

The President/Principal's Weekly Newsletter for August 5 -11, 2013

Once again, welcome to 2013-14 school year – the beginning of the third year of our second century of life! I'm glad last week's mammoth newsletter didn't scare you off! I tried to make this one shorter!

As we begin a new year of Lasallian education at Saint Paul's, I invite you to reflect on and commit to the theme we have chosen for the year: **to do the ordinary things extraordinarily well**. To Lasallians, this phrase is familiar: it is **the phrase that Pope Pius XII used in 1948 at the beatification of Christian Brother Saint Brother Benilde**, whose feast day we will celebrate later this month. Pope Pius was emphasizing the path that Brother Benilde took to sainthood, a path that we are all called to travel. He stressed that **sainthood doesn't mean doing extraordinary things; it just means doing the ordinary in an extraordinary way**. **This should fill all of us with hope**, as we can all do this!

Over the past two years, we've embarked on some pretty ambitious projects around Saint Paul's: the La Salle Hall renovation, the Briggs Assembly Center renovation, the baseball club house, new curricular offerings in biomedicine, engineering, and law, more AP classes, expanded and enhanced wi-fi and band width, a new web site, additional sports and club offerings, more technology – and a host of other things. **While we will continue our “march into the future” this year, we don't want to overlook those things that are fundamental to our lives as Lasallian educators, those things that make the school “run well”** – the charge that Saint John Baptist de La Salle gave to the first Brothers.

And so we are working with the faculty on doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well. **We encourage you, as parents, to work with your sons in a similar manner. Don't let him get by with “just enough”, whether it's grades or chores around the house or a simple “good morning, Mom and Dad!”** Exhort him to sainthood by doing the ordinary in an extraordinary way. You and the sons will hear more about this theme from me throughout the year.

I invite you to join me, together and in association, in Saint Brother Benilde's path to sanctity. I look forward to traveling that path with you.

Thanks for being a part of the 2013-14 edition of Saint Paul's School!

Mon, Aug 5

- **This Day in History:** In 1914, the world's first electric traffic signal is put into place on the corner of Euclid Ave and East 105th Street in Cleveland. Little did they know what they started!
- **TDIH II:** In 1850, French writer Guy de Maupassant, who is considered to have had the greatest impact upon the development of the short story as a literary genre in Europe, is born. His stories are characterized by clever plots, clear style and surprise endings. Read some Guy de Maupassant today! “The Necklace” & “Piece of String” are classic!
- **National Underwear Day:** SPS will not be celebrating this day! I'll let you decide if you're going to celebrate this or not – at home! In New York City, though, in Times Square at Broadway between 46th and 47th St, an attempt will be made for the Guinness Book of Records by having the largest crowd ever to show up in underwear. Another reason I'm glad I'm not in NYC!
- **National Oyster Day:** Indulge today in this local favorite! Some facts:

- 100 species of true oyster exist, traditionally named after the body of water where found.
 - The largest oyster-producing body of water is located in Chesapeake Bay.
 - Humans have eaten oysters since the dawn of humanity. Oyster farming and cultivation can be traced back to Roman times in France and England.
 - Two billion lbs are eaten annually and only 1 out of 10,000 will have a pearl!
- **Lasallian Gateway Experience for New Faculty Members:** New teachers from SPS, Christian Brothers School in City Park, Archbishop Rummel, & De La Salle High School will gather in New Orleans for this intro to Lasallian education. Since Hurricane Isaac cancelled last year's experience, last year's new SPS teachers will also participate.
 - **Band Pictures (8) and Football Pictures (3)**
 - **8th & New 9th Grade Orientation (4-9):** Our Lasallian Young Leaders have a great program planned for our newest young wolves. Thanks to Myrle Wiggins, Brad Marchese, our Lasallian Young Leaders and all who will be helping tonight.

