Fort Michilimackinac in May.

## THANK YOU!

A Big thank you to all of our SFX families for all the donations made to the Carson family after their terrible loss. Their daycare and preschool fees have been relived for the rest of the school year.

## 2020-2021 ENROLLMENT

The month of March is our enrollment period for the 2020-2021 school year. Our current school families with children in Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade will need to read and sign the new continuous enrollment policy. With continuous enrollment, students will be automatically re-enrolled each year, reducing paperwork to complete for our families, and aiding our school in projecting enrollment numbers for the upcoming school year. Please consult the continuous enrollment letter that is accompanying this newsletter, and visit our website to provide your electronic signature as soon as possible.

## GEOGRAPHY BEE



Congratulations to all of our participants! Mitchel Eberhart came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, James Holt was 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Russell Vandermus was our grand champion who moves on to the next level of the Bee!

## LOOKING AHEAD

- 2/22** Mom to Mom Sale, 9-12 in Parish Hall.  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Euchre tournament 7PM.
- 2/28** 4-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ski Day at Boyne Highlands
- 3/9** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Used Book Sale to fund trip  
To Fort Michilimackinac
- 3/13** Non-uniform & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Raffle
- 3/14** Auction! Emerald Evening at the Perry.  
Robotics competition.
- 3/18** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade career day at PMS
- 3/20** ½ day of school for students-11:40  
dismissal. Staff P.D. CDC normal hrs
- 3/21** Enrichment Play at 6:30 PM at Crooked  
Tree Art Center.
- 3/26** 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period ends
- 3/27** No School, Spring Break
- 4/7** Return to School



February 21, 2020

Dear SFX families,

During our Parent Commitment Meeting in September, I shared some news of our new continuous enrollment protocol that we will begin implementing during our enrollment period this spring. In previous years, our school sent out enrollment paperwork to all of our school families, and families then completed the re-enrollment forms and sent in a check to enroll for the next school year. This year we will be transitioning to a continuous enrollment model that we hope will make things easier for our families, reduce the amount of paper forms, and provide our school with timely enrollment figures so that we can plan for the next school year.

You can complete the Continuous Enrollment Agreement electronically at our website [petoskeyfxschool.org](http://petoskeyfxschool.org) > "Prospective Families" > "Enrollment Forms".

For convenience you can scan the QR code on this page to skip right to the enrollment form.

How to set up continuous enrollment:

Each family will fill out the Continuous Enrollment Agreement with the names of each child, and the grade(s) they will enter for the 2020-2021 school year. Once you have signed the Continuous Enrollment Agreement, your enrollment fee will be applied to your FACTS payment account each year. After this year, your student(s) will be automatically enrolled until they complete their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year; you will no longer need to complete annual enrollment forms.

If a parent decides that their child will not return to SFX for a subsequent year, written notice must be presented to the school by the end of April.

If a new student that was not previously enrolled will begin attending SFX, families should refer to the enrollment checklist found on our school website or pick up an enrollment packet in the school office to be sure the required records are on file.

If you have any questions, please contact our school office at (231) 347-3651.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam Dobrowolski".

Adam Dobrowolski, principal

