

MISSION STATEMENT

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

School Pictures	2
Halloween Festivities	2
Room Parents	2
Simple Ways to Help	3
Fire Safety Updates	3
Newsworthy Notes	4
From the Principal	4

The School of SACRED HEART ST. FRANCIS de SALES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Harvest Bazaar Coming Soon

Preparations are well under way for our annual Harvest Bazaar to be held on Saturday, November 9, at the Parish Center. We are just one month away! Don't forget about the one hour contribution of time required by each family. Your help is essential if we want to make this year's fundraiser the best yet and there are still so many things you could do. Last year we raised \$11,000 in just one day.

Our format in the past few years worked so well that we will be continuing with that same venue. In

addition to the many vendors we will still have our silent auction, our own craft table, bake sale,



breakfast and lunch, raffles, bingo and our delicious pasta dinner that evening.

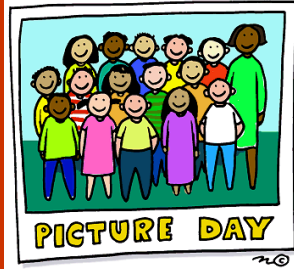
We need a few folks to take over as chairs of a couple of booths. Please

say "yes" if you are called upon or better yet, volunteer ahead of time by calling or emailing Mr. Estes.

In any event, there is still plenty to do in order to get ready. Raffle tickets need to be sold. (Thank you in advance for selling yours!) Pastries need to be baked. Silent Auction items need to be donated. Suggestions are also appreciated. Helping out at the bazaar and coming to it are wonderful ways to feel a part of our school.

Working Together We Can Achieve More!

School Pictures



School pictures for all Sacred Heart St. Francis students will be taken on Wednesday, October 9. Lifetouch Studios will be taking our pictures again this year. This is a prepay program, but you have many options to choose from in selecting your picture packages this year. These prices, along with the details about what is included in each package

have been sent home. All students will be photographed in their regular school uniforms. You should be receiving email reminders throughout the week about the approaching school picture date.

Please be sure to send back your picture envelope with the background you have chosen. If not, one will be selected for you.

Photos may also be purchased online if that is your preferred method of payment.

Lifetouch Studios is well known for their school picture program. They will also be assisting us again in our yearbook publication for the 2019-2020 school year. If you should have any questions about school pictures, please call the school office.

*We can
accomplish great
things when we
all work
together as a
team.*

Halloween Festivities

Due to popular demand, we are planning on having our third TRUNK OR TREAT Night in the Parish Center parking lot on Thursday, October 31, from 5:30 PM to 6 PM. (Car line up at 5:15 PM.) Parents can decorate their vehicles, students can

dress in costumes and parade to each car for a Halloween treat. The event has been so much fun the past few years, perhaps you might also want to take part in the festivities.

On Halloween day, Thursday, October 31, each class at school (Pre-School

through Grade 8) will have the opportunity to share some light refreshments with their classmates sometime during the day. Room Parents will be contacting you about whatever treats are recommended by the classroom teachers.

Room Parent Meeting

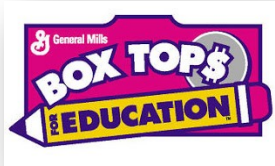
In order to plan for events that take place during the school year, Mr. Estes will be hosting a meeting for anyone who volunteered to be a **ROOM PARENT** on Wednesday, October 16, beginning at 6:30 PM in

the eighth grade classroom. This will hopefully help Room Parents understand all the expectations and clarify the things that need to be done at various times of the year. Some dates have been changed this year.

We would like to thank those parents who have already volunteered to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in becoming a room parent, it is not too late. This meeting should last only an hour.

Tools for Schools

We are spearheading an all-out attempt to get more folks from our community to save their BOX



TOPS for Education for us. If you would

be willing to help out in the effort, please call the school office. Thank you to Allison Matunas for

agreeing to be our Box Top coordinator once again this year. She does an amazing job.

