

**PFGA Howler - January 20, 2023**  
2 messages

Pope Francis Global Academy <schoolmessenger@pfgacademy.org> Fri, Jan 20, 2023 at 10:25 PM  
Reply-To: Pope Francis Global Academy <schoolmessenger@pfgacademy.org>  
To: jthyen@pfgacademy.org



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023**

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

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

- 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
- 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

**MERGER ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

- [IMPORTANT LETTER FROM THE OCS SUPERINTENDENT GREG RICHMOND](#)
- [FAQ ABOUT THE MERGER](#)

**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. 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](mailto: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 and tour guides. Training will be provided. Please contact Mrs. Thyen if you're interested. [jthyen@pfgacademy.org](mailto:jthyen@pfgacademy.org).

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

**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.

**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 will be available soon. Mark your calendar NOW!

**CLUBS, EXTRACURRICULARS, AND SPORTS**

**VOLLEYBALL GAMES TO START SOON**

More info to come

**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)).

**PARENTS' CLUB NEWS**

- **UPCOMING PARENT CLUB MEETINGS**
  - February 1 6pm EDP/Lunchroom (Enter through EDP entrance on Irving)
  - 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://teamillocker.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 (PROGRAM DISCONTINUING SOON!)**  
If you shop on Amazon, AND if you have been kind enough to set up an [smile.amazon.com](https://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](mailto:info@pfgacademy.org)

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[www.pfgacademy.org](http://www.pfgacademy.org)



I don't know whether you get this or what ever even have interest in reading about our school but I'll add you to the distribution list.

Thank you,

Jodi

Jodi Thyen  
Director of Admissions and Advancement