

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

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**May 13, 2021**

## **NEWS**

**Spring Fun Run: aka, "Torba Trot"!** Our Spring Fun Run has been rescheduled due to the passing of Father Torba's sister. Please keep him and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

***The new date will be next Thursday, May 20!*** Information and pledge sheets went home a couple of weeks ago. 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 20<sup>th</sup>. PLEASE NOTE: A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS ARE BEING GIVEN TO A SPECIAL SURPRISE CHARITY IN FR. TORBA'S NAME; THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY FOR BOTH OUR SCHOOL AND A VERY SPECIAL CAUSE.** 😊

**Ribbon Mass:** Tomorrow, Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be getting their ribbons at a special Mass, and then they are dismissed for the day. Please keep The Class of 2021 in your prayers as they prepare to graduate!

**1<sup>st</sup> Communion and Family Mass:** Please join us for Family Mass on Sunday, May 16 at 11:30AM .... At which our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will receive their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. Let us keep them in our prayers as they prepare for this important sacrament!

**SUMMER CAMP:** Thank you to everyone who attended tonight's Zoom info meeting. If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact the school. *If you have not yet registered but are still interested in attending, please contact the school office.*

**May Crowning:** May Crowning will be Friday, May 21. 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will dress up in their Communion clothes for this special event, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will wear their gowns over dress clothes. After Mass, 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders **only** will have early dismissal. Please join or watch the live broadcast of this ceremony via the parish website's YouTube channel as we honor our Blessed Mother during this month devoted to her.

**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@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.***

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, May 14:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ribbon Mass 8:30 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade **only** has Early Dismissal following Mass

**Thursday, May 20:** Torba Trot Fun Run in Honor of Father Torba!

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

**Friday, May 21:** May Crowning 8:15 AM – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade **only** has Early Dismissal following Mass

**Tuesday, May 25:** McDonald's at the HIP Dine-and-Share, 4:30PM – 7:30PM

**Friday, May 28:** Class of 2021 Car Parade 6:00 PM – Come cheer on our 8<sup>th</sup> Graders!

**Monday, May 31:** No School! Memorial Day

**Thursday, June 3:** Last Day of E-Learning

**Friday, June 4:** School Picnic Day and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>! 8:15 School Mass & Awards; 11:30 Dismissal

**Wednesday, June 9:** Professional Development Day for Teachers

**Monday, June 14:** SUMMER OFFICE HOURS BEGIN:

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS: 7:00 AM – Noon

WEDNESDAYS: 1:00-6:00 PM

CLOSED MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS

**Monday, June 28:** **SUMMER CAMP begins**