



## *The President/Principal's Newsletter for Oct 28 – Nov 03, 2013*



Two years ago today, Oct 28, 2011, Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, visited SPS. In his honor, we celebrated a memorable all-school liturgy and formed a Lasallian star. It was a magical moment in our school's history and the picture remains an iconic one. In his address to the students during Mass, **Brother Alvaro made the following points, which are worthy of review:**

- Lasallians must be concerned with the rights of the child
- Lasallians must be concerned with serving others, especially the poor
- Lasallians must be concerned with interreligious dialogue
- Lasallians must be concerned with forming quality relationships
- Lasallians must be people of faith
- Lasallians must have hearts without borders which allow us to be concerned with all, here and throughout the entire global community

Let's renew our commitment today to Brother Alvaro's vision of what a Lasallian school should be. Let's re-ignite the excitement of our centennial two years ago so that when SPS celebrates its bi-centennial, people will look back at our time and say "this was our finest hour" (apologies to Winston Churchill!) – even though I want SPS to even greater in 2111!

### **Mon, Oct 28 (Regular; A B C D)**

- **TDIH:** In 1922, hundreds gather around radios to hear the first-ever cross-country broadcast of a college football game. The Princeton Tigers beat Coach Amos Alonso Stagg's formidable Chicago Maroons.
- **National Chocolate Day:** Indulge! (As if some of you needed a reason!)

### **Tue, Oct 29 (Assembly; E F G A)**

- **TDIH:** In 1969, the first electronic message was sent via the Internet. Let's not draw attention to the fact that the system crashed half way through sending it, though. And speaking of crashes, in 1929, the New York Stock Exchanges "crashes" beginning the Great Depression.
- **Pres/Prin Assembly:** I look forward to recognizing the successes of our Wolves this morning.
- **National Candy Corn Day:** Indulge! (Notice a theme building up to Halloween?)

### **Wed, Oct 30 (Regular; B C D E)**

- **Haunted Refrigerator Night:** Who knows what evil lurks in your refrigerator? It's time to be afraid, very afraid. Gather friends, open the refrigerator door, and venture unto the realm of the lower shelf, rear. That "thing" inside that container is much more horrifying than any trick or treater tomorrow night!

- **TDIH:** In 1938, Orson Welles causes a nationwide panic with his broadcast of "War of the Worlds"—a realistic radio dramatization of a Martian invasion of Earth. You can listen to this classic on You Tube.
- **National Caramelized Apple Day:** After the chocolate and candy corn, just eat the apple sans caramel.
- **Lacrosse Meet the Team (7 in gym)**

**Thu, Oct 31 (Assembly; F G A B)**

- **Happy Halloween!** I offer you a traditional Scottish prayer for tonight: From ghoulies and ghosties / and long-leggedy beasties / And things that go bump in the night, / Good Lord, deliver us!
- **TDIH:** In 1517, the priest/scholar Martin Luther nails a piece of paper containing the 95 revolutionary opinions that would begin the Protestant Reformation to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.
- **National Knock-Knock Joke Day:** Drive everyone crazy today by telling K-K jokes. It's always on Halloween.
- **Dia de Los Muertos:** Since Nov 2 is Sat, we will have our annual remembrance today at a special prayer service. We remember those whom we loved who have entered eternal life. Thanks to Mrs. Liz Brett, the Spanish Department & our Lobos for this special event.

**Fri, Nov 1 (All Saints Day; Mass schedule; DRESS UNIFORM DAY; C D E F)**

- **Yes, we have school today at regular time!**
- **All Saints Day.** Today we remember those who lived their lives in such union with God that this union was complete at death. These are the SILENT saints who far outnumber the "official" saints, and are often more cherished than "canonized" saints. Saint John Baptist de La Salle wrote for this feast: *yearn as the saints did for the happiness which they now enjoy, considering...not the visible things, but the invisible, because the visible things are temporary, whereas the invisible are eternal.* All school liturgy today at 8 am.
- **National Authors' Day:** Read your favorite author today!
- **This Day in History:** In 1512, ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, one of Italian artist Michelangelo's finest works, is exhibited to the public for the first time. Here's the link to the Vatican Museum site in order to view this incredible artistic achievement:  
[http://mv.vatican.va/3\\_EN/pages/CSN/CSN\\_Main.html](http://mv.vatican.va/3_EN/pages/CSN/CSN_Main.html)
- **Swimming:** Wolves in Metro Meet through Sat.
- **Football:** Varsity v. Ponchatoula! Go Wolves!

