

**PFGA Howler - February 23, 2023**

1 message

Pope Francis Global Academy <schoolmessenger@pfgacademy.org>  
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To: jthyen@pfgacademy.org

Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 5:56 PM



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

[PFGA WEBSITE](#) - Please visit the school website often for the latest news

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

- **Friday, February 24 - Student Council Out of Uniform Day to Raise Money for Ukraine - wear blue and yellow - BRING DONATIONS**
- Friday, February 24 - Stations of the Cross - 2 pm
- Saturday, February 25 - Sweetheart Dance

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**RE-ENROLLMENT FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR**

The FACTS portal is now open for 2023-24 re-enrollment. Please see [THIS LETTER AND TUITION RATE SHEET](#) for the upcoming school year. Enrollment for new families will begin soon.

**RE-ENROLLMENT INCENTIVES**

There are several early enrollment incentives again this year. The two big financial incentives are a \$100 Enrollment Fee discount for completing your FACTS re-enrollment by **April 1, 2023** and also a \$300 Referral Bonus for each new family that you bring in. See all the details [HERE](#).

**FAMILY HANDBOOK UPDATES - NEW HOWLER SECTION TO HIGHLIGHT VARIOUS PARTS OF THE HANDBOOK!**

A paper copy of the **HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND AGREEMENT FORM** went home in LAST WEEK'S Thursday Folders. Please carefully read through this **HANDBOOK DOCUMENT** and then sign and return the form to the office AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If you have any questions, please contact the office at [info@pfgacademy.org](mailto:info@pfgacademy.org). Thank you.

**HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS**

**Cell Phone Policy**

*Any cell phone brought to school must remain in the student's locker or backpack and be powered OFF. Cell phones may not be used during school hours. This includes the hours that a class may be on a field trip unless specific directions are given by a teacher. If cell phones are used before or after school hours, calls must be made outside of the school buildings. If a cell phone or any electronic communication device is confiscated for misuse of the above policy, the device must be picked up in the school office by a parent/guardian.*

**\$3,704 DONATION IN HONOR OF FORMER TEACHER RON PIECH**

On Ash Wednesday we had two special guests at our 8:30 school Mass. Connie and Dan Boylan were there to present a \$3,704 check for our school's music program in honor of Connie's brother, **Ron Piech**, the band and music teacher at St. Pascal School back in the late 70s. Ron recently passed away and Connie chose to ask Ron's friends and fans to donate to this fund to honor Ron's life and legacy as a musician and music teacher.

Deacon Charlie's children had Mr. Piech as a teacher, remembering him as a very engaging teacher. Mrs. Kells, our Assistant Principal and Junior High Social Studies teacher, remembers what a fun teacher Mr. Piech was when she was his student at St. Pascal back then! Mrs. Boylan presented a check to Ms. Megan Bieschke, who is our current PFGA music teacher. She will help determine what great items we can add to our music room with the generous donation.

Thank you, Mr. Piech! Your legacy lives on!



**INFORMATION FOR PREPARING YOUR 2022 TAX RETURNS**

To complete your tax returns you may need a Tuition Payment Summary. You can find this information right within your FACTS portal. [HERE ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS TO FIND WHAT YOU NEED](#). As in the past, we will not be sending individual summaries home.

**LOOKING TO OPTIMIZE YOUR ILLINOIS STATE TAXES AND HELP OUT OTHER PFGA FAMILIES? DONATE THROUGH EMPOWER ILLINOIS!**

If you OR someone you know (like a Grandparent, boss, co-worker, or neighbors) has an annual tax bill from the State of Illinois, and you would like to REDIRECT some of the money you owe to PFGA instead of to the state, Mrs. Thyen can help you understand how you (or your friends) can do that. Please understand that you don't need to plan to donate 10s of thousands of dollars in order to make a difference for another PFGA family. Here is an example of what a \$1,000 donation through this program could do:

Let's say you owe \$1,000 to the state come April 15, 2024. (Many people have a pretty good idea of what their tax burden is year to year, so you may be able to predict what you will end up owing). If you made a \$1,000 donation to PFGA through the Empower Illinois SGO right NOW (dated January of 2023), paying that by check up front, you would earn at "tax credit" for \$750 (the tax credit is for 75% of your donation to the program) which could then be used when preparing your 2023 taxes in place of \$750 dollars of the \$1,000 that you owe the state. That means that you would only have to pay Illinois the \$250 difference and, in the end, the only EXTRA money you will have paid to give \$1,000 toward a PFGA student scholarship will be the \$250 of your donation that wasn't counted as a tax credit.

