

SFXSF 2011

A late but encouraging start!

On July 8, the year 2011, annual giving appeal for the Saint Francis Xavier School Fund (SFXSF) was formally begun. We recognize as our opening date the day on which the appeal letters are mailed. In fact, since donations to SFXSF are now made throughout the year this most useful appeal is now a year long effort. SFXSF 2011 was launched late this year since, out of necessity, an effort was begun this spring in support of the emergency roof project. SFXSF 2011 has already received donations of more than \$ 18,000. The cumulative annual donations to SFXSF since its creation should pass the \$600,000 during this year's campaign : A testament to the faithful support of our Alumni & Friends !

SFXSF 2011, is scheduled to conclude on September 30, In our autumn edition we will give the 2011 SFXSF final report and list the names of all donors. A donor option form appears below and a pre-addressed return, envelope is also enclosed .

Thanks again for your faithful support!

SFXSF

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SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL FUND

Enclosed is my contribution to the 2011 SFXSF Annual Appeal.

\$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ (other) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Class Year _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SFXSF 2011

Saint Francis Xavier Parish House • 2319 Green Street • Philadelphia, PA 19130

Saint Francis Xavier School

Alumni & Friends Association News



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 Contributing Editors: Dolores M. Butler, Principal, Editor-In-Chief • Jennifer Bishop • Eileen Jewell Golden



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



The Saint Francis Xavier School class of 2011 graduated on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 with Holy Mass at 7:30PM followed by an awards ceremony in the Church. We congratulate the following students: Christina Anderson, Heavyn-Leigh Armstrong, Nicole Bishop, Anthony Ercole, Martine Fortune, Bridget Golden, Cheyenne Gumbs-Vega, Matthew Kerwin, Carly Loonstyn, Rebecca Loonstyn, Jalisa Maldonado, John McLaughlin, Briannie Miranda, Jourden Nix, Lea Pierson, Tanaya Reed, Kenneth Rosario-Pugh, Jacqueline Sereni, Keely Sinn, Bianca Sorrentino, Imani Stone-Mooring, and Kayla Whittingham.

The graduates will attend the following high schools: John W. Hallahan, Saint Joseph's Prep, The Shipley School, Archbishop Carroll, Bishop McDevitt, Merion Mercy Academy, Franklin Learning Center, Tacony Academy Charter, West Catholic, Mercy Vocational, Cardinal O'Hara, Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Central, and Penn Charter. Numerous awards were distributed including the following:

- **SFX School Religion Award: Keely Sinni**
- **Perfect Attendance: Bridget Golden**
- **Cpl. Francis J. Moore American Legion Post #850 Awards/Highest General Average: Keely Sinni and Matthew Kerwin**
- **The President's Academic Excellence Award: Anthony Ercole, Jacqueline Sereni, and Keely Sinni**
- **Josephine C. Connelly Achievement Award: Tanaya Reed**
- **Cpl. Francis J. Moore American Legion Post #850 Awards/Exemplary Character: Carly Loonstyn and Jacqueline Sereni**
- **SFX Church/The Oratory Award for Fidelity as an Altar Server: Matthew Kerwin**

The Class of 2011 received in excess of \$200,000 in scholarship and grant money (over a four-year period) for high school. We acknowledge the following accomplishments:

- **John W. Hallahan High School awarded academic scholarships and Mary McMichan Grants to: Nicole Bishop, Bridget Golden, Carly Loonstyn, Rebecca Loonstyn, Jacqueline Sereni, and Keely Sinni**
- **The Country Day School of the Sacred Heart awarded an academic scholarship to: Jacqueline Sereni**
- **Merion Mercy Academy awarded the Alumnae Academic Scholarship to: Jacqueline Sereni**
- **The Agnes Irwin School awarded an athletic scholarship to: Martine Fortune**
- **The Shipley School awarded an academic scholarship/grant to: Martine Fortune**
- **Penn Charter High School awarded a scholarship to: Imani Stone-Mooring**

These achievements demonstrate the dedication of our teachers and the excellent Catholic Education provided at Saint Francis Xavier School. We congratulate each of our graduates and wish them continued success in high school and beyond.

A ROOFIN' NOW WE ARE!

