



Notes from Mrs. Nash

Embracing curious minds. Nurturing compassionate hearts

St. John Fisher School – *Thankful Edition*

November 24, 2020

Dear SJF Families,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in our virtual parent-teacher conferences these past two days. We recognize the importance of our partnership with all of you and are so grateful to be on this journey together. We are thrilled to announce that we are scheduled to be back for in-person learning on November 30th! Our success with in-person learning can be attributed to many factors including your honesty, care and cooperation with our school's tight protocols, our faculty and staff's caution and constant attention to the safety and health of your children, and our students' flexibility and resiliency. Together we are an incredible team! Beginning our 12th week of in-person learning is absolutely a team success and something to be celebrated! This year looks different than years past, but I believe in many ways we have more to celebrate and be thankful for. Please see below for some of this year's highlights.

You and your family are constantly on my mind and in my prayers. Please enjoy this week off together and your Thanksgiving holiday. I am thankful for each of you.

In unity and hope,

-Mrs. Maura Nash



Happy Thanksgiving!

2020 Accomplishments

When you appreciate all that you have, what you have appreciates. And we have much to be thankful for!

- We completed our **11th week of school** and our entire first trimester **in-person!**
- **Teacher and Staff SHOUT-OUT:** Thank you to our resilient, talented, professional and flexible teachers and staff who have demonstrated incredible teamwork through such an uncertain year. You roll with and bounce back from every challenge that comes your way. You are essential workers, in the trenches, making a difference in our kids' lives. Thank you for showing up each day. Your efforts are nothing short of heroic.
 - A special thanks to **Mrs. Maxwell** and **Mrs. O'Shea** who are leading our **Remote Learning Team**, ensuring every teacher is confident and prepared to teach remotely when the time comes.
 - Our 12:45 dismissals on Wednesdays are reserved to prioritize **teacher collaboration, professional development and goal setting**. **Danielson Evaluations** continue this year with a school-wide focus on: student relationship building and rapport and closing the academic gap as a result of the pandemic.
- **Student SHOUT-OUT:** In the face of significant adversity, our unbelievable students arrive to school with a smile on their face, a positive attitude and an eagerness to learn during the most unique circumstances. Their grit and tenacity are unmatched and inspiring. They overcome so many obstacles each day to be successful. They are the reason we are here. Thank you for motivating us to always bring the best version of ourselves to school for you. You are amazing!
- **Parent SHOUT-OUT:** Thank you for your willingness and ability to adapt to our ever-changing protocols and guidelines. We feel the love, support and commitment you have for our school community and we could not do this without you! Your child's remarkable attitude reflects all of your efforts at home. For that and much more, we commend you!
- Students in grades **Kindergarten – 8 will be 1:1** with technology in early 2021. We were able to utilize our Title Funds to secure these devices. Up until last year, students in grades 6-8 were 1:1.
- **12 Smart Panels** have been purchased through the use of our **ESSER Funds** and a generous donation from the **Family School Association**. Each panel will be installed in our 5th – 8th Grade classrooms over the Thanksgiving Break. A huge shout-out to **Dave Cahill and the Holy Name Society** for delivering the panels to each classroom last weekend.
- Our **New Reading Curriculum, Into Reading and Into Literature**, has been adopted and implemented in grades Kindergarten-8. We are already seeing a change in our students' test scores!
- Despite the challenges of the spring, the majority of our **students are at or above grade level in our iReady assessments**. Thanks to our parents' commitment to this tool, each student is averaging 45 minutes a week, completing their individualized lessons.
- Many of our 8th Graders are taking advantage of our **HSPT Class** preparing our students for the upcoming Catholic High School Entrance Exam. The instructors are **SJF Faculty** members, **Mrs. Condon**, **Mrs. Folliard** and **Ms. Dunlavy**, who together have a **combined 35 years of formal test prep experience** at Huntington Learning Center, Academic Tutoring Center, Excel Edge and Sylvan.

- Congratulations to our patient **Third Graders** who finally made their **First Holy Communion** this past fall. Their original date was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Our **Junior High** Students continue to complete their **service hours**, helping those around them, and participated in a **Confirmation Retreat with Fr. Tom McCarthy**.
- Two of our **Junior High Students won** 1st and 2nd place in the **Fran Hurley Art Contest**.
- Through the Leadership of our SOAR Student Ambassadors, as a **school** we **raised over \$900** in support of **Veterans** and the Fisher House Charity and **over \$2,000** to support, **the Bracken Family** from St. Cajetan.
- In an effort to create a sense of normalcy for our students, Ms. Schiavone, Mrs. O'Shea and our SOAR Students facilitated a spirit week celebration in September, a virtual pumpkin decorating contest in October, and an American Flag Hunt on the grounds of our campus in celebration of Veteran's Day in November.
- We continue to prioritize our students' **religious formation**. Dr. Chermak has worked tirelessly to complete a socially distant **Thanksgiving Celebration** for our school community **presented by our 5th Graders**. [Click here](#) to enjoy this beautiful prayer service with your family.

