



The President's Newsletter for Oct 6-12, 2014



Ray McNulty is Dean of the School of Education at Southern New Hampshire University. Prior to that, he was a highly respected educational consultant. Ray has also spoken on two occasions at the Lasallian Chief Administrators Conference. I recently came across some of my notes from the last conference. I offered these quotations to our faculty for reflection -- and undoubtedly disagreement and debate:

- *Students today have a front row seat in the digital world and are not growing up with the same dispositions or contexts of the past*
- *The primary aim of education is not to enable students to do well in school, but to help them do well in the lives they lead outside of school.*
- *A teacher who teaches a student to learn without them, prepares the student for success in the 21st century...*
- *The threat to your system is not choice, charters, other privates or funding. It is the "Status Quo."*
- *Have you learned more on your own? Or from an expert?*
- *Learning and failing are "all the time" experiences in life. One doesn't happen without the other.*
- *When you learn something it doesn't matter where you learned it. What matters is that you learned it! Isn't that the goal?*
- *Creating more options for learning to be achieved will result in more learners. There's no one way that works for all of us.*
- *Instead of planning how to teach something, think about how you would learn it.*
- *If you are focused on seat time, you are focused on the wrong end of the student.*



Engineering II student works on his solar car.

Suppose we replaced “teacher” with “parent”, “school” with “home” and “education” with “parenting.” Some interesting possibilities result!

Mon, Oct 6 (Regular; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1979, President Jimmy Carter receives Pope John Paul II, the first Pope to visit the White House.
- **Frugal Fun Day** celebrates frugal fun. Do a fun thing today that doesn't cost!
- **Mad Hatter Day:** No, this is not about Les Miles or Batman's enemy but refers to the character from Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, where the Mad Hatter is always seen wearing a hat bearing a slip of paper with the notation "In this style 10/6" – an invitation to behave in the style of the Mad Hatter on 10/6. Mad Hatter Day began in Boulder, CO, in 1986, among computer folk who had nothing better to do. In 1988, it was recognized as an official holiday by an area business, and also received its first national press coverage by news services. What do people do on Mad Hatter Day? In general, people celebrate silliness – but not during the school day!



Coach Rob interacts with seniors under the Horack Pavilion.

Tue, Oct 7 (Assembly; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1913, for the first time, Henry Ford's entire Highland Park, MI automobile factory is run on a continuously moving assembly line. We've come a long way, Henry!
- **You Matter To Me Day:** Four simple words, one single phrase, that makes a profound difference to all who hear it and share it. Tell the people who matter to you that they do!
- **President's Assembly:**
- **Shadow Day:** Another group of prospective students will be on campus this morning. We will welcome so they can see what makes SPS so special.

- **Football:** 8th v. Sci Tech Academy (6)

Wed, Oct 8 (Regular; E F G A)

- **Alvin C. York Day:** Sgt. York is the most decorated American soldier in World War I. From the Sgt. York website: *On Oct 8, 1918, after being pinned down, York took his fateful walk into history. He and 16 other soldiers... were given the unenviable task of silencing the machine guns that halted the advance. It was a cold, wet morning. Rain mixed with sleet added to the gloom of the fog that draped the landscape. As the soldiers worked their way around the hill, the men on the left flank stood exposed in the creek bottom. German machine gunners opened fire, wounding or killing nine Americans, including York's best friend. York was on the right flank beneath the crest of the hill in a natural depression, which he used to kill nine of the men who operated the guns. In the meantime, his comrades opened fire on the Germans, and in a few minutes 25 were dead. The Germans surrendered to what they thought was a superior force, and York and the American survivors escorted 132 prisoners to American forces some 10 miles away. Sergeant York was awarded his nation's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions [that day.]*
- **Face Your Fears Day:** Consider what life might be like if you conquered some of your greatest fears. **Face Your Fears Day** gives you the chance to stand up to your fears, overcome them, and to seize the day.
- **National Pierogie Day:** Pierogies are Eastern Europe's equivalent of ravioli or tortellini - essentially filled dumplings. This peasant dish originated in Poland in the 13th century. Enjoy the dumpling of your choice!
- **National Walk to School Day:** Give it a try if you're in walking distance!
- **Sukkot:** The Jewish feast of Sukkot begins at sundown today and lasts for seven days. Sukkot has a dual significance: historical and agricultural. Historically, Sukkot commemorates the forty-year period during which the children of Israel were wandering in the desert, living in temporary shelters. Agriculturally, Sukkot is a harvest festival. It is a period of joyful celebrating. We wish our Jewish brothers and sisters a blessed Sukkot!
- **Football:** 9th v. John Curtis (5:30)



