



SAINT PAUL
THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our students who campaigned for a Student Council position this year! Their energy was contagious, and their creativity was enjoyed by many. We all know that it can take a bit of courage to step up and express your thoughts and goals with your colleagues, not knowing how they will be interpreted or received. All of the candidates can be commended for their efforts and should know that we will be relying on ALL of them to display and share their leadership abilities with us this year.

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to SERVE as Student Council members. We look forward to hearing their ideas and concerns, and to having them assist us with school liturgies and prayers services, special projects, student activities, and special events.

Jonas Merchan – President
Blaise Ferraro – Vice-President

Student Council Commissioners

Leah Caballero
Carson Caras
Zara Giannini
Jackson Kim

**Samantha Nugent
Gabriel Prunier Herman
Kylie Quintanar
Cole Wiggins**

We have a very busy week ahead of us with Back-to-School Night, Picture Day, our first Student Body Mass, the welcoming of our School Counselors, and continued preparations for our Fall Festival. As we continue to move forward this year, we will embrace the many challenges of the future while we continue to cherish and acclaim the traditions of the past. Please keep us in prayer, and know how much we appreciate your continued support, words of encouragement, and cooperation.

May our combined mission of preparing our students for a life of faith, virtue, and excellence continue to be blessed for many more years to come!

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal Pinkofsky
Principal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT



This is just a friendly reminder that our Back-to-School Night will be held THIS EVENING, September 13, beginning at 6:30 p.m. We hope you will be able to join us for an evening of important information via Zoom. Fr. Gilbert Martinez will begin our “virtual” general meeting which you can be viewed by clicking the Zoom link page below. Fr. Gil’s prayer and welcome will be followed by brief presentations from our SPA community leaders:

Michael Ness – School Board President
Patricia Musitano – PWC President
Wanda Ahmadi – Festival Chairperson
Christopher Greenspan – Sr. Stella Foundation President

At 7:00 p.m., parents will be invited to login and meet with your children’s teachers using the Zoom links in the **Virtual Back to School Night Page** below. Topics to be discussed at each grade level will include “classroom” policies and procedures, curriculum highlights, homework expectations, communication procedures, Outreach

Counseling services, and any special projects or activities (including field trips) that are being planned for this year. We hope to see you later this evening!

Virtual Back to School Night - Zoom Link Page

It is our goal that these meetings be both productive and informative. Every family is strongly encouraged to have at least one parent in attendance, but if you have a scheduling conflict the meetings will be recorded for you to review at a later time.

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Every year, our faculty, staff and students gather together to begin our school year with prayer and song during our Back-to-School Mass. Although we cannot all physically be together inside of the church, that tradition will continue. **This special liturgy will be held this Thursday, September 16, beginning at 8:30 a.m.** Our 8th and 3rd grade classes will be in church, and our other classes will be able to join us via the St. Paul the Apostle Media on YouTube.



PICTURE DAY!



Picture Day for our students will be held this Thursday, September 16th. Order forms were sent home with all of the students last week. Please make certain that your children will be in their regular SPA school uniforms—no PE or Festival attire may be worn for pictures. Please note that you may also order pictures online using the following link:

<https://www.barksdalestorefront.com/shop/login/?ac=0021297IN>

If that doesn't connect for any reason, you can also log into the Storefront website at www.barksdalestorefront.com and use this password: **0021297IN**.

All online orders must be submitted between now and 24 hours after Picture Day. When an order is placed online, you will receive a camera pass via email. This can be printed, given to the student and brought to Picture Day. The photographer will photograph the camera pass along with the student. After 24 hours, the online ordering access may close. Parents will have a second opportunity to order prints when pictures have been delivered, but all those orders are subject to shipping and handling costs of up to \$8.50 and will be shipped directly to your home.



