



Our thought, support, and prayer continue for junior Michael Doherty as he recovers from his recent football injury. At the present time, Michael remains at The Shepherd Center in Atlanta. We offer prayer and support. May all our holy Christian Brother saints, especially our newest saint, Brother Solomon, intercede with Almighty God on Michael's behalf!



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter* *January 3 – 8, 2017*



Welcome back to school and Happy 2017 – the sixth full year of our second century! I hope your holidays were physically renewing and spiritually fulfilling and that you have entered the New Year with hope, optimism, faith, and zeal. I hope, too, that your family grew closer during these special days. I know you've missed the weekly newsletter during the holidays, so here's the first edition of 2017.

In his meditation for January 1, Saint John Baptist de La Salle bluntly asks the first Brothers the following questions:

- *Is it only in vain that you live the name of Christian and minister of Jesus in the work that you do?*
- *Do you live in a manner that befits these glorious names? Do you instruct those for whom you are responsible with the attention and the zeal God asks of you in so holy a work?*

He then reminds the first Brothers (and us today) to make the following New Year's resolutions:

- *Act in a way that your life may begin today to be holy and edifying and continue to be so in the future.*
- ***By your good conduct, make yourself worthy of your distinguished role.***

These sound like good resolutions to me! And while they were written for the first Brothers, they apply equally to parents, the primary educators of their children. Let's pray for the grace to put these resolutions into practice!



At our opening of school prayer service last August, Student Council President Will Murphy challenged the faculty to make the most of the 2016 - 17 year. He exhorted us to do our best to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care. He urged us to encourage the students to make the most of their year by getting involved and giving their best to all their endeavors. I asked the teachers in their newsletter this week if they have been faithful in doing so and, if not, to renew their resolve to adopt the tried and true methods of the Lasallian educator.

I think parents, too, need to encourage their sons to make the most of the opportunities being given them. I encourage you, therefore, to look for ways to have your sons make the most of each and every day.

I wish you a happy 2017 and blessed second semester.

Tue, Jan 3 (Classes resume at 7:45 (yes, the public schools have another day off but we started Christmas (not winter) holidays before the public schools did); President's Assembly, A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** In 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower makes Alaska the 49th and largest state.
- **TDIH:** In 1924, two years after British archaeologist Howard Carter and his workmen discovered the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamen near Luxor, Egypt, they uncover the greatest treasure of the tomb—a stone sarcophagus containing a solid gold coffin that holds the mummy of Tutankhamen.
- **Fruitcake Toss Day:** Go ahead! Toss it! It's OK today!
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Boyet; 9th, JV & Varsity at Northshore as Wolves begin their defense of the District Title.
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Baton Rouge (5:30 & 7)

Wed, Jan 4 (Regular, E F G A)

- **Mass:** Our Wed 7 AM masses resume this week. Join us as a great New Year resolution. It's over by 7:30.
TDIH: In 1999, for the first time since Charlemagne in the 9th century, Europe unites with a common currency – the Euro
- **Trivia Day:** Learn a useless fact today!



Cameron lights the "Gaudete" candle at final prayer service for 2016!

- **National Spaghetti Day:** Grab a big bowl of spaghetti, top it with a favorite sauce and enjoy! Spaghetti is one of over 600 shapes of pasta (who knew?) Did you know that the word spaghetti means string or twine in Italian and that the average American consumes about 20 pounds of spaghetti a year?
- **Senior Retreat** begins today. Prayers and best wishes go with the seniors & Retreat Team. We owe the team a great deal of thanks for undertaking this important ministry. Special thanks, too, to those who will help with substitutions during retreat. Take this seriously and be available to assist subs who may need help. The group returns Fri afternoon. We are indebted to retreat coordinators Lee and Renee'.
- **Soccer:** 9th v. Northshore JV

Thu, Jan 5 (Regular, B C D E)

