



The President's Newsletter for Oct 20 - 26, 2014



Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC, President of Cathedral High School in El Paso, sent the following to his faculty last week. I thought it good enough to share with our faculty. And substitute “parent” for “teacher” and “children” for “students” and it’s pretty good advice for parents, too! Thanks, Bro. Nick!



There was an interesting internet posting which challenged the reader to recall specific Olympic medalists or Nobel Prize winners. Most could not readily identify them but when asked to name their teachers, the result was almost complete recall. The people who guided us – well or poorly – are forever engrained in our hearts and minds. It reminds us that we have been called to a most important vocation – the formation of young men.

Reflecting on the Feast of Saint Luke, Saint La Salle encouraged the first teachers thusly: “Your conduct must be so wise that your students will respect it because they will see it far above ordinary human behavior and free from passions that destroy, or at least diminish, the respect due to those who are responsible for leading others.” A glance at reality television reveals the sad examples being promoted: vanity, promiscuity and selfishness. To encounter an adult committed to self-discipline and sacrifice for others should be a jarring challenge. To encounter seven of them daily should be life-altering.

Let us pray this week that we (teachers and parents) live up to God’s high expectations of us. Let us consciously work at self-control and virtuous behavior. Let us hold ourselves and our students to God’s standard.

Thanks, Brother Nick. I couldn’t agree more!

Mon, Oct 20 (Regular; G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1803, the U.S. Senate approves a treaty with France to purchase Louisiana Territory, doubling size of US.
- **National Day of Writing:** Today celebrates writers and writing. Celebrate by writing something: email, poem, text message, short story, blog entry, grocery list, weekly newsletter to the faculty and parents, etc. Just write!
- **National Health Education Week begins today.** The theme changes each year, but I emphasize the role of health education for adolescents. From the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Admin:

Use of illicit drugs by youth decreased in 2013 to 8.8 percent.

About half (48.6) of the youth population felt that it would be “fairly easy” or “very easy” to obtain marijuana.

Adolescents did not see or hear drug and alcohol prevention messages outside school as much as in the past (72.6 percent, compared with 83.2 percent in 2002).

About one in eight youth report that they were approached by someone selling drugs.

Nonmedical prescription drug and pain reliever use also declined;

At least one in ten youth used alcohol (11.6 percent).

☐ *More than half (52.2 percent) of underage drinkers consumed alcohol at someone else's home, and 34.2 percent drank at home.*

☐ *Youth who drank alcohol were more likely to use illicit drugs – and for those under the influence of alcohol, marijuana was most common.*

☐ *Youth who smoke cigarettes were also more likely to use illicit drugs (53.9 percent), compared with youth who do not smoke (6.1 percent)*

So what is a Lasallian school's response to the above? For Saint La Salle, the school was a place of safety and salvation. He would accept nothing less. As we work with our students, we try to be attuned to ALL of their safety issues: physical, mental, social, and spiritual.

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences: 5-7 in the BAC. More info below.**

Tue, Oct 21 (Assembly; D E F G)

- **President's Assembly/Shadow Day:** A large group of students will visit for the morning. We will welcome them warmly.
- **TDIH:** In 1967, 100,000 people marched on The Pentagon to protest the Vietnam War.
- **Babbling Day:** Calling all blatherskites (people who babble – yes, it's a real word!): today isn't a day to remain silent. We celebrate those with glib tongues who never stop talking. They babble on and on and turn a simple one sentence statement into an endless dissertation. I'm not one of them, however!
- **National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day:** Don't want to babble today? Then enjoy this classic fall dessert!
- **National Clean Your Virtual Desktop Day:** My virtual desktop is as messy as my wooden desktop!
- **Reptile Awareness Day:** Become as aware as you want of these critters, but I'll stay clear of 'em!
- **Football:** Jr Hi v. Brother Martin (5:30)
- **Swimming:** Northlake Regional Championships (Slidell)