Thu, Oct 9 (Mass schedule; DRESS UNIFORM; B C D E)

- Today is the feast of the Christian Brother Martyrs of Turon, canonized by Pope John Paul II: **Saint Brothers Cirilo Bertrán, Marciano José, Julián Alfredo, Victoriano Pío, Benito de Jesus, Benjamin Julián, Augusto Andrés, Aniceto Adolfo and Saint Father Inocencio.** From the Brothers' website: *In 1934, Turón was the center of anticlerical hostility. The Brothers' school was an irritant to radicals in charge because of the religious influence it exerted. The Brothers defied the ban on teaching religion & openly escorted students to Mass. On the First Fri of Oct, authorities broke into the Brothers' house on the pretext that arms were hidden there. They and their chaplain were arrested and marched to the cemetery where they were shot. Brother Cirilo, the Director, was 46 and Brother Marciano was 39. Brother Julián was 32 and all the rest were in their twenties. They were arrested, detained, and executed as a community. Victims of the hatred and violence against the Church, they witnessed by their death to the faith they so courageously professed and so effectively communicated to their students. May these Sainly Brothers pray for us!*

- **National Leif Erikson Day:** To honor Leif Erikson (who over sailed from Iceland and explored present-day Greenland and Canada) and to celebrate our Nordic-American heritage, the Congress, by joint resolution has authorized the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as "Leif Erikson Day."
- **ALL SCHOOL MASS today; DRESS UNIFORM**

Fri, Oct 10 (11 am dismissal; Grandparent Day; F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1973, US Vice President Spiro Agnew resigns in ignominious disgrace.
- **World Egg Day:** Celebrate by fixing your favorite egg dish and eating it; do not celebrate by throwing!
- **National Angel Food Cake Day:** Enjoy this classic dessert after you eat an egg!
- **End of First Quarter! Wow! Seems like we just got started!**
- **Grandparent Day (11:15) – see below for more information**
- **Football:** Varsity at Mandeville (7)

Sat, Oct 11

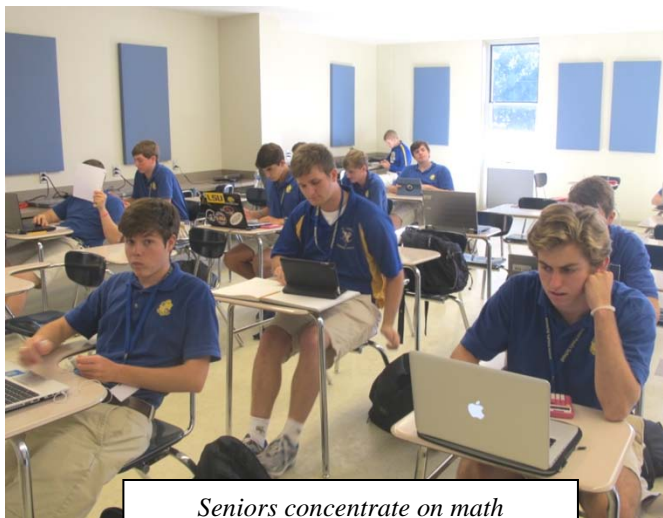
- **TDIH:** In 1962, Pope John XXIII convenes Vatican II —the first council in 92 years -- to bring spiritual rebirth to Catholicism and cultivate greater unity with other religions.
- **National Chess Day:** President Gerald Ford set the 2nd Sat in Oct aside as a day "To give special recognition to a game that generates challenge, intellectual stimulation, and enjoyment for citizens of all ages." Play chess today!
- **Southern Food Heritage Day:** Eat your favorite southern food while playing chess!
- **Public Square Rosary Crusade in Covington (10 am in front of St. Tammany Justice Center).** One of over 10,000 taking place today across America, the rosary will ask God to bless the United States.
- **Cross Country** in Catholic High Meet
- **SPS Math Tournament**
- **Football:** Jr Hi v. Algiers Charter (11)
- **SAT on campus today.**
- **Jr Hi Homecoming Dance**

Sun, Oct 12 -- We encourage Catholic families to attend mass and our other families to attend church of choice.

