



The President/Principal's Newsletter for Nov 11 - 17, 2013



Our Open House last Sunday was very successful. I am indebted to all who worked so hard to make it so, especially Karen Hebert, Trevor Watkins, Don Pressley and maintenance crew, Department Chairs, teachers who presented, and the Student Hosts (who were great!) As usual, the student talks were the highlight of the day. So good, in fact, that I usually publish excerpts. I can't publish many excerpts this year because four of the six were done without written copies – which showed that the students knew what they wanted to say and had confidence in how they wanted to say it. Wonderful! I can publish, however, the following excerpt from Beau Briggs's talk, which I hope inspires and encourages us all:

In my three and a half years here, I have seen that there are many positives, but for me one of the best parts is the faculty. The teachers here care. As I think about my teachers over the years, I am reminded of the countless times a teacher has met with me in the morning to better understand a lesson. Or when just a few weeks ago, I was struggling in calculus and my math teacher Mrs. Cullen stayed behind after school to save the day.

And the retired Brothers here on campus are great role models, most notably Brother Ralph and Brother Alfred. If you stop by the Brothers' residence, you will surely see Brother Ralph or Brother Alfred hard at work. At 92 and 90, I have never seen two men work so hard.

All of these adults serve as ministers of God's grace; I am thankful to have had them in my life. The values this school has taught me will remain a part of me forever, I have no doubt. Thank you teachers and thank you Christian Brothers for making my years at Saint Paul's the best years of my life.

And we thank you, **Beau**, and your fellow speakers (**David Conroy, Ross Allbritton, Garrett Shearman, Michael Burke, & Zachary Albright**) for being blessings to Saint Paul's School – along with your 870+ brothers as well.

Mon, Nov 11 (Veterans Day; 8th HR Breakfast schedule—CNN & SSR first; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, WW I ended, leaving 9 million soldiers & 5 million civilians dead and 21 M wounded. We pray for all who have served our country, especially those who made "the ultimate sacrifice."

Tue, Nov 12 (Assembly; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1954, Ellis Island, gateway to America, closes; more than 12 million immigrants landed there since 1892.
- **Pizza with the Works except Anchovies Day:** Enjoy, but hold the anchovies!
- **President / Principal's Assembly:** Keep those recognitions coming!
- **Cross Country:** Northshore Metro Meet at St. Thomas in Hammond. Geaux Wolves!
- **Swimming:** Aqua Wolves in Turkey Leg Invitational

Wed, Nov 13 (9th HR Breakfast; G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1805, Johann George Lehner, a Viennese butcher, invented the "frankfurter." Enjoy a hot dog today!
- **World Kindness Day:** perform an act of kindness today!

Thu, Nov 14 (10th HR Breakfast; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** 1968, Yale University announced it was going co-ed. SPS has no plans to imitate Yale!
- **National Loosen Up, Lighten Up Day:** De-stress today; loosen up!
- **National American Teddy Bear Day:** I keep one in my office for those really tough days!
- **National Pickle Day:** If you like pickles, you're in luck: they're low in calories, have no fat and have probiotic benefits. Cucumbers were probably first pickled 4,500 years ago in Mesopotamia, and spread around the world across trade routes. Today, there are thousands of different types of pickles in the world's cuisine. Asia consumes more pickles per capita than any other region. Enjoy your favorite pickle today – but don't be one and stay out of 'em. (get it?) Interesting etymological fact: William Shakespeare actually coined the term "in a pickle" in his play, *The Tempest*. In Act V, King Alonso asks his jester, Trinculo, "How camest thou in this pickle?" What Alonso actually meant was "how did you get so drunk?" Shakespeare's original intent makes sense since many pickling processes used alcohol. Since Trinculo's drinking does cause trouble for him, the phrase morphed into meaning "being in trouble." And now you know!
- **Pre-Freshmen Retreat/Service Day**
- **Louisiana Scholastic Press Association Conference Field Trip for our Journalism Class**
- **Biomedical Sciences Open House:** Parents are invited to learn more about this innovative program (6:30).

