



The President/Principal's Newsletter for January 13-20, 2014



2014 -- A Year of Family and Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Can you believe we've arrived at the mid-point of January? Strains of "Auld Lang Syne" are still ringing in my ears! And my quickly fading New Year's resolutions remind me that January is a good time for self-review and mid-year correction.



St. John Baptist de La Salle, however, wanted the first Brothers to do regular self-examination and correction. Accordingly, he instructed the first brothers to have a "fixed day for the weekly account of conscience" in which the Brother would "take time to examine [himself]" in all areas of his conduct. I offered the following "examination" points from St. La Salle to our faculty as we begin the second semester – points which are equally applicable to us as educators today and, I humbly suggest, to parents as well. Just substitute "children" for "students" and "home" for "school."

- *Are you ardent and zealous for the salvation of your children and in the performance of your duties?*
- *How do you do your work in school? Do you observe the [rules]?*
- *Have you wasted time?*
- *Do you follow everything carefully during the lessons? Are you assiduous in correcting?*
- *Do you leave class? [Even La Salle knew teachers should not leave classroom unattended!]*
- ***Do you talk too much? (the boldface is mine)***
- *Do you take care that students make progress?*
- *Are you equally careful that they advance in piety?*
- *How do you act toward your pupils? Too strict? Too easygoing? Too familiar?*
- *Have you been impatient? In what frame of mind have you corrected them?*

I told the faculty that these insightful questions from this educational giant are as equally relevant today as they were 330+ years ago. I invited them to take time to examine our consciences this week, both our professional conscience and our personal one and to take corrective measures where needed. I invite parents to do the same.

Mon, Jan 13 (9 am start; faculty meeting; G A B C)

- **Classes begin at 9 – library and cafeteria will be open at regular time for early arrivals.**
- **TDIH:** The Beatles release "Yellow Submarine." Listen to this iconic song today! *We all live in a yellow submarine!*
- **National Clean Off Your Desk Day:** Looks like I've got some work to do today!
- **National Rubber Duckie Day:** OK with me if you want to splash around the tub with this iconic childhood toy!

Tue, Jan 14 (Pack Time; D E F G)

- **National Hot Pastrami Sandwich Day:** Created as a way to preserve meat before modern refrigeration, pastrami is beef that's brined, dried, seasoned, smoked and then steamed. It was first served in New York delis in 1887

- **National Dress Up Your Pet Day:** Today you have the opportunity to show off your pet's fashion sense – or not.
- **National Poetry at Work Day:** In a recent survey of 1500 CEOs, IBM reported that **creativity** was the top leadership quality needed to take businesses into the future. While you might find this result surprising, it won't surprise you that poets are creative! Perhaps that's why Harvard Business Review recently discussed the value of poetry for professionals. And why a business leader like Sidney Harman (scientist-businessman who co-founded Harman/Kardon in 1953 and made high-quality audio equipment for homes and businesses, and later navigational and other devices for cars and was worth over \$500 million at his death in 2011) asked his staff to hire poets as managers. Read poetry today – especially at work!
- **TDIH:** 1973, the Miami Dolphins defeat the Washington Redskins 14-7 at the Los Angeles Coliseum in Super Bowl VII, becoming the first team in National Football League (NFL) history to finish with an undefeated season.
- **Soccer:** 8th at Pelican Park vs. Mandeville JH; Varsity at Mandeville
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV, & Varsity v. Mandeville



Ice forms on fountain in Brothers' patio due to last week's freeze.

