

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



May 12, 2022

The **Queen of Hearts Raffle** will continue at Ashley's Café & Tap. **Chances are \$5 each and will be available at the Café, as well as in the school office.** We are hoping to expand our sales to offer a couple of Masses each weekend as well, starting May 22. Currently, the jackpot is over **\$4,500** ... if your name is drawn and the Queen of Hearts is behind the card you selected, you win half of that jackpot! Weekly drawings (broadcast live on our school's Facebook page) will be held at Ashley's Café EVERY Wednesday at around 7:00 PM until The Queen is revealed! Come on in and take a chance (or as many as you want) each week! You can't win if you don't play! 😊

Sports Update / Basketball Uniform Returns: Thank you to all our student athletes on the basketball and volleyball teams, and all our volunteer coaches who spent many hours teaching our students good sportsmanship and basketball/volleyball skills. Our sports season has officially ended this week after our All-Star Volleyball game. Congratulations to the Lady Bulls, who won the game!

Basketball Uniforms: Now that the season is over, **BASKETBALL** uniforms need to be **RETURNED**. These were considered to be "rentals," and your \$25 uniform deposit will be returned to you when we receive your child's uniform.

There is 1 exception to the uniform return this year: **VARSITY Girls Basketball players may elect to keep their uniforms in lieu of receiving the deposit back, as these will be retired.**

JV Girls and all Boys Basketball players need to return their uniforms prior to **May 31, 2022**. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Margaret in the office for information.

Congratulations Entrepreneurship Club: Congratulations to our Big Shoulders-sponsored Entrepreneurship Club – who designed and marketed a product to finish in 1st place after competing against over 20 Catholic school across Chicagoland!!! This year, their business model was "See-Charms" – the club designed the product, marketed, and sold these "eyeglasses accessories" to our students. "See-Charms" was the winning business – and Big Shoulders and the mentoring company of EY made a surprise live broadcast this past Monday to their shareholders on the front steps of St. Ferdinand School to present the trophy and \$1,000 prize to the school! Thank you to Ms. Kokosioulis, the club moderator, as well as the 7th and 8th grade students that were a part of Entrepreneurship Club for all their hard work.

Parent Survey: The Parents Club is launching a short survey to find out your input on future events/activities. Please take a moment to scan the QR code on the survey flier to take the survey.

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.

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 Monday, 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 visit our Summer Camp page on our website for more information and to register: <https://saintferdinandschool.org/summer-camp/>

FACTS / School Charges As we are heading into the last few weeks of school, all charges for the 2021/2022 school year including tuition/parent service hours/current extended care fees were due on April 30, 2022. Please make sure that your account is current - students that have outstanding fees due for the 2021/2022 school year will not receive their final report card and will not be allowed to participate in any end of year festivities, including graduation, if applicable. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

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.***

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.

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.

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, May 12, 2022: Final School Board Meeting, 7:30PM – Activity Center

Sunday, May 15, 2022: 1st Communion, 11:30AM, Church (students arrive at 11:00AM)

Monday, May 16, 2022: OPEN HOUSE "Monday Morning Meetups" for prospective families, 9:00-11:00 AM

Tuesday, May 17, 2022: OPEN HOUSE "TUESDAY TWILIGHT TOURS" 5:30-7:30 PM

REMINDER: Refer a family who joins our school – get FREE April 2023 tuition FREE!

Friday, May 20, 2022: May Crowning @ 8:15 School Mass

Monday, May 23, 2022: OPEN HOUSE "Monday Morning Meetups" for prospective families, 9:00-11:00 AM

Monday, May 30, 2022: NO SCHOOL – MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 31, 2022: PK – 6th Grade Field Trip, Brookfield Zoo

Friday, June 3, 2022: School Picnic Day / 8th Grade Last Day!

Saturday, June 4, 2022: 8th Grade Graduation, 5:00PM Church

Monday, June 6, 2022: Kindergarten Graduation – 8:30AM; Preschool Graduation – 1000AM

Tuesday, June 7, 2022: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL! 11:30 Dismissal! 😊