

## From the Principal

**DELAYED OPENING/EARLY CLOSING:** On days when the opening of school is delayed due to inclement weather classes will begin at 9:45 a.m. In the event school must be closed early, students will be dismissed at 12:55 p.m. **Reminder:** In the event of inclement weather parents are advised to use their discretion on whether or not to send your sons to school due to the fact that weather conditions vary from town to town.

**CLASSES** will not be in session on Monday, January 15, 2007, in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. **WINTER VACATION** is the week of February 19<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**SENIORS** will be measured for their graduation caps and gowns on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> between 9:15 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Seniors will be made aware of when they are to report for their measurements. Questions should be addressed to Mr. Donohue.

**FINANCIAL AID FORMS** for next year will be available **February 14, 2007**. Please contact Mrs. Jaskot (860-346-7735 Ext. 734) and the financial packet will be mailed to you. **Remember, you do not automatically receive aid for next year if you received aid this year. A new form must be completed each year.** Please pay very close attention to the deadlines as we make a determination on financial aid based on those forms processed on schedule. Once the aid is distributed, it is difficult for us to award more, especially during the summer months. **THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 15, 2007.**

**REMINDER TO PARENTS OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent night will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2007 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this informational program. The snow date is Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Ample parking is available in the back of the school with entrance to the building via St. Joseph Hall. Reminder – deposits are due on February 7<sup>th</sup> and visitation days are still available by calling 860-346-7735 Ext. 702.

**THE JUNIOR PARENT RELIGION NIGHT** will be held on Monday, January 22, 2007. Parents of juniors should plan to attend this worthwhile program. The snow date is Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. An informational letter regarding this program will be sent home with your son in the near future. The response form should be returned to your son's religion teacher.

**JUNIOR PARENT INFORMATION SESSION AND JUNIOR CAREER NIGHT** will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2007. The snow date is Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. The guidance department will offer a session to junior parents in St. Joseph Hall regarding college placement, while in the classroom wing, the honor society and the alumni association will sponsor **Junior Career Night** for students. Both events begin at 7:30 p.m. and end by 9:30 p.m. **All juniors are required to attend this worthwhile program.** Please see enclosed letter and return response to your son's religion teacher.

**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES** will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 from 7:30 p.m. Teachers will be available for brief conversations regarding your sons' progress.

**THE BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL RINGS** to members of the junior class will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. The Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of the Diocese of Norwich, will celebrate this Mass and distribute the rings. An invitation to this event will be sent to the parents of juniors in an upcoming mailing. Please be advised that if, at the time of the Ring Mass, a junior has academic or disciplinary problems, his ring will be held. If a junior should leave the school and his ring was held, all money will be refunded except the deposit.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Mr. Richard Magner, our Director of Guidance, who was honored at our St. Francis Xavier Day celebration on December 1<sup>st</sup> with the Theodore James Ryken Award. This award, named in honor of the founder of the Xaverian Brothers, is given for fidelity to the mission of Xavier High School and the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Matthew T. Shugrue '06 who has been offered a special scholarship through the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Debate Team who did very well at the debate at Pomperaug High School. Michael Magdzik '09 won the first place speaker trophy in the novice division. The team of Michael Magdzik and D. J. Palombo '10 took second place in the novice division, and the team of Eugene Slason '07 and Clark Hayes '07 took third place in the varsity division. The team now has a number of debaters to compete in the state finals in March.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Michael O'Donnell '08 who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Michael's project helped to educate fellow Scouts and East Berlin residents on how to avoid the potential damage to local waterways from storm water run off. Michael is a member of Troop 44 in Berlin.

**XBSS STUDENT RETREAT:** On March 4<sup>th</sup> through March 8<sup>th</sup> six juniors will represent Xavier High School at the Xaverian Brothers Sponsored Schools Student Retreat in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Students interested in representing our school on this retreat must complete and submit an application to Mr. Langevin, our religion department chair. Applications are available in the campus ministry office.

