



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents/Guardians:

It seems like it was only yesterday that we were taking down the Christmas lights, recycling the Christmas trees, and boxing up the holiday decorations, but here we are! The season of Lent begins this week with **Ash Wednesday**. For Catholics everywhere, Lent is often described as a time for increased piety, extra prayer and liturgical services, and plenty of self-sacrifice. From the time we were children, especially if we attended Catholic school, our first question about Lent was often, “What am I going to give up for Lent?” Giving up something that you really enjoyed for these 40 days was a custom that, when we were younger, helped us enter into the season with a sense of purpose and a greater awareness of the meaning of “self-sacrifice.” Another thing that I remember about Lent as a young child were the stares and questions from non-Catholics that sometimes made Ash Wednesday “uncomfortable.” It was the only day of the year (at least to my knowledge) where people could immediately identify you as being Catholic on sight. You didn’t even have to do anything; it was right there, spelled out in the form of a black cross on your forehead. That symbol of Catholic “identity” still exists today.

But as we grew older, hopefully we learned that Lent isn’t simply about the display of ashes or “giving up” something. As adults, we might want to consider viewing Lent in a deeper way.

Lent is a time for us to realign ourselves with our faith, and most importantly, with the example Jesus means for us to live. During the holy season of Lent, God offers us a special opportunity to grow in our relationship with Him and with one another. In the “busy-ness” of our everyday lives, these 40 days can provide us with those special

moments to pray more deeply, experience atonement for the good we have failed to do, and to be generous to those in need. There is no amount of candy, soda, fast foods, television, or internet fasting that will ever prove our holiness. Much of who we are is determined by how we see things and what we do. The real grace is when we recognize that Lent is a season in which God wants to *give us something*. God wants to help us transform our lives and make us more liberated as people—and not just more enlightened with God, but also in the way we live our lives and love our families.

Easter Sunday will mark the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our invitation to share in the mystery of God's life and love. This season of Lent—no matter what you decide to give up or take on—don't forget about Easter. The end certainly gives a more beautiful meaning to the journey.

The community of St. Paul the Apostle School will be participating in a **special Prayer Service on Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.**, at which time all of our students, faculty and staff will receive those blessed ashes on our foreheads. There will be several additional Masses and Prayer Services on Wednesday to accommodate various work and time schedules. Ashes will also be distributed in the church throughout the day. Please make some time to begin the Lenten season with inspiration and prayer. Wearing those ashes proudly might just inspire someone else to begin their own faith journey!

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal Pinkofsky
Principal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MATT BARNES—SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER!



Black History Month became a month-long celebration in 1976. In schools across the

nation, it is an opportunity to understand Black histories that go beyond racism and slavery to spotlight Black achievement. While this is a time to recognize and celebrate the fullness of African American history and culture, we know that recognition is something that cannot be contained in only one month.

As part of our recognition of Black History Month, last Wednesday, St. Paul the Apostle School had a special visitor! **Matt Barnes, a former NBA player**, graciously shared some time with our 5th – 8th grade students and teachers speaking about some key moments in his life, as well as a few memorable experiences during his professional career. He spoke about growing up in a loving family, and his painful encounters with racism along the way. Matt clearly explained the challenges involved, and the significant choices he made through the years. He spoke fondly about his college years at UCLA, and the life-changing moment of being drafted into the NBA where he played with a few teams that included the Los Angeles Clippers and the Lakers. He shared some touching stories about his friendship with Kobe Bryant, and a few life lessons learned from that treasured relationship. Matt retired from the NBA in 2017, after winning his first championship ring in his 16 years of playing professional basketball. He told the students that his decision to retire was motivated by his desire to spend much more time with his three sons, which he is now enjoying immensely.

Before leaving the gym, Matt answered several questions posed by our curious students, and then autographed a basketball that we plan to display for our SPA athletes. Our sincere gratitude is extended to Matt Barnes for the time he spent with us, and to the SPA family who made that visit possible. It was very much appreciated!

DON'T FORGET--IN 'N OUT DAY!

