

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



December 03, 2020

NEWS

Santa Drive-Through! - This year, we will be hosting a Drive-Through Santa event! This will take place **tomorrow, Friday, December 4, from 6:00PM – 8:00PM** in our parking lot. 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 and is included in the links.

Gift Card Orders - **Monday, December 07**, will be the last day to turn in your gift card orders. Please see the order form included in the links if you are interested in purchasing these for yourself, or for Christmas presents for your family/friends.

Christmas Recording Next Thursday - Next **Thursday, December 10**, each classroom will be recording their Christmas song to be included. Please see the flyer that went home as well as the document included in the links to see what your student should wear to school that day.

Mitten Tree - We are collecting new hats/scarves/gloves/mittens to donate to the Lydia Home for Children this Christmas season. New items may be brought to the school through **December 17**. Please see the flyer that went home and is included in the links for more information.

Christmas Parties - Students will have Christmas celebrations in their homerooms on Friday, December 18. Due to the pandemic, we ask that parents do **NOT** bring in treats/goody bags.

Instead, we encourage you to consider picking up mittens, hats, or scarves for our mitten tree drive. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

FREE Breakfast! - We are excited to announce that starting next Wednesday, December 9, FSP will be offering breakfast every Wednesday for students to take home as they leave school. Students will receive 7 days of FREE breakfast kits. These breakfast kits contain an array of cereals, cereal bars, crackers, cookies, juice and milk.

Soup-er Bowl Challenge - We collected over 2,300 cans of soup in our Soup-er Bowl Challenge! Congratulations to 4th grade, who had the highest percentage of cans per student. Each student will receive a personal pizza as their prize for so generously thinking of those in need!

Candle Fundraising Update - We made just over \$1,500 for our school with our Candle Fundraiser! Our top 3 sellers were Sonya, Rhys and Lara. Thank you to all the families who helped support our fundraising efforts!

Remote Learning January 5 – 15 - The Archdiocese of Chicago Catholic Schools will pivot to e-learning beginning for the two-week period when Christmas Break ends: **Tuesday, January 5 - 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. Day Care **will** be available during this time. A separate letter will go home at a later date. Please contact the office for more information.

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

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

Monday, December 7: Gift Card Orders Due

Thursday, December 10: Christmas Song Recording – Please wear assigned outfit for your grade level

Monday, December 21: Christmas Vacation starts!

Tuesday, January 5: Remote learning starts for 2 weeks

Monday, January 18: No School, Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 19: Welcome back to in-person learning!