**AND, RIGHT NOW YOUR DONATION WOULD BE DOUBLED BY A GENEROUS ARCHDIOCESAN BENEFACTOR!** The Matching Grant will run out before February, so if you want to maximize your impact, please call Mrs. Thyen ASAP to learn more! Or, email at [jthyen@pfgacademy.org](mailto:jthyen@pfgacademy.org). You can first learn more by going here: <https://empowerillinois.org/donate/>

**PRIVATE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS**

Johana Ortegon, the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Director of Music, is coordinating individual and group lessons for all levels and ages in guitar, piano, violin, voice and choir during after school hours. [PLEASE SEE THESE DETAILS](#) and contact [Johana](#) with questions.

**PARENTS' CLUB NEWS**

**ANNUAL PARENTS' CLUB SWEETHEART DANCE IS This Saturday, FEBRUARY 25**

If you're dancing shoes on and bring your sweetest girl or guy (kids and parents) to the Annual Sweetheart Dance!

**FULL INFORMATION IS HERE**

Tickets are available at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/uNO/>.

We are in need of some volunteers to make the event an amazing evening. Please consider volunteering. <https://signup.com/go/qshObkz>



**PARENTS' CLUB HAPPY HOUR - MARCH 10 AT 7:30 PM!**

Join PFGA parents at their next social event! This is a no cost and low key event...just show up and buy your own drinks/food. It's a great way to get to know other parents! You can also invite prospective parents that you might know are looking for a school, including any St. Bart's parents!



**PARENTS' CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE**

For the benefit of our new families, just a reminder that our Parents' Club hosts a private Facebook Group for our PFGA Families! If you're on Facebook, stop by and send a request to join the group! The group name is **PFGA Parents' Club**

**SPIRITWEAR SHOP IS STILL OPEN**

<https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/pfga-spirit-wear-store>

**CLUBS, EXTRACURRICULARS, AND SPORTS**

**VOLLEYBALL - COME OUT TO CHEER ON OUR TEAMS!**

**5th GRADE**

- Thursday, March 2 at 6pm. PFGA Wolves vs. SMOW White@ SMOW (St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, North Hiawatha, Chicago)
- Saturday, March 4 at 9am. PFGA Wolves vs. SPC Gold @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)

**6TH GRADE**

- Thursday, March 2 at 7pm. PFGA Wolves vs. SMOW Blue@ SMOW (St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, North Hiawatha Avenue, Chicago)
- Saturday, March 4 at 10am. PFGA Wolves vs. SPC Blue @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)

**7TH GRADE**

- Friday, February 24 at 8pm. PFGA Wolves vs. St. John Berchman @St.John Berchman (2524 West Altgeld Street in Chicago)
- Saturday, February 25 at 9am. PFGA Wolves vs. St. Stanislaus @St. Stanislaus (St. Stanislaus Kostka Academy, North Noble Street, Chicago)
- Thursday, March 2 at 8pm. PFGA Wolves vs. SMOW @ SMOW (St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, North Hiawatha Avenue, Chicago)
- Saturday, March 4 at 11am. PFGA Wolves vs. SPC Blue @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)

**TRACK TEAM CALL OUTS!**

If you have a 4th - 8th grader who is interested in running track this spring for PFGA, please complete this registration form and send the \$50 team registration fee into the office in a labeled envelope by March 17. **Spread the word among friends because we do need to submit rosters and to order uniforms, so the deadline is hard.** <https://forms.gle44xCy3ve3JFFW17>

