



# SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOS ANGELES



Dear Parents/Guardians:

***“And she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in bands of cloth, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” –Luke 2:7***

The spirit of Christmas is in the air, and everyone here at St. Paul’s is beginning to embrace that feeling, especially our students. Your children know that Santa is on the way, and they are hoping that he will be bringing a sleigh that is filled with gifts. No doubt, the stores are going to become more and more crowded with everyone shopping for those “perfect” gifts for the special people on their lists. As I reflect back on the gifts I have received from family and friends throughout the years, I realize that it wasn’t always the ones that I found wrapped under a tree that moved me the most. The gifts that most touched my soul are the ones that came from the hearts of those around me.

Those special hugs my grandparents gave me as a child that squeezed the air out of my lungs and warmed my heart are a gift I will always treasure. The gift of my mom’s loving and joyous smile still lives on in my heart and soul today. I always felt happier when I saw it. Those childhood games my brother and I shared in the sunshine, rain and even the cold were a gift of fun that still makes me laugh. The countless repairs my dad made on my car throughout my teenage years is a gift I can never repay. His love kept me going during some of the toughest points in my life. Those phone calls from my favorite aunt that keep me smiling for half the day are another priceless gift I still enjoy. They always lift my spirits as high as Heaven. The hugs, smiles, laughter and kind words of encouragement that are shared with family, friends and colleagues are daily gifts that I wouldn’t trade for all the presents in the world. The heartfelt messages, letters and cards that I receive from everyone also have a special place under the Christmas tree in my heart. All of these experiences have made my life rich beyond compare!

During these final days of Advent, we are making every effort to keep our students focused on the greatest gift of all...the birth of the Christ child. The love that God has for

us and the love that we share with each other is what Christmas—and life—is all about. Love gives meaning to our days, joy to our hearts, and wealth to our souls. It makes us brighter, the world better, and brings God closer. May you always have the time of your life when giving, and receiving, the BEST gift of all.

On behalf of the Paulist priests, and the SPA faculty and staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky  
Principal

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Tue Dec 18, 2018	● All day	Faculty/Staff PWC Christmas Lunch
Thu Dec 20, 2018	● All day	School Dismissal for Break
	● 10am – 12:15pm	School Christmas Concert (In Church)
Mon Jan 7, 2019	● All day	Drug Education Program Begins for Middle School Classes
	● All day	School Resumes
	● 8 – 10:30am	Miles to Go 7th/8th Grade Parent Meeting--JCPC JCPC



## CHRISTMAS VACATION AT SPA

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Christmas vacation will begin with 12:30 dismissal this Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. **Please note that there is NO after-school care on Thursday.** All students need to be picked up at dismissal. Classes will resume on Monday, January 7, when we gather for our morning prayer assembly.



## SPA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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All students in grades 1 through 8 will be participating in St. Paul the Apostle School's annual Christmas Concert this Thursday, December 20, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in church. Students in grades 1 through 4 are encouraged to wear "fun and festive" attire for their performance. Students in grades 5 through 8 are required to wear their "festive best" attire, which means NO athletic wear, shorts, jeans, sagging pants, t-shirts, bare midriffs, extremely short skirts/dresses, or flip flops of any kind. Students who are inappropriately attired will, regrettably, not be allowed to participate in the concert. Our students have been working diligently to prepare for their performances, and are looking forward to sharing their delightful talents with you. We hope you enjoy the concert!



## WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS

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It is with very grateful hearts that we extend our gratitude to everyone who participated in St. Paul's seasonal "spirit of giving" which benefitted 59 "adopted" families, Operation Smile Train, Ascension Catholic School, and Maryvale! Whether you washed

dishes for “tips,” or generously donated gift cards or cash, please know how much your kindness will be very much appreciated by all the recipients of your gifts. May you be abundantly blessed in return!