- **TDIH:** In 1492, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus sights a Bahamian island, believing he reached Asia.
- **International Moment of Frustration Day:** To celebrate, everyone is supposed to go outside at noon GMT (6 AM CST) and SCREAM away frustrations! You are not to scream AT someone (sorry!), just scream in general! Perhaps we should all end 1st quarter with a communal scream, thus chasing away any 1st quarter frustration! Enjoy!
- **Teresian Sisters Family Day (begins with Holy Mass at 11):** Games, food, boutique, at 18080 St. Joseph Way in Covington. The Teresian Sisters do so much for the community of Covington! We wish them a successful day.

Dress Uniform Day on Thursday, Oct 09
Students Attending Grandparent Day Should Wear Dress Uniform

Jazz n Roll: We owe the Advancement Office a great deal of thanks for a special evening. Special thanks to co-chairs Tina Flick and Liz Healy and their volunteer corps for the great work that they did. Thanks to all of you who attended. I hope you enjoyed the evening. I'll be writing more about J n R in a future newsletter.



Grandparent Day: GP is Fri, Oct 10:

- Grandparents arrive on campus on Friday, October 10, and report to the Briggs Assembly Center to meet their grandsons. School dismisses at 11:00 for the students, and the Grandparent Day Program begins at 11:15. Make sure you inform your son if his grandparent(s) will be attending. If a student has no grandparent attending, he is free to leave.
- A photographer will be available for photographs if so desired; more info on photos will be sent later;
- A prayer service will begin shortly after everyone has been seated;
- A "President's Assembly" will follow (ask your son or read my newsletter about these assemblies);
- Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program (a little over an hour or so.)

Past programs have been very successful, and we receive many compliments from the grandparents who attend. Thank you for helping us make this annual event so successful. Please let me know if you have any questions. **In order to adequately prepare, we ask that you RSVP with the number who will be attending. Reply to reception@stpauls.com or just reply directly to me. Please RSVP by Monday, October 5.**

I know that some of you have suffered a loss lately; know that I am sensitive to these situations and offer our prayers for you. **Students attending Grandparent Day are asked to wear their dress uniforms!**

IMPORTANT! PLEASE HELP: The future of SPS depends on a healthy enrollment. On Nov 1, we will hold our annual Open House for prospective students. **Please invite any interested family to attend.** This year, we want to send postcard announcements to families. If you know of a family with a son who would benefit from SPS, please email me their name and address. We will mail them a postcard invite. In the past, you, our parents, have been the best source of attracting students to SPS. Please help me now. Again, just email me names and addresses – all we'll do is send them a simple postcard. Thanks!

End of First Quarter: It's hard to believe we have entered the final week of the 1st Quarter of the 2014-15 school year. This is the final week your son has to improve any grades, as report cards will be issued next week. Remember that the 1st Quarter will constitute 40% of his semester grade. The second quarter will also constitute 40% and the semester exam before Christmas will be 20%.

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The Political Season: With elections taking place soon, I remind all of the regulations of the Archdiocese of New Orleans concerning political activity and Catholic institutions. From the Archdiocesan Policy Manual:

- *Church organizations may not at any time participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.*
- *Church facilities cannot be used for any meeting, lecture or other activity sponsored by any political party or candidate. Parish and other church facilities may not be used for any activity related to the support of or opposition to any candidate for political office nor as forums for partisan debate.*
- *Catholic institutions may not make statements (oral or written) supporting or opposing any candidate for public office in any manner....Further, no statements may be made which label a certain candidate, such as referring to the candidate as pro-abortion or anti-peace, etc.*
- *The archdiocesan newspaper, parish bulletins, and other parish or archdiocesan sponsored publications are not to accept political advertising in support of or opposition to any candidate for public office or in support of or opposition to a political party.*
- *Catholic institutions may not provide financial support to any candidate, political action committee, or political party.*
- *No Catholic institution may distribute or authorize distribution of campaign literature or other campaign material on its premises, including parking lots.*
- I have provided these regulations to our faculty and insisted that they abide by them.



