



The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter

Dec 7 - 13, 2015



Welcome to the second week of Advent and the beginning of the Catholic Church's Year of Mercy. The following words of Pope Francis explain it best:

I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its centre the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).



This Holy Year will commence on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Tuesday, 08 December 2015, and will conclude on Sunday, 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy.... May [the Jubilee Year] come to life as a new step on the Church's journey in her mission to bring the Gospel of mercy to each person.

The whole Church, which is in such need of mercy for we are sinners, will be able to find in this Jubilee the joy of rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our time. Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always. Never tire of asking forgiveness. Let us entrust this Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey: our penitential journey, our year-long journey with an open heart, to receive the indulgence of God, to receive the mercy of God.

May we use this year to reflect on the role of mercy in our lives, being grateful for God's eternal mercy to each of us and modeling mercy to others whenever we can!

Dress Uniform Day on Tuesday, December 8!

Mon, Dec 7 (Assembly; F G A B)

- **Hanukkah** began at sundown yesterday and ends at sundown on Dec 14. As Christians prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas, we extend our very best wishes to our Jewish brothers and sisters who are celebrating Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Unlike Christmas, which is always on December 25, Hanukkah is a movable feast. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple. It also commemorates the miracle of the oil that burned for 8 days. We wish our Jewish brothers and sisters a blessed and joyful celebration of Hanukkah!
- **TDIH: Pearl Harbor Day.** In 1941, The Empire of Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. This "day which will live in infamy" forced the US into World War II. We remember those who gave their lives, fighting for our freedom.
- **Cross Country Awards Banquet. Thanks for a fantastic season, Cross Country Wolves!**
- **Basketball:** 9th & JV v. PJP (6 & 7)
- **Soccer:** JV v. Mandeville (5)



Tue, Dec 8 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception; Mass schedule; C D E F)

- **Dress Uniform Today!**

- Today is a holy day of obligation; we will have an all school mass in honor of the Immaculate Conception. In his meditation for the **Immaculate Conception**, Saint John Baptist de La Salle tells the early brothers to “*Look upon Mary as the masterpiece from God’s hands and ask him to free you from everything that might contribute to make you fall into the least fault, especially into any sins to which you are inclined.*” So great was this feast in the Brothers’ history that in the rules of some early communities, the brothers are told that “everything that is most beautiful will be used” to celebrate it. And considering the austerity in which the early brothers lived, that’s an important statement! May Our Lady, so important to our Lasallian heritage, shower us with blessings! May “everything that is most beautiful” on our campus, especially the students & faculty, give honor to her always.
- **TDIH:** In 1980, John Lennon, a former member of the Beatles, the rock group that transformed pop music in the 1960s, is shot and killed by an obsessed fan in NYC. All he was saying was give peace a chance.
- **TDIH II:** In 1660, a female actress appeared as **Desdemona** in Shakespeare’s *Othello*, probably the first appearance by a woman actress in England. For years, female roles were played by boys or men. The British saw women on stage much earlier when a traveling troupe from France included women as well as men. But they were not received well — according to one audience member, the women were “hissed, hooted, and pippin-pelted off the stage.” In 1632, William Prynne published a 1,100-page document condemning the theater, particularly female actresses. But by 1660, actors were confident enough to feature a woman as Desdemona in *Othello*. There is no record of who the actress was, but scholars guess that it was Margaret Hughes, whom Samuel Pepys described as “a mighty pretty woman.”
- **National Brownie Day:** Enjoy this chewy, chocolate treat!
- **Soccer:** 9th at Newman, JV v. Fontainebleau



Landon concentrates on his self-portrait

Wed, Dec 9 (Pack Time; Feast of St. Juan Diego; G A B C)

- Today’s feast celebrates Mary’s appearance to Juan Diego, an Indian peasant, in Mexico City. She told Juan, “*I will show and offer all my love, compassion, and help to the people. I am your merciful Mother. I will hear their weeping and their sorrows and will remedy their suffering.*” She told Juan to ask the bishop to build a cathedral in her honor. The skeptical bishop asked for a sign; Juan offered his coat, where the image of Mary (still existing today) was miraculously imprinted as Our Lady of Guadalupe. “Guadalupe” means River of Light, as Mary gave birth to Jesus, Light of the World
- **TDIH:** In 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson’s poem “The Charge of the Light Brigade,” is published. It commemorates the courage of 600 British soldiers charging a heavily defended position during the Crimean War.
- **TDIH: In 1608,** British poet John Milton is born. Considered by some to be second only to Shakespeare in importance, his works include *Paradise Lost* & *Paradise Regained*.
- **TDIH:** In 1886, American industrialist Clarence Birdseye was born in Brooklyn. He developed a method of deep-freezing foods and was a founder of General Foods Corp.

