

# Ferd Words:

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



## NEWS for the Weeks of **May 14-26, 2023**



**WHAT FANTASTIC SPIRIT YOU HAVE SHOWN, St. Ferdinand Families!!!!**

*The positive vibes of coming together as a community for our inaugural **PACK-THE-GYM** and **CULTURE FEST EVENTS** were true celebrations of the fun we can all have while celebrating and honoring our special cultural differences!*

**THANK YOU** for coming out to support these community-building, post-COVID, fabulous **FERD events!** 😊

**FERD FUN RUN: COLOR RUN 2023 is coming!!** Share your child's QR code (or use the paper pledge sheet that went home last



This Photo by Melissa...

week) with friends and family to help sponsor your child in our annual FERD FUN RUN!



**PLEASE** see info that went home with your children on 5/18 regarding on-line pledging, **business sponsorships (due back Wed., 5/17)**, t-shirts, and **PRIZES and GRAND PRIZES** 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!!!!

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



next drawing is THIS Wed., May 17 @ 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.

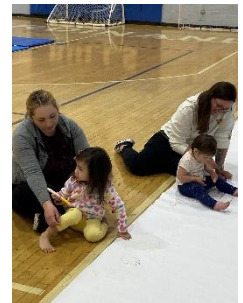
Don't forget: The Nest is offering a FABULOUS "one-topping pizzas and ALL-YOU-CAN-DRINK POP" Ferd Family Dinner Special FOR JUST \$12 (!!!!) on our drawing Wednesdays this season (May 17, 31; June 14, 28)!

The Jackpot is currently \$12,500+ 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! 😊



**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** has returned! Baby Bulls is 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!

OUR NEXT SESSION: TUES MAY 23 from 9:00-10:30 AM in the GYM! (enter thru gym doors)



Come join in on the toddler-parent fun! 😊

## **SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION is...at wait-list status!—**

*If you'd like your child to be considered to be a part of the fun, safe, and learning environment that St. Ferdinand Summer Camp provides, please call the School Office @ 773-622-3022. We'll add your child's name to the Wait List and consult with the Camp Director, Lynn Finneke, regarding admission. Summer Camp runs for 6 weeks beginning Tuesday, June 27 (after the St. Ferdinand Summerfest Carnival) thru Friday, August 4! Children may register for 1 or all 6 weeks!*



## **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! 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 2-3 days per week, with flexibility regarding vacation time.

## **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!

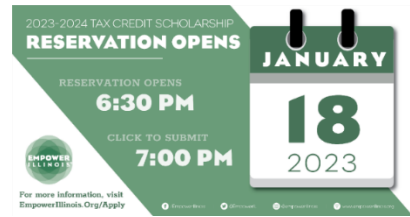


**REMINDER: If you recommend St. Ferdinand School to a family and they enroll and stay for the 2023-24 school year, April 2024 tuition is FREE for you! Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested to call for a personalized tour OR to come for our final "Monday Meet-Up" Open House of the season THIS Monday, May 22, from 9:00-11:00 AM. 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, there may be times when masks may be necessary for the protection of all students in a classroom, especially when social distance guidelines cannot be and sickness or a case of COVID ask that students keep a mask worn during such situations. Know at lunchtime, do not permit direct from water bottles, and still sanitize throughout the school day. If your child comes down with COVID, please 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 only 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.



maintained for an extended period of time breaks out in a classroom. Therefore, we handy in their backpacks at all times to be that we are continuing to distance children drinking from water fountains but only eating surfaces and hands many times

## 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**

Friday, May 19                      May Crowning (2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>) with NEW Marian Altar/Mother Dedication

8:15 AM Mass and dedication afterward

Tues., May 23

**BABY BULLS Parent-Tot Program 9:00-10:30 in the Gym**



Friday, May 26

**FERD COLOR RUN 2023**

...let's start the funding for an

**ELECTRONIC SIGN for our SCHOOL and PARISH!**

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day – No School!

Wed., May 31

Ferd Family Night & Queen of Hearts Drawing @ The Nest!

Friday, Jun 2

School Picnic Day!

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Last Day

Saturday, June 3

Class of 2023 Graduation – 5:00 PM Mass

Monday, June 5

Kindergarten Graduation – 8:30 AM

Preschool Celebration – 10:00 AM

Tuesday, June 6

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

8:15 – Mass and Awards

11:30 Dismissal!

T-Th, Jun 6-8

Parents Club Used Uniform Sale!

T 6/6 7:30-10:00 AM    W 6/7 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM    Th 6/8 7:30 AM-Noon

Monday, June 12

School Office Summer Hours begin: T/Th 8-12 and W 1-6; closed M & F

Wed., June 14

Ferd Family Night & Queen of Hearts Drawing @ The Nest!

Th-Sun, June 22-25

St. Ferdinand Summerfest and Carnival! 😊

Friday – Latino Theme & Band;

Saturday – Polish Theme & Band

Thursday and Sunday - DJ

Friday, June 23

**St. Ferdinand School Families asked to Volunteer at Carnival**

(start on your Service Hours for the 2023-24 School Year!)

St. Ferdinand School Alumni Night – Tent at Carnival

Tuesday, June 27

Summer Camp begins! 😊

Summer Tutoring begins! 😊

Wed., June 28

Ferd Family Night & Queen of Hearts Drawing @ The Nest!

Last one of the season! (Q of H to return in September!)