



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



April 18 - 24, 2016 in the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Alleluia! He is risen!

Welcome to the fifth week of the fourth quarter of the 2015-16 school year – rapidly speeding to its conclusion.

Brother Nick Gonzales, President of Cathedral High School in El Paso, wrote the following for his faculty last week. Since I've stolen, uh "borrowed", from Nick before (and was too lazy this week to write something original), I'll do so again – because it's a good message for everyone:

The post-resurrection stories of the gospels are most instructive. They clearly show us the face of a God who is merciful. The terrified apostles are huddled together – in part for fear of the Roman/Jewish authorities – but in part for fear of Jesus. The women of their group have encountered the resurrected Jesus and he instructed them to tell the male disciples that he is coming to meet them! What could be more terrifying to the very group who abandoned him?

Yet consistently their encounters with the resurrected Jesus are filled with peace. In fact, that's often his first spoken word to them. Peace. No worries. No recriminations. No retribution. Instead, he addressed their doubts by encouraging them to touch him. He shared a meal with them – an intimate act between equals. Such a flood of forgiveness forged the first generation of leadership in the young church. The epistles are full of clear directions about what it means to be a follower of Jesus – forgiveness is always a key behavior.

Our church is currently experiencing a realignment of vision. We haven't changed our rules but the recent synod and the Holy Father are asking us to focus on mercy rather than doctrine; to see Christ in the wounded person before us. We're asked to recognize how broken we are and yet how merciful God continues to be. We're asked to remember those post-resurrection stories of loving mercy. What is needed is less judgment and more love.

Now let's go out there and show less judgment and more mercy and love – both in school and at home! Have a great week.

Mon, Apr 18 (9:30 start for faculty meeting; G A B C)

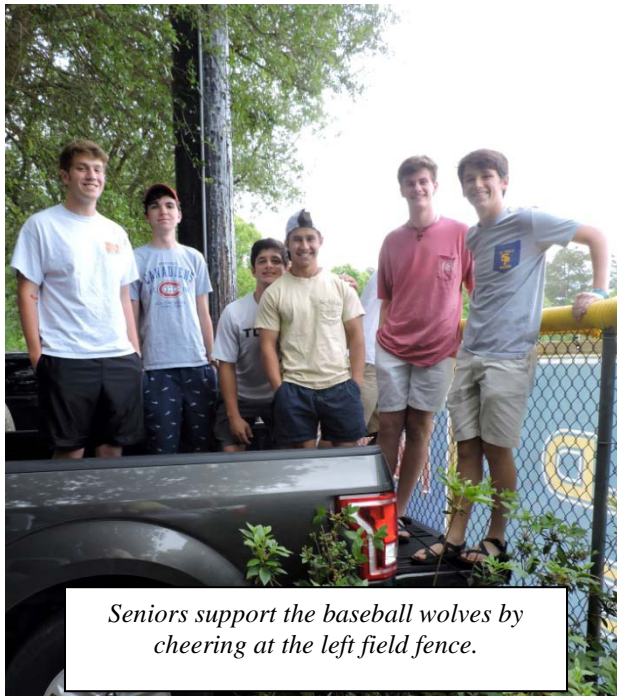
- **Students are due in class at 9:30. Cafeteria / library will be open for early arrivals.**

- **Safe Environment Training:** At this morning's meeting, the faculty will renew their Safe Environment Training, which we are required to do every three years. I continue to be shocked at the number of inappropriate teacher-student situations that are featured in the media. We take our obligations very seriously to provide a safe environment for our students. I'm often asked "who needs to be trained?" Here's the answer from the Archdiocese of New Orleans: *All adult staff/volunteers who have on-going, unsupervised contact with minors, or attend an overnight event with minors, are required to receive Safe Environment training and a criminal background check prior to beginning ministry and every three years following. Adults also go to Austin Computing solutions to complete the online information which gives permission to the parish or school to complete a background check and assures us they have read and agree to live according to the archdiocesan Policy Concerning the Abuse or Neglect of Minors and the Principles of Integrity in Ministry policy.* Thus, **ANY adult who has "on-going, unsupervised contact with minor OR attends an overnight event" must have training.**



English I H students Lukas, Jonathan & Daniel wrote books for their 1st grade "reading buddies" as part of their Brown Foundation Service Learning Project.