**THE CONNECTICUT FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL PARENTS** has launched a new website. The address is [www.ctfcsp.org](http://www.ctfcsp.org).

## Dean of Students

**MID-YEAR EXAMS** will be held from Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> through Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Students will not be excused from taking a mid-year on the day and time scheduled without a legitimate reason and communication between parents and Mr. Donohue or Mr. Gargano. In certain circumstances, a note from a doctor attesting explicitly to the student's inability to attend school may be required.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Parents should remind their sons that cheating is a very serious breach of academic discipline and personal integrity. Tests are invalid if cheating has occurred, and no credit will be given for them. Students who are caught cheating on their mid-term exams will be appropriately disciplined and may be suspended or dismissed from Xavier.

**REMINDER REGARDING DANCE REGULATIONS:** The student body has been made aware that the administration will not tolerate the modern style of "Dirty Dancing" or "Mosh Pits." Any student involved in these activities will be confronted and his parents will be contacted. The student will be a candidate for suspension and will be prohibited from attending future dances, including proms and/or semi-formals.

## Academic Deans

**THE MID-TERM EXAM SCHEDULE** is as follows:

Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

Day A, Periods 1 and 2

Day A, Periods 3 and 4; Cap and Gown Measurements for Seniors

Day A, Period 5; Faculty/Staff In-Service

Day A, Periods 6 and 7

Exam periods run from 8:20 to 9:50 and 10:05 to 11:35. Your sons will receive additional information regarding exams in their homerooms on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**In the event of inclement weather during the exam period, please refer to the school voicemail and web page for any revisions to the exam schedule.**

**REPORT CARDS** for the second marking period will be available on line by the end of the day on Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Mr. Garrity will personally distribute a copy to your son during the week of January 29<sup>th</sup>. This will provide Mr. Garrity with the opportunity to meet and discuss with each student his first semester grades. Please be sure to ask your son for his report card as it will contain comments from Mr. Garrity.

**THE SECOND SEMESTER** begins on Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Second semester schedules will be distributed to all students that morning. Students will report to homeroom first to receive their schedules.

**WEEK THREE PROGRESS REPORTS** will be available on line on Tuesday, February 13 and **Week Six Progress Reports** will be available on Tuesday, March 13. If you have questions or problems accessing your son's progress report on line, please contact the main office.

## Advancement Office

**GRANDPARENTS' DAY:** On December 8, 2006, Xavier welcomed 160 grandparents to its annual Grandparents Day. All the grandparents were taken on a guided tour of the school's facilities, participated in the celebration of the Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and joined their freshmen grandsons in the Galluzzo Center for a hospitality tea. The event was a resounding success.

**THE 2006-2007 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE:** Every year Xavier relies on the generosity of its community members to help fund our financial aid program. With your help last fiscal year (July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006) we were able to provide over \$600,000 in financial aid and endowed scholarships to deserving young men who might not otherwise have been able to earn a Xavier education. Because the requests for help grow annually, this year (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007) requests are in excess of \$715,000 in assistance. In order for us to honor as many of these requests as possible, please remember to fulfill your pledges by June 30, 2007. If you are interested in donating to this year's Annual Fund Drive, please contact the Xavier Advancement Office at 860-347-6079. You can now make an online donation to Xavier by visiting our web site [www.xavierhighschool.org](http://www.xavierhighschool.org).

## Athletic Department

**THE FALL SPORTS AWARDS PROGRAM** for members of the cross country, football and soccer teams will be held on Sunday, January 7, 2007. Information regarding this program was mailed home prior to Christmas. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the athletic office 860-347-7060.

## Business Office

**TUITION PAYMENTS** were due on December 5<sup>th</sup>. If your payment has not been sent, please put it in the mail today. Students with outstanding tuition payments after the Christmas break will not be allowed to sit for mid-year exams.

