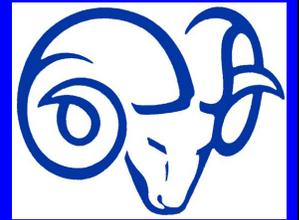




St. Francis Xavier Catholic School
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January 20, 2021

Fr. Gnanasekar Kulandai, Priest/Superintendent
Shawn Augustine, Principal

Welcome to St. Xavier Catholic Schools' Newsletter published by the High School Mass Communication Class. The Newsletter will be published several times a year with our purpose to inform you concerning personnel, students, and events at St. Xavier Catholic School.

Catholic Schools Week Begins January 31, 2021

Meet Our December Honorees



Congratulations to our December middle school student of the month, 8th grader, Annabelle H! Annabelle has continued to enhance her academic performance since arriving at St. Xavier. She is an extremely diligent and motivated student who makes a special effort to satisfy her teachers' expectations. Annabelle has also expanded her learning experience via our athletic and vocal/instrumental music programs. Keep up the good work, Annabelle!

Congratulations to our December teacher of the month, Mrs. Michelle Koehn! Colleagues and parents shared that Mrs. Koehn is a phenomenal second grade teacher, colleague, and friend! She is a positive voice of encouragement for coworkers and students alike and has been wonderful at providing invaluable information and advice to new teachers. She is so energetic, kind to her students and others, is sincere with her relationships with everyone, and has lessons that are

intriguing and that keep her students engaged. She always has a smile and models her faith daily to others. Way to go Mrs. Koehn!

Congratulations to our December high school student of the month, sophomore, Casey S.! Casey has excelled scholastically over the course of his high school career, while additionally participating in various school activities. Whether meeting with a local journalist to learn more about mass communications, serving and lecturing at Mass, joining student council meetings, snapping photos for yearbook, or contributing on the basketball court, he exhibits his wide-ranging interests, while setting a fine example for others. Nice job, Casey! –Mr. Augustine

Tell Us Some Interesting Jobs You Have Had And What You Learned

We thought you would enjoy learning about some of the interesting jobs that some of our faculty members have had—and what they learned from these jobs. Following is information from some of our faculty members—with some advice on being successful in life.

Mr. Cavitt's Points For A Successful Life



We all know Mr. Cavitt as the fun-loving, 5th grade teacher, but there is much more that you may not know about him. Here are some of his previous jobs/experiences:

As a teenager, I didn't think much about what I would like to do for a living to support myself. I can recall holding a job as a busboy at a high end restaurant. I enjoyed my time there but wasn't very smart about things. As a consequence, I was let go. It was nice earning a little money.

During high school, I worked at a General Motors plant in the drafting room. This was a pretty good job. Unlike my last job, I wasn't let go. I left for my obligation to the U. S. Army after high school. I really enjoyed my time at General Motors.

Some advice I have for students of any age is:

1. Always be respectful and speak well when talking to others. (Yes Sir, No Ma'am) Always be on time for work and if possible; 10 minutes prior to your shift is a good habit.

2. Stay out of credit card debt! Just because something says quick money doesn't mean it's free and you don't have to pay it back. I suggest carrying \$300 to \$500 in a credit card for NEEDS not WANTS.
3. Learn basic repairs for your vehicle and home. Knowing basic repairs is always a good thing in the long run.
4. For the military option, start with a structure and a purpose. Joining the military can be difficult, but it is an honor to fight for our country.
5. Keep God in your life. A great life involves God.

Mr. Cavitt now not only fights the ongoing battle of managing paperwork and grading homework, but has also served our country. Mr. Cavitt is a shining example for everyone on how to live. --Casey S.

Can You Imagine Mr. Sullivan In Other Occupation Than A School Counselor?



Mr. Sullivan has had many different job experiences in his working career other than a school counselor--at several schools. He also has some good advice for all as they enter the world of work.

I served as an academic coordinator/test examiner at the U.S. Army Correctional Center (minimum/medium-security prison) at Fort Riley (Camp Funston) from 1985-90. The position involved providing fundamental skills instruction for inmates arriving from various national/international military installations.

I was careful when interacting with/instructing the prison population; some individuals were prone to overlooking facility regulations, behavior standards, etc.

Overall, it was a very enlightening experience, as I was pleasantly surprised by the inmates' cognitive skills, talents, and desire to avoid future mistakes/learn from previous errors.

One can't possibly overstate the value of soft skills concerning educational/career success. I view the following qualities as essential to satisfying one's goals/objectives: industrious, personable, dependable, confident, upbeat, and resilient. On countless occasions, I have personally benefited from maintaining a mindset that emphasizes the aforementioned characteristics.