- **TDIH:** In 1775, Paul Revere makes his famous ride to warn of British military movement, “one if by land; two if by sea” (one & two being the lanterns hung in steeple of Old North Church – but you knew that.)
- **TDIH:** Albert Einstein, one of the world’s most brilliant scientists, died on this day in 1955. Two worthwhile quotes from Albert: *When I see the Cosmos, I can’t help but believe that there is a Divine Hand behind it all.* And *“Only a life lived for others is worthwhile.”*
- **TDIH:** In 1906, the great San Francisco earthquake occurs, measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale. 3000 die and more than 300,000 are left homeless.
- **Monday Morning Rosary with the Retired Brothers:** The retired Brothers and a group of moms pray the rosary at 7:50 every Monday morning school is in session. While the boys are settling in their classes, the group prays for them and the intentions of the school. It’s a beautiful devotion and lasts about 15 minutes, after which many linger over coffee with the Brothers. **The group invites anyone who wishes to join them.** Just walk through the glass doors of the residence and you’ll run into the chapel entrance. Our Lady of the Rosary! Pray for us
- **National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day.** We will not be celebrating this day.



Seniors support the baseball wolves by cheering at the left field fence.

Prints Baseball Tailgate (Varsity Soccer Field)

- **National Poem in Your Pocket Day:** Select a poem you love during National Poetry Month then carry it with you to share with co-workers, family, and friends.
- **Baseball:** 9th v. Northlake Christian (5:30)
- **Tennis:** Regional tournament this week but I don’t have exact day

Tue, Apr 19 (Assembly and Wolf Pack; D E F G)

- **Max Preps is coming to campus this morning to honor our soccer team both as state champs and one of the best in the country!**
- **TDIH:** in 1775, the American Revolution begins with the Battle of Lexington. It’s also **John Parker Day** who gave the order, “Stand your ground. Don’t fire unless fired upon; but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here.”
- **National Garlic Day:** Spice up your food with this heart healthy herb! BTW, did you know that fear of garlic is called *alliumphobia!*
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity v. Mandeville (4:30/6:30); Paws &

Wed, Apr 20 (9th Grade HR Breakfast; A B C D)

- **7 am Mass in Our Lady of Peace Chapel come join us – it’s a great way to start the day.**
- **TDIH: In 1999, Columbine High School Tragedy occurs.** Remain vigilant and reinforce the need for students to report any threat immediately. **On this 17th Anniversary of the Columbine,** I invite all to pray: *Heavenly Father, fill all schools with Your Holy Spirit. May Your grace and power keep schools safe and eliminate such problems as alcohol, drugs, guns, pornography, violence, depression, and disrespect for life. Turn the hearts of students toward You. Open their eyes, hearts and minds that they may see what is really important in life. Dissipate the anger in all who lash out at others, bullying them or ridiculing them. Touch the hearts of those tempted to solve problems through violence. Make our schools safe harbors, with atmospheres that encourage all to live your Law of Love. Infuse wisdom, vigilance, caring, compassion, and understanding in teachers. Help administrators make just and wise decisions. Help everyone to spread the message that You are with us always and everywhere -- and that only You have the answer to the problems we face. Amen.*
- **TDIH:** On this day in 2010, an oil rig run by British Petroleum (BP) exploded in the Gulf of Mexico about 50 miles off the Louisiana coast, resulting in the largest offshore oil spill in US history.

- **Life Skills Day for Seniors:** This important program, sponsored by SPS Renaissance Program, addresses practical matters like financial literacy, time management in college, credit and loans – and especially their legal obligations and how to keep God in their post-SPS lives.

Thu, Apr 21 (8th Grade HR Breakfast; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** On this day in 1895, Woodville Latham and his sons, Otway and Gray, demonstrate their “Panopticon,” the first movie projector developed in the US.
- **Kindergarten Day:** Today we honor Friedrich Froebel, born April 21, 1782, who started in Germany in 1837 the first Kindergarten -- built upon innovative principles that used children’s innate curiosity and interests to help them see what Froebel believed was “the harmonious, interconnectedness of all things.” Today’s a good day to remember Robert Fulghum’s poem “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten”, fulfilling your daily poem reading requirement -- remember April is poetry month!): *All I really need to know about how to live, what to do and how to be I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate-school mountain, but in the sand pile at Sunday School. I learned:*
 - *Share everything; Play fair; Don't hit people; Put things back where you found them; Clean up your own mess; don't take things that aren't yours; Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.*
 - *Wash your hands before you eat; take a nap every afternoon.*
 - *Flush.*
 - *Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.*
 - *Live a balanced life – learn, think, draw, paint, sing, dance, play and work some every day.*
 - *When you go out, watch for traffic, hold hands & stick together.*
 - *Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: the roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that.*
 - *Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup - they all die. So do we.*
 - *And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned - the biggest word of all - LOOK.*
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity v. F’Bleau (4 & 6:30)