- **This Day in History:** In 1933, construction begins on the Golden Gate Bridge, as workers began excavating 3.25 million cubic feet of dirt for the structure's huge anchorages. The bridge officially opened on May 27, 1937, the longest bridge span in the world at the time. The first public crossing had taken place the day before, when 200,000 people walked, ran and even roller skated over the new bridge. With its tall towers and famous red paint job, the bridge quickly became an American landmark, and a symbol of San Francisco – the western end of our District.
- **TDIH:** In 1896, William Roentgen announces the discovery of X-ray radiation.
- **National Bird Day:** Take a moment to notice and appreciate our birds. At SPS, that's easy to do, as birds abound. And after lunch, like clockwork, black birds descend to feast on students' food droppings.
- **Soccer:** JV v. Mandeville

Fri, Jan 6 (Regular; F G A B) – Twelfth Night! The Twelve Days of Christmas are over! No more turtle doves, French hens, milking maids, leaping lords or swimming swans. You can keep the golden rings, however.



Ravenclaw wins 2nd Annual Quiddich Tournament!

Enjoy the quiet from that angry partridge in the pear tree and those darn drummers drumming! Trivia Question of the Week: do you know the traditional names of the three kings? Answer at end of newsletter.

- **TDIH:** In 1838, the first electric telegraph is successfully tested by Samuel Morse.
- **National Bean Day:** Celebrate the lowly legume! Enjoy a tasty bean dish today! The USDA suggests adults should eat more than 3 cups of beans weekly for the health benefits, including reduced risk of heart disease and certain cancers -- but you may want to avoid crowded spaces.
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Hammond
- **Soccer:** Varsity at Northshore

Sat, Jan 7 -- St. Raymond of Penafort: this 12th century Spanish Dominican Priest was known for scholarly

work and holiness. He is patron saint of canon lawyers and all lawyers generally.

- **TDIH:** In 1789, America holds first presidential election (Spoiler Alert: G. Washington won!)
- **TDIH:** In 1953, President Harry Truman announces the development of a hydrogen bomb one thousand times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Japan.
- **I'm Not Gonna Take It Anymore Day:** Well, I'll let you decide what you're not going to take anymore. Just hope it's not SPS, although some of you will probably vote for this newsletter – or, worse, the SPS President!
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Jesuit (1) & Rummel (3) at Jesuit; 9th in F'Bleau Tournament
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Shaw Tournament; JV & Varsity in District/Parish Tournament
- **Soccer:** JV in Covington Tournament; SPS 8th Grade Tournament
- **Application Day.** Applicants for next year take the placement test this morning. Pray for a successful day.
- **Football Awards Ceremony (3 pm in the BAC)**

Sun, Jan 8 -- Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord; we encourage all families to attend church!

- **TDIH:** In 1815, two weeks after the War of 1812 officially ended, U.S. General Andrew Jackson achieves the greatest American victory of the war at the Battle of New Orleans. Today we remember the 201st anniversary of this historic event.
- **TDIH:** In 1935, Elvis Presley is born in Tupelo, MS. Listen to some Elvis today!
- **National JoyGerm Day:** Spread joy via acts of kindness such as a hug, kiss, love letter, compliment, or any unexpected act of compassion today.
- **Argyle Day:** Wear your argyle (diamond shaped blocks against a colored background) today!
- **Feast of the Patroness of Southeast Louisiana, Our Lady of Prompt Succor.** This devotion originated with a French Ursuline nun, who brought to New Orleans a statue she had commissioned under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. (Succor means “help.”) This statue now stands above the main altar in the Ursuline Chapel on State Street. OLPS played a prominent role in Battle of New Orleans and the great New Orleans fire. Today, we pray to her for help in the New Battle of New Orleans against violence, murder and racism. Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!



Original OLPS brought from France in 1727 by Ursuline nuns.

