

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

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*January 6, 2022*

## NEWS

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** – First, your generous holiday presents and messages warmed the hearts of the administration and staff this past Christmas. THANK YOU for the many ways you remembered us at the holidays! Also, thank you for your diligence in attempting to keep your families safe from COVID over the holidays. We have hardly any students out with COVID this week; let's pray that through all our efforts, our infection count will stay low and not spread within the school.

**FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL OF OUR STUDENTS...THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO PARKING AT PICK-UP OUTSIDE OF THE GYM DOORS/PAST WHERE THE CONES ARE NORMALLY**

**SET UP!!!!!!!** I know sometimes our staff does not get outside after the recess periods to set this up – and I have been so grateful for the “cone fairies” that help set these up before we get out there! **BUT...EVEN IF WE DO NOT SET UP THE CONES – or THE PRINCIPAL IS DETAINED AND CANNOT GET OUTSIDE FOR DISMISSAL - - - TO KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE THERE IS NO PARKING PAST WHERE THEY WOULD NORMALLY BE SET UP!!! THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE COOPERATION WITH THIS - - - AND THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN PARKING WHERE THEY SHOULD EVERYDAY!** Also...please be patient with student dismissals. Between Christmas Pageant practices, sanitizing the rooms, coming back from Specials classes, various substitute teachers graciously stepping in and teaching for ill teachers, and students getting bundled up for winter weather, some of our classes have run late in dismissing. **PLEASE DO NOT PHONE THE OFFICE TO COMPLAIN THAT YOUR CHILD IS LATE FOR DISMISSAL. OF COURSE, ALL CHILDREN WILL BE DISMISSED FROM SCHOOL. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING.**

**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>

\*\*Please see the flyers that went home with information on both Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders Scholarships!!

**Save the Date for Catholic Schools Week!** – Catholic Schools Week will be January 30 – February 5, 2022. We will start the week with a Family Mass and Science Spectacular Open House on Sunday. Volunteer are needed to read, be in the choir, help at Open House, and assist with the Book Fair. Be on the lookout for sign-up forms next week!

**Illness / Covid Protocol Reminders** – Just a reminder, if your student is feeling sick, please do not send them to school. Please contact the office to let us know why your student will not be in school.

**We ask that parents/guardians continue to monitor your child for the following COVID symptoms:**

- Fever
- Congestion/cough/sore throat - new symptoms with Omnicron variant
- Runny nose
- Loss of taste or smell - symptom of Delta variant
- Lethargy/extreme sluggishness

**If someone tests positive for COVID, regardless of vaccination status, the individual must:**

- Isolate for a full 5 days regardless if symptoms are present or not and regardless if any symptoms resolve before the 5 days are complete.
- If asymptomatic or symptoms resolve before the fifth day, the individual must still complete the full five days of isolation and must wear a mask around others for five more days.
- The individual must be fever-free for 24 hours before leaving isolation. The 5-day rule still applies, but if a fever is present after 5 days, the individual must remain isolated until fever-free for 24 hours.

**If a *vaccinated* individual is a close contact with a positive individual:**

- There is no need to quarantine at home as long as the individual is not symptomatic. The individual must wear a mask around others for 10 days after exposure.
- Testing is recommended 5 days after exposure OR if symptoms develop.

**If an *unvaccinated* individual is a close contact with a positive individual:**

- The individual must quarantine at home for 5 days and continue to wear a mask around others for 5 more days.
- Testing is recommended 5 days after exposure OR if symptoms develop

**Say No to Throwing Snow** – Even though the snow looks fun to play with, we ask that **students do not play in, climb on, or throw snow while on school grounds.** We ask this for the

safety of everyone. It is no fun to get hit by an unexpected snowball, and we certainly don't want anyone getting hurt on rocks that might be in the piles of plowed snow. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

**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. **ALSO...OUR NEIGHBORS ACROSS THE STREET ON MASON HAVE COMPLAINED THAT CARS ARE USING THEIR ALLEY AND DRIVING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION DOWN IT. PLEASE DO NOT USE THE ALLEY ON THE WEST SIDE OF MASON TO CUT THROUGH TO THE STREET. THANK YOU! 😊!**

**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

**January 10-14:** Snow Much Fun Week! See calendar for activities

**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/>

**Monday, January 17, 2022: No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Dy**

**Thursday, January 20, 2022:** Progress Reports go home

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