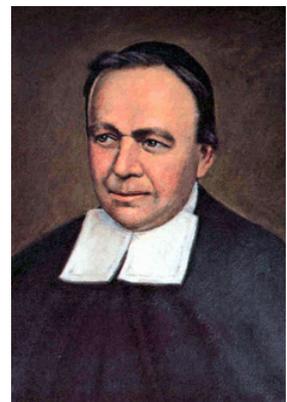
Wed, Oct 22 (Regular; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1962, President John Kennedy announces that he has ordered a blockade of Cuba in response to the discovery that Soviet missiles were being installed on the island, pushing the US to a nuclear showdown with Russia.
- **CAPS LOCK DAY: FEEL FREE TO CAPITALIZE EVERYTHING TODAY!** I will abstain, however!
- **International Stuttering Awareness Day:** 1% of the population stutters or has some other speech impairment. Let's be sensitive to them and learn how to assist. There are some great tips on the ISAD website.
- **Smart is Cool Day:** Flaunt your IQ today! Tout your ACT score! Quote Plato and Shakespeare! Take an online IQ test at www.iqtest.com and see how smart you really are!
- **Football:** 9th & JV at Covington (5:30)

Thu, Oct 23 (Regular; E F G A):

- **Feast of Blessed Brother Arnold, a Christian Brother (1838-1890) who was beatified by Pope John Paul II. From the Brothers' web site:**

Arnold was born into a poor family and left school early to work as a stable boy, coachman, and for local construction. He met the Brothers while attending evening classes at their school and joined. He taught for 14 years at a boarding school in



Reims. Despite a full teaching schedule, he privately studied math, theology, science & agriculture. During Franco-Prussian War of 1870, he cared for medical & spiritual needs of the wounded on both sides; he was awarded the Bronze Cross. His work won the hearts of his students by his care for their spiritual and professional development. He died at 52 with a reputation for sanctity. Work and pray so that people will say the same about us! Blessed Brother Arnold— watch over us and inspire us!

- **Mole Day:** Celebrated annually on Oct 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m., Mole Day commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}), a basic chemistry measuring unit. Will Coach Pierre's classes make moles again this year? Stay tuned!
- **The Swallows Depart San Juan, Capistrano** today as they head for their winter home in Argentina.
- **Blood Drive** – give the gift of life if you are so inclined. More below.
- **Football:** 8th v. Mc 32 Charter

Fri, Oct 24 (Pep Rally; B C D E)

- **Let Us Remember Dept:** Today marks the ten year anniversary of the death of legendary SPS English teacher Brother Bill Parsons. While fewer at SPS remember Bill, his presence and influence continue. We remember Bill and his contribution to Christian education of youth and take comfort in the role he played in our lives. Brother Bill, pray for us! In his memory, let's pay attention to our English today! I know I will.
- **TDIH:** In 1861, Western Union completes the first transcontinental telegraph line.
- **National Bologna Day:** Eat a bologna sandwich! I'll pass!
- **Wellness Screening:** Our faculty will undergo their annual wellness screenings today, courtesy of Christian Brothers Employee Benefit Trust. They will also get their flu shots. We hope you're your family do the same. Anything we can do to prevent illness benefits all.
- **Falcon Spirit Day at Christian Brothers School in City Park:** A group of SPS LYLs will join Lasallians from De La Salle and Rummel to assist with Spirit Day at CBS. It's a celebration of our common Lasallian bond.
- **Football:** Varsity v. Covington (7)



