

**Volume 4, Issue 2 – September 7, 2016**

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Thur, Sept. 8th**

* Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. (busing provided)
* Extended Day Program provided

**Fri, Sept 9th**

* Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. (busing provided)

**Mon, Sept 12th**

* Opening Day for Pre-K and Kindergarten program
* Hot Lunch program begins
* Grade 8 Yankee Candle Fundraiser begins

**Wed, Sept 14th**

* Opening All-School Liturgy; 8:45 a.m.
* Back to School Night for Parents (grades 1 – 5) from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

(grades 6 – 8) from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Mon, Sept 26th**

* Grade 8 Yankee Candle Fundraiser ends

**Fri, Sept 30th**

* Professional Day – No School



Dear Parents/Guardians:

The school bells are once again ringing at St. Francis of Assisi School. We enjoyed welcoming our students in grades 1 – 8 back to school today and look forward to the arrival of our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students on Monday. There was great excitement and energy in our classrooms and halls as our students entered to learn.

We look forward to this new academic year. In collaboration with you, our parents, we strive to offer the best Catholic school experience possible in assisting your child(ren) to grow spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and physically.

Please keep the St. Francis of Assisi School community in your prayers for a safe, healthy and rewarding academic school year.

**A Word of Welcome:**

It is with great pleasure to welcome and introduce Ms. Michelle Margeson, as she joins us at SFA in the capacity of our school nurse. I also want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thank Mrs. Kathy Barber, for assisting in making a smooth transition in our Health Room. It is my hope to obtain a World Language teacher in the very near future.

**With Great Sadness:**

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Mrs. Laura Cavicchi, our former nurse for so many years at SFA, has passed away after a hard-fought struggle with cancer. A Memorial Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, September 10th at 10:30 a.m. in St. Francis of Assisi Church. Visiting hours will be held at the Cartwirght-Venuti Funeral Home, 845 Washington St., Braintree, from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Friday, September 9th. Please keep Laura’s family in your prayers and thoughts.

**Pre-K & Kindergarten Open House:**

Our Pre-K and Kindergarten “Open House(s)” will be held on tonight, September 7th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. It is an opportunity for the children to meet their teachers and classmates before the actual starting date, as well as parents will become acquainted with the classroom and informed of classroom/school procedures and the curriculum. Most importantly, it will make this educational milestone a family experience.

**Expectation Night (Grades 1 – 8):**

Our “Expectation Night” for grades 1 – 8 will take place on Wednesday evening, September 14th at 6:00 PM for grades 1 – 5 and 7:00 PM for grades 6 – 8. This evening will give you an opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and learn of plans and curriculum for the year. Please mark your calendar and make plans now to attend the parent information meeting, as this is an important even in the life of your child and his/her teacher. We are well aware that many of our parents have more than one child; however, this format seems to work the best for all involved and accommodations will be made (for example: the teacher will repeat the presentations, as well as have a handout of expectations).

**New Lunch-Recess Schedule:**

Not only did our school cafeteria receive an “extreme makeover” during the summer, St. Francis of Assisi School is going to pilot a “new approach” this school year in regards to our traditional lunch-recess schedule.

After much research and planning, our students are going to go out for recess before lunch! Schools that have implemented this approach are reaping its benefits: students are more settled upon returning to the classroom after lunch and are ready to start afternoon classes; an increase in classroom time on-task; decreased student discipline problems on the playground and cafeteria; decreased number of nurse visits; decrease in food and milk waste; and making our cafeteria more conducive to eating, relaxing where students are rushing through lunch to get outside.

In our planning and implementation of this new schedule, we have attempted to address a couple of potential concerns with reasonable solutions. In regards to hand washing, students will clean their hands with hand sanitizing wipes before entering the cafeteria, as well as additional hand sanitizing machines will be installed. As for the availability of homemade lunches, each class will have its individual basket in which all the lunches are placed in and transported to the cafeteria, before going out for recess. Our students will collect them as they come in from recess.

As a school staff, we are committed and excited about this new approach and look forward to reaping the benefits as so many other schools have experienced.

**Lunch & Recess Schedule:**

**Grade(s) Recess Lunch**

Pre-K 10:50 - 11:10 11:15 -

K – 2 11:20 – 11:35 11:40 - 11:55

3 – 5 11:45 – 12:00 12:05 – 12:20

6 – 8 12:10 – 12:25 12:30 – 12:45

**Forms** – The start of any new school year is always overwhelming and busy with various new forms. I thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in completing these forms and returning them to school in a timely fashion. Today the oldest/or only child should have brought home a brown folder containing the following required forms to be completed: 1 Emergency Card, Medical Card, Electronic Mail & Internet Code of Conduct, ipad Acceptable Use Policy, Field Trip Permission (French’s Common & Thayer Library), Locker, School Bus Contract and Helping Hands forms.

Also attached to this email, we will find the following information: Helping Hands form, School Cancellation Procedure, Asbestos Management Letter, physical education schedule and Memos from Mrs. Daly, as well as various information/forms from the Braintree Food Service Department (September Lunch Menu, 2016-2017 Prepayment Information and MA Free and Reduced Price School Meal Instructions and Application.

Listed in the side bar of our weekly newsletters, you will find important upcoming dates that we would like to draw to your attention. In addition to this valuable communication piece, our 2016 – 2017 academic and monthly school calendars are available on our school’s website ([www.sfab.org)](http://www.sfab.org)).