

The President/Principal's Newsletter for Aug 26 - Sep 2, 2013

Welcome to the last week of August! Wow. The month has flown by, but it's been a good one!

During the Five Core Rally Program for our Pre-Freshmen on Aug 16, **senior Michael Burke** spoke to our newest Wolves. Below are his talking points. They wonderfully encapsulate the core principles and provide concrete, practical advice to our 8th graders on how to live the Lasallian way and get the most out of SPS. They are also a great reminder for all of us. Here's what Michael told the Pre-Freshmen:

Quality Education

- *Pay attention in class. You can learn a lot not just from the lesson but from the teacher as well*
- *Ask for help. Don't be foolish. The teachers want you to succeed.*
- *Help others. Tutor others. Not everyone is as quick or on the same level as you. maybe you can explain something in a different way than your teacher*
- *Do homework. Incredibly simple. This easily boosts your grade and makes everything easier.*
- *No assignment halls. You do not want the brother ray stare.*
- *Take honors or harder classes. If you aren't challenging yourself, you aren't changing.*



Sam supervises Pre-frosh Tug 'o War.

Concern for the poor and social justice

- *Service hours. Food bank. The poor. Student hosts. Habitat for humanity. Local youth groups.*
- *Meaningful service. Don't just help your grandma or sister. The service is not about you, it's about others.*
- *Food drives, coat drives. Warm hearts coat drive coming soon*

Respect for all persons

- *Everyone here is a friend a classmate. Treat them like such.*
- *No bullying. It is not tolerated here. When you bring down one person, you bring down the entire grade*
- *Teachers deserve your respect. They prepare and work too hard to be treated badly.*

Faith in the presence of God

- *Morning, afternoon, and during classes participate in the prayer. This time is for you and no one else. Do not waste it*
- *Participate fully during mass, sing loudly, & say responses. It's no fun when Mr. Watkins makes us sing songs again*
- *Spend time in the chapel at lunch, before and after school. It's here for you. Spend just a few minutes a week in silent prayer. You don't even need to talk to him just maybe sit in there and listen to what God has to say.*

Inclusive Community

- *This is what our school is all about. Talk to someone new, sit with them at lunch. Meet a new best friend.*
- *In PE, run laps with someone you are just starting to know. Create bonds of friendship early. You won't regret it*
- *Be outgoing. Talk to upper classmen. They're nicer than you think. Extend your friendships across grade levels. This will enrich your Saint Paul's experience.*

DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRY NEW THINGS. THERE IS SO MUCH OUT THERE. THESE PRINCIPLES OR GUIDELINES WILL SHAPE THE NEXT FIVE YEARS OF YOUR LIFE.

Thank you, Michael, for this inspiring charge to our Pre-Freshmen – and to all of us!

Mon, Aug 26 (Regular; F G A B)

- **This Day in History:** In 1974, Charles Lindbergh, the first man to fly solo nonstop across the Atlantic, dies at the age of 72. Trivia Question: What was the name of Lindbergh's plane in which he first crossed Atlantic? (answer at end of newsletter)
- **National Dog Day:** Give Fideaux an extra treat today and make sure you appreciate your pet!

✓

✓ **Tue, Aug 27 (President/Principal's Assembly; Memorial of St. Monica; regular; C D E F)**

- **St. Monica:** Today's feast is a special one for all moms, as Monica prayed for years for the conversion of her son, Augustine, who strayed far from the path of righteousness. Her persistent prayer paid off and Augustine became one of the greatest saints in the church. (See below.) Thanks, St. Monica!
- **TDIH:** Brother Ralph Baltz, a member of our retired Christian Brothers Community (though he still works as hard as most people half his age) celebrates his 93rd birthday today. We offer him our prayer and best wishes on this special day. We thank him for his life as a Christian Brother in the cause of Lasallian education. *Ad multos annos*, Brother!
- **TDIH II:** In 1910, Mother Teresa is born. In honor of her birth, coincidentally on the same day as Brother Ralph's birth, I reprint one of her most famous prayers which I've used before but which is always worth re-reading:
 - ✓ *People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway*
 - ✓ *If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.*
 - ✓ *If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.*
 - ✓ *If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.*
 - ✓ *What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.*
 - ✓ *If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.*
 - ✓ *The good you do today will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.*
 - ✓ *Give the best you have and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.*
 - ✓ *In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.*
- **President/Principal's Assembly:** I look forward to recognizing many Wolf accomplishments today.

