



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington



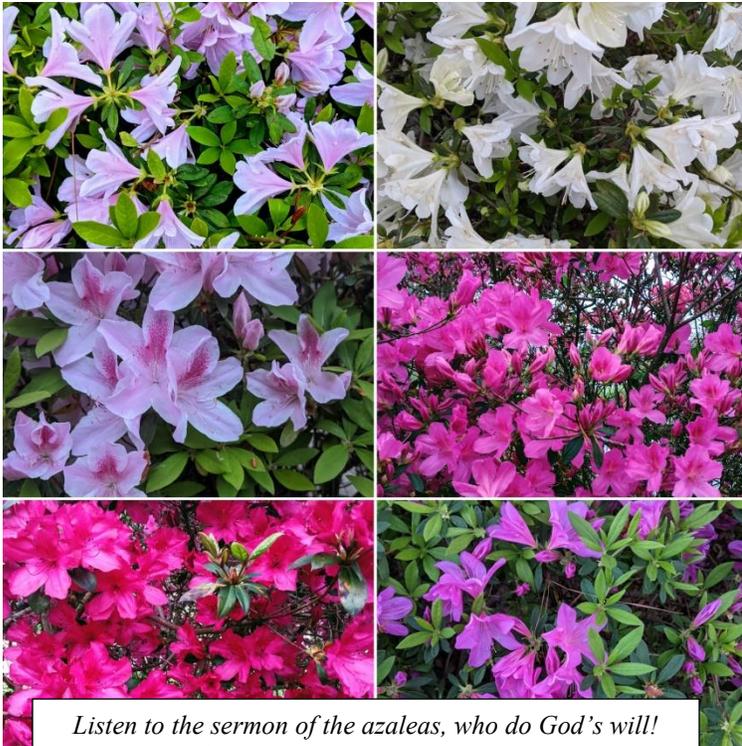
March 29 – April 04, 2021 – *Holy Week*

Remember that we are dust; to dust we shall return!



Welcome to Week Two of astronomical Spring, Week Three of the fourth quarter, and Holy Week!

The following words are taken from Saint John Baptist de La Salle's Meditation for Palm Sunday. May they help us make the most of this Holy Week.



Jesus Christ came to this earth to reign, but not, says Saint Augustine, as other kings do ... for his kingdom is not of this world but is to establish his reign within our souls. ... So that Jesus Christ may reign over your souls, you must pay him the tribute of your actions. All of them must be consecrated to him; in them there must be nothing that is not pleasing to him. They ought to have no other intention than to accomplish his holy will.

So that Jesus Christ may reign in your soul, wage war under his leadership against the enemies of your salvation, who are also his enemies. Because he wishes to establish his peace within you, a peace which, according to Saint Paul, ought to reign in your hearts, he must overcome—and you must overcome with him and by his help—anything that is able to be an obstacle. You must eliminate within you the man of sin who in the past has reigned over you.

Listen to the sermon of the azaleas, who do God's will!
(Pic by Bro. Javier Hansen, FSC)

Be disposed today, then, to receive Jesus Christ fully by abandoning yourself entirely to his guidance and by letting him reign over your whole interior life, so absolutely on his part and so dependently on yours that you may in truth say that it is no longer you who live but Jesus Christ who lives in you.

Mon, Mar 29 (A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** In 1929, President Herbert Hoover has a phone installed at his desk in the White House Oval Office.
- **TDIH:** In 1973, the last U.S. combat troops leave South Vietnam as Hanoi frees the remaining American POWs held in North Vietnam. America's direct eight-year intervention in the Vietnam War was at an end.
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Holden at Tangi Lanes
- **Baseball:** Sub-Varsity v. F'Bleau (6); 8th at Bro. Martin (5)

Tue, Mar 30 (Virtual Mandatum; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward signs a treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska for \$7 million. Despite the bargain price of roughly two cents an acre, the Alaskan purchase was ridiculed in Congress and in the press as “Seward’s folly,” “Seward’s icebox,” and President Andrew Johnson’s “polar bear garden.”
- **TDIH:** In 1981, President Ronald Reagan is shot while leaving the Washington Union Hotel in Washington, D.C. by 25-year-old John Hinckley Jr.
- **TDIH: A:** This popular TV game show debuted today in 1964. Q: What is JEOPARDY? Alex: Correct!
- **Doctors Day:** Prayers and thanks to all physicians – especially in these trying times!
- **Take a Walk in the Park Day:** Great idea! I may spend the day walking around park-like SPS, observing social distancing, of course!
- **Baseball:** Varsity v. CHS; 8 at N’shore (DH)
- **Golf at TCC**
- **Lacrosse:** Var/JVA v. Chaos
- **Ultimate Frisbee:** SP at Rummel



Joseph and Walker are amazed by lab results in chemistry class.

