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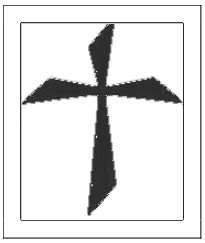
St. Francis Xavier School Serving Students in Grades PreK–8

# St. Francis Xavier School News



## Peek at the Week
### May 24—28

**Monday, May 24**
Preschool Field Trip

**Tuesday, May 25**
Preschool Field Trip

**Wednesday, May 26**
All School Liturgy
9:00am Trinity Hall

**Thursday, May 27**
St. Francis Xavier School
Band Concert 7:00pm
Trinity Hall

***Forever Motown***
**K—8 Spring Program**
**7:00pm tonight**
**Doors open at 6:30pm**

**Growing Our Seeds Of Faith**

## Help Us Grow!

Thanks to all those who attended the last Home and School Association this past Thursday night. If you weren't able to be at the meeting you missed a very important discussion regarding class sizes—particularly at the Kindergarten and 4th grade levels.

Currently, we have 28 students registered in fourth grade and 45 students registered in Kindergarten for the 2010/2011 school year. As stated in our handbook: *The maximum number of students in each classroom will be twenty (20) in Grades K—2; and twenty-six (26) in Grades 3—8 with the administrator's discretion to increase with special circumstances. The minimum number of students in each classroom will be the current financial break even point for the class with the administrator's discretion to decrease class size with special circumstances.*

I have three roles at St. Francis Xavier School. First, I am a school parent just like you. Jim and I have chosen St. Francis Xavier as the school for our children. The parent in me LOVES that there are only 15 other students in my child's first grade classroom. I am thrilled that my child's teacher truly knows him—what motivates him, what excites him and what challenges and/or may frustrate him. The parent in me also wants to ensure that my child has enough children in his life to get adequate socialization. I feel strongly that St. Francis Xavier School provides this through many different ways. First, classes are mixed up each year. Some of Jacob's Kindergarten class are presently with him in first grade while others are across the hall. He has friends in both classes. At lunch and recess he visits and plays with first graders from both classes. He also has social connections outside of school, making friends with children from our neighborhood, Karate, baseball, etc.

Secondly, I am a teacher at heart. I believe the phrase is, "once a teacher—always a teacher." My experience as a teacher has been in classes ranging from 12 to 23 students. As a teacher, I take more satisfaction when I reflect on the years when I had smaller classes. I feel that I was able to differentiate my instruction more, connect with my students more and get more accomplished.

My third role, that as administrator, is what I have been hired (and love) to do. As principal, I would love to see three Kindergarten classes and two fourth grades. I believe that by building our school through our lower levels, we have a much better chance of growing our entire school and keeping students through eighth grade. It is the mission of St. Francis Xavier Church to educate all students desiring a Catholic Education—but it would be absurd to think that it could be done for free. As it stands, we have 41 families asking for tuition assistance for next year. This is one of the highest years for that.

**(CONTINUED ON BACK)**

**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 faith-filled community, we foster spiritual growth, academic excellence and a commitment to Christ-centered values in the education of our students.*

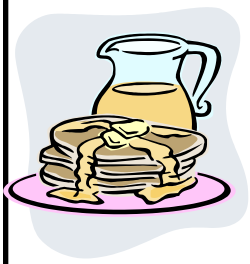
**(CONTINUED FROM FRONT)**

What is the break-even point for adding a classroom? That all depends upon things such as teacher and staff salaries and benefits, instructional materials, supplies, operating costs, etc. There are a couple of different ways to figure it out. I don't have the magic number—but I do know that 18 or 19 students in a classroom would pass by the Finance Council much better than 14 or 15.

And so, I turn to you again. Word of mouth is by far the best advertising out there, so please share your testimonies with other parents. Talk to them as you're sitting at the track meet, softball game or dance recital. As parents desiring smaller class sizes, I need you to get the word out that St. Francis Xavier School WANTS to grow! We are committed to maintaining small class sizes, but must remain fiscally responsible to this parish. Please call those folks that have talked about sending their children to our school. Let them know that we are here….and with their enrollment, we can grow yet still maintain class sizes less than surrounding schools.

In Christ's Peace,

*Kim*



# Pancake Breakfast

The Buffalo Youth Shooting Sports Program would like to invite you to a pancake breakfast from 8am—10am this Saturday, May 22nd at Applebees. The cost for breakfast is $7.00 with $5.00 going directly to the Buffalo Youth Shooting Sports Program. The goal of the program is to provide youth with a BB gun shooting safety education program. Some of our St. Francis Xavier School students have gone through the program and have qualified to shoot at the Daisy National BB Gun Championship in Arkansas this summer.

Pictured at last Saturday's 2010 Race Day are St. Francis Xavier School B.E.S.T Club members, mentors, fans and electric race car, *Trinity*.

Congratulations to the St. Francis Xavier School B.E.S.T. Club on their success at the 2010 Race Day this past Saturday! Aside from receiving a Merit Award for having an Awesome Drive System, the team took 1st Place in the final drag race, 2nd Place in the slalom race and 3rd Place in the Endurance Race.

***Awesome job everyone!***