- **Soccer:** 8th & 9th v. Rummel
- **Basketball:** Varsity in Bulldog Classic
- **Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society) Induction Ceremony**

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Thu, Dec 10 (Regular; Mothers Club Snack Day; D E F G)

- **This Day in History:** In 1830, famous American poet Emily Dickenson is born. Read some Emily today!
- **TDIH:** In 1896, Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel died in Italy. His will stipulated that his substantial estate be used for awards recognizing persons who have made valuable contributions to humanity. Today, Nobel Prizes are awarded in chemistry, physics, medicine, economics, literature (yeah!) and peace on the anniversary of his death. Each prize is valued at about \$1 million.
- **TDIH:** In 1898, The Treaty of Paris was signed between the US and Spain following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. The US gained the Philippine Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico and Spain withdrew from Cuba. The treaty passed by a single vote in the US Senate and was signed by President William McKinley.
- **Human Rights Day** promotes awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlights the efforts of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions.
- **Dewey Decimal Day:** Today honors birthday of Melvin Dewey, creator of the numerical book classification used by libraries, known as Dewey Decimal System. If you are really bored, listen to the Dewey Decimal System Rap at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHUQb5xg7A#t=26>. And go visit Matt in the library today and refresh yourself about the DDS!
- **Basketball:** Varsity in Bulldog Classic
- **Luminaries – 6 pm.** Come join this annual Christmas display on our campus! Thanks to Student Council, Mothers' Club, Campus Ministry, Physical Plant, Liturgical Band, Marching Wolves and all who help with this incredible "festival of lights" on our campus. The Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this holiday treat to the Covington area since they were knowledgeable about it from their schools in New Mexico.



William, Beck, Eli, William & Ian proudly display their geometry "roof" projects

Fri, Dec 11 (Regular; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1941, Germany declares war on the US, bringing the US into the European WWII Theater of operations.
- **TDIH II:** Two years ago today, we dedicated the **Alumni Veteran Plaque** in La Salle Hall. The late Mr. Harry Friedman '33 donated funds for a memorial to all SPS Alumni Veterans. Alumni Jimmy Dykes and Mike Richard spearheaded this project and the plaque has been hung by the ROTC classroom. I doubt if many of us even know about this plaque, much less have taken the time to look at it and perhaps read some of the names. Sad. And I'm guilty, too, as I just walk by it so many times. In view of today's TDIH, it was an appropriate day for dedication. We give thanks for all who have so served our country, especially our SPS alums. Let's remember them! Current Alumni Director Al Nastasi is currently updating the plaque.
- **Basketball:** Varsity in Bulldog Classic



Sat, Dec 12 (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe,** Patroness of the Americas. Again, God shows his love for the poor. Mary assumes the form of an Indian lady and uses Juan Diego, a peasant, to bring the Message to all. This is a special day for the Mexican people, since the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located in Mexico City. We remember in particular the wonderful Mexican Lasallian institutions.
- **TDIH:** In 1901, Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi sends the first radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean, disproving detractors who told him that the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles or less. The message--simply the Morse-code signal for the letter "s"-- traveled more than 2,000 miles from Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland, Canada.
- **National Poinsettia Day:** Admire this iconic Christmas plant! The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett, an American botanist, physician and Minister to Mexico who in 1828 sent cuttings of the plant he'd

discovered in Southern Mexico to his home in Charleston, South Carolina. Botanically, the plant is known as Euphorbia Pulcherrima. And now you know!

- **National Cocoa Day:** Enjoy this perennial winter favorite while admiring your poinsettias!
- **Day of the Horse:** Senate Resolution 452 designates the 2nd Sat of Dec as "National Day of the Horse" and encouraging the people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to economy, history and character of the United States. Who knew? If you own a horse, be nice to it today!
- **Soccer:** Varsity in Clinton, MS Round Robin
- **ACT** on campus today
- **Wrestling:** JV & Jr Hi at Jesuit
- **Basketball:** 8th at Holy Cross; 9th at Rummel;
- **Soccer:** 8th at Gulfport; 9th v. St. Thomas More; Varsity in Clinton
- **Jazz Wolves** will be performing at the Mandeville Trailhead at 12:30 p.m.

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Sun, Dec 13 Third Sunday of Advent; Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday! Advent is almost over! The Lord is at hand! The pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit to signify joy! I encourage Catholic families to attend mass and non-Catholic families to attend the place of worship of their choice.

- **TDIH:** In 2000, Vice President Al Gore concedes defeat to Texas Governor George Bush for the presidency, following weeks of legal battles over the recounting of votes in Florida.