Wed, Mar 31 (B C D E) – 9th Retreat; Senior Retreat Part

- **TDIH:** In 1776, future first lady Abigail Adams writes to husband John Adams urging him to “remember the ladies” when drafting a new “code of laws” for the fledgling nation.
- **TDIH:** In 1836, the first monthly installment of *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, by 24-year-old writer Charles Dickens, is published under the pseudonym Boz. Only 400 copies were printed, but by the 15th episode, 40,000 copies were printed. When the stories were published in book form in 1837, Dickens quickly became most popular author of the day.
- **World Backup Day:** Back up those computer files today that you’ve been meaning to do for months!
- **Rugby:** SPS v. Bayou Hurricanes
- **Track:** SPS in Parish Meet at Covington
- **Baseball:** 8th v. N’shore; Sub-Varsity at F’Bleau (DH)

Thu, Apr 01 (Virtual Mandatum; F G A B) – Holy Thursday

- **April Fool Day:** In 1700, English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools’ Day by playing practical jokes on each other. Although the day has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery. From The History Channel: *In modern times, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fools’ Day hoaxes. Newspapers, radio and TV stations and web sites have participated. In 1957, the BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees; numerous viewers were fooled. In 1985,*

Sports Illustrated tricked many of its readers when it ran a made-up article about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a fastball over 168 mph. In 1996, Taco Bell duped people when it announced it had agreed to purchase Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and rename it Taco Liberty Bell. In 1998, after Burger King advertised a "Left-handed Whopper", scores of clueless customers requested the fake sandwich.

- **Have Fun at Work Day:** Have fun today! I have fun every day at SPS (well, almost every day!)

Fri, Apr 02 – Good Friday; no classes for students

- **Peanut Butter & Jelly Day:** Enjoy this iconic sandwich today!
- **Children's Book Day:** Re-read your favorite children's book and re-live a simpler time.

SPS alum & LSP Sgt Stephen Hammons '01 gives seniors real-world advice during Life Skills Day.



Sat, Apr 03 – Holy Saturday

- **TDIH:** On this day in 1860, the first Pony Express mail, traveling by horse and rider relay teams, simultaneously leaves St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Ten days later, on April 13, the westbound rider and mail packet completed the approximately 1,800-mile journey and arrived in Sacramento, beating the eastbound packet's arrival in St. Joseph by two days and setting a new standard for speedy mail delivery.

Sun, Apr 4 – Easter Sunday! Alleluia! He is risen!

- **TDIH:** In 1968, Rev. Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. is fatally shot while standing on the balcony outside his second-story room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

- **TDIH: In 1949,** twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.
- **Landmine Awareness Day:** We pray today for all those across the globe who have been injured or killed by landmines, especially innocent children. And we pray for an end to war everywhere.

Mon, Apr 5 – Sun, Apr 11 – EASTER Holidays (not Spring Break)

You are on your own for schedules, events, TDIH, National Whatever Day, and Weekly Humor!

Next Newsletter is scheduled for Sunday, April 11.

Rise Up, O Men of God

I call the following to your attention in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance.

ADMISSIONS FOR 21-22: Thank you for spreading the good news about Lasallian education at SPS! People are responding and next year's 8th grade class is almost full. All other grades are full. If you know of someone thinking about SPS 8th grade, have them initiate contact soon. Thanks!

ANNUAL APPEAL: Many thanks to those who have responded. If you can help at any amount, great. If not, I hope you will at least pray for us.

ANNUAL APPEAL AND GRANDPARENTS: We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son's grandparents or, if you want, I'll be happy to send them the information directly if you wish. Just provide me with the information. **I do not ask grandparents without your consent but we need their support.** I have already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large.

And no – I don't even mention the Annual Appeal in the Grandparent Day video.

APRIL: Welcome to April!! Can you believe it? Some facts about April:

- **Two possible word origins:** as the second month of the Roman calendar, it was dedicated to the goddess Venus and perhaps based on Apru, an Etruscan borrowing of Aphrodite, goddess of love and fertility. Also, as the fourth month of the Gregorian calendar, its name may derive from the Latin aperire ("to open"), a possible reference to plant buds opening at this time of year in Rome. Choose the theory you like better.
- **April is National Humor Month.** Let's all laugh a little more this month (maybe even laugh at ourselves when the situation warrants.) Tell a joke! Make someone laugh. We need it these days!
- **April is National Mathematics Awareness Month.** I know I'm excited!
- **April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.** We are reminded of the sacredness of human life and the responsibility we have, especially as Catholic school educators, to protect those placed in our care. Review our faculty in-service from Aug and your recent Praesidium training from the Archdiocese with respect to our obligations to protect children. Review with students, where appropriate, how to protect themselves from abuse and neglect.
- **April is Internet Safety month.** In view of all we have been learning lately, let's stress this!
- **April is Jazz Appreciation Month** and I wish that the SPS Jazz Band were busy preparing for the end of year concert! Another victim of COVID-19!



