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**PFGA - Howler 12.6.2018**

2 messages

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**PFGA Notifications** <pfganotifications@pfgacademy.org>  
Reply-To: PFGA Notifications <pfganotifications@pfgacademy.org>  
To: jthyen@pfgacademy.org

Thu, Dec 6, 2018 at 3:29 PM



December 6, 2018

[School Calendar](#)[PFGA Website](#)[PFGA Facebook Page](#)[PFGA Parents' Club Facebook Page](#)

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## HEAD OF SCHOOL *happenings*

Dear Pope Francis Parents and Guardians,

"It's the most wonderful time of the year." As the song lyrics state, children love the magical moments of Christmas. In the spirit of the season, we as a Catholic school community are dedicated to capturing the real reason that we celebrate the Christmas season through the various Advent prayers and activities here at the Academy:

- Grades 3-8 Penance Services  
North Campus on Monday, December 10th  
South Campus on Wednesday, December 12th
- Christmas Pageants with liturgical songs from around the world interwoven with the Nativity Story  
North Campus - Tuesday, December 11th, 6:30-7:30 at St. Tarcissus Church  
South Campus- Thursday, December 13th, 6:30-7:30 at St. Pascal Church

- Christmas Toy Drive to Benefit the Children at the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab  
December 3rd through 14th

### Parent Volunteers

Parents, as volunteers, can make a critical difference in the education the Academy's children. To ensure the safety of our students, Pope Francis Global Academy requires anyone volunteering in school for any reason to complete the following:

<b>CANTS</b>	<p><a href="#">English CANTS Form</a></p> <p><a href="#">Spanish CANTS Form</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be completed and submitted annually.</li> </ul>
<b>CBC (VOL.)</b>	<p><a href="#">Volunteer Online Criminal History Check</a> <i>Please create an online Virtus account before completing other compliance requirements</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer criminal history checks are created and run through Virtus.</li> </ul>
<b>PGC-VIRTUS</b>	<p><a href="#">VIRTUS/Protecting God's Children for Adults</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants must pre-register at <a href="http://www.Virtusonline.org">www.Virtusonline.org</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>ACC</b>	<p><a href="#">Archdiocesan Code of Conduct (English)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Archdiocesan Code of Conduct (Spanish)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Archdiocesan Code of Conduct (Polish)</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be read and signed prior to volunteering.</li> </ul>

### Younger Siblings Attending When Volunteering

Parent volunteers are always needed and welcome, and we recognize that bringing younger siblings during visitations may at times be necessary.

For safety reasons, it is very important that the following procedures be followed:

- Parent volunteers may bring younger siblings to classroom parties.
- During this time, younger siblings and/or infants must be monitored at all times by the parent and are not permitted to go unattended in hallways.

Younger siblings are not allowed to attend under the following circumstances:

- Younger siblings and/or infants are not permitted to accompany parents when providing instructional support within the classrooms areas.
- Younger siblings and/or infants are not permitted to accompany parents on any field trips.

If the guidelines are not followed, parents will be asked to take the younger sibling home. The safety and academic focus of our students is our number one priority.

### New BSJ Members

The Board of Specified Jurisdiction is seeking new members to bring professional expertise in specified areas to enhance the educational and spiritual leadership of the school. Please see [HERE](#) for additional information on the various committees. If you are interested in joining, please email me at [mkinel@pfgacademy](mailto:mkinel@pfgacademy) for additional information.

### Income Tax Credits

As the fiscal year closes and many parents and businesses begin their tax preparation, they may find that they are going to owe the Illinois Department of Revenue for taxes. If you find that you will be paying taxes this year instead of receiving a refund, I want to remind you and encourage you to take a closer look at the Invest in Kids Income Tax Credits. Please see [HERE](#) for more information. From now until February 28, there is an opportunity to TRIPLE the value of your contribution

through a 2-for-1 matching grant. If you would like to have the tax credit count for this year, it is important to begin the process through Empower Illinois by December 14. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact Jodi Thyen at [jthyen@pfgacademy.org](mailto:jthyen@pfgacademy.org) for additional information

Invest in Kids offers approved Illinois individual and business taxpayers income tax credits in the amount of 75 percent of their total qualified contributions made to one or more Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) during a taxable year. Credits cannot exceed \$1 million per taxpayer, per year.

**Example:** A taxpayer makes a qualified contribution of \$10,000 to an approved SGO. The taxpayer will be eligible to claim a \$7,500 tax credit.

In closing, as it is easy to be caught up in the secular part of Christmas, may the birth of the Christ Child be in your hearts in all that you do during this "most wonderful time of the year".

Blessings and peace,  
Margaret Kinel

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### **BOARD OF SPECIFIED JURISDICTION MEETING**

Our next BOARD OF SPECIFIED JURISDICTION meeting will be on Monday, December 10 at the North Campus. The open session will run from 6:30-7:30pm and the closed session of the board will follow.

### **ORDERING LUNCHES IN THE NEW YEAR**

With all the hustle and bustle of the season, just a reminder that lunch orders for January are due by December 15th.

[FSP Registration](#)  
[North Instructions](#)  
[South Instructions](#)

### **ST. PASCAL TREE DECORATING AND LIGHTING EVENING**

Join us for the First Annual St. Pascal Tree Decorating and Lighting Evening. Watch Father Elliott flip the switch that brightens the dark nights while we await the arrival of our savior. We will have a number of trees located between the church and school ready to be decorated. Bring an ornament to add to the holiday decor. Enjoy some cocoa and cookies while listening to the music of the season. December 11th at 7:00 PM. ALL ARE INVITED.

