

Views from the Headmaster

Xavier High School

181 Randolph Road Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 346-7735
www.xavierhighschool.org

Volume 42
Number 8
May 2005

Office of the Headmaster

My Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you might be able to guess, for those of us engaged in the work of education the months of May and June pass by in a blur. These months feature a flurry of activities ranging from proms, receptions, dinners, liturgies, assemblies, and last but not least, to the momentous event of graduation itself.

In the midst of this whirlwind of activity, I am thinking as well this year of two other special days we celebrate in May and June, Mothers Day and Fathers Day. Although my mother is still here, my father has been gone for 10 years. Nevertheless as I think about these two days, what comes to mind is the important part our parents play in our lives.

Our parents are our first and primary educators. They share their faith with us. From the start they provide us with the essentials of life and, if we're lucky, with a little extra. Parents of today like the parents of 50 years ago are willing to sacrifice for the good of their children. They are willing to forego things, maybe further education, or a vacation, a better house or car, so that they can provide for their children some material or educational gift. There is, however, one legacy badly needed by today's young people just as it was needed by the young people of past times. That is the legacy given by people who model for them the values and principles that can guarantee a rewarding life, qualities like honesty and integrity. Parents and grandparents who live their lives according to the Gospel give those who come after them a legacy more precious than gold.

Our school is blessed in having parents who care about their sons' growth, development and education. You are people who want to share your faith, your values, and your principles with your sons. I hope the young men in our student body see what I see in you, their parents. We attempt to open the eyes of your sons to the fact that they have parents who care about them and love them. We do this at assemblies, at our school liturgies, in religion class, through pastoral and guidance counseling, through casual conversations after school with teachers, moderators and coaches.

I am convinced of all that I have written above because of meetings and conversations other administrators and I have had with you. Through contact with parents in the Home and School Association and its activities and in a host of informal settings, I have been made aware of your struggles, challenges, dreams and expectations. Please don't think that I think all of our families are picture perfect. I don't. I know, however, that whether you are raising your son with your spouse or as a single parent you share the desire to have him develop as an educated man prepared for further education and for life.

Therefore, in this Mothers Day/Fathers Day letter, I wish all of you God's special blessing as you continue in your awesome task and vocation of parenting.

Three cheers for our parents!

Sincerely,

Brother William C.F.X.
Headmaster

PS: Give yourself a pat on the back. You've earned it!

The Congregation of the Brothers of St. Francis Xavier

From the Principal

Congratulations to Jeffrey A. Green of the Class of 2005 who was named Valedictorian of his class. Jeffrey, the son of Kathleen and James Green of Northford, finished his high school career as the highest-ranking member of the class. He had the privilege of giving the Valedictory Address at Commencement. Nicholas M. Grasso, the son of Lucille and Vincent Grasso of East Haven, earned the honor of the second ranked student in the Class of 2005 and welcomed those of us assembled at Commencement with a Salutatory Address. Jeffrey and Nicholas are to be commended for their outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to the following young men who are award winners for the **2005 National Latin Exam**: *Summa Cum Laude* – Ryan Katon '08, Clarke Hayes '07, Philip Braun '06; *Maxima Cum Laude* – William Giancola '08, Andrew Penner '08, Eric Troiano '08, Thomas Kalista '08, Matthew Cartoceti '07, Michael Verselli '07, Robert Young '06, Thomas Charpentier '06, Mathew Mainella '05, Nicholas Grasso '05; *Magna Cum Laude* – Brian Fitzpatrick '08, Joseph Tine '07, Eric Day '06, Andrew Dellaripa '06, John LaMonaca '05; *Cum Laude* – Matthew Bruckerhoff '08, Nathaniel Chausse '08, Sean McAuliffe '08, Thomas McGee '08, Nathan Kalista '08, Patrick McGuire '08, Jason Paley '08, Christopher Darin '07, William Hendel '07, Ryan Erickson-Kulas '07, Michael Crowl '06, Andrew Pasiuk '05.