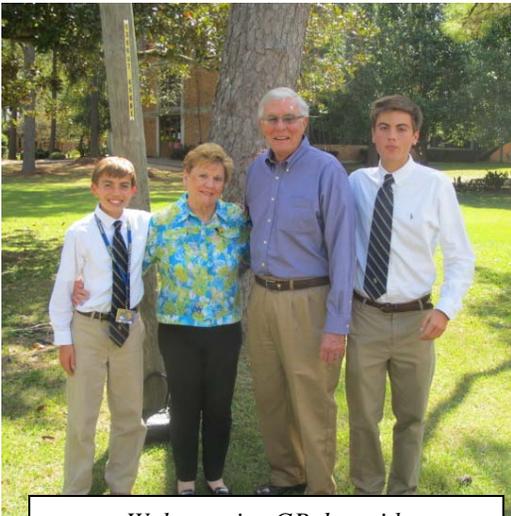
Sat, Oct 25

- **This Day in History.** In 1881, Pablo Picasso, co-founder of the Cubist movement and one of the greatest, most influential artists of 20th century, is born in Malaga, Spain. Spend time today viewing some Picasso. Here's a link: http://www.google.com/images?q=picasso&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&ei=D3XBTL_6AoT7lwff25nLCg&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ct=title&resnum=4&ved=0CEoQsAQwAw&biw=1024&bih=578
- **Sour Day:** Life given you lemons? Today's the day to shout about it. Reserve the right to be grumpy, irritable and sour about the world and everything in it. But tomorrow you've got to be sweet to everyone!
- **World Pasta Day:** Pile up your plate with a big dish of any one of the 600 varieties of pasta and your favorite sauce!

- **National Make A Difference Day:** Today (always 4th Sat of Oct) celebrates neighbors helping neighbors. Make a difference today, no matter how small, in another's life.
- **National Forgiveness Day:** The mission of NFD (last Sat of Oct) is to encourage people to ask for forgiveness and to forgive one another while creating an understanding of the power of love, the joy of forgiveness, and the peace of humility in the hearts of positive people. **I ask anyone whom I've offended to forgive me and will offer my forgiveness to anyone who wants it** – but I'm not easily offended so very few people fall into that category!
- ACT administered on campus this morning
- **Swimming:** 8th Championships (UNO)

Sun, Oct 26 – We encourage our Catholic families to attend mass today & other families to attend church of choice.

- **TDIH:** In 1881, the Earp brothers face off against the Clanton-McLaury gang in a shootout at the OK Corral in Tombstone, AZ. Relive some Old West history today!
- **Howl at the Moon Day:** Release your inner wolf and go wild – full moon or not!



Wolves enjoy GP day with grandparents!

IMPORTANT! PLEASE HELP: The future of SPS depends on a healthy enrollment. On Nov 1 at 1 pm, we will hold our annual Open House for prospective students. Please invite any interested family to attend. This year, we want to send postcard announcements to families. If you know of a family with a son who would benefit from SPS, please email me their name and address. We will mail them a postcard invite. In the past, you, our parents, have been the best source of attracting students to SPS. Please help me now. Again, just send me names and addresses – all we'll send them is a simple postcard. Thanks!

Report Cards were emailed last week. Let me know if you did not receive one. Remember that the 1st Quarter will constitute 40% of the semester grade. The second quarter will also constitute 40% and the semester exam before Christmas will be 20%. It's hard to believe the 1st Quarter of the 2014-15 school year is over.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are Mon, Oct 20, from 5-7 in the BAC.



Juniors send "care packages" to troops in Afghanistan.

Honor Roll Breakfasts: Below is the schedule. The breakfasts last from 7:40 – 8:20.

- Oct 29 – Pre-freshman HR Breakfast
- Oct 30 – Freshman HR Breakfast
- Nov 5 – Sophomore HR Breakfast
- Nov 6 – Junior HR Breakfast
- Nov 7 – Senior HR Breakfast

Teen Life Counts: Our annual suicide prevention program for sophomores has been

completed. This is important. Each year, we encounter students who either write or voice suicidal thoughts. **All faculty and staff have an obligation to report ANY written or voiced suicide thought to a counselor or administrator.** Our policy is to contact parents immediately, stay with the student until parent arrives, and excuse the student from class until cleared by a mental health professional. St. Tammany continues to have an unusually high rate of suicide, including a recent SPS graduate, and we must do all we can to prevent it. Thanks to counselor Christine Woodard and to Jewish Family Services for putting on this program.