Wed, Jan 15 (Regular; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** in 1967, the first Super Bowl is played. Green Bay defeat Kansas City 35-10, led by Bart Starr.
- **National Strawberry Ice Cream Day:** Enjoy gold ole' strawberry today.
- **National Do Nothing Day:** SPS will not celebrate this day!
- **Soccer:** JV at Lakeshore

Thu, Jan 16 – (Regular; E F G A)

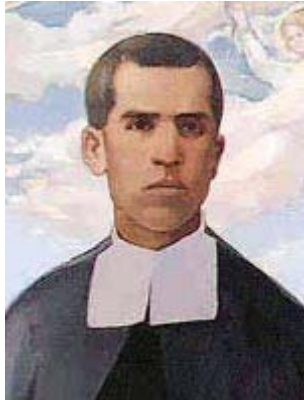
- **TDIH:** In 1919, the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution, prohibiting the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes," is ratified and becomes the law of the land.
- **National Fig Newton Day:** Enjoy this classic cookie!
- **National Do Nothing Day:** Saint Paul's will NOT be observing this day!
- **SPS Board of Trustees Meeting (6)**
- **Tu B'shuvat:** Today is the Jewish New Year for Trees Day. This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Our Jewish brothers and sisters mark the day of Tu B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. On this day we remember that "man is a tree of the field" (Deut 20:19), and reflect on the lessons that trees can teach us. Here's a New Year's "examination of conscience check list" for trees:
 - *Did I grow towards the sun as a tree should, reaching up higher and higher towards that which I can never grasp, but which nurtures me all the same the more I strive towards it?*
 - *Did I shelter the seedlings that live in my shade -- so they will grow up to be a next generation like myself?*
 - *Did I make sure my roots remain firmly planted in the soil that nurtures them, and did I drop my leaves there in the fall to give back life to that which sustains me?*
 - *Did I ensure that my fruits were sweet and nourished all that came to enjoy them? Did everyone walk away from me with a smile?*
 - *Did I bend gently in the wind, accepting what G-d sends but never breaking or giving up hope?*
 - *Did I grow in strength and wisdom with each new ring this year?*
- Come to think of it, not a bad checklist for us humans either!

Fri, Jan 17 (Regular; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1953, the Chevrolet Corvette sports car makes its debut at General Motors' (GM) Motorama auto show at in New York. The Corvette, named for a fast type of naval warship, would eventually become an iconic American muscle car and remains in production today – but is certainly out of my price range and comfort zone!
- **Kid Inventors Day:** We celebrate the youthful spirit of invention every year on January 17th, the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, who invented the first swim flippers at age 12.
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Northshore
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Northshore
- **Wrestling:** Varsity in LA Classic through Saturday

Sat, Jan 18

- **Thesaurus Day:** Other words for thesaurus: glossary, lexicon, onomasticon, reference book, sourcebook, storehouse of words, terminology, vocabulary, word list. Other words for day: astronomical day, bright, dawn-to-dark, daylight, daytime, diurnal course, early bright, sidereal day, sunlight, sunrise-to-sunset, sunshine, working day. So a happy Onomasticon Diurnal Course to you!



St. Brother Jaime

- **This Day in History:** In 1937, Brother Jaime Hilario was martyred by Spanish revolutionaries in the Spanish Civil War. From the Christian Brothers Website: *Born in 1898 in northern Spain, Jaime was only 12 years old when, with the blessing of his parents, he entered the minor seminary. He soon developed hearing problems and was advised to return home. Convinced that God was calling him, he was overjoyed in 1917 to learn that the Institute of the Brothers would accept him. After sixteen years in various teaching assignments, his hearing problems forced him to abandon the classroom to work in the garden at one of the schools. In July of 1936 he was on his way to visit his family when the civil war broke out. Recognized as a Brother, he was arrested and jailed. In December he was transferred to Tarragona and confined in a prison ship with several other brothers. On 15 January 1937 he was given a summary trial. Though he could have been freed by claiming to be only a gardener, he insisted on his identity as a religious and thereby sealed his doom. He was brought to the cemetery known as the Mount of Olives on 18 January to face execution. His last words to his assailants were "To die for Christ, my young friends, is to live." When two volleys failed to meet their mark, the soldiers dropped their rifles and fled in panic. The commander, shouting a gross insult, fired five shots at close range and the victim fell at his feet. He was canonized in 1999 by Pope John Paul II.*

