

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



March 20, 2022

Emergency Supplies Drive for Ukraine– Thank you to everyone who has dropped off supplies for the Ukraine! **HOLY COW! We were able to fill 4 VANS FULL of supplies** for those affected by this current war, which turned out to be quite an adventure in packing up on Friday and delivering Saturday!!!! **Special shout out to the 7th and 8th Grade Student Council Officers and Representatives who organized and boxed up the supplies, 8th Grader Christian who helped pack the vehicles, and to Mary Clemente, Ms. Margaret, Mr. Folino, and Principal Folino for packing up and delivering the items!** Please continue to keep the people affected by the Ukraine war in your prayers. We thank you for helping us reach out to those unjustly suffering across the globe, whether it be in the form of supplies or much-needed prayers!

Fish Fry!– Can you believe we have already had 3 weeks of Fish Fry?! **Please come next Friday and the two Fridays afterward (April 9 will be have an appearance by the Easter Bunny!) to enjoy a delicious dinner (or carry-out) and fellowship with other school families and parishioners. Proceeds benefit St. Ferdinand Church. The Queen of Hearts Raffle that was started 2 years ago before COVID regulations ended the Fish Fry early has begun again! On Friday the 18th, the first Joker was turned over, which was worth a \$50 prize! The Rafal Family had the winning ticket - - - but generously donated the \$50 back into the pot! The pot on March 25 will begin at \$2,850 PLUS whatever we sell that night!** If the winning ticket reveals the number under which the Queen of Hearts is hiding, the winner gets ½ the pot! **COME AND TAKE A CHANCE! You can also stop in the office and purchase tickets anytime throughout the week – or send in an envelope with any multitude of \$5 in cash and we will send home your tickets with your child!** Both a menu for the Fish Fry and a flyer explaining how the Queen of Hearts Raffle works were sent home a few weeks back and can be found online.

Volunteers are also needed. Extra Volunteer Sheets can be found in the School Office. 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 by March 30, 2022, or a \$250 charge will appear on the April tuition statement.**

Rice Bowl Lunch – On Thursday, March 24, in solidarity with hungry children around the world, St. Ferdinand School students will have a Rice Bowl lunch. This is the 2nd year that we are participating in this. Please see the flyer that went home in today's folder for more information.

Big Shoulders Polk Bros. Foundation Leadership Incentive Award! – **Principal Folino has been awarded the Polk Brothers Foundation Leadership Award by Big Shoulders!** This annual award recognizes the impact of Principal Folino's leaderships skills, which have

provided the framework to ensure that St. Ferdinand Catholic School continues to meet the needs of the school community, as well as the families and students. Half of this \$12,000 award will be used to purchase materials to directly improve the learning environment for students, while the other half will be used toward student scholarships! We are proud of you, Principal Folino! 😊

Reading Across America Week –READING FUN EMPHASIS CONTINUES INTO MARCH:

1. **Try to complete the FAMILY READING BINGO SHEETS by Thursday, March 31st! Your family will be entered in a drawing to win a fun prize!**
2. **HAVE YOUR CHILD KEEP READING AND LOGGING IN THE MINUTES! WE ARE TRYING TO HIT OUR SCHOOL GOAL OF 30,000 MINUTES BY MARCH 31st! If we make this, Principal Folino will do something zany again; also, the class with the most minutes will win a special treat.**

2022-2023 Registration Thank you to everyone who has returned their Intent to Return Forms. We had over 85% of families take advantage of the FEBRUARY FREEZE Early Bird Tuition Discount Sign-Up! If you have not already returned your 2022/2023 tuition agreement, please send it in as soon as possible along with the \$100.00 registration fee. It is not too late to register for the 2022/2023 school year! ***If you are not returning to St. Ferdinand School in the Fall, please inform the school office.***

Please note: On the 22-23 Tuition Contracts, there was a typo in the date in the section where people select their service hour option. Participation hours are due by March 30, 2023, as they always have been. The information on participation hours is written out correctly when it states “*10 hours of participation per family is required, if not completed by March 30, 2023, you will be assessed a Parent Service surcharge...” However, in the next box, when asked to select the option for the parent service program, the numerical date is incorrect. It should read: “_____ Complete hours by 03/30/**2023**”, in order to match the written information above that section.

Summer Camp Returns! We are pleased to announce that our Summer Camp Program will be returning this year for students turning 4 by 9/1/22 through students entering 5th grade! Summer Camp will begin on June 27, 2022, and will last for 6 weeks. This has been a very popular program in previous years, and a great opportunity for students to have fun while learning and socialize with peers. Please see the information flyer that is going home today for complete details.

Notification from FACTS Regarding Credit Cards FACTS has notified us that due to changes in the market, they are adjusting the rates and fees associated with credit/debit card transactions. Beginning April 25, 2022, the fee for credit card/debit transactions will be 2.95%. Save money and use your checking account instead of your debit/credit card.

Mask Policy Changes The Archdiocese of Chicago released a letter stating that beginning Monday, February 28, masks will be optional in the schools. This is in accordance with recent changes to the Chicago and Illinois mask policy. However, because Covid is still

prevalent, as well as because many of our younger students are not yet eligible for vaccines and some members of our school community are immunocompromised, we are strongly encouraging the continued use of face masks in the school. There will be times when masks will be necessary, especially when social distance guidelines cannot be maintained. It is our hope that we can continue to mitigate the spread of Covid and keep everyone healthy by having masks when needed. Please see the School Messenger message that went out to parents this morning for further correspondence and information regarding masks.

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.

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.**

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.
- Masks will need to be worn if a student returns to school, even if symptom-free, for Days 6-10 after diagnosis.

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 1, 3, and 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 1, 3, and 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

Thursday, March 24, 2022: 2nd Annual Rice Bowl Lunch

Friday, March 25, 2022: No School – Teacher/Staff Retreat

Wednesday, March 30, 2022: Dine & Share at J&A Oriental Food Mart – look for the flyer next week!

Thursday, March 31, 2022: Family Reading Bingo Sheets due for a chance to win a prize!

Thursday, March 31, 2022: STUDENT READING LOGS DUE FOR 30,000 SCHOOL READING MINUTES!!!! 😊

Monday, April 4 – Friday, April 8, 2022: No School – Spring Vacation

Monday, April 11, 2022: School resumes

Wednesday, April 13, 2022: 2:00PM Dismissal

Friday, April 15, 2022: No School, Good Friday

Monday, April 18, 2022: No School, Easter Monday