

St. Catherine of Siena The Dialogue January 19, 2024



January 19, 2024

Dear St. Catherine of Siena School Community,

I trust this letter finds you happy, safe, and enjoying a blessed New Year. As you have recently heard, our school principal, Ms. Colleen Cannon, has decided to retire at the close of the 2023-24 academic year.

For 39 years, our principal, Ms. Cannon, has been a faith-filled leader and has accepted the challenges that Catholic education brings in the 21st century. She has been committed to Catholic education for our young people, especially for us the past 7 years as principal of St. Catherine's. Please join me in prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord for Ms. Cannon's faithful service and for her continued well-being in this time of transition.

We will begin the search for a new principal as soon as possible, thus positioning us for next year and beyond. In collaboration with the Diocese of Rockford, we expect the search to begin in earnest right away so that we find only the best candidates for the students and families of St. Catherine of Siena School.

In the weeks ahead you will be hearing more about our plans for the principal search process that will include representation from various members of our parish and school. In the end, I am confident that with your support and prayers, we will be able to transition to a new leader for our school who will inherit a rich tradition of excellence and lead us forward so our students continue to reach their God-given potential.

Finally, as your pastor, be assured that our next principal will be selected with great care with the best interest of our faith community and the future of our children in mind.

With my continued prayers and gratitude for you all,

Fr. John

Catholic Schools Week January 28th - February 2nd

Daily schedule of events attached to this Dialogue

Catholic Schools Week is almost upon us! Beginning with our 9:30 Mass on Sunday, January 28th, we will be celebrating different areas of Catholic School life throughout the week. Sunday we will celebrate our parish. Monday we will celebrate our community. Tuesday we will celebrate our students. Wednesday we will celebrate vocations. Thursday we will celebrate our faculty, staff and volunteers.

On Friday we will celebrate a special day with our
Grandparents and Special Friends.

Please see a detailed schedule of events attached to this week's Dialogue.

We are looking forward to a faith-filled fun week!

February Lunch Orders

The link is now open through your FACTS family portal to place an order for January lunches. The link will remain open through Wednesday, January 24th. Please make sure to place your orders as soon as possible as we will not be able to add on orders once the link has closed. As a reminder, orders must be paid for at the time the order is placed to ensure the order will be received properly. If you are having any problems with the payment option through FACTS, please contact the school office so that we can work to correct the issue. Thank you.

Elgin Deanery Catholic School Week Food Drive

Dear SCS Families,

As part of our celebration for Catholic Schools Week, each school in our Elgin Deanery is being asked to collect different items for the Well Child Center in Elgin. Our school has been asked to contribute macaroni and cheese, or as it was presented to us, a **MACARONI MOUNTAIN!** We will be collecting boxes of it between Jan. 29-Feb. 2. Boxes will be available in the lobby of the school to build our mountain. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Thank you for your support of this special service project!



Grandparents & Special Friends Day

One of our favorite days during Catholic Schools week is a special day for our students to share with their Grandparents and Special Friends. On Friday, February 2nd, students and their grandparents will start the day with Mass at 9:00 AM followed by Honor Roll and then classroom visits and other activities in our gym. We will have early dismissal that day at 11:20 AM for all students so that they can continue the fun with their special family member. **Please see the attached letter for more information and to RSVP for this very special day!**

Volunteers Needed for Grandparents/Special Friends Day

SCS is SO excited to start preparing for our Grandparents/Special Friends Day! This sweet day offers such a memorable experience for our students and the special people in their lives. We need a lot of help from our families in order to make this event fabulous! Please consider signing up for one of the slots on this [Google Form](#) by entering your first and last name followed by your email address!

**If anyone is interested in spearheading the reception (breakfast food items/refreshments) in the gymnasium, we would be so grateful. Mrs. Herman & Mrs. Johnson have a plan with all the information; we are looking for a parent or two to execute! Just contact one of us if you are interested!