- **Catholic Secondary Principals Association** meets today at Brother Martin High School. I will be with my colleagues from the other 22 Catholic high schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Wish us luck!

Wed, Aug 28 (Memorial of St. Augustine; Fire Drill this morning; G A B C)

Today we celebrate Augustine, a most influential scholar saint. His story offers much. From Catholic Online: *Augustine is the patron of brewers because of his conversion from a life of loose living, parties, and worldly ambitions. His turnaround and conversion have inspired many who struggle with a particular vice they long to break.*

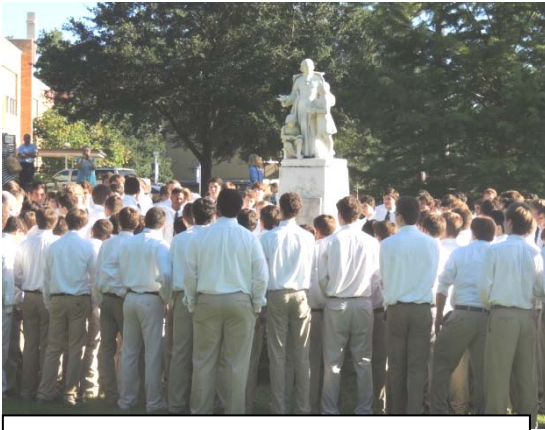
This son of St. Monica was born in Africa and spent years in wicked living. One of the most intelligent men who ever lived and brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and pride darkened his mind. Through prayers of his mother and St. Ambrose's preaching, Augustine became convinced that Christianity was the true religion. Yet he did not become a Christian because he thought he could never live a pure life. One day he heard about two men who had been converted, and he felt terribly ashamed. "What are we doing?" he cried to his friend Alipius. "Unlearned people are taking Heaven by force, while we, with all our knowledge, are so cowardly that we keep rolling around in the mud of our sins!"

Full of sorrow, Augustine flung himself out to the garden and cried, "How long more, O Lord? Why does not this hour put an end to my sins?" Then he heard a child singing, "Take and read!" Thinking that God intended him to hear those words, he picked up the Letters of St. Paul, and read the first passage. It was just what he needed, for in it, St. Paul says to put away all impurity and to live in imitation of Jesus. That did it! From then on, Augustine began a new life.

He was baptized, became a priest, bishop, famous Catholic writer, Founder of religious orders, and a great saint. On the wall of his room he had the following written in large letters: "Here we do not speak evil of anyone." Augustine overcame heresies, practiced poverty supported the poor, preached often and prayed with great fervor until his death. His holy life made up for the sins he committed before his conversion. The following prayer by Augustine is beautiful:

Late have I loved You, O Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved You! For behold, you were within me and I outside, and I sought you outside. In my unloveliness, I fell upon these lovely things that you had made. Thou were with me and I was not with You. I was kept from You by those things, yet had they not been from You, they would not have been at all. You did call and cry to me to break open my deafness. I tasted You, and now hunger and thirst for You; You touched me, and I burn for Your peace.

- **TDIH:** In 1963, 50 years ago today, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King delivers his now famous "I Have a Dream Speech" to about 250,000 people attending the March on Washington. I encourage you to read or view Dr. King's speech today. It remains a stirring testament to freedom and equality – and it's an excellent piece of writing and speech making! Here's a link where you can hear Dr. King's speech and read the text at the same time: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm>
- **Race Your Mouse Around the Icons Day** -- While you're waiting for whatever it is to finally come up on your screen, race your mouse in and around the icons. Do it and you'll feel peppy.



