



## *The President's Newsletter for May 19 - 23, 2014*

2014 – A Year of Family and Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans



The One Hundred Third Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School begin in a couple of hours so this newsletter will be brief (I can hear you cheering.)

Please pray for the 166 young men of the SPS Class of 2014 – the third group of graduates in our second century of existence. As I will tell them before handing them diplomas, in a paraphrase of words taken from the First Letter of Peter, “they are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, living stones building the edifice of the mystical God and fulfilling the Lasallian Mission of Saint Paul's School in our age.”

And rejoice – you only have to endure one more issue of the newsletter for this year which I'll send out next Sunday, thus wrapping up the 2013-14 school year.

### **Mon, May 19 ( LATE -- 8:30-- START; only grades 9-11 are still here; 1:30 dismissal)**

- **National Accountant's Day:** God bless the accountants, who keep the money straight! Give a nod to Jo and Tara today for their work in our accounting office!
- **Students report to Period A at 8:30 then attend final prayer service to be followed by Period A exam and reviews for Periods B & C**
- **1:30 dismissal**
- **Pre-freshman Promotion Ceremony (6 pm; pre-freshmen report at 5:30)** The Pre-freshmen have been outstanding in practice and I look forward to one of the best ceremonies ever (no offense, upper classmen – you did great, too!)

### **Tue, May 20 (7:45 start; only grades 9-11 are still here; 1:30 dismissal)**

- **Eliza Doolittle Day** honors Miss Doolittle (heroine of George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*) for demonstrating the importance of speaking one's native language properly. Let's all talk our bestest English today! (lol)
- **Exams** for Periods B & C; **Review** for Periods D & E
- **1:30 dismissal**

### **Wed, May 21 (7:45 start; only grades 9-11 are still here; 1:30 dismissal)**

- **National Waitstaff Day:** Today we celebrate those men and women of the food service industry who go above and beyond to make your meal as pleasant as possible.
- **Turn Beauty Inside Out Day:** This day serves as a reminder that inner beauty is more important than outer beauty. Challenge the usual definition of beauty as portrayed in popular media and advertising by recognizing the wonderful actions and attitudes of people who are beautiful on the inside. Annually, the third Wednesday in May.
- **Exams** for Periods D & E; **Review** for Periods F & G

### **Thu, May 22 (7:45 start; only grades 9-11 are still here; 11:10)**

- **National Museum Day:** Plan to visit a museum this summer and expand your cultural horizons!
- **Exams for Periods F & G; 11:10 am dismissal**
- **End of the Year Luncheon:** All retired brothers, faculty and staff are invited welcomed, & encouraged to attend our end of year luncheon in the cafeteria following exams.



*New “seniors” smile after last Tuesday’s assembly during which The Class of 2015 symbolically moved into the senior section.*

**Fri, May 23 (Records Day; Conflict / Make Up Exam Day)**

- **International World Turtle Day:** Shellabrate turtles today (sorry!) Here’s a little turtle poem by Vachel Lindsay, famous American poet. For more turtle verse, google “turtle poems”:

There was a little turtle.  
 He lived in a box.  
 He swam in a puddle.  
 He climbed on the rocks.  
 He snapped at a mosquito.  
 He snapped at a flea.  
 He snapped at a minnow.  
 And he snapped at me.  
 He caught the mosquito.  
 He caught the flea.  
 He caught the minnow.  
 But he didn’t catch me.

**Sat, May 24**

- **National Brother’s Day:** Today celebrates the brotherhood of biological brothers, fraternity brothers and brothers bonded by union affiliation or lifetime experiences. What an appropriate day for the brotherhood SPS.
- **Prayer Breakfast (9 am in cafeteria):** The breakfast is sponsored by St. Benedict Parish but has outgrown the parish’s facility so they asked to have it here. They expect about 150 people to attend. My thanks to Karen Hebert for being the liaison and to the Student Hosts who have volunteered to work the event – even though school is over!

**Sun, May 25 – We encourage all families to begin summer by attending church today.**

**Alum Milestones:**

- Justin Jacob ’02 graduated from UNO in civil engineering, summa cum laude. After 3 years in army, a wife and three kids, Justin decided it was time to return to school. We are very proud of him. Justin is the brother of Jared ’04, Gregory ’07, Jordan ’14 & Peyton ’18. We love the whole Jacob Family!
- Carter Guice ’10 received his BS (summa cum laude) in Biology from Hampden-Sydney College. He’ll attend medical school next year.