- **Pooh Day:** Winnie the Pooh Day is an opportunity to enjoy your favorite bear and his friends. This day was created to celebrate the birth of A.A .Milne in 1882. He was an author of children's story books, and created Winnie the Pooh and his friends. Winnie's pals include Christopher Robin, Tigger, Eeyore, Piglet, and Roo. Read some Pooh today!
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Rummel (9) & Shaw (noon)
- **Soccer:** 8th at Catholic (BR)

Sun, Jan 19: We encourage Catholic families to attend Mass and non-Catholic families to worship at church of choice.

- **National Popcorn Day:** Enjoy this favorite snack today!

- **This Day in History:** In 1809, Edgar Allan Poe is born in Boston. Read a Poe story or poem today in his honor! And eat some popcorn while reading in honor of National Popcorn Day!

Mon, Jan 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – no classes

- **TDIH:** In 1961, John F. Kennedy inaugurated as President and utters famous “Ask not...” Poet Robert Frost read.
- **Penguin Awareness Day:** Today we give serious consideration to our tuxedo-wearing waddling friends. Did you know penguins mate for life? Or that the word penguin means 'fat winged' one in Portuguese?
- **National Cheese Lovers Day:** Indulge and enjoy!

Mrs. Caroline Cheatwood: If you didn't know, Guidance Counselor Caroline Cheatwood has begun her maternity leave. The rest of the counselors, Mrs. Gina Hall, Mrs. Christine Woodard, Mrs. Renee Miller and Mrs. Mary Pierson are working hard and taking over the sophomores. My thanks go to them. Please direct any inquiries to Renee, Christine, Gina or Mary. We wish Caroline a safe and healthy delivery at the beginning of March.



SPS was well-represented at the CCRNO retreat Jan 3-6.

2014-15 Calendar: St. Tammany Parish Public Schools has published next year's calendar. The public schools will begin on Fri, Aug 8. Accordingly, I have completed a draft of our calendar, which follows their calendar when possible. I will present it to Admin & Faculty Board for reaction this week and publish it next week. Remember that we must schedule 177 days whereas the public schools only schedule 175. We therefore plan on starting on Thursday, August 7 with a full day of instruction and NO book day. This corresponds to when we started this year.

Credit Recovery: Students who failed a semester average in a course will begin credit recovery next week. Those students and parents have been notified by Assistant Principal Trevor Watkins.

Musings on Last Week:

- **The First Week:** Thanks to all who helped make our first week back a successful one.
- **Senior Retreat:** Thanks to all who helped make the senior retreat successful. Initial reports from the seniors confirmed that it was, once again, a good experience for them. The retreat team was outstanding.
- **Varsity Soccer:** Varsity soccer wolves won 4-0 over Slidell and 5-0 over Hammond. And in the “WOW” category, the soccer wolves are now ranked #2 in the NATION by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America! Don't believe me? Here's the link:
<http://www.nscaatv.com/rankings/3001/Winter/men/National/Poll1>
- **JV Soccer:** The JV Wolves were undefeated through Saturday play. Finals are today. Go Wolves!
- **Basketball:** The Varsity fought hard last week! They lost a close one to Slidell and scored a come from behind victory to beat a feisty Hammond squad on Friday. Well done, B-Ball!
- **Fighting Math Wolves** were up and at 'em early Sat morn for the Catholic High (BR) tournament and returned home with great results: FIRST PLACE@! Wow! Go Fighting Math Wolves!
- **Application Day Testing** went well. Thanks to the students who helped and acted as student proctors.

- **Football Awards Ceremony:** Congrats to all for making the ceremony on Saturday so successful.
- **Eight Grade Soccer Tournament** brought 8 teams to campus. The Wolves performed exemplarily and won **FIRST PLACE** in a dramatic “shoot out” in the finals against Vanderbilt Catholic. Go Wolves!
- **Wrestling:** Junior High Wrestlers brought home a number of place medals from the Rummel Tournament. Go Wrestling Wolves!