Welcome to January: Here are some of the causes celebrated in January: Apple and Apricots Month, Artichoke and Asparagus Month, Bath Safety Month, Be Kind to Food Servers Month, Birth Defects Month, California Dried Plum Digestive Month, Celebration of Life Month, Financial Wellness Month, Get A Balanced Life Month, Get Organized Month, International Creativity Month, National Clean Up Your Computer Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month, National Hot Tea Month, National Mentoring Month, National Polka Music Month, National Poverty in America Awareness Month, National Soup Month, National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Oatmeal Month, Rising Star Month, Shape Up US Month, Teen Driving Awareness Month, Tubers and Dried Fruit Month, Thyroid Awareness Month, & Worldwide Rising Star Month. Something for everyone!



The holidays didn't stop Soccer Wolves from preparing for their title defense.

Grades, Exams, Report Cards, Honor Roll Breakfasts, etc.

- **Report Cards** will be emailed this week, although grades have been accessible on Edline for a while. Report cards for grades 10, 11, & 12 will be emailed on Wednesday and report cards for grades 8 & 9 will be emailed on Thursday. Let me know if you do not receive a report card by the end of the week. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb 6, so email any concerns to teachers.
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the

spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience – which will pay dividends in the future.

- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** We will experiment with a new format: 8th & 9th will be on same day in the Briggs Assembly Center and 10th & 11th will be on same day in the Briggs Assembly Center. We will have multiple serving lines for efficient serving, so the time frame should be the same, ending at 8:20. 12th grade will remain in the cafeteria. Here's the schedule for the second quarter HR breakfast schedule:
 - **Mon, Jan 23** – Grades 8 & 9 in the BAC
 - **Tue, Jan 24** – Grades 10 & 11 in the BAC
 - **Fri, Jan 27** – Grade 12 in the cafeteria

HR breakfasts last from 7:40-8:20. HR is determined by **second QUARTER grades, not semester grades.**

Application Day: On Saturday, January 07, all new applicants for NEXT year's 8th or 9th grade will take the placement exam at 8 am in the Briggs Assembly Center. **Priority in the admission process is given to those who take the test on Jan 7th – as per policy of Office of Catholic Schools.**

New Year's Resolutions: Please make the following part of your New Year Resolutions!

- If your son is absent, phone Erin before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1280, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns.**
- Have your son check Lost & Found which contains: coats, sweaters, shirts, lunch boxes, belts, etc.

Congrats to Julie Beck: Julie's Pre-freshman Gateway to Technology program was featured on the PLTW website. Kudos to her! Here's the link: <https://www.pltw.org/blog/pltw-gateway-robotics-curriculum-supports-development-of-louisiana-state-champion-robowolves>

Musings on Past Few Weeks:

- **Exam week** went well. Thanks to our students for cooperating.
- **Christmas Prayer Service:** Thanks to Jeff Ramon for organizing this event. We showed the students a very inspiring video, which certainly put my problems into perspective. It was a great Gaudete Week message. I hope your son told you about it.
- **Christmas Lunch:** Thanks to Mothers Club for treating the faculty to a very nice Christmas lunch – a great way to begin the holidays.
- **Adopt A Family:** Thanks to all who helped. We collected over \$7000 and bought gifts for 40 children. Thanks to Kevin Moore et al who brought our students to Target to shop and then to wrap. We also donated \$500 to Sister Theresa Berlin and her "Blue Shack" work in Covington's West 30's area and \$500 to the Rotary Club Feed the Needy Program, which used our facility to prepare and distribute meals to the needy.
- **Wrestling Wolves** were busy with practices and tournaments, including a tournament in Atlanta.
- **Athletics:** Thanks to the coaches who kept our student athletes focused on their seasons by having practices during the holidays, including Christmas Eve. This provided a positive, safe, healthy activity for our students.
- **Rotary Club Feed the Needy.** Thanks to all who helped. Over 1000 Christmas meals were prepared in our cafeteria and delivered on Christmas morn. Many SPS families and alums helped out.
- **34th Saint Paul's Holiday Soccer Tournament** again attracted area top teams. It was both an athletic and PR success, bringing the #1 ranked Wolves a lot of publicity along with a nice 1st place trophy!
- **Gene Bennett Classic** was a grand success. Thanks, Coach Dale, for honoring Gene! And three wins were a nice Christmas gift, too! Congrats!
- **Christmas Eve Mass:** Thanks to Brother Ken for organizing the 10 pm Christmas Eve liturgy in the school chapel. A large crowd, composed largely of alums and current families, attended.
- **Christmas on Columbia Alumni Gathering** on Dec 26 went well. Thanks to Al Nastasi, Danielle Lavie et al who helped. Lots of great pictures on our Facebook page. And the Alumni Basketball Game on 12/28 was a grand success, too, although age was showing in a number of players – who shall remain nameless!
- **Wolf Tracks:** The holidays didn't stop Danielle from publishing a December issue! Excellent, Danielle!
- **Habitat Wolves:** Thanks to Richard Pichon and HWs for their work on Dec 17 – Christmas spirit in action.
- **Quiddich Tournament:** Our Second Annual Quiddich Tournament was a grand success, with students scampering about on broomsticks and snitches being thrown. We have something for everyone!