Musings on Last Week:

- **Wolf Tracks:** Thank to Danielle Laviefor another great issue
- **I Give Catholic:** Last Tuesday was a grand success, with SPS garnering 176 gifts totaling \$21, 261. We were the second highest school in both number of gifts and total donated. Many, many thanks to our generous supporters, those faculty and students who made videos and the Development Team for organizing and promoting the event. And we were awarded an extra \$1000 for being the third highest school in new donors!
- **Advent & First Friday Devotions:** Thanks, Religion Dept! Hope your son told you about it.
- **Wrestling:** The grappling wolves beat #3 ranked Holy Cross AND won the George Trygg Tournament on Sat!
- **Basketball:** Saint Paul's defeated De La Salle 81-79 on Devonte's steal and layup with 6 seconds left. Parker Edwards, Harrison Prieto, and Devonte Allen were named to the All- tournament team and Devonte, the MVP. We defeated Aquinas, east St. John, Chalmette, and De La Salle to capture the prestigious title.
- **Soccer:** Wolves were strong against Covington. The new LHSAA "mercy rule" was invoked when we were up 8-0. And they beat Gulfport 3-1!
- **Cross Country Fun Run** was a big success!
- **Mothers Club:** Moms gave up Saturday in order to open the bookstore for Christmas shopping.
- **Fire Drill:** We had a very successful, unannounced fire drill last week. Everything went smoothly. While we pray we never will need our drills in reality, we will be prepared.



Almost 60 Wolves showed up for the first Quiddich practice, complete with broomsticks!

Tour Video: The Guerilla Wolves have produced an excellent campus tour video which we have posted on our website. If you haven't viewed it, it's worth the three minutes to do so. Just go to the homepage (www.stpauls.com), scroll down, and click on "campus tour." And congratulate Brad Guillory and the GWs for their excellent work!

Greater Lasallian World Dept: Last week, two principals from San Francisco New Orleans District Schools announced their retirements at end of the school year: Brother Chris Brady, principal of La Salle in Pasadena, CA and Ms. Mary Hesser, principal of Christian Brothers HS in Sacramento, CA. Brother Chris, an excellent school administrator for over 26 years, cited "growing older" and "slowing down." Hmmmm.... I can empathize! Mary is battling cancer right now; pray for her return to health.

Application Letter Excerpts: Here are some more memorable lines from next year's application letters:

- *While on your campus, I felt a sense of peace walking from building to building.*
- *The fact that there are all boys is fun because we can do things without girls in our way.*
- *After Saint Paul's, students are ready to face the conflicts of the world.*
- *I cannot wait to be a Wolf.*
- *As I countdown the days until the end of seventh grade, I have already begun the countdown for, hopefully, my footsteps into my newfound home, Saint Paul's.*
- *The more I hear about St. Paul's, the quicker I want to be there.*

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Mr. Simpson leads Advent Prayer Service in chapel which was decorated by The Mothers Club. Thanks, MC!

Last Tuesday's Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Dec 01 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Listened to an incredible version of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" – a traditional Advent song which dates back to the 12th century – which was sung by local St. Tammany musician and former SPS Physics teacher Gene Lipps. I explained that the words are based on Isaiah's biblical prophecy and that the word "Advent" comes from the Latin "Ad", meaning "toward" or "to" and "venire" which means "to come." Hence, Advent is a prayer of wanting our Savior "to come to or toward" us. I encourage the students to make the most of these special days. Finally, I reminded them that we were two weeks away from exams and to start preparing and encouraged them to make the most of this last month of 2015.
- Prayed in a special way, as the first Advent purple prayer candle was lit by junior **Brennan Jenkins**, for those who have suffered loss since our last assembly: Mr. Emmett Arthur Smith Jr., grandfather of freshman Bailey Smith; Mr. Luke Leader, cousin of sophomore Alex Robert, and the uncle of sophomore Landon Chambliss
- Recognized and congratulated the entire student body for the outstanding Blue Ribbon Assembly – about which I still get very positive comments from those who were in attendance. They gave themselves a round of applause.