State Champion Powerlifting Team takes the Parade of Champions at assembly!

- **April is National Poetry Month!** I invite all to "read a poem a day" during April and encourage our students to do so, too. Don't have time to find a poem? Here are two good sites with Poems of the Day, which can even be emailed to you:
 - www.poets.org
 - <http://www.poetryfoundation.org>
 - To get you started, here's a fun little poem that I print every year titled "Sick" by Shel Silverstein:

"I cannot go to school today," Said little Peggy Ann McKay.

"I have the measles and the mumps, A gash, a rash and purple bumps.

My mouth is wet, my throat is dry, I'm going blind in my right eye.

My tonsils are as big as rocks, I've counted sixteen chicken pox

And there's one more--that's seventeen, And don't you think my face looks green?

My leg is cut--my eyes are blue--It might be instamatic flu.

I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke, I'm sure that my left leg is broke

My hip hurts when I move my chin, My belly button's caving in,

My back is wrenched, my ankle's sprained, My 'pendix pains each time it rains.

My nose is cold, my toes are numb. I have a sliver in my thumb.

My neck is stiff, my voice is weak, I hardly whisper when I speak.

My tongue is filling up my mouth, I think my hair is falling out.

My elbow's bent, my spine ain't straight, My temperature is one-o-eight.

My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear, There is a hole inside my ear.

I have a hangnail, and my heart is--what? What's that? What's that you say?

You say today is. . .Saturday? G'bye, I'm going out to play!

ASSEMBLY ON MAR 23: I hope the students enjoyed our March 23 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Welcomed two levels (seniors and 8th graders) into the gym for the first time (while still within COVID protocol numbers) while we live-streamed the event to the other levels in their classrooms. The 8th graders entered to the strains of Mouret's "Rondeau" and the thunderous applause of the seniors, in a ceremony that would have been done at the first assembly of the year in August. I asked the pre-freshmen if they were willing to live the Lasallian way, to which they replied "Yes, Brother, I am willing!")
- The music then switched to the strains of "I Surrender" as performed by Class of 2010 alums Thomas Lorando and 2009 alum Jackson Parsons. This has become a Lenten tradition since the days when Jackson and Thomas would perform the song live in the gym for the Holy Week assembly. I reminded the students that the song encourages us to surrender to God and give up our sinful ways. Time continues to pass. But it's not too late to change. Are we cooperating with God's plan? Are we making the most of the time we are allotted?
- Welcomed students to the second week of the fourth quarter and reminded them that their GPAs will change in just a couple of weeks, so put the effort in academically. I also reminded students of the New Year's Resolutions we made back in January: Don't litter, Respect the neighborhood, Ask for help, Cherish Each Day, and Rise Up as a Man of God.

- Introduced AD Craig Ketelsen to speak about our State Champion Powerlifting and Wrestling Teams. After a general introduction, Craig called on seniors Grant Vicknair and Jackson Luscy to introduce the teams. Then, as has become our custom, the teams paraded around the gym while “We Are the Champions” blared loudly and the students applauded equally so. It was a proud moment!
- Recognized and congratulated SPS Tennis for their recent showings, especially at the Mobile Tournament.



SPS Track Wolves – 1st Place at Judy Baehr Relays!

- Recognized and congratulated SPS Track for their recent showings, especially the first-place finish at Judy Baehr Relays on March 12. I projected a slide with the winners:
 - 1st Place
 - 400 m run- Nate Aupied
 - 1600 m run- Evan Pardo
 - 3200 m Run Evan Pardo
 - 4x200 m Relay- Grant Nastasi, Mitchell Smith, Evan Scherer, Nate Aupied
 - 4x400 m Relay- Harrison Weissinger, Zac Davis, Dylan Knight, Nate Aupied
 - 4x800 m Relay- Harrison Weissinger, Gage Graham, Evan Pardo, Aiden Freret
 - 2nd Place
 - 800 m run- Aiden Freret
 - 1600 m run- Gage Graham

- 300 m hurdles- Zac Davis
- 4x100 m Relay- Grant Nastasi, Mitchell Smith, Jack Salvaggio, Evan Scherer
- Shot Put- Jacob Melton
- Discus- Jacob Melton

- 3rd Place
- Pole Vault- Trey Faherty

- Recognized and congratulated freshman Slate Dominique for designing the winning entry for the Covington Community Garden Logo contest. Principal Trevor Watkins, Fine Arts chair Gerald Ancar, and Covington Mayor and Saint Paul's alum Mark Johnson '76 awarded Slate with his prize. Slate, a current Art 1 student, will have his logo displayed in garden signage, promotion, and other media.

- Recognized and congratulated senior Cooper Cantrell for having his art selected for the most recent cover of Wolf Tracks.

