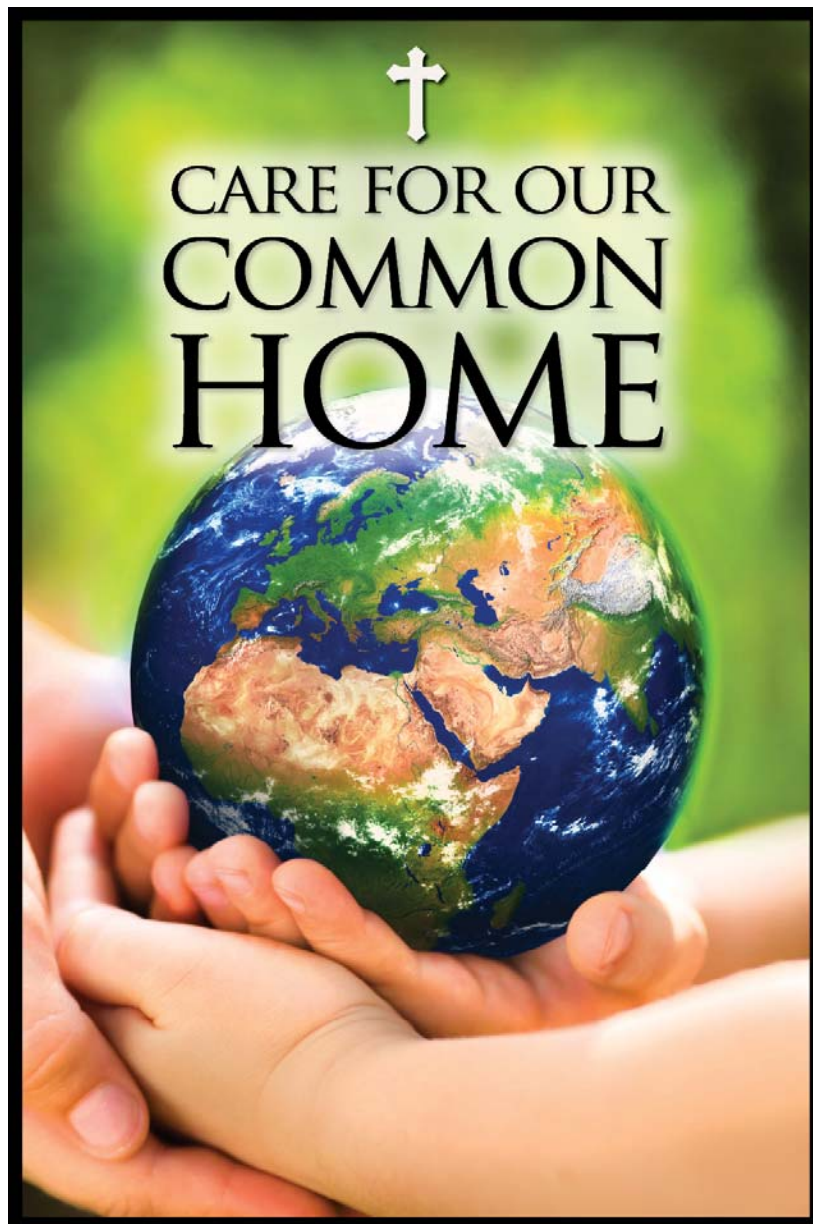


SEPTEMBER 2016
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER



BACK to SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to welcome all our new and returning families to the 2016-2017 school year. Last year was certainly an exciting and challenging one with many fun and involving activities in our school. We hope everyone had a wonderful and fulfilling summer and are ready to get back to learning!

