

# Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School

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**February 18, 2021**

## NEWS

**Snow Consideration** What a winter! With over 30+ inches of snow that have fallen this season, it's been tough navigating streets and finding a place to pull over at morning drop-off! Because snow is blocking part of the street, we ask that you be considerate of cars behind you and avoid double parking at morning drop off, as that makes the streets impassible. Thank you for your consideration – and THINK SPRING!

**Lenten Rice Bowls** Lenten Rice Bowls went home today with students. Please try to fill this small box with your spare change to help the poor. Any contribution helps, and this is a great way to think of those in need during the Lenten season. Rice Bowls are due back to school by **March 22.**

**5 Essentials Survey** Each year, the Archdiocese of Chicago working with the University of Chicago, offers the teachers, students (Grades 4-8), and parents an opportunity to share their thoughts via a survey about St. Ferdinand School. A separate email will go out with more details about the survey, so be on the lookout! Your opinion is important to us, so please make sure to take the time to participate!

**Intent to Return Forms** If you haven't yet returned your Intent to Return form, please do so **as soon as possible** so that we can send you your tuition agreement and complete registration. ***In order to qualify for the February Freeze Discount, tuition agreements and registration fees must be completed and returned before February 26. After we receive your intent to return form, we will send you your tuition agreement.***

**February Freeze Discount** Registration for the 21/22 School Year is now officially **open!** Once again, we are able to offer our **February Freeze** discount - tuition for the 2021-22 school

year is charged at the published 2020-21 rates - for families that re-enroll (sign tuition contract and pay \$100 registration fee) for the 2021/22 School Year by the last day of school in February – Friday, February 26. **Act quickly; there is only 1 week left to secure your spot at the discounted rate!**

**Get April 2022 Tuition Free** If you recommend a family to St. Ferdinand School and they register their child and remain at St. Ferdinand all year, you will receive April 2022's tuition **free!** Go out and tell the good news about St. Ferdinand School!

**Grant & Aid Applications Now Open for the 2021/2022 School Year** All families that receive financial aid are required to fill out a Grant & Aid application through their FACTS account. No financial aid will be given without current application. If you need help accessing your account, please contact customer service at 866-441-4637. Please make sure you are filling the application out for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Easy Street Dine & Share** Our next Dine & Share will be Tuesday, February 23, from 4:00PM – 10:00PM at Easy Street Pizza & Beer Garden (3750 N. Central Ave.). Dine in or carry out – just make sure to mention St. Ferdinand School or show your flyer! Flyers went home today and are included in today's link. This is a great way to support our local businesses while enjoying a delicious meal and supporting our school at the same time!

**Attention all St. Ferdinand School Families: Changes to FACTS Payment Methods** Beginning with the 2020/2021 school year, all Families must have either a checking/savings account or credit card linked to their FACTS account. All families that currently have an invoice account will need to sign into their FACTS account to add your preferred payment method. ***This is not optional.***

If you need help doing this, you can contact FACTS customer service at 866-441-4637 or stop by the school office and Mrs. Quinones will be happy to help you.

**Heroes Work Here** - We love our Catholic schools' employees! Teachers, leaders and support staff have worked tirelessly over the summer and the start of our school year to bring exceptional in-person and remote learning to families during this unprecedented time. To recognize their fantastic work, the Office of Catholic Schools is excited to introduce the #SchoolHero program. Educators and staff who have gone above and beyond in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment will be highlighted through social media and the web. All school employees and families can nominate a school hero by completing a brief online form at <https://schools.archchicago.org/nominate-your-school-hero>

Ms. Margaret was the first staff member from St. Ferdinand to receive this honor ... let's try to get more! 😊

**Illnesses/Absences from School** - Just a reminder, all illnesses/absences from school must be reported in advance. Please notify the school if your child will be absent by calling the office or emailing [absent@sainfferdinand.org](mailto:absent@sainfferdinand.org)

## REMINDERS

**GRADES/HONOR ROLL** - Please note, the grade scale for Specials Classes (Physical Education, Fine Arts, Spanish, Technology) has changed. **These classes are now using the +, S, and – grade scale.**

- + (outstanding work)
- S (satisfactory work)
- (unsatisfactory work)

For the A/High Honor Roll, Grades 4-8 students need to have all A's in the subject areas still being graded, and +'s in the Specials.

For the B Honor Roll, Grades 4-8 students need to earn a combo of A's and B's (no C's or lower), and have all +'s and S's (no -'s) in the Specials.

**Gym Uniforms** - Please make sure you have the correct gym uniform! Last year was the final transition year for uniforms. This year, all gym uniforms should be the navy blue ones, as offered through **Dennis Uniform**. ***If you do not have the correct uniform, this will start to be reflected in your grade.***

**Sweaters/ Uniforms** - **As the weather is getting colder, please remember to dress appropriately ... students should now be in pants, NOT walking shorts.** Make sure to bring your St. Ferdinand School fleece sweater jacket (the Dennis Uniform one) to wear during the school day. Due to COVID, we do need to keep the windows open to provide more ventilation – and as the temperature drops outside, so does the temperature in the classroom.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Sunday, February 21:** First Communion Parent's Meeting, 10:00AM

**Sunday, February 21:** FAMILY MASS: 11:30AM

**Tuesday, February 23:** Dine & Share at Easy Street Pizza & Beer Garden, 4:00PM – 10:00PM

**Friday, February 26:** Last day to complete registration and receive **FEBRUARY FREEZE Discount**

**Monday, March 01:** Read Across America Week begins ... and Scholastic Book Fair!!

**Wednesday, March 03:** Rice Bowl Lunch (tentative)

**Thursday, March 11:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Pictures

**Friday, March 12:** No Classes – Teacher Professional Development Day

**Friday, March 19:** Hagen's Fish Market Dine & Share

**Monday, March 22:** Lenten Rice Bowls Due