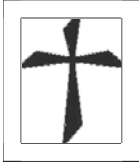


St. Francis Xavier School News



Peek at the Week December 14—18

Wednesday, December 16

All School Liturgy—9:00am
Trinity Hall
Please join us for this perfect prayer.

Thursday, December 17

Holy Child, Born This Day
Christmas Program
Performances:

- 12:45pm (final rehearsal—please invite grandparents, neighbors and friends)
- 7:00pm (evening performance)

Friday, December 18

Middle School students to assist at *Feed My Starving Children* in Coon Rapids

With Christmas Eve just two short weeks away, there is no doubt that department stores and shopping malls will be packed with shoppers scurrying around to get the perfect gift for friends and family. As a parent, it is hard not to get caught up in the frenzy that the media fuels at this time of the year...getting the “hottest toy” of the season. Luckily, I have somewhat of a plan and when I stick to it I am able to avoid that frantic crowd that camps out overnight for the latest video game or rushes through the aisles in search of Zhu Zhu pets.

Seven years ago, as new parents, Jim and I of course wanted to give our children everything...and most definitely went overboard for Jacob’s first Christmas. Not long after, a parent from my previous school shared a newspaper article with me about five ways to help children grow through holiday gifts. Although the article has been misplaced, the message from it has remained a part of my Christmas shopping since. It is from that article that Jim and I shop for the following gifts for Jacob and Karsyn:

Our children always receive a gift to hug and love. This could be a doll, a stuffed animal or a new pet. It is something for them to care for, to carry along and to share a bed. Children learn to care for each other by observing their parents first and then in turn practicing it on dolls, stuffed animals and live pets.

Our children always receive something to promote the gift of reading. Books are treasures that allow our children to explore a world far beyond that in their own neighborhood. They become a daily connection between parent and child, for research tells us that one of the best things we as parents can do is to read to our children. Reading helps develop curiosity, creativity and imagination. It is no secret that to give a child a book is to give him or her wings.

Our children always receive a toy, puzzle or game. We know that play is the work of childhood and therefore it is important that we encourage our children to play. Children often learn important skills such as sharing, taking turns and teamwork through their play. Jim and I have learned that the most important part of this gift is that we take the time to play with Jacob and Karsyn. This allows them to see that we believe in play...and enjoy spending time with them.

Our children always receive a gift of activity. From a new sled or jump rope to a basketball hoop, snowboard or pair of ice skates, our children always have one gift that encourages them to be active. Children who, by nature, are very active may need to be channeled into acceptable and appropriate activities, while those who, by nature, are very passive may need to be encouraged to move with purpose.

Our children always receive a gift to help with artistic expression. They might find crayons, paints or markers in their stockings. It might be a gift of clay this year or rubber stamps or scissors and glue. The materials change, but the objective remains the same: create with joy. These type of gifts encourage children to use their imaginations and approach life in a hands-on fashion.

Obviously there are no “one size fits all” gifts in any of the five areas. Gifts need to be age appropriate and chosen to meet the individuality of each child, but I can assure you, that if you use these five areas as guidelines, your shopping could become a bit easier....

In Christ’s Peace,

Kim

Growing Our Seeds Of Faith



**Be it known to all who enter that Christ is the reason for this school.
He is the unseen but ever present teacher in its classrooms.
He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students.**

St. Francis Xavier School

Mission Statement

As a Christ-centered faith community, we foster spiritual growth, academic excellence and a commitment to justice in the name of Jesus as we educate our students.

Do You Feel Sick?

You may have the flu if you have fever (100°+) or chills
AND
a cough or sore throat.



You may also have a runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea, or vomiting.
If you think your child may have the flu, keep him or her at home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone, without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Reminder

Parents need to call in EVERY DAY that their child is not going to be in school. If leaving a message, please specify the reason for the absence—vacation, appointment, or symptoms (i.e. temperature of ____ degrees, cough, sore throat, etc.) St. Francis Xavier School needs to track this as directed by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Please Don't Be Late!

In reviewing PowerSchool reports, I am shocked by the number of times children have been tardy this year. Some students have been tardy more than 15 times! That means that there was interruption in those students' classrooms more than 15 times throughout the year. (Even more if several students in that classroom have been tardy). Our Handbook states that 3 or more tardies could result in further consequences. Please review the policy found on page 17.

Students who are tardy miss the beginning of the school day and interrupt the morning routine in the classroom no matter what grade level they are in. Please help get students to school at the appropriate time! Leave early.....PLAN for snow covered roads, a train, red lights, etc. Whatever it takes....please get your children here by 8:45am (Grades K—5) and/or 7:45am (Middle School)

The classroom teachers thank you!

Students Focus on Giving this Christmas Season and Throughout the Year

As a Catholic School, we strive to help others in many different ways through outreach including assistance and service. St. Francis Xavier School students contribute non-perishable items to the local food shelf weekly, collected money for special Thanksgiving meals, and are now collecting for Toys for Tots and Rivers of Hope. Our Middle School students will be traveling to Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids next Friday to help package food for those less fortunate.

We know that, without your commitment, we would not be able to participate in these awesome projects. Thank you for your support throughout the year to what we feel are very worthwhile causes. We are blessed to provide and serve!

Congratulations to those students who participated in Knowledge Bowl!
St. Francis Xavier had a very successful season and brought home many nice ribbons and medals.

Many thanks to Mrs. Lenczewski and Mr. Swearingen, coaches
EXTRAORDINAIRE!

