



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOS ANGELES



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Yesterday was the second Sunday of Advent, and during this special time of year we begin to sense a change in our surroundings. The weather seems to be a bit colder and in some parts of the country snow has already begun to fall. One gets the feeling that Christmas is on the way, and it gives us a heightened sense of expectancy. Even before the Thanksgiving holiday, the stores begin to “dress up” for the holidays. Christmas trees are decorated and on display, carols echo from loudspeakers, garland is hanging everywhere, and colorful lights are turned on. It is a special time of *waiting*, and an excellent opportunity for us to teach our children the virtue of *patience*. They know that Christmas is coming, and that means that Santa can’t be too far behind.

As we continue our Advent journey, we might sometimes stop and wonder what we can do to keep the Christian perspective of the season. As we make some sacred time in the coming days to reflect about the Christ Child, the greatest gift of all, we can also think about the many ways we can try to imitate the greatest “gift giver” of all. Perhaps there is a special gift somebody in your life needs to have right now, and it doesn’t require Santa, elves, reindeer, or any wrapping paper and ribbon. Here are just a few ideas:

This Advent, end a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share a special treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in words and actions. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Listen again. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Ignore envy. Examine your demands on others. Think of someone else first. Appreciate. Be kind and gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve someone’s confidence. Try a different perspective. Denounce complacency. Express your gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Delight the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once more.

I wish you all the best of this sacred Advent season!

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky
Principal

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 UNIFORM REMINDERS

With the approach of Christmas vacation and the New Year, it would be great if a little time was set aside to review the school Uniform Policy. While your children are growing, unfortunately, their clothes are not. Some uniform items (i.e. shirts, skirts, sweatshirts, etc.) seem to have been outgrown. There is also a tendency to become a bit complacent about some of the uniform policies. At St. Paul the Apostle School, we believe that a student's appearance has an impact on his/her attitude and behavior. Adherence to the school dress code teaches self-discipline, as well as a sense of modesty and proper attire. Our philosophy is to create an environment of excellence, in all aspects, and to encourage each student's personal commitment to these high standards. The following are just a few policy reminders:

- All skirts, jumpers, shifts, and skorts/culottes must touch some part of the knee (top, middle, or bottom). Skirts are not to be rolled at the waist. Please make an allowance for growth throughout the year.
- Socks are to be green, white, or black; socks must extend above the ankle.
- Hair must be cut and styled appropriately; natural hair color and traditional haircuts are the rules.
- Only appropriate jewelry as described in the Handbook may be worn to school.
- Nail polish may not be worn to school.
- Shoes must be black, gray or white; a small amount of colored trim is allowed.

Continued disregard of the uniform policies will result in a detention and any free dress privileges. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



SCOOTERS - A STUDENT SAFETY ISSUE!

It has come to my attention that we have a few students who are arriving to school in the morning via motorized scooters. The adults reporting this to me have noted a couple of “near misses” with cars and are extremely concerned about student safety. To say that I was surprised to hear this would be an understatement as I was under the impression that riders had to have both a credit card for the rental of this motorized device, as well as a driver’s license which you can’t obtain until the age of 16 (and that’s only a provisional license). Upon researching the CA “motorized scooter laws” I learned that a person can operate a motorized scooter with any class of valid CA driver’s license. Given this limitation, I doubt that any of our St. Paul’s students would qualify to ride a motorized scooter at any time, even under adult supervision. With so much emphasis being placed on student safety at SPA, this is yet another area of concern. I would respectfully request that parents reconsider motorized scooters as a viable option for student transportation.



FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Congratulations to all of the students in grades 1 through 6 who have met their Accelerated Reader goals for the First Trimester! Certificates of Achievement have been awarded by the Language Arts teacher, and these students will also be treated to hot chocolate as they enjoy free dress on Wednesday, December 12th. Free dress guidelines can be found in the SPA Parent/Student Handbook.

On another note, the Media Center is looking for donations of cardboard tubes from wrapping paper, toilet paper, and paper towel rolls. Before tossing those empty tubes in the trashcan, please make plans to drop them off in the Media Center. Thank you!



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

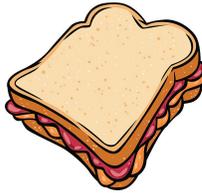


Christmas break is coming, and your children will be taking home their iPads if they are in 6-8 grade. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that even though the iPad is a school device, filtering only occurs when the iPads are on campus. When it is at home, we rely on the parents to properly 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



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!



SPA SANDWICH BUILDERS

Come join us on Friday, December 14, in the JCPC to assist the 5th grade class in making 1,000 lunches to help feed the homeless. There are lots of ways to help!

- **Sign up to bring supplies** -- thousands of supplies are needed each month, so we hope you will sign up to bring a few. You can sign up to bring supplies [here](#). Cash donations are also appreciated to help purchase needed supplies.

- **Come make sandwiches at 6:00 p.m.** - open only to middle school students and older; come early to make sandwiches for the assembly line.

- **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 the Sandwich Builders page [here](#). We will fill up your car with lunches Friday night. We deliver everything 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 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. A reminder that parents are expected to supervise their kids. **We hope the students have fun, but their top priority is making lunches. Please keep phones at home, talk quietly, and *participate!*** Thank you for participating from the Sandwich Builders Team (the Barth, Goodgame, Tyler, and Woods families).



ELECTRONIC DONATION DRIVE

Please hold onto your old electronics over the holidays and contribute them to the e-waste drive at SPA that will be held on Saturday, January 26th. Suggested donation items include:

Televisions | Laptops | Monitors LCD Screens | CRT Monitors
Printers | Tablets Smart Phones | Cables and Wires **No Batteries
or Light Bulbs will be accepted.

Please hold onto old textiles as well. The textile drive will be held on May 2nd and May 3rd.



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 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

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](#)