**Sat, Nov 2 (All Souls Day)**

- **Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)** Today the Church gives special remembrance to those who have died. We remember those whom we loved who have entered eternal life.
- **SAT** administered on campus this morning

**Sun, Nov 3 -- We encourage Catholic families to attend mass and our other families to attend church of choice.**

- **Daylight Saving (not Savings) Time ends today at 2 am. Fall back! Enjoy your extra hour!**

- **National Sandwich Day:** Enjoy your favorite sandwich today!
- **National Cliché Day:** From the NCD website: *Every dog has his day. And evidently, so does every minuscule detail of modern society, including the cliché. Not to beat around the bush about it; we'll just come right out and tell you that, as hard as this fact may be to swallow, today is National Cliché Day. Really, we're not just yanking your chain. We wouldn't pull your leg about something as serious as National Cliché Day. By the time National Cliché Day is over, a good time will have been had by all.* Use your favorite clichés today!
- **Zero-Tasking Day:** Always the same day that Daylight Savings Time ends, the purpose is to fill that extra 60 minutes with nothing. Take this "extra" time and rest, give yourself a break from all the hustle and bustle of your life.
- **Open House for Prospective Students** (1 pm). If you know of anyone interested in SPS for next year, encourage the family to attend. Administration & Dept chairs will be present, with student hosts & several students who will speak about our school. Thanks to all who are helping! Let's hope for a good turnout! I hope you have noticed the large amount of advertising that schools have been doing to recruit students. We must NOT take our record enrollment for granted. Please comply with Trevor's directive to "spruce up" (can you "spruce down?") and "de-clutter" your space.

**There He Goes Again:** Halloween is this Thursday; it's not my favorite day. I beg parents to preach safe choices with their children and to remember that we have school on Friday. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says the scariest Halloween activity is drinking and driving, with 52 percent of all national fatalities on Halloween night from 2007 to 2011 involving a drunk driver. In addition, NHTSA points out that drinking and driving is one of the reasons why teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers. I continue to be greatly concerned about alcohol consumption by underage students, especially in our area.

**There He Goes Again II:** We continued our crusade last week against electronic cigarettes, also called atomizers. Coach Sears and I met or spoke with a number of parents whose sons we suspect of using these devices. In almost all cases, the students admitted using. And the students involved were good, caring, involved, high achieving young men at all grade levels (including 8<sup>th</sup> grade) – who just don't think these things are harmful. There're no current laws against selling these devices to minors so they are easily obtainable. We even spoke with a local retailer who assured us he's not selling to minors. And the advertising is strongly alluring to the young. National Public Radio did a feature on these devices last week that is worth reading or listening to. Here's the link: <http://www.npr.org/2013/10/21/239269426/e-cigarettes-a-nearly-2bn-industry-a-regulatory-wild-west>

Parents, please speak with your sons. And if you see him sucking on his pen, check it out. We will continue our crusade and take disciplinary action against a student who brings these things to campus.

**Dress Uniform Day:** Friday, Nov 1, is a Dress Uniform Day for our all school mass. Please help your son prepare for and remember this requirement for Friday.

**Safe Environment Training:** We had a large attendance at last week's SET session. Thanks to all who showed. I'm often asked "who needs to be trained?" Here's the answer that Archbishop Aymond sent last week: *All adult staff/volunteers who have on-going, unsupervised contact with minors, or attend an*

*overnight event with minors, are required to receive Safe Environment training and a criminal background check prior to beginning ministry and every three years following. Adults also go to Austin Computing solutions to complete the online information which gives permission to the parish or school to complete a background check and assures us they have read and agree to live according to the archdiocesan Policy Concerning the Abuse or Neglect of Minors and the Principles of Integrity in Ministry policy. So, ANY adult who has “on-going, unsupervised contact with minors OR attends an overnight event” must have training. Parents, if you wish to volunteer and need to be trained, let me know and I can provide you with a list of training opportunities.*

**Lawsuit:** Well, that got your attention! A few weeks ago, Christian Brothers Employee Benefit Trust (which provides our retirement plan and health care coverage) filed a class action lawsuit against three federal agencies to oppose the contraceptive mandate of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for Colorado for CBEBT & the more than 200 employers that have adopted the CBEBT, a medical program administered by Christian Brothers Services for Catholic employers – and since Saint Paul’s is one of those 200,+ we are now plaintiffs in the suit.

