

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



March 25, 2021

NEWS

Easter Extravaganza Raffle We are pleased to announce our Easter Extravaganza Split-the-Pot Raffle! For only \$5 per ticket, your family could have a chance to win hundreds of dollars! The more tickets that are sold, the more profit for St. Ferdinand School AND the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Ferd Family winners! Tickets were sent home last week – purchase as many as you'd like (and there's more in the office!), and return ticket stubs with your payment! Don't miss out on your chance to win some Bunny Money just in time for Easter! You can't win if you don't enter! Tickets and money are due back **THIS Tuesday, March 30th**. Drawing will take place on our last day before Spring Break, Wednesday, March 31.

Read, Read, Read! Don't forget, every student should be reading 20 minutes per night so we can achieve our schoolwide reading goal of 50,000 minutes! When that happens, Principal Folino will do a (surprise) wacky stunt for the students. Reading logs will be due March 31.

Dine & Share News Thank You's and Upcoming Events! We would like to extend a big thank-you to **Hagen's Fish Market** for hosting, to all of the school families and parishioners who bought tasty Lenten fish dinners last Friday, and especially to preschool parent Monica Miller, who helped organize last week's Dine & Share. We brought in \$240 for our school!

Our next Dine & Share event will be **Tuesday, April 20**, at the **Panda Express** located at Harlem Irving Plaza. Please see the flyer posted in the links (as well as the one that went home) for more info. You may order either in-store with the flyer, or online with the code listed on the flyer. This event will last all day, and 20% of event sales will be donated to St. Ferdinand School!

Parking Lot and Dismissal Reminders Lately, there has been some concern about safety in the parking lot at dismissal time. Parents – please remember that masks are **required** while picking up your children, per city ordinance and school safety protocol. *Failure to do so poses a health risk, and you will be asked to leave the property if you do not have a mask.*

Also, there has been some expressed concern regarding our younger students climbing on the guardrails and fence, as well as general roughhousing, in the parking lot after school. To ensure the safety of our students at dismissal time, we ask that we please work together to curb this behavior. Although we realize students have had to sit in their desks for a greater part of the day and are eager and ready to stretch and be with friends for a few minutes before heading home, **it has to be done in a safe manner. Wild running, chasing, pushing, and climbing will not be tolerated.**

ACT Aspire Tests This year, the ACT Aspire tests will not be administered across the Archdiocese due to complications with ensuring validity due to pandemic and remote learning situations. I-ready diagnostic testing will be administered in late spring instead. I-Ready provides individual student growth data, as well as information on grade level achievement compared to national norms, just as the ACT Aspire testing did.

Easter Vacation Easter vacation will be April 1st – April 9th. The best and safest thing is not to travel, due to COVID and quarantines. It has been the cooperation of adherence to safety protocol and quarantine guidance that has kept the St. Ferdinand School community safe and healthy – and we hope the continued practice of safe actions will keep us healthy for the rest of the school year. Orange states still require a 10-day quarantine; please let your child's teachers and the office know if you will be traveling to an orange state or out of the country over Spring Break. You can find the updated quarantine travel guidance at:

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

SUMMER CAMP is COMING! The Archdiocese has issued guidelines by which schools can host camps this summer! Dates and details are being finalized, but experienced teacher Lynn Finneke, who ran our very fun and successful camp two summers ago, as well as her crew of assistant counselors, are all set to return to St. Ferdinand School with the animal-centered theme, *Lions, Tigers, and Bears – Oh My!* as the focal point. Keep watching for details on sign up when we return from Spring Break!

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.

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@saintferdinand.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.***

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, March 26: 8th Grade Living Stations of the Cross after 8:15AM Mass

Monday, March 29: Free Snack Items for Spring Break going home

Tuesday, March 30: Raffle Tickets/ Money for Easter Extravaganza Raffle Due

Free Breakfast Items for Spring Break going home

Wednesday, March 31: Easter Extravaganza Split-the-Pot Raffle Drawing

Free Lunch Items for Spring Break going home

Reading Logs Due!

Triduum Service via Zoom, after 8:10 AM announcements

April 1st – April 11th: Easter Vacation

Tuesday, April 20: Panda Express Dine & Share – all day!

May 3-7: Cultures Week at St. Ferdinand – details to follow!

Wednesday, May 12: First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Practice – 2nd grade

7:00 PM in church

Thursday, May 13: Torba Trot Fun Run in Honor of Father Torba! (rain date Th May 20)

Friday, May 15: 8th Grade Ribbon Mass 8:30

Sunday, May 16: First Holy Communion and Family Mass – 11:30 AM

Friday, May 22: May Crowning 8:30 AM (2nd and 8th Grades)

Tuesday, May 26: McDonald's at the HIP Dine-and-Share

Tuesday, June 8: Last Day of School! 11:30 Dismissal