Tue, Aug 6 – Faculty Meetings

- **This Day in History:** On this day in 1945, at 8:16 a.m. Japanese time, an American B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay*, drops the world's first atom bomb, over the city of Hiroshima. Approximately 80,000 people are killed as a direct result of the blast, and another 35,000 are injured. At least another 60,000 would be dead by the end of the year from the effects of the fallout. We pray that never again will atomic weapons be used!
- **National Fresh Breath Day:** Floss, brush, rinse with mouthwash, and carry mints! 'Nuff said!
- **SPS Football Spirit Night and 8th Grade Football Sign Up Night.** Between 5-7 pm in the gym lobby, the Coaches will register 8th graders who want to play Wolves Football and the Touchdown Club will sell spirit items. Come meet the coaches and find out what makes SPS football so special.

Wed, Aug 7 – Faculty Meetings

- **Purple Heart Day: Today** in 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington created the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with the word Merit across the face. The badge was presented to soldiers for "any singularly meritorious action" and permitted its wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge. After the war, the decoration was largely forgotten until 1927, when the US Army Chief of Staff sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to "revive the Badge of Military Merit." On February 22, 1932, Washington's 200th birthday, the U.S. War Department created of the "Order of the Purple Heart." We remember all American soldiers who have been wounded, thus earning The Purple Heart.
- **TDIH:** The US Congress overwhelming approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Lyndon Johnson nearly unlimited powers to oppose "communist aggression" in Southeast Asia. The resolution marked the beginning of an expanded military role for the United States in Vietnam.
- **Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day** -- Buy anything lately that was particularly hard to get out of the box or plastic wrap? Don't know how we celebrate this day. Did you ever succeed in getting the darn thing open? What do we older people do when even mainstream society can't open a simple bottle of aspirin, let alone a milk carton?

Thu, Aug 8 (School Opens; Rejoice! Orientation Schedule; A B C D; see below for more info)

- **TDIH: Brother John Fairfax, FSC was born!** Brother John turns 86 years young today. After an extraordinary career as an exemplary educator, he continues to be an active and important member of the SPS community through his work with SPS Lasallian Youth Leaders, his presentations to our religion classes, his presence at school functions, and his friendly, generous, concerned and compassionate spirit. *Ad multos annos, Frater Johannes!* Happy Birthday!
- **Happiness Happens Day:** The purpose of today is to help people recognize more happiness and encourage them to talk about it. What a great day for us to start school – which should be the cause of great happiness for all of us at Saint Paul's! **Be happy today and don't dwell on the negative!**

Fri, Aug 9 – (Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross; Orientation Schedule; E F G A)

- **Born** into a prominent Jewish family in Poland in 1891, Edith abandoned her belief in God in her teens. A brilliant student, she earned a doctorate in philosophy in 1916. Through her studies, she became intrigued with Catholicism and converted in 1922, joining a Carmelite monastery in the Netherlands, taking the name of Sister Benedicta. When the Nazis occupied the Netherlands in 1940, the Dutch Catholic bishops denounced them. In retaliation, the Nazis arrested all Dutch Jews who had become Christians. Benedicta and her sister Rosa, also a Catholic, died in a gas chamber in Auschwitz on August 9, 1942. Pope John Paul II canonized her in 1998.
- **TDIH:** Richard Nixon becomes the only man in history to resign as President of the United States; Gerald Ford is sworn in as the 38th President of the US.
- **TDIH II:** On this day in 1945, a second atom bomb is dropped on Japan by the United States, at Nagasaki, resulting finally in Japan's unconditional surrender, thus ending World War II.
- **Worldwide Art Day:** Celebrate the arts today by drawing, composing, writing, painting, dancing, acting, or singing – and look for ways to value the role that art plays in our lives!

Sat, Aug 10 (Feast of St. Lawrence)

- **TDIH:** News of the July 4th Declaration of Independence reaches King George III of England today in 1776.
- **National S'mores Day!** Celebrate the opening of school and make some s'mores with the family!

