

The President/Principal's Newsletter for August 19 - 25, 2013

Welcome to the third week of the 2013-14 school year. Due to the hard work and cooperation of many, we continue to have a wonderfully smooth opening of school. Thanks!

My message to all this week is very simple:

Do the ordinary things extraordinarily well!

This is our theme for the year, taken from Pope Pius XII's explanation of why he made Brother Benilde a Saint in the Catholic Church. Doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well was Benilde's path to sainthood. It can be ours, too. I hope your son told you about the new prayer we say: *Saint Benilde! Help us do the ordinary things extraordinarily well!*

In education, we regularly assess to measure both progress and effectiveness. Accordingly, I encourage you this week to discuss with your son the path to educational sainthood using the way of St. Benilde -- doing the common things uncommonly well -- as a model. Ask him if he:



David & Willis bless school community at first assembly.

the entire time last week?

- Remembered Saint Benilde as he passed Benilde Hall?
- Was on time for all of his classes this past week?
- Had his homework and materials finished and ready?
- Concentrated for the full period on the lesson being taught?
- Asked for help if he didn't understand something?
- Took adequate time for rest and play as well as work?
- Used technology available to him in a responsible manner?
- Respected himself and others?
- Tried to do the common things uncommonly well, just like Saint Benilde?
- Tried to touch the hearts of his family and friends?
- Did all of his actions for the love of God?
- Remembered that he was in the holy presence of God

If he answers "yes" to most of the above, he's on his way to sainthood. If he can't say "yes" to most of the above, encourage him – as we pray in the end of the school day prayer – “to make tomorrow a better day.” Encourage him to remember Saint Benilde's path to sainthood (doing the common things uncommonly well) every time he passes Benilde Hall on campus – which is several times a day.

May year be filled with extraordinary doses of faith and zeal! Thanks for being part of the 2013-14 edition of the Saint Paul's School and part of 330+ year tradition of the amazing Lasallian Family!

Mon, Aug 19 (Regular; G A B C)

- **TDIH:** *In 1812, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution defeats British frigate Guerrière in a furious engagement off coast of Nova Scotia. Witnesses claim that British shot bounced off the Constitution's sides, as if the ship were made of iron rather than wood. By the war's end, "Old Ironsides" destroyed or captured seven more British ships. The success of the USS Constitution against the supposedly invincible Royal Navy provided a tremendous boost in morale for the young American republic.* (History Channel website)
- **National "Black Cow" Root Beer Float Day:** With vanilla ice cream, coppery root beer, and frothy foam, a root beer float is a classic. Root beer was manufactured, bottled, and sold starting in 1880. Legend has it that 13 years later, the root beer float, often referred to as a black cow, was invented when Frank Wisner of Cripple Creek, CO floated vanilla ice cream on top of his root beer. The full moon allowed him to glimpse the snow on top of nearby Cow Mountain. The tasty treat was tremendously popular among the town's children, who then called it a "black cow." Note: several dates claim to be the "national celebration day" -- obviously, people want an excuse to indulge!
- **New Parent Reception (6:30 – 8:00)** in the BAC. We look forward to welcoming our new SPS parents and providing them with some information to help them make the most of their time with us. A special invitation was emailed last week but it's still not too late to RSVP.



Faculty commit themselves before the student body to the ideals of Lasallian education.

Tue, Aug 20 (Feast of St. Bernard; Pack schedule; D E F G)

- **This Day in History:** In 1920, seven men, including legendary all-around athlete and football star Jim Thorpe, meet in Canton, Ohio to organize a professional football league. The meeting led to the creation of the American Professional Football Conference (APFC), the forerunner to the hugely successful National Football League.
- **World Mosquito Day:** On this day in 1897, Sir Ronald Ross, a British doctor working in India, made the link that female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans. To mark this day, kill all the mosquitoes you can find!
- **Get Involved Day.** Representatives from our many extracurricular offerings will be "touting their wares" today and recruiting members. Students can explore the options and make plans to join the ones that appeal to them – or maybe venture out of their comfort zone and try something new and different. Encourage your son to "get involved!"
- **Senior BBQ (6-7:30)** under the Wolf Dome. This is a change from the original date of Aug 21 due to a football scrimmage being scheduled on Wed. Thanks to the senior class moms who are organizing this activity.

