

PFGA Howler - January 12, 2023

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 12:09 AM



THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2023

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

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

MONDAY

- Monday, January 16 - NO SCHOOL - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tuesday, January 17 - Student Council Out of Uniform Day - P/J/COMFY COZY CLOTHES DAY
Thursday, January 18- Friday, January 19 - Science Fair Judging
Friday, January 20 - End of 2nd Quarter
Friday, January 27 - 8th grade graduation picture day
Friday, January 27 - 2nd Quarter Report Cards to be emailed out
Sunday, January 29 - Catholic Schools Week Mass and Open House
January 29 - February 4 - Catholic Schools Week

PARENTS' CLUB TEACHER AND STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT THANK YOU

Our teachers and staff would like to thank our school families for their generous participation in the Parents' Club group gift, as well as the myriad of other Christmas gifts...handmade ornaments and items, gift cards, bottles of wine, coffee mugs, etc.! All of these gifts are so very much appreciated! Thank you also for providing such delicious cookies and sweets for our teachers and staff, some lovingly made by the students themselves!

Here is an update from our Parents' Association President, Amie Zander, who organized the group gift:

"Hope everyone had a fun break! Just wanted to give an update on the Parents' Club teacher/staff Christmas gift collection. We collected a total of \$3,135. This worked out to a \$150 gift for each of the full time employees and \$75 gift for each of our part time employees. Thanks to everyone who gave!!"

STUDENT COUNCIL COMFY COZY DAY - TUESDAY!

Coming back from a long weekend you may forget...Tuesday, January 17 will be the next Student Council sponsored "out of uniform" day. Your student may bring in \$1 to dress in "comfy cozy" clothes, including appropriate Pajamas! If your student bought the whole package of "out of uniform passes" early in the year, they don't need a \$1.

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.

If you qualify (CHECK HERE TO SEE IF YOU DO), you are asked to apply through both the Big Shoulders Fund SGO Application AND the Empower Illinois Application. The are 2 of the Scholarship Granting Organizations, and these specifically serve Chicago Catholic Schools. Scholarships are awarded on a first come, first served basis, based on how quickly you get your application in AND whether or not our school has funding available.

Each school is funded through donations into one of the two SGOs (see the section below) earmarked specifically to our school. In other words, there will only be as many TCS scholarships granted to PFGA students as we have funding available to cover. Thanks to a major anonymous donation to our school coming through Empower Illinois, and a couple of smaller donations specified to PFGA, this year we have 7 Empower Illinois TCS recipients and 0 BSF recipients. We can offer more scholarships if we get more funding (again, see below).

IF YOU QUALIFY, DO THIS...

Please check to see if your family would qualify. If you would, please be sure to complete Step 1 of the Big Shoulders Fund SGO Application which opened this morning at 8 am. Hopefully, after seeing information sent out over the last week or so, you were on the computer at 7:55 today and got that done already. If not, please do it NOW. Many details about how to do this application were sent from PFGA yesterday and in days prior. Access the application here: https://bigshouldersfund.secure.force.com/bsfapplication/

IF YOU QUALIFY, ALSO DO THIS...

On Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 pm the Empower Illinois Application will open. In addition to doing the BSF application, you should do the Empower Illinois Application. This one is even more important than the other because we know there are some donations being made into it on our behalf, so you stand a better chance of getting a TCS through Empower Illinois.

For Empower Illinois, the first step to the application is considered a Reservation. You will need to be at a good computer (or phone or iPad) with good internet service next Wednesday night. The reservation application will open at 6:30 pm and you can enter much of the necessary information then. At 7, you will be able to move on to the next step. Please review this information in detail: https://empowerillinois.org/apply/ prior to next Wednesday so that you are prepared and stand the best chance of flying through the application quickly, gaining you the best possible spot in line.

Please also review this step-by-step guide to the application: https://empowerillinois.org/wp-content/uploads/Step_By_Step_Application_Instructions_111620.pdf

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 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 APPROACHES!

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.

Mrs. Thyen is also looking for help from parents for the Open House. We will need welcoming and tour guides. Training will be provided. Please contact Mrs. Thyen if you're interested. jthyen@pfgacademy.org.

REMINDER TO PLEASE NOT BRING DOGS TO PICK UP OR DROP OFF

Thank you for not bringing your beloved pups along to pick up or drop off, even when kept behind the fence. Please understand that fear of dogs is very real for some people, and especially with kids, an irrational (yet, completely natural) response may be to run from a dog which could put a child into an even more dangerous place...the street. Thank you for your understanding and compliance on this rule.

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 will be available soon. Mark your calendar NOW!

CLUBS, EXTRACURRICULARS, AND SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL GAMES TO START SOON

More info to come

BASKETBALL GAMES SCHEDULE

- Saturday, January 14 - 10 am @ PFGA vs. St. Paul of the Cross
Tuesday, January 17 - playoffs begin - TBD

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

- GREAT WOLF LODGE OUTING
Save the Date for the Wolves take on Great Wolf Lodge!!! Sunday, January 15, 2023. (Monday, January 16 is a day off of school in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day). Discounted room blocks and further information will be available soon!
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 you and your extended family 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 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
AMAZON SMILES
If you shop on Amazon, go instead to smile.amazon.com and set Pope Francis Global Academy up as your "charity of choice." Then, when you shop, AmazonSmile will donate a portion of your eligible purchase price to our school! It's so easy to do!
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

HOLY NAME SOCIETY CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE FUNDRAISER

If you are a PFGA dad looking to meet some new friend or just enjoy some time among "the guys," please join the OLR Holy Name Society at their Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Fundraiser on Friday night, January 20. The Holy Name Society is the parish Men's Club and they often support the PFGA Sports Programs through their donations. MORE INFO IS HERE.

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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