



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Labor Day! It is my sincere hope that you have not had to work too hard this past weekend and that you have been able to relax and enjoy some precious time with your family. If we have gained nothing else since March 2020, we have definitely learned the priceless importance of family and friends.

And speaking of significant dates, next Saturday, September 11, will be a solemn 20-year anniversary for our country. It's sometimes hard to believe that 20 years have already passed. Two decades ago we were all deeply affected by the tragic loss of life that occurred in New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. Our world changed in so many devastating ways that day, but from the rubble of that tragedy came the courage of American citizens to move forward, a deep compassion and willingness to want to help others, and a heightened appreciation and respect for our first responders—the men and women who put their lives on the line when the lives of so many others were in danger. Through the years we have often said to our students that heroes come in many forms. They don't often wear capes and leap tall buildings in a single bound, but they just might be found in our churches, schools, or communities—just ordinary people who are sometimes thrown into extraordinary and unexpected situations, people who do the best they can to help someone else in dire need. One of

the greatest “thanks” and honor we can give to these remarkable people is not forgetting...to always remember.

“We Remember...”

We remember the first time we heard the news.

We recall the first time we saw those images.

We remember the prayers that were said for those who lost loved ones.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them again today.

We remember those who survived.

We recall their heart-breaking stories.

We remember that their lives are forever scarred by those moments.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them again today.

We remember the pain we felt.

We recall the bereavement and bitterness of the aftermath.

We remember that our Lord is a God of redemption and restoration.

Our thoughts and prayers are with God again today.

We remember that God so loved the world.

We recall that he sent his only Son to bring reconciliation and salvation.

We remember that his Spirit inhabits our communities.

Our God will help us bring his comfort and peace to all. Amen.

September 11th has become a powerful symbol for American resilience, mutual help, and hope for the future. As Christian citizens of this great country, we must do all that we can to continue sharing the Gospel of God’s love. Thank you for joining us in this worthwhile effort.

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal Pinkofsky

Principal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAR TESTING BEGINS THIS WEEK!

As previously mentioned in last week's newsletter, we will begin our STAR Assessments for the first trimester today for all Kindergarten – 8th grade students. The information received from these assessments help us to monitor the academic progress of our students. We are able to note areas of achievement as well as any needed areas of focus within the curriculum. Our commitment to our students inspires us to want to provide the most effective instruction possible. The STAR Assessments are an important component in the data that the teachers continuously disaggregate and analyze as our student learning outcomes are being measured every trimester.



STARTM
Assessments

Please make every effort to have your children arrive to school every day on time and well rested. It is sometimes difficult to set aside the amount of time needed to administer the tests to students who may have been absent or tardy. We truly appreciate your cooperation regarding this important matter.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT



After some thoughtful discussion that focused on safety and logistics, the administration has decided that our annual Back-to-School Night will once again be held **virtually** next **Monday, September 13, beginning at 6:30 p.m.** The first 30 minutes will focus on pertinent information that will be shared from our SPA community leadership. Immediately following that session, parents will be asked to log into the grade level Zoom sessions with the teachers who will share information regarding their goals and academic expectations, homework and behavior policies, and answer any questions you might have. Back-to-School Night, in any format, has always been an important tradition and a wonderful way to begin the SPA school year. It is the parent-teacher relationship that will help us to deal effectively with any challenges—big or small—that may still lie ahead. Please make plans to join us as we continue to move forward this year! **All of the event links will be shared with you next Monday. Stay tuned!**

SPA COVID TESTING

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](#)

HOLLYWOOD PRIEST MOVIE PREMIERE



Everyone is cordially invited to join us for the world premiere of “Hollywood Priest” this Friday, September 10, at 5:00 p.m. The movie will be shown at the TCL Chinese Theatres in Hollywood. One of our Paulist priests, Fr. Tom Gibbons, is the writer, director and co-producer of this movie that tells the story of Fr. Bud Kieser. Knowing the depth of involvement Fr. Tom had that makes this event even more special!

Unfortunately, they are no longer accepting reservations for the bus ride to the theater or the Wolfgang Puck after-party, but movie tickets are still available for the screening. Simply logon to www.HollywoodPriest.org to make your purchase. Please note that vaccinations are required to attend this event. We look forward to seeing you there!

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER at SPA!



RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

**AN EVENING WITH
FR. STEVEN BELL,
CSP
MONDAY, 9/19 AT
7:00 PM**



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.

SPA BUSINESS BREAKFAST



St. Paul’s Business Breakfast Club is looking for new members to join their Steering Group! The Club is particularly interested in meeting parents of younger grade students. They are always looking for interesting guest speakers to join them for their monthly meetings. Having school parents join them to share information about their various businesses and life experiences has always been a very popular feature of the gathering. If you are interested please contact Jay Spillane at jayspillane@zoho.com, or simply call him at 310-951-5330.

LOOKING AHEAD

Please take a few minutes to note the following important dates on your calendar. We will share pertinent information as we get closer to these events.

September 10th Student Council Speeches and Elections
September 13th Back-to-School Night
September 16th Picture Day
September 24th - 26th SPA Festival
September 27th No School—Festival Clean-up Day

