

# Ferd Words:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



## NEWS for the Week of April 20-27, 2023



*St. Ferdinand School students are wonderful stewards of the beautiful Earth God has given us!*

**We hope all of our families had a relaxing, happy break - - - we look forward to seeing everyone at all of the exciting events the end of the school year brings!**

**PACK THE GYM NIGHT IS COMING!** Save the date of the evening of **THIS 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 Volleyball and Basketball teams play short games against each other and parent/staff, have our Cheer Squad drum up audience pep between scrimmages, and play fun games for prizes, too! Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase by Parent Club. Only \$2 per person for a night of School Spirit and fun! See you there!



**LAST CALL FOR CHEER CLINIC – sign-up by MONDAY MORNING:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YvJi47XbjQJrc7K\\_-vi8yzo4i74cdyORCsHA8y2NaT4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YvJi47XbjQJrc7K_-vi8yzo4i74cdyORCsHA8y2NaT4/edit?usp=sharing)

## **COMING SOON: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual St. Ferdinand Culture Fest!**

Save the date of **FRIDAY, MAY 5, FROM 6:00-8:30 PM**, 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 from our – as well as both amateur and professional entertainment from these cultures and beyond! In addition, many wonderful classroom and cultural baskets will be available to win by raffle! **The PRE-ORDER TICKET SALES sheets** went home on THIS Thursday, April 27, if you'd like to save money on food and raffle tickets. Of course, tickets will be available at the Culture Fest, too. ***WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE SCHOOL FAMILIES AND PARISHONERS THERE FOR THIS GRAND EVENT!***



## **Queen of Hearts Raffle - - - CONTINUES TO GROW! Our**

**next drawing is on Wed., May 3 @ THE NEST**



**@ 7:00 PM!** The Queen of Hearts Raffle has now returned to

The Nest (343434 Irving Park Rd, just west of Oak Park Ave) for bi-weekly Wednesday drawings at 7:00 PM! Queen of Hearts Tickets (\$5 each) are on sale at The Nest AND after the 8:30 Mass each Sunday, as

well as in our School Office during school hours. **Don't forget: The Nest is offering a FABULOUS "one-topping pizzas and ALL-YOU-CAN-DRINK POP" Ferd Family Dinner Special FOR JUST \$12 (!!!!) on our drawing Wednesdays this season (May 3, 17, 31; June 14, 28)!**

**The Jackpot is currently \$12,000+ and growing – purchase your ticket for your chance at 50% of the jackpot!! Plus, there's still a Joker to be uncovered for \$100 AND if you are present for the drawing and your card is picked, you automatically win \$25 cash! 😊**

## **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 4! Info went home in paper form in early March 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>

## **LAST CHANCE: FREE SUMMER TUTORING...** will be

available again this summer (also from June 27-August 4) 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 ASAP to [school@saintferdinand.org](mailto:school@saintferdinand.org) if 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.



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**FERD FUN RUN: COLOR RUN 2023 is coming!!** Be on the look-out after Spring Break for info on on-line pledging, business sponsorships, t-shirts, and prizes for donations for this “colorful” race, taking place on **Friday, May 26!** Let’s get the ball rolling on monies toward an **ELECTRONIC SIGN** (like the new one St. Pat’s has) for the Belmont side of the St. Ferdinand Parish property! Let’s work together to install something that will call more attention to our wonderful school!!!!





**BABY BULLS** - Do you know any TODDLER AGE prospective St. Ferdinand School students? Well, let them know that our **BABY BULLS Mom-and-Tot Program will be being resurrected in May** as an opportunity for neighborhood moms and toddlers to come and play in the St. Ferdinand gym and playground while getting to know each other and our school! Keep an eye out for info after Spring Break!

**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 for our "Monday Meet-Up" Open Houses – all Monday mornings that we are in session in April and May from 9:00-11:00 AM, as well as ONE final Monday evening (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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 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 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.



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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