



# SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we continue to move forward through the second trimester of school, the teachers will remain focused on both “teaching academics” and “educating the whole child.” As a Catholic school, we strive daily to establish a Christ-centered, values-based learning environment. It is our mission to “educate the whole child.” Character formation is a major effort at St. Paul the Apostle School because we firmly believe that it is not enough to teach academics. We must also teach our students how to have moral character.

Character, simply defined, is that lasting and distinctive part of the inner person that governs behavior through informed choices and good habits. It is formed and maintained when an active and well-informed conscience becomes a consistent moral guide. When that happens, virtues such as patience, generosity, honesty, obedience, respect, acceptance, and compassion become habits. As I reflect on this list of virtues, I think we can add two more that are sometimes missing from our current society—common sense and civility. If we are serious about forming our young people for the next generation, these virtues cannot be disregarded.

It has come to my attention that we have some students at SPA who are experiencing a bit of difficulty in expressing these Christian values that are being taught at home and school. I am concerned because this type of misbehavior and blatant disregard of school policies can have a negative impact on the entire school community. It is very disheartening to have parents share that their child has been the target of disrespectful comments or behavior from a classmate. A disrespectful comment that may seem funny to one student, could have a very hurtful impact on a classmate. Some students

may be engaging in behaviors that they think will make them “popular” among their peers. What they need to be taught is the vast difference between what it means to be a friend, and popularity. While many children may yearn to be the “popular” kid, it is true friendship that will help them thrive.

Our school and classroom behavior rules are designed so that, when they are followed, all of our students will feel welcome and respected while on campus. It is easy for our students to forget that it is a privilege to be here, and that there are certain established parameters that cannot be ignored. Students who choose to willfully disregard school policies will be held responsible for their misbehavior. Negative experiences for making wrong choices will only serve to help students make better choices in the future. As parents and educators, we are all in the business of forming conscience. This formation is one that must be a total and daily practice.

Education is an important partnership between home and school, and your children will ultimately benefit from that team effort. If the administration or teachers call and ask for your assistance regarding your child’s behavior, it is probably because they have exhausted their classroom discipline options. Please give them your support, and let us continue to work together to help our students become people of strong Christian character.

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal Pinkofsky  
Principal

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### VALENTINE’S DAY

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#### **TODAY IS VALENTINE’S DAY!**

Happy Valentine’s Day! To help celebrate the day, please remember that students may bring Valentine cards and treats to share as long as the following protocols are followed:

- While it is completely voluntary, students who want to distribute Valentine cards at school **MUST** have a card for each of the classmates in their homeroom. This will help to ensure that everyone is included, and no one is left out.
- Any candy “treats” that are shared **MUST** be purchased already individually wrapped to help keep our students safe. The same policy applies to the sharing of treats as well —everyone must be included.

All of the cards and treats will be distributed at the end of the day. Students will be given bags in which to place all of their Valentine goodies to take home. Parents can then decide how and when the Valentine treats can be enjoyed. As an extra added “bonus”, students may have **FREE DRESS TODAY (Valentine’s Day)** if at least one item of clothing is red, pink or white. (And yes, socks are considered as one item of clothing.) We are looking forward to a fun day with everyone!

## NO SCHOOL!

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This is just a reminder that school will not be in session next Monday, February 21, in honor of Presidents’ Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope that you are able to enjoy the 3-day weekend.

## SPA UNIFORM/SKI CLOTHING EXCHANGE!

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It often seems that our children grow bigger almost overnight. It would not come as a surprise to find that the uniforms you purchased at the beginning of the school year no longer fit. Before purchasing new uniform items, you might want to consider stopping by the SPA Uniform Exchange that is being held on Friday, February 25, in the parish Multi-Purpose Room. You might be lucky enough to find some uniform items that will get you through the remainder of this school year.



Along with the uniform items that you will be able to take home, there will also be ski apparel in kid sizes that will be up for grabs. Ski Weekend will be here before we know it (March 11-13). If you are making plans to be part of that fun adventure, and your children are in need of ski outfits, this will be another reason for you to stop by the Multi-Purpose Room. You just never know what pleasant surprises will await you.

To help make this event a success, we kindly ask that you please start searching your children’s closets and drawers for any outgrown SPA school uniforms and ski clothing that can be donated! You can drop-off any gently used items in the MPR during morning drop-off, or afternoon pick-up beginning this Wednesday, February 16, through Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your generous clothing donations, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

## TRAFFIC DUTY ORIENTATION

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In the coming months, the PWC will kick off traffic duty for the younger grades. Since traffic duty is required for every family, they will be providing a parent-volunteer walkthrough of what to do, and also remind everyone of the traffic rules around campus. The orientation will be held on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be a great orientation for new SPA families, and also a refresher for all of our veteran families. Let’s all work together to keep our kids safe! If you would like to participate in this “training” session, please meet the PWC members in front of the school at 7:55 a.m. Thank you!

## THE TOP 10 THINGS WE NEVER HEAR OUR STUDENTS SAY!

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As I was going through some files I came across this article that made me laugh when I first read it several years ago, and it's just as funny today. You might have to be a teacher to truly appreciate the sense of humor. Here is the list in no particular order.



- We made this mess, so we will clean it up.
- Let's skip recess today so we can get more work done.
- Can we come in this weekend to clean and decorate our classroom?
- Take your time grading our assignments. We know that you have a life outside of school.
- This worksheet is repetitive and tedious, but we love it.
- There's a time for play and a time for work. We've had enough fun. We'd like to focus and do some serious learning now.
- We want you to know that our parents support your decisions without question.
- May we have some extra work to take home with us tonight?
- We would like to take a test to see what we learned.
- You look tired. Sit down and rest. We'll just do some quiet, self-directed learning today.
- This is unfair, but life is unfair sometimes! In the spirit of cooperation and for the good of our learning community, we accept your punishment.

Well, we may not hear it today, but there's always tomorrow!

## SPA COVID TESTING

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Our next round of COVID testing for all faculty, staff and students will be held **this Wednesday, February 16<sup>TH</sup>**. The **ONLY** document your children will need to have 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)



As we begin to rearrange closets, cabinets and desk space to make room for our new Christmas gifts, please know that UCLA could possibly accept some of the items you may be wanting to discard. Please note the lists and information below:

**THEY ACCEPT:** paint and solvents; used motor oil and filters, anti-freeze, and other automotive fluids; cleaning products; pool and garden chemicals; aerosol cans; all medicine; auto batteries; household (alkaline) batteries; fluorescent tubes and bulbs, thermostats, and other mercury-containing lamps.

**THEY ALSO ACCEPT:** computers, monitors, printers, network equipment, cables, telephones, televisions, microwaves, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs, and electronic toys. **\*Residents are limited to a total of six pieces of electronic waste per visit to a SAFE Center and items will be accepted on Saturdays only.**

**THEY DO NOT ACCEPT:** business waste, ammunition, explosives, radioactive material, biological waste or tires. *Bulky Items:* furniture, refrigerators, washing machines/dryers, conventional ovens, paper, or computer software

The Center is located at **550 Charles E. Young Dr. West, Los Angeles, 90095**. Their **hours of operation are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday\* from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Follow the drop-off signs. \*\*\* They will accept electronic waste on Saturdays only. For more Information, please call 1-800-98-TOXIC (1-800-988-6942).

[Click here for more Information](#)