

Ferd Words:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



For: Jan. 5-11, 2023



Happy New Year, St. Ferdinand Families!

We are off to a great start at St. Ferdinand School – we’re back in the gym AND we have a new 4th grade teacher (see info on both topics below)! 😊😊😊 May God bless all in the St. Ferdinand School Community with a happy, healthy, safe, and peaceful 2023!

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU...for all of your wonderful Christmas presents! The staff and I are so grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity, and we hope you had a wonderful holiday and restful, fun break from school.



BIG SHOULDERS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS -



Big Shoulders Fund SGO will begin accepting applications for tax credit scholarships for the 2023/24 school year on Thursday, Jan. 12 at 8:00am. Please go to <https://www.bigshouldersfundsgo.org/> for more information, and see the link included with this week’s information. **Time is of the essence --- so make sure to be prepared to log on before 8:00am in order to get a good spot.**

EMPOWER ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS -

Empower Illinois Reservations open on Wednesday, January 18. Please see the information on applying that is included in the links for this week’s Thursday thoughts, or go to <https://empowerillinois.org/> **Time is of the essence --- so make sure to be prepared to log on by 6:30pm in order to get a good spot.**



WELCOME, MRS. ALEXIS PENNA! - After co-teaching alongside Principal Folino during the month of December, Mrs. Alexis Penna has accepted the offer to be St. Ferdinand School's new 4th grade teacher! Having attended at is thrilled to be joining the fantastic establishing a respectful yet kind jumping right in to teaching across our Catholic Schools Week Open visit all of the classrooms, please be classroom and welcome Mrs. Penna to



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

St. Xavier University, Mrs. Penna Ferd family full-time after rapport with the 4th graders and the curriculum. When you attend House on Sunday, January 29 and sure to stop by the 4th grade our school!

WE ARE BACK IN THE GYM!!!! Alleluia! After over a two-month delay, the St. Ferdinand School gym is now open for PE classes and Basketball Practices with new, bright lighting to accent the freshly installed and painted roof decking! Thank you all again for your patience and flexibility with street-side dismissal, creative gym classes, and alternative places for basketball practices as the construction turned out to be one debacle after another. Mind-bogglingly, there are still leaks on one side of the roof that are being addressed, and the scalded areas of our gym floor will be repaired in the summer between the last day of school and summer camp. But, in the interim, it IS usable! 😊



WOULD YOU LOVE TO HELP COACH OUR BULLS DURING THEIR LAST 2 MONTHS OF BASKETBALL?!?

We'll take you! Both our Varsity and Jr. Varsity Boys Basketball Teams continue to play (weekends) and practice (Tues/Thurs after school) through February. Coach Ullis and Coach Martinez practices or at games, even coaches, school office, or welcome anyone who can assist at if not regularly. Please reach out to the athletic director if available!



Queen of Hearts Raffle now at the Nest: *The St. Ferdinand School Queen of*

Hearts Raffle has returned! We have partnered with the Nest in hosting the raffle – Drawing will be held there every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00PM (winner does not need to be present). **Our next drawing is THIS Wednesday, January 11 –**



@ 7:00 PM – Come join us! IF YOU BUY A TICKET ON 01/11 AT THE NEST, YOU GET 10% OFF YOUR ORDER! Queen of Hearts Tickets (\$5 each) are

on sale at the Nest Bar & Eatery (6859 W. Irving Park Road), after the 8:30

Mass on non-holiday Sundays, and in our School Office during school hours. **The**

Jackpot currently is \$6,700+ and growing – purchase your ticket for your chance at 50% of the jackpot!!

FUNDRAISERS 2022-23: Just a quick update on this. **This year, we are looking to meet designated school budget funding to be raised primarily from profits raised by 2 MAIN EVENTS: a Parent-Only Dinner/Fun Night Out/Auction in early spring and a Color Run Fun Run for the students in late spring!** Other than that, we will not be promoting a lot of sales of “things” for profit like our former Christmas Candle or chocolate bar sales. ***Instead, we are trying to offer chances at extra cash (monthly St. Ferd’s Drawing, Holiday Quick Raffles, and the Queen of Hearts) and helpful ways to make families’ lives easier, like dinners out at Dine-and-Shares and the Christmas Gift Card Program.*** Please know that we never expect everyone to donate to everything and participate in all fundraisers – please, pick and choose what you can afford/what interests you and/or helps out your family the most. **Our goal in choosing and promoting fundraisers is to reward/help our families out while still keeping St. Ferdinand School healthy financially. THANK YOU for your generous support in whichever way/s you choose to additionally monetarily help our school.**



Amazon Smiles - If you do any online shopping, please log in through [Smile.Amazon.com](https://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!

