

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



April 22, 2021

NEWS

SUMMER CAMP: Starts Monday, June 28th! Dates and details have been finalized for our Summer Camp! Experienced teacher Lynn Finneke, who ran our very fun and successful camp two summers ago, as well as her crew of assistant counselors, will return to St. Ferdinand School with the animal-centered theme, *Lions, Tigers, and Bears – Oh My!* as the focal point. Details and the link to register can be found on the flyer that was sent home today, as well as on our website at <https://saintferdinandschool.org/summer-camp/>

Progress Reports Progress reports were sent home today! Students in Grades 1 – 2 have paper progress reports. Grades 3-8 will check their grades on PowerSchool and return the Progress Report Acknowledgement form. Signed progress reports / acknowledgements are due back to school by Monday, April 26.

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 Thank You's: Thank you to everyone who attended Tuesday's Dine & Share at Panda Express! We appreciate your support of our school and thank you for your patience if you experienced a long line at the dinner rush. If you have any questions, or if your receipt was missing the marking of "fundraiser," please contact the school office.

Celebration of Cultures Week at St. Ferdinand! From May 3-7, we will be celebrating the wonderful ethnic diversity of our school community! Please see flyer with schedule of activities! Ethnic dress & hot lunches, as well as an all-school virtual field trip, are part of the week's festivities!

Spring Fun Run: aka, "Torba Trot"! Our Spring Fun Run is fast approaching! Information and pledge sheets went home today. Students in Grades Preschool and Kindergarten will have a 20 minute period and students in Grades 1st - 8th will have a 30 minute period to walk/run laps around the parking lot to raise funds for our school amidst a day of fun and activities honoring and thanking our pastor, Fr. Jason Torba, as he prepares to leave our parish and school. Please fill out and return pledge sheets by the day of the run: **Thursday, May 13th**.

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.***

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

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 – Please see flyer with schedule of activities! Ethnic dress & hot lunches, as well as an all-school virtual field trip, are part of the week's festivities!

Friday, May 7: Summer Camp Registration due!

Tuesday, May 11: First Communion Retreat, 8:00AM – 2:30PM, Torba Center

Wednesday, May 12: First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Practice – 2nd grade
5:30 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 - 8th Grade **only** has Early Dismissal following Mass

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

Friday, May 22: May Crowning 8:15 AM – 2nd Grade **only** has Early Dismissal following Mass

Tuesday, May 26: McDonald's at the HIP Dine-and-Share, 4:30PM – 7:30PM

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

Monday, May 31: No School! Memorial Day

Thursday, June 3: Last Day of E-Learning

Friday, June 4: School Picnic Day and 8th Grade Last Day of Classes!

Saturday, June 5: Graduation 5:00 PM Mass

Monday, June 7: Preschool and Kindergarten Ceremonies and Last Days – Dismissal for Preschool and Kindergarten – 11:30 AM

Tuesday, June 8: Last Day of School Gr 1st-7th! 8:15 School Mass & Awards; 11:30 Dismissal

Monday, June 28: SUMMER CAMP begins