



# SAINT PAUL<sup>THE</sup> APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL  LOS ANGELES



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Monday, and if you are lucky enough to have this Veteran's Day off, I hope you are able to enjoy the day with family and friends! When we assemble in the yard tomorrow morning to begin our week together, we will offer our prayers in honor of all military personnel who serve our country. You are very welcome to join us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents for their patience with the noon dismissal days last week as we navigated through approximately 552 parent-teacher conferences. While requiring a great deal of time from everyone, these conferences are important because teachers and parents sometimes see different aspects of a student's personality or academic performance. Only by maintaining an open dialogue and comparing notes about the student's achievements or behavior can these perspectives be useful for both. If you were not able to schedule a meeting time with your child's teacher last week, please do so as soon as possible. Being able to discuss your child's cognitive abilities, social/emotional skills, areas of strength and interests, and establishing pertinent goals for them to strive for throughout the year, will greatly help our students succeed in school.

Since my arrival at St. Paul the Apostle School last June, I have met with several parents about various concerns they have in regards to their children. More often than not, as the meeting begins or comes to a close, the parents will "apologize" for taking my time, or for having me listen to their personal problems, or for "bothering" me. Please know and understand that these apologies are not necessary. As an elementary school principal with more than 30 years of administrative experience, I have had hundreds of conversations with parents. And speaking as a parent, I sometimes had to sit on the "other side" of the desk and speak to a teacher or principal about my own children. (I never apologized for doing so, and have tried unsuccessfully to erase some of those memories. ☐)

In order to make our meetings productive and put you at ease, here are a few simple reminders:

- Do try to call ahead or contact me by email for an appointment if at all possible. While I make every effort to maintain an “open door policy” for all parents who might choose to just drop by, I may not always be available due to prior commitments. If you have an appointment you can be assured of my presence on campus and my undivided attention.
- Do come prepared to be candid about your concerns, whatever they might be. In return, I will share my straightforward, nonjudgmental help, advice or opinion.
- Do, whenever possible, discuss a classroom concern with the teacher before meeting with me. If you have tried to communicate with the teacher and are not satisfied with the results, I will be happy to meet with you so we can work towards a suitable resolution to the concern.
- Do understand that I cannot, and will not, discuss other students with you. As the principal of SPA, it is important to me to maintain a well-defined code of confidentiality. This protects my privileged communication with all parents.

I hope these suggestions are helpful, and that a caring attitude is communicated whenever you meet with me regarding your children. Although parents and the administration may sometimes approach a problem from different perspectives, our ultimate goal is always the same: to ensure a nurturing and rewarding educational experience for your children. Thank you for joining me in that effort.

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky  
Principal

Mon Oct 29, 2018	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	2nd-grade Sacrament Meeting JCPC
Thu Nov 1, 2018	● All day	School Picture make-up day
	● 8:15 – 9:15am	7th-grade School Mass
Mon Nov 5, 2018	● All day	P/T Conferences 1/2 day school
Tue Nov 6, 2018	● All day	P/T Conferences 1/2 day school
Wed Nov 7, 2018	● All day	P/T Conferences 1/2 day school
Thu Nov 8, 2018	● All day	P/T Conferences 1/2 day school
Fri Nov 9, 2018	● All day	P/T Conferences 1/2 day school
Mon Nov 12, 2018	● All day	NO SCHOOL- Veterans' Day
Wed Nov 14, 2018	● 6:30 – 8:30pm	4th-grade Liturgy and Dinner Church and JCPC
Thu Nov 15, 2018	● All day	Information Night for Prospective Students JCPC, media center, etc
	● 6 – 9pm	Information Night for Prospective Students--SPA School JCPC, media center,
Fri Nov 16, 2018	● 7 – 8pm	Sandwich Builders
Sun Nov 18, 2018	● 9:30 – 10:30am	3rd-grade Family Mass
Mon Nov 19, 2018	● 6:30 – 7:30pm	2nd grade Sacrament Meeting
Wed Nov 21, 2018	● All day	1/2 day dismissal for Thanksgiving Holiday
	● 11:15am – 12:15pm	6th-grade School Mass



## SAFETY DRILL AT SPA SCHOOL

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As previously mentioned during our Back-to-School Night gathering, we have been moving forward with all of the components needed for our SPA School Safety Plan. I want to thank all of the parents in law enforcement and security detail who have assisted us along the way, as well as the parents who have been able to help us obtain all necessary equipment ranging from water and nutrition bars, to detailed blueprint plans and aerial photos of the campus property, to AEDs and shelter-in-place kits. With your help and cooperation, it's all coming together.

