

PFGA Howler - January 26, 2023
1 message

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To: jthyen@pfgacademy.org



THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

PFGA WEBSITE - Please visit the school website often for the latest news

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

MONDAY

- Friday, January 27 - \$5 on Friday for #MOLLYSTRONG
Friday, January 27 - 8th grade graduation picture day
Friday, January 27 - Report cards will be emailed home
Saturday, January 28 - 8th grade Confirmation meeting 11am-1pm with Sponsors
Sunday, January 29 - Catholic Schools Week Mass and Open House
January 29 - February 4 - Catholic Schools Week
January 30 - New After School Activity session begins

RE-ENROLLMENT FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR
With Catholic Schools Week comes the kickoff of our 2023-24 School Year Re-enrollment Campaign. The FACTS portal will allow for 2023-24 re-enrollment beginning this Saturday, January 28. Please see THIS LETTER AND TUITION RATE SHEET for the upcoming school year and be sure to enroll 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 March 5, 2023 and also a \$300 Referral Bonus for each new family that you bring in. See all the details HERE.

WINTER/SPRING AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
Registration for the Winter/Spring After School Activities session begins now. The session will start the week of January 30. SIGN UP ASAP to ensure we have enough kids in each class to run it! The various offerings will run for between 8-10 weeks, depending on the day of the week they run. Please see the details here: https://www.pfgacademy.org/afterschoolwinter23

Here's the quick list of what is being offered:

- MONDAYS
Advanced Beginner Guitar (any students who have already taken beginner guitar)
Lego Builders (1st & 2nd grades)
TUESDAYS
Arts & Crafts with Mrs. Widlowski (2nd - 8th grades)
Little Ninjas (K-3rd grades)
Beginner Guitar (2nd - 8th grades)
WEDNESDAYS
Choir (K - 8th grades...limited spots available)
Martial Arts/Self-Defense (4th - 8th grades)
THURSDAYS
Clay Play (K - 3rd grades)
Musical Theatre (1st - 8th grades ... enrollment is closed)
FRIDAYS
Ukulele (2nd - 8th grades)
STEM (1st - 4th grades)
Yearbook (6th - 8th grades)

SUPPORT OF A NEIGHBORING CHILD - \$5 FOR FRIDAY
You may be aware that there is a young lady at St. Monica School who has been fighting cancer for several years. Her name is Molly and most of the Northwest side of Chicago is pulling together to try to help out through both prayer and monetary contributions for medical expenses. Next Friday we will join the cause. We'll be having a \$5 for FRIDAY out of uniform day. If you can WEAR ORANGE FOR MOLLY, all the better. Please don't go out and buy something new...it's not necessary. MORE INFORMATION IS HERE.

TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship program is a state-wide "school choice" program offering tuition scholarships (50%, 75%, OR 100% of tuition, based on need) to low and middle-income families for use at private/Catholic Schools. Qualifying for these scholarships is based on your household size and household adjusted gross income. CHECK HERE TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY. If you do qualify, and you haven't already done so, please apply for the TCS through both the Big Shoulders Fund SGO Application AND the Empower Illinois Applications.

- https://bigshouldersfund.secure.force.com/bsfapplication/
https://empowerillinois.org/apply/

If you have already completed the first step for both of these applications, you will have a limited time to complete step 2 of the Empower Illinois application in order to be considered with your place in line. For the Big Shoulders application, they will be contacting you by email to let you know when to move on to step 2 of their process. Please keep an eye on your email.

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 tuition 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. You can first learn more by going here: https://empowerillinois.org/donate/

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK MASS
We will once again kick off Catholic Schools week with a big Family Mass at St. Pascal Church on Sunday, January 29 at 10 am. We will follow the Mass with an Open House for current and prospective families from 11 am - 1 pm. Please plan to attend both the Mass and the Open House if possible. It will be a great opportunity for you to see your children's classrooms, speak briefly with the teachers, tour the next grade levels up for next year, visit the science lab, and check out all the various clubs and activities available for your kids and yourselves!

