

Ferd Words:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



For the Week of March 02- March 09, 2023

FUN FACT: Cardinal Blasé Cupich will be at St. Ferdinand Parish on Fri., Mar. 10, to lead us in Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM in church! Please join us in welcoming him in this Lenten prayer tradition.



Alumni Night! Calling all Alums: Join us for our special Alumni Night at Fish Fry on Friday, March 10! Tour the building, reconnect with old classmates, share your favorite Ferd memories with each other and with current administration, and meet other fellow St. Ferdinand School graduates! We are looking forward to meeting and greeting as many St. Ferd's grads as possible! Be sure to get dinner and drinks at the Fish Fry downstairs in both Canning Hall and the Jason Torba Center before or after your tour! 😊 Complimentary "St. Ferdinand School Alumni" cup to the first 200 alums!



This Photo by Unknown Author is

Fish Fry – Volunteers Needed – AND Come one, come all!— Fish



Fry Fridays have begun! If you did not already turn in your volunteer sign up paper, please do so (more are available in the 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, or a \$250 charge will appear on the April

tuition statement. And, before or after your shift - - - or on the Fridays you're not working - - - be sure to join us for the BEST Fish Fry in Chicagoland offering both a variety of fish dinners AND non-fish options as well, from 4:30-7:30 PM in the bottom level of school; enter through the JTC Entrance. See you there! 😊

RE-ENROLLMENT for the 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR IS WELL-UNDERWAY with 84% of our current students' families having taken

advantage of the "February Freeze" tuition deal and have signed up already to return! Hooray!! We are so thrilled with that return rate, and hope it will be at 100% soon. Plus, we have many **new families** interested and enrolled, and have welcomed many **St. Bart's families** on tours and follow-



up shadow days as they research and reflect upon which local Catholic school will be the best new home for their children. The 2023-24 school year is headed for a bright start indeed, based on a healthy enrollment alone! **REMINDER: If you recommend St. Ferdinand School to a family and they enroll and stay for the 2023-24 school year, April 2024 tuition is FREE for you! Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested to call for a personalized tour OR to come on any "Monday Meet-Up" Open House – all Monday mornings from Mar 6-May 22 from 9:00-11:00 AM or select Monday evenings (Mar. 13, Apr. 3, and May 8) from 5:00-6:30 PM.**

Culver's Dine and Share – Servers Needed – Join us for our next



Dine & Share at Culver's (4538 N. Harlem) on **Tuesday, March 14 from 5:00PM – 8:00PM**– and show your school spirit by volunteering for a time slot to serve! Information flyers went home with students today and are included in the links. This is a great way to also earn your Parent Service Hours while showing your support of St. Ferdinand School!

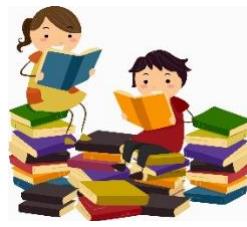
Lenten Rice Bowls (and Lunch!) Don't forget about your Catholic Relief Services

Lenten Rice Bowls that went home 2 weeks ago!. Please try to fill this small box with your spare change to help the poor in both our city and on the other side of the world! Any contribution helps, and this is a great way to think of those in need during the Lenten season. Rice Bowls are due back to school by Wednesday, April 5. Students will also participate in a special



Rice Bowl Lunch on Thursday, March 23, to show their solidarity with those that are underprivileged throughout the world.

READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK IS COMING – MARCH 6-10! Please be sure to read the flier that went home today with details including a **DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER – AND BRING THE BOOK – FOR A PARADE AROUND THE SCHOOL** celebrating for **WEEK-LONG-ONLY FAMILY and INDIVIDUAL STUDENT READING CONTESTS!**



5 Essentials Survey – Information on the 5 Essentials Survey was sent home today. This is an important opportunity for students and parents to give their feedback on the effectiveness and success

of St. Ferdinand School. Students in grades 4-8 will take the survey during school (if you do not want your child to participate, please fill out the declination form that was sent home to let us know). All parents have the opportunity to take this survey as well. This survey is being conducted throughout Illinois Schools, and the purpose is to identify both the strengths of the school, as well as areas for improvement. Your participation is valuable to us, as it helps us to know how we can plan and work towards the best possible success of the school and your child's education. Thank you in advance for your cooperation! The parent survey can be found at

<https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/>

Queen of Hearts Raffle now at Fish Fry: *The St. Ferdinand School Queen of Hearts Raffle has returned to Fish Fry!*

The Queen of Hearts Raffle will now be held Fridays at St. Ferdinand during the Lenten Fish Fry (drawing at 7:00PM). Queen of Hearts Tickets (\$5 each) are on sale Fridays at our Parish Fish Fry, after the 8:30 Mass on non-holiday Sundays, and in our School Office during school hours. **The Jackpot currently is \$8,300+ 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!***

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 26!**



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 – Amazon has discontinued their Smile program. Thank you for your support over the past few years!

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 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.



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

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



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

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.



for credit to be



IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday, March 02: Report Cards go home
- Friday, March 03: Fish Fry, 4:30PM – 7:30PM
- Monday, March 6 – Friday, March 10: Special **Read Across America** Activities! Please see flyer for complete schedule of events / dress down days!
- Monday, March 6 Signed report card envelopes due back
- Mondays, March 6-May 22 “Monday Meet-Ups” – School open for Open House/Tours 9-11 AM
- Tuesday, March 7 Confirmation Retreat at Marytown during the School Day
- Wednesday, March 8: 4th Grade “Experience Junior High Day”
- Thursday, March 9: Spring Pictures!
- Friday, March 10: Alumni Night at Fish Fry! 4:30PM – 7:30PM
CARDINAL CUPICH leading Stations of the Cross 6:00 PM - church
- Sunday, March 12: Confirmation, 11:30am, Church
- Monday, March 13: “Monday Meet-Up” Evening Open House, 5:00PM – 6:30PM
– refer a friend!
- Tuesday, March 14: Dine & Share at Culvers (4538 N. Harlem), 5:00PM – 8:00PM
- Sign up to help serve for a shift!
- Thursday, March 16: School Advisory Board, 6:30PM, Cafeteria
- Friday, March 17: Trinity Irish Dance performance for students, 10:00am
- Friday, March 17: Fish Fry, 4:30PM – 7:30PM (St. Joseph’s Table / St. Patrick’s Day Party)
- Thursday, March 23: Lenten Rice Bowl Lunch
- Friday, March 24: NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day

Friday, March 24: Fish Fry, 4:30PM – 7:30PM

Friday, March 31 FINAL Fish Fry – Dinner with the Easter Bunny! 4:30-7:30 PM

Monday, April 3: “Monday Meet-Up” Evening Open House, 5:00PM – 6:30PM
– refer a friend!

Thursday, April 06: 8:15 Holy Thursday Mass
Afternoon Triduum Service in the Classrooms
2:00PM Dismissal

Friday, April 7 Noon: 8th Grade Living Stations of the Cross for the Parish

Friday, April 07 – Friday, April 14: EASTER VACATION – No Classes! 😊

Monday, April 17: Students return to school! Welcome back!

Thursday, April 20 3rd Trimester Progress Reports go home

Thursday, April 27 PACK-THE-GYM Night – details to follow!

Friday, April 28: No School, Professional Development Day

May 01 – May 05: Culture Week Activities at St. Ferdinand School – details to follow

Friday, May 5 St. Ferdinand School’s 1st Annual CULTURE FEST! – evening – TBD

Monday, May 8: “Monday Meet-Up” Evening Open House, 5:00PM – 6:30PM
– refer a friend!