

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



January 28, 2022

NEWS

PARENTS/GUARDIANS! PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASKS WHEN PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL! Teachers and staff are so diligent during the school day in efforts to follow protocol and to keep your children (and themselves!) SAFE and HEALTHY while in our building and on our grounds. There have been a couple of incidents in which parents/guardians are approaching our teachers/staff at pick-up unmasked. **PLEASE WEAR A MASK AT PICK-UP UNTIL YOU ARE BACK IN YOUR CAR.** Thank you for your cooperation with keeping everyone safe.

Financial Aid/Scholarships - The 2022/2023 FACTS Grant & Aid application is now open. If you receive any type of financial aid/scholarship through the Archdiocese, (Phoenix, COVID Relief or Access), McGraw Foundation, or St. Ferdinand School, you are required to fill out a Grant & Aid Application for the 2022/2023 school year. **Please note: Per scholarship rules, no financial aid/scholarships will be considered without this application.**

End of Year Tuition Info for Taxes – A flier went out with instructions on how to obtain year end tuition information for tax prep purposes. Please use these for tax purposes.

Catholic Schools Week! – Catholic Schools Week will be January 30 – February 5, 2022. We will start the week with a Family Mass at 8:30 AM and Science Spectacular Open House AND Book Fair from 9:30-Noon THIS Sunday, January 30! Thank you to everyone who signed up to volunteer! We look forward to celebrating with you at Mass, sharing all the students have learned about various science topics during the Science Spectacular Open House, and visiting with you at the Scholastic Book Fair!

Cuddle Buddies Bracelets for Community Council Caring Outreach Project– We are once again bringing back the sale of Cuddle Buddy Slap Bracelets! All proceeds will go toward helping two families from St. Bartholomew School who recently lost their home to a fire. Students will also be making cards for the families; some homerooms may be taking on additional ways to assist this family. Please be generous in purchasing the Cuddle Buddies and keeping these families in your prayers.

Virtual Trivia Night – We will “Celebrate Families and Students” by having our 2nd annual Virtual Trivia Night on Friday, February 04 at 6:30PM via Zoom! Please see registration form that went home and is included in the links for more information.

February Freeze Discount Registration for the 22/23 School Year will open at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. Once again, we are able to offer our February Freeze discount (tuition for the 2022-23 school year is charged at the published base tuition rates for 2021-22) for families that re-enroll for the 2022/23 School Year by the last day of February - Monday, February 28. Please see the flyer that went home and is included in the links for more information, as well as the intent to return form.

Tax Credit Scholarship Applications are Open! – Empower Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Applications opened January 12, 2022. Big Shoulders Tax Credit Scholarship Applications opened 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>

GET YOUR POPCORN! – We are introducing a new fundraiser: DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN! We have heard amazing things about this popcorn – get your order in by Wed., Feb 3! 😊 Thank you!

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on **Thursday, February 10, from Noon – 7:00PM**. Please sign up for your time by going to <https://signup.com/go/opiGAER> Sign ups will be available through Thursday, February 3.

Library Card Applications – If you are interested in your child receiving a Chicago Public Library Card, or replacing an old one, please see the applications that went home last week are included in the links section. Cards will be delivered to the school.

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 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.

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

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

Tuesday, February 1, 2022: GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAY-OFF GAMES @ St. John Vianney – 5:30 and 8:30 PM. Go Lady Bulls! 😊

Wednesday, February 2, 2022: Cuddle Bracelet sale (outreach project) - \$2 each

Thursday, February 3, 2022: Popcorn Orders Due

Friday, February 04, 2022: Virtual Trivia Night, 6:30PM via Zoom

Thursday, February 10: Parent-Teacher Conferences; 11:30AM Dismissal (sign up for conference at <https://signup.com/go/opiGAER>)

Friday, February 11, 2022: No School – Professional Development Day

Monday, February 14, 2022 – Happy St. Valentine’s Day! <3

Tuesday & Wednesday, February 15 & 16, 2022 – Tentative Dine-and-Share @ Café Prague!
Details forthcoming!

Friday, February 18, 2022: No School – ADDITION TO SCHOOL CALENDAR!

Monday, February 21, 2022: No School, President's Day

Tuesday, February 22, 2022: "2-22-2022" Day! Dress Up in 2 Themes! Info forthcoming!

Friday, February 25, 2022: 8th Grade Graduation Pictures

Sunday, February 27, 2022: Mandatory Parent Meeting 1st Communion/Reconciliation, 9:45AM, JTC

Sunday, February 27, 2022: Family Mass, 11:30AM, Church

Monday, February 28, 2022: Last day for February Freeze discount