## Campus Ministry Department

**THE JUNIOR RETREAT** will be held at the Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center in Litchfield, Connecticut, from Friday evening, March 23<sup>rd</sup> until Sunday evening, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Hoisl will be speaking to all juniors about this retreat. **Sign up and deposits will be due in February. Retreat forms will be available after mid-term exams from your son's religion teacher, in the campus ministry office or the main office.** Please encourage your son to attend this retreat, as it is one of the most beneficial programs we offer. Space is limited. Contact Mrs. Hoisl for more information 860-346-7735 Ext. 714.

## Guidance Office

**REMINDERS FOR PARENTS OF SENIORS:** Your son's college applications should be near completion if they are not already done. Make sure your son's SAT scores are officially sent to his schools. College visitations should be planned for faculty days, holidays, and school vacations. In extraordinary circumstances, permission to visit a college during the school week may be granted by Mr. Gargano. Permission must be requested one week in advance and in writing. Failure to do this will result in the absence being considered "unexcused." The school reserves the right to limit the number of college visitations. No visitations will be allowed after April 15<sup>th</sup>.

You are encouraged to file the FAFSA on-line ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). The CSS Profile must be filed for students applying to many but not all private colleges/universities. You may apply on-line ([www.profileonline.collegeboard.com](http://www.profileonline.collegeboard.com)).

**PSAT** scores were distributed to juniors and sophomores during the week of December 11-15. Students received a score report and their test booklet. The guidance department reviewed the score report with students and explained scores, percentiles, and areas of student interest.

## Home and School News

**THE PRE-LENTEN VIGIL MASS AND DINNER** will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. Traditionally, this has been a nice family evening. The dinner, which follows the Mass, has always been enjoyable. I hope that many families will avail themselves of this opportunity provided by the Home & School Spiritual Committee.

**THE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW** will be held on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event continues to draw excellent vendors and a good crowd. If you are a collector or enjoy shopping for antiques, this Sunday is for you. Volunteers are still needed. Please call Mrs. Karen Maroney in the administrative office 860-346-7735 Ext. 700 if you are interested in helping out at this event. In the next Home and School mailing you will find more information about the Antiques and Collectibles Show.

**THANK YOU** to Mr. William Donahue, the spiritual committee chairperson, for planning the Advent Mass and Communion Breakfast.

**REMINDER:** Thank you to all who have been participating in the SBC Community Connections Plan and supporting Xavier. As you may know this program will be changed on January 1, 2007, to a new plan called AT&T Consumer Affiliate Network Program which is a web-based program. Xavier has chosen not to participate in this new plan. Xavier is still participating in the Target Stores "Take Charge of Education School Fundraising Program." For more information about this program call 1-800-316-6142 or visit [target.com](http://target.com).

## Student Activities

**MIXERS/SEMI-FORMALS:** A SAC dance is scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup> and the Freshmen/Sophomore Semi-Formal will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m. The snow date for the January SAC dance is Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**SOPHOMORE CLASS NIGHT** will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2007, from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.

**XAVIERIAN MISSIONS/SPIRIT WEEK** will be held the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>. During this week the Student Activities Council and Ryken Service Society will be sponsoring many ways in which we can foster school spirit while raising money for our Xaverian missions. The week will culminate with an assembly featuring the championship intramural basketball game.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to Ms. Vitale and the officers and members of the National Honor Society who coordinated our Christmas Gift Drive. They collected \$4500 and 1700 gifts for local, national, and international charities. Thanks to all the Xavier families who made such generous contributions to this worthy cause.

**THE MERCY/XAVIER MUSICAL, "Fiddler on the Roof"** will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Mercy Auditorium. Tickets will be available through cast members and at Mercy High School (860-346-6659) or Xavier High School (860-346-1368). Please come and join us for what promises to be an enjoyable evening (or Sunday afternoon) of music, comedy and dancing!