

Final 2012-13 Edition of the President/Principal's Newsletter

My last newsletter (I hear you cheering!) will be brief. My final Lasallian thought is the same one I use every year at this time: a short excerpt from Saint John Baptist de La Salle's last Meditation for the Time of Retreat to the Brothers entitled: *On the reward that a Brother should expect in heaven, if he is faithful in the work*. Saint La Salle wrote this meditation because the life of the early brothers was VERY hard – and he needed to assure them that they would one day be rewarded by Almighty God. He made sure they read this meditation every year.

I shared the meditation with the faculty last week and asked them to believe that St. La Salle wrote the meditation for them, too, for their lives as teachers are difficult and challenging, and they need to believe they are valued by Almighty God and doing His work.

I share the excerpt from the meditation with you, too, because as parents, you are the primary educators of your children as you lead them on the path to salvation. Your work as parent is hard, but it is God's work. I believe, therefore, that Saint La Salle's words apply equally to you, too:

Oh, what glory there will be for those who have instructed children, when their zeal and devotion to procure the salvation of children will be made public before all people! All heaven will resound with the thanksgiving which these blessed children will render to those who have taught them the road to heaven.

Act, then, in such a way by your good and wise guidance of those who are entrusted to you, that you will procure all these blessings and all this glory for yourself.

Thank you for your parental ministry. I am profoundly awestruck by the responsibility you have in raising your children. I am most grateful that you have allowed Saint Paul's to share in your parental teaching ministry this past year. I am confident that the good work we have done this past year will help insure the truth of Saint La Salle's words for all of us when our day of judgment comes and that "all heaven" is resounding with the good example and instruction you are providing to your children.

Thanks for 2012-13 and here's looking to 2013-14 – the third year of our second century!

Faith-Based High Schools Newspaper Ad: Six faith-based high schools in St. Tammany jointly sponsored an ad in the May 26th Covington/Mandeville editions of The Times Picayune concerning the recent vandalism on our campus. In the ad, we do not condemn the perpetrators of the vandalism, only their actions. We urge all to use this opportunity to bring good out of bad by building an inclusive community in St. Tammany which respects all people and rejects any act of ill will towards others. We hope that this is the beginning of the faith-based high schools acting in concert on issues which affect all of our students and our community. I am grateful to the chief administrators of SSA, Christ Episcopal, Northlake Christian, Archbishop Hannan, and Pope John Paul II high schools. The Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese and the Christian Brother Leadership of the New Orleans-Santa Fe Province also signed the statement. Archbishop Aymond is fully aware of the ad and has endorsed it.

Final Report Cards will be emailed early this week. Details of grades are posted on Edline.

Summer Reading: ALL students have a summer reading obligation for their English class. The list and discussion questions are posted on Edline. Please encourage your son to take his summer reading obligation seriously. We deliberately limit the number of books to be read in order not to make this an onerous task, and we certainly encourage more reading than just what we are requiring. Toward that end, I offer the following:

- We often see that a student's weakest ACT score is in reading. Why? Students don't like to read! Solution? Read more! PLEASE insist your son devote part of each day (30 minutes? 15? 10?) to reading. He's used to this in school with SSR (I hope you know what SSR is!) This could be a family activity – set aside time when the whole family reads. Turn off the TV, i-pod, X-Box, the computer – and read.
- And speaking of ACT /SAT scores, summer provides an excellent opportunity to prepare. There are local formal courses, but both ACT and SAT offer on-line prep programs at very reasonable costs. Or just purchase one of the many test preparation books on the market and ask your son to spend 15 minutes a day preparing. Long term preparation is the only solution. You can't "cram" for an ACT or SAT the night before.

One Last Appeal! If you haven't contributed to the Annual Fund or in any financial way to SPS this year, and are in a position to do so, PLEASE send your gift. Remember, NO amount (even \$1) is too small! Remember:

- **SPS cannot continue to exist** on tuition alone;
- **SPS tuition** is lower than almost every other boys' Catholic high school in the Archdiocese;
- **Faculty salaries** are already lower than public school salaries and we cannot lose good teachers to finances;
- And we've gotten some nice **Grandparent gifts** lately. Thank you! Grandparent gifts are welcome and needed – and they are often happy to help if asked. I don't like to solicit grandparents so I rely on you to do so. They'll get a very nice "thank you" note from me. And if you want me to directly ask a grandparent, just send me the address and name.
- Gifts of stock are welcome and no gift is too small.
- If you are contributing to Capital Campaign or supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you!
- Please consider helping **if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so.** Many thanks!