As plaintiffs, we object to the mandate to provide contraceptives, including sterilization and contraception that could cause abortions, such as “morning after” pills. CBEBT believes that a religious organization should not have to choose between violating its faith or violating the law and facing serious financial penalties.

The litigation arose from a failure to reach a compromise with the government. Since the passage of ACA in 2010, Christian Brothers Services has worked with other religious denominations to seek an accommodation and/or an exemption from ACA’s contraceptive mandate. However, without the exemption, the plaintiffs in this case felt they had no choice but to seek recourse through litigation, both for themselves and for other similarly situated employers in this plan. According to Brother Michael Quirk, FSC, Ed.D, President/CEO of Christian Brothers Services, “it is clear that the White House and the three federal agencies implementing ACA are committed to a broad definition of preventative care that includes contraceptives and that protection of religious freedom and choice is of little or no concern.” More than 60 lawsuits have been filed challenging the contraceptive mandate. This is the first class action.

Locke Lord LLP, a large national law firm, and the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a prominent nonprofit, public-interest law firm headquartered in Washington, D.C. that is dedicated to protecting the free expression of all religious traditions, will be representing the plaintiffs in this lawsuit. No, SPS pays nothing for this legal action. Stay tuned!

**Advanced Ed/SACS Anniversary:** Two years ago at this time, we welcomed the Quality Assurance Review Team. The Committee was very specific in their commendations and recommendations. Allow me to present this brief review:

*Commendations:*

- *Saint Paul’s school has a well-developed mission that is infused throughout the school community.*

- *Saint Paul's school has a strong leadership team that works cooperatively to ensure the success of all members.*
- *Saint Paul's school has a strong commitment to educating the whole child.*

#### *Recommendations:*

- *Establish a short and long term plan in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure the future viability and success.*
- *Strengthen the teaching / learning process to incorporate research based teaching strategies and 21st century skills.*
- *Develop a system to ensure that the curriculum is aligned both vertically and horizontally.*

I think our commendations are still valid two years later. As for recommendations, we have completed the first and have our strategic plan, compiled in collaboration with stakeholders. Curriculum Coordinator Joe Dickens and AP Trevor Watkins, in collaboration with the teachers, are working on alignment and research based teaching strategies. Trevor has to file a mid-point report in December and I'm sure he'll be sharing his observations with us.

I share the above with you to assure you that SPS is in a "continuous improvement" mode. We are constantly striving to get even better.

#### **Musings on Last Week:**

- **Football:** Pre-freshmen finished their season last week with a great win over Brother Martin. The Wolf Pups enjoyed playing in Tad Gormley Stadium. 9<sup>th</sup> Grade lost a heartbreaker to Covington by 1 point and JV defeated Covington. This completes their seasons, and what great seasons they were! And despite the score, we are proud of the Varsity Wolves for fighting hard against Covington. The game went well with no problems.
- **CLs, MWs & GBs:** And, of course, the Cheerleaders, Marching Wolves and GBs acquitted themselves exemplarily. And the MWs did a great job at Kehoe France last Thu afternoon.
- **Teen Life Counts:** Sophomores are responding well to our annual suicide prevention program. We are grateful to SPS alum parent Mimi Voelkel who conducts the program and to Jewish Family Services for sponsoring the program.
- **Wellness Screening** for faculty went well! Let's hope all the results show no problems!
- **ACT:** The ACT went well on Saturday. Thanks to Don Pressley and his staff of proctors.
- **Lasallian Young Leaders:** Our LYLs did a great job in joining with De La Salle & Rummel Lasallians in helping Christian Brothers School in City Park with Falcon Day. The Lasallian bond was strongly in evidence. And congrats to the LYLs on the Warm Hearts Drive! Thanks to all of you who donated over 1000 items of warm clothing for those in need. Wow!
- **Frisbee Wolves** had quite a day of competitive fun on campus Saturday with a number of schools represented in the tournament. I don't have any results, but all seemed to be enjoying themselves.