This year the theme for the Catholic Independent Schools of the Vancouver Archdiocese (CISVA) is “Care for Our Common Home.” It rises from Pope Francis’ Encyclical Letter “Laudato Si” in which he appeals for the Church to become more concerned and involved in saving our environment. Below are excerpts taken from the introduction of Pope Francis’ letter in which he explains the urgency of the ecological situation we all face:

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Here I want to recognize, encourage and thank all those striving in countless ways to guarantee the protection of the home which we share. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world’s poorest. Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. The worldwide ecological movement has already made considerable progress and led to the establishment of numerous organizations committed to raising awareness of these challenges. Regrettably, many efforts to seek concrete solutions to the environmental crisis have proved ineffective, not only because of powerful opposition but also because of a more general lack of interest. Obstructionist attitudes, even on the part of believers, can range from denial of the problem to indifference, nonchalant resignation or blind confidence in technical solutions. We require a new and universal solidarity. As the bishops of Southern Africa have stated: “Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God’s creation”. All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.

It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter, which is now added to the body of the Church’s social teaching, can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face.



Changes: This school year, though just started, is one of tremendous change for our school. There have been many staff changes, which by now you are fully aware of that resulted in new faces in new places. I am confident that every addition will add to the energy and outstanding education that we offer to our students.

Another important change that is affecting all schools in B.C. is the “Redesigned Curriculum” which changes not just what we teach but how we teach and how we communicate student learning and progress. The staff has been working on implementing these changes for the past year or more and will be willing to answer any questions or concerns you might have.

The BC Ministry of Education has granted schools an extra Professional Development (PD) day to study the new curriculum and plan accordingly for it. Our extra PD will be held on **Friday, September 30th** and is an addition to the calendar released earlier.

Spirit Days: Each month a theme is selected by the SFX Leadership Group and all students are invited to show their school spirit through their participation. Proceeds for all Spirit Days go towards our local and international charities.

Manner of the Month: Families and cultures throughout the ages have made sets of rules to make life as orderly, peaceful and enjoyable as possible for everyone. Learning how to build relationships with caring courtesy at home and school will skyrocket the children to effectiveness in their walk with God, friends at school, in bringing others to Jesus and for future relationships and employment situations. Each month we focus on a manner at school and encourage all our families to set the standard for manners at home.

The five most important words or phrases parents can use – and often – are: Hello, please, thank you, I’m sorry, and excuse me! **September’s manner is to use these five simple phrases.** This is important this year as we have several new students in our school who have come not just to Kindergarten but to other grades as well. It is part of our commitment to being the Good News to welcome the stranger, so we ask our returning students to be welcoming and helpful to any new classmates this month. Reach out to those who are new to our school to help them find their way around. Our school is a big place; let’s make sure we reach out and help our new students and teachers feel welcomed to St. Francis Xavier School!



Enrolment Vacancy: We currently still have four vacancies in our Kindergarten for 2016-17. If anyone knows of someone looking perhaps to join our school community, please let them know of these vacancies. Please have them contact the Office if interested.

Reminder: School Security Measures

The school wants to remind all parents of the security procedures to ensure the safety of your children and all the teachers and staff working within the school building.

All entrance doors to the school building will be closed and locked during school hours. The front door will be opened automatically during the following times:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 8:30 to 9:00 AM, 3:30 to 4:00 PM and 5:00 to 5:30 PM

Wednesday: 8:30 to 9:00 AM, 2:30 to 3:00 PM and 5:00 to 5:30 PM

If you need to access the building during times when the doors are secured, you may ring the door bell to the left of the main doors and one of the office staff will open the door.

We know security procedures may cause some inconveniences, but in weighing all of the information, the ability to provide a higher level of security for students, teachers and staff outweighs the minor inconveniences we may collectively face. We will work to continue to provide a welcoming atmosphere within the context of a safe environment for students.

Birthday treats: Please inform your child's teacher if you plan on bringing some kind of special treat (pizza, cake, fruit/veggie platter, etc.) to your child's classroom to celebrate their birthday. It is generous of parents to bring such treats to share in the joy of their child's special day, but please also be respectful and mindful of the teacher's time.

**BOOKANEER BOOK FAIR!**

Come one! Come all! Come to our annual Book Fair!

When: September 23rd-29th, 2016

Where: Music room

Time: Every day from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

For more information about this year's Fair check out scholastic.ca/families **Authors and illustrators.**

Also, Scholastic.ca/bookfairs/booktube to see **book trailers, author interviews and literacy ideas.** Watch for a flyer coming home soon.