Mr. Sullivan continues to utilize his past experiences to guide many lives; his guidance will certainly help all as they enter the working world. -DJ S.

Mrs. White's Diversified Career Path Includes Working at Yummy Yogurt, A Dentist Office, And Kellogg's!



Mrs. White has worked at many different types of jobs throughout her career; she has found her calling as a teacher at St. Xavier Catholic School.

My very first job was at Yummy Yogurt. I was a cashier, made sandwiches, yogurt shakes, soups, and I was only 14 years old

I went to school to become a dental assistant. I really liked working with the dentist. . . .

I worked for a magazine distribution company for about 10 years. The work was hard and heavy. The hours were early and long. . . . People would come and interrupt you while you were working away, ask you for something that has nothing to do with a magazine, lol; and, of course, I would go help them find it. Part of the job, customer service skills--must be polite, smile, stop what you're doing and help them out. . . . I started going to college while I was working here. I knew my body couldn't handle this job until I was 65-70 ish.

I also worked for Kellogg's as a merchandiser. Again, I worked alone; I didn't have my boss standing over my shoulder watching me. He knew me from the magazine company. With this company the product was light--crackers and snacks. It was so much easier than the magazine company. The hours were the same--early like 4 am; the truck would come to Dillon's so I would meet the driver at the store and start working after the order was checked in. I liked going in that early. . . . My hours were never set. I worked every weekend. I wanted to finish college and I had to work. When people called my boss, Kevin, for a reference for me, he said and I quote 'Connie is the next best thing to sliced bread.' I thought that was a pretty awesome reference and I was hired.

Trinity Catholic School was my first school; I was a PE teacher. The staff was great; I met some wonderful people. . . . I thought I was thoroughly blessed to be here. The school had 95% no problems and 5%

small problems. . . . We were all stopped in our shoes the month of March when we were told the school was going to be closed May 25. We were all going to lose our jobs. That was horrible news for all of us. It was very scary to not have a job, to know you are not going to have an income coming in. After working so very hard to graduate from college and getting my first job at a Catholic school, and then not having a job. . . . terrified is a better definition.

Breaux Bridge Junior High School was a very rough school. It was the lowest socio-economic school in our district. . . . I loved my first job. This job, I did not love. What I did love about this school was coaching my girls volleyball, basketball, and softball teams. My girls were the only reason I came to school everyday. They needed me and I needed them. . . . The second year things just got worse. . . . I was ready to be done. I was lucky; my husband and I got engaged and I moved to Arkansas. . . . No amount of money will ever be enough to get me to go back to that school ever again!

The experiences that Mrs. White has had have made her appreciate St. Xavier Catholic School so much! And we are so glad that she is here. --Mrs. Becker

Advice From Mrs. Whitaker And Her Interesting Job History



We all know Mrs. Whitaker as the preschool teacher, but she has had many jobs that have helped shape her into the teacher she is today.

I had an assortment of jobs in my 20's that varied from being a teller at a Bank, building advertisements for a newspaper, and being a data processor for IRS. My most interesting job might be when I worked for a doctor's office in Nebraska. I was a Secretary, Medical

Transcriber, Insurance Biller, and later trained as a phlebotomist.

This was a very fun job as I worked directly with people scheduling their appointments, greeting them, getting their exam rooms ready, filing paperwork, etc. . . .

Some soft skills I utilized were teamwork--(I helped the LPN and doctors at our clinic in any way they needed), communication--(I had to effectively communicate with patients and medical staff), problem solving skills--(I had little supervision in my position and had to figure things out in the proper manner), work ethic--(People relied on me to open and close

the clinic and be there everyday to make sure things ran smoothly). and flexibility--(I was cross trained through so many areas and became an asset to their clinic).

As you can see, Mrs. Whitaker has great advice for job success.

–Clarissa O.



Detasseling Corn: A Non-Traditional Summer Job

Do you think that you get up too early to go to work or school? Ms. Vieyra definitely had to get up early for her a summer job when she was a teenager.

Ms. Vieyra remembers these days saying, “When I was a teenager in the 90’s, I worked on a field crew for two summers in Nebraska detasseling corn.... We got on the bus every day (except Sundays) at 3:45 am; when we arrived at the cornfield, we would walk down the rows, pulling the shucks of corn out on either side of us....

We had to reach up high to get them, and sometimes yank very hard to get them free. Then we would toss them onto the ground for the machines to pick up later.... Once our group finished detasseling one field, we would walk or ride the bus to another. We worked successively like that until noon or one, when it became too hot. Sometimes we would race each other down the rows; and sometimes we would work side by side, talking about music or boys....