Wed, Aug 21 (Feast of St. Pius; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 2004, American swimmer Michael Phelps wins his eighth medal of the 2004 Athens Olympics. As we all know by now, this summer Phelps became the most medaled contestant in modern Olympian history.
- **Football:** Wolves take on John Curtis (6) – two of the best teams around! Come out and get a preview of the 2013 edition of Saint Paul’s Football!

Thu, Aug 22 (Memorial of the Queenship of Mary; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1989, Nolan Ryan of the Texas Rangers becomes first major league pitcher in to register 5,000 career Ks.
- **Be An Angel Day:** Be like angels today and do one small act of service for someone; be a blessing in someone's life!
- **March through the Arch:** this memorable and moving ceremony commemorates the founding Benedictine Fathers and Christian Brothers and marks the seniors’ official acceptance of their role in SPS history. Seniors assemble at arch by 7:15 for pictures. Parents are encouraged to attend. Dress for seniors is school dress uniform: long khakis, white shirt, school tie, brown belt, shoes.
- **Senior & Senior Parent Breakfast** following the March. Because they all can’t fit in the cafeteria, we will have a large outdoor tent and seating, thus providing “al fresco” dining (from the Italian meaning “in the fresh” – air, that is.)
- **Senior Unity Day.** After breakfast until 11:30 in the theater. In the afternoon, we will practice for senior ring ceremony. Seniors will be dismissed about 2 from the BAC. Wish us luck.
- **Senior Ring Ceremony (6:30 pm)** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Seniors must be present for 6. Dress for the ceremony is any dress slacks, dress shirt, tie, belt, socks, and shoes. Last year, the ceremony lasted 80 minutes.

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Fri, Aug 23 (Memorial of St. Rose of Lima; regular; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** Legendary Pete Rose is banned from baseball for betting on the game. How ironic that this was done on Saint Rose’s feast day!
- **Senior Ring Holiday:** Seniors—enjoy your holiday!

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Sat, Aug 24 (Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle)

- **TDIH:** In 79, Mount Vesuvius erupts in southern Italy, devastating the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.
- **Strange Music Day:** Strange Music Day was started by Patrick Grant, a Julliard graduate and professional musician. The purpose of Strange Music Day is to listen to music you have never heard before, just for the heck of it. Have fun today and listen to something different! I think I’ll ask some students for suggestions!
- **National Waffle Day:** Today marks the anniversary of the first waffle iron patent in 1869. Eat a waffle today!
- **Football Meet the Team Breakfast:** Maybe they’ll serve waffles while listening to strange music! I’ll be happy to lend them some classical selections – which to the students is strange music!

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Sun, Aug 25 -- Attend church today. We encourage our Catholic Families to attend mass as a family today. We encourage our non-Catholic families to worship at the church, synagogue, or mosque of their choice

- **TDIH:** In 1944, French General Jacques LeClerc enters Paris, freeing it from German control during WW II.
- **Kiss and Make Up Day.** Today is a great day to end a spat, a fight, an argument, or a feud. And it can be fun! The “kiss” is optional, but everyone is encouraged today to “bury the hatchet” over an argument or disagreement.
- **National Banana Split Day** celebrates the invention of this treat in 1904. Splurge ‘n eat a Banana Split today!



Newly commissioned Eucharistic Ministers prepare to distribute Holy Communion to congregation.

Emergency Closing: With two tropical systems in play last week, I remind all of the directives from the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, which Saint Paul’s follows:

- **Catholic schools will follow the closure and reopening schedules of their civil parish.** Therefore, monitor the St. Tammany Public School system announcements. Naturally, we reserve the right to close earlier if

we feel it necessary and to reopen earlier if we are able and civil parish authorities give permission. For example, we opened weeks before the public school system following Hurricane Katrina.

- **Listen** for School Reach phone service before calling school since it is difficult to handle a large volume of calls. Also, our phone system goes dark in a power failure. **I will soon send a test robo call to test our system.** I’ll let you know when to expect it.
- **Consult** Edline and our web site. I’ll keep it updated, power permitting.
- **Pray** to Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Patroness of Louisiana.

Cafeteria: Starting Mon, Aug 19th, students will need their ID to eat in the cafeteria. Swiping the IDs instead of using the finger scan will speed up the check out process, thus making lunch more pleasant for students. Remind your son to bring his ID if he plans on eating in the cafeteria.