**Engineering Program Open House:** SPS is the only school around with a four year, CERTIFIED PLTW Engineering Program. In order to better spread the news about this program, we will have an

Open House for our Engineering Program for parents of 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> graders at 6:30 PM on November 6 in LaSalle Hall. We will explain the PLTW program and parents will have the opportunity to hear and see about the four engineering classes that we teach. You are invited to attend.

**Lost and Found:** The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, **a very nice pair of Sperry Top Sider black dress shoes (if they were one size larger I'd be wearing them!)**, books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it's probably in our lost and found, in the gym, cafeteria or school lobby. Parents, please put your son's name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

**Anonymous Letter:** Please know that my policy is generally to ignore anonymous letters, but since I don't think I've notified you of this via newsletter this year (since I only received my first one last week), I went ahead and read the one addressed to me last week. To whoever wrote it (I think it was an 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent), I offer the following response: I'm disappointed that you don't trust me enough to discuss your concern either via phone or in person. Know that I'll work harder to earn your trust. I daily put myself "out there" for anyone to criticize or disagree with – and ordinarily I'm a pretty nice guy! All I will say to your complaint is that you don't have all the facts. If you wish to discuss, give me a call. Thanks!

#### **Service Opportunities:**

- Mary Queen of Peace is having its annual Fleur de Fall fundraiser on Sat, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, on their school and church campus in the evening. They need help and service hours will be awarded. Sign up in the Attendance Office by Mrs. Claire's desk. **I hope our MQP students can help their parish!**
- The 2013 Crescent City Cyclist Ride for Kids benefiting Children's Hospital of New Orleans will be on Sat, Nov 2, 2013 at St. Benedict's Church at the corner of Smith Road and Stafford Road in Covington. See campus ministry to sign up. Lots of opportunities to gain hours.

**Recycling Is Back at SPS:** We are starting to recycle again and the community can drop off PLASTIC and ALUMINUM ONLY (no glass, no paper) at the rear of the campus on Jefferson and 13<sup>th</sup> next to the shed. The tall trash cans will be placed there tomorrow. Do not to drop off items next to the dumpster next to the student center

#### **From the Mothers Club:**

- **Bookstore:** For your convenience, the MC Bookstore will now be open before school from 7:15 - 8:00, during lunch from 11:00 - 12:30, and after school from 2:30 - 3:30. Anyone interested in working with our awesome team may contact Elizabeth Grashoff at [ehgrashoff@bellsouth.net](mailto:ehgrashoff@bellsouth.net).
- **Pencil Pouches** have finally arrived! Anyone who ordered one in their Supply Pack may pick it up in the bookstore. (The pouches were included in all 8th Grade packs!)

**Yearbook Ordering:** The yearbook ordering process is *all* digital this year, taking payments directly through our new website -- no need to bring in checks! Anyone wishing to purchase a 2014 yearbook should go to [stpauls.com](http://stpauls.com) and go to the "Student Life" section where you can order a book, pay for a senior ad, etc. SENIORS DO NOT NEED TO ORDER A BOOK AS ONE WAS INCLUDED IN YOUR

## SENIOR FEES.

**Lunches:** PLEASE don't bring lunches to school for your sons as we definitely are not equipped to deliver lunches to students. We don't have the personnel, so please don't ask us. And PLEASE encourage your son to take care of his lunch box if he brings he school. We have MANY, MANY lunch boxes ALL over campus.

**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](http://www.thepaperwolf.com). Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

**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.

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

**Contests:** We've added a webpage listing various contests for students to enter (<http://www.stpauls.com/academics/academic-contests/>). Why enter contests? Many reasons:

- Students can win prizes (a number of our guys won cash prizes last year)
- It looks great on college resumes
- It prepares students for the competitive life of the real world.

Yes, it's a little extra work, but the rewards are worth it – even if students don't win. Encourage you son to explore academic, artistic, musical and other contests.

**Community Coffee Seals:** We are now collecting these, too, which can be redeemed for cash to help SPS. Your son should bring them to his math teacher.

**Report Cards:** Report cards were emailed last week. Let us know if you didn't receive it. Please speak with your son about his grades and the teacher comments. If improvement is needed, please make a plan with him to accomplish the improvement. Remember that first quarter grades count as 40% of the semester grade. First quarter grades DO NOT go on a student's transcript. ONLY SEMESTER grades are entered on the transcript.