ID Cards: As part of our safety plan, we insist that students wear their Saint Paul's issued ID cards on a lanyard around their necks. Please stress this with your sons. Also, we find that some students are chewing their ID cards. Parents – please stress that this is not acceptable. Thanks.

Last Week in Review:

- **Monday's Late Start:** We apparently jinxed the Saints. No more late starts on Saints game nights!
- **SSA Homecoming:** Many of our students participated in this annual event. We think all went well and appreciate SSA's invitation.
- **Aqua Wolves:** The AWs swam great last week, edging out a powerful Northshore! Handel was cheering them on! AQs are undefeated in dual meets!
- **Wolf Tracks:** Another attractive and informative issue by Danielle! Hope you enjoyed it.
- **Marching Wolves, Golden Blues, Cheerleaders, & Band Boosters:** Outstanding – as always.
- **Football:** 8th acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner against John Curtis, 9th & JV won convincingly against Franklinton and the Varsity did great against Hammond!
- **Cross Country:** Wolves left at 5:30 am Sat. The results? Varsity (1st) JV (3rd) & Jr Hi (2nd). Go Wolves!
- **Teen Life Counts:** A successful start for our sophomores as we deal tragedy close to SPS.
- **First Friday Devotions:** Thanks, Religion & Campus Ministry Dept, for these meaningful days!
- **Spanish II:** Liz Brett's classes did some great presentations on *Mi Rutina Diaria* last week. I enjoyed the visits.
- **Car Wash for Elise:** A group of our students is to be commended for washing cars on Sat to raise funds to assist Elise Charbonnet Angellette in her fight against cancer.

Teen Life Counts: Our annual Teen Life Counts, a school-based suicide awareness and intervention program established by Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans in 1984, began on Oct 1 and runs through Oct 8. All sophomores will participate in this important program which teaches that that **youth suicide can be prevented** through educational programs aimed at developing awareness of risk factors and resources for help. As the suicide rate in St. Tammany continues to rise, especially since the suicide of Robin Williams, this program is needed. I am grateful to Christine Woodard, the sophomore religion teachers, and Jewish Family Service for bringing this program to our students.

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Lacrosse: A PARENT ONLY lacrosse meeting is set for Thursday October 16th in the SPS gym. NEW lacrosse parents should meet for 6:30 then returning parents for 7:00p m please. Players are not to attend this meeting- coaches will meet with players at a later date.

National Honor Society Tutoring Has Begun! When? Tuesday and Thursday during lunch in LaSalle 205 AND after school in LaSalle 210. Monday, Wed. and Friday morning at 7:10AM in LaSalle 210. The tutors are very friendly, eager to help, and quite knowledgeable. Encourage your son to take advantage of this FREE service if he needs help. There is NO stigma attached to going to tutoring!

Homecoming Dances: The Student Council announces the dates of the 2014 Homecoming Dances:

- The Junior High dance for 8th and 9th grades will be held Saturday, Oct 11 from 7:00 until 9:30PM. Lock-in will be at 8:00PM.
- The High School dance for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades will be held Saturday, October 18 from 7:00 until 10:00PM. Lock-in will be at 8:30PM.
- Both dances will be held in the Briggs Assembly Center.
- Young men are required to wear a tie with dress shirt and long pants. Coat is OPTIONAL. Young ladies may wear formal or semi formal dresses. Further dress code details may be found on the dance registration forms.
- Homecoming Dance registration forms will be available starting this week in the Library, room 107 in the Main Building, room 202 in LaSalle Hall, OR on EDLINE home page.

Humor of the Week: The Nobel Prizes will be awarded this week for prodigious accomplishments in academic fields. The Ig-Nobel Prizes (sponsored by Harvard) were awarded in mid-Sep. These prizes honor real achievements that first make people laugh and then think. The prizes, given by real Nobel winners, celebrate the unusual. Some will make you laugh, so this is the H of the W. Here are the 2014 Ig-nobel Prizes:

PHYSICS: *for measuring the amount of friction between a shoe and a banana skin, and between a banana skin and the floor, when a person steps on a banana skin that's on the floor.*

NEUROSCIENCE: *for trying to understand what happens in brains of people who see the face of Jesus in a piece of toast.*

PSYCHOLOGY: *for amassing evidence that people who habitually stay up late are, on average, more self-admiring, more manipulative, and more psychopathic than people who habitually arise early in the morning.*

PUBLIC HEALTH: *for investigating whether it is mentally hazardous for a human being to own a cat.*



Seniors clown

BIOLOGY: for carefully documenting that when dogs defecate and urinate, they prefer to align their body axis with Earth's north-south geomagnetic field lines.