- Starting to run out of time, I encouraged the boys to SLOW THEIR ROLL through Covington and to remember the HOPE of luminarias.

- Then, as if by magic, Johann Pachelbel's Canon in D started playing – which I mostly play at important senior events. I told the seniors that it was time to induct them into the Alumni Association. I projected a slide which has the Profile of a Saint Paul's Alumnus and asked the seniors if they were willing to commit to living up to those ideals. The Profile is printed at the end of the newsletter if you wish to read it. They responded: Yes, Brother, I'm willing! Faculty members who are SPS alumni then blessed the alumni pins with holy water and seniors walked up to get their pins and decals – while Pachelbel played robustly in the background. It was a special moment for the Class of 2021.

- We ended with a playing of "I Surrender" with seniors singing along. it was emotionally and spiritually moving and powerful. I again begged the student body to concentrate only on "the good" during this Lenten season and to make safe choices. I closed by reminding the students what the candle represents – the love of God, the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I exhorted them to spread God's love to all whom they meet.

- It was a great assembly – at least I thought so!



ATTENDANCE: If your son is absent, phone Suzy in the Attendance Office before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1980, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns**

BAND HALL HISTORY: In the summer of 1966, the school constructed a “recreation center” for the recreational needs of the students living in La Salle Hall dorm. At a cost of \$15,000, a building was constructed to provide ping pong, pool, games and TV for boarders. Eventually, arcade-type games and a snack bar were added. In addition, a nine-hole miniature golf (putt-putt) course was built in front of the building, complete with lighting for nighttime use.



The facility, known simply as “the rec hall”, served the recreational needs of the boarding students until the summer of 1995, when, once again, the needs of the school dictated change. The overall population of the school was growing, but the population of the boarding program was shrinking. Accordingly, the decision was made to move the “rec hall” into La Salle Hall itself and to move the band hall (which was located on the third floor of Benilde Hall) into the rec hall building, thus allowing us to construct five more classrooms in Benilde Hall. The miniature golf course had also deteriorated and was removed.

The building has served the Marching Wolves well since that time, but, again, needs dictate change. In addition to overall building deterioration, our band programs have been expanding of late and now include concert, jazz, and drum corps components in addition to the renowned Marching Wolves, now almost one hundred members strong! They are deserving of a better facility. This new facility will provide expanded space, restrooms,

acoustics, and aesthetics to our music program. Construction has begun and this \$2.3 million project will be completed in the summer of 2021. Interested in supporting the renovation, whose overall cost will approach \$2.3 million? We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or development@stpauls.com or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or broray@stpauls.com.

BOOK STORE: All school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Hours?

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am and 11:15 – 12:45. By appointment: Email spsbookstore16@gmail.com
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds fund activities throughout the year. **Recently, we received \$10,000 worth of Chromebooks for student use in main school building!**

CAFETERIA: A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT from the Federal School Lunch Program:

- ALL students may receive a FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH **throughout the rest of the school year!** Students MUST still obtain the meals with their ID card (no ID, no food) but it is FREE.
- Students MUST still order lunch during first block, but it will be FREE. Note: “extras” such as juice, ice cream, etc. are NOT free and students will be charged. The free lunch includes milk.
- This is a great opportunity for our students – and savings for you! And it helps keep the cafeteria staff employed! Encourage your son to take advantage of this!

CAFETERIA FREE BREAKFAST/LUNCH CLARIFICATION: ONLY the basic lunch / breakfast is free. If students purchase “extras”, they will be charged for these. Make sure your son understands this policy.

CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR (2021-22): Some important dates:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Mon - Tue, Aug 2 & 3 | Teacher Meetings |
| Wed, Aug 4 | Teacher Prep Day |
| Thu, Aug 5 | School Opens with a full day of instruction |
| Mon, Sep 06 | Labor Day Holiday |
| Fri, Oct 8 | End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal |
| Fri., Oct 8 | Grandparents Day (11:30 – 1:00 -- Tentative) |
| Sat, Oct 30 | Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm) |
| Mon, Nov 08 | Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students) |
| Mon-Fri, Nov 22 - 26 | Thanksgiving Holidays |
| Mon, Nov 29 | Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Mon - Thu, Dec 13-16 | Semester Exams |
| Thu, Dec 16 | Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams |
| Mon, Jan 03 | Classes resume & Second Semester begins |
| Mon, Jan 17 | Martin Luther King Holiday |
| Fri, Feb 25 | Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students) |
| Mon-Fri, Feb 28 - Mar 04 | Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays |
| Mon, Mar 07 | Classes resume |
| Fri, Mar 11 | End of Third Quarter |
| Fri – Fri Apr 15 – 22 | Easter Holidays |
| Mon, Apr 25 | Classes resume from Easter Holidays |
| Wed-Fri, Apr 27 – 29 | Senior Final Exams |

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Sat, May 14 | Senior Graduation (4 pm) |
| Tue – Fri, May 17 - 20 | Final Exams for Grades 8 - 11 |
| Mon, May 23 | Conflict/Makeup Exam Day |
| Tue, May 24 | Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day |



Some SPS alumni faculty members prepare to bless and distribute alumni pins to the Class of 2021!