If you have not contributed and are in a position to do so, I would appreciate hearing from you as to "why" you have chosen not to. Perhaps it's something I've done or not done and I would welcome the feedback. I have deliberately avoided having people call or directly solicit you as many other schools do with their annual funds. Again, I need your help to continue to make SPS the best school we can be.

Senior Graduation: The 102nd Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School were extraordinary. We were honored to have the Reverend Matthew Clark, OSB of St. Joseph Abbey as principal celebrant and Deacon Roberto Zambrano, father of senior Luis Zambrano, also serving. The SPS Class of 2013 outdid themselves with singing, responding, and being "living stones building the edifice of the mystical God and fulfilling the Lasallian Mission of Saint Paul's School in our age." The following seniors earned special awards at graduation:

- Valedictorians: **Kenneth Daniel Garraway & David Christian Englehardt**
- Salutatorian: **Robert Warren Bayer**
- American Legion Award: **Leonard Paul Hood**
- Dr. Walker Percy/Brother Bill Parsons Writing Award: **Alexander Jacob Joseph Zinsel**
- Christian Brothers Provincial's Award: **Thomas Lawrence Duet**
- District Attorney's Award: **Travis Michael Dugas**
- Gene Bennett Man of Integrity Award: **Trent Richard Pouey**
- Signum Fidei (Sign of Faith)/Brother Cassian Scholarship Award: **Robert Warren Bayer & Brian Martin Schmitt**

By the way, the Salutatorian and Valedictorian addresses are posted on our website. Ad multos annos, Class of 2013! We shall miss you!

8th Grade Promotion / Awards Ceremony: Our 8th Grade Promotion / Awards Ceremony was equally wonderful. The Class of 2017 acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner and the weather was perfect. Thanks to the Mothers Club for providing the reception. The following 8th graders earned special awards:

- The District Attorney's Award: **Silas Anthony**
- Benjamin Bragg Memorial Scholarship Award: **Joshua Butler**
- Superior Academic Gold Medals: **Thomas Carriere, Yehia Elkersh, Lloyd Guillot, Connor Mc Carthy, Alex Oliveri, & Austin Willis**
- Superior Academic Silver Medal: **Alex Paille**
- Superior Achievement Silver Medal & Barton Hebert Memorial Award: **Will Murphy**
- Superior Achievement Gold Medal & Barton Hebert Memorial Award: **Alex Oliveri**

Major Award Winners: The following students won the top level awards at our recent ceremony:

- 9th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medal: **Luke Avenel, Jacob Broussard, Patrick Connolly, Ryan Meraux, & Leland van Deventer**
- 10th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medals: **George Cazenavette & Jack Dubreuil**
- 11th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medal: **Zachary Albright, Michael Burke, Grant Landwehr, Bryan Livaudais, & Peter Yager**
- 11th Grade Superior Academic Silver Medals: **Jacob McWilliams, Thomas Ruli, & Michael Stewart**
- 12th Grade Superior Academic Gold Medal: **Bobby Bayer, Daniel Garraway, & David Englehardt**
- 12 Grade Superior Academic Silver Medal : **Jack Lynch**