We are pleased to announce that for the fourth consecutive year, Outreach Concern Inc. has contracted with SPA to provide counseling and support services to help our students meet their potential. **Ms. Caitlin Buys** and **Ms. Vivien Chia** will be available to work with our school community beginning today and will remain with us through June 2022. Counseling can provide a student support and direction with their academics, develop an understanding of the behavior they demonstrate and how it may impact themselves or others, help a student control their emotions, or improve social skills. Sometimes a child's behavior can impact their ability to succeed both in and outside the classroom. This is where counseling can help both the student and their parents focus on meeting whatever needs are identified to support their success. **Students may need to see one of the Outreach Concern counselors:**

- If the student feels sad, confused, shy, angry or anxious
- When changes in the student's environment affect their well-being
- When a student's family circumstances change
- When influences distract or cause a student to feel anxiety, fear or concern
- When a student experiences a loss of a family member, friend or pet
- When home stressors affect school performance, behavior or social life
- When a student is consistently absent from school
- When a student struggles academically

Partnering with parents and teachers, the school counselor's goal, much like yours, is to support your child in identifying whatever problem or concern is keeping them from achieving success, enhancing their self-esteem, confidence and motivation. If you would like to request the services and support of our counselors, please note that we **MUST** have a signed consent form on file. These consent forms will be sent home with your children this week. Please sign them when they are received, and return them to your child's teacher immediately. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

SPA COVID TESTING



As planned, our next round of COVID testing for all faculty, staff and students will be held this **Wednesday, September 8**, 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**. You do **NOT** need to send the Blanket Consent Form, nor a copy of your Insurance card. 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](#)

TRAFFIC REMINDERS

Last week I received a very polite, descriptive email from one of our local neighbors that outlined their frustrations and concerns regarding traffic and parking in the neighborhood. Some of these concerns will be shared with you during Back-to-School Night. In the meantime, please keep the following traffic reminders in mind when dropping off and picking up your children from school.

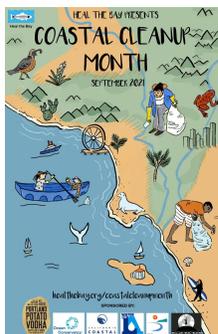


- Drop-off begins at 7:15 -- take advantage of an early arrival allowing your children some time on the schoolyard and no traffic lines
- No parking in the red zones or across driveways
- No cell phone or texting in the school area
- No U-turns on Selby or Ohio, before or after dropping your student off
- No dogs in the cars – we’ve had a couple of aggressive dogs attempt to interact with our volunteers (and not in a friendly way)
- Please follow the directions of the parent volunteers
- NO JAY-WALKING! There are simply too many cars that speed on Selby and Ohio, and the last thing we want is for anyone to get hurt.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER at SPA!

St. Paul the Apostle Church will be hosting “An Evening with Fr. Steven Bell” on Monday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. The topic of the presentation will be “Racial Reconciliation and our Catholic Faith.” In addition to the pandemic, our country has also been dealing with tremendous strife and social unrest this past year and a half. There are no easy answers, but our faith can be an important lens through which to analyze these realities and that helps us to discern the steps towards social action. Fr. Steven Bell, CSP will offer an overview of racial reconciliation efforts in light of the events of the past year and how our faith forms our approach. We hope that you will be able to join us for this event.

HEAL THE BAY!



While September is SPA's festival month, it's also **Coastal Cleanup Month**. Join Heal the Bay for **Coastal Cleanup Month 2021** in Los Angeles County this September as they embark on **Healing Our Watersheds**. The Coastal Cleanup is Heal the Bay's biggest cleanup of the year. So, let's not miss out on making a giant impact in LA by participating in this important event.

Please join the SPA community in a coastal cleanup event next Saturday, September 18, 2021 in Santa Monica.

We will be meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Tower 26 (at the end of Ocean Park Boulevard) in Santa Monica. *To participate, students will need to register and bring a pre-signed waiver, linked here: [Coastal Cleanup Day 2021](#)* You also can get a form from Sue BJ this week. Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear their festival t-shirts.

This year, we need adult volunteers to walk with groups of kids, so please coordinate with your friends to ensure that the kids have supervision. Before starting the clean-up, all volunteers will be trained by a Heal the Bay volunteer - this training will take only 5 minutes. SPA volunteers should plan to be there from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. This is a great opportunity to get your service hours while doing good! Heal the Bay will stamp your volunteer form and Ms. BJ will add an hour for transit time! Should you have any questions, please contact Katrina Johantgen at 213-219-9882 or at katjohantgen@yahoo.com.

For more information about Heal the Bay and ways that you can help our waterways and beaches, please visit the Heal the Bay website at <https://healthebay.org>.
