

Saint Francis Xavier School

Alumni & Friends Association News



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Contributing Editor: Dolores M. Butler, Principal, Editor-In-Chief

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL FUND

"2011 ROLL OF HONOR"

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William L. Quay	In memory of William D. Meiers '59	



ART MUSEUM PROGRAM

Our partnership with the Philadelphia Museum of Art is continuing this year. Last year, due to funding cuts, only our seventh grade students visited the Art Museum. However, we are thrilled that Grades 1 through 8 were invited to participate in this unique program during the present school year and share in the vast resources offered by the museum. This exposure to the arts will have a lasting effect on our students and allow them to enter a whole new world.

Each class will visit the museum twice and have a museum instructor work with the grade throughout the visits. The classroom teacher could request specific lessons that relate to the curriculum or he/she could choose from topics offered by the Art Museum for school students. The many topics include People, Places and Things or Stories in Art for Grades 1-3 and Critical Thinking through Art or Medieval and Renaissance Art for Grades 4 -12.

Most of the grades have had one lesson already and, over the next months, the visits will continue. The students enjoy participating and return to school full of enthusiasm for the arts and looking forward to their next visit to the Philadelphia Museum of Art. We are very grateful for this special relationship with our friends at the museum and hope to continue having the Philadelphia Museum of Art as part to our school campus and enriching our curriculum through the many lessons that the arts teach.

AFTER SCHOOL FRENCH PROGRAM



Saint Francis School students have the opportunity to learn a new language – French. We are offering after school French classes to interested students. This is an optional program and we have approximately 45 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students enrolled. Studies show that learning a second language is easier for children than for adults and has additional benefits for students such as increasing standardized test scores and developing concentration skills.

Mrs. Elaine Sfeir-Markus, the parent of a kindergarten student, teaches the French classes. She is a private language instructor and an interpreter who, since moving to the United States, has taught at Berlitz and at L'Alliance Francaise de Philadelphie. Mrs. Markus uses crafts, songs and games to help the younger students memorize the new vocabulary and keep the boys and girls interested in French. Learning through immersion and repetition but in a fun atmosphere are the methods used to involve the older students in their new language.

We thank Mrs. Markus for providing this enriching program for our students.

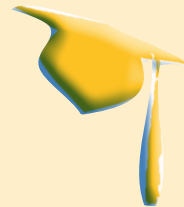
SAVE THE DATE!

We are planning another SFX SCHOOL REUNION to be held on Saturday, May 5th, 2012. Mark your calendar! More information will follow in the next Newsletter and on the SFX School BLOG:
www.sfxschool.tumblr.com.

SFX ADVISORY BOARD PLANS



“SPONSOR - A - STUDENT” TUITION ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE



As the Alumni & Friends of Saint Francis Xavier School by their faithful support regularly attest, an elementary Catholic school education is a thing of great value.

It is a forever opportunity that each student carries with them through the rest of life. These first years in a child's education form the basis for all that will follow.

Even before the current economic downturn, which began in 2008, the financial burdens on parents seeking a Catholic education for their children have been growing steadily. The results of this reality have been unfortunate: parish school's closing and fewer of our children having access to the rich environment that Catholic centered education provides. While we in the Saint Francis Xavier School community have always striven to aid as many parents as possible to afford the tuition here, still, an increasing number of parents have found the financial burden too great for them to bear. In recognition of those facts, the Advisory Board of our school is planning a new program through which to aid such parents: "Sponsor - a - Student".

Simply stated, the goal of this program will be to enlist the help of persons - committed to the mission of Catholic education at SFX School - who will pledge a regular donation to a program, to be used exclusively for partial tuition assistance for a particular student in our school.

Though the particulars of this program have not yet been worked out, we are happy to report that it is in a sense already underway; some funds from our Saint Francis Xavier School Fund (SFXSF) Annual giving campaign, in addition to other donations made to the school specifically for tuition assistance, are already available to families who need such help. Our Advisory Board wishes to broaden our pool of financial aid and to make it more predictably available to the families of students who need such help. Through the Sponsor - a - Student program friends of our school will directly impact the lives of a particular student and help accomplish the school's mission.

More details regarding Sponsor - a - Student will be available in the near future. Anyone who wishes immediate information may contact either our school's Principal, Ms. Dolores Butler, or our Advisory Board's President, Mr. Charles Ercole.

Ms. Dolores Butler 215 763 - 6564
Mr. Charles Ercole 215 569 - 4282

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John M. Carr '61 \$200



SFXSF 2011: Another successful campaign !

During the time of the Saint Francis Xavier School Fund (SFXSF) 2011 Annual Giving Campaign, our 18th such annual campaign, more than 265 donations resulted in a grand total donated of \$37,612. The SFXSF 2011 campaign saw the level of total cumulative donations to the fund since its inception exceed the \$600,000 level. (For details on the record of SFXSF donations by year, please visit our school's website.) On behalf of the school and our children, thanks and God bless all who support us.

In keeping with a practice that originated several years ago, contributions to SFXSF 2011 were made in memory of the following persons:

Eileen Golden Trost

William J. Sanuck

Margaret Greenlee

Annemarie Butler

Dolores & Robert Curatola

Lisa Marie Pasiczynk Reed

William D. Meiers '59

Edward J. Curran

Lisa Marie Pasiczynk Reed

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