Luc & Jackson light the menorah candle after explaining Hanukah.

Brother Timothy Wine Sale: The San Francisco New Orleans District provides each school (20 of us) with ten cases of a special "Brother Timothy" Wine, produced by Hess Vineyards in Napa. Our Advancement Office sold all of our ten cases for a total of \$6000 (\$50 a bottle.) The only hitch? The money must be used for financial aid for students whose family income falls at or below the federal poverty line. We are happy to comply! Thanks, Development Department, for promoting the sales! And many thanks to those who purchased the wine.

Greater Lasallian World Dept: Brother Enrico Muller, FSC runs a school for boys, ages 14 – 18, in Scampia, Italy. The entrance criteria are very tough: the boys must have failed at least twice and be referred by a social services agency! Here is how Brother describes his work: *“It is not just a question of after-school classes or a simplified school program. It is based on a real encounter between two people who make an educational pact. It is linked to the neighbourhood but is flexible in its setting, its timing, its locality and its style of learning. It is a communitarian experience in its management, accreditation and programming. It is an experience of being cared for.* Lasallian education once again in the forefront! The boys are cared for! That’s exactly what we must do here! For more info on this incredible work, here’s the link:

<http://www.lasalle.org/en/2016/12/italy-the-school-bell-is-ringing-in-scampia-for-a-second-chance/>

Greater Lasallian World Dept II: Mrs. Yvonne Gelpi died on Dec 15th. We old timers remember that Yvonne was the first non-Christian Brother President of De La Salle High School in New Orleans, where she served from 1991-2003 and again briefly as interim president in 2011 following the president’s resignation. She assumed the leadership of the School on the Avenue at a critical time in the school’s history. Her strong leadership, combined with a love for the Lasallian Mission, “righted the ship” and insured its survival. I have no doubt that she was welcomed into the Kingdom by Saint La Salle himself, along with a host of holy Brothers and Lasallians. *Oh what glory there will be for those persons who have instructed youth.* (St. John Baptist de La Salle)

Alumni News: The following alums graduated from LSU in Dec. Congratulations to them:

- Business: Doug Durand, Garrett Goetz, Adam Grashoff, Chase Jenkins, Chandler Roe, Ryan Seals, Nick Shepherd, Matthew Sirgo, & Tyler Tamboli
- Engineering: Ryan Durr, Nathan Grotte, Daniel Johnson, Jacob Machecha, Paul Mattingly, Jared Rovira, Logan Sellers, and Sam Tanner
- Human Sciences & Education: Justin Montreuil
- Humanities & Social Sciences: Mickey Johnson
- Science: David Thompson
- Graduate School (Master’s): Jon Goux

Building Upgrades: Over the holidays, five more main school building classrooms had flooring improvements. The failing tiles were removed, the exposed concrete was grinded and then polished. The floors look very nice. This completes the bottom floor of that building. Thanks to the physical plant crew, who had to empty all of the rooms on Friday afternoon and then had to clean! Also, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Randy Rush, we have begun replacing broken masonry tiles (both inside and outside) in that 1949-built facility. We are grateful to Mr. Rush for his company’s services. They worked diligently over the holidays.