This is just a gentle reminder that the students who ordered the **In 'n Out burger lunch** will be enjoying that delicious meal tomorrow (Tuesday), so they will not need to bring a lunch to school. Please note that Fresh Lunches, our SPA lunch provider, will not be on campus Tuesday. If you did not order a burger meal for your children, please remember to send them to school with a lunch



SPA SUMMER SCHOOL/SUMMER CAMP



Yes, it will be happening this summer! The SPA Summer School and Summer Camp sign-ups will be coming your way the week of March 7th. The chosen weekly themes will enhance the learning as students brush up on the academic skills that will be needed for the next school year. In addition to the academics, all attendees will be able to participate in arts and crafts, cooking classes, yoga, sports, outdoor play, and a daily assembly with music, games, student awards, and more! The dates will be June 13th – July 8th for students in DK – 6th grade. Full-day and half-day programs will be available. As an extra special addition, Mr. Aggabao will be offering a Band Camp for students in grades 5 – 8. Look for the link in next week's newsletter!

SPA SCHOOL BOARD SUBMISSIONS ANNOUNCEMENT



The SPA School Board is now accepting submissions to be considered for membership. The School Board is a different entity than the PWC Board or the Sister Stella Foundation Board. They are an advisory board who work closely with the principal and school leadership to consult on issues such as strategic planning, policy development, financing, capital improvements, technology, PR and marketing, community outreach, and the overall well-being of the school and its stakeholders.

The Board meets monthly (after school) during the school year, September through June. Members also lead and serve on subcommittees which are formed to study and make recommendations on various school-related issues throughout the year. The members are selected for a term of three years and may be re-elected for a second term of three years.

Anyone who is an active member of the St. Paul the Apostle School and/or Parish is eligible. To be considered, please submit a resume and cover letter to: **Devon Farley** at devon_kaiser@hotmail.com. Submissions must be received no later than March 25, 2022, to be considered for the next school year.

MAX STOSSEL – SPA GUEST SPEAKER



Education in the Age of Distraction - March 3, Thursday (7:00 p.m.)

All of our SPA parents are invited to join us for a lively one hour conversation with award-winning poet, filmmaker, and speaker Max Stossel as he shares how technology is designed to be addictive and distracting, and the ways social media impacts our children. Max will also share some strategies for improving focus and diminishing distractions in learning environments. This talk is not to be missed! The gathering will be held in the Parish Center, and light refreshments will be served. We thank the Sister Stella Foundation for their generous support in helping bring Max onto our campus.

Please note that the evening session is for **adults only**. Max Stossel will be speaking to all students in grades 5 – 8 during the school day.



By now you are probably aware that Pope Francis has inaugurated an exciting opportunity for the worldwide Church. He wants to listen to us – all of us – to seek input on what it means to journey together. The Pope is intentionally reaching out to each of us at the parish and neighborhood level to hear about our experience of Church, including the experience of those who no longer participate. This process, called *Synodality*, refers to the path we walk together, wherever we are on our faith journey. Our pastor at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community, Fr. Gil Martinez, CSP, reminds us that “it is an uncommon word referring to an uncommon process of listening to everyone.”

To respond to this invitation, Fr. Gil is working with our SPA Parish Council to develop multiple opportunities for us to engage and be heard. The input received will benefit not only the worldwide process but also guide how we minister to each other at St. Paul's.

One of the most important opportunities currently in formation is a series of in-person listening sessions that will be offered at St. Paul's during Lent. These gatherings will provide the faithful, the marginalized, the disaffiliated and all others with an opportunity to listen to and learn from one another, and to discern how God is calling us to journey together more closely as Church. Beginning with prayer, each gathering will offer opportunities for small-group discussion on specific themes. St. Paul's will offer three listening sessions in the Parish Center on the following dates. Please go to the parish website to sign-up for a time to participate in this valuable process.

- **Saturday, March 5th** from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, March 26th** 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 2nd** from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

SPA COVID TESTING



Our next round of COVID testing for all faculty, staff and students will be held **this Thursday, March 3rd**. 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](#)

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