

# *The President's Newsletter*

## *for the*

### *Opening of the 2014-15 School Year*

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year – the fourth year of our second century -- a year in which we will strive to keep the best of our 330+ year Christian Brother tradition with our 103 year Saint Paul's tradition while adding the quality of the present. This promises to be a great year. Thanks for being with us.

By popular demand (OK, one mom asked!), the President's Weekly Newsletter is back. I'm sure your summer Sundays were vaguely unsettling without my weekly missive. As in the past, I plan to email the newsletter on Sunday mornings. If you have suggestions as to how I can make the newsletter more helpful & informative, let me know. Just email me a question or suggestion or topic to be addressed.

#### **Thursday, August 7, the First Day of School:**

- **Thursday, August 7, is a FULL DAY OF CLASS INSTRUCTION.** Students must be in their Block A class by 7:45 am. Traffic has not gotten any better of late, so please allow plenty of time for prompt arrival.
- **Important Info About Uniforms for August 7:** On Thursday, August 7, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. Students who have religion in periods E, F or G wear regular uniforms on Thursday.
- **Important Info About Uniforms for August 8:** On Friday, August 8, students with religion class in periods E, F or G wear DRESS UNIFORM for pictures. Students who had their pictures taken on Thursday wear regular uniforms.
- Ordering pictures is optional; an order form was contained in the recent Mothers Club mailing which you received.
- Students only need to bring materials for periods A B C & D on Thursday, August 7. They only need to bring materials for periods E F G & A on Friday, August 8.
- Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students.

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

- The Bookstore will be open on Monday, Aug 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 6 pm. On Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, it will be open from 9:00-4:00. Our regular bookstore hours of operation will start on Thursday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

7:15 am - 8:00 am

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

2:30 pm - 3:15 pm

- Pre-ordered supply packs will be available for pick up in La Salle Hall during these times.
- ALL required school supplies will be available for purchase. Avoid the crowds and support our school!!! Remember that all proceeds from the MC Bookstore go to help SPS.
- Our summer mail-out was sent last week. If anyone did not receive it, please email us at [mothersclub@stpauls.com](mailto:mothersclub@stpauls.com).
- Volunteer to help by signing up on the website ([www.stpauls.com](http://www.stpauls.com)). Just click on Parents at the top and then Mothers Club

**PLEASE patronize the MC 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!

**Dads Club:** Many thanks to the SPS Dads Club who spent Saturday, July 26, on a number of campus projects, from power washing to tree trimming to minor repairs. Their work has made quite a difference! Thanks, SPS Dads Club! The Dads Club meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6:30 at the Abita Brewery. All SPS dads are invited to join them when you can.

**2014-15 Calendar** is posted on our web site ([www.stpauls.com](http://www.stpauls.com)). NOTE: since the State of Louisiana has tightened the attendance policy, we will be even more insistent that students not miss school for less than serious reasons. **PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.**

**Edline:** Edline allows parents and students to have secure access to grades, attendance, conduct & other information. Edline is used at other local Catholic schools (SSA, MQP, & St. Peter, for example) which will allow parents to consolidate all children on one account. **Edline activation codes were printed on the schedules of new students.** Mr. Mike Holmes is the Edline administrator. Contact him for help at 892-3200, ext 1044 or [mikeh@stpauls.com](mailto:mikeh@stpauls.com).

**Schedules:** Your son's first semester class schedule was emailed to you last week if you were current with tuition payments. Contact me if you did not receive a schedule. The schedule is subject to slight modification as we balance class loads.

- A “free” designation for a period indicates a scheduling conflict. Email a counselor.
- For ALL schedule questions, E-MAIL (do not call) the counselors:
  - Grade 8 & 9 should email Mrs. Gina Hall at [ginah@stpauls.com](mailto:ginah@stpauls.com)
  - Grade 10 & 11 should email Mrs. Christine Woodard at [christinew@stpauls.com](mailto:christinew@stpauls.com)
  - Grade 12 should email Mrs. Renee’ Miller at [reneep@stpauls.com](mailto:reneep@stpauls.com)
- Counselors will adjust where possible, but if a class is full, we are not going to overload it just because a student changes his mind at the last minute – that’s what he’ll experience in college.
- Changes are made for serious reasons **and are subject to space availability**. “I want to be with my friend” is ordinarily not a good reason. If a student received his choice and wants a change because he changed his mind, a \$10 fee is charged. If a student did not receive his choice, no fee is charged.
- A final schedule will be emailed during the week of Aug 4; use this schedule for class on Aug 7.