Letters of Application: More unedited excerpts:

- *I am Catholic and believe in God but I do not go to church all of the time. If I went to St. Paul's I feel like I would be closer to God.*
- *From going to St. Paul's camps to shadowing and then to the open house, I think St. Paul's is the right school for me! The classes look challenging, but I'm up to the test. I think it's so cool how the teachers come to school so early in the morning just to help their students!*
- *The student's open house speeches really convinced me that St. Paul's is the right high school for me.*
- *Education and sports make a good team.*

LHSAA Eligibility rules require that student athletes pass six subjects in the first semester to be eligible for the second semester.

Unfortunately, a couple of our students lost eligibility due to the rule. Also, students must earn a “C” average **AS DEFINED BY THE SCHOOL** in order to be eligible for first semester of next year. So our students must have a C average this semester in order to be eligible next year, but then can drop down and make all Ds and be eligible for second semester. Go figure. Confusing? Yes! My thanks to Craig for keeping all of this straight!



9th Grade Soccer Wolves win Rummel Tournament by defeating Rummel, Brother Martin & Jesuit.

National Vocations Awareness Week: We are in vocation crisis in the Catholic Church in America. If we take our Catholic faith seriously, we must consider what the future will look like with ever fewer numbers of priests and even fewer consecrated religious. Certainly, Saint Paul's will probably experience the disappearance of Brothers (at least active, employed Brothers) in the not too distant future. If the occasion arises, discuss vocations with the students. In any event, pray that young people are open to God's call and that the Spirit guide us as we face the future.

Dec 17 Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Jan 07 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Listened to a contemporary version of “Rise Up O Men of God” sung by Christian rock singer Phil Keaggy. I play it at the first assembly of a new year in order to set the tone for the year – that we must view 2014 as a new opportunity for the students to rise up as men of God. It's a powerful song that means so much to our school. While the music was playing, **junior William Kenyon** lit the candle to remind us of God's presence among us. We also prayed for **Mr. William Hewson**, grandfather of senior **Jacob Hewson**, who left this earth over the holidays to begin life in God's Kingdom.

- Congratulated the student body on their **Adopt A Family** generosity and those students who helped volunteered with the Rotary Club's Feed the Needy Program over the holidays.
- Recognized and congratulated the junior from Mary Queen of Peace Parish who recently received the sacrament of Confirmation: **Blaze Burkenstock, Nick Chaisson, Trey Couvillion, Zach Derbas, David Doherty, Joseph Gaiennie, Kyle Gardner, Alec Gravelle, Jose Iturriaga, Trey Klechak, Kameron Lange, Kegan Lange, Bram Love, Warner Moore, Reid Perrin, Lucas Richard, William Saucier, Colin Skinner & Evan Young.**
- Recognized and congratulated the Saint Paul's Wrestling Team:
 - for winning the Parish Championship (for the 16th consecutive year) and recognized **3rd Place: Hunter Bourgeois, Chase Cochran, Matt Krutzfeldt, Kyle Schech, Colin Francis & Nick Gordon. 2nd: Shane Ulfers, Austin Grashoff, Matt Rader, Sam Pearce, Peyton Cuccia, & J.T. Kinch And PARISH CHAMPIONS: Mason Rader, Stevie Van Zandt, Sam Dufour, & Tanner Leblanc**
 - for winning the District Championship (again, as we've done for the past six years – since the inception of Wrestling as a District sport)
 - The seniors presented trophies for both championships.
- Recognized and congratulated the Saint Paul's Soccer Wolves. Specifically,
 - The Varsity is currently undefeated in District play and just won the prestigious Saint Paul's Holiday Invitational.
 - The JV won the Covington Cup Tournament. Captains **Joseph Gaiennie and Joseph Tanner** presented the trophy to AD Craig Ketelson.
 - The Freshman Wolves won Rummel Tournament last weekend with wins over Rummel, Brother Martin, and Jesuit.
- Recognized and congratulated the winners in the recent Covington Three Rivers Art Competition: **Dominick Alongi** won the Michelangelo Award for 1st place for ceramic portrait sculpture, **Peyton Burkenstock** won 2nd place for acrylic painting, **Sam Pearce** won 2nd place for color reduction linoleum print, and **Wyatt Heap** won HM for acrylic painting
- I then informed the students that Jan 8 was the 198th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans and gave them a little history about the event. I then segued into how Jan 8, the day of our assembly, was the Feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. I showed them a statue of OLPS which had been given to me years ago by Mr. James Screen, valedictorian of the Saint Paul's Class of 1931. I told the stories of how OLPS helped save New Orleans from fire in 1812 and how General Andrew Jackson believed she helped win the Battle of New Orleans. We then said a "Hail Mary" in her honor!
- We then turned to the seniors, who would leave on retreat the next day. The entire school extended a blessing on the seniors while Pre-freshman Class President and Vice President, Ashton van Deventer and Cole Knobloch, sprinkled the senior class with holy water. It was a moving moment.

