

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



November 19, 2020

NEWS

Report Cards - Report cards were sent home today. Please make sure to review these with your child. Envelopes should be signed and returned to your student's homeroom teacher by **Monday, November 23.**

Family Reading Night - Tonight is Family Reading Night! Spend 30 minutes reading together with your family. If your family participates, please write your information on the flyer that went home today, and return it to school tomorrow (**Friday, Nov. 20**), in order to be entered into a drawing to win a Family Reading Night Family Pack prize!

Soup-er Bowl Challenge - Our Soup-er Bowl Challenge is going strong! We already have over 1,800 cans of soup! The last day of our competition is tomorrow, **Friday, November 20.** This is a great way to help the hungry during the holiday season, and your generosity is appreciated!

Fundraisers - We currently have 2 new fundraisers going to help the school (as well as help with your Christmas shopping!) Information on our Gift Card Fundraiser as well as our Lou Malnati's Frozen Pizza Coupon Fundraiser went home last week (and can be found in the links under today's Thursday Thoughts). The Gift Card fundraiser is especially beneficial – You purchase the gift cards at face value, and you receive a percentage in the form of a tuition credit, while the school also earns credit. *These are the same gift cards you can purchase in stores, except by purchasing through this program, you and the school both earn money!*

Lou Malnati's orders are due next **Tuesday, November 24.**

Gift Card Orders are due **Monday, December 7.**

Save the Date for Santa Drive-Through! - This year, we will be hosting a Drive-Through Santa event! This will take place **Friday, December 4, from 4:00PM – 6:00PM** in our parking lot (in case of bad weather, it will be rescheduled to Friday, December 11). Drive through the decorated St. Ferdinand School parking lot to see Santa – and pose for a picture at the edge of his stage (in a safe, socially-distanced way). Pictures will go home with each family the Monday after. Feel free to decorate your car and add to the holiday cheer! All children present will receive a small treat. Admission is \$10, please see the flyer that went home for additional details.

Remote Learning January 5 – 15 And survey for daycare needs - The Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools will pivot to e-learning beginning for the two-week period when Christmas Break ends: **Monday, January 4 - Friday, January 15, 2021**. These days are not an extension of the holiday break, but instead, days in which daily check-ins, attendance at all scheduled Zoom learning sessions, and completion of remote learning projects are REQUIRED. If you are an Essential Worker or have a job in which finding daycare for prolonged days at which your child would have access to e-learning is a difficulty, St. Ferdinand School might have a solution for you. We are looking at offering a daycare option in which your Kindergarten - 8th grade-aged child would be supervised while he/she completes his/her daily work and attends e-learning sessions from a workspace in the Activity Center, safely distant from other students, but still monitored and assisted when needed. This option would be available at a cost, probably \$25 per day per child, 7:45 AM-2:45 PM (with daycare \$5 extra per day and probably only until 4:00 PM, and students would bring their own lunches and snacks). If this scenario sounds like it would meet your family's needs, please fill in the survey at <https://forms.gle/wyAG1DjstucSio6w6> **by Tuesday, November 24, 2020**. Once we have an idea if this is something that meets our families' needs and in a quantity that is doable for such a program, we will roll out more information about its specifics and sign-up in early December.

Heroes Work Here - We love our Catholic schools' employees! Teachers, leaders and support staff have worked tirelessly over the summer and the start of our school year to bring exceptional in-person and remote learning to families during this unprecedented time. To recognize their fantastic work, the Office of Catholic Schools is excited to introduce the #SchoolHero program. Educators and staff who have gone above and beyond in order to ensure a safe and productive learning environment will be highlighted through social media and the web. All school employees and families can nominate a school hero by completing a brief online form at <https://schools.archchicago.org/nominate-your-school-hero>

Illnesses/Absences from School - Just a reminder, all illnesses/absences from school must be reported in advance. Please notify the school if your child will be absent by calling the office or emailing absent@sainfferdinand.org

REMINDERS

GRADES/HONOR ROLL - Please note, the grade scale for Specials Classes (Physical Education, Fine Arts, Spanish, Technology) has changed. **These classes are now using the +, S, and – grade scale.**

+ (outstanding work)
S (satisfactory work)
- (unsatisfactory work)

For the A/High Honor Roll, Grades 4-8 students need to have all A's in the subject areas still being graded, and +'s in the Specials.

For the B Honor Roll, Grades 4-8 students need to earn a combo of A's and B's (no C's or lower), and have all +'s and S's (no -'s) in the Specials.

Gym Uniforms - Please make sure you have the correct gym uniform! Last year was the final transition year for uniforms. This year, all gym uniforms should be the navy blue ones, as offered through **Dennis Uniform**. ***If you do not have the correct uniform, this will start to be reflected in your grade.*** Even though we had to say farewell to Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Folino and Ms. Margaret will be covering gym classes so that students still have the opportunity to exercise and learn healthy habits during the school day.

Sweaters/ Uniforms - **As the weather is getting colder, please remember to dress appropriately ... students should now be in pants, NOT walking shorts.** Make sure to bring your St. Ferdinand School fleece sweater jacket (the Dennis Uniform one) to wear during the school day. Due to COVID, we do need to keep the windows open to provide more ventilation – and as the temperature drops outside, so does the temperature in the classroom.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, November 19: Report Cards go home

Thursday, November 19: Family Reading Night (details to follow)

Thursday, November 19: Renew My Church Parish Town Hall Meeting #2, 6:00PM CHURCH

Tuesday, November 24: Lou Malnati's Frozen Pizza Certificate orders due

Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27: No School, Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 4: Santa Drive-Through, 6:00PM – 8:00PM, School Parking Lot (\$10)

Monday, December 7: Gift Card Orders Due

Friday, December 11: *Rain Date for Santa Drive-Through*