The next step will be our very first **Run-Hide-Fight drill** with all of our students. On Monday, November 19, we will practice this important drill with each classroom, one grade level at a time. PE classes will not be held that day as Coach Keith and Coach Anthony will be working with me and the classroom teachers in conducting the drill and guiding the students to either the Emerson School parking lot, or the Mormon field. Please note that in order for your child to participate, we must have a signed **Student Activity Permission Form** on file from you. These forms will be given to you during your conference meetings with the teachers. Please remember to sign and return the permission form to us no later than Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Students who do not have signed permission forms on file will not be allowed to leave campus and participate in the drill.



## EMERGENCY CALL SYSTEM - TESTING TUESDAY!

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We want to inform you that we will be testing One Call Now, our school's emergency messaging system, on Tuesday (tomorrow), November 13<sup>th</sup>. **The call message will clearly state, "THIS IS A TEST!"** When you receive this call, please ignore it and know that all is well. If you do NOT receive a call by 3:00 p.m., please provide us with a current phone number where you can be reached in the event of an actual emergency. As soon as we receive that information from you, we will add it to our system. Thank you!



## PARENT VIRTUS TRAINING/FINGERPRINTING POLICY

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St. Paul the Apostle School is committed to protecting all of our students. It is for this reason that any adult who has contact with the students, whether an employee or a volunteer, must have successfully completed the VIRTUS training, TB testing and fingerprinting process. And while we understand that this can be a time-consuming process, we hope that all of our parents understand the importance of these requirements. St. Paul's is a very active community, and we rely on the parents and guardians of our students to assist us with many school activities and programs. This can be anything from reporting for yard duty at lunch time and coaching after-school sports, to chaperoning field trips and helping teachers in the classroom.

In meeting the “gold standard” of child protection and providing a safe school environment, fingerprinting is required for any parents who are:

- In consistent contact with students
- Chaperoning a field trip, whether a one-day event or overnight
- Driving students for any school-related events
- Being left alone with students, whether on-campus or away from campus

While *some* of these standards have been adhered to in previous years, we must now move forward with ensuring that the implementation of *all* standards are in process, and that everything will be strictly enforced beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. If you would like to begin the fingerprinting process please note that we have scheduled the next session to be held at St. Paul's on Monday, January 14, 2019, from 12:00 until 7:20 p.m. In the meantime, parents who are in full compliance with the standards listed above will be given priority when we need volunteers at St. Paul's in any capacity.

Please note that this policy does NOT include our traffic volunteers simply because these wonderful people (at least 8 or 9 of them on a daily basis) are publically standing curbside and graciously opening car doors as parents pull up to let their children out. (It's SPA service with a smile!) Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and patience as we diligently do everything possible to care for your children.



## SUN SAFETY CONTEST WINNERS!

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A huge THANK YOU from the SPA Sun Safety Committee for your support of the Sun Hat Fall 2018 competition. If you missed the announcement at the Fall Festival, we are delighted to share the news with you now.

The GRAND PRIZE WINNER of the PIZZA PARTY, with an overall average of 78% of children wearing hats over the four- week period is **THIRD GRADE!** The RUNNER UP prizes of delicious popsicles for individual week winners are: **KB, 1B, KA** and **2A!** An HONORABLE MENTION must go to **3B**, which had 91 % of the students wearing hats during the third week, and the class never fell below 80%. Way to go, 3B!

Of course, the *real* winners are all our children whom you are helping protect from an entirely preventable cancer. As we know, 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer. Simple and consistent daily reminders to children from parents and teachers to wear hats and sunscreen before going outdoors will make a real difference in their lives. In that spirit, we would request that you continue the daily reminders for hats and sunscreen throughout the school year. NOTE: While the younger grades are naturally more compliant with hat and sunscreen wearing, our goal is to continue the Sun Safety education and messaging so as the students move into older grades they continue to retain the sun safety habits they have

developed in the early years.