*Pre-freshmen await start of promotion ceremony practice.*

- Peter Chatry'10 received his BS in Naval Architecture from the United States Naval Academy. Peter will be commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy and has been selected for service as a Navy Pilot. Wow. Congrats, Ensign Chatry!
- And our LSU grads from last Friday:
  - E.J. Ourso College of Business: Jonathan Block, Theodore Brandon, Raymond Braselman, Dakota Conravey, Francis Dixon, Julien Lamothe, Christopher Smith, Christian Spansel
  - College of Engineering: Christopher Cross, Ryan Delaune, Aaron Moseley, Patrick Huval, Alex Patel, Daniel Tanner, Andrew Wellmeyer
  - College of Humanities & Social Sciences: Charles Bordelon, Thomas Lorando, Patrick Malone, Jonathan Schoen
  - Manship School of Mass Communications: Patrick Clay (I happened to come across Patrick's final TV project on LSU's website in which he anchors his final TV show for the Tigers. At the conclusion, Patrick turns to the camera and proposes to his fiancée who is part of his TV production team. It was quite moving! Who says Wolves can't be romantic?)
  - College of Science: Luke Baumgartner, Stephen Dennis, Jake Dubuc, Will Gensler,
  - Graduate School: Chris Brown, John Komidor, Jon McCarble,

### **Musings on Last Week:**

- **Band Awards Ceremony** went very well. Congratulations to Andrew Moran, the Band Boosters, and the Band Wolves.
- **Academic Awards Ceremonies** went very well. Special thanks to Merle Dooley, Trevor Watkins, and counselors for all of their hard work in getting hundreds of awards ready.
- **Athletic Awards** ceremony went very well. Thanks, Craig Ketelsen, Claire DiPol, Carol Barcelona for ALL of your hard work. Craig and Claire were here until 1 AM preparing the power point presentation! (I was asleep!)
- **Golf Wolves** had a great an end of season celebration at the home of Thomas Ruli (thanks, Ruli Family!) to which several of the retired brothers were invited – and who attended!
- **Track Wolves** also celebrated their season with cook out under the Wolf Dome on Friday evening.
- **Art Department** had a GREAT show; hope you got a chance to see our budding artists.
- **Drama Classes' Original One Act Plays and Video Projects** played to an appreciative audience on Thursday night. The young playwrights and actors acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner.
- **Senior Parents and Teachers** staged a very successful, enjoyable and well-attended Grad Night. The Class of 2014 passed a good time. 154 out of 166 attended. Thanks, Senior Parents!
- **Linda Trahan** and Representatives of the Class of 2014 (Shane Kennedy, David Conroy, and Ian Conroy), planted a new tree on the campus. This 'Red Emperor' Japanese maple graces the area in front of the chapel, welcoming visitors and brightening the campus with its delicate red foliage.
- **Mothers Club Bookstore Sale** was a huge success! Congrats!
- **Wolftracks:** Kudos to Danielle Lavie for a mid-May edition! Excellent as always!
- **Lasallian Youth Leaders** were busy last week electing new leadership. Congrats to Burke Irwin (President), William Saucier (Vice President) & Patrick Stewart (Treasurer.) Our LYL program is outstanding.

**Final H of the W:** Since this is one of my last newsletters for this year, here are some “famous” last words – literally! *It's fireproof....He's probably just hibernating....What does this button do?...It's probably just a rash....Are you sure the power is off?...The odds of that happening have to be a million to one!...Pull the pin and count to what?...Which wire was I supposed to cut?...I wonder where the mother bear is....I've seen this done on TV....These are the good kind of mushrooms....I'll hold it and you light the fuse....Let it down slowly....It's strong enough for both of us.... This doesn't taste right....I can make this light before it changes....Nice doggie....I can do that with my eyes closed....I've done this before....What duck?...Well, we've made it this far...That's odd....Don't be so superstitious....Now watch this. OK, I'll stop!*



*Ian, David & Shane plant beautiful Red Emperor Maple outside of chapel.*

**Lyon Elementary:** As part of their religion curriculum, the seniors travel once a week to Lyon Elementary, where they work with 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. Phil Williams received the following from Ms. Liz Coco, Lyon Elementary administrator: *I wish I would have known it was the boys last week so I could thank all of you personally. I have gotten wonderful feedback this year from the teachers on how great the boys were. It is heartwarming to see those big grown young men, working, playing, helping and tutoring our small children. It is Christ in action working through the boys. Here is an email I received from Mrs. Guidry. I thought you might like to read it. Tell the boys they have my thanks and prayers. May what future path they walk always be with Christ.* And here’s the email from Kathy Guidry, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher: *I've worked with St. Paul's*