Congratulations to Mr. Bowman and the members of our school chorus and concert band for their success in the competition at Busch Gardens the weekend of May 7th. The Chorus took First Place in the Men's Vocal division. Freshman Spencer Bazzano received an Outstanding Vocal Soloist award and sophomore Matthew Campisi received an Outstanding Accompanist award. The concert band took First Place in their division. The Clarinet section as well as the First Trumpet section received awards for best section. The concert band also won the Overall Best Band at Busch Gardens award for this year. The total number of schools participating in the competition was fifteen.

Congratulations to the following young men who have been inducted into the **National Junior Classical League Latin Honor Society**: Philip Braun, Thomas Charpentier, Nicholas Grasso, John LaMonaca, Matthew Mainella, Andrew Pasiuk, Robert Young and Christopher Zablocki. In order to be eligible for enrollment students must meet the following requirements: Maintain an A average in the Latin course; Be a member in good standing of the National Junior Classical League; Exemplify Good Citizenship; and Meet additional requirements set by the teacher.

Congratulations to the Connecticut and National winners of the **2005 National French Exam**: **Connecticut Level III** - Freshman Lucien Moore placed 5th, sophomore Grant deWilde placed 9th, junior John Melien placed 10th. On the **National Level III** exam Lucien Moore placed 6th, Grant deWilde placed 10th, John Melien placed 11th. The students will be awarded certificates and prized in recognition of their achievements by the American Association of Teachers of French.

Congratulations to the following young men who placed in the state and in the nation for the **2005 National Spanish Exam**: Freshman Gregory Breuer placed 1st in Connecticut and 4th in the Nation on the Level 1, regular category division; Freshman Andrew Verderami, placed 2nd in Connecticut and 6th in the Nation on the Level 1, outside experience category. Greg and Andrew will be honored at the National Spanish Exam Awards Dinner on Tuesday, May 31st at the Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. **Congratulations** also to Freshmen Peter Halibozek, James Hurtt and Daniel Paskiewicz who placed 7th, 7th and 9th respectively in Connecticut on the Level 1, regular category division; freshman Martin Basadonna who placed 10th in Connecticut in the outside experience category of the Level 1 exam; Sophomore Dustin Bailey, Freshman Peter Zaidel and Sophomore James Pelletier placed 7th, 7th, and 10th respectively in Connecticut on the Level 2, outside experience category; Senior Matthew Morello placed 10th in Connecticut on the Level 4, outside experience category.

Congratulations to the following students who have received academic recognition: John P. LaMonaca '05 has been selected as the winner of a Special Scholarship offered by The UPS Foundation through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation; Nicholas M. Grasso '05 is the recipient of the Good Citizen Award bestowed by the Wadsworth Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and Robert L. Young '06 has been selected by the Connecticut Association of Schools as one of thirty Governor's Scholars of Connecticut for 2006. Robert will be honored at a luncheon on May 25th. Kudos to these young men for their hard work and accomplishments.

In February, eighty-one students in the AP Math track participated in the **American Math Contest**. Among freshmen and sophomores who took the AMC 10, the highest scores were earned by sophomores Cameron Avelis, Benjamin

Daniels, Ross Dingwall, Darren Taillie and freshmen Peter Halibozek and Andrew Verderame. Among juniors and seniors who took the AMC 12, the highest scores were earned by seniors Joseph Drechsler-Martell, Jeffrey Green, Eric Sterner, Brant Stout, and juniors Philip Brudnicki, Scott Faye, Eric Oslund, and Robert Young. The following students earned a score high enough to qualify for the American Invitation Math Exam: seniors Brant Stout and Jeffrey Green and juniors Eric Oslund and Robert Young. **Congratulations** to these fine young men for their achievements.

Catholic High School Math Exam: Throughout the course of the year, students in the AP Math track participate in a series of four contests open to Catholic schools across the nation. The following are the top scorers for each grade: **Seniors** Joseph Drechsler-Martell, Michael Gordon, Jeffrey Green, and Brant Stout; **Juniors** Philip Brudnicki, Eric Oslund, and Robert Young; **Sophomores** Benjamin Daniels, Ross Dingwall, Joseph Geenty, and Clark Hayes; **Freshmen** James Aglio, Peter Halibozek, and Andrew Verderame. **Congratulations** to all of these fine students.