Sun, Aug 11 (19th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

- **Let's get the school year off to a great start by attending church services today. We encourage our Catholic Families to attend mass as a family today.** We encourage our non-Catholic families to worship at place of choice.
- **TDIH:** 1994, the longest major league baseball work stoppage begins, causing cancellation of the 1994 World Series (the world shrugged.)
- **New Moms Tea:** This annual event, sponsored by the Saint Paul's Mothers Club, is a wonderful way for our new moms to learn about SPS and the MC. All new moms are welcome to attend this social, starting at 1:30 in the school cafeteria

School Safety: School safety remains a paramount issue for all of us, even in St. Tammany. Please discuss this with your sons. Know that in our faculty meetings, we will review all safety procedures that we have in place – and they are many. Safety is our priority – and it's EVERYONE'S JOB. **Report ANY rumor or threat to safety about which you hear.** Encourage your children to report, too. **If you**

come to campus, you must check in at the office for a Visitor Pass before you may walk around.

Our prayers rise to heaven for a school year marked by safety and an elimination of violence everywhere.

First Day of School: Thu, Aug 8, is A FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION for ALL students. **This is considered a school day** and attendance is expected. Students **must be in their A Block class by 7:45.**

- On Thursday, we have blocks A B C & D only. **Students only need to bring books and supplies for Blocks A B C & D.**
- Students will take ID & yearbook pictures on Thu & Fri during religion class, so **they must wear SPS regular uniform (blue uniform shirt, khakis, brown belt, uniform socks, shoes in good condition, tee shirt -- optional but if worn must be white, grey, gold or blue) and abide by grooming regulations (especially hair and shaving -- all those special summer sartorial styles must be gone.) Students not in conformity will not be allowed to take pictures; disciplinary action is a possibility.**
- **Purchasing school pictures is completely optional. Pricing and order form info will be emailed to you.**

Student-Parent Handbook Signature Card: The Student-Parent Handbook is posted on the Student Life page of our website. All students and parents must be familiar with our policies and agree to follow them. As evidence of that agreement, students and parents must sign a form attesting that they have read the Handbook, understand the rules contained within the document, and intend to follow them.

Print out the signature card (posted on the website under “recent news” and which is also the last page of the handbook) and bring it on August 8. It will be collected during English class.

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!

Newsletters: All newsletters, report cards, and school communication will be EMAILED. Make sure you keep us informed if your email addresses change.

New Parent Reception & Information Meeting: A welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** will be held on Mon, Aug. 19 at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. The reception

begins at 6:30 pm and an information meeting starts at 7:00 which will be over by 8:00. We hope you will be with us!

Odds and Ends:

- Students must be in their first block class by 7:45 am. Classes dismiss at 3:00 pm.
- Students must be in uniform compliance (including shirts tails tucked in) from the moment they step foot on campus.
- Car lines: There is no absolute designated drop off spot. Please be patient the first few days of school as traffic patterns form. Safety is paramount, so if you use Founder's Circle as a departure point, **cars must drop off students in Founders Circle in the LEFT lane only** – you may not block traffic in the right lane to discharge the car occupants. Dropping off at La Salle Hall or the tennis courts is also OK.
- Traffic will be heavy heading into Covington this week as schools open. Please plan accordingly.
- Also, PLEASE observe traffic regulations. SPS is in a residential zone and speed limits are 25 mph – 15 mph during school zone hours. Covington Police will actively enforce traffic laws around SPS.

New Students: Our Student Host organization will provide you with help for the first few days. The student hosts are easily spotted because they will be dressed in GRAY student host shirts instead of the blue uniform shirt. Feel free to ask a student host if you need help. They are friendly!

Orientation: Please discuss with your son the four assemblies he will have this week & next:

- A chapel prayer service
- A meeting with Level Teachers to review handbook and policies
- A meeting with the guidance department
- A meeting with Coach Ken Sears to review expectations of conduct. **Note: during this assembly, Coach Sears will conduct the Archdiocesan-mandated Child Protection/Safe Environment presentation which informs students about the dangers of abuse, how to prevent it, and what to do if it is suspected.** Please discuss this with your son.