They paid us above minimum wage at that time; and as a 14 year old, I was excited and very proud of that. I saw value and dignity in my labor, and sitting down to rest has rarely ever felt as good as after working to sheer exhaustion as a field laborer.

Even though the job came with an early start time, Ms. Vieyra proudly remembers this job as a time to work hard, make friends, and earn money. Most of all, she learned how proud a person can feel after a hard day’s work. --Kenzie G.

Ms. Robison's Experiences Have Helped Her Become A Better Educator



We all know Ms. Robison enjoys speaking and teaching Spanish, but she has had many different jobs and experiences in her life. We asked her to tell us some of her experiences and advice she might have for all of us.

My very first paying job was teaching baton twirling to girls just a few years younger than myself when I lived in Yokohama, Japan. I was a sophomore in high school, and I knew just the basics of baton twirling; but it was enough to teach little girls to twirl a baton, to march in parades, etc.

I was also a summer camp counselor in my senior year of high school. I was one of many teenagers in charge of Kindergartners through 6th grade. We would accompany them to their classes and help them in whatever activity they were working on.

I worked as a cashier in the PX after high school where I learned to use a cash register and how to count back money that was owed to the customer. At the end of my shift, I had to count my drawer to make sure that the cash in my drawer matched the number on the register receipt. It had to match to the penny! I was also taught to count the one dollar bills into stacks of \$25; George Washington's face had to be turned the same way.

I worked as an office clerk where I had to learn how to answer the phone in a professional manner. As a library assistant, I learned all about the Dewey Decimal System--you place the books in order by subject. I worked as a recreational assistant and had to deal with teenagers long before I became a teacher.

I have been a part of St. Xavier School for 25 years. My first job was the library assistant. The next year, I was also the lunchroom assistant where I collected the lunch cards from students. I was asked to be the lunchroom manager, even without any experience in managing a lunchroom. Luckily, I didn't have to cook; but I had to manage the paperwork and take classes on managing a school lunchroom. It may sound easy, but there are so many rules that you must abide by before the school can get reimbursed by the state of Kansas. Before I became the computer/online Spanish teacher, I taught religion for Grades 3-5

and was a cheerleading coach for both the middle school and high school squads.

Everything that I have done has been a lesson in working with different types of personalities and how I react to them. You can't please everyone that you come into contact with. I try to treat others as I would like to be treated. Working with children has taught me to think about them first and me second.

The one thing I like to emphasize is how you approach your job. Arriving at work at least 15 minutes before you actually start your job is important. Your boss isn't paying you to come into work at 7 a.m. Your boss is expecting you to WORK at 7 a.m. Try to get along with everyone and treat them as you want to be treated. Go the extra mile by doing more than you are expected to. You should be willing to help out when needed instead of saying "You don't pay me enough to do that." or "That's not part of my job description." Bosses can give you a good referral or a bad one.

I try to follow Jesus' path by serving others instead of others serving me. He's a hard act to follow, but I try to do my best even when I make a mistake. I just get up and try again.

Ms. Robison has some great advice for all of us!! --Justina C.

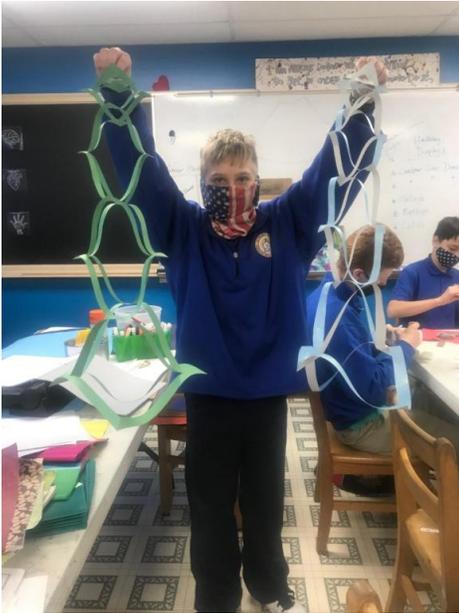
St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery



Some of our St. Xavier Alumni were welcomed back and talked with the Juniors and Seniors.



Art Club members made sculptures at their Art Club Meeting.



Tony M. making paper Christmas Trees in Art Club.

First grade class displaying a P.E. award.



Welcome to Mr. Testa—our science teacher!



Everyone enjoys the P.E. activities!



Preschool listening to a Christmas story.



Baby Jesus Shower—
A St. X tradition.



Mr. Sullivan visits with an FBLA
guest speaker.

**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY
THROUGH
FAITH & REASON**