Earlier in the spring, six juniors and one senior from Xavier participated in the eighth **Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools' Student Retreat**, which involved students from the Xaverian schools in Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, and Kentucky as well as our own students. The objective of the retreat was to inform students of the mission of the schools and the ways that they can incarnate that mission into their own lives. On the final day of the retreat, the students worked in soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Xavier's participants were senior Sean O'Leary and juniors Nicolas Horvath, Justin LaVette, Joseph Leone, Matthew Sweeney, Peter Tarrant, and Justin Zawilinski.

Congratulations to the members of our Model Court Red Team for making it through the regional and quarterfinal rounds of competition and becoming one of five teams in Connecticut to compete in the semi-finals.

Congratulations to Matthew Hurtt '08 who traveled to the Middle East during Spring break. Matt traveled with his mother to work on relations between Christians, Muslims, and Jews. He also spent time understanding the relationship between the Middle East and the United States. An article discussing Matt's trip was published in the April 10th edition of the shoreline paper, The Day.

Congratulations to Daniel McGill '07 who is a member of the Marlborough Model Rocket team that is one of only 100 teams to qualify for the National Team America Rocketry Challenge in Manassas, VA at the end of May. Over 700 teams from across the United States entered the preliminary event.

Academic Deans

6th Week Progress Reports for the 4th Marking Period were distributed on Wednesday, May 11th. Please ask your son for his report.

End of Marking Period For Seniors: The fourth marking period for seniors closed on Friday, May 13th.

Final Exams for underclassmen will take place on Tuesday through Friday, May 31st to June 3rd.

Grade Reporting and Evaluations will take place the week of June 6th. Report cards will be sent home with the June mailing during the week of June 20th. Students who have failed courses will be contacted the week before. Any student who fails a course for the year will have to make up that course in summer school. Any student who fails to earn two (2) or more credits of the required number to be earned in a given year because of final failure grades **cannot** return to Xavier. Information concerning summer school will be available later in the month.

Dean of Students

Parking for 2005-2006: During the most recent class assemblies, next year's seniors and juniors were given the opportunity to register for parking. The cost of parking is \$100.00 which will be billed on your tuition account. All seniors and juniors are guaranteed parking. **Student drivers are not allowed to park off campus and walk to school.**

Busing: During the month of April, bus registration information and registration cards were mailed to incoming freshmen and next year's sophomore class. Information for those students who will be juniors and seniors in the fall and need to register for the bus is in the main office. Once all the information is in, the names of Middletown students who will be riding the bus will be forwarded to the city transportation office. In the case of out-of-town bus service, busing will be provided as long as there are sufficient numbers of students to make the route financially viable. The \$375.00 down payment for the out-of-town riders is due on May 6th. All students are expected to return a **signed** registration card. Thank you for your cooperation with this process.

Cell Phones: Students are not permitted to be in possession of cell phones during the course of the academic day. All cell phones are to be kept either in the student's car or locker. Students are permitted to use cell phones after school in the courtyard area of the school. Any student who violates this policy will receive five (5) hours of detention.

Dress Code: During recent class assemblies all students were reminded of the school's dress code particularly in reference to hairstyles, shaving and length of sideburns. Students who fail to adhere to the school's dress code policy will be issued detention. Repeat offenders may be candidates for suspension.

Business Office

Reminder: Tuition must be paid in full before students can sit for final exams. Also, if you have not yet turned in your Tuition Contract of FACTS contract for the 2005-2006 school year, please do so now.

Campus Ministry Department

Juniors can pick up forms for this year's **Xavier Leadership Institute**, which will be held at Mont Marie Conference Center in Holyoke, Massachusetts, from Sunday 7:00 p.m., August 21st until Friday noon, August 26th, in the campus ministry office, the main office or from their religion teacher. As a limited number of spaces are available, early sign-up is recommended. A **non-refundable** deposit is due with the application. Further details will be included with the application packet.