- And then, as if by magic, George Frideric Handel’s *Water Music* started playing – which signaled that our Aqua Wolves were off and swimming in the State Meet – where they finished 3rd – our best showing as a Division I school! Here are some highlights:
 - **Harrison Prieto, Kyle Hladky, Griffin Guzan and Jack Cheng** -- All State Honors in 200 medley
 - **Jack Cheng** – 4th in the 50 free
 - **Griffin Guzan** – team record in the 100 butterfly
 - **Griffin, Kyle, Brenton Larmann & Myers Morgan** – fourth in the 200 free relay
 - **Harrison Prieto** – 3rd & All State Honors in the 100 back
 - **Kyle Hladky** captured the consolation final in 200 free
 - **Griffin, Myers, Harrison and Jack** – second in 400 free relay
 - **Four All State Swims: Griffin in the 200 medley relay & state champion in 100 butterfly; Harrison in the 100 back and 400 free**
 - **Seven Varsity Records – Jack in 200 medley relay; Griffin in the 50 fly, Griffin in the 100 fly, and Griffin in the 100 freestyle and the 400 freestyle relay**
 - **One 8th Grade Record: Drew Putfark in the 100 breaststroke**
 - **Congratulations to Coach Kris Babylon & the AquaWolves State Team for a job extremely well done!!**
- Recognized and congratulated pre-freshman **Sean Noel** who won the Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest sponsored by the Homer Williams VFW Post 8720 in Abita Springs.
- Recognized and congratulated the Student Council and the entire student body for the very successful Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Covington Food Bank. Over 9 tons of canned goods were collected.
- Recognized and congratulated cast and crew of “The Outsiders.” Read all the names and had them stand to rousing applause.
- Recognized and congratulated the art students who placed in the Three Rivers Art Festival: **Preston Scott (3rd place in 9th grade division painting); Jonathan Benit (Honorable Mention in 10th grade painting); Caleb Lupo (2nd place in 10th grade ceramics); Kent Shiell (1st place in 10th grade ceramics) and Payton McNeil (2nd place in 11th grade ceramics)**. I projected each winning piece on the screen and had the artist say a word or two about it. The student body responded with loud applause.
- Recognized and congratulated the Varsity Football Wolves on an outstanding season. Recognized the All District players: **Chris Lowder, Trey Icamina, Kenny Sears, Corey Williamson, Briggs Simpson, Hunter Romero, Evan Esquerre, and Deonte Sorapuru**. Also recognized the WWL Players of the Week: **Christian Roberts, Kenny**



JV & Jr Hi Wrestling Wolves proudly display their medals from a recent meet!

Sears, Deonte Sorapuru, & Corey Williamson. Recognized **Noah Seiden** for being a Fox 8 Player of the Week. Recognized **Coach Ken Sears** for being District 6-A Coach of the Year and New Orleans Saints Coach of the Week. Played the video of Coach Sears which is on the New Orleans Saints web site.

- Recognized and congratulated **Mr. Andrew Moran and the Marching Wolves**, for entertaining us each Friday night during football season and at pep rallies. And while we have the largest

contingent of MWs in many years, I want more, so I challenged the student body to increase the size of the MWs to 100. Come be a Marching Wolf if you are looking to have a great time and be part of a stellar organization.

- Recognized and congratulated the Wrestling Wolves, who are off to a great season, being ranked #2 in the State. In particular, I recognized the following:
 - Varsity Wrestling -- Mandeville Open. With 3 starters out of the lineup, the team still dominated the competition. Individual winners were **Jake Arena (4th)**, **Cole Houser and Shane Ulfers (3rd)**, **Christian Fortner (2nd)** and **Billy Harrison, Brandon Stein, Sam Dufour, Josh Mascaro, Kyle Schech & Colin Francis (1st)**
 - **JV – Brother Martin Meet. Individual winners were: Collin Craddock, Connor Oviedo & Mason Impastato (3rd)**, **Matthew Kangas (2nd)** & **Stephen Beach (1st)**
 - Jr High – Brother Martin Meet where many of the 8th graders wrestled their first wrestling matches ever. Individual winners were: **Eli Applebaum, Beau Taranto, Charlie Layman & Miles Lindsey (3rd)**, **Evan Ulfers (2nd)** & **Cole Ulfers (1st)**
 - Varsity: 5-0 in dual meets in Woodward Duals in Atlanta; Individual records – 64 wins, 6 losses; 371 team points scored, 25 given up
 - SPS defeated Rummel 66-18 and Catholic high 57-18 to run team record to 7-0.
- Then, as if by magic, the strains of Rossini’s “William Tell Overture” filled the gym, signaling that the Cross Country Wolves had returned from the State Meet with an impressive fourth place finish. They had an outstanding season. I projected a state team picture **Eric Coston, Spencer Albright, Stephen Schlottman, Colin Sullivan, Evan Hendry, Tristan Smith, & Henry Elliot.**
- Recognized and congratulated the newly inducted members of The National Honor Society: **Thomas Bowden, Brycen Brown, Eli Crosby, Christopher Damare, Seth Dragon, Brice Falgout, Robert Ferrante, John Fleming, Avery Frey, Ian Fried, Grant Gallaspy, Cameron Gary, Lloyd Guillot, Parker Hagood, Christian Harrison, Charles Hughes III, Grant Hughes, Samuel Kenney, James Kissgen, Liam McCloskey, Gregory McNally, Patrick Napier, Peter Olsen, Colin Patrick Quinlan, Nicholas Rowbatham, Koby Schexnayder, Briggs Simpson, & Hayden Willis.**



Quiddich Wolves from the House of Gryffindor enjoy first practice in their House shirts!