Fri, Nov 15 (11th HR Breakfast; A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** In 1859, Charles Dickens' serialized novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, comes to a close, as the final chapter is published. Can you quote the famous opening line? Answer is below.
- **National "I Love to Write" Day:** Write something today – a poem, an email, a journal entry, a thought, a newsletter.... Enjoy!
- **National Recycling Day**
- **Pre-Freshmen Retreat/Service Day**
- **Basketball:** Pre-Freshman in Covington Tournament through Saturday.
- **Wrestling:** Varsity in Ft. Walton Duals & JV in Brother Martin Tournament

Sat Nov 16

- **Feast of the Blessed Christian Brother Martyrs of Almeria:** Brothers José Cecilio, Aurelio María, Amalio, Valerio Bernardo, Edmiglio Primo, Evencio Ricardo, & Teodomiro Joaquin. *Shortly after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, the Popular Front in the Province of Almería gave orders to arrest...priests and religious. Five Brothers were arrested at school; two were taken in the street while on their way to mail letters to their families. The Brothers were condemned to death without trial for the crime of professing and teaching the Catholic faith.* (from the Christian Brothers Website) May the Blessed Brothers of Almeria bless SPS!
- **UN International Day for Tolerance:** let's practice tolerance today – everywhere.

- **Take A Hike Day** is either about going for an exhilarating walk, or telling somebody to get lost – I'll leave the interpretation up to you! Feel free to tell me to take a hike!
- **Fighting Math Wolves** compete in the Ben Franklin Tournament today. Geaux FMWs!
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Brother Martin tournament
- **Soccer: 8th, 9th, & JV v. Soccer (Hunter Stadium beginning at 10)**

Sun, Nov 17 (We encourage Catholic families to attend mass and our other families to attend the church of choice.)

- **TDIH:** In 1553, the Elizabethan Age begins when Queen Mary I dies and is succeeded by her 25-year-old half-sister, Elizabeth. William Shakespeare will be born eleven years later in 1564.
- **Homemade Bread Day:** Bake bread today! A great family activity!
- **Cross Country** leaves for state meet in Natchitoches today; they return Tue night.

Newsletter Delivery: While I follow the same procedure each Sunday morning in sending the newsletter, I sometimes here from a parent that he or she didn't receive it. My usual reply is that you should rejoice - and then I re-send it. I have no idea why this happens. In any event, if you don't receive yours on Sunday morning (I usually aim for 7 am), either email me or check our website. I always (well, almost always!) post a copy on the website (www.stpauls.com) under "news."

Apologies:

- I am sorry for any confusion last week about the start time on Monday. Some gremlin got into my computer and typed late start! Sorry I had to bother you with a clarifying email later that day.
- And I apologize to Chief Botanical Wolf Linda Trahan! In last week's newsletter, while singing her praises and those of the other BWs, some gremlin got into my brain and I typed Linda Connor, with Connor being the name of her wonderful son. Old age strikes again!

Honor Roll Breakfasts: We look forward to recognizing our First Quarter HR students and their parents this week (SPS pioneered HR breakfasts in our area starting in 1990.) We will have the breakfasts in the cafeteria. Since the cafeteria can only handle so many people, we must do the breakfasts by level. Invitations were emailed two weeks ago, 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

We begin serving at 7:40 and the event is over by 8:20. **Honor Roll students report directly to the cafeteria; they do not report to their first block class.**

Admissions for 2014-15: This is a big week in the Archdiocese. On Monday, the Office of Catholic Schools will release the "white card" – which is the official application to any Catholic high school in the Archdiocese. We will post the card on our website. Students in Catholic elementary schools must return the white cards to their principals on Wednesday, and the elementary schools will then send the

applications to the high schools on Friday. Catholic elementary students can apply to only one high school. Thus, this Friday, we'll have a pretty good idea as to our enrollment for next year's 8th grade, as we also made Friday the application due date for the non-Catholic elementary students. Hannan had another evening last week to showcase its academic program, Christ Episcopal had its Open House last week, Northlake Christian is making athletic headlines and doing a ton of advertising, and the public schools are touting the latest release of state test scores. Our competition is tough. Thanks for spreading the good news about SPS. **Encourage prospective families to file applications this week.** You are our greatest "advertising."

