

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



May 20, 2021

NEWS

Spring Fun Run: aka, "Torba Trot"! **Thank you** to everyone who contributed to our Torba Trot Fu Run! We were able to make a \$500 contribution to the Missionaries of the Poor in honor of Father Torba, as well as have a Kona ice truck supply snow cones to each student! Thank you to Mr. Folino, and Tara Folino, who were on emcee and DJ for the event, respectively. Thanks to all the teachers, too, for their preparation of the students and their blessings and wishes presentations for Fr. Torba. Most especially, thank you to Father Torba for 15 amazing years spent as Pastor of St. Ferdinand Parish – know that we will keep you in our hearts and prayers as you transition to St. John Brebeuf in July.

If you pledged a per-lap donation, pledge sheets with the total of laps ran went home with your child today. Please remember to turn in the money you have collected by Friday, May 28th.

May Crowning: May Crowning will be tomorrow, Friday, May 21, at the 8:15 all-school Friday Mass. 2nd Graders will dress up in their Communion clothes for this special event, and 8th graders will wear their gowns over dress clothes. After Mass, 2nd Graders **only** will have early dismissal right from church. 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.

8th Grade Car Parade: Our 8th Grade Car Parade will be next **Friday, May 28, at 6:00 PM in the back parking lot!** Please come and cheer on our 8th Graders and see their decked-out-for Graduation cars! Non-8th-grade-families should park on Mason or Marmora and stand on the sidewalks to cheer the 8th graders and view their parade. But be sure to also walk over to the back parking lot and find Principal Folino: **the first 15 families to join in the parade viewing will receive \$15 gift certificates to Dennis Uniform!**

Help Keep State Financial Assistance Going! Our good friends at the *Big Shoulders* organization, who provide many scholarship opportunities for our students, have asked us to help advocate for continued funding of state scholarships. They shared this information with us to pass along to parents:

Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Outreach to Legislators by May 25 – Next week the Illinois General Assembly will approve its budget, *which could include cuts to the Illinois Invest in Kids Act, Tax Credit Scholarship Program*. We know that this program has had a life-changing impact on your schools and the children you serve. We will be advocating, alongside scholarship recipients and supporters of the program, to encourage lawmakers to continue the program by removing the five-year sunset provision, giving priority to students with a current scholarship, and keeping the 75 percent tax credit for donations. **We hope that you will join us and reach out to your local lawmaker before May 25 in support of this program and encourage your families and supporters to do the same. We have made the process simple, providing phone scripts and templated messages so that with just a few clicks and a few minutes of time you can call and email your local lawmakers.**

We have created advocacy sites for applicants/families and for other supports with specific templated messaging:

- Applicants and families can [click here](#) to contact lawmakers
- School staff and other supporters can [click here](#) to contact lawmakers

A handful of phone calls and a dozen emails will go a long way to preserving this life line for so many families.

Please help this cause if you are able.

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.

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.

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 21: May Crowning 8:15 AM – 2nd 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 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

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**