Important Announcements

- **FREE COVID TESTING**: The 19th Ward and Northside Clinical Labs will offer FREE COVID TESTING for 19th Ward residents on Saturday, November 28th from 9am – 2pm at Olivia's Garden, 10730 S. Western Avenue. Testing will be offered indoors, utilizing an appointment system to control spacing and crowd sizes. This event will use the standard nasal swab with results expected within 72 hours. Please bring your insurance card or a photo ID. Residents without insurance can be tested at no charge with a photo ID. To make an appointment, [click here](#).
- Our **make-up picture day is Tuesday, December 1st!**
- **S & T Vouchers** will be sent home next week. Thank you for your participation with this fundraiser!
- Thank you for ordering apparel in support of our **buddy Beau**. Beau Strong merchandise is expected to be delivered to SJF in three weeks.

COVID Reminders

- The Archdiocese announced that all *Catholic elementary schools will be remote learning from January 6th through January 15th with a return to in-person learning on January 19th*. Please see the details of this important announcement [linked here](#).
- **Masks: *Please make sure your child's mask fits appropriately.*** Masks must fit snug and cover his/her nose and mouth. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe!
- Thank you for communicating with the office and faculty regarding your child's absence. Please be mindful that if/when you e-mail a teacher or the office during the day regarding your child's make-up work, we may not be able to respond to you until the end of the school day. We will happily respond as soon as we are able. Thank you for your patience!
- If a student or student's immediate family member is awaiting a test result from the lab **AFTER YOU RECEIVED THE RESULTS FROM A RAPID TEST, *the student(s) must remain home until the lab results are returned and confirmed.***

- **Quarantined Cohorts:** Please be aware that **there is a process that we go through in order to quarantine a classroom**. This process includes communication and direction from the Archdiocese as well as the CDC and IDPH and can take several hours to complete. When we become aware of a positive COVID case in our community **we act as quickly and communicate as promptly as we are able**. We are so grateful for your patience and understanding.
- Here is a link to our **Health and Safety Plan [Decision Tree](#)**.
- The Archdiocese has enacted a new policy that ***if a family knowingly sends their child to school when they are positive for COVID-19, the family will be subject to our remote learning option for the remainder of the school year.***
- As a reminder, here are answers to some of our most frequently asked questions:
 - ***If a student becomes ill at school and has 1 or more COVID symptoms, the student and his/her siblings will be sent home.*** The School Office will send an e-mail to parents communicating that in order for their family to return back to school, parents must share documentation of a negative COVID test result or a doctor's note indicating that the diagnosis is not COVID related.
 - When a student is absent due to an illness, the School Office will e-mail the parents:
 - ***If the symptom(s) persists for more than 24 hours, the School Office will send an e-mail to parents communicating that in order for their family to return back to school, parents must share documentation of a negative COVID test result or a doctor's note indicating that the diagnosis is not COVID related.***
 - Homework cannot be sent home with neighbors or friends, but CAN BE SENT HOME WITH SIBLINGS. Please connect with your students' teacher(s) to coordinate missing work.
 - When picking up your child early from school for whatever reason, parents are expected to wait outside the main office doors.
- If your child's classroom has to quarantine, you only need to quarantine his/her siblings if he/she is showing symptoms of COVID-19. In an effort to keep everyone safe and protect our school community at large, ***please communicate with us any documentation you receive from your doctor regarding your child's symptoms/illness.*** In order to keep everyone safe, we must always make cautious decisions with the well-being of those around us at heart. Thank you for working with us!
- ***Please partner with us and keep your children safe while outside of school. If we all follow this guidance, we will have a greater chance of keeping our doors open.*** While your child is not in school, *please remind him/her to wear a mask, keep his/her distance, wash and sanitize his/her hands, and stay home if he/she is sick.*
- This year you need to **reserve your spot for Extended Day Care**. Due to the new Covid Safety Guidance, we can only serve 50 students at a time. [Here is the form](#) to reserve your spot.



