

Note: I'm sending this newsletter on Sunday, June 29 – the day on which the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul – two of the greatest saints in the Church and the namesake of our school. At mass today, I will ask Saint Paul to intercede with Almighty God for His blessings upon our school, especially our students. I ask you to join me on our school's feast day in praying for our students. As we pray each school day (and as I hope our students are praying during the summer): *Saint Paul Our Patron! Pray for us!*

The President's Newsletter for the Beginning of July

"Wholly direct your thoughts to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, and worthy of praise. Then will the God of peace be with you."

--Saint Paul to the Philippians

Welcome to July – the seventh month of the year, named by the Roman Senate in honor of the Roman general, Julius Caesar, it being the month of his birth. And Happy Fourth of July! As we celebrate our wonderful country's birthday, I thought it appropriate that I communicate briefly with you.

July has something for almost everyone. Did you know that July is *Air-Conditioning Appreciation Month* (Amen!), *Bioterrorism/Disaster Education & Awareness Month*, *Cell Phone Courtesy Month* (and boy, do we need this!), *Family Reunion Month*, *Family Golf Month*, *Freedom From Fear of Speaking Month*, *Independent Retailer Month* (let's support our local businesses!), *International Zine Month* (I had to look this one up to find out what a zine was!), *National Blueberries Month* (love 'em!), *National Grilling Month*, *National Ice Cream Month*, *National Horseradish Month*, *National Hot Dog Month*, *National Make A Difference to Children Month* (we do this every month at SPS!), *National Recreation & Parks Month*, *National Share A Sunset With Your Lover Month*, *National Wheelchair Beautification Month*, *Nectarine and Garlic Month*, *Sandwich Generation Month*, *Smart Irrigation Month*, *Social Wellness Month*, *Tour de France Month*, & *Women's Motorcycle Month* (be careful, ladies!) So enjoy July!

I hope summer is proving to be a renewing one for your family. Too often, summers become hectic and chaotic with plans and projects – such as celebrating all those things in the paragraph above. With so much happening, it is easy to lose focus about important things. May the above words of Saint Paul help us provide to refocus! And even though we might be enjoying blueberries or horseradish, we need to "direct [our] thoughts to all that is true!" By doing so, the "God of peace" will be with us. Such is my prayer for you.

I hope, too, that you are preparing for the opening of the 2014 - 15 school year – a year which continues the unbroken chain of educational quality that began at Saint Paul's back in 1911. August 7th will soon be here! Much work is being done to prepare. Please note the following:

Prayer Request: On July 1, the Christian Brother Districts of New Orleans-Santa Fe and San Francisco will join together to form a new District of San Francisco New Orleans. This is an historic but bittersweet day for the Brothers as it recognizes that the two provinces are shrinking in number, growing older, and finding it more or less impossible to exist independently. NOSF began in 1921 and San Francisco even before that, so there is sense of loss and vulnerability. On the bright side, we look to the future with hope as we accept the challenge of becoming one district. For the Brothers, it will mean many changes -- but not all at once. We humbly ask you, therefore, to pray for us as Saint Paul's becomes part of the New District of San Francisco New Orleans. I'll be writing more about this in the future.

Exciting Curriculum Enhancements: Through the generosity of Hornbeck Offshore, we are adding the following Project Lead the Way Programs to our already technology-rich curriculum:

- **Gateway to Technology (GTT) program for all of our pre-freshmen.** Here's a description of the program from PLTW: *Through topics like robotics, flight and space, and DNA and crime scene analysis, students will find their natural curiosity and imagination engaged in creative problem solving. The GTT program provides a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond, challenging students to solve real-world problems like cleaning oil spills and designing sustainable housing solutions. Using the same advanced software and tools as the world's leading companies, students see the application of math, science, technology, and engineering to their everyday lives.* This will be the science class for the pre-freshmen. Mr. Mark Richard and Mrs. Julie Beck are being trained this summer to teach the program, robots and computers are being ordered, and two classrooms are being specially furnished to offer our pre-freshmen this exciting and innovative science class.
- **Computer Science and Software Engineering – an upper division elective.** Here's the description: *CSE implements the College Board's 2013 CS Principles framework. Using Python® as a primary tool and incorporating multiple platforms and languages for computation, this course aims to develop computational thinking, generate excitement about career paths that utilize computing, and introduce professional tools that foster creativity and collaboration. CSE helps students develop programming expertise and explore the workings of the Internet. Projects and problems include app development, visualization of data, cybersecurity, robotics, and simulation.*