Enrollment: We open this year with a near record enrollment – more than I had planned. **Please stress with your son that you are giving him a gift by sending him to Saint Paul's – a gift that is wanted by others. Stress with him the obligation to make the most of the gift he is being given. Stress with him that attending Saint Paul's is a privilege and not a right. He can lose the privilege by making poor choices.**

Telephone/Email Info: A listing of all SPS staff phone extensions/email addresses is posted on our new website.

Saint Paul's Cafeteria: Please note the following:

- Breakfast is served from 7:10 to 7:40 daily. The cost is \$1 – a bargain.
- Lunch is served daily with a choice of hot lunch or sandwich lunch. The cost is \$2 – another bargain.

- Money must be on account for a student to eat. Cash is not accepted on the serving line. **Personnel will accept payment on Aug 5-7 (between 7-3:30 on Aug 5 and between 7-2:00 on Aug 6-7) and register (fingerscan) new students. A separate check must be brought to the cafeteria.**
- **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.
- **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.**

We are adding an additional “Grab n Go” serving line this year which will be outside to make things go even faster.

Attendance: The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss (whether excused or unexcused) and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. Consult the handbook.

Important Tax Info: The Louisiana Department of Revenue reminds parents that back-to-school shopping can qualify for a \$5,000 per-dependent tax deduction on their state tax returns next year by saving receipts. Items such as uniforms, supplies and TUITION are eligible for tax breaks on the income tax forms due May 15, 2013. The maximum deduction is \$5,000 per dependent student, he said. More information is available at www.revenue.louisiana.gov/schooldeduction.

Helping Saint Paul's: Don't forget – here are two painless ways to help:

- If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!
- SPS participates in the Box Tops for Education program. Have your son bring eligible his box tops to his math teacher! Here's the web site that lists all of the participating products:
<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx>

Seniors: Want to earn \$200 or more in one day? The St. Tammany Clerk of Court has opportunities for you as an Election Commissioner on Election Days. 17 year old US citizens enrolled in 12th grade as well as 18 year old and older registered voters are eligible. You must attend a training class. See your

Civics teacher for more information or go to the St. Tammany Clerk of Court website:
www.sttammanyclerk.org/main/elections.asp

Adult Dance in the BAC: This is a fun, casual way to meet new families of SPS and reunite with the old ones..Saturday, September 14th...the Band is *This Issue*....\$25.00 at the door or call to reserve a table....Cocktail Party Starts at 7-8 – Band from 8-11:00....once you attend one you will always come to the next one, bring your friends, too...for details call Debbie Bodenheimer 985-502-1315.

Greater Lasallian World Dept: I again stress the need to be aware of the greater Lasallian world. Many resources exist to help us do this. A great one is the web site www.lasallian.info which is a newsletter updated every Friday on the Christian Brothers Conference Website. Make it a habit to check out this great resource. They'll even email it to you. To show how powerful this connection can be, read this email from 2012 SPS Valedictorian Andrew Mullet who studied in Spain this summer: *This past weekend, I went with six other students to Salou, Spain (about 1½ hrs south of Barcelona) for a fun weekend at Port Aventura, supposedly the best theme park in all of Europe. While there, I was waiting in line at a food stand and a group of kids, probably around 4th-6th grade and all wearing bright yellow shirts, got in the next line over...nothing out of the ordinary, just a typical school field trip. As the Spanish say, ¡no pasa nada! One of the kids turned and I read the front of his shirt; LA SALLE, with a star in the middle. I thought, "could these really be kids from another Lasallian school ...that I've happened to come across...in a food line...at a theme park...halfway across the world?" I decided to quell my curiosity by striking up a conversation with one of the boys in the group. After some pleasantries, I asked him what the LaSalle on his shirt meant, and he told me it was his school. I asked him if it was a Catholic school, to which he responded yes, and then asked if they prayed every day, and he said of course! By now, practically the entire group had paused to listen to the conversation between their friend and this foreigner. I looked at him, and said, "Acordémonos... (Let us remember)" to which the ENTIRE group of kids looked at me and said, "de que estamos en la Santa presencia de Dios (that we are in the holy presence of God)." I couldn't believe that had just happened, took a step back, and they were all still looking at me, seemingly more perplexed than I was. So I continued, "San Juan Bautista de la Salle...", and they answered "Ruega por nosotros! (Pray for us!)," and I concluded with "¡Viva Jesús en nuestros corazones! (Live Jesus in our hearts)," and they immediately and energetically responded "¡Por siempre!" The surprise at this chance interaction was mutual. The kids remained silent, trying to figure out just who I was and how I knew their prayer. I explained that I was from the United States and went to a Lasallian high school there, with the same prayers, mission, and core values of faith, service, and community. They told me how awesome that was and I assured them that it was even more awesome for me, seeing how even though we were completely different, we were able to make a connection with just a few words -- a truly fascinating manifestation of the universality of the Lasallian community. After I received my drink, I turned back around and smiled, the first boy I had talked to gave me a high-five, and I wished them a fun day in the park and said goodbye. This certainly made the rest of my day at the theme park even more enjoyable. Like I said, life never ceases to amaze me!*