FALCON OF THE WEEK

Room 206, 5th Grade



SJF's "Falcons of the Week" is 5th grade homeroom 206: Ryan McVicker, Leo Scarsella, Grace O'Malley, Joey Elfayer, Lyla Norris, Lucy Barrins, Mary Kate Guinane, Alyson Cahill, Quentin Lyons, Ryan Massaro, Connor Guinane, Nora Summers, Sam Johnson, Mary Gillian, Shannon Flynn, Tommy Casey and Seamus Fitzpatrick.

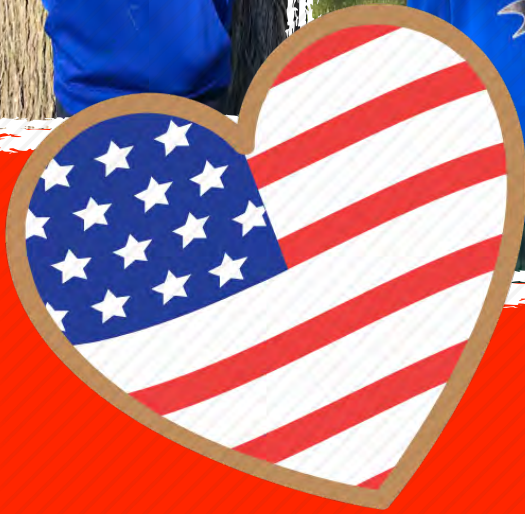
Our school theme is "Fly Like a Falcon." At school, we are intentionally discussing *what it means to be a falcon*. Falcons soar above, capturing an aerial view of what is going on below. We are encouraging our school community to "soar above" things that might bring us down, not allowing us to be our best selves. We are on a school-wide crusade to "Fly Like a Falcon," lifting one another up, celebrating the positive interactions and kind behavior that our students and staff demonstrate each and every day.

Ms. Dunlavy's Room 206 is a group of incredibly kind kids. Each day they not only make life and learning

fun, but they work hard to lift each other up. They are grateful for being in school and work hard to be the best version of themselves each day. When they occasionally make a mistake, they own it, apologize for it, and move on. Ms. Dunlavy's kindness and positivity has rubbed off on these falcons. Room 206 gives each other, their teachers, and their administrators positive affirmations, support, and love each day.

Not only do these kids work hard each day at being good students and kind to one another, they are also so fun to be around! They joke, laugh, and keep things light. In fact each Friday, they have created a tradition, that they pull different "pranks" on Mrs. O'Shea. In a world where there seems to be so much stress and negativity around us, Room 206 lights up our day.

I, personally, am so thankful for them. They remind me each day to keep it light, laugh, and that this will all be okay. We are so proud that they are falcons. They make our school a better place. Keep flying like falcons, Room 206. You're making a difference!



Congratulations 2020-2021 Conner T. Lowry

Scholarship Winners: Jake Frederking, Sam Houston, Bridget O'Connor, & Cormac Lacy!

Conner T. Lowry is an SJF Alum who was killed while serving in Afghanistan. Conner's motto was to live life large and to live life kind. Conner's mother, Modie Lavin, established a memorial fund in his honor providing financial scholarships to students attending St. John Fisher School and Br. Rice High School. This year's recipients were tasked with describing how they can bring peace to the world through an essay, a poem or a video. Please join me in congratulating our unbelievably talented 8th graders: **Jake Frederking, Sam Houston, Bridget O'Connor, and Cormac Lacy.** We are so proud of you. Thank you for making a difference in our world!



St. John Fisher Holiday Grand Raffle

Tickets are \$100 each

First prize: \$25,000 Second prize: \$5,000 Third prize: \$2,000

1 entry per 5 tickets sold will be entered into a \$1,000 prize raffle

Tickets can be purchased in person at the rectory, by calling the rectory at 773-445-6565, or visiting the church and school websites www.sjfschool.net or www.stjohnfisherparish.net

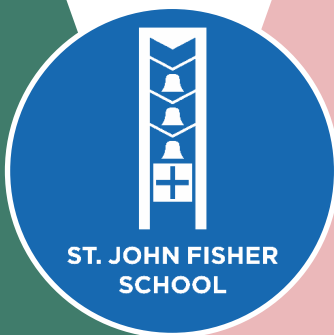


**Winners will be drawn
December 6th after 11:00am mass**





Purchase **MANNA**
for
SHOP SMALL
Saturday
{ November 28 }



Visit the Convent on
Saturday, November 28
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

OR buy online at
www.shopwithscip.com

St John Fisher FSA
Family Advent Wreath Take Home Kits

Pick up: Sunday, November 29, 2020

After 8 AM and 11 AM Masses (9 AM – 9:30 AM; Noon to 1 PM)



Join us just outside Kane Hall to pick up a kit to make your own fresh **evergreen Advent wreath** for your home. All supplies (including wreath, greens, candles, prayers) will be provided to make at home with your family.

