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

Welcome to St. Xavier Catholic School's 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.

Celebration of Catholic Schools Week



St. Xavier will be observing Catholic Schools Week later this month.

The activities for the week are being planned; they will be announced soon. "Catholic Schools Week is a national celebration of Catholic education and an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. Catholic Schools Week is sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)." <https://www.ncea.org/>

During the week, Bishop Vincke will be visiting St. Xavier and leading a school Mass on February 1. Mr. Augustine commented: "National Catholic Schools Week begins on the last Sunday in January and runs for an entire week. This year it is celebrated from January 29th-February 4th. The theme is 'Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service.' St. Francis Xavier School will be participating in a variety of different activities throughout the week to celebrate our faith and show our appreciation for our staff, students, parishioners, and the community."

—Mrs. Becker

Interested in Joining a New Club?



Mr. Stramel and Sportsman's Acres owner Larry George are organizing a new club at St. Xavier—a trap shooting club. Any high school student can join. The goals of the group are to develop teamwork and to learn new skills including trap shooting.

The only expenses a member will have are the purchase of shotgun shells and, possibly, the clays. Practice will start in March. Mr. Stramel will be the sponsor of the group and will probably be the coach.

The trap season will last through the spring and end around the end of the school year. Soon there will be meetings for the group to figure out further details of the season. —Noah F.



High School Cheer Fundraiser—Go Rams!

The high school cheer team is having their main event fundraiser! The Cheer Clinic will be on January 14th from 2:00 to 4:30 pm. The event will be in the St. Xavier gym.

Any child in PreK thru 8th can participate in the cheer clinic.

They will be learning a few basic principles and techniques of cheerleading and learning to work together.

The high school cheer team and the students will be promoting school spirit on January 21st during halftime of the high school boys' game by showing everyone the cheers that they learned during the cheer clinic. —Sierra S.

Buzz in and Win!



The St. Xavier scholars bowl team is heading to regionals in February--what a season it has been! The entire team, coach and players included, are all excited to put their abilities to the test and try their hardest to place at regionals.

The Regional Scholars Bowl Meet is being held in Beloit, KS, this year on Thursday, February 2nd. The team of players will be selected by the coach and will be those who “distinguished themselves most in practices and in tournaments so far.” —Mr. Becker

There will be six teams in total participating, but only the top three make it to State on February 11 in Hutchinson, KS. The team and entire school are very excited for them to participate. “Both the junior varsity and varsity teams have done

well this year. I'm very proud of what we've accomplished and how much they've learned and grown this year." –Mr. Becker

Going to regionals is always an exciting time for our scholars bowl team and a perfect time to show other schools and families what St. X can do! –Casey S.

St. Xavier NHS Chapter Reorganizing



It is exciting news that the St. Xavier National Honor Society will be reorganizing and will be active this spring semester. The National Honor Society has become a prestigious organization, ranking high among administrators, faculty members, students, parents, and residents of the school community. Its reputation for excellence is the result of years of commitment on the part of everyone involved.

A student in Grades 10 - 12 having a GPA 3.5 or higher are eligible to apply for membership. Students are selected for membership by the faculty. After the requirements are met, other factors are considered to determine if a student meets the high expectations for members.

According to Mr. Culbertson, "The purpose of the National Honor Society is to be a leader among educational organizations and societies that promote recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Membership in the National Honor Society is a privilege. The Honor Society members exhibit excellence in academics (GPA of 3.5), leadership, honorable and admirable character, and demonstrate a commitment to service--all of which indicate that the member is willing to use personal talents and skills for the improvement of both self and society." "For many students, selection as a member of the NHS is a pinnacle of the achievements in high school. This honor, recognized throughout the nation, is both the public recognition of accomplishment and the private commitment to continued excellence on the part of the new member."

The induction ceremony will be held on April 11th for the students that are selected by the NHS committee. The induction of new members into NHS is an important event for the student, the chapter, the school and the community. The ceremony will be public and provide an excellent opportunity to dramatize the chapter as found in the articles of the NHS constitution. Dan Culbertson is the sponsor for the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School Chapter. –Mrs. Becker



Our Annual Baby Jesus Shower Helps Many

St. Xavier's annual Baby Jesus Shower was held on December 16th. It was a great success. Students from all classes donated a variety of baby supplies.

This popular event is held every year. The younger students gather after Mass to assist with the gifts. After the

students unwrap the gifts, they are given to The Pregnancy Center to give to mothers in need.

Students should take away from this activity that there are many people that are less fortunate than us, and we should be thankful for what we have.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'.” (Acts 20:35) –Jakob B.

All about MAP Testing



The students at St. Xavier complete MAP testing several times a year. MAP testing is Measuring Academic Progress. There are two different times that K-6th grade is testing during the month of January. The week of January 9th is for reading testing. The week of January 17th is for math testing.

Mr. Augustine chose this particular testing tool because it follows closely with the state standards. It is important for the teachers because it helps them know how well their students are doing in the areas of math and reading. It also helps the parents because it shows them if their child is struggling in different areas.