- 9th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **Nicholas Oubre**
- 9th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **Leland van Deventer**
- 10th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **Ross Allbritton**
- 10th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **George Cazenavette**
- 11th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **Michael Burke**
- 11th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **Michael Stewart**
- 12th Grade Superior Achievement Gold Medal: **Bobby Bayer**
- 12th Grade Superior Achievement Silver Medal: **Trent Pouey**
- 4 Year Perfect Attendance: **Andrew Lagarde, Lyle Manion, and Gerard Gianoli.**
- 5 Year Perfect Attendance: **Connor Bressette, Christopher Ikner, Madison McDavitt, Aleck Patel, and Trent Pouey.**
- Al Doskey Memorial Outstanding Science Student Award: **Michael Sitarz**
- Jan Neumann Outstanding Math Student Award: **Bobby Bayer**
- Dr. Walker Percy Memorial Scholarship for Outstanding Writing: **Michael Stewart**
- Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding American History Student: **Shane Kennedy**
- Modern Languages Outstanding Student: **Brandon Power**
- Public Relations Award: **Michael Burke**
- Robert H. Burns American Legion Post 16 Scholarship: **Matt Landry**
- Chosen Path Award: **William Kenyon & Riley Knepper**
- Daren Boudreaux Memorial Scholarship: **Grant Connolly & Michael Stewart**
- Eric Kolb Memorial Scholarship: **Bryan Livaudais & Thomas Ruli**
- Francis H. Richard Memorial Habitat for Humanity Award: **Peter Yager**
- Order of St. La Salle Award for 100+ service hours:
 - 8th Grade: **Austin LeBlanc, Jacob LeBlanc, Jonathan Rushing, & Austin Willis**
 - Freshman **John Cresson, Nicholas Duvic, James Christopher Guice, Justin Guillory, Griffin Guzan, William Healy, Louis LeBourgeois, Heath Rushing, Jack Staton, and Patrick Stewart.**
 - Sophomores: **Benjamin Dantin, John Dubreuil, Samuel Giberga, Burke Irwin, Ernest Jilek, Jean-Paul Juge, Aaron Nguyen, Bernard Penn, William Saucier, Kyle Schimpf, Colin Skinner, and Alex Zenor.**
 - Juniors: **Steven Arias, Eric Boudet, Bryce Bourne, Michael Burke, Patrick Danner, Sean Gardner, Austin George, James Kennedy, Evan Lewis, Jacob McWilliams, Bennet Miller, Maximillian Morvant, Brennan Skinner, and Michael Stewart.**
 - Seniors: **Colin Albert, Bobby Bayer, Jonathan Damare', John Grab, Leonard Hood, Marc Lavie, Michael McCarty, Trent Pouey, Brian Schmitt, and Wesley Tate.**

There were MANY more awards given, but space does not allow for a comprehensive list. Know that we are proud of all of our students who excelled this year. We look forward to even more achievement next year.

Lost and Found Final Call: We'll be clearing out our lost and found, keeping what's usable and discarding what's not. Also, **WE STILL HAVE A TUXEDO JACKET FROM THE PROM** in spite of announcements to the students. If not claimed this week, we will get rid of them.

LSU Football: Now that I have your attention, the following article about LSU kickoff specialist James Hairston appeared in yesterday's *The Advocate* concerning how his Catholic faith has sustained him in tough times. It is worth a read. Here's the link: <http://theadvocate.com/features/people/5993431-123/kicker-finds-balance-in-faith>

And Speaking of LSU – A Drum Roll, Please: I'm pleased to announce that Saint Paul's was **AGAIN** awarded the Golden Achievement Award by LSU. This award, based upon senior's performance at LSU Spring Testing, is given to the TOP TWENTY schools in the state. Congrats, Class of 2013! **31 SPS Seniors earned a total of 368 college credit hours in the following breakdown:**

- **English – 102 hours**
- **Math – 118 hours**
- **Physics – 60 hours**
- **Spanish – 85 hours**
- **Other – 3 hours**

Some of our guys are beginning LSU as second semester freshmen! The dollar value of the 368 hours is \$220,800. Again, congrats Class of 2013!

Taylor Scholar Awards: Thanks to The Taylor Foundation, named for Mr. Patrick Taylor for whom the TOPS program is named, we presented qualified students last week with Taylor Scholar Awards. There are two kinds of awards:

For a cumulate GPA of 2.5-2.99, the award grants one year free admission for the student and one parent/guardian to the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectariums and the New Orleans Museum of Art;

For a cumulate GPA of 3.0 or higher, the award grants one year free admission for student and one parent/guardian to the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectariums, Audubon Zoo, and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

We are grateful to the Taylor Foundation for honoring Mr. Taylor this way. As most know, Mr. Taylor was a successful oilman, philanthropist and educational reformist who wanted all students to have an opportunity to attend college based on their ability to learn and not on their ability to pay.