## LA FREEDOM WALK 2019

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January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. As many of you learned through Sister Stella, the Catholic Sisters throughout the world have been actively fighting human trafficking in many different ways. Human trafficking is not just a crime that is happening in a foreign country. It is happening here in Los Angeles and in many other areas of California. Human trafficking is the second largest growing criminal enterprise in the United States, with the state of California leading the way for the highest number of human trafficking cases. Please join religious Sisters and concerned citizens all across the nation in the 2019 Annual LA Freedom Walk that will be held on January 12, from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Turn this day into a family bonding experience by making signs and bringing the entire family to the march. Use this as an opportunity to create dialogue and awareness about human trafficking and modern day slavery with your teenagers. Thank you in advance for your support!

# LA FREEDOM WALK 2019



## JOIN US

- HEAR FROM SURVIVORS
  - WALK ALONG SURVIVORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, SOCIAL WORKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS
  - COME TO PROTEST MODERN DAY SLAVERY
  - Parking fee: \$5.00
- #MODERNDAYSLAVERY  
#HUMANTRAFFICKING  
#LAFREEDOMWALK

01.12.19

9 AM—10:30 AM | SATURDAY  
BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH  
6657 SUNSET BLVD.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90028



## SCHOOL UNIFORM



## SPA UNIFORM REMINDERS

With the approach of Christmas vacation and the New Year, it would be great if a little time was set aside to review the school Uniform Policy. While your children are growing, unfortunately, their clothes are not. Some uniform items (i.e. shirts, skirts, sweatshirts, etc.) seem to have been outgrown. There is also a tendency to become a bit complacent about some of the uniform policies. At St. Paul the Apostle School, we believe that a student's appearance has an impact on his/her attitude and behavior. Adherence to the school dress code teaches self-discipline, as well as a sense of modesty and proper attire. Our philosophy is to create an environment of excellence, in all aspects, and to encourage each student's personal commitment to these high standards. The following are just a few policy reminders:

- All skirts, jumpers, shifts, and skorts/culottes must touch some part of the knee (top, middle, or bottom). Skirts are not to be rolled at the waist. Please make an allowance for growth throughout the year.
- Socks are to be green, white, or black; socks must extend above the ankle.
- Hair must be cut and styled appropriately; natural hair color and traditional haircuts are the rules.
- Only appropriate jewelry as described in the Handbook may be worn to school.
- Nail polish may not be worn to school.
- Shoes must be black, gray or white; a small amount of colored trim is allowed.

Continued disregard of the uniform policies will result in a detention and any free dress privileges. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



## SPA LOST & FOUND

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And speaking of uniforms...if you are on campus at any time this week please take a minute to search through our school's Lost & Found cabinet if your child happens to be missing a sweatshirt, sweater, jacket, other uniform items, lunch pail, backpack, etc. Items left after Christmas break will be donated to children in need.



## SCOOTERS - A STUDENT SAFETY ISSUE!

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It has come to my attention that we have a few students who are arriving to school in the morning via motorized scooters. The adults reporting this to me have noted a couple of "near misses" with cars and are extremely concerned about student safety. To say that I was surprised to hear this would be an understatement as I was under the impression that riders had to have both a credit card for the rental of this motorized device, as well as a driver's license which you can't obtain until the age of 16 (and that's only a provisional license). Upon researching the CA "motorized scooter laws" I learned that a person can operate a motorized scooter with **any class of valid CA driver's license**. Given this limitation, I doubt that any of our St. Paul's students would qualify to ride a motorized scooter at any time, even under adult supervision. With so much emphasis being placed on student safety at SPA, this is yet another area of concern. I would respectfully request that parents reconsider motorized scooters as a viable option for student transportation.



## SPA SCHOOL WEBSITE NEWS!

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After months and months of endless meetings, planning, hard work and dedication, we are pleased to announce that our new St. Paul the Apostle School website is now available to everyone! Please visit <https://school.sp-apostle.org> and browse around the site noting all that St. Paul's has to offer, who we are as a Catholic school community, and what we have to offer our families. We

have added quite a bit of pertinent information regarding our enrollment process, our faith community, the academic programs, and the numerous extracurricular activities. Keep an eye on our Calendar of Events and the most important news on the front page of the website. You can also access our social media pages at the bottom of the site whenever you like! If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding the school website please don't hesitate to email Daniel Chung at [dchung@sp-apostle.org](mailto:dchung@sp-apostle.org). Thanks, and enjoy!