[St. Pascal Tree Decorating and Lighting Evening](#)

### **CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE**

While you are out Christmas shopping, please consider picking up a new toy (or donate a gently used toy) to our Christmas Toy Drive for children at the Shirley Ryan Ability lab.

[Christmas Toy Drive](#)

### **CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES AT THE FOUR FOUNDING PARISHES**

There is no better way to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas than to attend a Christmas Eve Mass. You are all invited and your children may participate at Christmas Eve Mass at our four founding parishes. Please see the attachment below for a listing of family focused Christmas Eve masses at each of our parishes.

[Christmas Eve Masses](#)

## **TEACHER/STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT FUND**

Our Parents' Club is once again organizing a group TEACHER/STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT FUND. Please consider contributing in place of individual gifts to teachers and staff.

[Gift Fund Information](#)  
[Give On-Line](#)

## **POLAR EXPRESS MOVIE NIGHT**

Grab your blankets and pillows and take a ride on the Polar Express Friday, December 7th. Doors open at 6:00 pm, movie starts at 6:30 pm. Thank you to our Parents' Club for organizing this event.

[Polar Express](#)

## **AMAZON SMILES**

Use Amazon Smiles when holiday shopping!  
Shop through Amazon Smiles this year and .05% of your purchase will go to Pope Francis Global Academy!

You must be logged on to your Amazon account specifically through <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-4824643> in order for your purchases to be counted. Once you set "Pope Francis Global Academy" to be your organization of choice, it's only a matter of doing ALL of your Amazon shopping through this link! Just remember to always start with a "smile" when you're headed to the Amazon page to shop. Thank you for your continued support!

## **PARENTS' CLUB YOGA NIGHT**

The PFGA Parents' Club is hosting a yoga night Friday, January 4th from 7-9pm at Wildlight Yoga. A minimum donation of \$20 per person is requested and 100% will benefit PFGA.

[Yoga Night](#)

## **PARENTS' CLUB JANUARY MEETING**

Parents' Club January meeting will take place on Thursday, January 17 in the Mason Orchard Auditorium at North Campus. 630pm social time and our formal meeting begins at 7. Pizza and drinks to be provided. Questions? Email [parentsclub@pfgacademy.org](mailto:parentsclub@pfgacademy.org)



## **QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE**

Our Queen of Hearts pot is now over \$17,000.

This week Jen Stopka's ticket with the number #15 was chosen to reveal the 7 of hearts. Jen wins \$50. 2nd place, a \$25 gift

certificate to Trattoria Porretta goes to Kenneth Murphy. And, 3rd place goes to Chris Carlson who is the lucky recipient of a Porretta's winter hat. The next drawing is next Tuesday, December 11th.

A heartfelt thank you to all for your ongoing support.

Numbers already chosen; 1, 7, 9, 10, 15, 19, 25, 40, 43 and 50.

[Information and Rules](#)



## **PFGA SPORTS NEWS**

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### **Technology You Can Use**

Looking for the perfect book for Christmas? Check out the best kids books of 2018.  
[Best Books of 2018](#)

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### **Parish News**

#### **UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES**

[Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra - St. Cornelius Church Benefit](#)



Our four founding parishes are alive in Christ! There are many activities and special events that our families would surely find helpful and of interest. Please take the time to read through the weekly bulletins of each to see what you might be interested in!

#### **CURRENT BULLETINS**

[Our Lady of Victory](#)  
[St. Cornelius](#)  
[St. Pascal](#)  
[St. Tarcissus](#)

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### **Around Town**

[St. Viator Middle School Pep Band Night](#)  
[Light Up Gladstone Park](#)  
[Troop 969 Gazette](#)  
[Resurrection Breakfast with Santa](#)

HOWLER SUBMISSIONS

Submit a PDF FLYER to the Howler by emailing it to [lgarrett@pfgacademy.org](mailto:lgarrett@pfgacademy.org) **with the words "Howler Submission" in the subject line. Submit all items by Tuesday noon.**

HOWLER SUBSCRIPTIONS

To subscribe to our newsletter email [lgarrett@pfgacademy.org](mailto:lgarrett@pfgacademy.org) **with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line.**

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Chicago Archdiocese would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Chicago Archdiocese directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students, and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.

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**Jodi Thyen** <jthyen@pfgacademy.org>

Mon, Dec 10, 2018 at 3:58 PM

To: moises valle <mvalle4158@gmail.com>, Linda Garrett <lgarrett@pfgacademy.org>

Hi Mr. Valle,

I am forwarding the Howler from last week which has a list of all the things you'll need to do and complete in order to volunteer with the kids.

The general order of doing these things is to first set up a user account or registration. You can do this here: <http://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/> Find "Chicago, IL" from drop down box and then complete everything you can.

Then, once you've plugged in your info you can find a Virtus training session that works for you to attend. You can go to the archdiocese website to find a list of upcoming sessions. The sessions are listed in chronological order with the ones coming up sooner listed first. They are all throughout Cook and Lake County during the day, at night and on weekends. Hopefully one of them will work for you soon. You must sign up online to attend one or you won't be let in. Or, if you're let in, it won't end up counting. Make sure you sign up in advance.

Then, as soon as you have a date and time for your training, you can go ahead and do all the other paper work listed in the chart in the Howler.

Linda can help you from there one you've gotten that far.

Thanks for getting to this. It will open up a lot more volunteer opportunities for you to do.

Thanks,

Jodi

Jodi Thyen  
Director of Admissions and Advancement



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