*students over the past few years, and I just have to tell you how thrilled I am with my group this year. Not only do they take their responsibilities seriously, they are very respectful of the climate in our classroom. Whatever I give them to do is done quickly and efficiently, with a smile. I am developing a new plan for the boys - they will work with my higher kids on reading/responding to non-fiction passages, something that I desperately want to get to, but it's so hard to find the time. I am excited and ready to try this new plan out. Would you please let their teacher know what a great job they are doing for our class? (Just don't steal them for someone else!) Thanks, Class of 2014 for this meaningful Lasallian work!*

**Turf Field Replacement:** Work started last week and is scheduled for two more week. The bad news is that subsidence has occurred – which is NOT covered by warranty. Company estimates SPS will have to purchase \$10,000 – 12,000 worth of limestone to repair the problem – which probably means \$12,000 to \$15,000 if my past experience with construction holds true. This was unbudgeted, and we will have to be creative in finding a way to complete this project. Perhaps I could borrow against projected revenue from a state championship this year?

**May 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly:** I hope the students enjoyed the final assembly on May 13 – almost exactly nine months since our first assembly on August 14. Here’s some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to Jean-Joseph Mouret’s “Rondeau” – the same piece we listened to on August 14, a baroque piece of music which set the tone for our year of drama and excitement and majesty, and it certainly has been a year of drama, excitement and majesty!



Workers find subsidence problems. Grrr.....#\$!#@!

- While junior **Eric Fecke** lit the prayer candle, we prayed for our newly graduated seniors as well as those who entered God's Kingdom since the last assembly: Mrs. Madeleine Mathes, grandmother of **Forge Mathes**; **Mr. Julian Rodriguez**, grandfather of **Julian Rodriguez**, the aunt of **James Bryant**; and **Jacob LeBlanc's** paternal grandfather. We also prayer for **Mr. Joseph Hart**, grandfather of junior **Gunnar Young** who is gravely ill.

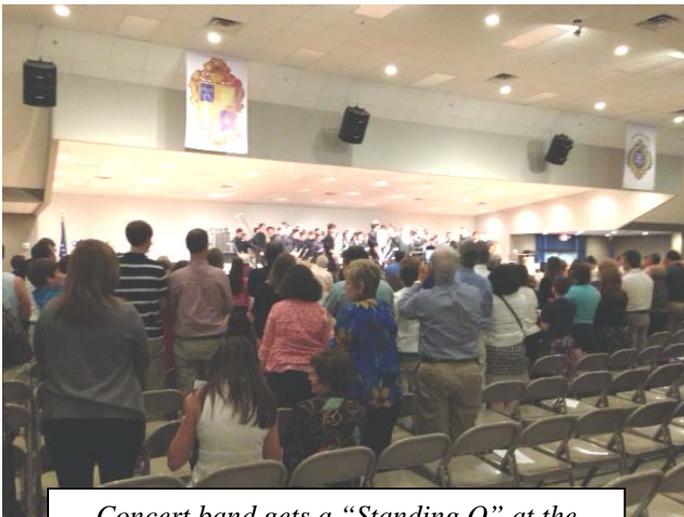
- I began the recognitions by apologizing to the juniors for my failure to recognize those who had received the Sacrament of Confirmation during the past year. I had all of the newly confirmed juniors stand, publically thanked them for their willingness to take their Catholic faith seriously, reminded them of what they promised at the time of confirmation, and had

the whole school applaud.

- Recognized and congratulated the newly inducted members of the National Spanish Honor Society (La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica): **Luke Avenel, Matthew Baldone, Jacob Broussard, Evan Bauer, Patrick Connolly, John Cresson, Ethan Desforges, Don Gallaty, Jonathan King, William O'Rourke, Heath Rushing, Jack Statton, Patrick Stewart, & Stevie Van Zandt**
- Recognized and congratulated freshman **Austin Willis** for winning the National Punctuation Day essay contest (student division.) Read Austin's winning essay at <http://www.nationalpunctuationday.com/>
- Recognized and congratulated junior **Kyle Cleveland** for winning an all-expenses paid trip to the Freedom Foundations Young Leaders of America Conference in Valley Forge, PA. This is a A three-day conference for high school students to interact with experts on citizenship, democracy, the free enterprise system, the judicial system, and the American political process. The program includes thought-provoking lectures, historical tours, and experiential workshops, all designed to develop leadership skills and deepen an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of engaged citizenship. Kyle competed through written essays and personal interviews.
- Recognized and congratulated Wolves who placed in the Scholastic Press Contest: **Adam Cannon** (Silver Key winner), **Jonah Knickles** (Honorable Mention) & **Kole Gorney** (Honorable Mention)
- Recognized and congratulated the **Law Studies Class** for winning 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Baton Rouge Law Day Video Contest. The theme centered on the evolution of our voting rights and why every vote counts. The class was awarded \$225 in prize money (which they used for an end of school pizza party!) Also, freshman **Silas Anthony** received an honorable mention with a prize of \$25.00 for his essay. The class traveled to Baton Rouge to participate in Law Day. There were 25 schools involved in Law Day with approximately 1000 students so this was an excellent showing by our students. Consensus was that our group

