



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOS ANGELES



Dear Parents/Guardians:

***All is merry and all is bright;
It's the most wonderful time of the year.
Four weeks to slow down in the hustle and bustle,
The Advent of Christmas is here!***

When I was a young girl (so *very* long ago) I remember my father saying to me something along the lines of, "The only people with whom you should ever try to get even are those who have helped you in any way." It was his attempt as part of a life lesson about being thankful to others. At the time, unfortunately, his words didn't mean much to me. But that's one of the benefits of growing old...wisdom kicks in along the way and amazingly, all of those life lessons begin to have more significant meaning.

The Thanksgiving holiday has come and gone, and Christmas is ahead. Advent has begun! Advent is a Latin word that actually means "coming." In the Catholic church, Advent is time of preparation and waiting for the birth of Jesus. As we begin our journey into this season of Advent, our teachers will continue to explore the value of gratitude in their classrooms, and discuss ways in which we can help our students develop grateful hearts. Saying "thank you" is more than good manners. It is good spirituality. Gratitude means counting our blessings, noticing simple pleasures and deeds, and acknowledging everything we receive, no matter how small. Research studies have shown that people who express gratitude on a daily basis increase their happiness level, and experience higher levels of alertness, enthusiasm, determination, optimism, and energy. As we begin preparing for the Christmas season, rather than allowing life's challenges to burden us, we can all practice a little gratitude and appreciate the abundance that is often present in our lives. To assist our students in focusing on this goal, the teachers will make every effort to:

- Emphasize the real meaning of Christmas. What does Christmas, the birth of the

Christ Child, mean to our faith?

- Shift attention to the concept of giving more than receiving.
- Create opportunities for the students to share simple moments together. Shared moments can often be invaluable gifts to everyone involved.
- Model gratitude. The most effective way to teach our students gratitude is by being an example ourselves.

One lesson that I always tried to teach my own children was that there are two kinds of gratitude in life: the sudden kind we feel for what we receive, and the larger kind we experience for what we are able to give. We all know that our students' lives will be enriched in countless ways by developing a grateful attitude and a giving heart. This is probably one of the most precious gifts we can give our students and ourselves this Christmas.

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky
Principal

Fri Nov 30	● All day	Trimester 1 Ends
Mon Dec 3	● 8 – 9:30am	PWC Board Meeting (JACC)
Wed Dec 5	● All day	Kindergarten & Developmental Kindergarten sings @ JCPC
	● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Football Sports Banquet - JCPC
Thu Dec 6	● 6:30 – 8:30pm	Volleyball Sports Banquet - JCPC
Wed Dec 12	● 8:15 – 9:15am	5th-grade School Mass
Thu Dec 13	● All day	PWC Parent Christmas - Offsite
Fri Dec 14	● 7 – 8pm	Sandwich Builders (JCPC)
Tue Dec 18	● All day	Faculty/Staff PWC Christmas Lunch
Thu Dec 20	● All day	School Dismissal for Break
	● 10am – 12:15pm	School Christmas Concert (In Church)



SPA SCHOOL WEBSITE NEWS!

After months and months of endless meetings, planning, hard work and dedication, we are pleased to announce that our new St. Paul the Apostle School website is now available to everyone! Please visit <https://school.sp-apostle.org> and browse around the site noting all that St. Paul's has to offer, who we are as a Catholic school community, and what we have to offer our families. We have added quite a bit of pertinent information regarding our enrollment process, our faith community, the academic programs, and the numerous extracurricular activities. Keep an eye on our Calendar of Events and the most important news on the front page of the website. You can also access our social media pages at the

bottom of the site whenever you like! If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the school website please don't hesitate to email Daniel Chung at dchung@sp-apostle.org. Thanks, and enjoy!



SPA STUDENT iPADS

Christmas break is coming, and your children will be taking home their iPads if they are in 6-8 grade. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that even though the iPad is a school device, filtering only occurs when the iPads are on campus. When it is at home, we rely on the parents to properly filter and/or have steps in place to keep your children safe online. Having open communication about usage and setting parameters may be enough to ensure that your children know what the expectations and acceptable boundaries are. (Please note that the students are not allowed to leave their devices at school.) If you have any questions or concerns about this please contact Daniel Chung at dchung@sp-apostle.org. Thank you for your cooperation



SPA SENIOR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & CONCERT

The winter holiday season will soon be here. We are thrilled to continue the beautiful tradition of hosting seniors from the parish at a special luncheon where the SPA Kinder and DK Classes will sweetly sing their Christmas Concert. This is a great way to get a glimpse of those adorable kids in their Christmas finest. The **PWC Senior Christmas Luncheon** will be held on **Wednesday, December 5**, in the JCPC. Social hour begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:00 p.m. The **DK and Kindergarten Concert** will begin at 1:00 p.m. Those not attending the lunch are more than welcome to come at 1:00 p.m. to enjoy the concert.

Help is needed for set-up, serving, clean up and contributing a yummy dessert. Thank you in advance for your help! [Sign up here.](#)



PWC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual PWC Christmas party is scheduled for Thursday evening, December 13th. Please save-the-date! Hosted at the beautiful home of Darcy & Matt Cobb, this jingle and mingle is not to be missed!! Thank you to the Cobb family for graciously opening their home. Details will be shared soon!



PARENT VIRTUS TRAINING/FINGERPRINTING POLICY

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.



SPA JUNIOR HIGH NIGHTS

All 7th and 8th grade students are welcome to join us on Thursday evenings in the Media Center from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. These evenings are filled with faith, food, friends, and fun. Come by and learn how to build your relationship with God, all while having a great time building community with other junior high-aged students. For more information, please contact Adrian Barrios at abarrios@sp-apostle.org or at (424) 832-5150.

Please note the Jr. High Night dates for 2018-2019: 11/29/18, 1/31/19, 2/28/19, 3/28/19, 4/11/19

SPA 2018-2019 YEARBOOKS

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 1st. You can logon to the SPA/PWC 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

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](#)