Fri, April 22 (Blue Ribbon Holiday)

- **TDIH:** in 1970, the first **Earth Day** is observed to remind us that *all individuals and institutions have a mutual responsibility to act as Trustees of Earth* (Official Earth Day web site). Indeed, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops has identified care for the earth as one of the seven major social justice themes of our faith. The US Catholic Bishops have written: *the Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.* Please encourage your students to be Trustees of Earth.



- **National Jelly Bean Day:** Enjoy this iconic Easter treat.
- **Northshore Catholic Foundation Dinner:** At the request of Archbishop Gregory Aymond, we are allowing him to host the annual NCF Dinner in the BAC. Thanks to Shellie, Danielle, Karen & Student Hosts who will be helping.

Sat, Apr 23

- **TDIH:** In 1564, in Stratford upon Avon, **William Shakespeare** is believed to have been born! We celebrate with the rest of the literary world the believed birthday of the Bard. It is impossible to be certain of the exact day on which he was born, but church records show that he was baptized on April 26, and three days was a customary amount of time to wait before baptizing a newborn. Shakespeare's date of death is conclusively known, however: it was April 23, 1616. He was 52 years old and had retired to Stratford three years before. Have a great Shakespearean Day! And if you wish to talk like Shakespeare today, here are some simple rules:
- Instead of **you**, say **thou** or **thee** (and instead of **y'all**, say **ye**).
- Rhymed couplets are all the rage. *Welcome to Saint Paul's School today! We're here to learn and not to play! Before you leave the house for school, bring all your books and you'll be cool! Think about what you're going to say and make sure your words reflect the Lasallian way!* OK, I'll stop!
- Men are addressed as **Sirrah**, ladies are addressed as **Mistress**, and your friends are all called **Cousin**.
- Instead of cursing, call your tormenters **jackanapes** or **canker-blossoms** or **poisonous bunch-back'd toads**.
- Don't waste time saying "**it**," just use the letter "**t**" ('**tis**, **t'll**, I'll **do't**).
- When in doubt, add the letters "**eth**" to the end of verbs (he **runneth**, he **trippeth**, he **falleth**).
- To add weight to your opinions, try starting them with **methinks**, **mayhaps**, **in sooth** or **wherefore**.
- **For our students: To woo the ladies**, compare her to a summer's day. If you don't get that allusion, read Will's sonnet "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?"
- **National Zucchini Bread Day**
- **Lacrosse Sem-Final State Playoffs**
- **Father – Son Supper (5 pm in the BAC)**

Sun, Apr 24

- **TDIH:** In 1800, President John Adams signs a law to spend \$5,000 to purchase "such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress," establishing the Library of Congress. Today, the library has 838 MILES of shelves.
- **National Pig in a Blanket Day:** Go ahead and wrap a sausage in a pancake and enjoy this childhood treat!
- **Lacrosse State Finals**

Plagiarism Education Week: Today begins PEW. Let's all take an opportunity to review with our students what plagiarism is and how detrimental it is to the educative process.

Musing on Last Week:

- **Science & Engineering Field Trips to La Tech & ULL:** The LA Tech Trip went well. Thanks to Mark Richards for driving. Weather forced a cancellation of the ULL trip – which was a good decision.
- **Leadership Week:** Thanks to Student Council for:
 - Leadership Breakfast: SPS grad Larry Rase addressed students, urging students to become involved in their local and state issues. He was very good. Special thanks to Chic fil A on Highway 21 for donating the breakfast sandwiches. Patronize this establishment if you can.
 - Speaker: Mr. Jonathan Kernion, owner of Cycle Construction Company, was very good, too. Would that we all learn from his example.
 - Challenge Night: Once again, SSA prevailed and won the coveted trophy but a good time was passed by all.