CAR BURGLARIES: Mayor Mark Johnson and Covington Police Chief Culotta recently sent an email informing us that car burglaries are rising. Lock your car and do not leave valuables visible.

CARE AND VIGILANCE: We must stay focused in these days before Easter Holidays (not spring break). Make sure your sons know that we will enforce rules and policies and teach until 2:50 on Thu. And I pray that he makes good, safe choices over the holidays. Please speak to him about this.

COVID VACCINE: Our faculty / staff received their second dose of the vaccine on Friday, which necessitated the 9 am start. Starting Monday, at least 16 years old can receive the vaccine. I encourage all to seriously consider following the example of our faculty/staff, Pope Francis, Archbishop Aymond, Governor Edwards, President Biden, Vice-President Harris and former President Trump – and get vaccinated.

EASTER HOLIDAYS (NOT SPRING BREAK): We give holidays in honor of Easter, not spring. Avoid saying “spring break” to stress the holidays’ religious nature – especially these days. Holidays do not begin until 2:50 on Thursday. Please respect our instructional time and do not extend the holiday or begin it early.

Please note that all school offices with CLOSE next week, so take care of any needs (especially with the Business Office) this week. Take care of those pesky driver’s license forms before Thursday!

EIGHTH GRADE PROMOTION CEREMONY: We will have some version of the ceremony on the date previously published, May 13. Please be patient as we explore options, based upon what we are legally allowed to do. We hope to have concrete resolution shortly after Easter. But we will have something for our newest wolves. Thanks to those who opined on the matter.

GROOMING: Our students are looking a bit sloppy of late: haircuts are needed, shaving is not being done (hidden by masks!), shirt tails are untucked, non-SPS cold weather wear is being worn. We spoke to the students on Friday and alerted them that we will become much more vigilant in enforcing our dress code. Parents – please support us in this and check your son’s appearance before he leaves for school.

HELPING SAINT PAUL’S: Don’t forget these painless ways to help:

- Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) & SPS receives 5% of purchase!
- Box Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. ring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there’s AmazonSmile!

LAST WEEK:

- **Assembly:** Due to new COVID protocols, we were able to have two levels in the gym, allowing us to:
 - “Officially” welcome 8th grade
 - Recognize our State Champion Powerlifting and Wrestling Teams
 - Induct our seniors into the Alumni Association and present them with alumni pins and decals.
 - Special thanks to Josh Pereira, Andrew Moran, Al Nastasi, Jeff Ramon, & Craig who made all these events occur.
- **Awards:** Basketball and soccer held end of season awards ceremonies. A good time was passed by all.
- **Baseball:** THREE BIG District wins v. Slidell and Hammond (2)! Geaux BB Wolves! BTW, the live streaming of the games is EXCELLENT & FREE! I watched Hammond games from comfort of home!
- **Bowling:** Wolves won their match last week!
- **COVID Vaccination:** Thanks to all who received either first or second dose of the vaccine on Friday. We pray that Governor Edwards’ recent offer of the vaccine to ANYONE 16 or older will help move up back to more normal operation by building herd immunity. We urge everyone to get vaccinated.
- **Math Wolves:** Another virtual tournament on Sat! I am sure the FMWs did well!
- **NO Philharmonic:** A chamber music quartet gave a concert in our chapel on Friday evening. While it was poorly attended by the Covington community, strains of classical music filled the air – a good thing.
- **Report Cards.** We emailed report cards last Monday. Please respond to concerns. Ask for help if needed or if a student or parent is giving you grief.
- **Retreats:**
 - **Senior Retreat, Part:** I heard only good reports! Thanks, Retreat Team!
 - **Eighth Grade:** Again, only good reports! Thanks to all who made it happen!

- **Robotics:** I know there was a virtual tournament on Thu, but I have no results. The boys were having fun!
- **Seniors Not on Retreat:** ASVAB testing and Life Skills Day went well. Round Two this week.
- **Tennis:** Wolves played Friday evening but I did not get results.
- **Track:** FIRST place in P'toula Invitational. And Zac Davis was named Track MVP! Geaux Track Wolves!



8th graders listen attentively at retreat.