ART: for measuring the relative pain people suffer while looking at an ugly painting, rather than a pretty painting, while being shot [in the hand] by a powerful laser beam.

ECONOMICS: for proudly taking the lead in fulfilling the European Union mandate for each country to increase the official size of its national economy by including revenues from prostitution, illegal drug sales, smuggling, and all other unlawful financial transactions between willing participants.

MEDICINE: for treating "uncontrollable" nosebleeds, using the method of nasal-packing-with-strips-of-cured-pork.

ARCTIC SCIENCE: for testing how reindeer react to seeing humans who are disguised as polar bears.

NUTRITION: for a study titled "Characterization of Lactic Acid Bacteria Isolated from Infant Feces as Potential Probiotic Starter Cultures for Fermented Sausages"

I wonder how SPS could get some of this kind of research money.

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Words of Encouragement: I tell the students all the time that they can be a force for good and that they should appreciate the truth in Kipling's statement that the "strength of the wolf is the pack." One of the Lasallian presidents who visited us recently sent me the following email last week. From Brother Edmond Larouche FSC, president of St. Mary's College High School in Berkeley, CA:

I am still overwhelmed by the welcome your students gave us last week. The singing, prayer service, warmth, etc., just very, very moving. A big thanks! Every time someone asks me what we did at the meeting, I respond by telling them about our experience at St. Paul. After that, there is simply nothing else to say. By the way, I want our students to get to know yours! I will be looking for opportunities. I have a couple of favors to ask. Could you send me a copy of the remarks the Jewish student gave at the prayer service? He was excellent! Also, on one of the walls there was a description of the St. Paul graduate/student. Could you send me a copy (the wording)? Hope you and Trevor and all at Saint Paul are well.

Again, I can't praise the student body enough for the way they conducted themselves that day. Now, if only they would do that every day!

A Look Ahead

October 10 – End of First Quarter 11:00 Dismissal – Grandparents Day

October 13 – Late start for Teacher In-Service

October 14 – Pack Time

October 15 – PSAT for all 10th graders and selected other students



Varsity Cross Country Team prepares to run.

October 16 – Redi-Step Test for 8th Graders (Periods FG)
October 17 – Homecoming Day – Pep Rally Schedule
October 20 – Parent/Teacher Conferences at 5-7 PM
October 24 – Pep Rally Schedule
October 27-28 – Freshmen retreat/service days (Camp Abbey)
October 27 – Assembly for Guest Speaker, Bro. Ghebreyesus
October 28 – President’s Assembly
October 29 – 8th Grade HR Breakfast – Snack Day
October 30 – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
October 31 – Day of the Dead ceremony – Assembly Schedule
November 3-18 – Food Drive begins
November 3 – Late start of teacher In-service
Nov 4 – Teacher appreciation -Assembly Schedule – Shadow Day
November 5 – Soph HR Breakfast – ACT Aspire for 9th Graders
November 6 – Junior HR Breakfast /ACT Aspire for Sophomores

November 7 – Senior HR Breakfast
November 13-14 – Pre freshmen retreat/service days (on campus)
November 18 – Food Drive ends
November 21 – Thanksgiving Holidays begin at 3:00PM
December 1 – Parent/Teacher meetings in BAC 5-7 PM
December 11 – Luminarios – Snack Day
December 16-19 – Semester Exams
December 19 – 11:00 AM dismissal for Christmas Holidays
January 5 – Classes resume
January 6 – President’s Assembly – Snack Day
January 7-9 Seniors on Retreat
January 29 – Career Day

Whew! That’s enough for this week! As usual, I’ll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I’m listening to as I write the newsletter and LOLing): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! 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.

Pray that things continue to go well! Believe it or not, only two weeks remain in the first quarter! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2014-15 edition of Saint Paul’s – our 103rd year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC
 Enjoying the Beauty of October as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School



...and doing ordinary things extraordinarily well by making courageous choices each and every day.

Did I mention we have a dress uniform day on Thu and students attending Grandparent Day should wear dress uniform?