

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

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**December 02, 2021**

## **NEWS**

**St. Nicholas is Coming to St. Ferdinand School!** – On Monday, December 06, from 6:00PM – 7:30PM, we will celebrate St. Nicholas Day by having a photo opportunity! St. Nicholas will be available for pictures in our decorated courtyard. Every child leaves with a surprise. The event is free to attend, though good will offerings will be accepted if you feel so inclined. Bring your family, camera, and holiday spirit!

**Indigenous Heritage Month** – On Monday, December 06, and Friday, December 10, Indigenous Educator Raphael Reza will visit the library to share his experiences growing up in Chicago, as well as various clothing/customs/musical instruments of Indigenous Culture. November was Indigenous Heritage Month, but due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, students are continuing to learn about Indigenous heritage during Library in the beginning of December.

**Give a Candy Cane to Entertain!** – Student Council is selling Candy Grams for 50 cents each to raise money for the Missionaries of the Poor. Please see the order form that is included in the links (a paper copy will go home Friday) to order your Candy Cane Candy Gram! Make sure to include the name/grade and short message to the recipient of each Candy Gram.

**Christmas Concert** – Our school Christmas concert will be Thursday, December 16, 2021. Students will arrive in costume to their classrooms at 6:30PM, and the show will begin promptly at 7:00PM in the Chapel. *For Covid safety protocol, only 2 guests will be allowed per student.* The show will be broadcast so that people at home may view the event. A flier went home detailing the policy on guests, as well as what students are to wear. That document can also be found in the links this week.

**Save the Date for Scholarship Applications!** – Empower Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Applications will open January 12, 2022. Big Shoulders Tax Credit Scholarship Applications will open January 13, 2022. These applications are first-come, first-served – so be sure to connect early! More information on applying for scholarships can be found at <https://schools.archchicago.org/applying-for-a-tax-credit-scholarship>

**Donate to a Tax Credit Scholarship and TRIPLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT THROUGH A MATCHING GRANT!**

December 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022: To help donations have even more impact in 2022/2023, the Archdiocese and Empower Illinois are offering a 2-for-1 match again on all donations made to the Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship (TCS) program starting December 1, 2021. They will match only until their funding runs out, or February 28, 2022, whichever comes first. Last year the match ran out in early January! So ACT FAST! This means that for every dollar designated to St Ferdinand through the Empower Illinois scholarship-granting organization, we will receive an additional two dollars in matching funds! This would have a HUGE impact on the number of scholarships we could fund through this program. For complete information and instructions, please visit <https://schools.archchicago.org/donating-to-a-tax-credit-scholarship>

**Amazon Smiles** - If you do any online shopping, please log in through Smile.Amazon.com and choose *St. Ferdinand School & Convent* as your organization of choice! Amazon will donate .05% of the money you spend to our school! Please share this information with family and friends!

**Box Tops for Education**- BoxTops for Education is now online! Instead of traditional clips, there is now a BoxTops app where you scan your receipt for credit to be awarded to the school. More information can be found at <https://www.boxtops4education.com/> or in the included links.

**Drop-Off Reminder** – **PLEASE DO NOT DOUBLE-PARK ON MASON AVENUE IN THE MORNING!** All cars MUST pull over on either side of the street if you want to get out of your car and walk your child in! Do not leave your vehicle unattended in the middle of the street in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**iWatches/Smart Watches** – are not allowed on the children during school hours! They need to be kept at home OR kept in backpacks in the lockers during the school day.

**Volunteer Info** – Please remember to contact Ms. Margaret with questions about volunteer requirements. [mbrumann@saintferdinand.org](mailto:mbrumann@saintferdinand.org)

**Hot Lunch Info** – We thank our hot lunch providers, FSP, for all their work in getting us our meals and our lunchroom staff. Please be advised – due to national supply chain shortages, some items may occasionally not be available – meaning on occasion, lunch might be different from what is on the menu.

**Illnesses/Absences from School** - Just a reminder, all illnesses/absences from school must be reported to the school no later than 9:00 AM the day of absence. Please notify the school if your child will be absent by calling the office or emailing [absent@saintferdinand.org](mailto:absent@saintferdinand.org)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, December 3 – Friday, December 10:** Student Council's Give a Candy Cane to Entertain Candy Gram fundraiser .... See linked order form / paper copies that will go home for more info .....

**Monday, December 6** – Drive-By St. Nick Event! Front of School! 6:00-7:30

**Monday, December 6 and Friday, December 10:** Indigenous educator Raphael Reza visits the Library

**Wednesday, December 8:** School Mass at 8:15AM (Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

**Sunday, December 12** – Family Mass 11:30 honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe!

**Thursday, December 16 – Christmas Show:** 7:00 PM start in the Chapel – Kids arrive in classrooms @ 6:30 PM - - - FOR COVID SPACING PROTOCOL, ONLY 2 GUESTS PER FAMILY WILL BE ALLOWED. THANK YOU! 😊

**Friday, December 17** – CHRISTMAS PAJAMA DAY!

Also...special 8:15 School Mass IN THE CHAPEL that day

Christmas Break begins at 3:00 PM! 😊

**Monday, December 20 – Friday, December 31: No SCHOOL .... Christmas Vacation!** 😊

**Monday, January 3:** Back to School!

**Wednesday, January 12, 2022:** Empower Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Application Process opens at 7:00PM ... first-come, first-served, act quickly! [empowerillinois.org/apply](https://empowerillinois.org/apply)

**Thursday, January 13, 2022:** Big Shoulders Tax Credit Scholarship Application Process opens at 8:00AM ... first-come, first-served, act quickly! <https://www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org/>