Student Council members thank Leadership Breakfast speaker Mr. Larry Rase who encouraged our guys to become involved in their communities.

- Elections: Congrats to all who “ran the good race” and put themselves up for judgment. I look forward to working with next year’s student council: President Will Murphy, VP Oliver Sibley, Secretary Alex Nunez and Treasurer Josh “No Fear” Devier.
- Year in Review Assembly: Excellent videos brought back many memories since August.
- **My Tuesday Assembly:** Heavy rains forced cancellation of my assembly, as I didn’t want the students getting soaked by moving to the gym. All of my recognition of many student accomplishments will have to wait. I did make one presentation via WOLF TV, as we had two guests arrive to present pre-freshman Sean Noel with an award for winning the Veterans of Foreign Wars District Patriot Pen Essay Contest. This is quite an honor for Sean.
- **Philosophy Field Trip:** I didn’t hear anything, so I assume all went well!
- **Rugby:** Sorry I didn’t acknowledge the Rugby Wolves’ win last week against the Barbarians. They traveled to Shreveport this weekend and won 29 – 17. Geaux, Rugby Wolves! Congrats!
- **Golf:** Wolves had a rough day on the links but continue to compete hard.
- **Mother-Son Dinner:** The event was a huge success, with over 700 people in attendance. Heartiest congratulations to the Mothers Club, under the leadership of President Jeanelle Scheurich. The pre-freshman rendition of Love You Forever was one of the best in memory. Thanks to Myrle Wiggins for working with Hal Fox, Sean Noel, Michael Valliant, Abhijay Purohit and Jesse Cheng. The senior talks were also excellent. Congratulate Burak Kandil, Collin Francis, Logan Haydel and Trey Braud. Austin Wiles was scheduled to speak but his recent hospital stay prevented his attendance. We hope he will be back in school this week.
- **Baseball:** Wolves did well, beating Covington and Slidell but losing to Ponchy. I’m especially proud that they hosted The Miracle League players, young people with various disabilities, at their game on Thu night. They fed the group, gave them t-shirts, and let them play on the field prior to the game.
- **Tennis:** Congrats to the Wolves, who won another District Championship with their win over Mandeville. On to regional and then state tournaments!
- **Golden Jubilarian Assembly:** The Class of 1966 was very impressed with the current iteration of SPS. I enjoyed listening to them reminisce about SPS “back in the day.” We passed out lots of annual fund information – and we hope for the best.



Outgoing and Incoming Student Council Executive Boards with their moderators at last week’s assembly.

- **State Rally:** We won’t have results for several days, but I’m sure our guys did well.
- **New Eucharistic Ministers:** 26 juniors were trained and deputed last Friday to serve as our Eucharistic Ministry team. They will begin service at Sunday mass on May 1. This is a larger group than the current year, and I’m pleased that so many of our juniors wish to participate in this ministry.
- **Jazz Band:** The Wolves entered competition at SLU on Friday.
- **Brother Bill Parsons Memorial Quiz Bowl Tournament:** Thanks to Emily Allen & the Quiz Bowl Wolves for this annual event in honor of Brother Bill. I was honored to be a reader. SPS did great.
- **Habitat Wolves:** Thanks to Richard Pichon and the HWs for their work in Sat in this very Lasallian endeavor.
- **Crawfish Cook-off:** All seemed to go smoothly. Thanks to Al Nastasi and his many volunteers who worked hard before, during, and after the event. Special thanks, too, to Don Pressley and the SPS Maintenance Crew who also worked hard.

Alumni Good News: LSU's Manship School of Mass Communication had its awards ceremony on Friday – they give five major awards. Two of them were won by SPS Class of 2012 alums: Zachary Barnett won the David Yates Outstanding Male Mass Communication Senior Award and Justin DiCharia won the Errol Savoie Student Writing Award – very prestigious! Congrats to Zach and Justin – wonderful young men.