was “best dressed” in their formal uniforms and the attorneys involved praised our guys during the mock trial competition. Thanks to noted attorney Sonny Garcia who teaches this class.

- Recognized and congratulated the **Ultimate Team** for winning second place in state – quite an accomplishment for The Dire Wolf (as the team calls itself.) Well done, Ultimate and moderator Mr. Mark Richards.
- Apologized to the Mathletes for not having enough time to fully re-cap the last two math tournaments – in which the Fighting Math Wolves did grea—so I summarized:
  - In the Catholic High in Baton Rouge tournament, only 22 Wolves competed and we weren't sure how the team would manage with such a small attendance. The following Wolves placed: **Forge Mathes, Ashton van Deventer, Ryan Meraux, Aaron Nguyen, Patrick Baldone, Henry Elliott, Alex Oliveri, Alex Nguyen, Ethan Rodriguez, Leland van Deventer. In the Jeffrey Champ, Ethan Desforges, & Nick Oubre.** In the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Interschool Test, the team of **Patrick Baldone, Henry Elliott, Forge Mathes, Ashton van Deventer, Jack Verret, Robby Nolan, & Ealon Boudreaux** took FIRST PLACE! And in the Sweepstakes Division, the Wolves also captured FIRST PLACE! Wow!
  - In the Brother Martin Tournament, 48 FMWs competed with over 400 students from 25 schools. The following FMWs placed: **Rory O'Meallie, Alex Oliveri, Alex Nguyen, Henry Elliott, Ryan Meraux, Patrick Connolly, Luke Avenel, John Cresson, Andrew Mercante, Ethan Desforges, Max Gold, Aaron Nguyen, Ryan Keller, George Cazenavette, Zach Albright, Michael Burke, Grant Connolly, Peter Yager, Nick Oubre, Luke Avenel, Patrick Connolly, Connor Lu, Hunter Simonson, Nicholas Sibley, Peter Yager, Ryan Keller, Oliver Guice, Harrison Prieto, Gregory Roy, and Michael Brands.** In Sweepstakes (overall), the team placed third, finished behind two magnet schools but head of “you know who.”
  - In the Baton Rouge Magnet Tournament (18 school participating – NO calculators allowed!), the following Wolves placed: **Patrick Baldone, Luke Avenel, Ryan Meraux, Max Gold, Aaron Nguyen, George Cazenavette, Ethan Desforges, Ryan Meraux, Ruston Keller, Hunter Simonson, August Dixon, Jack Dubreuil, Ryan Keller.** Again the team finished third in Sweepstakes.



*Concert band gets a “Standing O” at the conclusion of their recent concert. They were amazing!*

- Recognized and congratulated the following juniors for being accepted into prestigious summer programs:
  - **Bram Love** was accepted to the West Point Summer Leaders Experience.
  - **Colin Skinner** was accepted into the U.S. Air Force Academy Summer Seminar,
  - **Burke Irwin** was accepted into the Notre Dame Summer Scholars Life Sciences Program.