A limited number of wreaths are available, so please reserve yours today!

You can **prepay \$25** by cash, check to “St John Fisher FSA”, or by Venmo or Zelle (email or text bridget.stalla@gmail.com/ 773-852-4698). Please email request for wreath or send form and payment to school office by Monday, 11/25 or to SJF Rectory by Wed., 11/27.

\$25 / Wreath pre-paid before 11/25; \$30 at pickup Check or Cash only.

Post pictures of your wreaths on FSA Facebook with #AdventatSJF, or email us at fsaatsjf@gmail.com

To PRE-PAY return form to Rectory Office, School (**by 11/23**), or CFF Class no later than Wednesday, November 25th.

Family Name _____ Email _____

of Wreaths _____ Phone _____



Respect Life Wreath Sale

The Respect Life committee will be selling wreaths/gift items outside the south door of the SJF parking lot on **Sunday, November 29**. *Please come by anytime between 7:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.* These items will fill your home with the spirit and love of the Christmas season and make the perfect hostess gifts for friends and neighbors. All proceeds help support the work of the Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. Through your generosity, hundreds of teens and young woman facing a crisis pregnancy will receive the compassionate counseling, social service referrals and material goods assistance they need to help them through this most difficult period of their lives. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Listed below are available items:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|--|---------|
| Holly Plant | \$5.00 | Bark Basket | \$30.00 |
| Classic Swag | \$10.00 | 26" Noble Fir Wreath w/cones | \$35.00 |
| 24" Balsam Wreath w/cones | \$20.00 | <i>Cash and checks accepted</i> | |



Please contact Kerry McNicholas with any questions.
Kerrymcginnis@yahoo.com
(708) 525-0705

Each child is sent into the world by God with a unique message to deliver, a new song to sing, and a personal act of love to bestow.

SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLING SMALL BUSINESSES WITH THE

19TH WARD

Small Business \$uper raffle

Tickets are \$10 each and proceeds will benefit the local businesses listed below.

1st Prize: New 2020 Ford Escape S (MSRP \$26,725) or \$15,000*
(Winner choosing the car must pay taxes and license fees)

2nd Prize: \$5,000 and free pizza for a year from S & T Provisions

3rd Prize: \$3,900 in local business gift cards
(\$100 from each participating business)

4th Prize: \$3,900 in local business gift cards
(\$100 from each participating business)

5th Prize: \$3,900 in local business gift cards
(\$100 from each participating business)



Purchase tickets at www.the19thward.com
Now through December 18th

Drawing will be held on facebook live on Sunday, December 20th

For more information please contact Kelly@the19thward.com

RAFFLE PROCEEDS BENEFIT

A Relaxed You
AndySunflower Café
Bacon & Jam
Baron's Shoes
Barraco's
Barre It All Fitness
Bellé Up Boutique
Big 'N Little Shoes
Blackthorn Pub
Burrito Station

Chicago's Pulse CPR Training
Connections Learning Center
F45 Training
Face to Face Salon
Fat Tommy's
Firewater Saloon
Franconello's
Garrity Travel
Gyro Grill
Hippo's Neighborhood Bar

Joseph's Restaurant & Bar
Kean Brothers
Ken's on Western
La Fiesta / Wonderburger
Live & Believe Nutrition
Nicole Marie Salon
One 11 Salon
Open Outcry Brewing Company
Original Pancake House -
Beverly

South Side Irish Imports
Swanson's Deli
Sweet Freaks Chocolate
The Plug T-Shirt Store
Tranquility
Treadfit - Beverly
Tuscher Signs
Two Mile Coffee Bar
Waldo Cooney's Pizza
You Glow Girl Chicago

SPONSORED BY:

Matt
O'SHEA
19TH WARD ALDERMAN



CountyFair



**MCCARTHY
FORD**

Santa
is coming to
The Falcons!



The Big Guy will be making visits to
all the Falcons on the nice list!

Friday, December 11th

5:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 12th

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$35 per family

includes an outdoor visit from Santa, a 4x6 photo,

Sweet treats for the kids, and

Christmas cocktails for the parents

To receive a visit from Santa, sign up on the link below and send payment
to school in envelope marked Santa Visit with family name.

[Santa Sign Up](#)

Space is limited, therefore, first come, first serve
Sweet Treats compliments of Beverly Bakery & Christmas Cocktails compliments of Barney Callaghans
Sponsored by St. John Fisher FSA