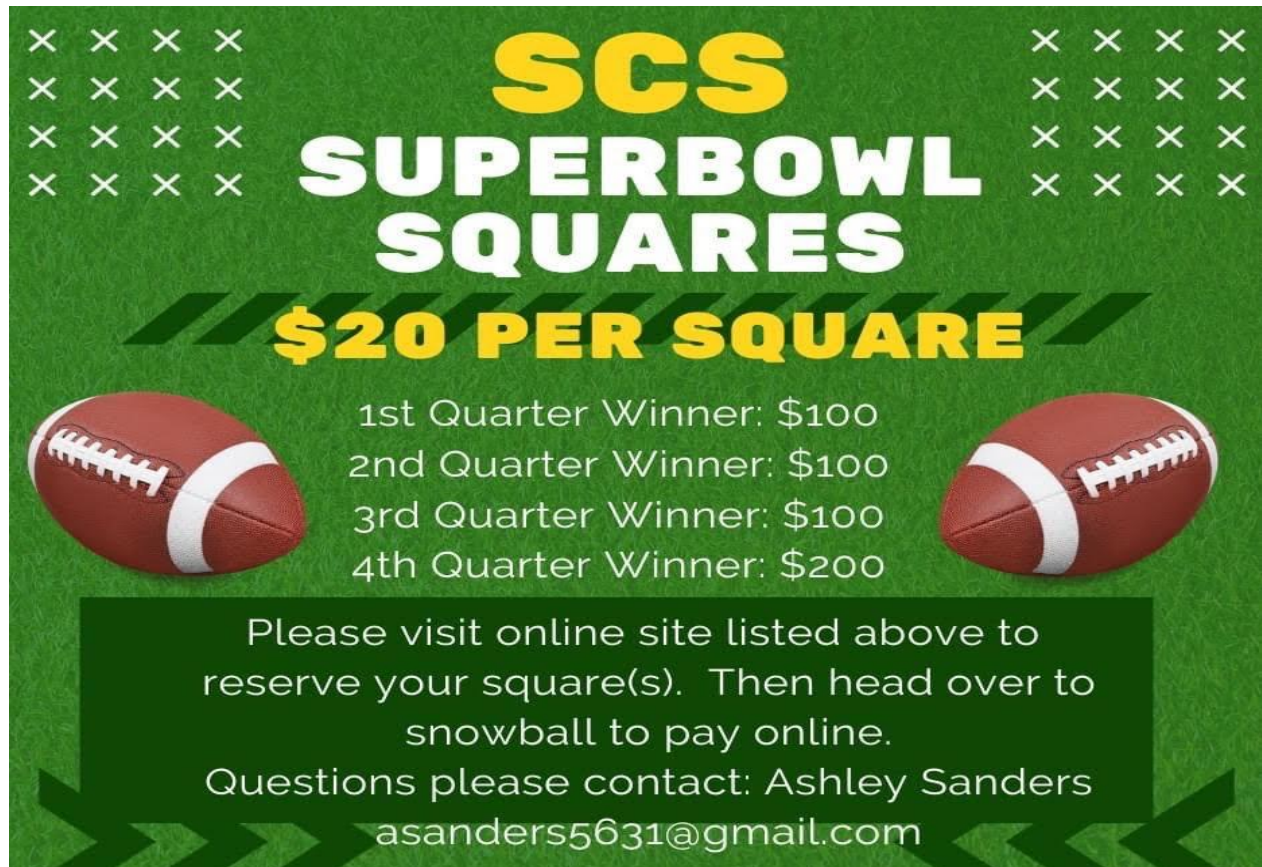
Home & School presents 🏈SCS Superbowl Squares🏈

Use this link to sign up for your square(s):

superbowlpoolsite.com/contest/521229?p=SPARTENS

Scroll down to the contest grid and reserve your square(s). Once you have completed this step please use this snowball link to pay: <https://snwbl.it/AVIDxE>.

Good luck!



The graphic features a green background with a grid of white 'X' marks. In the center, the text reads 'SCS SUPERBOWL SQUARES' in large, bold letters, with 'SCS' in yellow and 'SUPERBOWL SQUARES' in white. Below this, it says '\$20 PER SQUARE' in yellow. Two footballs are positioned on either side of the prize list. The prize list includes: 1st Quarter Winner: \$100, 2nd Quarter Winner: \$100, 3rd Quarter Winner: \$100, and 4th Quarter Winner: \$200. At the bottom, a dark green box contains the text: 'Please visit online site listed above to reserve your square(s). Then head over to snowball to pay online. Questions please contact: Ashley Sanders asanders5631@gmail.com'.

**SCS
SUPERBOWL
SQUARES**

/// \$20 PER SQUARE ///

1st Quarter Winner: \$100
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BIRTHDAY BOX SERVICE PROJECT



Catholic Schools Week will be January 28th through February 2nd. The theme this year is "Catholic Schools - United in Faith and Community." St. Catherine's is sponsoring a school wide service project to create birthday bags for the F.I.S.H. food pantry. Students will be making birthday cards and decorating the birthday boxes during art classes. The birthday boxes will be filled and delivered the following week. **Each grade** has been assigned a special part for this project. If everyone participates, we hope to be able to make some birthdays a little more special for people that visit the food pantry. Please check below to see what your child is being asked to donate for this project. We will be collecting the requested items from the classrooms and each grade will be assembling the birthday bags during Catholic Schools Week. **Please send these items to school as soon as possible.**

Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4 - 8 Party favors (i.e. McDonald's Happy Meal toys, pkg. 8 party favors etc.) per student

Kindergarten - 1 package of birthday plates and 1 small pkg of birthday napkins per student

1st & 2nd Grade - 1 can of frosting per student (any flavor)

3rd Grade - 1 bag of fun-size candy per student (individually wrapped candy- like the kind distributed at Halloween)

4th Grade- 1 - 24ct package of birthday candles per student

5th Grade- 1 bag of fun-size candy per student (individually wrapped candy- like the kind distributed at Halloween)

6th Grade- 1 cake mix per student (any flavor will work)

7th Grade- 1 cake mix per student (any flavor will work)

8th Grade- 1 cake mix per student (any flavor will work)

The deadline for sending in the ingredients is **Wednesday, January 24th. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.** We hope to make 50 birthday boxes as an effort to serve the community.

