

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



December 09, 2021

NEWS

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 or the paper copes that went home last week to order your Candy Cane Candy Gram! Make sure to include the name/grade and short message to the recipient of each Candy Gram. ***The deadline to turn these in is tomorrow, Friday, December 10.***

Family Mass: Sunday, Dec. 12: Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe – To celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, we will have a special **Family Mass at 11:30AM this Sunday, December 12.** Come to be a part of the entrance procession and present a flower to Our Lady of Guadalupe! Please see the flier that went home and is included in the links for additional information.

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 previously detailing the policy on guests, as well as what students are to wear. That document can also be found in the links this week.

Holiday Reminders – Please see the flier that went home with important Holiday reminders. It is also included in this week's links.

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES

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 – Monday, January 3: No SCHOOL Christmas Vacation! 😊

Tuesday, January 4: 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

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/>

Sunday, January 30: Catholic Schools Week Family Mass, Book Fair, and Science Spectacular Open House: Kicks off with 8:30am Mass. See you there!