



St. Francis de Sales High School

Celebrating 75 years

"Be who you are and be that well."

- St. Francis de Sales

3 December 2015

St. Francis Xavier

Dear Parents,

Now that December is upon us, we have entered the holy season of Advent, the time for us to prepare to celebrate Christmas and for Christ's coming again in glory.

With this in mind, I am pleased to announce that our School Chapel is ready to go! Please see below for details about the first Mass. The chapel will be open to students before and after school, as well as during lunches.

I would like to thank **Mrs. Lisa Downs** and **Mrs. Maria Guevara** for all of their work in cleaning the space. It needed a significant amount of scrubbing and dusting. They also laundered the altar linens and polished the sacred vessels. I am very grateful for their time and efforts.

On a similar note, our library is also completed! This space, too, will need a significant amount of cleaning. We will have it up and running again after Christmas Break.

John Kimec

School News

School Chapel

The School Chapel is ready! The first Mass is scheduled for this **Friday, December 4** at 7:15 am. This Mass before school is optional; all students and their families are invited to attend. This monthly Mass is tentatively scheduled for the First Friday of each month.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Next **Tuesday, December 8th**, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This is the day that we celebrate the fact that Mary was conceived without stain of original sin, thus making her worthy to give birth to Jesus. This is a Holy Day of Obligation, meaning that all baptized Catholics are bound to attend Mass. We will have a school Mass on this day **at 11:00** at St. Francis de Sales Church, which will replace the usual Wednesday school Mass. All are invited to attend!

Boy's Basketball Team Wins Thanksgiving Tournament!

The Varsity Boys Basketball team captured the 30th Annual *Chuck Mitchell* Thanksgiving Classic in Bensenville. The Pioneers went 3-0 with wins over Little Black Pearl Academy, Walther Lutheran and the host school, Fenton. Three Pioneers made the All-Tournament Team: **Mike Chavez, Shakur Jihad** and **Erik Rodriguez** who was voted *Most Valuable Player* of the Tournament. The Pioneers take their 3-0 record into Catholic League play against Rival Seton on Friday Dec. 4th.

First Semester Final Exams

Final exams for the first semester will be December 16-18. [Click here for the complete schedule.](#)

January Open House

We will have our second open house of the year on **Wednesday, January 6th**. Our first open house was a huge success...let's get the word out for the next one as well!

In order to prepare for this event, we will have an early dismissal on Wednesday the 6th, with school dismissing at **1:40 pm**. We will also have a **late start schedule** on **Thursday, January 7th**.

Second Semester Professional Development

Our teachers have been participating in regular professional development all throughout this year. As talented as our faculty is, we are always on the lookout for ways to improve.

As a staff, we have been focusing on:

-ACT's *College Readiness Standards* ([click here](#) to learn more)

-The principles of *Backwards Design* ([click here](#) to learn more)

-The principles of *Universal Design* ([click here](#) to learn more)

The faculty has been meeting from 3:15-4:00 twice a month. This is a very short timeframe and is very taxing on the teachers who have already put in a long day. In order to lengthen the time and maximize what is accomplished, we will begin using our early dismissal schedule twice a month on the first and third Thursday's to accomplish our professional development goals. The calendar is as follows:

January 14 & 21

February 4 & 18

March 3 & 10

April 7 & 21

May 5 & 19

Parent's Club Christmas Party

The annual Parent's Club Christmas Party and December meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 9th** at **6:30 pm**. Please [click here](#) for details.

All are invited!

Festival Frolic 2015

Festival Frolic 2015 is underway! "**May the Frolic Be With You!**" is the theme this year. We have begun collections this week. We will continue collecting money and tickets through next week but not during the week of finals. We will resume collection days on January 3rd. Our first student incentive is this Friday, Dec. 4th. Students will receive a free lunch for having sold \$100.00 or more. The top selling homeroom every week will get donuts. Besides getting the chance to win \$2,500.00 there are many more incentives. Please see frolic information posted on the website and sent home with your children.

Food Shelf

As many are aware, there is a food shelf that operates out of the old convent attached to the school. They are open once a week and have been providing a valuable service to the Eastside for many years.

The food shelf has an influx of generosity prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Donations then tend to fall off in January. However, that does not at all change the need that still exists during that time.

We will be conducting a food drive from our first day back at school, **January 4, until January**

31. Look for more details after Thanksgiving.

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