We are also promoting the Hannaford for Schools and



Price Chopper Tools for Schools



(Mrs. Paustian can enroll you.)

programs that enable our school to get extra resources for our programs.

Safe Environment

For the safety of our children, all volunteers, including parents, are required to complete an on-line certification entitled "VIRTUS." You can access it by visiting www.vermontcatholic.org. There is a link to the program under Child Safety. Completion of this is in

accordance with Diocesan policies and is required for anyone who wishes to work with our students in any capacity.

You will receive a certificate upon completion, but It may take a few weeks before you are cleared to volunteer due

to the large number of volunteers in all our schools completing the program.

If you should have any questions, please contact Mrs. Gilarde in the main office. She is our Safe Environment coordinator.

There is no cost for any part of this program.

Please complete your online training in VIRTUS as soon as possible.

Fire Safety Updates

During the next few months we will be updating many of our hallway doors so that they meet current fire safety codes. This will include new hardware and self-closing mechanisms. This is a very expensive project, but we feel that it is important to be up to code when it comes to the safety of our children.

We had budgeted \$30,000 for this project, but the actual cost is closer to \$50,000. This means we will be frugal in our spending and look for donations to meet the final costs. If you or someone you know might be able to provide a tax deductible donation, please see Mr. Estes.

Custodial Position Available

We are looking for an evening custodian to work four hours a day Monday through Friday. Work would have to begin after 5 PM. If you know anyone who might be interested in this position, please have them call the school office.

Newsorthy Notes

THE SCHOOL OF SACRED HEART ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

307 School Street
Bennington, Vermont 05201

Phone: 802-442-2446

Fax: 802-442-2344



MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER—Please support the Sacred Heart Saints soccer teams during their season of play. You will be glad you did. Game schedules are noted each week in our updates.

FUNDRAISER—Don't forget to return your Fall Fundraising Packet! These are due Wednesday, October 2.

DIOCESAN IN-SERVICE DAY—We will be closed on Monday, October 7, for a Diocesan In-Service Day. The teachers will be traveling to St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT for a day of faith formation.

FIRST FRIDAY LITURGY—We will be walking to church on Friday, October 4 for First Friday Liturgy. This monthly devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus will begin at 9 AM. All parents are welcome to celebrate with us.

SCHOOL WEBSITE—Please check out our school's website for information regarding school events, handbooks, updated policies and great information about important events. The site is www.sacredheartbennington.org

RENWEB—Have you registered with Renweb, our school's informational program? Our school code is SH-VT.

TAG SALE—We will be having a School Wide Multi-Family Tag Sale on Saturday, October 12, from 8 AM until 3 PM on the school grounds. This is an eighth grade fundraiser.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY—Monday, October 14 is Indigenous People's Day. School will not be open that day.

From the Principal

There is real "value" in practicing certain time-honored values.

Throughout this school year we will take a look at six character traits, why they are worth practicing, and what you can do to help develop them in your child.

Our first is the value of patience. Do you remember when you had to quietly wait your turn for an ice cream cone when the ice cream truck came to your neighborhood? Or when you had to go to several stores to find just the right birthday gift for a friend? Today many of our tasks and errands take only a few minutes,

thanks to modern technology and time saving inventions. This progress, however, has created a desire for instant gratification, and with that, a loss of patience.

At the same time, research has found that the capacity to exercise patience and self-control correlates with higher self-esteem, better grades, and better interpersonal skills. How can you help your child learn patience?

- ◆ Start small, start short: Give your children many chances to practice waiting.
- ◆ Teach self-control: Treat your children as if they can

control themselves and let them know, in a calm manner, that this is the behavior you expect.

- ◆ Create purposeful delays: Slow down your response time to your children's requests and demands. They will learn that they can wait for things that matter.
- ◆ Take turns: Teach your children to wait for others. This skill will serve them well in life.

Practicing patience in your home will benefit your child and your family for many years to come.