Wolf Pack Time: Our revised advisory program (now known as Wolf Packs) debuts on Tuesday. Here are the highlights of the program:

- All students will be assigned to a Wolf Pack which will meet every other Tuesday. The Wolf Pack is a grouping of a single faculty member and a selection of students. Most, but not all, returning students will have the same faculty advisor as they did last year. A great many factors were involved in forming the Packs but any adjustments were done out of necessity. Students will be informed on

Monday about which Wolf Pack they are assigned to.

- The "re-branding" of the program to Wolf Packs is intended foster more of a 'pack' mentality to promote a stronger relationship within the group.
- A committee of teachers and students will plan each Wolf Pack time.
- During Pack Time, we will still deal with important topics of discussion when such topics are deemed relevant and necessary (bullying, safety, etc.). We will also emphasize DOING things to reinforce the topic of the day as opposed to just talking.
- The success of the program will rely upon everyone's openness to the structure. Many people, teachers and students, have worked hard to make this program relevant and enjoyable.
- Senior leadership and mentoring will be stressed, especially between seniors and 8th graders. This is Big Brother program.
- I hope your son has positive things to say about our first Wolf Pack time on Tuesday.

All School Mass: Congratulations and thanks to all who helped us celebrate the Feast of the Assumption with our first all-school mass: the Liturgical Band, Eucharistic Ministers, Lasallian Young Leaders, Campus Ministry, maintenance – and especially the student body, who were excellent. During the mass, we officially commissioned our senior Eucharistic Ministers. The mass was a moving experience for me.

Painless Fund Raisers: We encourage you to take advantage of these painless fund raisers for SPS:

- Target: 5% of your Red Card purchases come to SPS when you give them our name at checkout.
- Office Depot: SPS receives 5% on purchases when you give our number: 70041640.
- Box Tops for Education – have your son give these to his math teacher..

Attendance: Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook which is posted on Edline. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.

And Speaking of Edline: Please check Edline regularly for important info about your son's grade and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.*

After School Issues: Assignment Hall and detention are in full operation. Parents, please stress with your sons the need to do homework and follow rules. And if your son does end up in AH or detention, please establish a procedure for him to follow so that you are not wandering around looking for him. We tell the AH student to call their parents. We'll provide a phone if needed. Some do but some didn't last week and we had a couple of parents in a quandary wondering where their sons were.

Bandwidth: Our internet bandwidth has jumped from 03 to 100 (whatever that means!) Along with the new campus wi-fi system, our technology is humming along nicely (although the phone gremlins

appeared briefly on Friday!) Your son may bring his “device” (i-pad, laptop or tablet) and use anywhere on campus. Yes, our internet protective filtering systems are in effect. Enjoy! Many thanks to tech department who stayed late on a number of nights in order to get this accomplished. I’ll be counting on the annual fund this year to help pay for these improvements.

The Catholic Lasallian Assessment Process: On Sep 11th - 14th, a team of Lasallian partners will visit Saint Paul’s to conduct the Catholic Lasallian Assessment Process (CLASP). CLASP is designed to examine the entire culture of the school: *How does the Catholic Lasallian spirit and mission permeate all aspects of the school and create a distinctive identity within the school community?* The New Orleans - Santa Fe District instituted this process in 2010 at Saint Michael’s High School in Santa Fe and has since conducted the CLASP review at J.K Mullen High School, De La Salle High School in New Orleans, Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie, and Christian Brothers School in City Park. It is now time for Saint Paul’s to be examined.

In preparation for CLASP, all parents and students will be invited to participate in an on-line survey. Students will take the survey during an upcoming religion class. Parents will be sent an invitation via email. PLEASE participate and help us show the Lasallian spirit to the visiting committee. Let me know if you have any questions.



The Liturgical Band exemplifies St. Augustine’s observation that “those who sing, pray twice!”

Last Wednesday’s Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed last Wednesday’s assembly. Here’s some of what we did:

- Listened to Jean-Joseph Mouret’s “Rondeau” and used this wonderfully stirring baroque piece of music to set the tone for the year. Ask your son to hum it for you! The older students should be able to do this!
- As junior **Nick Blaise** lit the prayer candle, we prayed for the following relatives of SPS families who have recently died: the grandmother of faculty member Ms. Kim George; Mr. Bobbye Huval, the grandfather of junior Thomas Huval; Dr. Pat Baldone, the grandfather of Patrick and Matthew Baldone; Ms. Kaycee Merriman, the sister of sophomore Christian Jarrett; and the grandfather of sophomore Kevin Baker.
- Asked the students, level by level, if they were ready to assume the tasks ahead of them; they responded enthusiastically, “Yes, Brother, I’m ready!”
- Welcomed the new 8th grade as the Class of 2018 and had them enter to a rousing ovation by the rest of the student body and faculty;

