

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



February 4, 2022

Catholic Schools Week! – **THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU...**to parents, teachers, students, and staff for a **BEAUTIFUL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK MASS** last Sunday! What a lovely way to kick off a special week: **praying together as a Ferd Family** with school families and students taking on active roles in the altar setting, reading, and singing at the Mass; everyone's collective participation made St. Ferdinand School shine to the parish community! 😊 Then, it was onto our educational **SCIENCE SPECTACULAR OPEN HOUSE!** Between the excitement of our students traveling from class-to-class to show off their projects to their parents and see what other classes had learned and showcased about science; a handful of **tours to prospective families** being given by the principal and School Advisory Board (we even had two new students from a tour family begin this week!!!); and a **wonderful Book Fair** (thank you school librarian Mrs. Davis and her many parent volunteers!), **the vibe of the school was high-energy and joyous - - the BEST atmosphere in which to educate a child!** We continued the school week with **VIBRANT VOCATION PRESENTATIONS** with Fr. Peter and Br. James (via Zoom Chats with Grades 2nd-8th), and Sr. Agnes (live in the classes via story and song with Grades Preschool -1st), and **CELEBRATING AND THANKING FAMILIES, TEACHERS/STAFF, AND STUDENTS** via gifts, cards, food, and dress-down days! We finished the week with some friendly competition via a fun, **VIRTUAL, FAMILY-FRIENDLY TRIVIA NIGHT** on Friday! **What a great week of CELEBRATING ALL THE GOOD THAT TAKES PLACE AT ST. FERDINAND SCHOOL ON A DAILY BASIS!** 😊

Cuddle Buddies Bracelets for Community Council Caring Outreach Project– We once again back the sale of Cuddle Buddy Slap Bracelets! **LAST DAY TO PURCHASE WILL BE MONDAY!** 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 are taking on additional ways to assist this family. Please be generous in purchasing the Cuddle Buddies and keeping these families in your prayers. For more information about these families, please visit their Go Fund Me page: <https://gofund.me/22539ba5> . Student Council officers, Fr. Peter, and Principal Folino will be delivering all the items bought with our Cuddle Buddy proceeds to St. Bart's School on Thursday morning. **THANK YOU** for your generosity in assisting this family.

CATCH ST. FERD'S ON CATHOLIC RADIO AND IN THE CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER AGAIN!

This Monday, February 7, looks to be an exciting day at St. Ferdinand School! We look forward to starting our day being interviewed on the *Catholic Chicago* radio program about our community outreach project with the Cuddle Buddies and the families affected by fire at St. Bartholomew! Principal Folino, Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Rettelle, and Student

Council Officers Cecylia Venturella, Deren Bilgin, and Zofia Gacek will all be a part of this broadcast, which, after you drop off your child, you can catch LIVE on: the *Catholic Chicago* YouTube channel and Facebook page visually, and the audio version on WNDZ 750AM. Please tune in! Then, on Monday afternoon, a reporter and a photographer from *The Chicago Catholic* will also be joining us to take pictures for an upcoming edition of this local newspaper. The students will be creating cards and donning their Cuddle Buddies during this time, and Fr. Peter will join the Student Council in a blessing over the items bought for the family from their wish list with profits from the Cuddle Buddy sales. It looks to be quite a Media Monday at St. Ferdinand School! 😊

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 the EXTENDED DEADLINE OF MONDAY, Feb 7!** 😊 **Thank you!**

CONGRATS GIRLS BASKETBALL! – Our Girls Varsity and JV Basketball Teams have wrapped up their seasons! **Thanks to Head Coach Dave Feliciano - assisted by coaches Erwin Villamin, Mario Rodriguez, and Joseph Moreno** – for all the time they put in with our young ladies to create a great season filled with learning technique, showing good sportsmanship, and building up quite a spirit of camaraderie among the Lady Bulls.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held **THIS Thursday, February 10, from Noon – 7:00PM.** We look forward to sharing your child's progress with you, as well as setting attainable educational and social goals for the rest of this school year.

Happy Valentine's Day! – Students may have a red, pink, and white dress-down day on Monday, February 14, in honor of St. Valentine's Day. Students will be given a bit of time during the day to pass out Valentines (one for EACH classmate, of course!) and pre-packaged, store-bought goodies and trinkets, if so desired.

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.

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!**

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.**

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>

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.

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 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

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

Monday, February 7: **BLUE MAN Group Performer** meets with our students during Library Classes! Plus, it's a **Media Monday: Catholic Chicago radio** by morning, **Chicago Catholic newspaper** by afternoon as we finish up Catholic Schools Week with a day to: *Celebrate Community: Caring Across the Council*

Thursday, February 10: Parent-Teacher Conferences; 11:30AM Dismissal - Extended Care available

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 – Dine-and-Share @ Café Prague! See flier for details!

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!! REGISTER FOR NEXT YEAR TODAY!