



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Monday, everyone, and I truly hope that you have been able to “safely” enjoy this 3-day weekend with your families. If you were lucky, rest and relaxation have been part of that enjoyment. And now, back to reality...

For approximately two years now, we have all been dealing with the impact of COVID-19 in our lives. It hasn't been easy, especially in regards to keeping our schools open, but we have all benefitted from our community efforts. Last week during our ADLA Principal's meeting with three doctors from the L.A. County Dept. of Health, we were told that the most effective strategy for preventing the spread of COVID-19 on school campuses is three-pronged: **vaccinations, masking, and testing**. There was some very strong encouragement from the doctors regarding regular testing at school sites. Upon hearing that message, I definitely felt a sense of relief in knowing that everything they highlighted has been happening within our school community.

From the very beginning of this pandemic, we have taken advantage of all available efforts to keep our school SAFELY opened. While many schools are just now scrambling to find and implement COVID testing resources for their staff and students, we have been actively engaged in weekly testing since last August when our school year began. This has truly been instrumental in helping Nurse Anderson identify and isolate COVID cases quickly, lower the risk of transmission, and allow us to have more consistent in-person instruction. And for that, we are truly grateful.

The reported number of positive cases from Friday's testing was very minimal—only 6 cases reported. **Given this information, we are discontinuing hybrid instruction**

this week as we expect all of our students to be on campus for learning. The ONLY exception to this will be for the students who have tested positive for COVID and must remain at home, or for any “close contacts” who have been told by Nurse Anderson that they must quarantine as stated in the DPH guidelines. Hybrid instruction is definitely beneficial in helping us keep our students safe while learning, but it also has many academic challenges for both students and teachers.

Another reason we need to have our students on campus is STAR testing. It is now time for us to administer STAR tests for the second trimester, and having students on campus will help with the validity of the data that will be received. We rely upon this information to help measure the academic progress of our students in regards to math and reading, and to identify any potential areas where additional support may be needed. The teachers have begun planning the test schedules, with the hope that all of their students will be on campus. The importance of this cannot be emphasized enough, and we thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding this matter.

And finally, this is just a gentle reminder that the much enjoyed “Week of Free Dress” has ended. **All students must wear their SPA School uniforms when returning to campus this week.** But please let them know that there will still be fun times ahead when we begin the celebration of **Catholic Schools Week** on January 30th. We look forward to enjoying all of the “Wheel Spinning” adventures the week will bring, with a variety of “Free Dress” opportunities among them! We can’t wait!

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal Pinkofsky
Principal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A FOND FAREWELL!



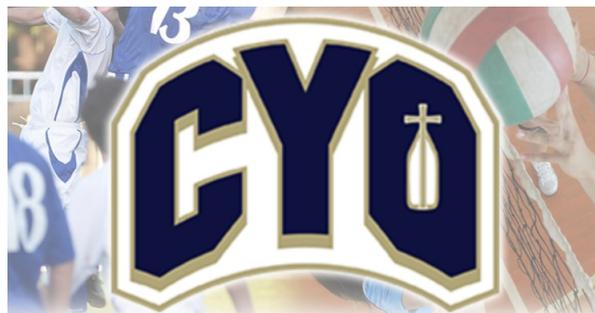
It is with many mixed emotions that we inform you of the resignation of two of our beloved and respected faculty members. **Mr. Michael Gillett**, our school’s Director of Technology, shared his final day on campus with us this past Friday. We are truly grateful for Mr. Gillett’s dedication, leadership, and tech skills that he so generously shared with us throughout this challenging time. Never has technology use been more important to our schools than during the COVID pandemic. We appreciate all of the times that he helped to keep us going in many ways that proved to be beneficial to our faculty, staff, students and SPA community. Mr. Gillett will be enjoying retirement with

his wife, and it is certainly well deserved.

Mrs. Paloma Doreza Dimaya's last day with us will be this Friday, January 21st. Mrs. Doreza Dimaya has been a well-respected 6th grade teacher at SPA for approximately four years. She has touched the lives of her students in many ways, and we hope that our gratitude has been felt by her as well. We will always be grateful for her presence, for the expertise she has shared with her students and our school community, and for all of her hard work. May her journey ahead be filled with many wonderful new adventures, and we wish her the happiness and success that she so rightly deserves.

We are presently in the midst of outreach and interviews of qualified candidates to assume these two positions. As soon as the selections are made and finalized, they will be introduced and welcomed to our SPA community.

FROM CYO SPORTS ADMINISTRATION!



This will provide you with an update on the CYO basketball season amid the ongoing spread of the Omicron virus. Cases are rapidly increasing across the county, state, and county. The variant is highly contagious, the symptoms are generally mild or non-existent, and people of all ages are contracting it. It is known that the variant has a life of two-three weeks and then it decreases significantly.

Based on this and out of an abundance of caution, CYO will postpone all basketball games until Monday, January 24, for girls and Monday, January 31, for boys, **A level only**. B/C games shall remain paused and will be addressed down the road.

It is CYO's intent to offer a viable basketball season with playoffs. We have a plan in place that is adaptable as necessary. All other CYO events will be considered individually as we move through the next few weeks and will be subject to time and availability. This decision comes after thorough consideration along with discussion among our Board, AD's, Staff, ADLA/DCS, and medical personnel.

To avoid any confusion, the basketball schedules will be taken down from the website. Once we realign all the games, you will be notified that they are back up and can be adjusted as necessary. Thank you all for your patience and understanding.

2022 YEARBOOK ORDERS



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.

\$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.

SPA COVID TESTING



Our next round of COVID testing for all faculty, staff and students will be held **this Wednesday, January 19th**. 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)

U.C.L.A.S.A.F.E. COLLECTION CENTER



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](#)