



The President's Newsletter for Nov 03 - 09, 2014



Our annual Open House for prospective students for 2015-16 occurred yesterday, Sat, Nov 1. I had no idea as to how many people (if any) would attend, but we prepared as we always have: maintenance cleaned and polished, students prepared talks, student hosts were briefed, and faculty had presentations ready. Thanks to Trevor, department chairs, Karen, student hosts, & Mothers Club for all the hard work. And the results were gratifying!

The “mood” among private schools in our area (on both shores) is guarded about enrollment as evidenced by an inordinate amount of private school advertising. Even Jesuit is running TV ads. Everyone is concerned. A less than robust economy, the rising cost to attend private school, charter schools, & the amount of students vs. the number of schools are all daunting challenges. And here on the northshore, we compete against an excellent public school system.

So how will SPS ultimately fare? If we are faithful to our Mission and Saint John Baptist de La Salle’s directive to the first Brothers that we are doing God’s work (*Domine, Opus Tuum – Lord, the Work is Yours!*), we will do just fine. Athletics, academics, and facilities are all integral parts of a good school, but our fidelity to the Lasallian Mission and our unswerving belief in the presence of God will be our salvation – here on earth and ultimately in the next life.

Domine, Opus Tuum – no better message to remember as we prepare for 2015-16 – our 104th year!

Mon, Nov 3 (9 am -- start; faculty meeting; E F G A)

- **9 am Start for Faculty Meeting:** Cafeteria and library will be open at regular time for early arrivals. No problem!
- **National Sandwich Day:** Enjoy your favorite sandwich!
- **National Cliché Day:** From the NCD website: *Every dog has his day. And evidently, so does every minuscule detail of modern society, including the cliché. Not to beat around the bush about it; we’ll just come right out and tell you that, as hard as this fact may be to swallow, today is National Cliché Day. Really, we’re not just yanking your chain. We wouldn’t pull your leg about something as serious as National Cliché Day. By the time National Cliché Day is over, a good time will have been had by all. Use your favorite clichés today!*
- **Student Council Food Drive Begins**



Freshmen Wolves interact with residents of Forest Manor during last week’s service day.

Tue, Nov 4 (Assembly; B C D E)

- **Election Day:** Let us all pray for our country and for citizens to exercise the privilege of voting.
- **TDIH:** In 1979, Iranian student followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini storm the U.S. embassy in Tehran. The radical Islamic fundamentalists keep 52 Americans hostage for the next 14 months.
- **Use Your Common Sense Day:** While CS should be used EVERY day, make a special effort today!

- **President's Assembly / Shadow Day:**
- **Basketball Meet the Team (6:30)**

Wed, Nov 5 (Assembly; F G A B)

- **Honor Roll Breakfast for Sophomores**
- **Aspire Testing for Freshmen**
- **Guy Fawkes Day:** *Remember, remember the fifth of November:* On this day in 1605, Guy Fawkes and a group of conspirators are arrested while trying to blow up England's Parliament. The day is celebrated in England with bonfires and fireworks. Only the British!
- **Cross Country District Meet at Fontainebleau State Park:** Geaux Wolves, as you defend your District title!

Thu, Nov 6 (Assembly; C D E F)

- **Honor Roll Breakfast for Juniors**
- **Aspire Testing for Sophomores**



- **TDIH:** In 1936, 58 Brothers of the Christian Schools died in defense of their faith and their religious identity during the Spanish religious persecution. These Brothers recognized the strength of their own faith, confessing their state as believers and as religious. Before their death they were imprisoned, tortured, and condemned without a trial through no fault of their own. They refused to renounce their religious identity or to abandon the school or the community to save their lives. All died heroically as they pardoned their executioners and proclaimed Christ as the only King and Lord of their lives. These men are examples of faith and inspiration.

- **National Nacho Day:** Enjoy this treat today! Ole! Trivia: Nacho is short for a cook named Ignacio Anaya in the Mexican town of Piedras Negras (across the border from Eagle Pass, TX) who is recorded to have first served this dish in 1943 to a dozen ladies on a shopping trip who came to the restaurant after it had closed. This was a simple dish that Ignacio had the

ingredients for so he served it and called it simply, **Nachos Especiales**. And now you know!