After marching through the arch, seniors sing at Founder's statue.

Thu, Aug 29 (Evacuation Drill this morning; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastates south Louisiana and floods the New Orleans. We remain grateful to the incredible support from so many people who helped in the aftermath of the storm to welcome displaced students, care for our own students, and keep hope alive on our campus -- all while dealing with their own issues and challenges. Their work at that difficult time was in the finest tradition of heroic Lasallian education.
- **TDIH II:** One year ago, Tropical Storm Isaac bashes south LA; SPS is forced to close for four days!
- **More Herbs, Less Salt Day:** Pretty self-explanatory! Eat healthy today!

- **Senior Portraits** taken in Civics classes today & tomorrow. Info has been sent to senior parents.
- **Cross Country:** Time Trials and Meet the Team

Fri, Aug 30 (Regular; Intruder Drill this morning; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1893, Huey Pierce Long ("The Kingfish") was born in Winnfield, LA.
- **National Marshmallow Toasting Day:** OK, you were healthy yesterday with more herbs and less salt, so you can splurge today and toast a marshmallow. Or make some 'smores for the family!
- **Slinky Day:** The humble Slinky was invented in the 1940's by Navy engineer and inventor, Richard James. It proved an immediate hit, and quickly became one of our favorite toys. **Slinky Day** should be spent doing slinky tricks, watching Slinkies race down staircases, or untangling the things as they inevitably knot, twist and spiral! Dig out your Slinky today, turn on the video games, and have fun!
- **Football:** JV & Varsity v. Archbishop Rummel, the defending state champs, in the SPS Jamboree. Go Wolves! We will use this event to recognize and celebrate the common Lasallian heritage of both SPS and ARHS with special prayers and half time activities.



Sat, Aug 31

- **TDIH:** In 1997, Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car crash in Paris.
- **Love Litigating Lawyers Day.** Give your favorite litigator a big 'ol hug today – and hope you aren't sued!
- **Trail Mix Day:** Trail mix is a high energy snack comprised of dried fruits, nuts and energy snacks, designed to keep you alert and energized when walking, hiking, and partaking in similar endurance and intense activities. **Trail Mix Day** is all about creating good trail mix and testing it out. After yesterday's marshmallows, go back to healthy today!

Sun, Sep 1

- **Attend church today. We encourage our Catholic Families to attend mass as a family.** We encourage non-Catholic families to worship at place of choice.
- **TDIH:** In 1939, 1.5 million German soldiers invade Poland, thus beginning WW II.



Mon, Sep 2 – Labor Day Holiday (no classes – enjoy!)

- **TDIH:** In 1790, Brother Solomon, FSC, is martyred by French authorities bent on Church suppression. The Christian Brothers Website says once Louis XVI & Marie Antoinette were overthrown, the next target was the Church. In 1790, the state took over the French Church. To function, priests & religious had to swear support. Most Christian Brothers refused and had to abandon schools and disband. Eventually, the Institute was deprived of legal status – ironic since the Institute began in France. Brothers Solomon, Roger, Leon & Uldaric were imprisoned for refusing to take the oath. Solomon was executed on Sep 2. Roger, Leon & Uldaric later died while confined in prison ships. Because of their heroism, these Brothers were beatified – one step away from

official sainthood. May their heroic lives give us strength in times of difficulty! May their devotion to Christian education inspire all of us!

- **National Blueberry Popsicle Day:** Enjoy a popsicle today! Popsicles were invented in 1905 by 11 year-old Frank Epperson. He accidentally left a stirring stick in a fruit-flavored drink on his porch one winter night. In the morning, it was frozen into an icy treat. He first named this delight the "Epsicle." This name was changed eighteen years later.