We could not have afforded these new programs without the support of Covington-based Hornbeck Offshore and five of its top executives (all of whom are SPS dads) who have collectively pledged \$500,000 and other in-kind support toward a strategic academic endowment of our elective business and PLTW engineering professional curricula here at SPS. I am again grateful to Todd & Donna Hornbeck, Jim & Pam Harp, John & Nikki Cook, Tim and Lisa McCarthy and Sam & Jill Giberga. By the way, Hornbeck Offshore is also one of the corporate athletic sponsors of our new digital football scoreboard, which is begin installed this summer and will be ready for football season! Lots of exciting things on the horizon!

Attention Pre-Freshmen: Our Lasallian Youth Leaders are planning a special **Orientation Session for our incoming 8th graders** on Mon, Aug 4, from 4 – 9 pm. More info will be sent directly to 8th graders, but we hope you will mark this date on your calendars and plan to be present. Naturally, attendance is strictly optional, but the evening will be a fun and information introduction to SPS.

Tuition: Please note:

- **Tuition was due on June 1st. If you financed tuition with Resource Bank, the first bank payment was also due in June.**
- **Late tuition is subject to a 1% finance charge.**
- Call our Business Office at ext. 1005 or me at ext. 1001 for questions.
- **Class schedules will NOT be sent** to students who have not paid tuition or who are not current in their bank payments. Tuition bank payments must be current in order for students to begin school on August 7.
- **Please inform me if your son will not be attending Saint Paul's.**

Summer Reading and Virtual Bookstore: All students have summer reading. The following is from Curriculum Coordinator Joe Dickens:

- *To make obtaining your son's English reading materials as facile as possible, we have contracted MBS Direct to run our virtual bookstore. Any novel, play, or workbook he will need for English will be listed including new and used editions, and in some cases, eBooks. We offer this service for convenience, variety, and savings.*
- *The first purchase you'll make will be for his English summer reading. Simply go to our website at www.stpauls.com, click the "Order Your Books Here" button on the left, and you'll be directed to our virtual bookstore. You'll choose his summer reading title based on his placement in English. Payment will be handled on-line through MBS Direct, and the books will be shipped by UPS straight to your home.*
- *The titles for your son's summer reading will be available for purchase through our virtual bookstore, and the materials that he'll need for the academic year will be available in July.*
- *Next, all summer reading questions for English and social studies (if he's in honors or AP history/civics) are posted on our website. **Please note that your son will independently have to obtain his own summer reading books for social studies if he is in honors or AP.** Click on the link for summer reading at the bottom of our homepage, www.stpauls.com, and find the class(es) applicable to your son.*
- **If you have any questions about your son's placement in English or social studies**, please contact our Curriculum Coordinator, Joe Dickens, at joed@stpauls.com.

The First Day of School on August 7:

- **Thursday, August 7, is a FULL DAY OF CLASS INSTRUCTION.** Here's the plan:
 - Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students during the first class meeting;
 - Pictures and ID cards will be taken and issued during religion classes during the first two days (Aug 7-8). You will be sent information for ordering pictures.
 - The cafeteria will be open M – W, Aug 4-6, from 8-2 for you to place money on deposit if your son will be using the Archdiocesan Food Service. Students must have money on account for them to receive food from the cafeteria. Breakfast is served for \$1 and lunch for \$2. It's a bargain. And don't let your son say "the line is too long." After the first few days last year, all students were served within twenty minutes.
- The complete 2014 -15 calendar can be found on our web site (www.stpauls.com). NOTE: To comply with the State of Louisiana attendance policy, we are vigilant in insisting that students not miss school. **PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.**
- And speaking of Edline, in late-July we'll send Edline codes and SPS email addresses to new students to activate their accounts. Edline allows parents to check grades and assignments.
- NOTE: All students must wear their DRESS UNIFORM on either Aug 7 or 8 – the days they will take school pictures. Pictures will be taken during RELIGION CLASSES, so if your son's religion class is during Period A, B C or D, he wears his dress uniform on Thu, Aug 7. If his religion class is during Period E, F, or G, he wears his uniform on Fri, Aug 8. How will you know? The schedule we will email you will indicate the religion period.

