

PFGA Howler - February 9, 2023
1 message

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

Thu, Feb 9, 2023 at 3:50 PM



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Friday, February 17 - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Professional Development Day
- Monday, February 20 - NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
- Tuesday, February 21 - Parents' Club Treat for Fat Tuesday (more info to come)
- Tuesday, February 21 - 8th Grade Trattoria Porretta Fundraiser
- Wednesday, February 22 - 8:30 am Ash Wednesday Mass - K - 8th Grade
- Saturday, February 25 - Sweetheart Dance

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 **March 15, 2023** and also a \$300 Referral Bonus for each new family that you bring in. See all the details [HERE](#).

FAMILY HANDBOOK UPDATES

There have been several updates to the family handbook over the last 6-9 months so we are reposting the updated version today. We will send the link out to all current PFGA parents in a separate email. Please read through the updated handbook, sharing pertinent information with your children. Also, please print out the last page of the document, sign it indicating you have read the handbook, and then submit the form to the office through your child's backpack. If you need a paper copy of the form, please contact the office at info@pfgacademy.org. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NIGHT MINISTRY

Thank you to all who supported our donation drive during Catholic Schools Week for The Night Ministry. We successfully collected items from their wish list as well as monetary donations for those students who came to school out of uniform. Way to go in supporting our efforts to recognize and help support those in our community that are in need!

WINTER/SPRING AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES - ROOM STILL AVAILABLE IN SOME CLASSES!

The first week of the Winter/Spring After School Activities Session is finishing up, **BUT THERE ARE STILL SPACES AVAILABLE** in several of the classes. The various offerings will run for between 8-10 weeks, depending on the day of the week they run. They will wrap up right before Spring Break. Please see the details here: <https://www.pfgacademy.org/afterschoolwinter23>

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

MONDAYS

- Lego Builders (1st & 2nd grades) - [ROOM IS STILL AVAILABLE! SIGN UP HERE.](#)

TUESDAYS

- Arts & Crafts with Mrs. Widlowski (2nd - 8th grades) - **THIS CLASS IS FULL**
- [ROOM IS STILL AVAILABLE! SIGN UP HERE.](#) Little Ninjas (K-3rd grades) -
- Advanced Beginner Guitar (Possibly switching to Tuesdays) - [ROOM IS STILL AVAILABLE](#)

WEDNESDAYS

- Choir (K - 8th grades...limited spots available) - [SPACE STILL AVAILABLE. EMAIL JOHANNA FOR DETAILS](#)
- Martial Arts/Self-Defense (4th - 8th grades) - **CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST**

THURSDAYS

- Clay Play (K - 3rd grades) - [ROOM IS STILL AVAILABLE. SIGN UP HERE.](#)
- Musical Theatre (1st - 8th grades) - **ENROLLMENT IS CLOSED**

FRIDAYS

- Ukulele (2nd - 8th grades) - [ROOM IS STILL AVAILABLE! SIGN UP HERE.](#)
- STEM (1st - 4th grades) - **THIS CLASS IS FULL**
- Yearbook (6th - 8th grades) - [ROOM IS STILL AVAILABLE! SIGN UP HERE.](#)

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.

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/>.

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



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 a "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 had 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/>

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.](#)

FUNDRAISER IN HONOR OF FORMER MUSIC AND BAND TEACHER

We were informed this week of the sudden passing of **Ron Piech**, the band and music teacher at St. Pascal School back in the late 70s. Ron's love of the St. Pascal community never faded and, though he left teaching several years after he moved to the suburbs with his wife and young kids, he never stopped playing music. His band, **Peach's Beach Party**, formed with his wife of many years, and several friends, has been playing around the whole state of Illinois for decades. Ron's sister has begun a GoFundMe targeted at the fans and friends of Ron's band, and the **beneficiary of this fundraiser is the music program at Pope Francis Global Academy!**

If you'd like to read more about this fundraiser, or about Ron Piech, you can check it out at: <https://gofund.me/81f4e03b>.

CLUBS, EXTRACURRICULARS, AND SPORTS

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

5th Grade

- Friday, February 10 at 6 pm. PFGA Wolves vs. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity @ SEOTT - North Moody Avenue, Chicago, IL, USA
- Saturday, February 11 at 12pm. PFGA Wolves vs. St. Celestine @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)
- Monday, February 13 at 5 pm - PFGA Wolves vs. SMA @ St. Monica Catholic Academy, North Mont Clare Avenue, Chicago, IL, USA

6th Grade

- Saturday, February 11 at 11 am. PFGA Wolves vs. St. Celestine @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)
- Monday, February 13 at 6 pm - PFGA Wolves vs. SMA @ St. Monica Catholic Academy, North Mont Clare Avenue, Chicago, IL, USA

7th Grade

- Friday, February 10 at 7 pm. PFGA Wolves vs. St. Elizabeth of the Trinity @ SEOTT - North Moody Avenue, Chicago, IL, USA
- Saturday, February 11 at 9 am . PFGA Wolves vs. St. Stans @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)
- Saturday, February 11 at 10 am . PFGA Wolves vs. St. Celestine @ PFGA (Enter through Dakin Street gym entrance)
- Monday, February 13 at 7 pm - PFGA Wolves vs. SMA @ St. Monica Catholic Academy, North Mont Clare Avenue, Chicago, IL, USA

SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE AVAILABLE FOR PFGA STUDENTS

The JSL 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.](#)

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).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for parents to deliver some of the Thank you, Neighbors! posters that the students made during Catholic Schools Week. You would come in to pick up your posters and then, along with your student, bring the poster to the respective business or organization. If you could take a photo with your child, the poster, and someone from the organization and send it to Mrs. Thyen, all the better. Contact Mrs. Menendez in the office to volunteer. The following posters will need to be delivered:

- Perkolator
- District 16 Police Station
- Fire Station
- Alderman Sposato
- Merrimac Park Field House
- Portage Park Field House

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

PARENTS' CLUB NEWS

PARENTS' CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE

For the benefit of our new families, please 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.

SPIRITWEAR SHOP IS STILL OPEN

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

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](#)

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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