- At this point I was WAY overtime, so we sang the fight song. I then encouraged the students to make the most of Advent and to join us in the chapel at 7 am on Wednesday mornings for mass. I told the students about Maranatha – the one word prayer which means “Come, Lord” and encouraged them to say it frequently during Advent.

- As the Advent candle was extinguished by junior **Connor Slimming**, I reminded the students that they must leave the gym and be the Light of God to all whom they meet. The students then sang along to the strains of “O Come O Come Emmanuel” and exited to same. It was a great assembly – if a bit long – assembly. At least I thought so!

Admissions: At this point, any new 8th grade applications for next year will be on a “wait list” basis. We are VERY pleased with the quantity and quality of the Class of 2021.

Thanksgiving to Christmas: I know I mentioned this last week, but it bears repeating as we dealt with a few incidents last week: This period of the year can challenge us. While it should be a time of good will and cheer, often we find

ourselves handling crisis. We will handle this through Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance. **Please stress with your sons that we will enforce all rules during this time and teach to the very end of the semester.** We will show the students that we care, but be vigilant at all times.

“**Text Neck,**” the posture formed by leaning over a cell phone while reading and texting, is a big problem, according to the author of a newly published study in the National Library of Medicine. Kenneth K. Hansraj, chief of spine surgery at New York Spine Surgery & Rehabilitation Medicine, says the bad posture can put up to 60 pounds of pressure on the upper spine — sometimes for several hours a day, depending on how often people look at their devices. For more info, go to: <http://wwno.org/post/keep-your-head-text-neck-takes-toll-spine>

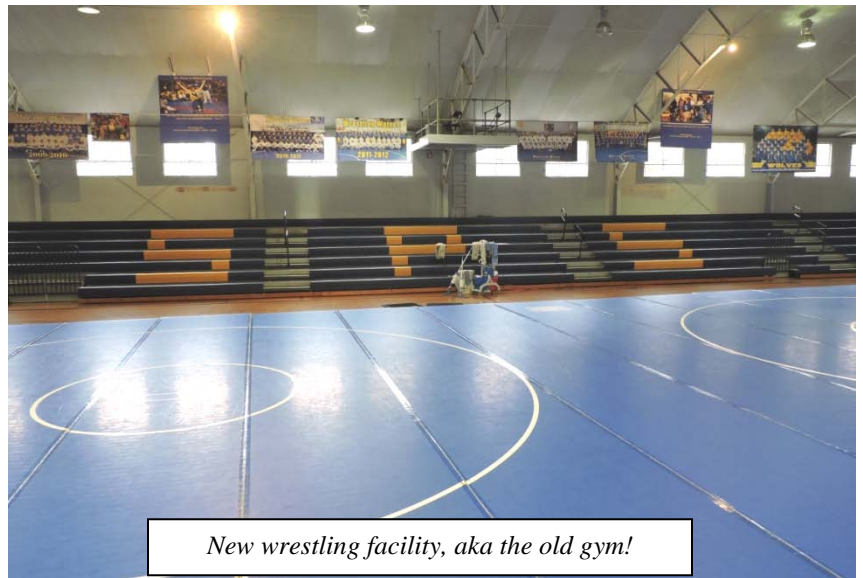
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The Annual Fund: Annual Fund Drive – just like almost every other private school – if officially underway. I’m humbled, however, by the number of you who have anticipated the drive and have already sent in your donations. I spelled out the details of the drive in an email and a brochure that was mailed, but know that its success is critical to Saint Paul’s. Please keep this in mind as you plan your end of year giving. Again, thanks to all who have already contributed. We need almost everyone, to at least some degree, to follow suit.

Senior Parents: Senior Retreat is just around the corner. You should have received an email with all the details from Renee Miller and Lee Pierre, retreat coordinators. If you didn’t receive this email, please email Renee at renee@stpauls.com or Lee at leep@stpauls.com.

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 a number of khaki pants available – all for the taking.