Mothers Club Book Store: The Bookstore will be open on Monday, August 4th from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, and Tuesday - Wednesday, August 5th-6th, from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. All required school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Students who ordered the Pre-Pack supplies will be able to pick up their orders during this time. The deadline to take advantage of this optional program is July 1st. The website is <http://www.prepacksupplies1.com/>.

Our regular bookstore hours of operation will start on Thursday, August 7th.

7:15 am - 8:00 am

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

2:30 pm - 3:15 pm

PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore when possible. Proceeds not only help fund wonderful activities throughout the year, but the proceeds also help with campus needs. For example, the MC funded over \$18,000 worth of school projects including the following: helped Lasallian Youth Leaders attend their conference in CA, helped the band purchase a new tuba, installed new carpeting in our theater, purchased equipment for Powerlifting Team, bought uniforms for the Rugby Team, helped with campus landscaping, purchased computers, bought an electronic scoreboard for Wrestling Team and is having window covering installed for La Salle Hall. Thank you, Mothers Club! You add so much to life around here!

Cafeteria and Free / Reduced Lunch Program: If you wish to apply for free / reduced lunch, you can now do so on-line. There is NO stigma in applying and NO ONE knows. Nothing is done to embarrass your son or identify him as a free / reduced student. From the Archdiocesan Food Service:

*Applying for your child(ren)'s school meal benefits is now faster, safer & easier than ever. To apply please visit our website at: www.schoolcafe.org and click on the link "Click Here to Apply for Reduced/Free Lunch" on the home page to begin your application. This service is provided to you **free of charge** by School Food & Nutrition Services of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.*

Entering your application online is quicker, easier, and more accurate than filling out a paper application. Our step-by-step process and guided help makes applying for school meals simpler and easier to understand than ever before. Processing times are faster; therefore benefits are applied quicker too!

Listed below is what you will need to provide during the on-line application process:

- *The names and incomes of every member of your household*
- *The school, grade, & birth date of every student in your household*
- *Your social security number and electronic signature*
- *A valid email address and phone number for communication purposes about the status of the application.*

If you have any questions, call the School Food & Nutrition Services office at (504) 596-3434.

Service Hours: Summer is a great time for your son to start and even complete his service hour requirement of 10 hours. Remember that service hours must be done for those in need. Doing chores around the house does not qualify – your son should already be doing chores around the house. We are particularly stressing this year the need to help the truly needy. The Covington Food Bank, Habitat, parish mission trips, nursing homes – all of these provide legitimate service hour opportunities.

Remember that two special awards are given at the end of the year for service hours: The Brother Alfred Service Award for 50+ service hours and the Order of Saint La Salle Award for 100+ service hours. I'm always edified by the number of students who qualify for these awards. Let's aim for 100% of the student body earning these awards this year!

Class Schedules: Schedules will be emailed (if tuition is paid or bank payments current) by July 20 or very shortly thereafter.

Attention Seniors and Senior Parents: Note these important dates:

Senior March through Arch: Thu, Aug 21, 8 am
Senior – Parent Breakfast: Thu, Aug 21, 8:45 am (cafeteria and “al fresco”)
Senior Ring Ceremony: Thu, Aug 21, 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center
Senior Ring Holiday: Fri, Aug 22

Dress Code: Here it is again. I reiterate: the school is the final judge of uniform compliance:

- ONLY SPS sweatshirts/outerwear will be allowed in cool / cold weather EVEN FOR SENIORS.
- ONLY **regular tan** khaki pants / shorts (NO cargo) will be allowed. If the pants are too light or too dark, we will insist that the student buy tan khaki ones.
- ONLY shirts sold by Bayou Uniform (13488 Seymour Myers Blvd) are allowed. If your son’s shirts have shrunk (shirt tails MUST stay tucked in) or have holes, he MUST buy new ones.
- ONLY **white, blue, gray, or gold T-shirts** may be worn under uniform shirt.
- ONLY PLAIN (no metal decorations) BROWN belts will be allowed.
- SPS socks will still be required. These can be purchased at Bayou or in the bookstore.
- **We have a supply of slightly used SPS shirts and sweatshirts (in good condition) which I am happy to give away. Please approach me if your budget is tight. You and your son will not be embarrassed in any way.**
- We will continue to use the “formal” uniform on special occasions (school masses, ceremonies, etc). This uniform will include a school tie (purchased at Bayou Uniform) and ANY plain, white long-sleeve dress shirt. Long khakis with dark shoes, socks and belt are also part of the uniform which are purchased anywhere by the student.
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** As an additional level of safety, students will be REQUIRED to WEAR THEIR ID CARDS on a daily basis. We will supply them with an SPS lanyard when they received their cards on either Aug 7 or 8. This will also help with the cafeteria, as ID cards are used to check out and also with the attendance office, as ID cards are used to check in.