- Witnessed the faculty commit themselves to their role as Lasallian educators by having senior Lasallian Youth Leader President Michael Stewart ask the faculty a series of questions about their commitment to the Mission. Faculty responded to each question with a resounding “I will!”
- Mentioned all of the clubs and teams that were under way and encouraged all students to get involved.
- Ran out of time before I could do accomplish any individual recognitions – which will “roll over” to the next assembly!
- We ended the assembly with Student Council President **David Conroy** and Vice President **Willis Spurlock** who blessed the entire student body and faculty with holy water while the ancient Marian hymn “Salve Regina” in Gregorian chant played in the background.
- Finally, we ended with the entire student body joining in a thunderous rendition of The Fight Song.
- As junior **Stephen Hammond** extinguished the prayer candle, I reminded everyone that while the light of the candle is extinguished, what the candle represents can never be extinguished: the love of God, the grace of peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I then reminded the students that we must leave the gym and be the love, grace, peace and fellowship of God to everyone we meet. We then exited to stirring strains of Mouret’s Rondeau.
- It was a great assembly – at least I thought so!

Pre-Freshmen (8th Grade) Five Core Rally Last Friday: Our Lasallian Youth Leaders provided a special activity for our Pre-Freshmen (8th graders) last Friday. The period (about 80 minutes) involved prayer, food, and games all centered on the Lasallian Core Principles – to which our newest Wolves are being introduced. The students responded appropriately and had a good time. It was a nice “reward” for them for having completed their first full week of Lasallian education.

Extracurricular Activities: Clubs and teams have begun forming. Get Involved Day, which will introduce our students to a wide variety of activities, will be this Tuesday. Encourage your son to get involved. So far we’ve had callouts for all sorts of activities. Research shows correlations between academic achievement and extracurricular involvement.

Auditions for the Fall Play, *Tea House of the August Moon*, will be held Monday & Tuesday, Aug 19-20 from 6-8 pm in the Theatre. Anyone interested in performing, working lights, sound or backstage please come to sign up. If you have any questions see Mrs. Charbonnet or Mr. Baumgartner.

Traffic: Please drive carefully and, if your son drives to school, stress traffic safety with him. We’ve already learned of a few accidents on the way to and from school. Saint Paul’s is located in a residential neighborhood, so be VERY careful when approaching campus. Covington Police will ticket violators.

Lost & Found: Lunch boxes, uniform shirts, books, shoes – all sorts of things are being left behind on campus – almost all with no names on them. Please stress with your sons to need to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside of the Attendance Office.

2012-13 Yearbooks: The yearbooks have arrived and members of the Class of 2013 are already claiming their copies. For the rest of the school, distribution is scheduled later this week. Note the following:

- If any student feels they ordered one, and did not receive one, please have them (or a parent) email Andrew Dart at yearbook@stpauls.com, so we can double check our records.
- If a student asks if they can buy one, they can be put on a waiting list by mailing the same yearbook@stpauls.com address, but we don't have many leftovers to sell.

Wolves Football:

- Are you ready for some football? The Wolves football team is hard at work during the summer getting ready for their upcoming 2013 season....At Hunter stadium, you can also be ready for upcoming football season, where we you can purchase reserved seating, reserved parking, and also stadium banners to advertise your business. For our Annual Game Day shirt – this year the color is GOLD. We encourage fans to wear game day shirt to all football games. Contact debbie@carcsllc.com or call Debbie at 985-502-1315 to purchase or inquire about any of the above!! *GO WOLVES!!*
- **Football Game Day Shirts:** Game day shirts will be sold in Founders Circle at lunch on Wednesday. Game day shirts are \$15 dollars. This year's shirt theme is "We are Brothers!" Students may wear these on football game days instead of their uniform shirt (unless it conflicts with a dress uniform day.)
- **Thanks:** Thanks to all who came at 8 am on Saturday to do a Hunter Stadium cleanup in preparation for our opening scrimmage on Wednesday. The place is looking great and we couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to the students: Nic Brenson, Al Satches, Karson Matherne, Randy Juge, Cooper Meibaum, Matt Meyers, Trey Icamina, Darren Steele, Zach Bodenheimer, Francois Elzy, Alex Nunez, Gavin Gaudel, Cameran Vidal, Jacob McDonald, Sawyer Paulson, Justin Santos, Hayden Coutrado, Jacob Coutrado. Special thanks to Mrs. Debbie Bodenheimer for coordinating the effort and providing doughnuts.
- **Adult Dance in the BAC:** This is a fun, casual way to meet new families of SPS and reunite with the old ones..Saturday, September 14th...the Band is *This Issue*....\$25.00 at the door or call to reserve a table....Cocktail Party Starts at 7-8 – Band from 8-11:00....once you attend one you will always come to the next one, bring your friends, too...for details call Debbie Bodenheimer 985-502-1315.