- **National Men Make Dinner Day:** OK, guys, time to step up and cook dinner tonight!
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Catholic (5:30) Geaux Soccer Wolves as you begin your defense of the state title!

Fri, Nov 7 (Assembly; G A B C)

- **Honor Roll Breakfast for Seniors**
- **TDIH:** In 1944, Franklin Roosevelt is re-elected to an unprecedented third term as president.
- **National Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day:** Indulge!
- **Football:** Wolves in regular season finale at Fontainebleau

Sat, Nov 8

- **This Day in History:** In 1793, the revolutionary French government opens the Louvre as a public museum. Today, the Louvre's collection is one of the richest in the world, with artwork and artifacts representative of 11,000 years of civilization and culture. Spend time on The Louvre's website (www.louvre.fr/en) to absorb some culture.
- **National Abet and Aid Punstesters Day:** a day to make dreadful puns. See H of the W for my contributions!

- **Cook Something Bold and Pungent Day:** Here in SE Louisiana, that's easy to do! Enjoy!
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi & JV in Holy Cross Tournament
- **Swimming:** Aqua Wolves in Last Chance Meet at Kehoe
- **Cross Country in Metro Meet (NO)**
- **Soccer:** 8th, 9th & JV scrimmage Jesuit beginning at 8
- **SAT on Campus today**

**Sun, Nov 9: Catholics -- attend mass today; non-Catholics -
- worship at church of choice**

- **TDIH:** In 1938, in a Holocaust foreshadowing, German Nazis terrorized Jewish people and destroyed their homes & businesses in Germany and Austria. The violence, which continued through Nov 10, was later dubbed "Kristallnacht," or "Night of Broken Glass," after the countless smashed windows of Jewish-owned businesses.



A Wolf considers a career with the DEA after last week's Red Ribbon Assembly.

9 AM start on Mon, Nov 3!

Apology: I apologize to freshman Matthew DaBella for misspelling his name in last week's newsletter! Old age struck again! Sorry, Matthew, and thanks for visiting Zac in the hospital!

November: In case you are looking to celebrate something, November is National Adoption Month, AIDS Awareness Month, Alzheimer's Disease Month, American Diabetes Month, American Indian Heritage Month, Aviation History Month, Diabetic Eye Disease Month, Epilepsy Awareness Month, Family Caregivers Month, Family Stories Month, Georgia Pecan Month, Gluten-Free Diet Awareness Month Inspirational Role Models Month, Long-Term Care Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Month of the Military Family, Peanut Butter Lovers' Month, Pet Cancer Awareness Month, Pomegranate Month, Prematurity Awareness Month, Roasting Month, Scholarship Month, and Vegan Month -- something for everyone!

Good Advice To Begin Nov: *Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.* (Benjamin Franklin)

St. Jude Center Part II: In 1955, the Brothers at SPS made a courageous move and decided to build the current gymnasium. I quote from *The Saint Paul's Story*, written by Brother Ephem Hebert.

It became impossible to play any basketball games in the old gym [the theater] inasmuch as the court was not regulation size. The hoopmen from St. Paul's had to go over to Covington High every afternoon to practice, and all of their games had to be played away from home. Brother Conrad [who was President at the time] decided to build another gym with the funds which he had available, which amounted to about \$25,000. He knew most of the work would have to be done by the Brothers and boys, and they were more than willing to pitch in.... This arrangement worked well since it gave the Brothers and boys the opportunity to use their unskilled labor to the fullest extent. The site for the new gym was cleared, the foundations dug, the steel was set in place and all was in readiness for pouring the concrete at the end of April, 1955. Brother Alex had procured two concrete mixers for

the occasion. Brother Ephrem worked one mixer and Brother Alex the other, while Brother Conrad directed the movement of the boys. Starting at five o'clock in the morning of May 31 and continuing on through the day, the thirty five seniors from the class of 1955 worked constantly, pausing only to eat a sandwich now and then. At five o'clock in the afternoon, the job was finished; one hundred and twenty yards of concrete had been mixed and poured into the forms....During the summer Brother Alex directed the work of bricklaying, plumbing, electrical



work, etc. while Brother Ephrem did the carpentry work on the side roofs of the dressing rooms, hung the doors, etc. The floor was laid in October of the same year [by the way, the current floor is the original floor!] again with the labor of the boys. The completed gym had cost \$40,000. The gym was ready in April, 1956, and was dedicated to Brother Alex. Brother Conrad named the building The St. Jude Center, since everyone had thought that it would be impossible to get a fine gym like this so quickly and at so low a cost.