A Word about Exams: Semester exams begin on Dec 15. The schedule is printed below and was sent by Trevor Watkins last week. Remember that exams are SEMESTER exams which will cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the only grade that counts in GPA and the only grade on the transcript) will be averaged in the following manner: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the semester exam. Encourage your son, therefore, to take his exams seriously. **It’s time to start reviewing.** A good review lasts several weeks and avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son considerably in college.



New wrestling facility, aka the old gym!

Adopt A Family: We again have identified several needy families in the local St. Tammany Parish area and have “adopted” them in order to provide them with a wonderful Christmas. Students on each level will shop, wrap and deliver the gifts. It’s a very educational endeavor in social justice. We encourage your son to participate if he is able. Donations will be accepted for the next two weeks.

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: Only Saint Paul’s outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. This will be handled confidentially and appropriately.** Remember that ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

A SERVE TEN Reminder: Five service hours are due. Students must fill-out and turn in completed "Serve Ten" forms to the Counseling Department in order to get credit for their service hours. We have been advertising MANY service opportunities. Remember that service hours are mandatory, not optional.

Current Student Re-Registration for 2016 - 17: For those of you who plan ahead, here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- To register for 2016 - 17, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP.**

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New athletic training room!

Important Driver's License Requirement: A new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license.

PLEASE: Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. Under ordinary circumstances, it is difficult enough to keep track of the students. When you call Erin and request "immediate" dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your student and have him check in with the

attendance office when he comes to school to get a dismissal slip for the time requested. This is the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can't stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a message – we just don't have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.

The Paper Wolf: The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. The students are very excited about this new venture. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here's the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

Here are some stories from last week worth reading:

- <http://thepaperwolf.com/2015/12/03/student-short-film-triumphs-at-local-film-fest/>
- <http://thepaperwolf.com/2015/12/04/backstage-with-russty-an-insiders-view-of-outsiders/>
- <http://thepaperwolf.com/2015/12/02/the-paper-wolfs-ultimate-exam-prep-guide/>

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: Parents – set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

School Zone Cell Phone Ban: It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.

Cash Back Programs: Please keep the following in mind when you shop:

- AmazonSmile: This website, operated by Amazon, lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The difference is that when using AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – which we hope will be Saint Paul’s School! Click here to shop on AmazonSmile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895>.
- Office Depot: Last week we received a \$500 store credit from customers who gave SPS ID at the checkout. Our number is officially 70041640 but saying Saint Paul’s will do. This will help a lot.
- Box Tops for Education: Each top is worth 10 cents – which adds up quickly. Thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS financially..

Mission Collections, Adopt a Family Projects, and Other Worthy Causes: We encourage our students to be generous with these causes. However, I again want to reassure parents that we DO NOT want to cause an economic hardship for our families. Please speak with your son about charitable giving. Perhaps you can reread as a family the parable of the Widow’s Mite. Our teachers are aware that not every student can give or give a lot. PLEASE let me know if your son is feeling uncomfortable with our appeals. And that goes for you, too. Let’s face it – tuition does NOT cover the cost of running Saint Paul’s. Hence, we have fundraisers. As stated above, I’ve launched our Annual Fund Drive, and if you can give, that’s great. If not, I understand but ask that you pray for Saint Paul’s. In turn, we pray for financial health for all.

And Speaking of Edline: Please check Edline regularly for important info about your son’s grade and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.*

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Tutoring: The National Honor Society offers tutoring each Tue and Thu during ALL of Lunch in LaSalle Hall Room 205 and each Wed and Thu from 7:15AM in LaSalle Hall Room 212. It’s easier to be tutored early in the than to wait until later in the quarter. Get a jump on exam study by visiting our NHS tutors! The tutors are friendly and helpful! To borrow a line from a popular commercial “put these men to work!”

Lost and Found: The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it’s probably in our lost and found. Parents, please put your son’s name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

Warm Hearts Drive: We are conducting our annual Warm Clothing Drive, collecting gently used warm clothing for the needy. Be prepared to send usable but no longer needed sweaters, jackets, blankets, gloves – anything that can help someone stay warm this winter. Thanks, Lasallian Young Leaders, for this service.

A Look Ahead

December 12 – ACT on Campus

December 15-18- Exam Schedules

January 4 – ABCD

January 5 – President’s Assembly -Snack Day

January 6-8 Senior Retreat

January 9 – Application Day (Explore Test)

January 12 – Pack Time
 January 14 – Juniors to WWII Museum
 January 19 – President’s Assembly
 January 20 – 9th Grade PLAN Test
 January 22 – President’s Assembly (music practice)
 January 25 – 9:15 Mass (Conversion of St. Paul)
 January 26 – 12th Grade HR Breakfast
 January 27 – 11th Grade HR Breakfast
 January 28 – Career Day – Juniors / 10th Grade HR Breakfast
 January 29 – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
 February 1 – Late Start- Parent Teacher meetings 5:00-7:00
 February 2 – President’s Assembly
 February 3 – Pre Freshmen HR Breakfast
 February 5 – Faculty Retreat
 February 6 – ACT on Campus
 February 16 – Pack Time

Dress Uniform Day on Tuesday, December 8!

