



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOS ANGELES



Dear Parents/Guardians:

A priest that I worked with many years ago once said to me that “hope” is passion for the impossible, and I have never forgotten that! I have been thinking a lot about hope lately; it is an interesting concept, a powerful motivator, and for school principals everywhere, the ultimate energizer. The ministry of Catholic education is important and essential because it is more than just an industry; it is a ministry of hope. St. Paul the Apostle School is one of the largest Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and while there are many opportunities and advantages associated with that ranking, it certainly presents us with just as many challenges. The most influential concerns that directly impact my role as a responsible steward include:

- ensuring that learners on either side of “average” are effectively engaged in quality curriculum
- acquiring and retaining a well-qualified staff
- keeping tuition affordable for our families
- anticipating the rising costs for the upkeep of buildings and facilities
- guaranteeing the financial future of the school

As a member of the Pastoral Staff, I will often be called upon to be an advocate for the students, families, faculty and staff. This means making sure that the buildings we utilize facilitate effective learning, that our teachers are compensated fairly, that we do not passively accept mediocrity by subscribing to “one size fits all” in our curriculum, and that families of modest means are not deprived of the opportunity to choose a Catholic education for their children. Clearly, there is much more at stake here than my own ministerial self-interests.

Two “principal” questions that I consistently ask myself are, “*Where do we want to be ten years from now?*” and “*How are we going to get there?*” It is difficult to imagine

how our many hopes and challenges can be addressed without a carefully crafted plan of action. Efficient strategic planning must go far beyond a mechanistic series of planning procedures. It should also take into consideration a community's visions and dreams, however impossible they might seem at the time. The true power of planning for the future will be in its capacity to create dissonance in people, upset traditional views and practices, identify new possibilities, and pose new questions, all of which will help keep us on the course to continued growth and improvement.

When a community welcomes the opportunity for improvement in schools, the benefits are immeasurable. I would like to express my gratitude to those who, by their talent, sacrifices, expertise and love, make Catholic education a reality in this parish. Their persistence, resourcefulness, courage and unwavering commitment to St. Paul's have often meant the difference between success and failure.

Hope *is* energy. We need to develop strategies for cultivating it, and for regaining it when we lose it. I recognize that the hope we carry sometimes transcends reality, but I also know that our singular and combined efforts will continue to improve the parish community in which we live. Standing still is not an option if we want to continue on our path of success. Let's take the passion we have for St. Paul the Apostle School and turn it into a passion for excellence! It's not impossible.

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky
Principal

Mon Oct 1	● 8 – 9:30am	PWC Board Meeting (JACC)
Thu Oct 4	● 7:15 – 7:45am	Blessing of the Animals (In Front of JCPC)
	● 6 – 6:30pm	Blessing of the Animals - CH Front of church
Fri Oct 12	● All day	Fall Festival Begins
Sat Oct 13	● All day	Fall Festival
Sun Oct 14	● All day	Fall Festival
Mon Oct 15	● All day	NO SCHOOL
Fri Oct 19	● 7 – 8pm	Sandwich Builders (JCPC)
Sun Oct 21	● 5 – 6pm	8th-grade Family Mass
Mon Oct 22	● 7 – 9pm	High School Night
Fri Oct 26	● 7 – 9am	School Comm. Coffee - MPR
Mon Oct 29	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	2nd-grade Sacrament Meeting JCPC

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

St. Paul the Apostle Parish will honor the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a Blessing of the Animals! This prayer assembly



will be held on Thursday, October 4, at 7:30 a.m. on the front steps of the JCPC. If you cannot be present on Thursday morning, another service is scheduled for the afternoon at 6:00 p.m. in front of the church. Families are invited to bring their dogs, cats, turtles, rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, or whatever pet you might have for a beautiful little blessing before school begins. Stuffed animals are also welcome! Fr. Gil, Fr. Jerry, Fr. Ryan and Deacon Danny will all be present to bless everyone's animals. Please note that only stuffed animals are welcome to spend the day at school, all other creatures must return home!



SUN SAFETY

Protecting our students from the sun has been a priority of the SPA community for the past several years. There is a **Class Hat Competition** currently happening; please help your child's class win! **All you have to do is remind your students to bring their hats and sunscreen daily.** The UV index has been "very high" lately, and as much as possible, we want to help protect our students from any preventable sun damage. You can always Check the day's UV index by clicking on this link: www.spapwc.com/sunsafety/.



IMPORTANT TRAFFIC ALERT!!

In an effort to maintain positive relationships with our neighbors, we respectfully ask that parents NOT park in, or drive through, the Mormon Church parking lot during morning drop-off and after school pick-up. The Mormon administration has graciously agreed to allow our teachers/staff to use their parking lot on the days that school is in session. **Continued blatant disregard of their church property will result in this parking privilege being revoked for our faculty.** Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



SPA CHESS CLUB!

Hello, SPA Families! It is time to sign up for Chess Club, where it's definitely hip to be square! Chess Club is held on Mondays after school and we start on **October 8th** this year. Please visit <http://www.spapwc.com/chess/> and click on the Registration button. Also, save the date for our awesome Halloween Tournament that will be held on Sunday, October 28, (registration will open soon). We look forward to seeing you! Please e-mail Jessie Spillane at jgiel@aol.com with any questions you might have.



HALLOWEEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

It's time to register for the tournament at St. Paul's that will be held on Sunday, October 28, from 1:00 until 5:00 p.m. in the SPA gym. All players are welcome, beginners through advanced. Best costume trophies, individual trophies, and team trophies will be awarded. Come in costume, play chess and help SPA win back the Best School Team trophy. More

information is available online [here](#), or you can register today by logging on [here](#).

VOLUNTEER



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many thanks to all of the parents who volunteered to help at the SPA Welcome Weekend and Back-to-School Night! Both of these were highly enjoyable events thanks to your many efforts. And now, we are asking for more help with the SPA Community Coffees that will be held on October 26, January 25, and March 29, right after drop-off; and in the Media Center for K-3rd grades. Click [here](#) and then scroll along the bar below "SPA PWC 2018-19 Volunteer Signup Opportunities" to see each listing. Your support is very much appreciated!



FESTIVAL PATRONAGE CLASS COMPETITION

Who wants to enjoy a delicious Ice Cream Sundae Party? The winning class with the highest Patronage for the festival will win a "Make Your Own" Ice Cream Sundae Party. (*Will somebody please pass the whipped cream, chocolate sauce and sprinkles?*) And if the ice cream treat is not enough, the winning class will also receive "first entry" into the festival following the 8th graders. Fun, fun and more fun! Give to [Patronage](#) and help your class win these fabulous prizes!



FESTIVAL AUCTION

Families are invited to donate fabulous and exciting items for our auction. Sporting events, travel, and one-of-a-kind amazing experiences are always dazzling items for both the LIVE and online auction. Simply click [here](#) for a copy of the donor form.

Our SPA community always loves a great PARTY! Want to host a FUN party? (Paint Nite, Bowling, Cooking, Private Chef-Hosted Dinners, Themed Parties for Kids or Parents...let your imagination run wild). Contact Jessica Dixon to lock in your party date and details at jkjdixon@gmail.com or (860)778-4578.



SPA'S SOCIAL MEDIA

Please join St. Paul's this year as we ramp up our social media game on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube! We will be posting regular updates along with the parish to share the news about everything that's happening around campus and in the community. Check it out and share your "likes" to show your support! You can subscribe below by clicking on the links!

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[YouTube](#)