LOUISIANA SCHOOLS RANK SEVENTH FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION:

It's not often that LA schools rank in the top ten, but last week's news is cause for joy: LA schools are among states leading the way in providing in-person instruction to students. The American Enterprise Institute currently ranks LA No. 7 in the nation for the highest number of students participating in face-to-face learning. A quote from the report: "*Louisiana schools have been at the forefront of safely providing in-person instruction this entire school year.*" "The success of in-person instruction in our state is due to the heroic efforts of our teachers and leaders," said State

Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. "Despite the challenges the past year have presented in Louisiana, our educators continue to serve the needs of our children and families." And the Catholic schools, especially SPS, have definitely helped! Lest anyone think that most schools in the country have returned to in-person instruction, know that a number of Lasallian schools on the west coast have not had students on campus all year – and don't plan to for the rest of this year!

PASSOVER: Passover, also called Pesach or Pesakh is a ritual meal, the Pesach seder, that occurs the night of the paschal full moon after the 14th of Nisan, eve of the 15th, telling the story of the exodus, and remembering how the angel of death "passed over" the houses of the Israelites during the tenth plague on Egypt. Passover began at sundown on March 27 and ends at sundown on April 4. We wish our Jewish brothers and sisters a blessed celebration of Passover!

REPORT CARDS: We emailed report cards on Monday, March 22. There are no parent-teacher conferences schedules, so please contact the teacher via email if you have concerns.

RETREATS: Student retreats begin this week. We are now confident in our ability to safely hold retreat experiences for all levels. Here are the dates for the various levels. Details will follow from Campus Ministry.

- **March 31st** (Freshmen)
- ***March 31-April 2** (Seniors Pt 2)
- **April 13th** (Sophomores) **April 14th** (Juniors)

SLOW YOUR ROLL. This week is the one-year anniversary of Mayor Mark Johnson’s initiative to improve driving habits within Covington – one of his main campaign pledges. Mayor Mark’s goal is “to change driving habits in our city...to have each of us understand that speeds over 25 MPH are not safe on most of our streets.” The Mayor is asking everyone to “relax, take a deep breath and slow down. I applaud the Mayor’s initiative and pledged to him our support. Reinforce this with your sons whenever possible. And set a good example yourself!

SOCIAL MEDIA:

- **Parents: stress with your sons the consequences of inappropriate social media posting. Cyber-bullying is against the law and has legal implications. And the school will take strong measures .**
- Students: THINK before you post!

SPORTSMANSHIP TALKS: Trevor, Joe Dickens, Lee Pierre, and I spoke to each sophomore, junior, and senior classes concerning the increasing incidents of poor and inappropriate “sportsmanship” by students at our athletic events. We had even banned students from attending events for the past two weeks. I echo Trevor’s remarks to the students: *Moving forward ANY instance of improper fan behavior will result in very severe consequences. We have to stop what has been happening and change the culture at our athletic contests. I encourage all teachers to reinforce our new vigilance in this regard both by taking strong action when you see or hear of it and by talking to your classes about expectations.* Please reinforce this message with your sons. And parents – this sometimes applies to a few of you, too. We will not tolerate abusive behavior by anyone at our events.



STUDENT COUNCIL: Any Pre-Freshman through Junior who is interested in running for a Student Council Class or Executive Board office for next year must attend a Leadership Workshop on Tuesday, April 13 from 3PM until 5PM in room 107. Please see Ms. Case or Dr. d’Hemecourt with any questions.

STUDY HALL AFTER SCHOOL: Ben’s Den (aka the library) opens every afternoon (Monday-Friday) until 4:00. You are encouraged to mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who may be waiting for a late ride or a practice to begin. All we ask is that they treat the facility with respect and that they are quiet. The space will be supervised by faculty.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. RAENELL HOUSTON: From Dr. Houston to all Catholic schools: *I respectfully request that you use prudent judgement and follow all civil parish guidelines for... events that take place outside of the regular school day and outside of typical school operations. If compliance with local civil guidance cannot be guaranteed and/or an event is likely to lead to a high risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the event should be rescheduled for a later date when it is safer to do so.*

TEEN LIFE COUNTS – 8th GRADE EDITION: Because of the exploding suicide rate in St. Tammany Parish, St. Paul’s takes this issue especially seriously. We strive to do everything possible to keep our students safe. Our sophomores have already participated in Teen Life Counts. We believe it is a beneficial experience for both them and their families. In view of recent events, however, the counseling department has arranged for portions of the program to be delivered to our current eighth graders during the month of March. 8th grade parents and students have been notified via an email from Gina Hall. This is being proactive, and I commend the counselors for taking this step. Know that we take ANY hint of self-harm by a student very seriously, with protocols in place for handling the matter. For additional information about Teen Life Counts, visit <http://www.jfsneworleans.org/programs-services/teen-life-counts/>

TUTORING: Third quarter is almost over! **Tutoring offered by National Honor Society members is underway and occurs every day at lunch in the library for the remainder of the school year. All students are welcome to utilize this free tutoring service.** Essay proofreading services also provided. Encourage your son to use this awesome opportunity to get help from their most capable peers. **It is not embarrassing to do so!**



*Seniors board
busses,
heading to
Solomon
Retreat Center
in Robert, LA*

UNIFORM SHIRTS: We have a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have khaki pants available – all for the taking.

