

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



December 10, 2020

NEWS

Dog Stop Drive & Share - Our next Dine & Share (or, Drive through & Share) will be **Wednesday, Dec. 16 from 4pm – 9pm** at the **Dog Stop**. Please see the flyer that went home and is included in the links for more information. Make sure to mention St. Ferdinand School when you order.

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.

BIG SHOULDERS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS - Big Shoulders Fund SGO will begin accepting applications for tax credit scholarships for the 2021/22 school year on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at 8:00am. 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 --- so make sure to be prepared to log on before 8:00am in order to get a good spot.***

EMPOWER ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS - Empower Illinois Reservations open on Wednesday, January 13. Please see the information on applying that is included in the links for this week's Thursday thoughts, or go to <https://empowerillinois.org/> ***Time is of the essence --- so make sure to be prepared to log on by 6:30pm in order to get a good spot.***

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.

School Home Learning Agreement - Please review the School-Home Learning Agreement that went home today, and is included in the links. Please make sure to be following the expectations when we do our remote learning in January. A copy of this agreement was signed at the beginning of the year.

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@saintferdinand.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

Wednesday, December 16: Dog Stop Drive & Share, 4:00pm – 9:00pm

Monday, December 21: Christmas Vacation starts!

Tuesday, January 5: Remote learning starts for 2 weeks

Tuesday, January 12: Empower Illinois Scholarship Reservations Open (starting at 6:30pm, submissions begin at 7:00 Make sure to reserve your place early!)

Wednesday, January 13: Big Shoulders Scholarship Applications Open @ 8:00am

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

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