Sophomores review for their exam before holidays begin.

Dec 13 Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Dec 13 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to the overture to *Messiah* (never "The" *Messiah*), by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) -- one of the most beloved Oratorios (a musical selection for orchestras, choirs & solos often based on religious themes so they could be performed in churches.) It's one of the most famous musical compositions in the world, based on the Judeo-Christian concept of Messiah (anointed one). It was composed in just 24 days in summer of 1741 (incredible!) and first performed in April of 1742. It's one of my most favorite pieces of music. While the music was playing, **junior Jack Manifold** lit three Advent candles -- including the pink "gaudete" (rejoice) candle. I encouraged the students to make the most of the remaining days of Advent and of 2015. And since Hanukkah was just around the corner, I had sophomore **Jackson Gold** and **junior Luc Hebert** tell the Hanukkah story, while a blazing, fully lit menorah was projected on the screen. I was very pleased with the students' attention and hope they now know the Hanukkah story.



George Frideric Handel

- We then prayed for the following, who entered God's Kingdom since our last assembly: **Mr. Gordon Bitterwolf, '54, grandfather of Thomas Bitterwolf '21; Mr. Edward Pascal Caire, grandfather of Josh Murr '17; Mr. Joseph Le Blanc, '51, great-uncle of Garrett Cooper '19; and Mr. Charles Minyard, grandfather of Alvey Anderson '18. And, of course, we prayed for Michael.**
- Recognized and congratulated all who helped make our blood drive a success. Over 50 pints of "the gift of life" were collected. I projected the following names on the screen of the donors: Students: **Robert Buquoi, Rhyne Sepchich, Ashton Young, Connor Charles, Chris Gement, Tyler Fair, Colin Rice, Oliver Sibley, Mason Rush, Bryce Fisher, Zach Clark, Cole Couvillion, Zach Russ, Bradley Mashburn, Gavin Grefer, Patrick Brunell, Blake Williams, Nico Arcuri, Joseph Pierce, Adam Moennich, Jack Fleming, Stephen Cangelosi, Edwin Heap, Adam Savoie, Carter Jarrell, Julian Saliba, Clayton Lind, Chris Weintritt, Ruston Keller, Jack Manifold, Patrick Napier, Julian Rodrigue, Ross Hightower, Curtis Zuckerman, and Morgan Kinch. Staff: Ms. Erin Abney, Mr. Al Nastasi, Ms. Karen Hebert, Mr. Tommy Lahey, Ms. Christie Simoneaux, Mr. Trevor Watkins, Ms. Andrea Francis, Ms. Emilie Allen, Ms. Claire Coutrado, Mr. Mick Nunez, and Mr. Roger Bacon**
- Recognized and congratulated all who help make our all school mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception so spiritually meaningful: liturgical band, readers, servers, Eucharistic Ministers and, of course, the enter student body for participating so powerfully.
- Recognized and congratulated freshman Jesse Cheng for his amazing lunch time piano concert. I encourage other students with such talent to take Jesse's lead and share that talent with the rest of us. I'm learning that we have some pretty talented keyboard players among us! I want to hear them!
- Recognized and congratulated all who helped with our annual luminaria celebration: Student Council, Jazz Band, Liturgical Band, & Mother's Club. It was a beautiful evening that makes a powerful statement.