We are looking for students to volunteer to participate in the Family Mass. Please speak with your kids before signing them up to read or present the gifts, etc. Not all kids love doing that in front of a packed church. SIGN UP IS HERE.

CSW OPEN HOUSE
Directly after the CSW family Mass, we will invite all PFGA families as well as prospective school families to visit the school. All teachers and staff are scheduled to be here and this will be a great opportunity to check out your student's current classroom AND their room for NEXT year. It's also a great time to see the specials rooms and try out a simple science experiment with Mr. Conley in the junior high science lab! Mrs. Thyen is looking for help from parents for the Open House. We will need welcome bags and tour guides. Training will be provided. Please contact Mrs. Thyen if you're interested. jthyen@pfgacademy.org.

UNIFORM CLOSET PRESENTED BY PARENTS' CLUB
While you're attending the Open House, please stop by the Lunch/EDP Room to check out the selection of FREE Uniform pieces. If you have any uniform pieces you'd like to donate, please wash them and drop them off at the front office.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
The book fair will be open during the Open House on Sunday and K-8 grade students will have a chance to visit the book fair during the school day on Monday of CSW. Information was sent home. Due to scheduling and logistic considerations, Pre-K students will not visit the book fair during the school day. They and their families are invited to stop by during the Open House.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK STUDENT/FAMILY SCHEDULE is HERE. More details on each of the events will be forthcoming.

8th GRADE FUNDRAISER
Support our 8th graders as they raise money to help offset the cost of some of their celebratory end-of-year activities. Trattoria Porretta will be offering 15% of their Carry Out, Delivery and Gift Card Purchases on Tuesday, February 21 back to the 8th grade cause. MORE INFORMATION IS HERE.

ANNUAL PARENTS' CLUB SWEETHEART DANCE FEBRUARY 25
Get your 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/. Mark your calendar NOW!

CLUBS, EXTRACURRICULARS, AND SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL HAS BEGUN! COME OUT TO CHEER ON OUR TEAMS!

5th Grade - MORE GAMES COMING SOON!

6th Grade

- Saturday, January 28th at 2pm CST. PFGA Wolves vs St. John Brebeuf @ St. John Brebeuf (8307 N Harlem Ave, Niles, IL 60714)
Friday, February 3rd at 8pm CST. PFGA Wolves vs St. Robert Bellarmine @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)

7th Grade

- Saturday, January 28th at 1pm CST. PFGA Wolves vs St. John Brebeuf @ St. John Brebeuf (8307 N Harlem Ave, Niles, IL 60714)
Friday, February 3rd at 6pm CST. PFGA Wolves vs Eugene Blue @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)

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).

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

- UPCOMING PARENT CLUB MEETINGS
February 1 6pm EDP/Lunchroom (Enter through EDP entrance on Irving)
Ms. Osiecki and Mike O'Connell will attend the meeting to answer any questions our parents may have.
April 19 6pm Room 100 (Enter through Room 100 door on the west side of the building)
This will be our Parents' Club election for the 2023-2024 school year
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
For all of these positions YOU MUST BE VIRTUS TRAINED
Scholastic Book Fair Volunteers - sign up coming soon.
Teacher/Staff Luncheon on Wednesday, February 1
Student Appreciation Lunch on Friday, February 3
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

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

There are many ways our queen and friends can support PFGA, especially during the Holidays!

- 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 away 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
AMAZON SMILES (PROGRAM DISCONTINUING SOON!)
If you shop on Amazon, AND if you have been kind enough to set up an smile.amazon.com and set Pope Francis Global Academy up as your "charity of choice," please know that they are discontinuing the program on February 20 of this year. This won't impact you, but that means you only have until then to shop through AmazonSmile where they donate a portion of your eligible purchase price to our school! THANK YOU!
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)

TO SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE HOWLER

Please send all submissions to the Howler by Tuesdays at 12:00PM to info@pfgacademy.org

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