- **We will have a regular 4 period block schedule for Aug 7, periods A, B, C, & D.**

**Student Email Addresses:** An SPS email address (printed on the schedules) was issued to all students. The format is Firstname.Lastname.gradyr@stpauls.com, e.g. [John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com](mailto:John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com). This will allow us to better communicate with students. The student may keep this email forever, thus allowing us to continue contact with him as an alumnus. Naturally, we will delete the email upon graduation at the student's request. Your son's email was printed on the schedule which was emailed to you. **Since 95% of our communication with you is via email, please let us know if you change your email address.**

**School Supplies:** All needed school supplies are posted on our school web site ([www.stpauls.com](http://www.stpauls.com)). Just click on the link at the bottom of the homepage. Supplies are listed by TEACHER, so check your son's class schedule which was emailed last week. While we encourage you to shop at the Mothers Club bookstore, if **you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!**

**Summer Reading:** All students should be finishing their summer reading.

**New Parent Reception / Information Meeting:** A welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** will be held on Monday, August 18, at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. More information will be emailed in early August. We hope you will be with us!

**New Moms Tea:** New Moms' Tea is Saturday, Aug 9th, at 3:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. ALL NEW SPS moms are invited to this event. All moms automatically belong to the Mothers Club, so get involved.

**Homecoming Dances:** The Junior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Oct 25. The Senior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Oct 18.

**Attention All 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and NEW 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** Our Lasallian Youth Leaders are planning an Orientation Session for our incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders and NEW 9<sup>th</sup> graders on Mon, Aug 4, from 4-9 pm. An invitation was sent to you, and we hope you have marked this date on your calendars and plan to be present. Naturally, attendance is optional, but the evening will be a fun and informative introduction to SPS. Don't worry, however, if you can't make it. We'll "orient" you when school begins.

**Attention All 8<sup>th</sup> & New 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Moms:** The Mothers Club Book Store will be open during the orientation event on Mon, Aug 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 - 6 pm. PE uniforms, sweatshirts and other SPS apparel will be available. This is a good opportunity to obtain needed items while your son is at orientation.

**Senior Parents:** Note the following **upcoming special senior events** on **Thu, Aug 21:**

- **March through the Arch at 8 a.m.** Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional "rite of passage" ceremony for our seniors.
- **Senior-Parent Continental Breakfast** following the March. The breakfast will be in the cafeteria and "al fresco" (from the Italian meaning "in the fresh" -- in this case, fresh air! We'll have outdoor seating.)
- Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by pizza lunch and then Ring Ceremony practice. They will be dismissed following practice -- 2 pm at the latest.
- **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional ceremony, a highlight of the senior year. ALL seniors are required to attend the ceremony whether they are getting a ring or not. And, yes, family rings can be used.

- **Fri, Aug 22, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.**

**Dress Code:** Students must be in compliance with the dress code beginning Aug 7. WE INTEND TO INCREASE OUR ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRESS CODE THIS YEAR. Refer to previous newsletters or the student handbook on our website for particulars if you are still unsure. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts in good condition. If the family budget is tight, feel free to ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to those families who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.**

**Uniforms: Reminders:**

- Uniform shirts and socks are sold by Bayou Uniform (13488 Seymour Myers Blvd ) in Covington
- Sweatshirts, fleeces, PE uniforms, etc. are sold by the Mothers Club book store.
- Khaki pants/shorts may come from any vendor as long as they are NOT cargo pants and are standard tan khaki color, not green or brown.
- There is no uniform shoe but no sandals, etc. are allowed. The more conservative the better.
- We now have a “dress uniform” which will be worn on special occasions: LONG khaki pants, dress white shirt (any brand is OK even if it has a small logo), dress socks, belt, SCHOOL TIE, and any shoe that is not a tennis/athletic shoe.
- ID cards must be worn DAILY on an SPS lanyard which will be given to students. This is a school safety measure.

**Extracurriculars:** New parents often ask how their sons find out about our extracurricular program. Shortly after school opens, we will introduce students to our offerings.