VAPING: ALERT! VAPING IS ON THE RISE! After having made headway against this insidious habit, we are discovering increased levels of usage by some students. The message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, all too often ignore the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. We have made our position very clear – it is prohibited and strong consequences are imposed if it is discovered. But we can’t police outside of school –

parents, PLEASE insist with your sons that the dangers of his trend are not worth the risk. Do not allow him to become addicted. We have made too much progress in this area to go backwards.

WEEKLY HUMOR: I ordinarily do not include WH during Holy Week, but in these stressful times, we need a chuckle or two. I hope the following “puns” provide you with at least a smile:

- I made a playlist for hiking. It has music from Peanuts, the Cranberries, and Eminem. I call it my trail mix.
- *For the 10th year in a row, my coworkers voted me the most secretive guy in the office. I can't tell you how much this award means to me.*
- *I was drinking my milkshake on a cliff and thought, Wow, this is ledge 'n' dairy.*
- Cop: 'I arrest you for illegally downloading the entire Wikipedia.' Man: 'Wait! I can explain everything!'
- I have a Russian friend who's a sound engineer. And a Czech one too, and a Czech one too."
- I just saw my wife trip and fall while carrying a laundry basket full of ironed clothes. I watched it all unfold
- My son told me he didn't understand cloning. I told him, 'That makes two of us.
- I'd never let my children watch the orchestra. There's too much sax and violins."
- Nothing's better than being 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53, 59, 61, 67, 71, 73, 79, 83, 89, or 97 years old. Those are the years you're in your prime.
- Asked my date to meet me at the gym, but she never showed. Guess the two of us aren't going to work out.
- I took my 8-year-old to the office on Take Your Kid to Work Day. As we were walking around, she starting crying and getting very cranky, so I asked her what was wrong. As my coworkers gathered round, she sobbed, 'Daddy, where are all the clowns that you said you worked with?!'"
- The average person is really mean. [*get a math teacher to explain this one to you!*]
- My friend asked me if I wanted to hear a really good Batman impression, so I said go on then. He shouted, 'NOT THE KRYPTONITE!' and I said, 'That's Superman.' He said, 'Thanks, man, I've been practicing.'

YEARBOOKS: March is last month to purchase a yearbook for \$65. Price goes up to \$75 on April 1.

- Go to www.yearbookforever.com
- Search for “Saint Paul’s” exactly as displayed here.
- Select “Purchase a 2020-21 Product” in the list.
- Select "Buy a yearbook" option on the right side of the page.
- Follow the rest of the on-screen instructions and submit your results.
- ***Seniors do not purchase a yearbook. The yearbook is included in the senior fee.**
- Please contact Mimi Monteiro at m.monteiro@stpauls.com if you have any questions.

A LOOK AHEAD AND SECOND SEMESTER PERIOD ROTATION: Here is the period rotation for rest of year to use when making unavoidable doctor appointments, etc. so your son will know what classes he is missing. This is subject to change if unavoidable conflicts (weather, etc.) occur:

MARCH

29 – ABCD

30 – EFGA - Virtual Mandatum

31 – BCDE – Senior Retreat (beginning during E) 9th Grade Retreat

APRIL

- 1 – FGAB – Senior Retreat
- 2 – Good Friday
- 12 – CDEF
- 13 – GABC – 8th HR Breakfast/10th Grade Retreat
- 14 – DEFG – 9th HR Breakfast/11th Grade Retreat
- 15 – ABCD – President’s Assembly
- 16 – EFGA – 10th HR Breakfast/Legacy student lunch
- 19 – BCDE
- 20 – FGAB – Pack Time (last for seniors)
- 21 – CDEF -11th HR Breakfast
- 22 – GABC – 12th HR Breakfast
- 23 – DEFG
- 26 – ABCD
- 27 – EFGA – President’s Assembly – Stuff the Bus
- 28 – BCDE – Senior Exams
- 29 – FGAB – Senior Exams
- 30 – CDEF – Senior Exams

MAY

- 3 – GABC
- 4 – DEFG – Pack Time
- 5 – ABCD
- 6 – EFGA
- 7 – BCDE
- 10 – FGAB
- 11 – CDEF – President’s Assembly
- 12 – GABC
- 13 – DEFG – Academic Awards TBD
- 14 – ABCD – Athletic Awards TBD
- 17 – EFG
- 18 – Exams 8-11th
- 19 – Exams 8-11th
- 20 – Exams 8-11th
- 21 – Exams 8-11th

Whew! Enough for now. Even though it’s the final week of March 2021, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can’t listen to anymore since it stopped broadcasting but I still remember it and LOL): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family in these challenging times! Again, thanks for being part of the 2020-21 edition of SPS.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FS