- Recognized and congratulated the **Marching, Concert, and Jazz Wolves** for their great showing in Disneyworld over the Easter holidays. All three groups represented us well. A special shout out when to junior **Casey Fitzmaurice** for being named the Outstanding Jazz Soloist Award by the Disney judges – quite an accomplishment.
- Recognized and congratulated junior **Ben Dantin** for earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. I then had all of our Eagle scouts stand for a round of applause.
- Recognized and congratulated the **Gymnastic Wolves** for winning the STATE CHAMPIONSHIP for the third consecutive year! Wow! As is our custom, the team took a victory lap around the gym while carrying the state championship trophy with “We Are the Champions” playing loudly in the background and the entire student body cheering. It was great!
- Since we were running out of time, I called everyone’s attention to the empty bleachers where the seniors sit and said it was time to fill those places. I asked the juniors if they were ready to assume the mantle of leadership at SPS; if they were ready to be role models for the student body; if they were ready to accept the rights, privileges and responsibilities of being seniors. They resoundingly replied “Yes, Brother, I’m ready!” I then said: *By the authority vested in me by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the Board of Directors of the Saint Paul’s School, the Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana, I recognize and honor these young men as the Saint Paul’s Senior Class of 2015 – the fourth class of our second century. With this recognition go all the honors, privileges and responsibilities that being a senior imparts. For they are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, living stones building the edifice of the Mystical Christ and fulfilling the Lasallian Mission of Saint Paul’s School in our age. Done in Covington, Louisiana on this 13th day of May, in the year of Our Lord, 2014.* With “Rise Up O Men of God” playing in the background, the juniors then rose and moved into the senior section, thus officially commencing their senior year. It was a moving experience.
- As is our custom, we then sang a rousing rendition of the fight song – it was moving and wonderful.
- I then thanked the student body for a great year and closed by apologizing if I omitted recognizing anyone during year. I reminded the students of their obligation to love and serve the Lord and each other both now and throughout the summer. We exited to the strains of Mouret’s “Rondeau”, leaving the gym for the last time for 2013-14. It was a wonderful assembly! I had a great time!



*The Skinner Brothers (Colin & Brennan) smile after winning third consecutive gymnastics state championship. The Times Picayune called them “the Manning Brothers of high school gymnastics.”*

#### **Looking Ahead for Those Who Are Returning Next Year:**

- Tuition for 2014-15 is due on June 1<sup>st</sup>; the first payment for bank financed tuition is also due June 1<sup>st</sup>. Students will not receive their schedules in July and cannot start school in August if tuition/bank loans are not current.
- **If your son is registered for next year and you change your mind during the summer about his attending SPS, PLEASE let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

- **Summer reading assignments are on our website.**
- **BE VIGILANT during the summer – there are many temptations that will face your sons this summer. Drug testing will resume in the fall!**
- **Thursday, August 7, is the first day of school.** This is a full day of instruction, not the traditional Book Day. Attendance is expected.
- A complete 2014-15 school year calendar is posted on the website. Be informed that the state has tightened the attendance policy and Saint Paul's is complying. **PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.**

**I'm Still Begging:** I had an excellent response last week! Thanks to those who each week respond to my request. But PLEASE – I need everyone's help, including alumni and grandparents. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g. technology, special programs (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation.)
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). **More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. WONDERFUL!**
- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What's important is that everyone participates.
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thanks. Can you send \$10 to Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

**WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT!** Several grandparents approached me on GP Day about donating and asked why they aren't solicited like other schools do. I replied that we need and welcome their support and they all replied that they would contribute. **If you would like to inform your son's grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I'll personally appeal. I'll send them a nice “thank you” note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.

**Dress and Grooming Rules:** We will insist that students follow the dress code through the last second of the school year. Parents – please examine your son's dress before he leaves for school.

**Exam Schedules: 12<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are finished.** I've posted exam schedules for Grades 9-11 on Edline. Thursday will be here soon, so hang in there!

#### **A Look Ahead for the Remainder of THIS Year:**

May 19 – Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony 6:00 PM in BAC

May 19-22 – Special Exam Schedules

**Very Encouraging Note from a Parent:** I received the following from the parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader: *I would like to thank you for a wonderful year both academically and spiritually. I have three older children which graduated from three different schools, Ben Franklin, Jesuit, and Dominican. I can honestly say St. Pauls has been our best experience yet. I hope the next four years are as great and also pray that you will be with us for the duration.*

Wow! That's pretty impressive to be favorably compared to Ben Franklin, Jesuit and Dominican! Thank you!

On a personal note, my time management skills have fallen apart lately (if, indeed, I ever had any to begin with!) so I'm WAY behind in sending "thank you notes" for annual fund gifts, responding to emails and phone calls. I'll get to the thank you notes as soon as school is out (I tried rushing a few last week and made mistakes!) But keep calling and emailing! The squeaky wheel gets the grease – or some sort of cliché like that!

Well, I'm sure I've worn out my welcome in your email "in box" this week! Sorry! Guess I wasn't so brief after all! Only one more newsletter to endure, though!

I will close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Again, please let me know if there's an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2013-14 edition of Saint Paul's – which is rapidly drawing to a close!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Anticipating Spectacular Commencement Exercises and a Successful Conclusion to the 2013-14 School Year as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

**Quality education, inclusive community, respect for all, concern for poor & social justice, faith in God's presence – our mantras this week, throughout 2014, and always!**

***SPOP! PFU! SJBDLS! PFU!  
SB! HUDOTEW! LJIOH! F!***