Safety Week: This is Safety Week, when we will lead our students through a series of drills to practice our safety procedures. The recent tragic events in other schools only make more urgent our need to take these preparations seriously. The following is the schedule of drills:

Tuesday: I will introduce Safety Week during assembly. We will then follow our Tornado Drill during SSR

Wednesday: We will practice our first Fire Drill

Thursday: We will practice our Total Evacuation Drill

Friday: We will practice our Intruder on Campus Drill

Encourage your son to take these drills seriously. We pray we never have to use them.

CLASP Survey: I want to keep my job! Help me by taking your Catholic Lasallian Assessment Process on-line survey **THIS WEEK**. It only takes a few minutes. You were sent the link in an email. I really need you to do this! Thanks! Here's the link again in case you've lost it:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VRTBHY2>

Again, I need all parents to take the survey. The students did theirs last week.

Calling All SPS Dads: Join the newly founded SPS Dads Club by attending the monthly meeting at 6:30 PM on Wed, Aug 28th at the Abita Brewery Visitor Center. Come meet other dads and enjoy the companionship. The Dads Club has already made an impact on SPS by several painting and cleaning projects.

Musings on Last Week:

- **New Parent Reception:** Thanks to all who attended. It seemed to go very well and I hope it was useful to our new parents. We enjoyed welcoming them to Saint Paul's.
- **Football Scrimmage:** Thanks to all who helped. It went very well.
- **Get Involved Day:** Thanks to all who helped. It went very well and I hope your son signed up for activities. The energy level among the students was great.
- **Senior Week:** Thanks to all who helped make the Senior BBQ, the March through Arch, Senior Breakfast Unity Day, and Senior Ring Ceremony so successful. Shout outs to the Mothers Club, the physical plant staff, Senior Level moderator Paul Scoriels, and Special Events coordinator Shellie Campo.
- **English:** Congrats to Mrs. Wiggins and Mrs. D's pre-freshmen classes who presented their bio-posters in class and practiced presentation skills. I was able to attend several of the classes' presentations and thoroughly enjoyed them.
- **Pack Time:** Thanks to all who cooperated. Our first Pack Time involved introductions and getting involved. It seemed to have gone very well. Special thanks to Mrs. Hall and Mr. Moore for coordinating Wolf Pack Time.
- **The Conifer:** Congrats to Andrew Dart and the Yearbook Class for the 2013 edition of *The Conifer*, the first all-color edition! Contact Andrew at andrewd@stpauls.com if you have any questions.

Special Thanks to the Following:

- To **Covington Mayor Mike Cooper**, a 1971 SPS alumnus, for leading the seniors in the March through the Arch. Mike's an excellent example of our alumni working to make our community a better place.
- To **Mark and Liam Dixon**, parents of senior August Dixon and owners of **The Broken Egg** restaurant in Mandeville, who provided the food for the Senior/Parent Post March Breakfast. The fare was plentiful and delicious.
- To **Chick-fil-A on Highway 21** for donating lunch for the seniors on Unity Day. Also thanks to the **Chick-fil-A on Highway 190** for its generosity to us as well.
- To the **Senior Parents** who cooked and served at the Senior BBQ.
- To the **Junior Parents** who supplied food for the post – Ring Ceremony reception

As you can see, food played a major role in the Senior Week events!

Voter Education Week: This is VEW in St. Tammany Parish. The Registrar or Voters reminds all that Wed, Sep 18 is the last day to register to vote in the Oct 19 primary elections and Wed, Oct 16 is the last day to register for vote in the Nov 16 general election. Encourage our students who are 18 to register to vote. Info can be found at <http://stprov.org/>

Service Hour Opportunity: The annual Madisonville Beach Sweep will be Sat, Sep 21, at 10 - 12, meeting in front of Madisonville Town Hall. The event is followed by a picnic. They supply trash bags and gloves. **Lunch provided thanks to Chick-fil-A and Bopps Frozen Custard!** Music will be by Madisonville's own Nathan Michael Killen. This is a great way for students to earn service hours.