Mock Crash: A leading cause of teenage deaths is auto accidents. Two years ago this week, our jrs and srs witnessed an impaired driving mock crash. It was powerful. WDSU TV filmed it and it's still on their website and worth viewing again. Here's the link:

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/local-news/northshore/Event-aims-to-steer-teen-drivers-from-distracted-impaired-driving/-/12537650/16960888/-/uoy28ez/-/index.html>

Musings on Last Week:

- **Monday's Faculty Meetings:** Our time was well spent. Hope students enjoyed late start.
- **PSAT & Redi Step:** Kudos to Counseling Dept for successful test administrations last week.
- **SPS Math Tournament:** The 20th Annual was a success by any calculation. Geaux Fighting Math Wolves! Results in a future newsletter.
- **LYL:** Kudos to them for their Warm Hearts Clothes Drive.
- **Swimming:** Wednesday's meet was a splashing success. Go Aqua Wolves!
- **Cross Country:** Da' Wolves were up and at 'em very early Sat morning, heading for the Walker Shoot Out.
- **Manresa Retreat** was powerful for our boys and they suffered no adverse effects for 24 hours of no phones, computers, tweets – and even human chatter. God's Sound of Silence is powerful. Here's what one junior wrote me: *We had an incredible time at Manresa. We grew together in a way that i didn't know we could. We grew more united through silence, not only growing closer to God, but also to each other. Thank you for granting us time out of school to experience such a blessed experience.*
- **Football:** 8th grade Wolves fought hard against Ponchy; 9th & JV fought hard; Varsity smashed Northshore for win.
- **Marching Wolves & Golden Blues, & Cheerleaders:** As always, the MWs, GBs & CLs performed great on Fri!
- **The OLL Living Rosary** was spiritually uplifting as the OLL school community prayed to Our Blessed Mother. I was honored to participate.
- **Homecoming Activities:** All went well: dress down days, pep rally, and, especially, the dance. Thanks to Student Council and moderator Joanna Case for organizing the events.



Wolves listen to God in the silence of Manresa!

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- **Joseph A. Champagne/Gene Bennett Memorial Golf Tournament** was a big success. Thanks, Development Team, for your hard work.
- **Trevor Watkins and Joe Dickens' Absence:** The school ran well without them at the end of last week! Trevor's time in Shreveport was at the invitation of PLTW. They asked him to serve on an evaluation committee of two schools in that area that have initiated PLTW programs – a testimony to how highly PLTW views our own engineering program. Joe represented SPS at the annual Archdiocesan Administrators Conference in Biloxi.
- **Law Studies Field Trip:** Firsthand instruction from St. Tammany Parish DA's office at The Justice Center gave our guys a real-world insight into the criminal justice system. And I heard they enjoyed lunch at The Court House Café afterward!
- **Biology H** did a great genetics experiment building on the work of Gregor Mendel, the 19th century German monk considered the father of modern genetics. Mendel was symbolically present in the form of teacher Donnie Midkiff, dressed as a monk, who spent the class cooking beans (the boys know why it was beans) while the boys did their experience. Great!



Pre-Freshmen Wolves learn etiquette while enjoying a fancy meal at N'tini's!

Lyon Elementary: Our seniors continue to garner kudos for their weekly work at Lyon Elementary. Last week, supervisors from St. Tammany Parish Public School were at Lyon when our guys were there working with the students. One of the supervisors asked the teacher why our guys weren't doing things like clerical work and were they really qualified to work with students. The teachers, in no uncertain terms, made it very clear that our guys had such a positive impact on the students, both academically and socially, that there's no way they would use them for clerical work. Thanks, senior religion teachers Phil Williams and Austin Ashcraft, for this very Lasallian work as part of the senior religion curriculum.

