

Saint Francis Xavier School

Alumni & Friends Association News



24th and Wallace Streets • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130 • (215) 763-6564 • www.sfxschool.com

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Support Saint Francis Xavier School at The First Annual Alumni and Friends Event

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF MEMORIES!!

Reunite with old classmates. Walk the hallways of St. Franny's once again and see how it looks today. Reminisce with good friends.

Come and see what your school is doing now and soak up the atmosphere of your early years.

Enjoy a Beef and Beer Dinner

**On Saturday May 2nd, 2009
From 6:30pm to 10:30pm**

in

The School Auditorium

Tickets \$25

\$30 after April 15th or at the door

**For Tickets contact the school office at: 215-763-6564
Or Tessa Petersen at: 856-381-5410**

♪♪ Music ♪♪

Bring along a copy of your class picture to be displayed.

THE WHOLE CHILD

“The Catholic school, far more than any other, must be a community whose aim is the transmission of values for living.” (The Catholic School, 1977, #53)

Preparing a child for high school is more than helping them achieve their academic best. For the teachers and staff at Saint Francis Xavier, it’s also a matter of tending to spirituality and creating community. Educating the whole child, the school never forgets that faith, prayer and self-respect provide a strong basis for moving into a more challenging world with confidence and courage.

Prior to leaving SFX, students are readied to face some of the greater challenges of “teenager-dom” in many ways. In the older grades, students are encouraged and required to take their responsibilities seriously, to acknowledge errors and correct mistakes. Learning that actions and choices have consequences in a caring and supportive atmosphere encourages positive decision making and instills integrity in our students.

Programs such as “Generation Life”, a group of young people who work to share the message of chastity and pro-life with other young people, meet with the graduating class and present assemblies that present the Church’s teachings on such important matters in an inter-active and engaging way. In a world with so many conflicting messages, SFX does all it can to stress the importance of chastity and self-respect as the key to a healthy future.

Because SFX stresses the importance of service and charity, the students aren’t just prepared to get the most out of their future but to give the most as well. Through participation in programs such as altar serving, collecting food for the needy and clothes for children in war-torn Iraq and soon, joining the Little Sisters of the Poor in visiting those in nursing homes, caring for others comes naturally to our graduates.

Perhaps most importantly, our eight grade students know that they are as valuable to us once they graduate as they were while they were here. We share pride in their accomplishments and pray for them in times of need. A graduate isn’t just an alumni ; he or she is a part of SFX and carries SFX within them wherever they go.



READ TO LEARN

In advanced reading you have fun while you are learning new ways to help you study and get along in school.

~Nicole Bishop, Sixth Grade

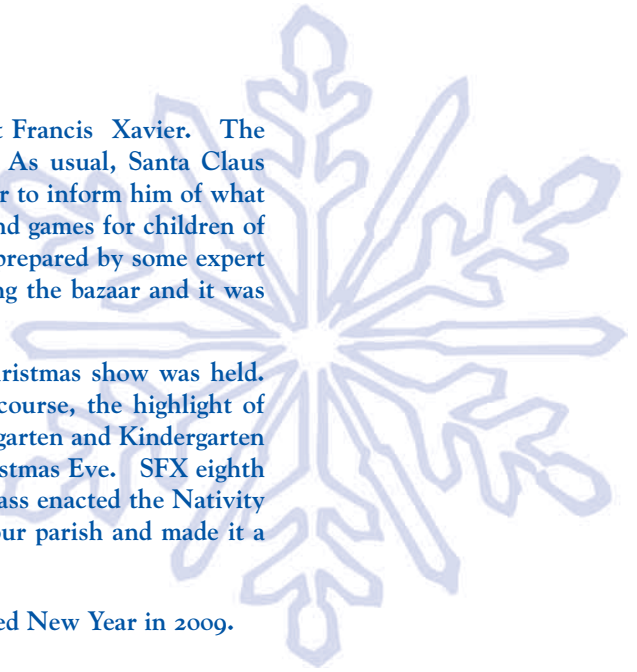
The advanced reading program at SFX provides an added level of challenge for those students in second to sixth who can best benefit from it. The classes, which meet weekly, involve examining narratives in a deeper way, extracting meaning and learning about the structure and discipline of writing, yet almost every student would claim it is the most fun they have in a classroom. Games, earning points and putting on plays are all part of the interactive program put on by Mrs. Eileen Lawson, who definitely fosters a love of reading and of learning in the students who cross her path.

Christmas Celebrations

Another Christmas season was celebrated this year at Saint Francis Xavier. The season started off with the annual SFX Christmas Bazaar. As usual, Santa Claus stopped by and took pictures with the children, who were eager to inform him of what they wanted for Christmas. There were many crafts for sale and games for children of all ages. The grand finale of the day was the spaghetti dinner, prepared by some expert chefs from our parish. A lot of hard work went into preparing the bazaar and it was greatly appreciated.