**BASEBALL OR SOFTBALL INTEREST FORM**

If you have a student who is interested in playing either baseball or softball for PFGA this spring, please complete this Interest Form ASAP: <https://forms.gle/DL5hBv16CjgPMr6>. **Again, please spread the word among friends so that the results are an actual reflection of who would want to play. Thank you!**

**SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE AVAILABLE FOR PFGA STUDENTS**

The IJL Soccer League, voted the #1 Grade School League, has opportunities for Pre-K 4 through 8th grade players to play in a Co-ed league from Mid-April to Early-June. [MORE INFO IS HERE](#).

**CHEERLEADER CAMP AT DEPAUL PREP**

DePaul Prep is running Cheer Camp for grades 4-6 and 7-8. Camp will be held June 20th-22nd at the Gordon Tech campus of DePaul Prep. You can register at [www.depaulprepcamps.org](http://www.depaulprepcamps.org)

**PICK-UP BASKETBALL LEAGUE (PARENTS AND ADULTS 18+)**

When: Monday evenings, 7:30pm - 9:30pm  
Where: PFGA Gym

Parents and adult family members of students are invited to join in pick-up basketball games on Monday evenings starting at 7:30pm in the PFGA gymnasium. We will meet each Monday throughout the school year. For more information and to add yourself to email comms regarding basketball, please email Ian Barbo ([ian.barbo@gmail.com](mailto:ian.barbo@gmail.com)).

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**SWEETHEART DANCE VOLUNTEERS**

Parents' Club is need of some volunteers to help with the Sweetheart Dance. Please consider volunteering. <https://signup.com/go/qshObkz>

**SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL**

There are many ways you and your extended family and friends can support PFGA!

**WIN BIG IN OUR QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE!**

Be sure to get over there and buy your tickets NOW at [Trattoria Porretta](#) anytime their dining room or pick up window are open! The raffle takes place EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT at [Trattoria Porretta](#) at 3656 North Central.

**THE MARKET DAY FUNDRAISER**

Parents, friends, parishioners, and friends can order products anytime from the Market Day website, 24/7! Just like other popular eCommerce sites, customers pay on-line. Market Day accepts all major credit cards. [MARKETDAY.COM](http://MARKETDAY.COM)

**COCA-COLA GIVE PROGRAM**

This is a relatively new program...if you purchase any Coke/Dasani products, you can quickly and easily set up an account to log the numbers found under the caps of qualified products!

**HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION**

**HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

HighSight (Due March 25): <https://www.highsight.org/apply/>

**PARISH NEWS**

**BULLETIN**

Check out the most recent bulletin for [Our Lady of the Rosary Parish](#) for all sorts of good information, upcoming events, and Mass times!

**ST. PASCAL WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday Anticipated Mass**  
4:00 PM - Saint Pascal

**Sunday Masses**  
8:00 AM - Saint Pascal  
10:00 AM - Saint Pascal  
6:00 PM - Saint Pascal (Spanish)

**NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

**ST. FERDINAND PARISH FISH FRY**

St. Ferdinand Fish Fry, 3115 N. Mason Ave., has been serving dinners every Friday during Lent for over 30 years. Join them Fridays, Feb. 24 – March 31, 4:30 – 7:30 pm in all school halls. Menu includes fried & baked fish plus shrimp dinners, clam chowder & vegetable soup, nachos & cheese pizza. Phone ahead at (773) 622-3022, Ext. 361 for carry out or convenient DRIVE THRU service between 4:00 – 7:00 pm. Wheelchair accessibility through our Drive Thru area behind the school. Volunteer opportunities available. Follow us on Facebook at "St. Ferdinand Fish Fry" for the latest information! Email: [St.FerdinandFishFry@gmail.com](mailto:St.FerdinandFishFry@gmail.com). Follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SFFishFry>

**TO SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE HOWLER**

Please send all the **submissions** by Tuesdays at 12:00PM to [info@pfgacademy.org](mailto:info@pfgacademy.org)

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