Morning Traffic: With our enrolment increasing, we have many more families all trying to drop off their children in the morning. It is a common sight to see cars lined up around the corner waiting for their chance to pull up and drop off their children. Some cars stretched into the bus stop area, which by law you are not permitted to do. I am certain that if the bus drivers complain

enough, there will be representatives from the city more than happy to be issuing tickets. Above all please remember to follow the rules and be as courteous as possible. I am sure that after a week or so things will tend to calm down, but for now I do ask your cooperation and patience in obeying the rules and cooperating with the parking supervisors.

Thank you to the PTA for arranging the visit of Cnst. Wong from the VPD at the PPP night. I chatted with him at some length last week and he assured me we are no different than many other “commuter” schools located in the city. The key, he told me, is for everyone to stay calm and not let the fact that they may be running late lead to a decision they would later regret. Being ‘late’ is not a cardinal sin and as a school it merely gives us a way to account for students as they arrive.

After school pickup – A refresher for returning parents and some instruction for our new parents. Dismissal will continue to occur in the same manner as previous years. There are two types of dismissal: Indoor and Outdoor. In the Outdoor procedure, each class will be taken by their teachers into the playground area by going through the front doors and walking along the side of the school to the playground, where they can be picked up by their parents. Please wait for your children **on the playground**. Some people wait by the gym door to grab their children and go, but this causes undue traffic snarls as people tend to bunch up there and other classes cannot get to the playground.

Students who attend Chinese classes after school will be supervised until 4:00 pm outside until they are taken inside for Chinese classes. Students not enrolled in Chinese should be picked up before 4:00 pm. Any student still in the school will be taken to late supervision.

Indoor dismissal occurs if it is a rainy/snowy/bitter day, then students may be picked up at their classroom. Thank you for helping make our dismissal procedure run in a safe and orderly manner.



Playground News: We are currently in the process of gathering quotes to make our playground surface more user friendly during the winter months. One thing is certain; it will take a commitment on behalf of all in our school community to rectify the situation. More to follow.

Traffic Advisory – Construction continues to progress in the building of the new Emily Carr building. Once the building nears completion in about a year’s time, more changes to traffic flow are planned. Exactly what kind of impact this will have on our operation in regards to parking is yet to be definitively determined. I do have good communication with the GNW Trust, the body assigned to oversee the development. I know the GNW Trust will continue to be responsive to our needs as a school as construction progresses.

In the past, many parents have made use of the access to the BCIT campus to turn around in order to head west on Great Northern Way thereby avoiding turning left coming out of the school. In case you have not yet noticed, with the construction all along Great Northern Way, that access is now closed. I still encourage more parents to turn right coming out of the school parking lot as it is much safer than turning left. I know it is somewhat longer to turn right on to Great Northern Way, but it is safer and obviously the better route.



Baptism of Children: Parents who would like to have their children baptized during the 2016-2017 school year should notify the School Office by Friday, October 28, 2016. We like to keep a record of the children who are preparing for baptism this year.

Lunches: If you are dropping lunches off for your children, please bring them to the office and they will be given to your child. This helps eliminate classroom disruptions. We have noticed quite a few lunches from McDonald's and other fast food outlets being lined up on the office counter recently. Please remember that we do not encourage 'fast food' type lunches (MacDonald's, Burger King, KFC, etc.) at St. Francis Xavier at any time. We encourage parents to make healthy choices for snacks and lunches, and hope that you will make the same choices on weekends as well. Please check product packaging for information regarding the nutritional value of food. Thank you!

A reminder to all parents about the "Play First" lunch schedule. Students will go outside to play from 12:00-12:30 weather permitting. At 12:30 they will be brought back to the classroom to eat their lunch. Experience has already shown us that implementing this system helps to calm and focus the children as they are not rushing through their lunch (and thereby not eating all their lunch) in their rush to go and play. Also, students will eat more as by the time they have played, they are good and hungry and eat more of their lunch as a result.