If your son received this award, plan a day or two this summer and take a group of his friends who also earned the award to visit these incredible educational and entertaining venues. Or maybe treat some students who didn't earn the award and use it as encouragement for them to earn the award next year.

Class of 2013: Your Taylor Awards are in the office. Come by if you qualify and wish to receive it.

SPS Summer Camps: Just a reminder that SPS offers wonderful one week summer camps in baseball, football, basketball, wrestling, soccer, drama, and engineering for boys age 8-14. More info can be found on our website or on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/spswolves>.

Calling All Cross Country Runners: Coach Terryl Chatham invites all runners to come out to join the Cross Country team. Summer conditioning begins June 18 at 6:00 under the Wolf Dome with a family barbecue Season Kick Off. For full information on the program, which continues through the summer, please contact Mrs. Myrle Wiggins, faculty moderator, at 985-415-0979, or at myrlew@stpauls.com. Runners of all abilities are welcome to join the District and Metro Champion Running Wolves!

Looking Ahead for Those Registered for Next Year:

- Tuition for 2013-14 is due on June 1st; the first payment for bank financed tuition is also due June 1st. Students 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 as I've got students on waiting lists trying very hard to enroll.**
- **BE VIGILANT during the summer – there are many temptations that will face your sons this summer. Drug testing will resume in the fall!**
- **Wednesday, August 8, is the first day of school.** It's a FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION and attendance is expected.
- A complete 2013-14 school year calendar is posted on Edline. Be informed that the state has tightened the attendance policy and Saint Paul's is complying. PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.

School Supplies for 2013-14: The school administration and Mothers Club are working to streamline the school supply process. Info should be sent out soon.

Feedback: We spend time in the summer evaluating the past year and planning for next year. Toward that end, feel free to email me a suggestion if you think we need to “beef up” an area of life around here. While I can't promise we will implement every suggestion made, I assure you we will consider it. Be aware of our limitations in terms of personnel, finances, facilities, and interrupting class time when emailing me your suggestion.

Final Humor of the Week: Sorry!

- *The trouble with being punctual is that there's nobody there to appreciate it!*
- *I have kleptomania but when it gets bad, I just take something for it.*
- *High wire artists hate it when their cable goes out!*
- *Then there was the guy who went to the Air and Space Museum and there was nothing in it!*
- *Then there was the teacher who wanted his students to be independent and assertive people but just not when he was teaching them.*
- *When God closes one door, He usually waits until my fingers are in it!*
- *Have you noticed that the devices for finding intelligent life in the universe all point away from earth?*
- *Q: How do young wizards and witches correct their homework? A: They use a spell-checker.*

- *Called to the scene of a magnificent celestial display, the professor watched a bright object dash through the skies of New Mexico. When he returned to his observatory, reporters asked if what he had seen was a UFO. Looking them straight in the eye, the impassive scientist replied, "No comet"*
- OK, I'll stop! You are on your own for summer humor!

An Important Message from Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans, to the Young People of the Archdiocese: Last year, Archbishop Aymond issued the following at the end of the school year. While he didn't issue it again, it's worth reading again. I encourage our students to heed these words of the Archbishop:

I pray in a special way for each of the young people in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Know that you are important to all of our ministries, in parishes, schools and other programs.

I am aware of the educational experience you have received in regard to the use of electronic media. You know very well how to use the tools and you know intellectually the consequences when social media is not used respectfully.

I want to reach out to you at the moral level and beg you to remember that it isn't how much you know that is crucial, but rather, the respect that you show for God, yourself, and others when you communicate through cell phones, computers, and other technology.

Always treat other people in a manner that shows your awareness of their reflecting the image of God. In all ways let your friends, classmates, and acquaintances know that they are respected. Speak out if you know someone is being abused or bullied. Share the information with a parent, priest, or teacher who can step in and help. The Archdiocese of New Orleans has the staff available to help you in abusive or bullying situations.

One of your many responsibilities at this time is to make choices which will allow you the opportunity to make decisions about your future education or career choices. Choose wisely. Choose only those opportunities and interactions which will give you a greater chance to achieve all of the goals you set for yourself and those which God has in store for you.