February 23 – President’s Assembly – Teacher Appreciation Lunch
 February 25-26- Juniors on Retreat/Angola Field Trip
 March 1 – Pack Time – Snack Day- Freshmen Service/Retreat
 March 2 – Freshmen Service/Retreat
 March 5 – SAT on Campus
 March 7 – St. Joseph Altar (All periods meet)
 March 8 – President’s Assembly
 March 11 – End of Third Quarter
 March 15 – ACT for juniors
 March 21 – Late start for faculty meeting
 March 22 – President’s Assembly
 March 23 – Passion Play (two lunch schedule)
 March 24 – Mandatum
 March 25 – Good Friday holiday
 April 5 – Pack Time
 April 7 – Mass (SJB DLS)
 April 9 – ACT on campus
 April 11-15 – Leadership week
 April 12 – President’s Assembly –Teacher Appreciation Lunch
 April 18 – Late start
 April 19 – Pack Time – Snack Day
 April 20 – Life Skills day for seniors –Pre Freshmen HR Breakfast
 April 21 – 9th Grade 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
 April 28-29 – Sophomore Service Days/Retreat
 May 3 – Pack Time
 May 4-6 – Senior Exams in BAC



Brennan lights Advent wreath candle at last week's President's Assembly.

May 10 – President’s Assembly – Band Awards in Evening
 May 11 – 13 – Pre Freshmen Exams
 May 11 – Grad Night
 May 12 – Athletic Awards in am
 May 13 – Academic Awards in am
 May 14 – Senior Graduation 4:00 pm in BAC
 May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion
 May 17-19- Exam Schedule
 May 20 – Teacher records day

Dress Uniform Day on Tuesday, December 8!

First Semester Exam Schedule

Monday, December 14 – EFG(A)

Regular classes in periods EFG
 Review for Period A Exam

SPECIAL EXAM SCHEDULE

(80 Minute Classes)

7:40	Chimes
7:45 – 9:20	Period E
9:27 – 11:02	Period F/SSR
11:02 – 11:42	Lunch
11:47 – 1:12	Period G
1:19– 2:04	Period A Exam Review
2:10	Dismissal



First tip off in the new gym!

Tuesday, December 15

Special Exam/Prayer Service/ Principal’s Assembly/Snack Schedule

8:15 -8:30	Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:30 – 10:00	Period A Exam
10:05-10:45	Advent Prayer Service (Gym)
10:55- 11:40	Period B Review
11:40-12:25	Lunch
12:30-1:00	President’s Assembly (Gym)
1:00-1:15	Break
1:15 – 2:00	Period C Review
2:10	Dismissal

Wednesday, December 16

8:15-8:30	Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:30 -10:00	Period B Exam
10:00-10:10	Break
10:10-11:40	Period C Exam
11:40-12:25	Lunch
12:30-1:15	Period D Review
1:20-2:05	Period E Review
2:10	Dismissal

Thursday, December 18

8:15-8:30	Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:30 -10:00	Period D Exam
10:00-10:10	Break
10:10-11:40	Period E Exam
11:40-12:25	Lunch
12:30-1:15	Period F Review
1:20-2:05	Period G Review
2:10	Dismissal

Friday, December 18

8:15-8:30	Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:30 -10:00	Period F Exam
10:00-10:10	Break
10:10-11:40	Period G Exam
11:45	Dismissal
12:00	Faculty Christmas Luncheon in Cafeteria

H of the W: Some Christmas humor as we approach the big day:

- *Where do snowmen keep their money? In a snow bank*
- *Did you know Santa had only eight reindeer last Christmas? Comet stayed home to clean the sink.*
- *What do snowmen like to do on the weekend? Chill out.*
- *What does Jack Frost like best about school? Snow and tell.*
- *What do you get if you cross an iPad with a Christmas tree? A pineapple!*
- *What has a jolly laugh, brings you presents and scratches up your furniture? Santa Claws*
- *What is Claustrophobia: Fear of Santa!*
- *What do elves do after school? Their gnome work!*
- *What nationality is Santa Claus? North Polish.*
- *When asked about his job, Frosty always replies, "There's no business like snow business."*
- *Does Santa Claus refer to his elves as 'subordinate clauses'?*
- *What do you get when you cross a snowman and a dog? Frostbite.*
- *Why was Santa's little helper depressed? Because he had low elf esteem!*
- *What did one snowman say to the other snowman? Do you smell carrots?*
- *What did the reindeer say to the football player? Your Blitzen days are over!*
- *How does a sheep say "Merry Christmas"? "Fleece Navidad!"*
- *What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!*
- *What do elves learn in school? The Elf-abet!*
- *Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E? Because the angel had said, "No L!"*
- *And my favorite: One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said, "It's going to rain." His wife asked, "How do you know?" "Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

Dress Uniform Day on Tuesday, December 8!