Dress Down Day for FISH Food Pantry

As you are aware, our students are participating in an all-school service project known as Birthday Boxes on Monday, January 29th as part of our Catholic Schools Week, "Celebrate our Community" day. In addition to bringing in an ingredient for our birthday boxes, we are asking each student to bring in a \$1.00 donation for the F.I.S.H. Food Pantry. In exchange for the donation, students will be able to have a Dress Down Day on Monday, January 29th. **Donations are due to school by Wednesday, January 24th.** Preschool students are encouraged to bring in a \$1.00 donation too, even though they do not wear uniforms. Mary Graziano, a representative from F.I.S.H., is always so appreciative of our students' efforts with this project. Thank you to all of our families for your support.

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Keep 20% of the Proceeds

Join us at Portillo's for a fundraiser to support:

St. Catherine of Siena School

When:

January 22, 2024

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

at the Portillo's located at:

1801 S. Randall Rd.

Algonquin, IL

20% of sales will benefit your organization. Order online or in app for pickup using code **PORTILLOS84** before checkout in the "Apply Offer" field, or show this flyer or a digital version to cashier when ordering at the restaurant. Valid on drive thru, pickup, curbside, and in restaurant orders.

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FOR GOOD

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For online/app orders to qualify for the fundraiser, orders must be placed for pickup only, from the participating restaurant, on the fundraiser date and during the listed fundraiser hours. Gift card purchases, delivery orders, and orders placed on the third party websites are excluded from the fundraiser. Online ordering subject to availability. \$200 minimum fundraising sales required for the organization to receive donation. Cannot be combined with other offer codes.

2023 Tuition Tax Statements

A statement reflecting your tuition payments made between January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023 can be accessed through your FACTS Family Portal account. Please login to your family portal account and follow these prompts: Click on "**Financial**" and then "**Financial Home**". Next, click on "**View Details**" and then "**View Payment Summary**". Make sure the year reflected in the dropdown box says "2023". The amount reflected shows the payments received in 2023. Please print a copy of this statement for your records. You will be able to use this statement for your 2023 tax return. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

Chess Scholars After School Club – New Session

Chess Scholars is returning to St. Catherine's for a winter session of their afterschool chess club for students in Kindergarten – 8th grade. The winter session will begin on Thursday, February 1st and ends on March 21st. The class will meet right after school from 3:05 – 4:05 PM. The cost for the class is \$126.00. Please click on the following link to register for the class: <https://www.learningmeansfun.com/signup>. The course code is CWD2.2124. Early bird registration is due by January 24th. For more information, please see the form attached to this Dialogue.

Lunchroom Volunteers Needed

With the return to school, we have noticed a need for extra helpers in the lunchroom. Some of the responsibilities include assisting younger students with opening lunch items, wiping down tables between lunch groups, and helping to sweep up after lunch is over. Volunteers would need to arrive by 11:30 pm and are typically done by 12:45 pm. We are hoping to have at least 3-4 people in the lunchroom each day. If you would like to help out, please contact the school office. Thank you!

Reduce your tuition in the New Year!

It's not too late to start your 2023 New Year's resolution to create a TRIP account and start saving money on your tuition! Our next TRIP order will be placed on Monday, January 22nd. We will not be placing an order on Monday, January 15th due to the holiday but you can always order online Scripnow cards and reload current cards anytime. To set up a new account go to <https://www.raiseright.com/> and click on the green "Get Started" tab at the top of the page. Enter in the school code "2CL3966D181" and start shopping! If you have any questions about the TRIP program, please contact the school office.

Cold weather reminder

Snowflakes are in the air and with the return to school, we would like to remind parents to make sure your child is dressed properly for outside recess with hats, mittens or gloves, winter coat, snow pants and boots if needed. Children in PreK4 through 5th grade go outside daily for 20 minutes after lunch, weather permitting, and we want to make sure everyone stays warm and dry.



We are so excited for our first Home and School Meeting in 2024! Parents are welcome to join us next Thursday, January 25th, at 6:30 pm in the school cafeteria for our meeting. We will be discussing plans for many upcoming events and would love for our SCS families to get involved and join in all the fun to come! If you have questions about our Home and School meetings or would like to get involved, please contact Tammy Ferro at tferro18@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!

Important Dates:

- Friday, January 19th – End of 2nd Quarter
- Monday, January 22nd – Portillo's Dine and Share (See information above)
- Tuesday, January 23rd – SCS Spelling Bee Competition 8:45 AM in the gym
- Wednesday, January 24th – School Mass 8:45 AM Parents welcome to attend
- **Wednesday, January 24th – February Lunch Orders Due / Dress Down Day Donation for F.I.S.H. Pantry Due / Birthday Box Donations Due/ Chess Scholars Registration Due**
- Wednesday, January 24th – Middle School Youth Group 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Thursday, January 25th – Home and School Meeting 6:30 PM in the lunchroom
- Sunday, January 28th – SCS School Open House for prospective new families 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- January, 28th – February 2nd – National Catholic Schools Week (Please see the attached flyer for more information)

Be Loving. Be Faithful. Be St. Catherine's.

