

Principal

St. Francis Xavier School

Dear Parents,

In the light of recent incidents of violence in the news, we would like to share with you the following information on ways that we are working to keep our children safe at St. Francis Xavier School.

First of all, we have a School Security Committee that has been meeting for the past year to plan for, and institute, upgraded safety features and procedures. The committee members are Wynn DePasquale (school parent), Maureen Proce (K Teacher), Jim Reynolds (Assistant Principal), Father Anthony Hewitt (Administrator of St. Francis Xavier Parish), and myself. I am very grateful to this committee for their excellent work in completing the following safety upgrades over the past year:

- Buzz-in door system at the reception area

- Security cameras around the perimeter of the campus

- New, enlarged signage indicating camera surveillance and school zone (slowed driving)

- Freshly-painted speed bumps on Heitman Street

- Driveway barriers for the Heitman Street parking lot to discourage non-school parking

Upcoming school security project: we are now gathering information for replacing the chain-link fencing on Heitman and Cottage Streets

Also, you will soon receive a text message from AdminPlus Notify---our new emergency contact system for parents, faculty, and staff.

Perhaps the most important aspect of keeping our children safe is our daily awareness and attention to our surroundings. We also work to anticipate and practice what we would do in an emergency situation. Your input and feedback are vital to our efforts to keep improving our school and our school security. Our children's safety is our first priority so we welcome your ideas and suggestions for improvement. Thank you very much for your constant help and support!

Blessings,

Jan Ortenzo

Please see the pictures below:

