

The Saint Paul's School President/Principal's

Opening of 2013-14 School Year Newsletter

Welcome to the 2013-14 school year – the third year of our second century -- a year in which we will strive to keep the best of our 330+ year Christian Brother tradition with our 102 year Saint Paul's tradition while adding the quality of the present. This promises to be a great year. Thanks for being with us.

By popular demand, the President/Principal's Newsletter is back. I'm sure your summer Sundays were vaguely unsettling without my weekly missive. As in the past, I plan to email the newsletter on Sunday mornings. If you have suggestions as to how I can make the newsletter more helpful & informative, let me know. Just email me a question or suggestion or topic to be addressed. Thanks!

August 8 – The First Full Day of School:

- **Thursday, August 8, is a FULL DAY OF CLASS INSTRUCTION, NOT the Book Day of the past.** Eliminating Book Day allows us to get down to business a day early. Here's the plan:
 - Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students;
 - Pictures and ID cards will be taken during religion classes on the first two days (Aug 8-9). You will be sent information for optional picture orders.

From the Mothers Club:

- The Bookstore will be open on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Aug 5th - 7th, from 9:00-5:00, and on Thursday, Aug 8th from 7:30 - 8:30 and during lunch.
- Pre-ordered supply packs will be available for pick up in La Salle Hall during this time.
- ALL required school supplies will be available for purchase. Avoid the crowds and support our school!!! Remember that all proceeds from the MC Bookstore go to help SPS.
- Our summer mail-out was sent last week. If anyone did not receive it, please email us at mothersclub@stpauls.com.
- Please remember to send in your volunteer form. There are many opportunities for you to get involved and meet new friends!

2013-14 Calendar is posted on our web site (www.stpauls.com). NOTE: since the State of Louisiana has tightened the attendance policy, we will be even more insistent that students not miss school for less than serious reasons. PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.

Edline: Edline allows parents and students to have secure access to grades, attendance, conduct & other information. Edline is used at other local Catholic schools (SSA, MQP, & St. Peter, for example) which will allow parents to consolidate all children on one account. **Edline activation codes were printed on the schedules of new students.** Mr. Mike Holmes is the Edline administrator. Contact him for help at 892-3200, ext 1044 or mikeh@stpauls.com.

New SPS Web Page: We've worked hard to make our new web page neat, clean, informative, attractive and easy to use. It's a work in progress, so let us know if something is omitted. I'm indebted to

Development Assistant Danielle Lavie, who worked tirelessly for months in getting it ready and to Mr. Andre Savoie for WSI in Mandeville for his professional expertise.

Schedules: Your son's first semester class schedule was emailed to you on Thu, July 18. Contact me if you did not receive a schedule. The schedule is subject to slight modification as we balance class loads.

- A “free” designation for a period indicates a scheduling conflict. Email a counselor.
- For ALL schedule questions, E-MAIL (**do not call**) the counselors:
 - Grade 8 should email Mrs. Gina Hall at ginah@stpauls.com
 - Grade 9 should email Mrs. Christine Woodard at christinew@stpauls.com
 - Grades 10 & 11 should email Mrs. Caroline Cheatwood at carolinec@stpauls.com
 - Grade 12 should email Mrs. Renee’ Miller at reneep@stpauls.com
 - Counselors will adjust where possible and a new schedule will be emailed on Aug 5, 6 or 7.
- Changes are made for serious reasons **and are subject to space availability**. “I want to be with my friend” is ordinarily not a good reason. If a student received his choice and wants a change because he changed his mind, a \$10 fee is charged. If a student did not receive his choice, no fee is charged.
- A final schedule will be emailed during the week of Aug 5; use this schedule for class on Aug 8.
- We will have a regular 4 period block schedule for Aug 8, periods A, B, C, & D.

Student Email Addresses: An SPS email address (printed on the schedules) was issued to all students. The format is Firstname.Lastname.gradyr@stpauls.com, e.g. John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com. This will allow us to better communicate with students. The student may keep this email forever, thus allowing us to continue contact with him as an alumnus. Naturally, we will delete the email upon graduation at the student’s request. Your son’s email was printed on the schedule which was emailed to you. **Since 95% of our communication with you is via email, please let us know if you change your email address.**

School Supplies: ALL needed school supplies are posted on our school web site (www.stpauls.com) in an Excel Spreadsheet. Just click on the link on the left. Supplies are listed by TEACHER, so check your son’s class schedule which was emailed last week. **If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!**

Senior English Students: All senior English teachers remind the seniors that the summer reading must be completed by first day of school. Accompanying questions must be turned in on first day of school.

Student-Parent Handbook & Signature Card: The Student-Parent Handbook is posted on the homepage of our website (under the “Student Life” button.) Students and parents must know our policies and agree to follow them. As evidence of that agreement, students and parents MUST sign a form attesting they have read the Handbook, understand its contents, and intend to adhere to it.

PRINT OUT THE SIGNATURE FORM WHICH IS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE (under the “News” button) AND BRING IT WITH YOU THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

New Parent Reception / Information Meeting: A welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** will be held on Monday, August 19, at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. More information will be emailed in early August. We hope you will be with us!

New Moms Tea: New Moms' Tea is Sunday, Aug 11th, at 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. ALL NEW SPS moms are invited to this event. All moms automatically belong to the Mothers Club, so get involved.

Homecoming Dances: The Junior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Sep 27. The Senior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Oct 12.

Attention All 8th Grade and New 9th Grade Students: Our Lasallian Youth Leaders are planning an Orientation Session for our incoming 8th graders and NEW 9th graders on Mon, Aug 5, from 4-9 pm. An invitation was sent to you, and we hope you have marked this date on your calendars and plan to be present. Naturally, attendance is optional, but the evening will be a fun and informative introduction to SPS. Don't worry, however, if you can't make it. We'll "orient" you when school begins.

Attention 8th & New 9th Grade Moms: The Mothers Club Book Store will be open during the orientation event on Mon, Aug 5th from 4 - 6 pm. PE uniforms, sweatshirts and other SPS apparel will be available. This is a good opportunity to obtain needed items while your son is at orientation.

Senior Parents: Note the following **upcoming special senior events:**

- **Wed, Aug 21: Senior BBQ**
- **Thu, Aug 22: Senior Day:**
 - **March through the Arch at 8 a.m.** Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional "rite of passage" ceremony for our seniors.
 - **Senior-Parent Continental Breakfast** following the March. The breakfast will be in the cafeteria and "al fresco" (from the Italian meaning "in the fresh" -- in this case, fresh air! We'll have outdoor seating.)
 - Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by Ring Ceremony practice. They will be dismissed following practice, probably about 2 or 2:30.
 - **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional ceremony, a highlight of the senior year.
 - **Fri, Aug 23, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.**

Dress Code: Students must be in compliance with the dress code beginning Aug 8. WE INTEND TO INCREASE OUR ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRESS CODE THIS YEAR. Refer to previous newsletters or the student handbook on our website for particulars if you are still unsure. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts in good condition. If the family budget is tight, feel free to ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to those families who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.**

Uniforms: Reminders:

- Uniform shirts and socks are sold by Bayou Uniform (13488 Seymour Myers Blvd) in Covington
- Sweatshirts, fleeces, PE uniforms, etc. are sold by the Mothers Club book store.
- Khaki pants/shorts may come from any vendor as long as they are NOT cargo pants and are standard tan khaki color, not green or brown.
- There is no uniform shoe but no sandals, etc. are allowed. The more conservative the better.

- We now have a “dress uniform” which will be worn on special occasions: LONG khaki pants, dress white shirt (any brand is OK even if it has a small logo), dress socks, belt, SCHOOL TIE, and any shoe that is not a tennis/athletic shoe.

Extracurriculars: New parents often ask how their sons find out about our extracurricular program. **Shortly after school opens, we will introduce students to our offerings.**

Cafeteria School Lunch / Breakfast Programs:

- SPS participates in the federal school lunch/breakfast program managed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Saint Paul’s does not directly manage the food service program; we follow the directives of the Archdiocese and the cafeteria workers are employed by the Archdiocese, not Saint Paul’s.
- Breakfast (\$1) is served from 7-7:40 am. This is a GREAT program and many students use it.
- Students may buy lunch (\$2.) On most days, there is a choice of hot lunch or sandwich lunch.
- **Students may not “order out”, e.g. pizza, or have lunches delivered. WE CANNOT DELIVER LUNCHES TO STUDENTS. DO NOT BRING LUNCHES TO CAMPUS.**
- **Students participating in the cafeteria program must make an initial payment before school opens. This may be done on Aug 5 between 7 and 3:30 and Aug 6-7 between 7 and 2:00. A separate check will be needed. Students may NOT "charge" a meal if no money is on account.**
- **New students must be finger scanned (not fingerprinted) to eat in the cafeteria. New students should have this on Aug 5 - 7 during the times indicated above.**
- Parents may sign up for ON-LINE payments which will also allow them to see a complete record of everything their son is buying. Go to <http://www.schoolcafe.org/> and follow directions. Note: The online pay system has not been operative. We are told it will be operative beginning Mon, July 29.
- **FREE or REDUCED LUNCH/BREAKFAST: There is no stigma to apply for free / reduced lunch. NO ONE knows but the cafe manager. Request forms from me or the cafeteria manager. NEW: You may also apply online for free / reduced lunch by following these steps:**
 - ✓ Go to www.Applyforlunch.com (or access the link from our website www.schoolcafe.org)
 - ✓ Click on “Start your Online Application”
 - ✓ Enter your Zip Code or State and select “Archdiocese of New Orleans” as the district.
 - ✓ Follow the wizard and use the guided help along the way
 - ✓ Continue to select “next” at the bottom of the page and “submit” when completed.

Should you list an email address, you receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted. If you have any questions regarding Online Applications, please contact (504)596-3440 or (504)596-3434. Meal eligibility applications should be received prior to the 30th day of school or current meal benefits may change. **Students may also receive a free lunch by offering to help serve lunch during the lunch period.**

Attendance: The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Please do not allow your sons to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**

Jazz 'n Roll: J n R XXIV has been completely revamped! It's now Sat evening, Oct 05. If you have questions, auction items and/or would like to work at J n R, call Shellie Campo at 892-3200, ext. 1273.

Need More Information? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, or Mr. Trevor Watkins, Assistant Principal. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call on me if you think I can help. My office phone is 892-3200, x 1001 & my cell phone is 966-1138 or hit "reply" to this email!

Contacting the School: A list of school phone extensions & e-mail addresses is posted on our web site (www.stpauls.com). **PLEASE KEEP THIS LIST HANDY. Dial the extension wanted as soon as system answers** or press "0" and Janet McRae, our receptionist, will answer if on duty. Voice mail is checked regularly, so you may leave a message.

Call me if I can be of assistance. My office phone is extension 1001, my cell phone is 985/966-1138, and my e-mail is broray@stpauls.com.

Student Hosts: Student Hosts will recruit and enroll new and returning members during the first few weeks of school in preparation for service at Jazz N Roll, Open House, Drama productions, Celebrity Waiters and other events. Students should see Ms. Hebert in the Administration Building for information.

Athletics Family Pass: Family Athletic Passes are on sale. **SSA students are not admitted free to SPS events**, so a family pass becomes even more attractive. The \$175 pass includes 4 tickets to varsity home regular season football games, and immediate family (parents & children only, not uncles, aunts, next door neighbors, etc.) admission to JV/9th/8th grade home football games). The \$100 after football season pass admits the immediate family to regular season games at all levels. Call Carol (892-3200, ext 1002) for more info.

Lost and Found: At the end of last year, we "rounded up" dozens of sweatshirts, uniform shirts, pants, socks, books, lunch boxes and numerous other items that were "shed" or left behind by students in various parts of the campus and never claimed. Everything was washed and dried. Most of the items had NO IDENTIFYING INFO and the ones that did had info that was illegible. Again, PLEASE stress with your son the need for personal responsibility of his items. **Please clearly label all clothing.** The items collected at the end of May represent hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

Wolves Football I: Are you ready for some football? The Wolves football team is hard at work during the summer getting ready for their upcoming 2013 season....At Hunter stadium, you can also be ready for upcoming football season, where we you can purchase reserved seating, reserved parking, and also stadium banners to advertise your business. For our Annual Game Day shirt – this year the color is

GOLD. We encourage fans to wear game day shirt to all football games. Contact debbie@caresllc.com or call Debbie at 985-502-1315 to purchase or inquire about any of the above!! *GO WOLVES!!*

Wolves Football II: Tuesday, Aug 6, is SPS Football Spirit Night and **8th Grade Football Sign Up Night**. Between 5-7 pm, the Coaches will be registering 8th graders who want to play Wolves Football and the Touchdown Club will be selling spirit items. Come meet the coaches and find out what makes SPS football so special.

Off to Camp: Our football and cross country teams leave for their annual training camps this week. Many thanks to all who are helping make these events possible.

Campus Beautification: Many, many thanks to the parents and students who have worked hard this summer to help make our campus even more beautiful. The “Garden Club” under the tenacious leadership of Mrs. Linda Trahan has planted many varieties of flora at our main entrance and in Founders Circle. And our Dads Club, under the equally tenacious leadership of Mr. Mike Sibley, has painted and cleaned a number of areas on campus. I am most grateful for all of this parental and student involvement.

Off to a Good Academic Start: Help your son develop proper attitudes and habits for success. Show confidence in his ability; work with him to set realistic academic goals. Help him develop an orderly study environment. Teens enjoy chaos, so the trick is to help your son create enough order in his chaos for proper study to occur. Designate a place and time to study. **Require 1-2 hours of study per night. Do not accept the "I have no homework" excuse.** He always has homework -- review, study and advanced preparation. At the end of his study session, have him organize books, assignments, PE clothes, etc. for the next day. **Students who do not have their homework on a particular day are sent to assignment hall.**

I will again close with the passage that I like to use at the beginning of each new school year. I've been using it now for 25 years, but it still makes sense today! I wish I could take credit for the quotation, but it was written in the 1960's by the headmaster of St. Alban's School. It provides food for thought for all of us as we begin another school year:

The raising of children is a lot of fun and a lot of pain, whether it has to do with cars, books, the opposite sex, parties, or drinking, but it is also the greatest privilege we can have in life. We shall do it well or poorly, depending upon the quality of life we ourselves have been able to develop, the way we are able to learn, the humility of heart that is ours, which helps us to recognize that we do not have all the answers and that we can learn from each other, occasionally from our children, through whom God has been known to speak even to parents, and especially from that teacher who we recognize as The Teacher, Jesus the Lord.

Whew! That was a lot of information! Hope I haven't scared you off! I'm sure I've forgotten something but that's enough for now. Email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

Since you've read this far, you deserve the traditional “Humor of the Week” with the Teacher jokes:

Teacher: Why do you have cotton in your ears?

Student: You keep saying things go in one ear and out the other so I'm trying to keep things all in!

Teacher: Name two pronouns.

Student: Who, me?

Teacher: I told you to write this poem ten times to improve your handwriting and you only wrote it seven.

Student: Looks like my counting skills aren't too good either!

Teacher: Your handwriting has improved but now I can read how bad your spelling is!

Student: The art teacher doesn't like what I'm making. Dad: what are you making? Student: Mistakes!

Teacher: Please pay a little attention! Pupil: I'm paying as little as I can!

Teacher: What have you read? Pupil: I've got red hair!

Teacher: In music, f means forte. What does ff mean? Pupil: Eighty!

Teacher: What's the longest word in English? Pupil: Smile – there's a mile between first & last letters!

Teacher: How do you make so many mistakes in a day? Pupil: I get here early!

OK, I'll stop!

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows: well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Pray that we have a good beginning! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and call on me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Anticipating a Great 2013-14 as the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School