Athletic Department

Football and Soccer Night for Parents: An informational meeting for parents of athletes planning to play football and soccer in September will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2005. Parents of 8th graders are strongly encouraged to attend. See the enclosed flyer for more information. **Freshman Football Practice** will begin on August 22, 2005.

The Spring Sports Award Program will be held on Thursday evening, June 9th. Information regarding this event will be forthcoming.

Weight Room: Xavier's weight room is open to all students. Any student can take advantage of our facilities. A student does not have to be involved in a sport to use the weight room. If your son does plan on participating in a sport, and is not involved in one now, it is an excellent way to prepare for the upcoming season. If he needs instruction, it is available from our weight room proctors. The weight room is open from 2:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. everyday after school.

We also offer a summer lifting and conditioning program consisting of an hour of lifting and an hour of agilities and conditioning. This program is open to all Xavier students and incoming freshmen, whether they will be involved in a sport or not. The summer program begins on June 13th and ends on August 19th. We offer an evening session from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Football off-season and practice information can be viewed on the athletic page on the school's website www.xavierhighschool.org.

The 2005 Champions Summer Basketball Clinic, under the direction of Xavier basketball head coach, Michael Kohs, will be held during the week of July 18th – 22nd. The clinic is open to boys in grades 5-9 as of September 2005. The camp focuses on the fundamental instruction of shooting, passing, ball handling, and defense. There are two available sessions: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon or 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. For more information and/or a registration form please call Mr. Michael Kohs: (w) 346-7735 Ext. 814.

Health Office

Sport Physicals: Any student/athlete planning to participate in sports during the 2005-2006 school year must have a private physical **after June 1, 2005**. Physicals dated prior to June 1st will not be accepted. Please refer to the enclosed Sport Participation Information sheet regarding physical examination requirements. A Connecticut Pre-participation Sports Evaluation Form is enclosed and should be completed and signed by the parent/guardian and by your physician at the time of the physical and returned to the health office. The school physician will perform sports physical exams for any

student/athlete that is not covered by insurance. The date for the fall season exam will be in the June newsletter. For those who will be examined by the school physician, the enclosed form must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian and brought to school at the time of the physical. Sports physicals will be available at the school on **Monday, August 22nd and Monday, August 29th at 8:00 a.m.** More information regarding sports physicals will be published in the June newsletter.

Reminder to Parents of Juniors: Connecticut State Law requires that all juniors have a physical examination, which includes anemia testing. Any junior who has not had a physical will not be allowed to attend school in September. A record of this examination **must** be on file in the Xavier High School Health Office. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Debra Peterson, School Nurse, 860-346-7735 X712.

Student Activities

The 5th Annual Social Studies Awards Night was held in St. Joseph Hall on Tuesday, May 10th. The following clubs were recognized for their accomplishments over the past year: Debate Team, Model Congress, Model Court and Model United Nations. Congratulations to the young men who participated in these events throughout the year and a special thank you to the moderators, Mr. Duhadaway, Ms. Holloway, Mr. Montemerlo, Mr. Sauer and Mr. Turner.

Home & School News

Thank you to Mrs. Mary Drexler and Mrs. Loraine Lewellyn, co-chairs, for the Junior Ring Mass reception. Over 450 family members and friends of the members of the junior class attended the Mass with the Blessing of Rings and the reception which followed. We are most grateful to Monsignor Bride for celebrating mass that evening and joining us for the reception.

A special thanks to Mrs. Ann Marie Calamari who co-chaired the 13th Annual Harvest Auction, Mr. Greg Jones for coordinating the concession for winter sports and Mrs. Sue Tarrant for overseeing the Spring Dessert Sale.

Profits for events sponsored by the Home & School Association this year are as follows: Dessert Fundraiser - \$6,917.50; Antiques & Collectibles - \$4,743.09; Winter Concessions - \$3,723.35; and the Auction - \$20,589.15. The Auction amount is the H&S portion of the split with the Alumni Association.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2005