We are also expanding the food leftover program that has been used very effectively in our Kindergarten classes for the past number of years. Starting in October, all students will be required to bring their lunch packed in a reusable container with a lid. Students will be required to put any leftover food back in their containers (like shown below) to bring their food scraps back home for disposal. As a school this is a big step in reducing our environmental footprint.



“Allergy Aware” School

St. Francis Xavier School strives to keep schools safe for all students and staff. Where there is a student with a life-threatening allergy, school staff, students and parents must work together to make the school ‘allergy-aware’ and prepare a plan to reduce the risk of student exposure to the allergen.

Factors such as the age of a student, organization and layout of the school, and properties of the allergen are considered in deciding upon the most appropriate action. Ideally, this is achieved without depriving allergic students of normal interactions or placing unreasonable restrictions on the activities of other students and staff in the school.

In order to reduce the risk for allergic students, all students and staff are asked to wash their hands before and after eating. Schools may also ask parents to avoid sending specific food/beverage products to school in their child’s lunch or snack if there is an anaphylactic student in their child’s classroom. Alternative ideas for lunches and snacks can be obtained from public health facilities. The success of an ‘allergy-aware’ school and the safety of our students are dependent upon the support and assistance of all staff, students and parents to limit the risk of exposure. Cooperation and understanding of life-threatening allergies is greatly appreciated.

What is Anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is the medical term for allergic shock. An allergic reaction to peanuts and nuts can be any or all of the following: tingling in the mouth, hives, itching, flushed face, and body, swelling of eyes, lips, face, and tongue, tightness in the throat, mouth, and chest, difficulty breathing and swallowing, wheezing, coughing, choking, vomiting and stomach upset, dizziness and unsteadiness, loss of consciousness, coma and death. Some individuals can react to traces of peanuts or other substances.

We have children and staff members at our school who are highly allergic to nuts, tree nuts, and related nut products.

The specifics and the severity are different for different children. While there are other causes of allergies, the Anaphylaxis Handbook for School Boards says: *“Peanuts and nuts are the most common allergen causing anaphylaxis in school-aged children.* Since the beginning of this school year, three families have informed the office that their children have severe allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. It is imperative that each family reads this information and acts upon it. As a school, we must do our utmost to avoid nuts and nuts products from entering our school and endangering the health and well being of students in our community. **Please** take the time to read the information in this newsletter.



Allergy Aware: School and Childcare Settings

Tips for parents

As your child attends an “allergy aware” school, you are being asked to help keep it safe and healthy for all children.

Children with a severe food allergy must not eat even tiny amounts of the food that cause them to have an allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction can come on quickly and cause death. Even when a child tries to be careful, an accident can happen. A child with a food allergy and their family are responsible for staying safe but need help from other children, parents, and teachers to help reduce the risk of an accidental exposure.

- As a school, we are asking that lunches and snacks be free of certain foods, like peanut or tree nuts.
- Teach your child to wash his/her hands with soap and water before and after eating. This helps stop food from getting on other things like desks, toys and books. Washing hands is good for everyone; it can also help reduce the spread of colds and flus.
- Teach your child not to share his/her food, drinks or eating utensils with others. Many children love to share. Teach children to share non food items instead (e.g. toys, stickers, games).
- Think about guidelines for school events and fundraisers that might include food. When sending snacks for sharing, such as on birthdays or class parties, please make sure all items are peanut and nut free. Other guidelines may be in place to help all children make healthy food choices.

What is the difference between tree nuts and peanuts? Almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts (filberts), macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts (pignolias), pistachio nuts and walnuts are all **tree nuts**. **Peanuts** are part of the legume family and are not a tree nut. **Please be aware that Nutella, which is popular with many students, is made from hazelnuts which are a tree nut.**

How can I know if a food contains tree nuts or peanuts?

- Read product ingredient labels carefully to make sure they do not list any source of tree nuts or peanuts in the food. Often, different names are used for tree nuts and peanuts. See the Health Canada fact sheets found at the websites below for other common names to watch for on ingredient lists.
- Avoid foods and products that do not have an ingredient list.
- Recipes sometimes change or use other ingredients so read labels **every time** you shop.
- Be cautious of bulk food items as they may have come into contact with trace amounts of nuts.
- Food allergic people should not eat products with a “may contain” warning with respect to their allergen(s).