Musings on Last Week:

- **Marian Players:** The production of *Tea House of the August Moon* by our **Marian Players** was wonderful. Denny Charbonnet, Barrett Baumgartner, and the cast and crew deserve mucho kudos. On Friday, the entire junior class was treated to a performance during the school day. Thanks, too, the parents who form the booster club – they kept the cast and crew well fed and well supervised.
- **Football:** District Champs, again! Wow! Well done, Wolves! On to State!
- **CLs/ MWS/GBs:** rose to the occasion on Friday night. Great job, all! And the patriotic salute was most appropriate with Veterans Day on the horizon.
- **Cross Country:** Congrats for ANOTHER District Championship! And JV placed 1st in District, too! The future looks bright, indeed! Find an opportunity to congratulate these Wolves – they work VERY hard and represent us so well. It's a shame that the CC team has few students cheering them on to victory.
- **Theater III Class** had a relevant and productive field trip to the WLAE studio.
- **Wrestling:** Our grapplers performed exemplarily at the Mandeville Invitational.
- **Aqua Wolves:** The AWs swam in championship form, breaking two team records, winning two individual events and finishing in a dead-heat tie for fourth place with Rummel in the Greater New Orleans Metro Championships.
- **Mothers Club:** Thanks, MC, for the great Teacher Appreciation Day! A gourmet feast was provided!
- **Engineering Open House:** Over 100 parents showed to learn more about the only PLTW fully certified Engineering Program in St. Tammany Parish.
- **Religion Dept:** First Friday adoration (a week late due to All Saints) went well. Thanks, religion teachers!
- **Soccer Meet the Team:** Our incredibly successful program has its players and begins its season this week.
- **Skin Cancer Screening:** I am grateful to SPS parent **Dr. Rhonda Baldone** and her nurse assistant, SPS parent **Mrs. Colleen Brunet**, for devoting Friday morning to perform skin cancer screenings for our faculty. After my bout with skin cancer two years ago, I get screened – and encourage all to do so, too. I hope all who got screened got good news!

Important Driver's License Requirement: Effective September 16, a new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license.

Any SPS student needing this form should come to Counseling Office or Administration Building Office to request the form. You won't be able to get a license without one!

Biomedical Sciences Open House: We had over 100 people attend last week's Engineering Open House so we decided to do one for Biomedical Sciences this week. Come find out about this nationally recognized curriculum on Thursday, November 16, at 6:30 in the main school building. SPS is the only school around currently offering three years of this program, with the fourth year scheduled for 2014.15.

Wolf Pack Time: I was emotionally moved by last week's Pack Time. I hope your son told you about it. We watched a video about the story of Nick Vujucic who was born without arms and legs. This is a remarkable story and his journey gives all of us a reason to try harder every day to understand the obstacles others face in life – and to realize how easy ours is by comparison. In spite of his incredible physical challenges, this young man lives life to the fullest.

My Wolf Pack was absolutely focused on the film and not a sound was made during the viewing. When it was over, I asked them why we showed this video. Their responses were spot on: to show us how much we have; to show us never to give up; to show us how much we can achieve no matter what the circumstances. With a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye, I told them that I needed to start thanking God for the important things: my arms, my legs, my eyes, my ears, my health, my mind. All the rest is lagniappe.

If you wish to view the video and discuss it with your son, here is the link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=GaiITjOmTUI

Suicide Prevention: As the culminating activity of the sophomore suicide prevention program, Mrs. Kristi Hart and her son, sophomore Christian Jarrett, will speak to all the sophomores this week in World History classes. As I hope you know, Mrs. Hart lost her daughter and Christian his sister to suicide last July, after a battle with drug addiction. Mrs. Hart and Christian want to tell Kaycee's story as a lesson for us all. It should be a powerful presentation, and I hope our sophomores speak with their families about it. We pray that good comes to our students from hearing the story of Kaycee and that no other family will experience the pain of losing a loved one in this manner. We have already dealt with several suicide ideations this year from students who feel that their problems are overwhelming. Again, our protocol calls for taking ANY mention of suicide seriously: we call parents, and the student must undergo screening by a mental health professional before he can return to school. Parents, please speak with your sons about this important topic.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Department:

- **The Good:** 98% (maybe even 99%) of what's going on at SPS!
- **The Bad:** We've had five students in the past five weeks suffer an attack of appendicitis. SPS has a Medical Advisory Team, composed of several local physicians. We consulted with them and they have assured us that no environmental conditions cause appendicitis. Thus, there is nothing at SPS

contributing to this. The doctors have assured us that the young men had to have had weakened immune systems which allowed bacteria or virus to bypass the body's natural immune systems and inflame the appendix. Fortunately, the laparoscopic surgery being used gets the young men up and running in no time. For that, we give thanks to God. A football player actually was back in action two weeks later! We will continue to monitor the situation and consult with our physician resources.