The original St. Jude Center, aka the gym, was built in 1955 for only \$40,000 since the Brothers and students did so much of the work!

So why do I tell you all of this? Because last week, following in the footsteps of Brother Conrad, Saint Paul's applied for a building permit to construct a

new gym – a courageous move because like Brother Conrad, we only have about half of the money needed for the construction. The gym's location will be behind the theater, where the old art lab is located. Our permit application complies with ALL current city codes, so no variances are needed. And no live oak trees are affected. Thus, we should not become embroiled in controversy.

And why is this gym needed? Again, the needs of the students have outgrown the present facility and it is in need of repair. We plan to re-purpose the old gym to better handle football, wrestling, weightlifting, coaches' offices, dressing rooms and storage. We have worked for over a year on this project with the input of many, many people.

And I'll need the help of St. Jude again – just like he came through back in 1955 – because this gym is going to cost considerably more than \$40,000! And, no, I don't intend to mix concrete, hang doors, install the floor – or do absolutely anything with the construction. Those days are long gone for the Brothers – although I'm sure Brothers Alfred and Ralph wish they could take part!

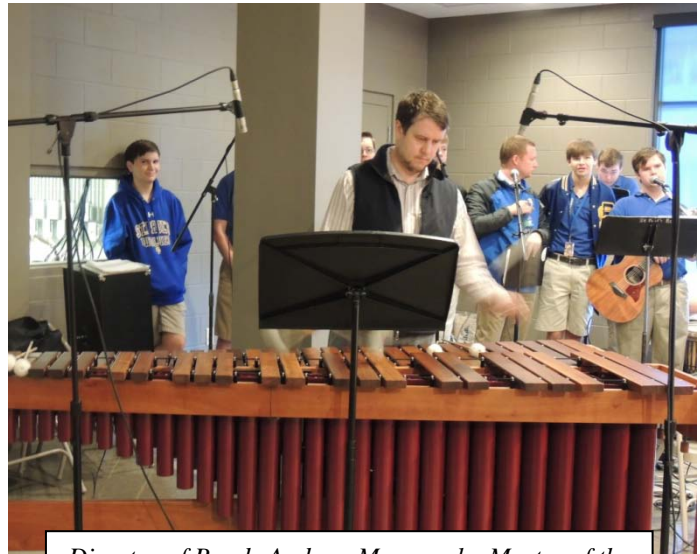
We'll soon be inviting people to invest in this project, complete with naming opportunities. We hope you'll support this leap of faith into the future – it's for the benefit of all of our students.

ASPIRE TESTING: Freshmen and sophomores will take the Aspire test this week – a precursor to the ACT. Parents were sent information via email last week. Please encourage your son to take these tests seriously.

Musings from Last Week:

- **Monday's Assembly:** Thank you for your cooperation with Brother Ghebreyesus. We are walking with our fellow Lasallians throughout the world.

- **Freshman Retreat / Service Days:** Thanks to Tommy, Jeaneen, LYLs, moms and all who helped drive, sub, chaperone, facilitate, and help make the days meaningful for our freshmen.
- **Dia de los Muertos:** Moving, as usual. Thanks to Liz, Spanish Club & Liturgical Band for this meaningful service, which, I'm sure, grows in impact on a yearly basis. Rueda por nosotros!
- **Mothers Club:** Thanks for the Snack Day!
- **Wolf Tracks:** Congrats to Danielle Lavie for another excellent WT!
- **FB:** 8th, 9th & JV have ended, and it was a tough night for Varsity against Ponchatoula. We'll bounce back and finish strong against F'bleau this Friday night.
- **CLs, MWs & GBs:** They all acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner on Fri.
- **Red Ribbon Assembly:** LOTS of powerful info! Let's hope our boys listened and take heart.
- **Student Council** hosted council members from SSA, Hannan, Mandeville Jr High, and Ponchatoula High for our District Burger Bash. District Secretary Austin Grashoff manned the grill and the students enjoyed games and fellowship while preparing for District workshop.