**Cafeteria School Lunch / Breakfast Programs:**

- SPS participates in the federal school lunch/breakfast program managed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Saint Paul’s does not directly manage the food service program; we follow the directives of the Archdiocese and the cafeteria workers are employed by the Archdiocese, not Saint Paul’s.
- Breakfast (\$1) is served from 7:15-7:35 am. This is a GREAT program and many students use it.
- Students may buy lunch (\$2.) On most days, there is a choice of hot lunch or sandwich lunch.
- **Students may not “order out”, e.g. pizza, or have lunches delivered. WE CANNOT DELIVER LUNCHES TO STUDENTS. Please do not ask us to do so.**
- **Students participating in the cafeteria program must make an initial payment before school opens. This may be done on Aug 4 between 7 and 2:30 and Aug 5-6 between 7 and 2:00. A separate check will be needed. Students may NOT "charge" a meal if no money is on account.**
- **Students MUST use their ID cards for check out in the cafeteria. A temporary ID will be issued them on Thu, Aug 7, for use at lunch that day.**
- Parents may sign up for ON-LINE payments which will also allow them to see a complete record of everything their son is buying. Go to <http://www.schoolcafe.org/> and follow directions.

- **FREE or REDUCED LUNCH/BREAKFAST:** There is no stigma to apply for free / reduced lunch. **NO ONE knows but the cafe manager. Request forms from me or the cafeteria manager. NEW: You may also apply online for free / reduced lunch by following these steps:**
  - ✓ Go to [www.Applyforlunch.com](http://www.Applyforlunch.com) (or access the link from our website [www.schoolcafe.org](http://www.schoolcafe.org))
  - ✓ Click on “Start your Online Application”
  - ✓ Enter your Zip Code or State and select “Archdiocese of New Orleans” as the district.
  - ✓ Follow the wizard and use the guided help along the way
  - ✓ Continue to select “next” at the bottom of the page and “submit” when completed.

Should you list an email address, you receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted. If you have any questions regarding Online Applications, please contact (504)596-3440 or (504)596-3434. Meal eligibility applications should be received prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of school or current meal benefits may change. **Students may also receive a free lunch by offering to help serve lunch during the lunch period.**

**Attendance:** The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Please do not allow your sons to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**

**Jazz ‘n Roll:** J n R XXV is Sat evening, Oct 04. If you have questions, auction items and/or would like to work at J n R, call Shellie Campo at 892-3200, ext. 1273.

**Need More Information?** For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, or Assistant Principal Joe Dickens. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call on me if you think I can help.

My office phone is 892-3200, x 1001 & my cell phone is 966-1138, my email is [broray@stpauls.com](mailto:broray@stpauls.com) or hit “reply” to this email!

**Student Hosts:** Student Hosts will recruit and enroll new and returning members during the first few weeks of school in preparation for service at Jazz N Roll, Open House, Drama productions, Celebrity Waiters and other events. Students should see Ms. Hebert in the Administration Building for information.

**Lost and Found:** At the end of last year, we “rounded up” dozens of sweatshirts, uniform shirts, pants, socks, books, lunch boxes and numerous other items that were “shed” or left behind by students in various parts of the campus and never claimed. Everything was washed and dried. Most of the items had NO IDENTIFYING INFO and the ones that did had info that was illegible. Again, PLEASE stress with your son the need for personal responsibility of his items. **Please clearly label all clothing.** The items collected at the end of May represent hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

**From The Touchdown Club:** Please join us for our annual adult social and dance on Sat, Sep 13<sup>th</sup> in the Briggs Assembly Center (BAC). The band is The Issue. Cocktails start at 7:00 and the band starts for 8:00. \$25.00 at the door includes all refreshments. For information and details about reserving a table, contact Debbie Bodenheimer, 985-502-1315. The atmosphere is casual and festive! Don’t miss out.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Sign-up and Spirit Night:** Calling all 8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in signing up for 8<sup>th</sup> grade football. Please come to our Football Spirit Night, on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in the gym from 5:00 – 7:00. At this time you will be able to sign-up for football, purchase football apparel, including our Annual Game Day shirt, meet coaches and players, and enjoy some jambalaya with the Wolves! *SPIRIT NIGHT* is for all Varsity level families as well. Please join in welcoming the new players to the program. It's a great time to get ready for the upcoming season and purchase your SPS Game Day Shirts and miscellaneous football apparel!!

**Football and Cross Country Camps:** Our football and cross country teams leave for their annual training camps in a few days. Many thanks to all who are helping make these events possible.

**Band Camp:** The Marching Wolves had a great week on campus last week and are gearing up for a great season. New members are still welcome – even beginners! Just email Band Director Andrew Moran at [andrewm@stpauls.com](mailto:andrewm@stpauls.com) for more info. We'd love to have 100 Marching Wolves! Thanks to the Band Boosters for all their hard work in helping with camp. Special thanks to Mark and Liam Dixon of The Broken Egg in Mandeville who supplied the food for the week. The MWs ate VERY well!

