



St. Francis Xavier 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.

September 22, 2023

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

Dear families,

The new school year is off to a great start. I hope you have been able to hear from your children about the new things they are learning. The first few weeks are always an important time for establishing routines at school just as it is important to get into routines at home. There is also an eagerness to learn that is more evident early in the year as students want to meet the expectations set forth by teachers.

During these first few weeks of the new school year, our students take the NWEA test. Some of our students have already completed testing to establish a Fall baseline. NWEA is an adaptive achievement test that gives our teachers a baseline for where our students are performing in different academic areas. This test helps us to track individual and whole class learning growth over time. The adaptive component means that as students answer questions correctly or incorrectly, the questions get more challenging or less so in order to create a profile for what each child knows and is ready to learn. As a school, this data is valuable to look for trends in the data and provides a good read as to how our students compare nationally and within the diocese.

This next week, we welcome Chris McKenna, founder and president of Protect Young Eyes, an organization that advocates for protecting children from harmful online content and providing parents with tools for navigating the technological reliant age that our children are growing up in. McKenna will be presenting to students during the day with age appropriate presentations about responsible use of the internet. In the evening on Tuesday, Sep 26th at 7 p.m. at SFX School, there will be a parent presentation on how to create a tech-ready home. I encourage our school families to attend this event with a nationally renowned expert and speaker. How society uses

technology is rapidly evolving, and for kids growing up now, the tech world of today is vastly different from how it was in previous generations including when we were growing up. This is a great opportunity to be informed about safety and parenting in our tech driven world.

Our school staff look forward to working with you throughout this school year, and seeing the growth of each child. My favorite part of being an educator is seeing the growth in students over time as they show perseverance in overcoming obstacles and develop self-confidence. We treasure each child in our school and are happy to be in partnership with you in your child's education.

Yours in Christ,

Adam Dobrowolski

Parking: We were recently notified that there is a change in policy by the Downtown Management Board. This will affect how parking meters are enforced, notably that there are no longer "grace periods" at pick up time. Please note that if you park at a metered parking spot, that if you are in your vehicle waiting to pick up children, or leave your vehicle, the City expects that the meter is utilized beginning at 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. The Downtown Parking Services Office has informed us that the removal of the grace period will take effect **starting October 1st.**

Fall Fun Run: October 6th we will host our 9th annual Fall Fun Run, sponsored by the PTO. This year's theme is "Sports". Please contact Tisha Cone, tishacone@gmail.com, if you are able to help volunteer.

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Late for school: If your child misses their teacher at their designated door they should enter at the main entrance and we will guide them to their classroom. Students should be at their designated door at 7:55, when the first bell rings. Prior to 7:55 supervision is the responsibility of parents.

PTO Dues: PTO envelopes have been sent home in this week's Friday folder. If you are paying with cash, please make sure to put your name on the envelope – payments due by 9/29.

Family Adoration at Holy Childhood of Jesus: 2nd Wednesday of the month, starting October 11th at 6PM beginning with a rosary out loud for 30 minutes and 30 minutes of silent reflection. Coloring sheets and teen helpers for parents with little ones will available.

ILLNESS REMINDERS: With fall colds on the rise, we are asking families to keep your child(ren) home if they are feeling unwell, have a fever, or persistent cough/runny nose. If your child is out with a fever, they may return after they have been fever free for 24 hours un-medicated. We will continue to be diligent at school with hand washing, cleaning surfaces, door handles, running air purifiers, etc. With this combined effort we hope we can mitigate illnesses from spreading.

Volunteer Requirements

Background checks and Virtus/Fingerprinting: Background checks and Virtus are required before you volunteer for playground duty, help in classrooms, and on field trips, etc. If you have not updated your background check in the past five years, please contact the office to fill out new forms. These forms can be found on our website under volunteer requirements. All school families need to complete 4 playground shifts (11:20-12:25) throughout the year and 6 hours to the Gala/Auction. Please call or email the office to sign up for playground duty so that we can track your hours.

Raffle Tickets: If you have not grabbed your raffle tickets, please stop by the school office! The first early bird drawing is **October 15th**!



RAFFLE CONTEST

LIGHTNING ROUND

EACH FAMILY IS REQUIRED TO SELL 3 TICKETS
WHICH GRADE CAN SELL THEIR
REQUIRED TICKETS FIRST???

Once ALL of the kids in an entire grade have sold their minimum three raffle tickets, they will WIN the Lightning Round!! And the winning grade gets a NON-UNIFORM WEEK!!

For families with more than one student in the school - your 3 tickets will go toward all of your kids' grades. THANK YOU!!

Upcoming dates:

9/29	Watching the Marching Band at the Stadium - optional Northmen or blue/white tops with uniform bottoms
10/4	Pet Blessing at 2:50 on the blacktop behind the school.
10/6	Interim Reports go home Fall Fun Run – Sports theme!
10/12-13	MS Camp Daggett Trip
10/19	-Parent/Teacher Conferences
10/20	½ day of school, dismissal at 11:40. P.D. for staff
10/27	2 nd Grade Raffle and all school non-uniform