Praying for a Grace-Filled Holy Week for All as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School



LASALLIAN
EDUCATION

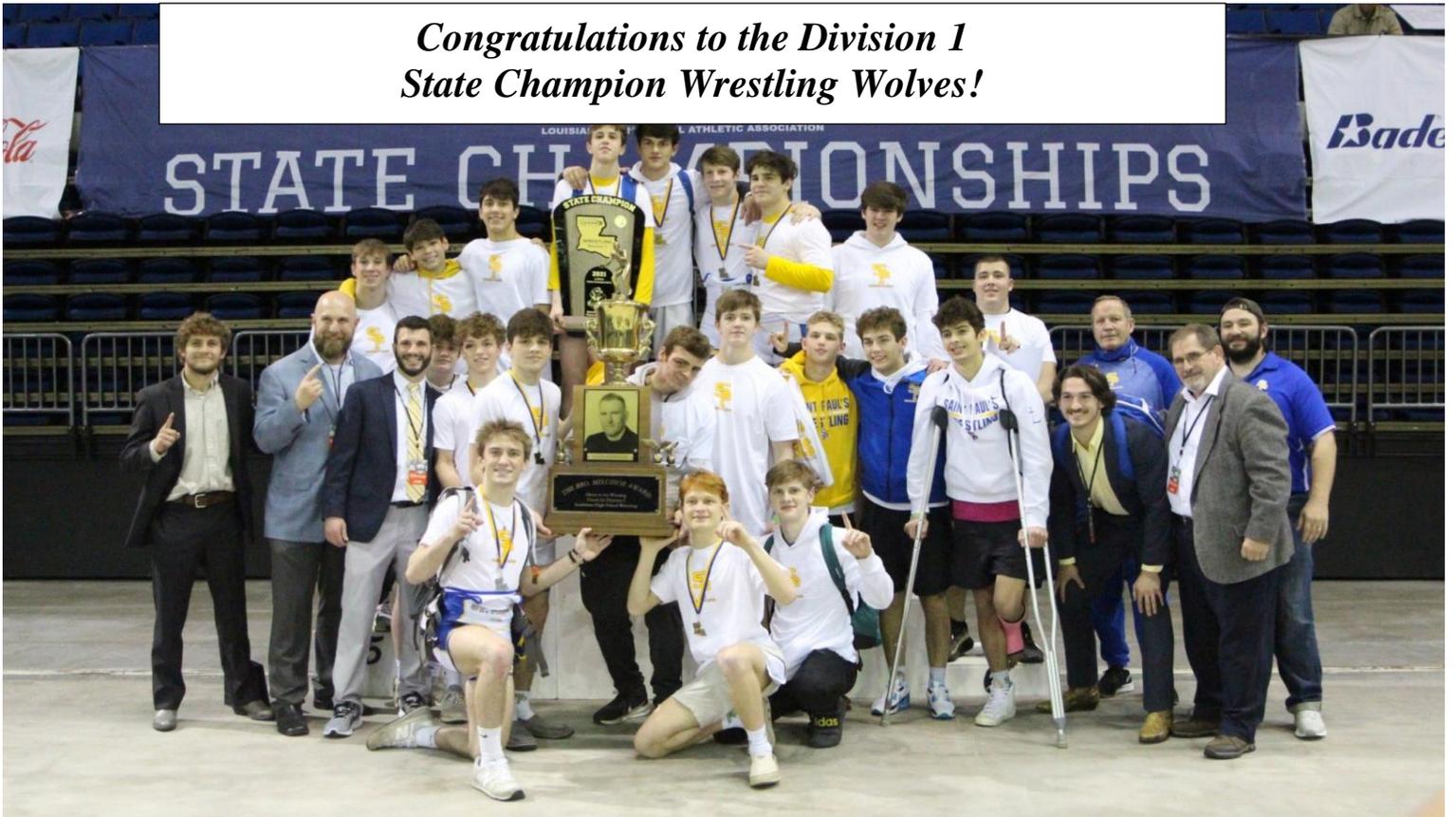
Transforming Lives Since 1680

*by doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well,
doing God's will, remaining faithful, letting Our
Lady of the Star guide us to God, beseeching our
Holy Founding Brothers to help us continue the
Lasallian Mission, living courageously, and
respecting all people!*



Listen to the sermon of the flora and fauna on our campus as they follow God's plan for them!

*Congratulations to the Division 1
State Champion Wrestling Wolves!*



*Congratulations to the Division 1
State Champion Powerlifting Wolves!*



..... THE CLASS OF 2021

National Merit Finalists



Jake Holincheck



Davis Lagarde



Lucca Ferrante



Ben Broussard



Trey Paine



Gabe Gros



Hunter Kergosien



Brady Talley



Axel Henderson



