



# SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we begin our second week of Advent, our attention continues to be divided between our preparations for Christmas and the increasing news alerts regarding the newest COVID-19 variant. This past week we received a communication from Paul Escala, the ADLA Superintendent, reminding us that the risk of transmission and exposure to COVID-19 remains high. In his message, he stressed the importance of increasing our vigilance through the holidays, as well as after we return from Christmas vacation. Attached to his email was a letter that he received after Thanksgiving from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health which stated the following:

*Dear Education Colleagues:*

*You are probably aware of a new variant of COVID-19 that has emerged in South Africa and been identified by the World Health Organization as a Variant of Concern. There is much we do not yet know about this new variant. We do not have enough data at this point to know how this variant compares to the Delta variant we see most often in the United States in terms of the speed with which it spreads or the severity of illness we should expect among those it infects. Even so, the very quick spread of Omicron in South Africa, where it is now the predominant strain of the virus, should be a warning sign for us.*

**Given that, we ask that you revisit and reinforce all the preventive strategies at our disposal. Key steps to take are as follows:**

- 1. Prepare to test returning students and staff as widely as possible this**

- coming week. From there on, maintain a robust testing program throughout the holiday season.**
- 2. Make sure your facility is organized for prompt, systematic identification of cases and close contacts and for oversight of isolation and quarantine requirements.**
  - 3. Assure universal and appropriate compliance with masking requirements.**
  - 4. Practice and reinforce social distancing whenever possible and avoid crowding at any time during the school day. Consider options to avoid crowding at school holiday events.**
  - 5. Remind families to self-screen before their children leave for school and to keep their children home if they show any signs of illness.**
  - 6. Revisit HVAC systems and look for ways to improve airflow even as you move activities indoors.**

*And, of course, continue to host and promote on-campus vaccine events and encourage uptake of vaccines among children five and older.*

*As always, we are enormously grateful for your leadership to date around making education one of the safest sectors in the county throughout the pandemic. Your partnership has been key to keeping our children and our communities safe. Please do take advantage of the support we can provide going forward with this newly intensified focus on prevention.*

As concerned as we are regarding this new variant, it is reassuring to read through the list of key strategies and know that we continue to do everything we can at St. Paul the Apostle School to adhere to those imperative health guidelines.

We have been fortunate to be able to avoid any COVID outbreaks on our campus that would be large enough to completely shut down our school. This has been due to the fact that we have been able to collectively maintain a high degree of transmission prevention by adhering to the masking requirements, weekly testing, hand sanitizing, proper ventilation and having plexiglass on the desks in the classrooms. In his message, the Superintendent has reminded us that, now more than ever, we need to double-down on these efforts to ensure we can continue to keep everyone safe and enjoy this wonderful Advent/Christmas season without any interruptions.

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal Pinkofsky  
Principal

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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### **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS 2021 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is this Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. The school liturgy will be held at 8:30 a.m. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be in the church, and the rest of the grade levels will join the liturgy via the St. Paul the Apostle Media YouTube link.



## REPORT CARD DELAY!

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Due to some technical and logistical issues we are presently experiencing with PowerSchool SIS our new student information system, we must delay the first trimester report card distributions for a week. The PowerSchool staff is working diligently with our tech team to rectify the problems so that we can send the report cards home by December 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.



## SPA 2021 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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## Christmas Pageant

After several conversations with the administration and music teachers, a decision has been made to host our SPA School's Christmas Pageant **virtually** this year. In light of the COVID safety challenges that would limit everything we would normally do in church—including the casting of an adorable infant as the Baby Jesus—our DK through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be telling the Nativity story in narration and song while their performances are being videotaped. Even though we had hoped to be able to offer our SPA community a live performance, we know that you will enjoy this virtual production with your family and friends.

The students have already begun rehearsing the carols, and the students who will be narrating the Nativity will begin practicing their assigned readings this week. The entire program will be taped on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please note that ALL students are encouraged to wear appropriate "Christmas attire" to school that day for the taping. The final production will be shared with our SPA community on Thursday, December 16, via the St. Paul the Apostle Media YouTube link. Once the time is finalized, it will be shared with everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support regarding this decision. It is our sincere hope that next year our Christmas production will be LIVE and back inside the church.

## 2022 YEARBOOK ORDERS

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# YEARBOOK



It's time to order your 2021-2022 St. Paul the Apostle School yearbook! Don't miss out! It is a wonderful way to remember the school year! You can just click [HERE](#) to order.

\$35- if ordered between November 16th – December 17th

\$45- if ordered between December 18th – January 18th

\$55- if paid for in June during yearbook distribution, but there is no guarantee there will be any yearbooks left.

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## SPA VACCINATION CLINIC SITE

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St. Paul the Apostle Church will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccination site in the Parish Center on Wednesday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. First, second and booster doses will be available and are free to everyone. Medical insurance is not required. For eligibility guidelines visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinate.lacounty.gov). A consent form is required for all minors ages 5 through 17. Minors who are 5 through 15 –years old **MUST** be accompanied by their parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult. If the child is accompanied by a responsible adult, the consent form must name the responsible person and be signed by the parent or legal guardian. You can sign up today using the following link:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054DAAAF2AA6F85-ladepartment>

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## SPA COVID TESTING

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Our next round of COVID testing for all faculty, staff, and students will be held this **Wednesday, December 8th**, beginning at 8:15 a.m. The **ONLY** document your children will need to have for testing is a dated and signed copy of the **COVID-19 Patient Test Request Form**.

**Please note that students in grades 4 – 8 may receive the NOSTRIL swab or NASAL swab. If this is the type of COVID test you want for your child, just check either one of those boxes on the form, otherwise, he/she will receive the MOUTH swab.**

When completing the Patient Request Form, please remember to **include your email address** so that the results of the lab test can be sent directly to you, as well as Nurse Anderson. **We strongly suggest that you TYPE the requested information onto the form so that everything—including your email address—is legible.** Keep in mind that we are not using a “rapid” test, so we should expect to receive the results in approximately 24 hours. If you have not received the results by then, please contact the lab or Nurse Anderson. Any measures that we can take to help keep our community

safe is well worth the effort. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this very important matter!

[\*\*COVID-19 Patient Test Request Form Link\*\*](#)

(This document is now Form Fillable)