- **The Ugly:** I've deliberately waited a couple of weeks to write about this – and my focus is not on the “who” but the “what.” Please make it your focus as well.

We suspended and imposed other consequences on a student recently for cyber bullying. Coach Sears and I were shown stuff written about another student on Instagram (which I have no clue what it is or how to use it) which absolutely crossed the line of human decency. I will not tolerate this. The irony? The “cyber bully” is ordinarily a wonderfully good, caring, and responsible young man who has done very well here. I NEVER would have thought he would do something like this. Students are just not realizing how this stuff will come back to haunt them. It is not anonymous; it is not harmless; it is not socially acceptable; it will come back to haunt them.

Parents, I again URGE you to check your son's Twitter, Vine, Instagram, Facebook and whatever other social media accounts that he may have. Discuss proper use with him. Explain how this can follow him for years. And he may not even tell you he has these accounts or that he uses them properly. Ask for proof. People are showing me “tweets” (I don't understand how to do this either!) and I'm shocked at the language being used. I can't imagine that parents would allow their sons to write like that. And I'm probably only seeing the “milder” stuff! My heart is heavy..... but we'll take action whenever a student crosses the line and it is brought to our attention – which we encourage parents and students to do when they are the victims of such unacceptable conduct.

PLEASE: Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. Under ordinary circumstances, it is difficult enough to keep track of the students. When you call Erin and request “immediate” dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your student and have him check in with the attendance office when he comes to school to get a dismissal slip for the time requested. This is the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can't stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a message – we just don't have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.

NFL Coach of the Week: Coach Ken Sears was honored by the NO Saints last week. Congrats, Coach! Here is a link to the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDYOFwIkpug&feature=youtu.be> .

LHSAA: The first dual football playoff system pairing takes place today, Sun, Nov 12. Not sure where the Wolves will end up in the “select” category, but we'll be ready.

Words of Encouragement Dept: From an alumna who attended Mary Queen of Peace's fall fair last week: *Just a note to say how impressed I was with the young men from SPS who served at MQoP's Fund Raiser this past Saturday. They represented themselves and SPS in a most exemplary manner. I am proud*

to be a Wolf!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! (The late English guru Brother Bill Parsons never would have allowed all those !s)

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. Parents, please put your son's name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

The Paper Wolf: The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. The students are very excited about this new venture. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here's the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

And Speaking of Edline: Please check Edline regularly for important info about your son's grade and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.*

Tutoring: The National Honor Society offers tutoring each Tue and Thu during ALL of Lunch in LaSalle Hall Room 205 and each Wed and Thu from 7:15AM in LaSalle Hall Room 212. It's easier to be tutored early in the than to wait until later in the quarter. The tutors are 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.

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: We had another report last week of unsafe driving heading up 14th street, to Tyler both at 3 pm dismissal and after football practice. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

H of the W: More “daffynitions”:

- *MISTY: How golfers create divots;*
- *PARADOX: Two physicians;*
- *PARASITES: What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower;*
- *PHARMACIST: A helper on the farm;*

- *POLARIZE: What penguins see with;*
- *PRIMATE: Removing your spouse from in front of the TV;*
- *RELIEF: What trees do in the spring;*
- *RUBBERNECK: What you do to relax your wife;*
- *SELFISH: What the owner of a seafood store does;*
- *SUDAFED: Brought litigation against a government official!;*
- *ABDICATE: To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach;*
- *ACCOUNT: A Countess's husband;*
- *ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle;*
- *ANTIQUUE: An item your grandparents bought, your parents got rid of, and you're buying again*
- *BARIUM: What we do to most people when they die;*
- *BATHROOM: A room used by the entire family, believed by all except Mom to be self-cleaning;*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

A Look Ahead

November 11 – 8th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

November 12 – President/Principal's Assembly

November 13 – 9th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

November 14 – 8th Grade Retreat/Service Day – 10th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

November 15 – 8th Grade Retreat/Service Day – 11th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

November 18 – 12th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

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 – President/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 reached the fifth 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 102nd year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Giving Thanks in November That I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School

Answer to Trivia Question for Fri, Nov 15: *A Tale of Two Cities* begins with one of the most famous opening lines in the history of literature: *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way...*



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