



St. Francis Xavier Elementary Marquette Campus

Dates for your Calendar:

- **Thursday, Feb. 11—NO SCHOOL** for students. Conferences from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
- **Friday, Feb. 12—NO SCHOOL** for students.
- **Sunday, Feb. 14—Happy Valentine's Day!**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 16—Mardi Gras and Purple, Gold and Green casual day!**
- **Wednesday, Feb. 17—Ash Wednesday.** Mass at 9:00.
- **Friday, Feb. 19—Paid Casual Day.** For 25¢ or more, your child may wear casual clothing. The money collected will go to the American Heart Assn.
- **Thursday, Feb. 25—Athletic Casual Wear day** so students can be comfortable during our Jump for Heart event.

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From the Desk of Laura Barnett

We are in the middle of our second round of parent teacher conferences. We are happy to provide this opportunity for our families to chat with our teachers. If you were not able to connect with teachers at this time, please know that you may contact your child's teachers whenever it is needed throughout the year. We are happy to talk to you via phone or email at a time that is agreeable to you and the classroom teacher. In a year where we have not been able to have normal parental contact due to safety considerations, we would be happy to arrange for a Google meet with your child's teacher whenever you feel the need to discuss things of concern. As a school and System we believe that this desire to work in partnership with our parents is something that makes our schools both strong and successful.

Speaking of conferences, we want to thank our

Home and School Association and parents for their kindness during this conference week and for the wonderful treats we enjoyed during Catholic Schools Week. We feel so spoiled and blessed!

Lent

Next Wednesday we begin Lent. I have seen in a couple of resources that perhaps we need to look at Lent a little differently this year. We have all given up quite a bit this year. Many of us have given up seeing loved ones out of fear of making them sick; we have given up vacations; we have given up going to ballgames, parties and gatherings. In my own family, we have not seen much of my sons and their families, because we are also caring for my elderly mother. For you and for me it probably feels as though we have already been living a rather Lenten existence since last March.

Perhaps the emphasis this year should not be on what we give up, but what we can do to help others who have had an even harder time than we have. So this year, instead of giving up a favorite treat, maybe we could consider what we can do to ease the burden of someone else who is less fortunate than we are.

What can we do for a neighbor in need? How might we help with the collections that we will have at school? How might we use the Rice Bowl we will receive to talk about the needs of others in the world? This year let us all consider how we might be of service to others in our community and in the world.

Be sure to look in your child's backpack next week to see the various ways that our school will be observing Lent this year.

Kindergarten "Pop Tab" Service Project

The Ronald McDonald House is a "home away from home" that provides a nurturing environment for families to stay together when one of their children is a patient at Children's Hospital in Milwaukee.

The pop tabs you collect are higher quality alumi-

num that is more valuable by weight than the actual can.

Each classroom will have a pop tab collection house in their classroom. At the end of each week during Lent, the Kindergartners will collect and weigh them

to see who had the most tabs by weight.

This contest starts on Feb. 17th and will continue through Holy Thursday on April 1st. We collect these pop tabs in loving memory of Mrs. Jacobson's son, Maxwell Jacobson.

Fang's Reading Club



Our school will be participating in Fang's Reading Club with the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers. It is an incentive-based reading program that will begin on February 15 and end on April 23. The

program is divided into four 2-week segments. We will be taking two weeks off in early April because of Holy Week and Spring Break. If your child participates in the program, they will need to meet a reading goal each two weeks to move to the next base on their chart. When they reach the home plate, they get a Home Run and are eligible to receive a complimentary ticket to a Timber

Rattlers game of your choosing and a voucher for a hot dog and soda. So, by completing the program, your child wins twice! They win by practicing and becoming even better readers, and they win by enjoying a Timber Rattlers game with their family this summer. So hit one out of the ballpark by joining Fang's Reading Club!

An Ash Wednesday Prayer

Lord, Holy One, have mercy on us. We confess our sins to you. We have fallen short of your glory and without your mercy and grace, we would be dust.

We repent now. Lord, as we enter into this Lenten season, be near to us. Help us, by your Holy Spirit, to feel right conviction and repentance for our sin. Help us, by your Spirit, to have the strength to overcome those things which keep us from you.

Thank you, Lord, that Easter is coming! Death has no sting, no victory, because of Jesus! Glory and honor and praise to His name! Thank you for rescuing us. Help us keep both the weight and the joy of this season in our hearts as we move through the next several weeks. Help us bear the good fruit of your Spirit.

Thank you that the ashes on our forehead do not symbolize

our ultimate reality.

From dust we might have been formed, but our bodies, our spirits, ourselves, await beautiful redemption and the restoration of all things. Help us long for and look forward to that day, and let it come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.



Excellence in Education Nominations

Fox Cities Chamber's Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards: Nominations

Our Xavier educators have always worked hard and deserved our appreciation, but these truths have never been more evident than they are today as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fox Cities Chamber is sponsoring the second annual *Excellence in Education Shining Star Awards*. Please consider nominating a Xavier educator in one of the following categories:

- Excellence in Early Childhood Education
- Excellence in K-12 Education

- Inclusive Excellence in Education
- Excellence in Special Education
- Excellence in Student Services
- Heroes in COVID-19
- Educator of the Year

Nominations can be submitted online now through February 26 at [NOMINATE AN EDUCATOR](#).