Helping Saint Paul's: Don't forget – here are two painless ways to help:

- If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!
- SPS participates in the Box Tops for Education program. Have your son bring eligible his box tops to his math teacher! Here's the web site that lists all of the participating products: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx>

School Picture Ordering Problems: I'm sorry that many of you had problems opening the order form that the photographer sent. If you want to order your son's school pictures, there's an easily opened order form on the school's website (www.stpauls.com) under "news" (lower left.) We also have order forms in the administration building. **It's not too late to order.** You can see what the pictures will look like by asking your son to show you his ID card that he received last week – if he hasn't lost it!

Useless Fact of the Week Dept: Why do Xs at the end of a letter signify kisses? Because in the Middle Ages, when many people were unable to read or write, documents were often signed using an X. Kissing the X represented an oath to fulfill obligations specified in the document. The X and the kiss eventually became synonymous.

Humor of the Week: More teacher questions and student answers:

Q. What is the fibula? A. A small lie

Q. What does 'varicose' mean? A. Nearby

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section' A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome

Q. What is a seizure? A. A Roman Emperor as in Julius Seizure.

Q. What is a terminal illness? A. When you are sick at the airport.

Q. What does the word 'benign' mean? A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight

Q. What is a turbine? A. Something an Arab or Shreik wears on his head

OK, I'll stop!

Prayer Request: Dr. Tom Anzalone, Class of 1980 and father of Chris '09 & Nick '13, was injured while on vacation. He had surgery last week for an open ankle fracture at St Mary's Trauma Hospital in West Palm Beach FL. He is home with anticipation of a full recovery, but he requested prayers via the newsletter. You got 'em, Doc!

A Look Ahead:

August 19 – New Parent Reception/Meeting (6:30 in the BAC)

August 20 – Wolf Pack Time; Get Involved Day

August 20 – Senior BBQ (6-7:30 under the Wolf Dome)

August 21 – Football Scrimmage v. John Curtis (6)

August 22 – March through the Arch (8), Senior – Parent Breakfast (8:30), Senior Unity Day (9:30-2), Senior Ring Ceremony (6:30 in the BAC)

August 23 – Senior Ring Holiday

August 27 – President/Principal's Assembly

August 28 – Fire Drill

August 29 – Total Evacuation Drill/Senior Portraits during Civics classes

August 30 – Tornado Drill/ Senior Portraits during Civics classes

September 2 – Labor Day Holiday

September 3 – Pack Time

September 4 – Intruder on Campus Drill

September 6 – 8:30 Late Start for 7:45 Faculty Meeting

September 9 – Parent Mini schedule 6:30

September 10 – Principal’s Assembly
September 11 – CLASP visit begins
September 12 – CLASP focus groups meet
September 13 – No classes meet for CLASP faculty/staff meetings
September 16 – 9:00 Late Start for Faculty In-service
September 17 – ASVAB test given to seniors
September 24 – Pack Time
September 27 – Mass
September 28 – SPS Math Tournament
September 28 – Jr. High Homecoming Dance
October 1 – Principal’s Assembly – First sophomore Sudden Impact field trip
October 4 – Homecoming
October 5 – Jazz & Roll in BAC
October 8 – Pack Time
October 11 – Periods AB meet/ Grandparents Day in BAC/ End of First Quarter

Sorry I was so long-winded this week! As usual, I’ll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I’m listening to right now as I write the newsletter and LOLing as I do so): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Pray that we continue our good beginning! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family and call on me if I can help! Again, thanks for being part of the 2013-14 edition of Saint Paul’s!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC
Honored to be the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul’s School

CAN YOUR SONS RECITE THESE CORE LASSALLIAN PRINCIPLES FROM MEMORY?

CAN YOU?

Quality Education, Respect for all, Concern for the Poor & Social Justice, Inclusive Community & Faith in the Presence of God