Reading Fiction May Enhance Social Skills: I received the following email from a student: *As I was browsing around on the internet today, I found a very interesting article that I thought would pique your interest. It is about fiction books, and how reading them may help people interact socially. Hope you enjoy.* I did enjoy. The gist of the Wall Street Journal article (yes, I was surprised that one of our students was reading the WSJ!) is that “people who read a lot of fiction are known to have stronger social skills than nonfiction readers or nonreaders. A new study suggests that reading fictional works, especially stories that take readers inside people’s lives and minds, may enhance social skills by exercising a part of the brain involved in empathy and imagination. Here’s the link to the article, which is worth the brief read and may have implications for our work with our students: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/reading-fiction-may-enhance-social-skills-1457366832>

LHSAA: The drama continued last week with the Executive Committee meeting in hopes of finding a solution concerning the select/non-select school issue. Here is Athletic Director Craig Ketelsen’s summary of what transpired: *The vote was 11-10 to call a special session of the LHSAA membership [meaning the principals] and vote on the new proposal from the school relations committee. In case you missed it, what that proposal will entail (in short) is 5A and 4A would come back together. 3A, 2A, 1A would be split by rural/metro. B and C would be merged and C would dissolve. 8 championships in football -- only two among large schools (4A and 5A) -- and 9 in basketball, baseball and softball -- only two among large schools.* Stay tuned! This game ain’t over!

Stuff the Bus: Again this year, the six Catholic schools in Western St. Tammany (Saint Paul’s, Saint Scholastica, Archbishop Hannan, Saint Peter, Our Lady of the Lake and Mary Queen of Peace) will have a Stuff the Bus food drive on Tuesday, April 26, for the Covington Food Bank. Saint Paul’s will supply the bus and driver, which will visit each of the schools and load whatever canned food donations that have been collected. Last year, we literally (OK, I hate the word “literally” but it makes a point here!) “stuffed the bus” and hope to do so again this year. Thanks!

Junior-Senior Prom: The Junior Senior Prom will be held Saturday, April 30 from 7:30 until 11:30. St. Paul’s Juniors and Seniors who wish to go need to read the Prom Information form found on Edline or in room 107. The signature form should be returned with payment no later than Wednesday, April 27. Photo order forms are available in room 1

Father-Son Dinner: The deadline for making reservations is Wednesday, April 20 as we need to give the caterer (Sweet Daddy’s) an accurate number. Hope you can make this great event!



Iris decorate our Garden of the Month campus

Louisiana Income Tax Tuition Deduction: Under LA Revised Statute 47:297:10, those with children in private and parochial schools who file LA income tax returns are allowed a deduction for tuition and other qualifying expenses. Don’t forget to take advantage of this benefit for the 2015 tax year. The Archdiocesan lobbyist feels the statute appears somewhat vulnerable for 2016 given the state’s fiscal condition.

Summer at Camp Abbey: As many of you will have heard by now, Camp Abbey was included in the flooding which struck much of the north shore on Friday, March 11th. The extent of the damage to the camp and the anticipated repair

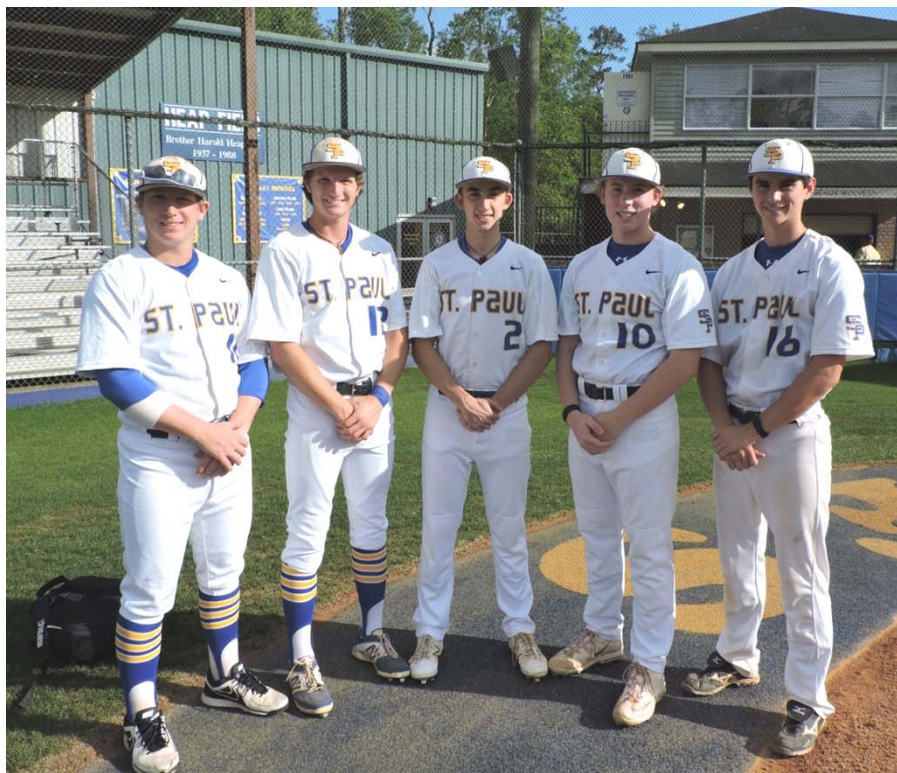
time has yet to be determined, but they remain optimistic. The Archdiocese is committed to getting the camp up and running as quickly as possible. For now, they ask for your prayers as they work to restore this sanctuary for the young people of our Archdiocese. Camper registration and staff applications are still being accepted at this time. Visit the website at www.campabbey.com