- Recognized and congratulated senior **The Varsity Wrestling Team** for its showing in the Florida Border Wars competition. The following wrestlers placed: Brandon Stein 4th; Cole Houser 4th; Jared Thieler 5th; Shane Ulfers 1st; Grant Hughes 6th; and Jake Arena 6th
- Recognized and congratulated senior **Shane Ulfers** for being named The Morning Advocate's Wrestler of the Week by virtue of his undefeated record.
- Recognized and congratulated freshman **Blake Bollinger** for being recognized the Apple Computer Corporation for an app that he and non-SPS friend wrote. Blake won a trip to **Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference San Francisco, California** where he interacted with some of Apple's top designers.
- And while Blake Bollinger was still being applauded for his app designing skills, I further recognized him for being named "Steward of the Month" by Mary Queen of Peace Parish in recognition of his service as lector and altar server in the parish. Wonderful! I encourage more of our students to become involved in ministry opportunities in their parishes.
- I then projected a picture of the Louisiana Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge, a 1964-built structure modeled off of Oak Alley Plantation in the Greek Revival style of architecture. I told the students that I was invited to the mansion to see sophomore **John Paul Bourgeois** receive an award for winning **FIRST PLACE** in the Louisiana Environmental Education Essay contest. This was the second time in three years that an SPS student won the contest (senior Shane Strander won it two years ago.) John Paul is now a published author, as the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission published his winning essay in its 2017 calendar. I then told the students that I want to be invited back to the Mansion next year – so someone better start writing a another winning essay!
- Recognized and congratulated our wonderful Robo-Wolves! The team of **Luke Du Rapau, Blake Inzinna, Greyson Mangrum, and Adam Smith** won **FIRST PLACE** in the VEX Robotics Competition in Gulfport in November. In addition, the **Greyson Mangrum, Adam Smith, Darrin Lea, Blake Inzinna, Blake Bollinger, Roman Landry and Luke DuRapau** won **FIRST PLACE** (out of 22 teams) in the Holy Cross VEX Robotics competition in December. Well done, Robo-Wolves! I also congratulated the team of **Andrew Norlin, Ross Hightower, Josh Devier, Jake DuRapau** for advancing to the quarter-final round of competition in that tournament.
- Recognized and congratulated the Junior High Wrestlers for their great showing in the Brother Martin Tournament: Brother Martin Junior High Wrestling Tournament: **1st Place (Jack Ballard, Peyton Ward, Rhett Barker, and Jackson Luscy); 2nd Place (Charlie Layman and Sam Davidson); 3rd Place (Sean Cripple, Michael Rader, Carter Duet, Ian Bertrand and Michael Oubre); 4th Place (Nick Raspino, Blain Cascio, & Jonathan Sheffield**
- We then robustly sang the Fight Song for all of the activities going on around school



Seniors get in Christmas spirit by helping with Adopt A Family shopping.

- At this point, I reminded the students of my custom of giving them a musical treat by playing one of my favorite pieces of classical Christmas music: *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from George Fredrick Handel's *Messiah* (not "The" Messiah!) and for three minutes and 45 seconds, the gym was transformed into an 18th century English concert hall with Handel, one of the greatest of the Baroque composers, conducting his musical masterpiece. It was beyond wonderful.
- I then reminded the students of 7 am mass on Wednesday morning and to continue to pray "Maranatha" during the remaining days of Advent.
- Then, while listening to the Mr. Gene Lipps' rendition of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", junior **Blake Franklin** extinguished the Advent candles, and I reminded the students what the candles represent – the coming of the Lord into our hearts and our world. The whole student body sang along. It was a magical moment.
- It was a great assembly! At least I thought so!

2017 - 18 Registration: Please note the following:

- **Current 8th graders:** registration information will be emailed during the week of January 23. **Current 8th graders planning to return for 2017 - 18 will have until Feb 03 (two weeks) to re-register.** Unregistered spots will be offered to new 9th grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next year so I know how many new 9th graders we can accept.
- **Current 9th – 11th grades:** registration will take place in February. More info later.
- **Current 12th grade:** You don't need to register for SPS for 2017 - 18! Rejoice!
- **Registration will involve the payment of the \$300 registration fee.**



Jon studies diligently for exams before Christmas holidays.

Annual Fund: Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not – but I need your support to keep it from being high pressured.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g. technology, special programs (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation and the \$4.5 million new gym.)
- You may "pledge" your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- While we don't send requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! If you would like to inform your son's grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I'll personally appeal. I'll send them a nice "thank you" note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.

- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What's important is that everyone participates. Of course, no gift is too large!
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!



Santa's helpers load up gifts for our adopted families.

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. If you cannot afford one, contact me and I will take care of it confidentially.

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.

Important Driver's License Requirement: You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner's permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don't blame me! This is a legislative action.

2017 - 18 (NEXT YEAR) CALENDAR: St. Tammany Parish Public School System has set its calendar for next year; we have modeled ours closely on theirs. Here are some important dates:

- **Mon, Aug 07: Full day of class instruction**
- Fri, Oct 06: 1st Quarter ends for SPS (11 am dismissal)
- Fri, Oct 06: Grandparent Day (11:30)
- Mon, Oct 16: Fall break. No classes.
- **Fri, Dec 15: Christmas (not winter) holidays begin for SPS at 11:45;**
- **Wed, Jan 03: Class resume; SPS begins second semester**
- Fri, Feb 09: Faculty Retreat (no classes) followed by week off for Mardi Gras/Beginning of Lent Holidays
- Fri, Mar 30: Good Friday holiday followed by week off for Easter Holidays (not spring break)
- Sat, May 12: Graduation for the Class of 2018
- Mon, May 21 – Thu, May 24: Final exams for grades 8 - 11
- **Why the slight discrepancy in dates with the public schools? St. Tammany only has to schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools must schedule 177. So in the second semester, we will have two extra days.**

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:

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: Parents –let's start 2017 with a resolution for safe driving! 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, no cell phone use during school zone hours, 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:

- Amazon Smile: 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..

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.*

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!"

Application Letters Excerpts: Here are some more memorable lines:

- *We had heard how great of a leader Brother Ray was and after hearing him speak, we definitely agree.* [Shameless flattery will get this guy admitted!]
- *I like that the layout of the school wasn't just one building on top of another with a claustrophobic feeling.* [We hate claustrophobia!]
- *At shadow day, I was impressed at the awareness of the presence of God. I observed how prayer is the thread that seems to weave the school together.* [Love his "thread" metaphor and his use of the strong verb "weave."]
- *I like that you can grab lunch on the go and not have to sit at the cafeteria because I like to eat outside. I also like that you have a long time to switch classes because I do not like to rush at things and chance forgetting something.*

Humor of the Week: In honor of National Spaghetti Day on Wed:

- *Q: Did you hear about the Italian chef that died? A: He pasta way.*
- *Q: What do Italians eat on halloween? A: Fetuccini A-fraid-o*
- *Q: What would you get if you crossed pasta with a snake? A: Spaghetti that wraps itself around a fork*
- *Q: What does Arnold Schwarzenegger say before eating pasta? PASTA LA VISTA BABY.*
- *Q: What do you call a fake noodle? A: An impasta. [LOL]*
- *Q: Where did the spaghetti go to dance? A: The meat ball! [hilarious!]*
- *Q: What do you call a pasta that is sick? A: Mac and sneeze.*
- *Q: What does an Irishman get eating Italian lasagna? A: Gaelic breath!*
- *Q: What is the dress code at a pasta convention? A: Bowtie*
- *My sister bet me a \$1,000 that I couldn't make a car out of spaghetti, you should have seen her face when I drove pasta.*

A Look Ahead -- Second Semester Schedule

Third Quarter Period Rotation

January

- 3 – ABCD – President’s Assembly
- 4 – EFGA - Senior retreat
- 5 – BCDE - Senior retreat
- 6 – FGAB –Senior retreat
- 9 – CDEF
- 10 – GABC - Pack Time
- 11 – DEFG
- 12 – ABCD
- 13 – EFGA – CPR Training
- 17 – BCDE - President’s Assembly
- 18 – FGAB
- 19 – CDEF
- 20 – GABC
- 23 – DEFG – 8th-9th HR Breakfast in BAC
- 24 – ABCD – 10th-11th HR Breakfast in BAC
- 25 – EFGA – Feast of St. Paul Mass
- 26 – BCDE – Career Day in AM for Juniors
- 27 – FGAB – 12th HR Breakfast in Cafeteria
- 30 – CDEF
- 31 – GABC – President’s Assembly

February

- 1 – DEFG
- 2 – ABCD
- 3 – EFGA
- 6 – BCDE- Parent Teacher meetings 5-7
- 7 – FGAB – Pack Time
- 8 – CDEF
- 9 – GABC
- 10 – DEFG
- 13 – ABCD



Colin and Blaine light a candle for SPS in St. Peter Basilica in The Vatican over the holidays.