## SPA SPANISH COUNCIL

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Under the guidance of Sra. Lanus, a SPA Student Spanish Council has been formed. The goal of the Council is to have selected council members offer students assistance in whatever area they may need help in with Spanish. It will be a personalized assistance with things such as practice, vocabulary development, further explanation of the concepts. etc.

The Council will be available to help on Wednesdays during lunch for 5th and 6th grade, and on Thursdays during lunch for 7th and 8th grade. Members of the Spanish Council will be working under the supervision of Sra. Lanus during those days. The information regarding this new program can also be found on her Haiku site.



## SPA SANDWICH BUILDERS

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Everyone is invited to join us on Friday, November 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the JCPC to assist the 6th grade students in making 1,000 lunches to help the homeless. There are lots of ways to help! You can...

- **Sign up to bring supplies** -- thousands of supplies are needed each month, so we hope you will volunteer to bring a few items; you can sign up to bring supplies [here](#).
- **Come pack lunch bags** – 7:00 p.m. in the JCPC
- **Drop off supplies** in the Parish office or on the table outside the front office the week of SB, or bring them to Sandwich Builders when you come to help pack the lunches. You can also mail supplies directly to the parish office: (St. Paul the Apostle, c/o Mary Ann Bertolucci, [10750 Ohio Avenue, LA, CA 90024](#)), although bringing supplies in person is preferred. **Please deliver all bread during the week -- not Friday night.**
- **Help deliver lunches Saturday morning:** please sign up on this [link](#). We will fill up your car with lunches Friday night so they can be delivered Saturday morning from about 6:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

We greatly appreciate the participation and enthusiasm of all who have attended in the past, and we hope you will continue to join us. **As a reminder, we have a few requests this year in order to keep the energy high, and the productivity even higher.** We ask that you attend with your children when possible, and talk with your children about why they are there. Please note that parents are expected to supervise their kids. **We hope the children have fun, but their top priority is making lunches. Please keep cell phones at home, talk quietly, and participate!**

The Sandwich Builders Team (the Barths, Goodgames, Tylers, and Woods families) thank you for your support!



## WELLNESS DRIVE 2018- Benefitting Westside Thanksgiving

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On Thanksgiving Day, Westside Thanksgiving hosts 3,000 guests for Thanksgiving Day dinner. Guests come from all walks of life, from homeless individuals and working poor families, to college students unable to get home for the holiday. In addition to a traditional Thanksgiving meal, they provide guests with access to free blankets, haircuts, medical consultations, clothing, and personal care items...**which is where we come in!**

What defines “personal care” you might ask? It’s simple—bars of soap, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner; any size is fine! See the list below for your child’s grade and suggested item(s). Each grade will receive a FREE DRESS day should they reach 100% participation by Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup>!

Please turn in your donations to each homeroom. We thank you for your generous support! You can learn more about this organization [here](#). Any questions? Please reach out to Jessica Studholme by email at [jessicajstudholme@gmail.com](mailto:jessicajstudholme@gmail.com)

*Grade suggestions:*

**DK and K: Bars of Soap and/or Comb/Brush**

**Grades 1 and 2: Toothbrush**

**Grades 3 and 4: Toothpaste**

**Grades 5 and 6: Deodorant**

**Grades 7 and 8: Shampoo and/or Conditioner**

Feel free to donate other various hotel/travel toiletries; these items are welcome as well! Just leave the items in the box near the school office. THANK YOU!



## **SPA 2018-2019 YEARBOOKS**

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It’s time to order your SPA yearbook! Ordering early allows you to get the lowest price possible:

- Order by November 22; the price is only \$25
- Order between November 23 – December 20; the price is \$35
- Order between December 20 – February 1; the price is \$45

Please note that yearbooks will not be sold after February 1<sup>st</sup>. You can logon to the SPAPWC website to place your order. Yearbooks will be labeled exactly as you have entered your child’s name so please make certain that the name, grade level and homeroom information are all correctly entered. Thank you!



## **SPA'S SOCIAL MEDIA**

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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

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