- We then ended with junior **Nicholas Chaisson** extinguishing the candle and my reminding the students what the candle represents – the presence of God among us. I exhorted them to leave the gym and spread God's love to all whom they meet. The students then exited to the sounds of "Rise Up O Men of God!"
- It was a great assembly!

Tutoring will resume Tuesday, January 21st. The schedule will remain the same as last semester. The tutors are very friendly and welcome students to come for help.

Honor Roll Breakfasts: Second quarter HR breakfast schedule is published below. All breakfasts last from 7:40-8:20. Note: HR is determined by **second quarter grades, not semester grades.**



Wrestlers were interviewed on local radio last week and acquitted themselves in an exemplary fashion.

New Year's Resolutions: Please make the following part of your New Year Resolutions!

- If your son is absent, phone Erin before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1280, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns.**
- Have your son check Lost & Found which contains: coats, sweaters, shirts, lunch boxes, belts, etc.

2014-15 Registration: Please note the following:

- **Current 8th graders:** registration information will be emailed during the week of January 22. **Current 8th graders planning to return for 2014-15 will have until Jan 31 to re-register.** Unregistered spots will be offered to new 9th grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next

year so I know how many new 9th graders we can accept. Contact me if you have any questions.

- **Current 9th – 11th grades:** registration will take place in early - Feb. You don't need to do anything now
- **Current 12th grade:** You don't need to register for SPS for 2014-15! Rejoice!
- **Registration will involved the payment of the \$300 registration fee.**

Annual Fund: Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g. technology, special programs (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation.)
- You may "pledge" your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- While we are not sending requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT!** Other schools directly solicit grandparents. I don't unless you give me permission. **If you would like to inform your son's grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I'll personally appeal. I'll send them a nice "thank you" note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.
- Gifts of stock are welcome.

- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What's important is that everyone participates.
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: I still have some pre-owned, good condition SPS sweatshirts. **If your son needs one, just have him come see me. This will be confidentially.** ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted.

Equal Time Dept: Lest anyone think I was dissing high school sports in last week's newsletter, a simple "google search" reveals a ton of research on the benefits of high school sports. Here's a good link: http://www.iahsaa.org/resource_center/Character_Sportsmanship_Safety/Benefit_of_Activities_Handout.pdf.