Whew! I've taxed your patience again this week!

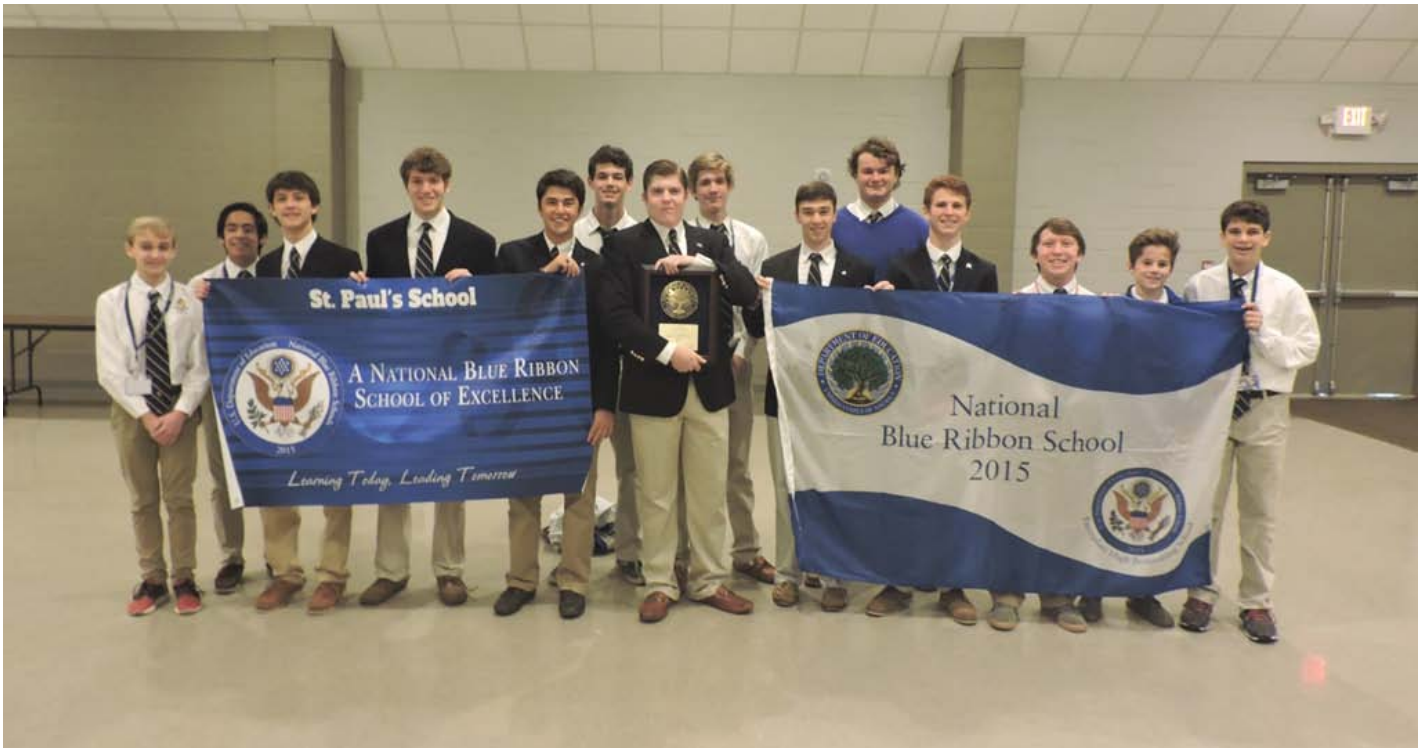
As usual, I'll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to as I write and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Let me know if there's an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

Pray that things go well! We're already reached the eighth week of the second quarter! Time marches relentless on, and the only thing we can do about it is decide how we use each second of each minute of each day of each week of each month of each....OK, you get the idea.

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 2015 - 16 edition of Saint Paul's – our 104th year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Praying for Patience and Mercy this Advent as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



Did I mention that Tuesday, Dec 8 is a Dress Uniform Day?

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near!

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Now let's go out there and prepare the way of the Lord by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, and doing God's will this Advent – and always!