On Thursday December 18th, the annual SFX School Christmas show was held. It featured songs and skits by each class in the school. Of course, the highlight of the show was the Nativity scene performed by our Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. The Children's mass was celebrated at 5pm on Christmas Eve. SFX eighth grade students were readers at the mass and this year's CCD class enacted the Nativity scene. It was a sight to behold! The Christmas spirit filled our parish and made it a truly memorable evening.

Happy Holidays to all of our readers and may you have a blessed New Year in 2009.



Sports programs thrive at SFX

In addition to the academic and spiritual opportunities provided at Saint Francis Xavier School, we also have an active Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) sports program. CYO Sports is one component of a parish's comprehensive youth ministry program which enables the partnership of parents, coaches, priests, religious, teachers, and adult leaders to manage and support a sports program that allows youth to grow in their relationship with God and come to better understand themselves and the Catholic Faith.

Through CYO sports, our school competes against other schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in a wide variety of sports. In the fall, 6th through 8th grade girls at our school can play on the CYO volleyball team. There was such a large turnout this year that there were two teams competing at the varsity level.

In the winter, SFX has one boys varsity basketball team comprised of boys in 6th through 8th grade. There are two girls basketball teams; varsity (7th & 8th grades) and junior varsity (5th & 6th grades). Finally in the spring there is a girls varsity softball team (6th through 8th grades). Playing on the teams gives the students a chance to travel to other Catholic grade schools in different neighborhoods and to host other schools in our gym.



Kayla Ingram (7th grade) who plays on the girls' varsity basketball team

SOME BENEFITS TO THE PROGRAM ARE THAT IT:

- * Employs healthy and enjoyable competition to promote the sharing of gospel values among athletes, parents and coaches.
- * Assists parish leadership in nourishing the emotional, spiritual, social and physical needs of young people.
- * Encourages young people to appreciate the gifts that they possess, and challenges them to share these gifts with their community.
- * Allows youth to witness the life of Christian Discipleship in their coaches and adult leaders.
- * Encourages youth to become responsible members of their faith community.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that give up their time to help provide this wonderful opportunity for our students.

Our School Children are Part of a Rich History

Today's school children are indeed part of a very rich history. Founded in 1845, St. Francis Xavier School has been in operation for over 160 years making it one of the oldest continually-run Catholic primary schools in Philadelphia and the nation. Our current school building is rather "new" having been built in 1923!

Thousands of boys and girls have attended St. Francis Xavier School and gone on to become men and women of great character. St. Francis Xavier School has fostered many religious vocations. Our students have become husbands and wives, fathers and mothers; they have served our nation in the armed services including times of war; they have become public servants, police officers, firefighters, teachers, doctors, lawyers, construction workers, business men and women, and true leaders in many other fields.

Today, St. Francis Xavier School continues to build on its rich history. The children are reminded, not simply by Miss Butler, the Oratorian Community and their teachers, but by old photographs on the school walls, by stories from past students (some grandparents, parents, uncles and aunts), and by regular worship in St. Francis Xavier Church that one thing remains constant. our school offers a rock solid Christian foundation for whatever vocation one pursues in life!

Letter from the President of the Board

Dear Readers:

As 2008 ends with a tumultuous economy and the uncertainty ahead in 2009, St. Francis Xavier School continues to see its students benefit immensely from a Catholic education.

Academically, our children are prospering. In 2008, three out of the eight boys in our graduating eighth grade class were accepted to St. Joseph's Prep and one received a large scholarship. Another student at the school received a Neumann Scholarship, which is a full academic scholarship to any archdiocesan high school. Fifth through eighth grade students continue to be involved with a cooperative educational program with the Philadelphia Museum of Art as an "adopted school". At the same time, the school garden, located on the grounds of the former convent was awarded a first prize by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in its City Garden Contest.

Physical improvements to the school also occurred. The main office has been completely renovated and re-configured. All classrooms received new lighting and had upgraded wiring installed. Several classrooms had their floors refinished, walls plastered and re-painted, and the main drains to the school were replaced and repaired. All of this makes for a more pleasant environment for our students to be educated.

I wish you and your families a healthy and prosperous 2009 and I am keeping you in my prayers. We truly appreciate all of the support you provide.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Ercole
Board President



If you would like to start receiving this newsletter electronically via email please contact Tessa Petersen at: tessasfx@verizon.net

Have you seen our new website? *Take a look at sfxschool.com and see what's new.*

If you have any questions, suggestions or memories you would like to share, feel free to contact us at: tessasfx@verizon.net