2015 Yearbook Ordering: The yearbook ordering process is *all* digital this year, taking payments directly through our website. Anyone wishing to purchase a 2015 yearbook should go to stpauls.com and go to the "Student Life" section where you can order a book, pay for a senior ad, etc. **SENIORS DO NOT NEED TO ORDER A BOOK AS ONE WAS INCLUDED IN YOUR SENIOR FEES.**

Service Opportunity: MANY service opportunities are posted in the library. Remember that SPS students must complete a minimum of 10 service hours a year.

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

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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!



Pre-freshmen build assembly line in Hornbeck Offshore Gateway to Engineering class.

Attendance: Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook which is posted on Edline. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.

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

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

Warm Hearts Drive: Our annual collection of gently used coats, jackets, sweaters and other such items is currently underway. Your unwanted cold weather clothing will help those in need.

Important Facts of the Week:

- 1) About 5.9 million (15.3 percent) of the 9.3 million 12- to 20-year-olds who reported past-month drinking were classified as binge drinkers according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration [SAMHSA].
- 2) Of the 4.3 million people who first began using alcohol during the past year, about 58.3 percent were younger than age 18 (SAMHSA).
- 3) Among high school girls, the prevalence of current alcohol use was 37.8 percent in 2011 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- 4) There is too much underage drinking among the high school students of St. Tammany, including SPS students, – according to me.

H of the W:

- *How does the moon cut his hair? Eclipse it.*
- *Did you hear about the books falling on the clumsy librarian? "I have only my shelf to blame" he said.*
- *Why did the scientist put a door knocker instead of a doorbell on his door? He wanted to win the "no bell" prize.*
- *What do you call a dinosaur with a big vocabulary? A thesaurus.*

- *Which side of the chicken has more feathers? The outside!*
- *Knock-Knock. Who's there? To. To Who? No, to Whom!*
- *Why do teenage girls only travel in odd numbers? Cause they can't even.*
- *I went to an emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers.*
- *I wrote a song about a tortilla once. Actually, it was a wrap.*
- *Our band is called 999 Megabytes, but we haven't got a gig yet.*
- *Why didn't the ghost cross the road? He didn't have the guts.*
- *And the Bartender said "we don't serve time travelers in here." A time traveler walks into a bar.*
- *Psychic Convention Announcement: you know where and you know when.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

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A Look Ahead:

October 27 – Assembly for Guest Speaker, Bro. Ghebreyesus
 October 28 – President's Assembly
October 29 – 8th Grade HR Breakfast – Snack Day
October 30 – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
 October 31 – Day of the Dead ceremony – Assembly Schedule
 November 3-18 – Food Drive begins
 November 3 – Late start of teacher In-service
 November 4 – Teacher appreciation day-Assembly Schedule – Shadow Day
November 5 – Sophomore HR Breakfast – ACT Aspire for 9th Graders
November 6 – Junior HR Breakfast /ACT Aspire for Sophomores
 Periods CDE
November 7 – Senior HR Breakfast
 November 13-14 – Pre freshmen retreat/service days (on campus)
 November 18 – Food Drive ends
 November 21 – Thanksgiving Holidays begin at 3:00PM
 December 1 – Parent/Teacher meetings in BAC 5-7 PM
 December 11 – Luminarios – Snack Day
 December 16-19 – Semester Exams
 December 19 – 11:00 AM dismissal for Christmas Holidays
 January 5 – Classes resume
 January 6 – President's Assembly – Snack Day
 January 7-9 Seniors on Retreat
 January 29 – Career Day



Founders' Circle at dusk

Dates in italics indicate changes or additions since the last posting

Whew! Enough for now. As usual, I'll close with my paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now as I write the newsletter 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! Believe it or not, we've finished the first 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 2014-15 edition of Saint Paul's – our 103rd year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Enjoying the Beautiful October Days as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

“Preach by example; practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.”

~ St. John Baptist De La Salle (Meditation 99.2)



...and doing ordinary things extraordinarily well by making courageous choices!

Did I mention that Parent-Teacher Conferences are Mon, Oct 20, from 5-7 in the BAC?