Mary, Queen of Peace Parish Confirmation Program begins April 25. Sophomores from MQP Parish who wish to be confirmed during their junior year should register soon. Call MQP for info.

Suit Up for the Future is a free, three-week legal institute, during which students attend an abridged law school session, field trips to law schools and courts, and an internship consisting of shadowing at area law offices and courts. The 2016 program, sponsored by the Louisiana State Bar Association, will be held in New Orleans from June 13 - July 1. Here's the link for more information: <http://files.lsba.org/documents/Diversity/2016SuitUpflyer.pdf>

Senior Graduation Information:

- Monday and Tuesday, May 2 & 3: regular schedules for seniors; full days of school
- Wed, May 4: two exams in the morning; graduation practice in the afternoon; dismissal following practice
- Thu, May 5: two exams in the morning; graduation practice in the afternoon; dismissal following practice
- Fri, May 6: one exam in the morning followed by short graduation practice and distribution of caps, gowns, and graduation ceremony tickets. **Each senior will be issued EIGHT (8) tickets. The tickets are handed directly to the senior on this day. We are not responsible for lost tickets and they will not be replaced. Tickets and caps/gowns will NOT be issued to any student who still has an obligation to the school.**
- Mon – Thu, May 9 - 13: seniors **do not** report to school unless they are coming for an awards ceremony or AP Exam
- Fri, May 13: Academic Awards Ceremony. Only those seniors getting awards need attend in dress uniform.
- Sat, May 14: the 105th Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School; 4 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. Doors will open at 3 and **admission is by ticket only**. The beautiful ceremony, within the context of a Catholic mass, lasts about two hours.
- Note: Everything seniors need to know for graduation will be part of a printed set of instructions given to them on Friday, May 6th. I'll also email a copy to senior parents.



ANNUAL FUND REMINDER: Please – if you have not supported SPS this year and are in a position to do so, please contribute to the Annual Fund. **ANY amount is needed as I** need to finish paying for the new gym. Interested in having part of the new gym named after you? Just contact me and we'll talk.

Strikeouts for St. Jude's Team (William, Rutger, Landon, Blake and Andy) raise funds for the children's hospital.

A Look Ahead

- April 18 – Late start 9:30 am
- April 19 – Pack Time – Snack Day
- April 20 – Life Skills day for seniors –*Freshmen HR Breakfast*
- April 21 – *Pre freshmen HR Breakfast*
- April 22 – Blue Ribbon Holiday
- April 25 – 10th Grade HR Breakfast
- April 26 – President’s Assembly
- April 27 – 11th Grade HR Breakfast
- April 28 – 12th Grade HR Breakfast – Sophomore Service Day/Retreat
- April 29 – Sophomore Service Day/Retreat
- April 30 – Junior – Senior Prom (7:30 at Abita Quail Farm)
- May 3 – Pack Time
- May 4-6 – Senior Exams in BAC
- May 10 – President’s Assembly – *Band Awards* in Evening
- May 11 – 13 – Pre Freshmen Exams
- May 11 – Grad Night for Seniors
- May 12 – Athletic Awards in am
- May 13 – Academic Awards in am
- May 13 – St. Joseph Seminary College Graduation (7:30 pm in the BAC)
- May 14 – Senior Graduation 4:00 pm in BAC
- May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6 pm)
- May 17-19- Exam Schedule
- May 20 – Teacher records day

Thank you for being part of the 2015 – 16 edition of Saint Paul’s

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

The 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

