



November 2009
Issue 4

The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales
307 School Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Providing excellence in academics and a deepening faith in God and Gospel Values in an environment that is caring, challenging, and respectful, striving to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life.



November News

FOOD DONATIONS BENEFIT AREA FAMILIES

It has become a yearly custom for the students at The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis to collect canned goods during the month of November for the needy in our parish and in our community. If every child would bring in at least two, three, or four cans, it would provide much happiness for those who are less fortunate. This is a particularly good time to give thanks for what we have and share with those that have little. Our contributions in past years have made a significant difference in this mission of service.

There will be several boxes placed in each classroom during the month. We would like to have a huge amount of canned goods ready to be used for the building of a "Mountain of Food" for Thanksgiving.

If you would prefer, our students are also collecting toiletry products to be distributed from His Pantry (a local food shelf located at our parish church). These items can also be brought to school and we will see that they get to the Parish Center. Thank you for your help and assistance.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Thank you	2
Bread Sharing	2
Health Office.....	3
Athletics	3
Progress Reports.....	3

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Help us build a Mountain of Food for those in need..
- Harvest Bazaar shows successful results.
- Soccer ends and Basketball begins.
- H1Ni1 Clinics to be held at SHSF.
- Let us give thanks for our many blessings.



HARVEST BAZAAR - A COMMUNITY EVENT

On October 24 our entire community came together to show their support for The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales. Our annual Harvest Bazaar was once again a huge success. Thank you to all our students, parents, parishioners, and friends who played some role in this year's bazaar. A special note of appreciation goes to all the chairs of the many booths and various activities. You are truly amazing! We could not have done it without you. We certainly can understand and know why we have heard so many positive comments about how wonderful an event it was. Profits this year were between \$11,000 and \$12,000. We are so very grateful.

"It was amazing to see the spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm among all the workers. Everyone shared in the joy of this community event."

A Parishioner of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for the goodness of your people and for the spirit of justice that fills this nation. We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the land and for the challenge of the cities. We thank you for our work and our rest, for one another, and for our homes. We thank you, Lord, for all that we have spoken and for all we keep in our hearts, accept our thanksgiving on this day. We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING BREAD SHARING

Are you looking for a wonderful way to celebrate community and fellowship? Do you want to express your thanks for the many blessings you have received? Then look no further. Please join us for our school's annual Thanksgiving Bread Sharing to be held on Tuesday, November 24, at 6:30 PM in our multipurpose room. Families are asked to bring a baked bread to be blessed. These will then be exchanged with another family's bread as a symbol of thanksgiving and community. Students from different classes will be sharing reflections on what it means to be thankful. The program will last just 30 minutes so we promise to get you home early. The sixth grade parents are hosting this event and would love for you to attend.

FALL TRIMESTER ENDS

Our fall trimester ends on Wednesday, November 25. Report cards for all students will go home the Wednesday after Thanksgiving, December 2. It is important that we praise our children for what they have done well and encourage them to do better in areas where they may be having difficulty.

HEALTH OFFICE NOTES

Our first H1N1 clinic will be held on Monday, November 16. So far, our date has not been postponed or rescheduled so that is good news. Staff from the Vermont Department of Health and Mrs. O'Neill will be on hand.

Yearly testing has begun for all middle school students. This will consist of height, weight, hearing, vision, and scoliosis testing. Parents will be notified should there be any concerns in any of these areas. Please note that these screenings do not or should not take the place of an annual visit to your physician.

If you should have any questions or concerns about health related issues, please feel free to contact Mrs. O'Neill, our school nurse on Mondays.

BASKETBALL SEASON BEGINS

Students in Grades 6, 7, and 8 who are interested in playing basketball for our school's two teams will be trying out the week of November 23 at the Parish Center. Playing on these teams is a big commitment and one that should be taken very seriously. Boys and girls who want to play must attend all tryout sessions.

Information regarding dates and times will be sent home with Middle School students once the details have been finalized.

CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG ATHLETES

We will be having a potluck dinner for all our soccer players and their families on Thursday, November 12, at 5:30 PM. This will be held in our multipurpose room.

Families whose last names begin with A-L are asked to bring a main dish; M-Z are asked to bring a salad.

All soccer parents are asked to help assist with this event so when you are called, please offer your complete cooperation.

If your child has not returned their soccer jersey and shorts, they must do so this week. We are keeping a list and we will check off your child's name once we receive their uniform.



The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales was established as an educational institution on September 1, 1891. As a mission of the Catholic Community of Bennington—Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Parish, its purpose is to create an environment which provides excellence in academics, a deepening faith in God, and Gospel values which will guide each student throughout his/her life.

Our school is based on a philosophy which strives to develop in every student the habits of thinking critically and acting responsibly in daily life. Our school works to develop and nourish ideas, curiosity, creativity, attitudes, and behaviors which are necessary for good Christian living. Our school teaches each child to recognize that he/she is special and is God's child, to think intelligently, to make sound decisions, and to act in the light of the morals developed by Catholic teaching. Care is given to the total development of each student and open communication with parents is maintained throughout the school year.

**The School of
Sacred Heart
St. Francis de Sales**
Phone: 802-442-2446
Fax: 802-442-2344



sacredheartbennington.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents:

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the gift of time. If you ask a group of adults what meant the most to them growing up, you will often hear fond memories of people who "had time for them." Given the fast pace of today's society, what might be some ways that you can build just a little more family time into your lives?

These are just a few simple ways to show you care:

The family meal-Do everything you can to sit at the dinner table together. This can be a relaxed time when the family can talk about the day and just enjoy being together.

Family traditions-These need not be elaborate. Children look forward to coloring Easter eggs, making gingerbread houses, or any other activities that the family does together routinely.

Pull out the board games!-Even young children enjoy sitting around a board game and playing as a family. This is also a great opportunity to help your child learn to be a good sport and have fun whether winning or losing.

Be around and ready to listen-In order for children to want to talk with parents, it is important for the parent to be available. Whether riding in a car, sitting on the couch, or just hanging out together, it is important to create opportunities for children to share what's on their minds.

Take a hike!-Enjoy a short hike as a family. This is a no-cost way not only to get healthier, but also to build family memories.

Your family may already be creating great memories of times together. If you are, know that you are giving your child an invaluable gift. The important thing is that parents understand that it is the little gifts, often free, that mean the most to children. Your time is a more precious gift to your child than you could ever imagine!

Sincerely,

Mr. Estes



*No School—Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday & Friday November 26 and 27
EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS (12:15 PM) on Friday, 11/13 and Wednesday, 11/25*