If you need help, please let a member of the clergy, a Catholic School Administrator, a Director of Religious Education, or your Youth Minister know.

There He Goes Again Dept: From an article in The Advocate of 5/24: *Marijuana is the drug most often linked to crime in the United States, the U.S. drug czar said Thursday [May 23], dismissing calls for legalization as a "bumper-sticker approach" that should be avoided. Gil Kerlikowske, the White House director of national drug-control policy, said a study by his office showed a strong link between drug use and crime.* Read more here: <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2013/05/23/192101/marijuana-is-drug-most-often-linked.html#storylink=cpy>

There He Goes Again II: The following editorial appeared in Saturday's edition of *The Advocate* concerning a new law passed by Ascension Parish Council to curb the increasing problem of teen age drinking. It's worth a read: <http://theadvocate.com/news/opinion/6058234-123/our-views-drinking-law-targets>

Summer Office Hours: We will gradually start reducing our summer office hours. While you can pretty much count on the office being open every morning during the summer, we will soon start closing the office at noon, so please contact us in the mornings if you need us. I will be available throughout most of the summer if needed (unless you are looking for humor of the week!) Call or email me if I can be of assistance. I'll be working enough to "earn my keep" and justify my existence at SPS but will take an occasional day off! I will be out of the office on June 10-14 and June 17-20, attending a meeting with the Brothers in CA and administrators of Lasallian schools for the south, southwest, and west.

Wow! Department: James Robert Flautt was the valedictorian of the Class of 1936. A native of Mississippi, his parents knew that his future was in gaining a quality education that his local area could not provide, so they enrolled him as a boarding student at Saint Paul's. In the midst of the Great Depression, his parents sold some of their material goods in order to afford the cost of \$30 a month (yes -- that was for tuition, room and board!). Robert, as he was called, graduated first in his class of 19 students. He enrolled in Spring Hill College to study pre-med and went on to become a very successful physician. In 1995, he donated over \$150,000 to SPS in appreciation for his education here. That gift served as seed money for the student center renovation that year, so we named the new religion classes in his honor. Although he was living in Minnesota, he came to SPS for the dedication and had a grand time interacting with the students. He kept in touch and would call every now and then to see how we were doing. When he died several years ago, he left \$50,000 to Saint Paul's in the form of life insurance policies he had purchased in the school's name. At the time, we commended his soul to Almighty God and gave thanks for this good, faithful, and generous alumnus. Imagine my surprise, then, when we received a check a couple of weeks ago for \$135,000 from a charitable trust that Dr. Flautt had established to be distributed following the death of his wife, Agnes, which occurred last November. I had no idea. What's even more remarkable is that the Trust document originally listed seven institutions that were to share the money equally. He later amended the document, reducing the recipients to only three -- and Saint Paul's was one of those three. Wow. Who knows what seeds we are planting for the future? God bless you and your family, Dr. Flautt! Thank you beyond words. **May your example inspire many SPS alums and supporters in similar positions to imitate your generosity as we face the uncertainties of the future! Maybe there's a future Dr. Flautt in the Class of 2013! The school will need him!**

Well, I wasn't brief with this newsletter as promised! Sorry! But you'll get a break from me as I'll only be sending things out periodically during the summer. **And for the Class of 2013, this is the final newsletter you'll receive.** Thanks for putting up with them (and me, too!) Naturally, you can always access the current newsletter on the SPS website if you get nostalgic or need a newsletter "fix"!

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 this): well, it's happened again -- you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Thanks for having been part of the 2012-13 edition of Saint Paul's -- the beginning of our second century of existence. If the next 102 years go as well as this past year, Saint Paul's will have had an incredible second century of existence.

Enjoy the final days of May! May they be ones of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you throughout the summer, particularly for the safety and good decision-making of our students!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Having survived, by the grace of God, another year as The 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School

Have a great Lasallian summer but remember: the Core Principles of Quality Education, Respect for all, Concern for Poor & Social Justice, Inclusive Community & Faith in the Presence of God NEVER take a vacation!

Care and Vigilance and Faith and Zeal -- Hallmarks of the Lasallian Teacher and Parent throughout the summer!

********SPS begins for all students on August 8 with a full day of instruction********