

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

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**February 17, 2022**

**St. Ferdinand in the News** – What an amazing buzz our Cuddle Buddies Community Outreach Project has become in the media! On February 7, St. Ferdinand School was showcased live on Chicago Catholic Radio discussing their Community Social Outreach Project: Caring Across the Council. This project involved selling Cuddle Buddy bracelets to raise money with which to help 2 families from nearby St. Bartholomew School that lost their shared home to a fire. Principal Folino, Kindergarten teacher Mrs Rettelle, and Student Council Officers Cecylia, Deren, and Zofia discussed both the project and what they learned through their work on the project. Between proceeds from the sale and generous donations from students and families, over \$1,000 of money and items was raised for the families. On Monday, February 14, these items were delivered to St. Bartholomew School and presented to the families at an assembly. Various news stations (TV: ABC, WGN, and Fox; Radio: WBBM – AM and FM) were there to capture the event and interview students – and the story was picked up by news affiliates in three other states - - - AND there still might be more media coverage to come! We are grateful that we were able to help these families, as well as spread some good news and hope to the community! In case you missed any of the coverage, here are some links to the media coverage thus far:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=VZtPyB4ASAE>

<https://abc7chicago.com/chicago-fire-old-irving-park-west-warwick-st-bartholomew/11563920/>

<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2022/02/14/st-ferdinand-makes-donation-to-st-bartholomew-family-after-house-fire-in-old-irving-park/>

<https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/catholic-community-rallies-around-2-chicago-families-who-lost-everything-in-fire-over-65k-raised>

Here's the WBBM radio interview:

<https://www.audacy.com/wbbm780/news/local/chicago-catholic-school-helps-recently-displaced-families>

**2-2-2022 Ultimate Tuesday Dress Down Day** – In celebration of 2-2-22, students are invited to wear "T" items: tutus, tiaras, twins (dress alike as someone), tuxedos, tie-dyes, tennis shoes, etc! Student Council prepared fliers to go home and helped plan the day! Dress in your favorite "T" items and have some "TWO-rrific" fun on this historic day!

**February Freeze Discount** Registration for the 22/23 School Year opened 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. **WE WANT TO SEE ALL OF OUR FAMILIES BACK NEXT YEAR! 😊 😊 😊 RE-ENROLL TODAY TO SAVE MONEY NEXT YEAR!**

**Thank you – Café Prague and Ferds Families** – We would like to thank all school families that participated in our Dine&Share at Café Prague earlier this week! The event was a success, and we were happy to see so many people enjoying a delicious dinner! As a result, \$600 was raised for the school. Thank you so much to Café Prague for partnering with us to help benefit our school.

**Fish Fry – Volunteers Needed!** – Fish Fry begins March 4. A volunteer sign-up sheet was sent home today. This is a great opportunity for parents to sign up to do their required volunteer hours! As a reminder, 10 parent service hours are required for every family, or a \$250 charge will appear on the April tuition statement.

**SAFETY AT DISMISSAL TIME:** It has come to our attention from our crossing guard that dangerous situations are taking place at dismissal time. To ensure the safety of our children, parents, teachers, the St. Patrick High School community, and our crossing guard, please:

- Do NOT double-park along Mason.
- Do NOT park in the alley off of Mason; the neighbors are complaining about obstruction down the one-way alley
- If parked on Mason, only travel on it heading south to leave the school premises - do NOT back up onto Belmont to exit
- Get out of your car to pick up your child and walk him/her to your vehicle after acknowledging your presence to your child's teacher
- Consider using our ample parking lot and exiting out Marmora - there is plenty of room and space for all, with no street for your child to cross

Thank you for your immediate cooperation with this, and thank you to those who already do park in safe ways at pick-up.

**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.

**It's Tax Season! 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.

**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.**

**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.

**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 Omicron 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

**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, 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" or "T" Themes! Please see flyer!**

**Friday, February 25, 2022: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Pictures**

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

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

**Monday, February 28, 2022: Last day for February Freeze discount!! REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR TODAY!**

**Monday, February 28, 2022: Chess Club classes begin**

**Monday, February 28, 2022: Read Across America Week begins! Flyer of Fun forthcoming!**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022: Ash Wednesday – Lent begins**

**Friday, March 04, 2022: Fish Fry begins!**