

Ferd Words:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



For the Week of February 5-11, 2023

2023-2024 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN



EXPERIENCE THE ST. FERDINAND SCHOOL DIFFERENCE!

CALL FOR A PERSONALIZED TOUR AND MORE INFORMATION:
773-622-3022

Register by Tuesday, February 28th for the February Freeze Discount!

Thank You, Parents! As part of Catholic Schools Week, students celebrated their community, religious vocations, themselves, and their family members. We want to say an especially big “Thank You” to ALL of our parents who have given their time to help ensure each child has the best school experience possible. We are grateful for the MANY ways you volunteer to help the school: Fish Fry assistance, Room Parents, Book Fair Helpers, Field Trip Chaperones, etc.! We hope you know how much you are valued – and we hope to see you at the special events we set aside to celebrate you, such as Family Masses and Movie Nights. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD’S BACKPACK TODAY FOR A HANDMADE THANK YOU CARD AND A LITTLE PRESENT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF TO SAY THANK YOU!** Thank you, all parents, guardians, and those who have a parenting role!



Save the Date! Our next Dine & Share will be at **Café Prague** (6710 W Belmont) – a local restaurant serving traditional and modern Czech cuisine, owned and operated by a school family! **Tuesday, February 14, and Wednesday, February 15, from 5:00pm – 9:00pm** ... come enjoy a delicious Valentine's Day dinner with your family!

February Freeze Discount The February Freeze Tuition Discount



Program is back! If you register your child by Tuesday, February 28, 2023, with a signed contract and a paid registration fee, you will lock in the published 2022- 2023 base tuition rates for next year. Please make sure to return the Intent to Return forms that went home Thursday so we can send you the Tuition Contract.

WE WANT TO SEE ALL OF OUR FAMILIES BACK NEXT YEAR! 😊 😊 😊

RE-ENROLL TODAY TO SAVE MONEY NEXT YEAR! The first grade to register with signed Tuition Contracts and Registration Fees (or just the Intent to Return form if not returning) will win a **HAPPY MEAL LUNCH** for every student in the homeroom! 😊

REMINDER: *Recommend a family who ends up registering and attending St. Ferdinand School for the 2023-24 school year, get April 2024's tuition FREE!* 😊

SPRING SOCCER is COMING to St. Ferd's!!!!

League, run by the Head Coach of Soccer Team! We are so excited our students, and hope many will February 15. (see the flier that went website for the QR code to register.



Sign up today for the JSL Spring St. Patrick High School's to present this opportunity to sign up by Wednesday, home last week or on our

WOULD YOU LOVE TO HELP COACH OUR BULLS DURING THEIR LAST MONTH 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!

Fish Fry – Volunteers Needed – Fish Fry begins Friday, February 24! A volunteer sign-up sheet was sent home Thursday. 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.



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, February 8 – @ 7:00 PM – Come join us! IF YOU BUY A TICKET ON 2/8 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 \$7,200+ and growing – purchase your ticket for your chance at 50% of the jackpot!!**

Financial Aid/Scholarships - The 2023/2024 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 2023/2024 school year. **Please note: Per scholarship rules, no financial aid/scholarships will be considered without this application.**

If you missed these important opportunities, act now:

EMPOWER ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS

- Empower Illinois Reservations opened on Wednesday, January 18. Please go to <https://empowerillinois.org/> **Time is of the essence!**



Big Shoulders Fund SGO began accepting applications for tax credit scholarships for the 2023/24 school year on Thursday, Jan. 12. 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!**

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held next **Thursday, February 16, 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. Please make sure to sign up for a time if you have not done so already by **Friday, February 10:** <https://signup.com/go/opiGAER>



ALSO....there IS Extended Care available that day from 11:30-6:00! Please use the flier sent home last Thursday to enroll your child in Extended Care that day, if needed.

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 FAMILY CULTURE FEST with Auction on FRIDAY, MAY 5, and a Color Run Fun Run for the students on FRIDAY, MAY 19!**



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 and choose *St. Ferdinand School & Convent* as your organization of choice! Amazon will donate .5% 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 before COVID. This is to ensure that the when students don’t feel well, in that remain the first point of contact to parents



Students in Grades 4th-8th, as we did proper chain of command is kept in place teachers and office staff are aware and about the situation. It is also a measure

against cheating that is tempting to do through Internet access and texting through Apple Watches. Students receive their devices back at the end of the school day, and are allowed to access messages as they are lining up 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 distance guidelines cannot be maintained for an extended period of time and sickness or a case of COVID breaks out in a classroom. Therefore, we ask that students keep a mask handy in their backpacks at all times to be worn during such situations. Know that we are continuing to distance children at lunchtime, do not permit direct drinking from water fountains but only from water bottles, and still sanitize eating 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. **As of January 2023, notices of COVID cases in the school and within a homeroom will still be issued when multiple (more than 3) cases arise in the school.** 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.



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

Friday, Feb. 10

Last chance to SIGN UP for WINTER CONFERENCES and EXTENDED CARE

for next Thursday!

Chess Academy Registration due; classes begin Monday the 13th!

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

Tues & Wed, Feb 14 & 15 CAFÉ PRAGUE Dine-and-Share

Wednesday, Feb. 15 Last Day to sign up for NEW Spring School Soccer Program (see flier from Friday) that begins April 15!

Thursday, Feb. 16 Winter Parent-Teacher Conferences – Noon-7:00 PM; 11:30 Dismissal
Extended Care available 11:30 AM-6:00 PM
Jr. High (Grades 6 – 8) Valentine's Dance: 7:30pm – 9:30pm, Gym

Friday, Feb. 17 No School – Teacher Professional Development Day

Monday, Feb. 20 No School – Presidents' Day

Wednesday, Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday – Mass @ 8:15 AM

Friday, Feb. 24 FISH FRY RETURNS! 🐟

Sunday, Feb. 27 FAMILY MASS 8:30 AM and Lenten Activity!