And here's an excerpt an article on Families.com: *Playing sports offers children more than just physical benefits. Sports typically help kids academically and socially as well. The benefits are the same whether or not your child actually excels at the sport. Read on for ten ways playing sports and can benefit your child.*

- *It gives a child a group to belong to. They have a group of friends that has the same goals and interests.*
- *Research has found that kids that play sports, especially girls, are more likely to have a positive body image and higher self-esteem. They also are less likely to be overweight.*
- *Kids involved in sports are less likely to take drugs or smoke because they realize the impact that these destructive activities can have upon performance. Girls who play sports are also less likely to become pregnant.*
- *Physical activities are a good way to relieve stress and reduce depression.*
- *Sports help kids develop discipline. They learn to set goals and then work to achieve those goals. They learn that by working hard they can accomplish the things that they want to in their lives.*
- *Kids who play sports learn that sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. They learn to be a good sport in both situations. It also helps them learn to deal with disappointment and go on.*
- *Statistics show that kids who are involved in sports in high school more likely to experience academic success and graduate from high school.*
- *Sports help develop teamwork and leadership skills. They have to work together as a team to win the game.*
- *Motor skills, strategic thinking, and even math skills are learned by playing sports. Students develop strategic thinking as they figure out plays and the best way to get around a player or score a goal. Math skills are used as they calculate scores and stats.*
- *Exercise increases quality of life. Children who exercise are more likely to continue the practice into adulthood*
- OK, coaches, am I forgiven?

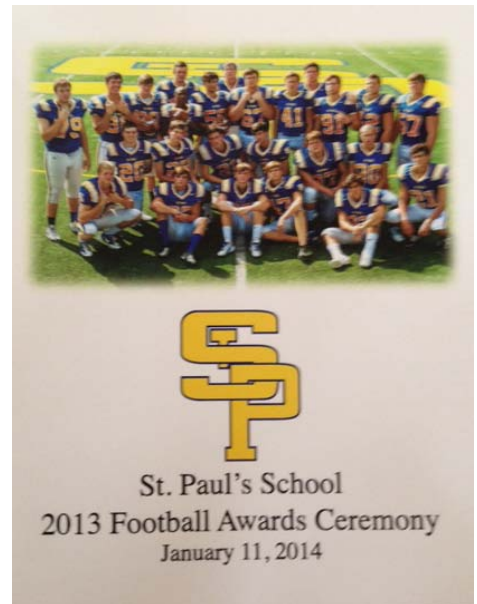
Absences: We had a number of absences last week. Here's what Erin has to deal with:

- *My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please execute him.*
- *Please excuse my son for being absent. He was sick, and I had him shot.*
- *Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.*
- *Please excuse Jason from Jim today. He's not feeling well.*
- *Please excuse my son from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.*
- *John has been absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.*
- *My son was absent yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part.*

- *Please excuse my son Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.*
- *Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.*
- *Please excuse Sam from school yesterday. He had a stomach.*
- *Please excuse my son for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch, and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.*
- OK, I hope you realized this was H of the W!

A Look Ahead

January 20 – MLK Holiday
 January 21 – Principal's Assembly – Pastoral Visit (Special Schedule)
 January 22 – 2:30 Student Dismissal for All-Faculty meeting
 January 27-12th HR Breakfast
 January 28 – 11th HR Breakfast – Pack Time during HR Breakfast
 January 29 – 10th HR Breakfast
 January 30 – 9th HR Breakfast – Career Day for Juniors
 February 3– 8th Honor Roll Breakfast
 February 3-7 – PLAN Test for Sophomores
 February 3 – Parent/Teacher Meetings in Briggs Center
 February 4 – Principal's Assembly – Snack Day
 February 5 – Pack Time
 February 13-14 Juniors on Retreat/Angola Trip
 February 17 – ROTC Inspection
 February 18 – Principal's Assembly
 February 27 – End of Third Quarter
 February 28 – Faculty Retreat



Even though it's 2014, I will still 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!

Again, please 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.

Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2013*14 edition of Saint Paul's! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Amazed It's 2014 and I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School

**Quality education, inclusive community, respect for all, concern for poor & social justice, faith in God's
 presence –
 our mantras this week, throughout 2014, and always!**

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