**Honor Roll Breakfasts:** We look forward to recognizing our First Quarter HR students and their parents at this event (SPS pioneered HR breakfasts in our area starting in 1990.). We will continue to have the

breakfasts in the cafeteria. Since the cafeteria can only handle so many people, we must do the breakfasts by level. You will receive an emailed invitation to the breakfast, but here's the schedule:

Mon, Nov 11 – HR Breakfast for Grade 8 HR students and their parents  
Wed, Nov 13 – HR Breakfast for Grade 9 HR students and their parents  
Thu, Nov 14 – HR Breakfast for Grade 10 HR students and their parents  
Fri, Nov 15 – HR Breakfast for Grade 11 HR students and their parents  
Mon, Nov 18 – HR Breakfast for Grade 12 HR students and their parents

**Power of the Senior Retreat Cross Dept:** I received the following email last week from the mother of a graduate from the Class of 2013, who is attending Texas A & M in Galveston: *Last Thu night, Jimmy was in a car accident. He is fine but suffered a concussion and he cut his arm pretty bad when the back window of the truck shattered. He was taken to the hospital and when they performed the MRI they cut his St. Paul's cross off of his neck. He tried to get it back that night but no one could find it. I have since called and they have not recovered it. Is there any way that I can purchase a new one for him? I have heard you tell stories over the years about how special this cross is to these boys but now I am witnessing it firsthand.* Of course I'm sending him a cross! I believe its power was with him in the accident, sparing him for further harm.

**Drama Department:** Our acclaimed Drama Department, the Marian Players, will present the Pulitzer Prize winning play "Teahouse of the August Moon" on Nov 6, 7 & 9 at 7 pm and on Nov 10 at 3. Tickets are on sale in the admin building. Get your tickets early as our shows usually sell out. The cast and crew have been working hard to make this another outstanding production. Thanks, Mrs. Charbonnet and Marian Players.

**Humor of the Week:** In honor of Halloween on Thursday, 10/31:

- *Why didn't the skeleton go to see a scary movie? He didn't have the guts.*
- *Where does Count Dracula usually eat his lunch? At the casketeria.*
- *Why was the mummy so tense? He was all wound up.*
- *Why didn't the skeleton dance at the party? He had no body to dance with.*
- *What's a Vampire's least favorite song? Another one bites the dust!*
- *What does a ghost call his mom and dad? His transparents.*
- *What did the skeleton order with his drink? A mop.*
- *Why did the mummy get a headache? Because he was GOBLIN his candy!*
- *What did the witch say when she fell in the moat? My eels are killing me!*
- *What do you get when you cross a vampire with a mummy? Either a flying bandage or a gift wrapped bat!*
- *What do you call a vampire that's always eating? Snackula!*
- *When do werewolves go trick or treating? Howl-oween!*
- *What should a short-sighted ghost have? Spooktacles!*
- *What did one ghost say to the other ghost? Do you believe in people?*
- *What do you call a witch who likes the beach but is scared of the water? A chicken sand witch.*



- *What is a ghost's favorite street? A dead end.*
- *What tops off a ghost's ice cream sundae? Whipped scream*
- *What is a vampire's favorite holiday? Fangsgiving*
- *Knock, knock! Who's there? Boo. Boo who? Sorry....I didn't mean to make you cry!*
- *Knock, knock! Who's there? Olive. Olive who? Olive Halloween! OK I'll stop!*

### **A Look Ahead**

November 3 – Open House

November 4 – Late Start

November 5 – Pack Time

November 6 – Engineering Open House for Parents 6:30

November 11 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Breakfast

November 12 – Principal's Assembly

November 13 – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Breakfast

November 14 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat/Service Day – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Breakfast

November 15 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat/Service Day – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Breakfast

November 18 – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Roll Breakfast

November 19 – Pack Time

November 22 – No classes meet – Faculty at Huether Conference

December 2 – Parent/Teacher Meetings in BAC -6:30 – PLAN test to Sophomores

December 2-6 – PLAN Test to Sophomores during W. History classes

December 3 – Principal's Assembly

December 5 – Blood Drive

December 9 – Mass

December 10 – Pack Time

December 12 – Snack Day

December 11-13 – Reconciliation in Chapel

December 17-20 - Exams

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

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

May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2013-14 edition of Saint Paul's – our 102<sup>nd</sup> year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Made It to the End of October as 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School



**...and where we do ordinary things extraordinarily well**