Watch out for allergen cross contamination Cross contamination is the transfer of an ingredient (food allergen) to a food that does not normally have that ingredient in it. Through cross contamination, a food that should not contain the allergen could become dangerous to eat for those who are allergic.

Cross contamination can happen:

- When **food is processed**, e.g. through shared production and packaging equipment;

- At **stores** through shared equipment, e.g., cheese and deli meats sliced on the same slicer; and through bulk display of food products, e.g., bins of baked goods, bulk nuts
 - During **food preparation** at home or in restaurants through equipment, utensils and hands, e.g. if a knife used to put peanut butter on toast at breakfast is also used to make a sandwich for lunch. The sandwich may have traces of peanuts and would be unsafe to send to a peanut aware school or child care setting.

For more information

Dieticians Services at HealthLink BC: Call 8-1-1 or go to www.healthlinkbc.ca/dietitian to email your question.

BC Health Files “Allergy Safe Child Care Facilities” and “Severe Food Allergies in Children”: www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles

BC Ministry of Education Core Anaphylaxis Resources for administrators, teachers and parents: www.bcsta.org/anaphylaxis

Tree Nuts – one of the nine most common food allergens, Health Canada Fact Sheet http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/allerg/fa-aa/allergen_treenut-noix_e.html

- Peanuts – one of the nine most common food allergens, Health Canada Fact Sheet http://www.hcsc.gc.ca/fn-an/securit/allerg/fa-aa/allergen_peanut-arachide_e.html

Extracurricular Activities: A fall schedule will be posted soon on a bulletin board located outside the Office and the Library. Students will be informed by sponsor teachers when sports and clubs are to commence each term. Permission forms will be sent home with students who are interested in participating in the sports program. Our fall sports schedule will include cross country running, volleyball (girls) and soccer (boys).



Choir – Mrs. Harris will beginning Choir this week for students in Grades 4-7 who love to sing. With no big production to work on, this year we will be participating in choir festivals, especially the St. Thomas More festival in the spring. The main goal is to have fun singing. We hope to see many students who enjoy singing and love to share their talents!



The “Parent Support Group” at SFX

Dear SFX Parents:

The Parent Support Group (PSG) receives funding from the Gaming Branch of the BC Government each year, \$20.00 per student, and is responsible to ensure that all students receive this benefit accordingly.

The government establishes restrictions on how this money can be spent. It must be spent on items directly related to the students but must be non-curriculum related. Items such as trophies and transportation for field trips are eligible.

At this point, the PSG is asking for your suggestions on how this money could be spent. You can express your ideas to us by using the PSG letter box on the SFX front office counter, or by email to henrykhong@hotmail.com. We would like to establish a parental wish list for your children.

There will be an Annual General Meeting in June 2016 where the PSG executives will report to the parents on the PSG function over the previous year, including the financial statement and electing executives (4 positions – chairperson, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer) for the following year.

The PSG Guiding Principles are:

- 1) The PSG is responsible for applying and receiving funds from the Gaming Branch of BC Government.
- 2) When using the received fund, the PSG executives must consider the "wish list" of the school administration and the wishes of the parents as a whole.
- 3) The process of distributing the fund shall be open and transparent to all parents of students, without bias and/or self-interest of any PSG officers.
- 4) To keep accurate and up-to-date financial records.
- 5) To conduct all activities following the Gaming Branch Guidelines and Conditions, as well as those of the Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese.

Please feel free to contact us via email if there are any questions about the PSG.

Stephen Cheng: chairperson (stephen@wainc.ca)

Henry Wong: treasurer(henrykhong@hotmail.com)

Justin Zhang: secretary (justin@wainc.ca)

School Fees: Please issue the school a set of 9 post-dated cheques, dated Oct 1, 2016 to June 1, 2017. These cheques should be made payable to **St. Francis Xavier School**. Please be aware of the Pre Authorized Debit (PAD) option for payment of tuition fees. See the Office for more information.