Football: Varsity players leave for camp in late July. **Junior high football (8th) begins after school opens. Any 9th grader (freshman) interested in football should report to the gym on Monday, July 8, at 7 am with his LHSAA forms and physical.**

Band: The Marching Wolves invite all students to consider joining one of the premier band programs in the area. Even beginners are welcome! Note the following:

- A new member orientation will be held on Mon and Tue, July 15 & 16, from 9 – 4 and Wed, July 17, from 9 - 2. Come join the Marching Wolves. It’s a great experience
- All percussion members are also to report for these three days.
- Full band camp is Mon, July 21 – Fri, July 25, from 9 – 6.
- “Meet the Band” is Fri, July 25 at 6.
- Contact Mr. Andrew Moran, Director of Bands, at andrewm@stpauls.com for more info.

Athletics: From the Athletic Director, Coach Craig Ketelsen:

- Any student who wishes to play a sport must have his athletic paperwork (including a physical on a school medical history form) turned in to the office BEFORE the start of practices. Football, CC, and Swimming will begin the first week of school for new students.

Annual Fund: Thanks to those of you who have contributed. Even during the summer, I continue to get donations. If you still haven’t contributed and are able to, even to a small degree, please do so now so, as the 2014 Annual Fund Drive ends July 31. Thanks. So far, we have used the funds to provide continuing education

opportunities for faculty members, to upgrade technology, to fund the new pre-engineering and biomedical curricula, and to help pay for the renovations to La Salle Hall and The Briggs Assembly Center.

Cross Country: The team welcomes any student-athletes interested in joining to come Run with the Wolves during our conditioning runs this summer. Please note that LHSAA-required physical and forms must be completed before conditioning begins. If interested, please email faculty moderator, Myrle Wiggins at myrlew@stpauls.com for the schedule.

Campus Summer Activities: We continue to be busy this summer. So far:

- The turf athletic field in Hunter Stadium has been completely replaced (under warranty) and is brand new. It looks great. Repairs to lighting have also been made.
- Our new Hunter Stadium “jumbotron” is being installed and will be ready for football, complete with instant replay. I am most grateful to **Banner Ford, Domino Pizza, Hornbeck Offshore, Mugshots Grill, and Resource Bank** whose sponsorships made this project possible.
- Summer baseball teams are winding down. Plus, other athletic teams are practicing according to the LHSAA rules.
- Summer camps are in full swing. So far we have held baseball, football, basketball, wrestling, creative writing, and drama camps. Soccer, lacrosse, band, another basketball and drama camp and a strength conditioning camp remain on the schedule. For more information on any of our remaining camps, check our web site or contact Coach Phil Williams at 985-373-0225.
- Almost 30 SPS students enjoyed our tenth annual College Tour. Thanks to The SPS Renaissance Board & chaperones Renee Miller & Lee Pierre.
- Lots of cleaning, upgrading, and repairing is going on.
- Mr. Luke Barwick, Mr. Andrew Dart, and Mr. Trevor Watkins are currently at a two week program in California on Lasallian studies. Mr. John Glorioso and Mr. Richard Pichon will participate in a one week Lasallian Studies program in mid-July.
- A group of SPS Lasallian Youth Leaders are preparing to head to California next week to attend a Lasallian Youth Conference. We look forward to hearing about the trip on their return.
- A number of teachers are studying, attending conferences, and upgrading their skills for next year, especially for our engineering and new computer science.
- Many Wolves are involved in many different activities this summer and are distinguishing themselves. I'll have LOTS of material for my recognition assemblies when school starts!
- The Briggs Center hosted the Covington Kiwanis Club Prayer Breakfast to a large crowd. Thanks to Mrs. Shellie Campo and our maintenance crew for their hard work in setting up the breakfast.
- The St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Prayer Breakfast took place in our campus cafeteria. It was a wonderful event. Thanks to Ms. Karen Hebert and several student hosts for their hard work.
- The ever-faithful Botanical Wolves have been watering, planting, weeding and pruning and our campus looks great here in the mid-summer heat. Thanks, Mrs. Linda Trahan and your corps of BWs!
- Not to be outdone, the Dad's Club was on campus installation irrigation systems to make the Botanical Wolves' watering job easier! Many thanks, Dads – and their “volunteer” sons who were also working on the project!