Tutoring: Tutoring has begun by the National Honor Society 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 much

easier to be tutoring early in the quarter than to wait until later in the quarter. The tutors are very friendly and helpful!

Texting and Driving: I'm sure you've heard about this video, but here's the link to an amazing short documentary on texting and driving. The film was directed by the brilliant Werner Herzog (*Grizzly Man*, *Encounter's at the End of the World*, *Aguirre the Wrath of God*, etc.). The documentary contains four stories of people affected by car accidents caused by texting. The film is only 34 minutes and it is hauntingly beautiful with tragedy and forgiveness. We still have many students texting and driving! Here's the link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_BqFkRwdFZ0

Botanical Wolves: The BWs continue campus beautification efforts and our campus is looking better than ever. Many thanks, Botanical Wolves! Feel free to join them in watering, weeding, and / planting.

Emergency Closing: With tropical systems in play, I again remind all of the directives from the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, which Saint Paul's follows:

- **Catholic schools will follow the closure and reopening schedules of their civil parish.** Therefore, monitor the St. Tammany Public School system announcements. Naturally, we reserve the right to close earlier if we feel it necessary and to reopen earlier if we are able and civil parish authorities give permission. For example, we opened weeks before the public school system following Hurricane Katrina.
- **Listen** for School Reach phone service before calling school since it is difficult to handle a large volume of calls. Also, our phone system goes dark in a power failure. **I will soon send a test robo call to test our system.** I'll let you know when to expect it.
- **Consult** Edline and our web site. I'll keep it updated, power permitting.
- **Pray** to Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Patroness of Louisiana.

Cafeteria: Last week, we began using student ID cards for meal check out. **NO STUDENT WAS DENIED A MEAL** if he forgot his ID card. One of the checkout lines is for students without IDs. The cafeteria lady just has to type his name into the computer. It's like The Causeway toll lanes: the toll tag lanes go faster; the cash lanes go slower. For us, the ID lanes go faster, the other one a little slower.

Student ID Cards: If your son loses his ID, he may order a new one for \$5 by seeing Ms. Janet in the Administration Building. Students need their IDs for cafeteria **AND ALSO FOR ADMISSION TO ATHLETIC EVENTS.**

Attendance: Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook which is posted on Edline. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.



Seniors clowned during ring ceremony practice but performed extraordinarily well at the event itself.

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.*

After School Issues: Assignment Hall and detention are in full operation. Parents, please stress with your sons the need to do homework and follow rules. And if your son does end up in AH or detention, please establish a procedure for him to follow so that you are not wandering around looking for him. We tell the AH student to call their parents. We'll provide a phone if needed. Some do but some didn't last week and we had a couple of parents in a quandary wondering where their sons were.

Traffic: Please drive carefully and, if your son drives to school, stress traffic safety with him. We are already receiving complaints. **If we find the student culprits, they will lose their driving to school privilege – yes, it's a privilege, not a right.** Saint Paul's is located in a residential neighborhood, so be VERY careful when approaching campus. Covington Police will ticket violators.

Lost & Found: Lunch boxes, uniform shirts, books, shoes – all sorts of things are being left behind on campus – almost all with no names on them. Please stress with your sons to need to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside of the Attendance Office.

Wolves Football:

- The Wolves football team is hard at work getting ready for their upcoming 2013 season....At Hunter stadium, you can also be ready for upcoming football season by purchasing reserved seating, reserved parking, and stadium banners to advertise your business. We encourage fans to wear game day shirts to all football games. Contact debbie@carcsllc.com or call Debbie at 985-502-1315 to purchase or inquire about any of the above!! *GO WOLVES!!*
- **Football Game Day Shirts:** Game day shirts are on sale for \$15 dollars. This year's shirt theme is "We are Brothers!" Students may wear these on football game days instead of their uniform shirt (unless it conflicts with a dress uniform day.)
- **Adult Dance in the BAC on Sat, Sep 14:** This is a fun, casual way to meet new families of SPS and reunite with the old ones. The Band is *This Issue*. \$25.00 at the door or call to reserve a table....Cocktail Party Start from 7-8 – Band from 8-11:00....once you attend one you will always come to the next one. For details, call Debbie Bodenheimer at 985-502-1315.

