

Ferd Words:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



THANK YOU...and CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU to all who attended and promoted ALUMNI NIGHT, to all who helped serve at or attended our Dine-and-Share at Culver's, to those who took the time to complete the 5Essentials Survey, to those who generously allowed their children to join our teacher-led clubs, to those who are helping serve at the Fish Frys, to the Trinity Irish Dancers for entertaining us on St. Patrick's Day, and to those parents who had their children genuinely fast by participating in the Rice Bowl Lunch today! And...CONGRATULATIONS to the 8th Grade on their beautiful Confirmation and excellent participation in their first Illinois Junior Science Academy's Science Fair! Stay tuned to our school's Facebook page for pictures of all of these events!

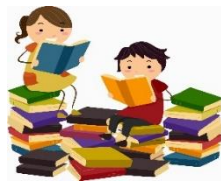
NEWS for the Week of March 23-March 30, 2023



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK...was SO. MUCH. FUN! From the Read Across America Teacher Committee: Thank you to all of the students and families that participated in our Read Across America reading challenges. We are proud of all of our participants and thrilled to know many students and families spent extra time engaging in Reading last week. Congratulations to all of our winners:

Family Reading Challenge- Katrina Fabianski and Family
Student Reading Challenge-

- PK: Jocelyn Rettelle
- K: Andrew Zmuda
- 1: Joshua Miller
- 2: Ricca Wiltse
- 3: Max Trudgen
- 4: Liam Loster
- 5: Jade Koladycz
- 6: Julia Stozynska
- 7: Zachary Torio



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



Only 2 more Fish Fry Fridays (March 24 & 31) left this Lenten season! 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! 😊

LAST CALL FOR EGG HUNT! Oops! Did you mean to register for our 1st Annual Egg Hunt taking place NEXT Saturday, April 1? ***Well, if so, you can still turn your registration form in by MONDAY, MARCH 27.*** If still needed, please find a new copy of the form under Thursday Thoughts on the school's website:



<https://saintferdinandschool.org/thursday-thoughts/>

Lenten Rice Bowls (and Lunch!) Today, students participated in our Annual Rice Bowl Lunch to help build empathy with and compassion for those who are hungry/need. We fasted by only eating rice today, watched videos about the needy in Honduras, Kenya, and The Philippines – as well as in the USA – for whom our Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl almsgiving assists, and offered prayers for all of these people as well. Don't forget to start turning in your Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowls filled with change and small bills! Many students have brought theirs in already. 😊 Monies collected help the poor in both our city and on the other side of the world! Any contribution helps, and this is a great way for a whole family to think about and reach out to those in need during the Lenten season. Rice Bowls are due back to school by Wednesday, April 5. All students who bring in Rice Bowls will be part of the procession placing the bowls as an offering in front of the altar at our Holy Thursday School Mass on April 6 @ 8:15 AM.





POPCORN! GET YOUR CANDIED POPCORN! Only \$2 a bag/buy 10, get 1 FREE! Stock up and fill those Easter baskets for young and old alike with this tasty, sweet snack! For sale until supply is depleted or until our last day of school before Spring Break – Thursday, April 6. Send in your order today!

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION is OPEN! – Ready for warm summer days to be here? Looking for a fun, safe environment in which your child learns, too? Well, sign up now for St. Ferdinand’s Summer Camp, running for 6 weeks beginning Tuesday, June 27 (after the St. Ferdinand Summerfest Carnival) thru Friday, August 5! Info went home in paper form last week with your children, and registration is already on-going! Reserve your child’s space today! Register for 1 or all 6 weeks! Please see the flier for contact information or ask at the School Office; to register, please use this link: :
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SOuRlyYJCMUKVCSPTb1OKkTh1-oPDEKukq9aTWtuEFk/edit>



FREE SUMMER TUTORING... will be available again this summer (also from June 27-August 5) through grant monies from the State of Illinois IF enough people are interested! Please see the flier that went home today, and send an email by NEXT Friday, March 31, to school@saintferdinand.org



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is you are interested in enrolling your child for some extra practice in Reading and Math for a couple of hours 1-2 days per week, with flexibility regarding vacation time.

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 is currently**



ALMOST \$10,000 and growing – purchase your ticket for your chance at 50% of the jackpot!!

COMING SOON: 1st Annual St. Ferdinand Culture Fest! Save

the date of FRIDAY, MAY 5 and join us in the Activity Center and Gym for an evening of celebrating the wonderfully diverse cultures that make up our school families! 😊 There will be food samples, entertainment, games, and raffles. Stay tuned for more details - - - but, if you'd like to help with the table of know of an ethnic dance or music group that could perform, please return the flier that went home or contact Principal Folino ASAP! Our first virtual planning meeting will be NEXT Thursday, March 31.



Save the date of the evening of Thursday, April 27, 6:00-8:30 PM, for a night of FUN for all ages in the St. Ferdinand School GYM! We'll have our sports teams play short games against each other, with fun games and snacks for all ages in-between! See you there!

PACK THE GYM NIGHT IS COMING! Save the date of the evening of



Thursday, April 27, 6:00-8:30 PM, for a night of FUN for all ages in the St. Ferdinand School GYM! We'll have our sports teams play short games against each other, with fun games and snacks for all ages in-between! See you there!

RE-ENROLLMENT for the 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR IS WELL-UNDERWAY with 90% of our current students' families 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 re-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 March thru May from 9:00-11:00 AM or select Monday evenings (Apr. 3 and May 8) from 5:00-6:30 PM. We are ready and willing to welcome them into our bright, joyous school with engaging learning and plenty of love!

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



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

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



IMPORTANT DATES

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 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! |
| Wednesday, April 5 | 8 th Grade Living Stations of the Cross for the School – Time TBD |
| Thursday, April 6: | 8:15 Holy Thursday Mass with Rice Bowl Blessing
Afternoon Triduum Service in the Classrooms
2:00PM Dismissal |
| Friday, April 7 | Noon: 8 th Grade Living Stations of the Cross for the Parish |
| Friday, April 7 – 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 1 – May 5: Culture Week Activities at St. Ferdinand School – details to follow

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

Friday, May 12 8th Grade Ribbon Mass – 8:15 AM

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

Friday, May 19 May Crowning (2nd and 8th) with NEW Marian Altar/Mother Dedication
8:15 AM Mass

Friday, May 26

FERD COLOR RUN 2023



**...let’s start the funding for an
ELECTRONIC SIGN for our
SCHOOL and PARISH!**