

Thursday Thoughts: The Weekly Newsletter of St. Ferdinand School



January 21, 2021

NEWS

Progress Reports– 2nd Trimester Progress Reports went home today with students in Grades 1 and 2. Acknowledgement forms went home with students in Grades 3-8, as progress reports for these grades are available via Powerschool. Please review your child's progress, and return either the signed progress report or acknowledgement form by Monday, January 25.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – 2nd Trimester Parent-Teacher Zoom Conferences will be on Thursday, February 11. Students will have a 11:30AM dismissal this day, and conferences will occur virtually via Zoom from 12:00PM – 7:00PM. The link to sign-ups is <https://signup.com/go/opiGAER> (this will also be emailed, and is included in this week's links). *As a reminder, parent-teacher conferences are mandatory, as they serve as a time for you to learn more about how your child is doing in school.*

Catholic Schools Week starts January 31! Catholic Schools Week 2021 will start on Sunday, January 31. Although it will look a little different this year due to Covid restrictions, the day will start with **Family Mass in the Church at 11:30am** (please make sure to sign up on <http://www.stferdinandchurch.com/> to reserve your seat). This year, we will have a virtual open-house on our Facebook page, where we will showcase student projects Stay tuned for more information! ***Please check the papers that were sent home today; your child received a schedule of all the activities during Catholic Schools Week!***

February Freeze Discount Registration for the 21/22 School Year will open at the beginning of Catholic Schools Week. Once again, we are able to offer our February Freeze discount (tuition for the 2021-22 school year is charged at the published 2020-21 rates) for families that re-enroll for the 2021/22 School Year by the last day of school in February – Friday, February 26. Please see the flyer that went home (and is included in the links) for more information.

Get April 2022 Tuition Free If you recommend a family to St. Ferdinand School and they register their child and remain at St. Ferdinand all year, you will receive April 2022's tuition **free!** Go out and tell the good news about St. Ferdinand School!

Family Trivia Night - To conclude Catholic Schools Week, we will host our first-ever Family Trivia Night on Friday, February 5th! This event will take place via Zoom. Registration forms with more information went home today and are included in the links. Please make sure to turn these in by the morning of Friday, February 5, in order to be a part of our event.

BIG SHOULDERS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS - Big Shoulders Fund SGO began 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 to apply if you have not already done so.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIPS - Empower Illinois opened on January 13, and is still accepting applications. Please go to <https://empowerillinois.org/apply/how-do-i-apply/> for more information and to begin the application process

Donate to a Tax Credit Scholarship Give the gift of Catholic education. Triple your impact of a tax credit scholarship with the 2-for-1 matching gift program. To help donations have even more impact in 2021/22, several donors have agreed to pool their resources and offer a 2-for-1 matching gift program to the more than 160 schools run by the Archdiocese of Chicago. The matching pool fund is at \$2.8 million with funds still being actively raised. This means for every dollar designated to a qualifying school through the Empower Illinois scholarship granting organization between Dec. 1, 2020 and Feb. 28, 2021, the school will receive two dollars in matching funds. The donations are capped at \$50,000 per school. For more information, please visit <https://schools.archchicago.org/donating-to-a-tax-credit-scholarship>

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>

Ms. Margaret was the first staff member from St. Ferdinand to receive this honor ... let's try to get more! 😊

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.***

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, January 27: Dine & Share at Portillo's (7308 W. Lawrence), 5:00PM – 8:00PM

Sunday, January 31: Family Mass, 11:30AM, Church (followed by Virtual Open House!)

Friday, February 05: Family Trivia Night (via Zoom), 6:30PM (see flier to register!)

Thursday, February 11: 11:30AM Dismissal --- ZOOM Parent-Teacher Conferences (12:00PM – 7:00PM)

Friday, February 12: No School: Archdiocesan Professional Development Day

Monday, February 15: No School: Presidents Day

ST. FERDINAND SCHOOL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021



FAMILY MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31ST
AT 11:30AM IN CHURCH

followed by our first

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
ON SOCIAL MEDIA (FACEBOOK)

St. Ferdinand Catholic School
<https://www.facebook.com/stferds>