The parents/guardians will be able to see their child's progress report at parent-teacher conferences or a report will be mailed home to them. This will help all working with the students to differentiate work at all levels. –Hana M.

Christmas Music is Beautiful any Time of the Year



The Christmas concert scheduled for December is rescheduled for Wednesday, January 11th, 7:00 pm. Christmas music is inspiring and meaningful any time of the year.

Some of the selections that the band will be presenting are classics: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,” “Have a Holly, Jolly Christmas,” “Jingle Bells,” and “Auld Lang Syne.” The choir will be presenting “The Coventry Carol,” “A Prayer for Peace” (Dona Nobis Pacem), and “Carol of the Bells.” The middle school band and choir will also be performing. There will also be solos and group presentations.

There are many selections by smaller groups. “Christmas is when I let the students play songs they like, play with friends, and show off.”—Ms. Moeller

Ms. Moeller commented: “The Christmas concert has to be one of my favorites because the songs are all fun and recognizable; it's musician-friendly and audience-friendly, and you can't beat that Christmas vibe. The kids get excited about it, and they pick and plan at least 2/3's of the music. I'm always impressed by their dedication and hard work to learn the duets and trios they select because those are learned outside of band and choir class.” —Mrs. Becker

December Honorees—Congratulations!!



Congratulations to our December teacher of the month, Mrs. Whitaker! She always goes above and beyond for her kiddos. Mrs. Whitaker always has a smile on her face no matter the day or time, and she has amazing communication with parents! Her PreK students thoroughly enjoy her class and come home excited to talk about their day. Mrs. Whitaker is also

incredibly patient and does a great job taking the time to explain her curriculum to her students. Excellent work, Mrs. Whitaker!

Congratulations to our December middle school student of the month, 7th grader, Georgia E. Georgia is always considerate and kind. She works hard in class, helps her classmates, and encourages others to strive for personal betterment. She is also involved in activities outside the classroom such as volleyball and basketball. Way to go, Georgia!

Congratulations to our December high school student of the month, Sophomore, Miguel W.! Miguel is a very good student. He helps at many of the concession stands and is a positive influence on others. Miguel is active in chess club, scholars bowl, and FBLA and will be joining the forensics team in the spring semester. He also helps by volunteering to take pictures at different events. Nice job, Miguel! –Mr. Augustine

Get to Know your Staff!

We know that we have a very talented, dedicated staff as part of our Ramily. But did you know these interesting facts/hobbies/jobs about some of them?

See how you can do on this matching quiz--match the faculty member to the interesting fact/hobby/job. Some have several matches. To check your answers, check the Saint Xavier webpage—saintxrams.org by clicking on the answers tab in **QUICKLINKS**.

Staff Member Number	Staff Member	Fill in with the Correct Letter	Choices--Interesting fact/hobby/job
1.	Ms. Hagge		A. Many purchased their Christmas trees from our tree farm.
2.	Mrs. Whitaker		B. I was a competitive swimmer for 12 years.
3.	Mrs. Tomson		C. My first job was at Yummy Yogurt.
4.	Mr. Augustine		D. I spent 3 weeks after my junior year in high school taking classes at a university--I decided that was the university I wanted to attend.
5.	Mrs. Becker		E. I visited Barney's Department Store in New York City to see Kansas postcards from our company used to "wallpaper" one of their dressing rooms.
6.	Mrs. Baseley		F. I worked as a dental assistant.
7.	Mrs. White		G. I grew up on a farm. I have a passion to protect our wild horses in the western states on the open range.
8.	Mrs. Tomson		H. Worked in an election office.
9.	Mrs. Platt		I. I am trained as a phlebotomist.
10.	Ms. Serpan		J. I love to thrift store shop.
11.	Ms. Moeller		K. I attended high school with Mark Hamill--the original Luke Skywalker.
12.	Mrs. Dinsmore		L. I was a volunteer firefighter in my hometown.
13.	Mrs. Whitaker		M. I worked in a bank--I counted almost a million dollars for a single deposit.
14.	Mrs. Tomson		N. Worked as a cosmetologist.
15.	Ms. Robison		O. I am excellent with a compound bow.
16.	Mrs. Whitaker		P. One of my dogs goes to a nursing home as a "therapy dog."
17.	Mrs. Becker		Q. Crab is my favorite seafood.
18.	Mrs. Haines		R. Sang in my Junior College Choir.
20.	Mrs. White		S. Play quite a bit of XBOX.
21.	Mr. Cavitt		T. I was in a bowling league through HS; my high score is 257
22.	Mrs. Justin		U. I worked retail for 3 years—in charge of the Jewelry Department also selling handbags, fragrances, and shoes.

Hidden Musical Talents?

We have many talented vocalists and musicians at St. Xavier. Do you know how many staff members have musical instrument talents? See how you can do on this matching quiz--match the faculty member to the musical instrument(s). To check your answers, check the Saint Xavier webpage—saintxrams.org To check your answers, check the Saint Xavier webpage—saintxrams.org by clicking on the answers tab in **QUICKLINKS**.

(Note--some of the staff members commented that they have not continued playing these musical instruments but did play them at some time in their lives.)