Wolves Football: Are you ready for some football? The Wolves football team is hard at work during the summer getting ready for their upcoming 2014 season....At Hunter stadium, you can also be ready for upcoming football season, where we you can purchase reserved seating, reserved parking, and also stadium banners to advertise your business. For our Annual Game Day shirt – this year the color is BLUE....we encourage all fans to wear their game day shirt to all football games. Please contact

debbie@carcsllc.com or call Debbie at 985-502-1315 to purchase or inquire about any of the above!! *GO WOLVES!!*

Proof of Attendance and Driver's License: If your son is getting his driver's license this summer, state law requires you to provide the DMV with a Proof of Attendance form -- e. These forms are available here in the Administration Building. If you go to DMV without one, they will turn you away – even if you've sat there for an hour or more! And make sure it's signed in blue ink or they will turn you away, too! And don't blame me for this regulation! It was a legislative act.

4th of July Humor:

- *Teacher: "True or False? The Declaration of Independence was written in Philadelphia." Student: "False. It was written in ink."*
- *Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? On the bottom.*
- *Why did the British soldiers wear red coats? So they could hide in the tomatoes.*
- *What did one flag say to the other flag? Nothing. It just waved.*
- *What's red, white, blue, and ugly? The Revolutionary Warthog.*
- *How was the good at the Fourth of July picnic? The hot dogs were bad, but the brats were the wurst!*
- *Why did Paul Revere ride from Boston to Lexington? Because the horse was too heavy to carry.*
- *What was General Washington's favorite tree? The infantry.*
- *What's red, white, blue, and green? A patriotic pickle.*
- *Why is the Liberty Bell like a dropped Easter egg? They're both cracked.*
- *What is Uncle Sam's favorite snack? Fire-crackers.*
- *What's red, white, blue and green? A seasick Uncle Sam!*
- *Why did the duck say, "Bang"? He was a fire-quacker.*
- *What happened as a result of the Stamp Act? The Americans licked the British.*
- *What kind of tea did the American colonists thirst for? Liberty.*
- *What did King George think of the American colonist? He thought they were revolting!*
- *How did American colonists' dogs protest against England? The Boston Flea Party.*
- *What do you call an American revolutionary who draws cartoons? A Yankee Doodler.*
- *Brother Ray, the aging school president, visited an American history class last year and asked the students to name the 50 states. They could only come up with 45. Brother Ray jokingly told them that when he took American history he could name all the states. One student raised his hand and said, Yes, Brother, but in those days there were only 13 states.*
- *OK, I'll stop! Happy Fourth of July!*

A Look Ahead:

Mon, Aug 4 – New Teachers Meeting

Mon, Aug 4 – Pre-freshman and New Freshman Orientation Evening (4-9 pm)

Tue – Wed, Aug 5 - 6 -- Full Faculty Meetings

Thu, Aug 7 – First Day of School (FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION; Periods A, B, C, & D will meet)

Sun, Aug 10 – New Moms Coffee (1:30 pm in cafeteria) All new SPS moms are invited.

Mon, Aug 18 – **Reception/Info Meeting for New Parents (6:30 pm) All SPS new parents are invited.**

Mon, Sep 01 – Labor Day Holiday

Well, I wasn't brief with this newsletter as promised! Sorry! Thanks for being part of the 2014-15 edition of Saint Paul's – the beginning of fourth year of our second century of existence. If the next 103 years go as well as this past year, Saint Paul's will have had an incredible second century of existence.

Call if I can be of assistance. **Our July summer office hours are 8 am -- noon** Monday through Friday. While we will usually be in the office during part of the afternoon, your best bet for contacting us is in the mornings.

Enjoy the final weeks of summer! May they be ones of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you throughout the summer, particularly for the safety and good decision-making of our students!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Looking Forward to Another Year as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

Have a great Lasallian summer but remember: the Core Principles of Quality Education, Respect for all, Concern for Poor & Social Justice, Inclusive Community & Faith in the Presence of God NEVER take a vacation!

Care and Vigilance and Faith and Zeal -- Hallmarks of the Lasallian Teacher and Parent throughout the summer!