

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



April 15, 2021

NEWS

E-Learners Coming Back for the Last Month of School? If your Distance Learner would like to come back to in-person learning for the rest of the year, the last day to notify the school is **THURSDAY, APRIL 29**. **Your child could then rejoin his/her classmates on MONDAY, MAY 3!** **What a wonderful opportunity to become acclimated back to the school building and routines in preparation for next year – just in time for the last month of learning and a little end-of-year fun!** *After May begins, all Distance Learners need to remain learning from home for the rest of the year, as a re-entry with less than a month left of the school year would be too disruptive to classroom routine.* We hope to see many, if not all, of our Distance Learners returning to the classroom with their friends. We've missed you! 😊

Dine & Share: 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.***

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. Details on sign up will be sent home the Week of April 19th!

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@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.***

IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, April 18: Last 1st Communion Meeting for 2nd Grade Parents – 10:00 AM – Torba Center

FAMILY MASS – 11:30 AM in Church – See Mrs. Folino for an Out-Of-Uniform

Pass if you attend!

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

Wednesday, April 21: Administrative Assistants Day – Be sure to wish and thank

Ms. Margaret and Ms. Ginny for all they do for our families!

Thursday, April 22: 3rd Trimester Progress Reports going home

Happy Earth Day! Kids wear work clothes to clean and paint today!

Thursday, April 29: E-learners – Last Day to let the school know if you're coming back for in-person learning on **Monday, May 3**

Friday, April 30: No School! Faculty/Staff Retreat Day

May 3-7: Cultures Week at St. Ferdinand – details to follow, but ethnic dress & hot lunches, as well as an all-school virtual field trip, are part of the week's festivities!

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 14: 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

Friday, May 29: Class of 2021 Car Parade 6:00 PM – Come cheer on our 8th Graders!

Monday, May 31: No School! Memorial Day

Tuesday, June 8: Last Day of School! 8:15 School Mass & Awards; 11:30 Dismissal

SUMMER CAMP begins - - - end of June or early July - - - details to follow next week! 😊