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>

School Picture Ordering: If you want to order your son's school pictures, there's an easily opened order form on the school's website (www.stpauls.com) under "news" (lower left.) We also have order forms in the administration building. **It's not too late to order.** You can see what the pictures will look like by asking your son to show you his ID card that he received last week – if he hasn't lost it!

Useless Fact of the Week: Why is shifting responsibility to another called 'passing the buck'? In poker, it was once customary to pass an item to indicate whose turn it was to deal. This was often a knife, and knives often had handles made of buck's horn - hence the marker was called a buck. When a dealer's turn was done he 'passed the buck' or if a player did not wish to assume responsibility of dealing, he 'passed the buck' to the next player. Silver dollars were later used and this is probably the origin of the use of buck as a slang term for dollar.

Humor of the Week:

- *Sign over the classroom clock: Time will pass; will you?*
- *When you wish upon a star, you're a few million light years late and the star is probably dead.*
- *Why don't you ever see the headline "psychic wins lottery"?*
- *Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?*
- *Why is it that doctors and lawyers call what they do "practice"?*
- *Why is store-bought lemon juice made with artificial flavoring and dish washing liquid made with real lemons?*
- *Why is the man who invests all of your money called a broker?*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

A Look Ahead:

September 2 – Labor Day Holiday

September 3 – Pack Time

September 4 – Intruder on Campus Drill

September 6 – 8:30 Late Start for 7:45 Faculty Meeting

September 9 – Parent Mini schedule 6:30 PM

September 10 – Principal's Assembly – Snack Day

September 11 – CLASP visit begins

September 12 – CLASP focus groups meet

September 13 – No classes meet for CLASP faculty/staff meetings

September 16 – 9:00 Late Start for Faculty In-service

September 17 – ASVAB test given to seniors – BAC

September 19 – FAB meeting

September 24 – Pack Time

September 27 – Mass

September 28 – Jr. High Homecoming Dance

October 1 – Principal's Assembly – First sophomore Sudden Impact field trip

October 4 – Homecoming – Pep Rally Schedule

October 5 – Jazz & Roll in BAC

October 8 – Pack Time

October 11 – Periods AB meet/ Grandparents Day in BAC/ End of First Quarter

October 14 – Late start for Teacher in service

October 15 – Principal's Assembly – FAB meets

October 16 – PSAT test to 10th Graders in BAC

October 17 – 9th Grade Retreat/Service Day

October 18 – 9th Grade Retreat/Service Day – Redi-Step test to 8th Graders
October 21 – Teen-Life-Counts (TLC) program begins for sophomores during religion classes
October 22 – Pack Time – TLC for sophomores
October 23 – TLC for sophomores
October 24 – TLC for sophomores
October 25 – TLC for sophomores

Sorry I was so long-winded this week (so what made this week different from other weeks, right?)

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to right now as I write the newsletter and LOLing as I do so): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Pray that we continue our good beginning! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family and call on me if I can help! Again, thanks for being part of the 2013-14 edition of Saint Paul's!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can't Believe It's the Last Week of August and I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School

PS: Here's the answer to the Aug 26 Trivia Question: Charles Lindberg's plane was called *The Spirit of St. Louis*.

CAN YOUR SON RECITE THE FIVE CORE LASALLIAN PRINCIPLES FROM MEMORY?

CAN YOU?

Quality Education, Respect for all, Concern for the Poor & Social Justice, Inclusive Community & Faith in the Presence of God

And remember to the ordinary things extraordinarily well!