- 14 – EFGA – Pre Freshmen in Explore Test
- 15 – BCDE – 9th in PLAN Test
- 16 – FGAB – 10th in Pre ACT Test
- 17 – CDEF
- 20 – GABC
- 21 – DEFG – President’s Assembly
- 22 – ABCD
- 23 – EFGA
- 24 – Faculty Retreat Day – no classes

March

- 6 – BCDE
- 7 – FGAB – Pack Time
- 8 – CDEF
- 9 – GABC – NAPE test for certain 8th graders during G
- 10 – DEFG – End of Third Quarter
- 13 – ABCDEFG –St. Joseph Altar
- 14 – ABCD – President’s Assembly
- 15 – EFGA
- 16 – BCDE
- 17 – FGAB
- 20 – CDEF
- 21 – GABC
- 22 – DEFG
- 23 – ABCD – Juniors on Retreat/Angola
- 24 – EFGA – Juniors on Retreat/Angola
- 27 – BCDE
- 28 – FGAB – Pack Time
- 29 –CDEF- 8/9th HR Breakfast in BAC
- 30 –GABC -10/11th HR Breakfast in BAC
- 31 – DEFG – 12th HR Breakfast in Cafeteria

April

- 3 – ABCD – Leadership Week
- 4 – EFGA – President’s Assembly
- 5 – BCDE – Leadership Breakfast
- 6 – FGAB- Guest Speaker
- 7 – CDEF – Feast of St. La Salle
- 10 – GABC
- 11 – DEFG – Pack Time – Teacher Appreciation
- 12 – ABCD – Passion Play in BAC
- 13 – EFGA – Mandatum Assembly in Gym
- 24 – BCDE
- 25 – FGAB – President’s Assembly
- 26 – CDEF
- 27 – GABC
- 28 – DEFG

May

- 1 – ABCD
- 2 – EFGA – Pack Time (last)
- 3 – BCDE – Senior Exams
- 4 – FGAB – Senior Exams

5 – CDEF - Senior Exams
 8 – GABC
 9 – DEFG – President’s Assembly – Band Awards in PM
 10 – ABCD
 11 – EFGA – Athletic Awards in AM
 12 – BCDE – Academic Awards in AM
 13 – Senior Graduation in BAC 4:00 PM
 15 – FGAB – Pre-Freshmen Exams
 16 – CDEF – Pre-Freshmen Exams
 17 – GABC – Pre-Freshmen Exams
 18 – 9-11th Final Exams begin
 19 – 9-11th Final Exams – Pre Freshmen Promotion in BAC at 6:30PM
 22 – Final Exams
 23 – Final Exams
 24 – Records Day

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 responsibility for his belongings.

Whew! I’ve worn you out in this first week of 2017, but you had the last two weeks off! Even though it’s a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I’m listening to now as I complete the newsletter and LOLing): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2016 - 17 edition of Saint Paul’s! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC
 Blessed to See 2017 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

Mark Twain’s Classic Seasonal Quotation: *New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.*



Lasallian education – transforming lives since 1680 by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God’s will, and remaining faithful!

Answer to Trivia Question for Jan 06: The three kings are traditionally named Caspar of Tarsus, Melchior of Arabia and Balthasar of Saba.

As Christmas 2016 fades into history, let us not forget the inspiration provided by the Student Council on luminaria night: *LUX – Christ is our LIGHT -- and #36 – Mighty Michael!*