Wolves Football: 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!!*

OK, if you've made it this far in the newsletter, you deserve **Humor of the Week** (with apologies in advance):

- *Johnny decided to skip school and go fishing. He waited until his parents left for work and called the school himself. Johnny: "Hi, I'm calling to report that Johnny is unable to make it to school today because he is ill." School Secretary: "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. I'll note his absence. Who is this calling?" Johnny: "This is my mother."*
- *A kid comes home from his first day at school. Mother asks, "What did you learn today?" The kid replies, "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow."*
- *"Isn't the principal a dummy!" a boy said to a girl standing next to him at recess. "Do you know who I am?" the girl shouted. "No." said the boy. "I'm the principal's daughter." said the girl. "Do you know who I am?!?" shouted the boy. "I don't have any idea" she yelled. The boy said, "Thank goodness!" Then he ran away.*
- *Teacher: If I give you two cats and another two cats, how many cats have you got? Patty: Five! Teacher: No, listen carefully again. If I give you two cats and another two cats, how many cats have you got? Patty: Five! Teacher: Let's try another way. If I give you two apples and another two apples, how many apples have you got? Patty: Four. Teacher: Good. Now if I give you two cats and another two cats, how many cats have you got? Patty: Five! Teacher: Patty, dear, how on earth do you keep coming up with five? Patty: I've already got one cat at home now!*
- *The teacher said, "Sammy, make a sentence starting with the letter I." Sammy began, "I is..." The teacher interrupted, "No, Sammy, you don't say 'I is', you say 'I am'." Sammy said, "Okay, if you say so...." "I am the ninth letter of the alphabet."*
- OK, I'll stop!

Useless Fact of the Week Dept (a new feature of the newsletter!): Why do ships and aircraft use "mayday" as their call for help? This comes from the French word m'aidez -- meaning 'help me' -- and is pronounced, approximately, "mayday."

Personal: Why Is He Wearing Sunglasses? No, I'm not trying to "look cool." It would take much more than sunglasses for me to emit even a scintilla of coolness (I've been looking for an opportunity to use the word "scintilla" in a newsletter! It's a great one!) The fact is, I had some complicated cataract eye surgery this summer. The good news is that I see better than I've seen in 20 years! I had forgotten what some things really looked like! (Like how old I've gotten!) But due to the existing condition of my eyes, the surgery also made me more sensitive to glare and sunlight – hence, the sunglasses – a minor inconvenience considering the benefit. I'm indebted to the excellent ophthalmological care provided me by Dr. E. Colin McComiskey all these years (and who probably regrets the day I walked into his office for the first time!) So please pardon my "Foster Grants."

Whew! That's enough for now! I'm sure I've forgotten something so email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

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

Anxious to Begin the New Year as the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School (proving, once again, that the rumors of my retirement that swirled at the beginning of summer were false – obviously wishful thinking on some people's part!)