**Campus Beautification:** Many, many thanks to the parents and students who continue to work hard to help make our campus even more beautiful. The "Botanical Wolves" under the tenacious leadership of Mrs. Linda Trahan has planted many varieties of flora at our main entrance and in Founders Circle.

**New Driving Policy:** The driving habits of some students (speeding, revving of engines, screeching of tires, etc) are causing me a great deal of grief with the neighbors. I have spoken at length with some neighbors and also with the Covington Police. The neighbors are declaring war on unsafe driving – and I'm supporting them. As our handbook states, driving to school and parking on our campus is a privilege, not a right. Accordingly, we are taking the following steps:

- Covington Police will increase their presence and issue tickets;
- Neighbors have been instructed to take pictures or get license plates of speeding or unsafe drivers and send the information to us;
- SPS has increased the number of faculty street supervisors after school;
- SPS has instituted a series of monetary fines (beginning at \$50 for a first offense) against students shown to be violating traffic laws around school;
- SPS reserves the right to revoke the driving to school privilege – which we have already done with one student who enraged the neighborhood on the last day of school in May.

We have tried to address this issue with students, but some are not getting the message. Hence, we will take stronger steps. Parents of students who drive to school – please stress safe driving with your sons. A car can be a lethal weapon if not used responsibly.

**Off to a Good Academic Start:** Help your son develop proper attitudes and habits for success. Show confidence in his ability; work with him to set realistic academic goals. Help him develop an orderly study environment. Teens enjoy chaos, so the trick is to help your son create enough order in his chaos for proper study to occur. Designate a place and time to study. **Require 1-2 hours of study per night. Do not accept the "I have no homework" excuse.** He always has homework -- review, study and advanced preparation. At the end of his study session, have him organize books, assignments, PE clothes, etc. for the next day. **Students who do not have their homework on a particular day are sent to assignment hall.**

I will again close with the passage that I like to use at the beginning of each new school year. I've been using it now for 27 years, but it still makes sense today! I wish I could take credit for the quotation, but it was written in the 1960's by the headmaster of St. Alban's School in New York. It provides food for thought for all of us as we begin another school year:

*The raising of children is a lot of fun and a lot of pain, whether it has to do with cars, books, the opposite sex, parties, or drinking, but it is also the greatest privilege we can have in life. We shall do it well or poorly, depending upon the quality of life we ourselves have been able to develop, the way we are able to learn, the humility of heart that is ours, which helps us to recognize that we do not have all the answers and that we can learn from each other, occasionally from our children, through whom God has been known to speak even to parents, and especially from that teacher who we recognize as The Teacher, Jesus the Lord.*

Whew! That was a lot of information! Hope I haven't scared you off! I'm sure I've forgotten something but that's enough for now. Email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

Since you've read this far, you deserve the traditional "Humor of the Week" with the Teacher jokes:

*Q: Why did the teacher wear sunglasses? A: Because his class was so bright!*

*Q: Why were the teacher's eyes crossed? A: She couldn't control her pupils!*

*Q: How is an English teacher like a judge? A: They both give out sentences.*

*Q: Why did the teacher go to the beach? A: To test the water.*

*Teacher: You missed school yesterday, didn't you? Student: Not really.*

*Teacher: If I had 6 oranges in one hand & 7 apples in the other, what would I have? Student: Big hands!*

*Teacher: If you got \$20 from 5 people, what you get? Student: A new bike.*

*Teacher: I hope I didn't see you looking at John's exam? Student: I hope you didn't either.*

*Teacher: What is the shortest month? Student: May, it only has three letters.*

*Teacher: Didn't I tell you to stand at the end of the line? Student: I tried but someone was already there!*

*Teacher: Name two pronouns. Student: Who, me?*

*Teacher: Please pay a little attention! Pupil: I'm paying as little as I can!*

*Teacher: In music, f means forte. What does ff mean? Pupil: Eighty!*

*Teacher: What's the longest word in English? Pupil: Smile – there's a mile between first & last letters!*

*Teacher: How do you make so many mistakes in a day? Pupil: I get here early!*

*OK, I'll stop!*

As usual, I'll 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! Pray that we have a good beginning! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and call on me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Anticipating a Great 2014-15 as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