School Supplies and Emergency Supply Fee: Please issue the school a cheque for \$160 for the 2016-2017 school year if you have not done so already.

September 2016 Calendar Dates

Monday, September 5 –	Labor Day NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 6 –	School registration 8:30am. – 12:30pm. Grade 4-6 Parking Sign up
Wednesday, September 7 -	First Day of Classes Grade K-3 Parking Sign up
Thursday, September 8 -	PPP Night
Friday, September 9 -	School Mass 9:05am lead by Staff Grade 3 Vancouver Fire Safety House Workshop
Monday, September 12 –	Grade 7 Outdoor Education Camp at Timberline Ranch PTA Meeting 5:30pm
Tuesday September 13 –	Grade 7 Outdoor Education Camp Confessions 9:10am Grade 6
Wednesday, September 14 – approximately 3:00pm	Grade 7 Outdoor Education Camp, arrival time Library Training 8:45-9:45 a.m, or 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Thursday, September 15 –	Meet the Teacher Night 6:30pm
Friday, September 16 -	School Mass 9:05am lead by Staff
Tuesday, September 20 – 1:00-2:30p.m.	Grade 3 Fire Safety House Workshop 9:00am-10:30a.m. &
Wednesday, September 21 -	Library Training 8:45-9:45 a.m. or 1:15-2:15 p.m.
Friday, September 23 -	School Mass 9:05am lead by Grade 7M/K Book Fair Begins – Where Books are a Treasure!
Sunday, September 25 –	Commissioning mass for the staff. All are welcome to celebrate at 11:15am English Service
Monday, September 26 –	Book Fair, 9:00am – 6:00pm in the Music Room
Tuesday, September 27 –	Book Fair, 9:00am – 6:00pm in the Music Room
Wednesday, September 28 –	Book Fair, 9:00am – 6:00pm in the Music Room
Thursday, September 29 – Room	Last Day for the Book, 9:00am – 6:00pm in the Music
Friday, September 30 -	Professional Development Day – NO SCHOOL

With so many things already happening and many more to anticipate, we are very excited to see what the new school year brings! If you have questions or concerns, feel free to call or email the school or stop by the office. We will assist you in any way we can!

Yours truly,

Mr. Brian Fader
Principal

**SFX Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Coordinator's Corner (Sep 2016)**

Jenny Mary Ng

Email: leaders@sfxyam.com;

Phone: 604-254-2714, ext. 113



**We welcome all Gr 5-12 students to our Sep 23 AGM
& Kick Off party!**

Come with your friends, make new friends and have oodles of fun while learning more our catholic faith and encountering Jesus.

FUN FAITH FRIENDS

What is Youth Ministry?

It is the parish's faith formation outreach to youth in grades 5 – 7 [EDGE], 8-12 [Life Teen] in which 'on fire' Youth Ministers seek to ignite the faith of youth through engaging talks, interactive games, personal interaction at recreation, annual camp and just hanging out.

The poster features a light blue background with a white cross icon in the top left. A quote from Pope Francis is centered: "Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" - Pope Francis. Below the quote is the phrase "You're Invited!" in a cursive font. The main title "EDGE LIFE TEEN" is written in large, bold, dark blue letters, with "YOUTH MINISTRY" in white text on a teal horizontal bar across the middle of "EDGE". Below the title, it says "COME JOIN US FOR" in small capital letters, followed by "Kickoff and AGM" in a large, teal, cursive font. At the bottom, a white box contains the event details: "SEPT 23" in large bold letters, "7:30PM AT THE ROOM 110" in smaller text, and "GRADES 5-12" in large bold letters. A final paragraph invites families to a potluck dinner and AGM, asking them to bring a dish to share and meet their 2016-2017 Youth Ministry Family.

✝

"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" - Pope Francis

You're Invited!

EDGE
YOUTH MINISTRY
LIFE TEEN

COME JOIN US FOR

Kickoff and AGM

SEPT **23** | 7:30PM AT THE ROOM 110 | GRADES **5-12**

Your entire family is invited to join us for a potluck dinner and AGM!
Please bring a dish to share and come meet your 2016-2017 Youth Ministry Family.