## SPA STUDENT iPADS

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Christmas break is coming, and your children will be taking home their iPads if they are in 6-8 grade. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that even though the iPad is a school device, filtering only occurs when the iPads are on campus. When it is at home, we rely on the parents to properly filter and/or have steps in place to keep your children safe online. Having open communication about usage and setting parameters may be enough to ensure that your children know what the expectations and acceptable boundaries are. (Please note that the students are not allowed to leave their devices at school.) If you have any questions or concerns about this please contact Daniel Chung at [dchung@sp-apostle.org](mailto:dchung@sp-apostle.org). Thank you for your cooperation



## ELECTRONIC DONATION DRIVE

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Please hold onto your old electronics over the holidays and contribute them to the e-waste drive at SPA that will be held on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Suggested donation items include:

Televisions | Laptops | Monitors LCD Screens | CRT Monitors  
Printers | Tablets Smart Phones | Cables and Wires \*\*No Batteries or Light Bulbs will be accepted.

Please hold onto old textiles as well. The textile drive will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## PARENT VIRTUS TRAINING/FINGERPRINTING POLICY

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St. Paul the Apostle School is committed to protecting all of our students. It is for this reason that any adult who has contact with the students, whether an employee or a volunteer, must have successfully completed the VIRTUS training, TB testing and fingerprinting process. And while we understand that this can be a time-consuming process, we hope that all of our parents understand the importance of these requirements. St. Paul's is a very active community, and we rely on the parents and guardians of our students to assist us with many school activities and programs. This can be anything from reporting for yard duty at lunch time and coaching after-school sports, to chaperoning field trips and helping teachers in the classroom.

In meeting the "gold standard" of child protection and providing a safe school environment, fingerprinting is required for any parents

who are:

- In consistent contact with students
- Chaperoning a field trip, whether a one-day event or overnight
- Driving students for any school-related events
- Being left alone with students, whether on-campus or away from campus

While *some* of these standards have been adhered to in previous years, we must now move forward with ensuring that the implementation of *all* standards are in process, and that everything will be strictly enforced beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. If you would like to begin the fingerprinting process please note that we have scheduled the next session to be held at St. Paul's on Monday, January 14, 2019, from 12:00 until 7:20 p.m. In the meantime, parents who are in full compliance with the standards listed above will be given priority when we need volunteers at St. Paul's in any capacity.

Please note that this policy does NOT include our traffic volunteers simply because these wonderful people (at least 8 or 9 of them on a daily basis) are publically standing curbside and graciously opening car doors as parents pull up to let their children out. (It's SPA service with a smile!) Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and patience as we diligently do everything possible to care for your children.



## SPA JUNIOR HIGH NIGHTS

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All 7th and 8th grade students are welcome to join us on Thursday evenings in the Media Center from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. These evenings are filled with faith, food, friends, and fun. Come by and learn how to build your relationship with God, all while having a great time building community with other junior high-aged students. For more information, please contact Adrian Barrios at [abarrios@sp-apostle.org](mailto:abarrios@sp-apostle.org) or at (424) 832-5150.

Please note the Jr. High Night dates for 2018-2019: 11/29/18, 1/31/19, 2/28/19, 3/28/19, 4/11/19



## SPA 2018-2019 YEARBOOKS

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It's time to order your SPA yearbook! Ordering early allows you to get the lowest price possible:

- Order by November 22; the price is only \$25
- Order between November 23 – December 20; the price is \$35
- Order between December 20 – February 1; the price is \$45

Please note that yearbooks will not be sold after February 1<sup>st</sup>. You can logon to the SPAPWC website to place your order. Yearbooks will be labeled exactly as you have entered your child's name so please make certain that the name, grade level and homeroom information are all correctly entered. Thank you!



## **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 below by clicking on the links!

[\*\*Facebook\*\*](#)

[\*\*Instagram\*\*](#)

[\*\*YouTube\*\*](#)