As was noted in the spring 2011 edition of this publication (see: A roofin' we must go), this spring, our school was confronted with a significant, but unavoidable large capital project: the total removal and replacement of our school's entire roof. As far as we have been able to determine, such a project has never been undertaken in the school building's 88 year history. To complicate things, this large undertaking could not be safely attempted during the school year – leaving only the months of July and August (the hottest of the year) during which the job could be accomplished. We are happy to report that in spite of those factors, the roofing project is well underway.

On the morning of July 8, two weeks after the school's commencement exercises, equipment and materials for the project were delivered to the school; on July 11, the heavy work began. As this story was being written, it was determined that July 2011 was the hottest July on record in Philadelphia. Nevertheless, we are confident that the work will be completed on time.

The contract for our project, which was put out for bid in accordance with the Archdiocesan policy on such large undertakings, was awarded to Fairmount's own Graveley Brothers Roofing Company. We at Saint Francis were most satisfied with the outcome of the bid process: Graveley Brothers Roofing has been overseeing maintenance of our roofs for many years. While Mr. Michael Graveley, the company's president is a graduate of Saint Hedwig's School, two of his brothers, Patrick and Joseph are alumni of SFX.

Parenthetically, Michael Graveley stated that he cannot rule out this being the school building's roof's first ever tear off. His opinion is based on the discovery that the roof's most basic, and therefore oldest, level was a coal tar and pitch surface. Such materials were commonly used in the 1920's.

Finally, the parish began a special fund raising project to fund the roof replacement just this spring. To date support of the ongoing appeal has been encouraging. As we go to press, the total donated has reached \$ 54,655.

SFX STUDENTS HAVE

"AN ENCOUNTER WITH HISTORY"

On March 30, 2011, the members of this year's SFX 7th and 8th Grade classes were afforded a truly unique experience when Mr. Larry Buchsbaum came to our school to speak with them. Mr. Buchsbaum, who is now 82 years young, came here that day to share with our students his remarkable life's story. A major part of that story is the fact of him and his family having managed to survive one of history's darkest tragedies: The Holocaust of World War II.

During the holocaust eleven million human beings were methodically murdered by the forces of Nazi Germany. Six million of those put to death constituted two of every three Jewish people living in Europe before the onset of that most horrible of humanity's wars.

The tale Mr. Buchsbaum, who was born in Yugoslavia, related, though it touched on horrible events, was still remarkably upbeat and the children were engrossed with both the story and the speaker. In 1942, several months after the Nazi invasion of Yugoslavia, Mr. Buchsbaum and his family members narrowly avoided a vicious "pogrom" during which one fourth of the Jewish people who lived in his town were murdered. His family then moved to Budapest where they managed to survive until the end of the war. During much of the time in Budapest, Mr. Buchsbaum impersonated a 15 year old homeless, abandoned, gentile street child.

At the war's conclusion he and his family emigrated to Israel - where he served during Israel's War for Independence, 1948 – 1949. He later immigrated to the United States and attained degrees from Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. He eventually worked for the U.S. Navy in the Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster, PA.

Mr. Buchsbaum and his wife have three married daughters and twelve grandchildren. As a volunteer with the Philadelphia, Holocaust Awareness Museum, he frequently gives lectures at area schools on his life experiences. Our children will probably long remember his visit with them. We anticipate inviting Mr. Buchsbaum and other representatives from the museum to visit Saint Francis Xavier School in the years to come.

At several points during his talk, Mr. Buchsbaum encouraged the children to be grateful for having been born in this remarkable country and to make the most of their time in Saint Francis Xavier School. While he repeatedly stressed how impressed he was with our school, the faculty members he met, and our students - the experience of being impressed was not one sided. We at Saint Francis were impressed by him as well.

Mission Statement of St. Francis Xavier School

"St. Francis Xavier is a parish primary school of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia comprising a Pre-K through 8th Grade program. St. Francis Xavier School works in partnership with the 'first school of Christian life,' the family. United with our families, we foster a love for Jesus, His Church, His Sacraments and a life of prayer. We are pledged to maintain and constantly improve an excellent academic program that encourages our students to be devout Catholics who are well equipped intellectually for the vocation to which they are called by God."