



# SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you read this week's newsletter it is my sincere hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe during this frenzied time. I can only begin to imagine the many challenges you are dealing with now in meeting your career obligations, taking care of your loved ones, monitoring your children's academic assignments, and planning for any "worst case" scenarios that could happen at any time. We have certainly been through a lot this school year, from the recent local fires last October, to this unforeseen global pandemic. At any given moment it can all be overwhelming, but periodically, I hope we also feel a sense of confidence that we will persevere and get through this together.

While writing this week's letter, it occurred to me that today was supposed to be the day I would bid a fond farewell to our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and chaperones at LAX as they boarded the plane for their flight to Washington, D.C. The disappointment in having to cancel this trip, and all of the planned field trips and extracurricular activities, is palpable. But if that is the worst that can happen, we are lucky.

This week, all of our teachers will officially begin engaging their students "in class" using ZOOM as their online instructional tool. In preparing for this, I have asked the teachers to consider the age of the students, the amount of "screen time" that our students are capable of enduring, the technology resources that may or may not be readily available at home, the parent work schedules if any parent support will be needed, and the additional instructional support that some students may require. It is a lot to contemplate, and not as easy as it may seem on the surface, but our teachers and staff have all committed to do their best.

During this uncertain and difficult time, I have been heartened (but not surprised) by the dedication, focus, and resolve of the SPA faculty and staff. As the concern of this pandemic began to grow, our faculty gathered together to begin planning how we would move our instruction to a user-friendly online setting in an effort to reach out to our students with engaging academic opportunities, as well as offers of support and comfort. Seeing our teachers come together last week with commitment and resolve reminded me of the wisdom and strength of character they bring to St. Paul the Apostle School every day. Our teachers view this ministry as an opportunity to engage in one of the most essential collective tasks---to make a difference not only in the spiritual and academic lives of their students, but also in the course of our society and humanity.

As I often share with my college students in every class I am assigned, teaching is enormously complex and challenging work; it is not for the faint of heart or the uncommitted. Teachers enter the profession with empathy, intellectual curiosity, motivation, and a sense of justice. Teaching requires sustained effort over many years to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to take on the multiple challenges that present themselves. This is definitely one of those times. Right now, our resolve as a society and a profession is being tested, and I am grateful for everyone in this community as we band together to rise to this challenge. Please know that our teachers will be doing their best!

In an effort to keep the lines of communication open, our homeroom teachers will be inviting parents to join them in a ZOOM meeting soon. (A couple of these meetings for the DK and one of the Kindergarten classes have already occurred.) If you have any questions/concerns that relate to teacher expectations, plans for moving forward, etc. feel free to share those at the end of the session if they are not addressed by the teacher at the beginning of the meeting. Please note that the teachers are not able to address any administrative concerns on behalf of the ADLA.

We deeply appreciate the understanding and support you have given us during this challenging time, and I wish all of our SPA families good health as we navigate this journey. Stay peaceful! Stay healthy! Keep washing your hands! Keep praying! We are one faith-filled community, and we will get through this together!

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky  
Principal



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## OUR CALENDAR/SCHOOL CLOSURE

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Although we have received nothing “official” from the ADLA, “rumor” has it that our Catholic schools may not be re-opening until Monday, April 20, at the earliest. Again, this is NOT official. By no means have we treated this time away from campus as a “vacation.” Since we have NOT halted the instruction of our students, we do not anticipate that we will have to make up any days of school closure at the end of the year. As soon as we get any official notice regarding schools reopening from the ADLA Superintendent, I will share that news immediately.



## 2nd TRIMESTER REPORT CARDS

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Report cards for the second trimester will be mailed no later than this Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. In order to keep your students on track with their academic progress during the third trimester, it's important that the teachers receive your full support and cooperation regarding "class attendance" and the completion/submission of assignments. The teachers are working hard to:

- Teach their classes live via ZOOM
- Create and post instructional videos via YouTube, etc.
- Post pertinent/current information and class schedules on PSL/Haiku
- Provide educational resources to support student learning
- Keep students' grades updated on Gradelink
- Respond to parent emails

Student "attendance" will be taken in the form of participation in ZOOM sessions, and the timely submission of class assignments. If your child is ill and cannot be present for a session or cannot complete assignments on time, please contact the teacher or Nurse Anderson so the absence can be noted as "excused." Thank you for your continued cooperation regarding these important matters.

### EASTER BREAK



## EASTER VACATION - STILL PLANNED!

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As originally indicated on our school calendar, Easter vacation will begin on Holy Thursday, April 9, and will continue until April 19<sup>th</sup>. "School" will NOT be in session during that time so that everyone can enjoy a well-deserved break.



## FAMILY LENTEN RESOURCES

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Once again, we will be offering our school parents a weekly Lenten resource that you can use at home with your children. Claire Henning, a long-time SPA parishioner, has developed Parent Child Faith Sharing materials for Lent 2020. Simply click on this [LINK](#) to access her materials.



## NEWS FROM OUR SPA LIBRARY!

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Special thanks is extended to Pete Oswald and the Ikonick brand for gifting every child in grades K-3 with an inspirational canvas created by Pete. What a special morning it was for everyone involved. The SPA library is lucky enough to have the entire collection of this inspirational art on display. If you are interested in ordering any of these artistic pieces, details will be posted on

PowerSchool when the art becomes available.

The special visit by Barney Salzburg will be rescheduled. For those of you who have ordered books, Ms. Oliver has the order forms safely stored in the library until further notice.

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## PWC NEWS CORNER!

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### SPA'S SOCIAL MEDIA

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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 here!

[Facebook](#)  
[Instagram](#)  
[YouTube](#)