Staff Member Number	Staff Member	Fill in with the Correct Letter	Choices
1.	Mrs. Tomson		A. Piano and clarinet.
2.	Mrs. Whitaker		B. No instruments--but--I have no problems singing along in the car to my radio--especially country music.
3.	Ms. Hagge		C. Kalimba, ocarina, viola.
4.	Mr. Augustine		D. Trumpet in Grades 5-8.
5.	Mrs. Baseley		E. Percussion (specializing in mallets), piano.
6.	Mrs. Becker		F. NO--but--I make up my own academic tunes for my class at random!
7.	Mrs. Dinsmore		G. Alto saxophone in junior high. I can play right hand on the piano. I want to learn to play the ukulele.
8.	Ms. Serpan		H. Piano, organ, clarinet, bass clarinet.
9.	Ms. Moeller		I. Flute/piccolo.
10.	Mrs. Haines		J. Trumpet in Grade 5.
11.	Mrs. Justin		K. I played clarinet.

Salina Diocese Motto for this School Year:

"Lord it is good that we are here." –Matthew 17:4

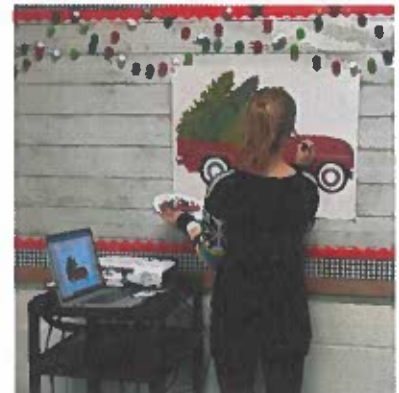
St. Xavier Catholic School's Photo Gallery



Christmas Angels.



Learning using jellybeans.



Mrs. Jahnke decorating the library for Christmas.



Middle school cheer posing for a picture.



K thru 2nd grade angels for the elementary Christmas concert.



Father G. at Mass.



Getting ready to pray before the game.



High school boys basketball team—
part of our Ramily.



Middle school boys basketball
discussing plays for the game.

“LORD, IT IS GOOD THAT WE ARE HERE” (MATTHEW 17:4)



Saint Xavier students dressed up for Ugly Christmas Sweater Day.



Saint Xavier 1st grade class showing off their pajamas on Pajama Day.



HS cheer doing a Liberty during the homecoming pep rally.



Middle school cheerleaders performing for the Pep Rally!



Miguel W. and Grace L. crowned Homecoming King and Queen.



Ms. Moeller introducing the elementary at Christmas Concert.



Irelyne S. wearing a festive Christmas sweater for Homecoming Dress-Up days.



Annabelle H. about to score a point.



Saint Xavier Staff enjoying Homecoming.



Teagan Black working hard on his gingerbread house.



Saint X choir singing at a Lutheran service in Latimer, KS.



Sean C. reading stories to preschoolers.



Class project—Rosary.



PreK decorated door!

**EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY THROUGH
FAITH & REASON**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 *No School *Professional Development	3 *Second Semester Begins	4	5 *8:20am- StuCo Meeting *4:15pm- V Scholars Bowl @ Cair Paravel	6 *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass & Adoration	7
8	9 *K-6 MAP Reading Assessment *5:00pm-MS BB @ Solomon	10 *K-6 MAP Reading Assessment *4:15pm- JV Scholars Bowl @ Centre *6:00pm- HS BB @ Linn	11 *K-6 MAP Reading Assessment *7:40am- Optimist Club Meeting *8:30am- Student of the Quarter & 3-6 Honor Roll *3:45pm- Activities Committee Meeting *7:00pm- 7-12 Concert	12 *K-6 MAP Reading Assessment *8:20am- Class Meetings *4:30pm- MS & HS BB vs. North East Kansas	13 *K-6 MAP Reading Assessment *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass	14 *V/JV Scholars Bowl Meet @ Beloit *2:00pm- Cheer Clinic
15	16 *No School *MLK Day	17 *K-6 MAP Math Assessment *4:30pm- MS & HS BB vs Heritage Christian	18 *K-6 MAP Math Assessment *8:20am- FBLA Guest Speaker *5:30pm- Auction Meeting	19 *K-6 MAP Math Assessment *8:20am- Art Club *5:00pm- MS BB @ Onaga	20 *K-6 MAP Math Assessment *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass	21 *Basketball & BBQ *2:00pm- MS & HS BB vs. Smoky Valley *Cheer Clinic Performance- at half time of HS Boys' BB game
22	23 *National School Choice Week	24 *4:15pm- V Scholars Bowl @ St. Xavier	25 *5:00pm- PTO Meeting	26 *8:20am- FBLA Guest Speaker *5:00pm- Recruitment Meeting *5:30pm- School Council Meeting	27 *7:45am- Rosary Club *8:30am- School Mass *3:15pm- Ice Cream Friday	28 *9:00am- Chess Tournament @ Hays *2:00pm- MS & HS BB vs. Veritas
29	30 *Catholic Schools Week	31 *Catholic School's Week *HS BB vs. Tescott *Parent Night & Senior/8 th Recognition				