Illnesses/Absences from School - illnesses/absences from school must than 9:00 AM the day of absence. will be absent by calling the office or



Just a reminder, all be reported to the school no later Please notify the school if your child emailing absent@saintferdinand.org

REMINDER: Please label your child’s uniform with his/her name – especially the sweatshirts and zip-up sweaters – as we are amassing quite a collection of unlabeled pieces in the Ferd Lost-and-Found left behind in classrooms and the gym when kids get too warm!



CELL PHONES, iPads from home, and APPLE WATCHES, oh my!

We’ll be collecting them each day from Students in Grades 4th-8th, as we did before COVID. This is to ensure that the proper chain of command is well, in that teachers and office staff are contact to parents about the situation. It is tempting to do through Internet access and Students receive their devices back at the access messages as they are lining up to



kept in place when students don’t feel aware and remain the first point of also a measure against cheating that is texting through Apple Watches. end of the school day, and are allowed to depart, as per the specifications of their

homeroom teachers. Students caught with cell phones that have not been turned in in the mornings will have them confiscated until a parent can pick up the devices and pay a \$25 fine. *Thank you* for your cooperation with this procedure.

COVID Protocol Policy Remains the Same: Last winter, the

Archdiocese of Chicago released a letter stating that mask-wearing would be optional in its schools. This is in accordance with changes to Chicago and Illinois masking policies. However, because Covid is still prevalent, there will be times when masks may be necessary for the protection of all students in a classroom, especially when social

for an extended period of time and classroom. Therefore, we ask that backpacks at all times to be worn continuing to distance children at from water fountains but only from



surfaces and hands *many* times throughout the school day. If your child comes down with COVID, do relay that to the School Office ASAP. We will receive and relay back to you the Archdiocese and CDC “official” 5-days quarantine dates + 5 days returning masked protocol based on onset of symptoms and positive test date. Notes of COVID cases in the school and within a homeroom will still be issued. Of course, we encourage all children and families to get vaccinated and boosted; it is, however, at this point optional to share vaccination/booster status with the School Office, where it is kept in confidential files. It is the hope of the St. Ferdinand Administration, Staff, and Faculty that we can continue to mitigate the spread of Covid and keep our school community healthy by adhering to these practices and having students/staff don masks when needed. **THANK YOU** so much for your cooperation through the ever-changing COVID situation in the Chicagoland and St. Ferdinand School communities.

distance guidelines cannot be maintained sickness or a case of COVID breaks out in a students keep a mask handy in their during such situations. Know that we are lunchtime, do not permit direct drinking water bottles, and still sanitize eating

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** awarded to the school. More information can be found at <https://www.boxtops4education.com/> or in the included links.



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IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday, Jan. 10 Parent Club Meeting, 6:30PM – Activity Center
- Wednesday, Jan. 11 Queen of Hearts Drawing at The Nest – 10% of your order if you buy a ticket there on the 11th!
- Thursday, Jan. 12 Big Shoulders Fund Applications Open, 8:30AM (ONLINE) bigshouldersfunsgo.org
- Thursday, Jan. 12 School Board Meeting, 6:30PM – Activity Center

Monday, Jan. 16 No School, MLK Day! 😊

Wednesday, Jan. 18 Empower Illinois Reservations Open, 6:30PM (ONLINE) EmpowerIllinois.org

Wednesday, Jan. 18 Confirmation Parent Meeting #2, 7:00PM-9:00PM

Wednesday, Jan. 25 Queen of Hearts Drawing at The Nest – 10% of your order if you buy a ticket there on the 25th!

Sunday, Jan. 29: Catholic Schools Week Family Mass, 8:30AM
followed by Open House and Book Fair, 9:30AM-12 noon
RE-REGISTRATION AND FEBRUARY TUITION FREEZE BEGINS!

Jan 29-Feb 4 CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023 😊

Wednesday, Feb. 1 2:00 Teacher PD Early Dismissal

Tuesday, Feb. 14 Valentine’s Day Parties – 1:00-2:15ish K-8; 9:30 -11:00 AM – Pre-K

Thursday, Feb. 16 Winter Parent-Teacher Conferences – Noon-7:00 PM; 11:30 Dismissal
Extended Care available 11:30 AM-6:00 PM

Friday, Feb. 18 No School – Teacher Professional Development Day

Monday, Feb. 21 No School – Presidents’ Day