



February 2022
St. Francis Xavier

School Newsletter

This is one of my favourite times of the year. After months of dreariness with short days and long periods of rain, not to mention the seemingly endless darkness, we begin to notice more and more daylight as we slowly inch towards the promise of springtime.

As we move past the halfway mark of this school year, let us all take stock of the many blessings we share as a school community and celebrate them every chance we get. This community has accomplished many things. We must stay focused on our common goal: to make St. Francis Xavier School a caring community of learners committed to excellence in learning, growing as people, and growing in faith in God.

Personal items

Now that we have officially reached the halfway point in the school year, it is an excellent time to check over your child's school uniform items to make sure the things they have belong to them. Check the tags, especially on your child's uniform sweater. Also, please take a moment to check the Lost and Found.

Parent Supervisors

One of the aspects that is a vital part of making our school community so wonderful is the involvement of the parents with supervision in and outside the building. A reminder to parents that your role as a supervisor is to help monitor all students throughout the day, not just your child(ren). Please circulate through your zone and observe the classrooms. The students need to see that you are there. Please refrain from taking pictures or videos.

Chinese New Year - Welcoming the Year of the Tiger

Information regarding Chinese New Year celebrations has been sent out. On Friday, January 28, videos of performances were filmed and again on Tuesday, February 1. Performances will be posted on SeeSaw for you to view.

Catholic Educators' Conference/Family Day/Ash Wednesday/Spring Break 2022

The school will be closed Thursday and Friday, February 17-18. This will be followed by the Family Day holiday on Monday, February 21.

Ash Wednesday will be Wednesday, March 2. Mass will be held at 9:00 am.

Spring Break this year will begin on Friday, March 11. We will have a Noon Dismissal that day. The school will reopen on Monday, March 28.

Extended Vacation Requests from Families during the School Year

A reminder to all parents that it is the school's policy not to support extended vacations during the school year. Teachers are not expected to provide assignments before or after or give any make-up tests. It is the parent's responsibility to teach material missed. Students will be marked absent during the duration away from school.

Re-Registration

Re-registration forms for the 2022-2023 school year were due January 27. All re-registration forms can be handed into the office starting on Monday, January 31. Parents must return the documents and cheques to the office. Please do not send them with students.

Here is the schedule for returning your forms:

Last name A-Chow

Monday, January 31 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am; 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Last name Chu-Kwong

Tuesday, February 1 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am; 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Last name Lai-Ly

Wednesday, February 2 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am; 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Last name Ma-Tham

Thursday, February 3 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am; 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Last name To-Z

Friday, February 4 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am; 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

The school will not accept any early or late forms. Forms that are sent to school with students will be returned. Failing to hand in your documents on time could jeopardize your place in the school for next year.

Running Club News

Getting outside as much as possible has been a popular piece of advice given throughout this pandemic to improve our mental well-being. Children significantly benefit from outdoor play, particularly when unstructured. Creativity, decision making, executive function development, risk assessment, and social-emotional skills are some of the benefits of playing outdoors, not to mention an appreciation and love for nature. The following are helpful links that will inspire you and the kids to get out there and have some fun.

<https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/>

<https://activeforlife.com/how-to-dress-for-the-weather-in-every-season/>

<https://outsideplay.ca/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/natureofthings/episodes/the-power-of-play>

<https://www.cpha.ca/unstructured-play>

Green Club News

Often we are overwhelmed about how we as individuals can stop climate change. Writing corporations and companies to make more sustainable choices takes time and effort but can make a difference. However, if you are short on time, you may consider joining together with others to make a bigger impact. Signing petitions, driven by reputable environmental organizations, such as **Stand.earth**, **climatehero.typeform.com**, and **wedonthavetime.org**, are great places to start. You will get a lot of emails with

information, petitions to sign, and opportunities to voice your concerns regarding local, national, and international environmental issues.

You can learn about local green initiatives and ways to participate by subscribing to **The Greenest City Newsletter** sent monthly by the City of Vancouver. Sign up at Vancouver.ca Let's end with a timely quote from St. Thomas Aquinas- **The things we love tell us what we are.**

Family Day Suggestions

Monday, February 21, is the Family Day holiday. If you are unsure what you can do with your family to celebrate, here are a few suggestions.

1. Board Games

Now's your chance to finally finish a game of Monopoly! If that isn't your style, try learning a new board game such as backgammon or chess. Hold tournaments and have a special prize for the winner. Thinking games are also great for cognitive development (but you don't have to tell the kids).

2. Baking

Get your kids involved and bake a passed-down family recipe. Or, if you're feeling a little more adventurous, try something completely new like those white chocolate brownies you've been eyeing in the dessert section of your cookbook. Either way, the fun isn't in the result but in the time spent together.

3. Visit an Art Gallery or Museum Virtually

It may take a little research, but many art galleries and museums offer virtual tours. One site I found quickly is <https://viewfinder.expedia.com/virtual-tours-of-canadian-museums/>. Have a look and let me know what you find! There might be something worth sharing.

4. Go for a Hike/Bike

If you've got a dog, then this is a perfect activity for you (they should be allowed to enjoy the family day too!), and it's a great way to get out of the house.

5. Tackle a Blank Canvas

As a family, wreak havoc on a white canvas with some paint and see what you create. No planning is required. The result will be a memory that you can proudly display (or hide in the closet). Just be sure you have the paper towels handy, especially with the toddlers.

6. Go to Morning Mass Online

What an excellent opportunity to take some extra time to attend Mass together as a family. Check out the Parish website for time and view Mass live from the Church. Spend some time in prayer as a family!