Director of Bands Andrew Moran, aka Master of the Marimba, plays at Dia de los Muertos last week.

9 AM start on Mon, Nov 3!

Social Justice Month: The Church dedicates Nov to social justice. While many concentrate on such things as food drives, the Church reminds us that a commitment to social justice goes WAY beyond acts of charity – in involves working for change that will make us a more just society. There are 7 key themes that comprise our Catholic social tradition. I doubt, however, if most of us know these seven: **Life and Dignity of the Human Person; the Call to Family and Community; the Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers; Solidarity; Care for God's Creation.** I encourage you to pray the following Prayer for Social Justice on a regular basis during November: *Almighty and eternal God, may your grace enkindle in all of us a love for the many unfortunate people whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life unworthy of human beings. Arouse in the hearts of those who call you Father a hunger and thirst for social justice and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth. Grant, O Lord, peace to souls, peace to families, peace to our country, and peace among nations! Amen*

Food Drive: Student Council is hosting its annual Food Drive to benefit the Covington Food Bank. The drive begins Mon, Nov 3 and runs until Tue, Nov 18. Students may bring non perishable goods to their classrooms for collection. Items that are requested include: canned fruit and vegetables, dried beans, rice, cake mix, pasta, canned meats, and peanut butter. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

Icons of the Classroom: Last week, National Public Radio began a new series examining such icons of the past as the protractor, the Bunsen Burner, the recorder in music class, and compasses for drawing arcs. The first installment was on the slide rule. Fascinating. Yours truly actually knew how to use a slide rule at one time!

Wanna' read or listen to the story which is called "The Computing Device That Put A Man on the Moon"? Here's the link: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/10/22/356937347/the-slide-rule-a-computing-device-that-put-a-man-on-the-moon> Wanna' see a slide rule? Come to the computer classroom in the library and see the precursor to the calculator!

Bookstore Break-In: Our bookstore was burglarized last week between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. The cash box and an undetermined number of items were taken. We have no idea how the thieves entered. Please ask your son if he heard anything at all about the break in.

Important Driver's License Requirement: Don't forget that all minor applicants must produce proof that the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a completed school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license. **Any SPS student needing this form should come to Counseling Office or Administration Building Office to request the form.**



Wolves participate at Twinning Summit with Brother Ghebreyesus and reps from DLS, CBS & Rummel last week.

Lost and Found: The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it's probably in our lost and found. Parents, please put your son's name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

The Paper Wolf: The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to

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

9 AM start on Mon, Nov 3!

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!

Honor Roll Breakfasts: Two down and three to go! We look forward to recognizing our First Quarter HR sophs, juniors and seniors this week. BTW, SPS pioneered HR breakfasts in our area starting in 1990.) We

continue to have the breakfasts in the cafeteria. Since the cafeteria can only handle so many people, we must do the breakfasts by level. Invitations were emailed last week, but here's the schedule:

Wed, Nov 05 – HR Breakfast for Grade 10 HR students and their parents

Thu, Nov 06 – HR Breakfast for Grade 11 HR students and their parents

Fri, Nov 07 – HR Breakfast for Grade 12 HR students and their parents

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

Humor of the Week: In honor of Saturday's **National Abet and Aid Punsters Day**, here are some "oldies but goodies" but some are new to me! Thanks to pun-promoting previous Provincial Brother Tim Coldwell for sending these recently: *An elevator makes ghosts happy because it lifts the spirits. Cows make noise only when they're in the mood. I'm reading a book on anti-gravity and can't put it down. He wears glasses during math because it improves division. "You're so pointless!" said the triangle to the circle. This is a lengthy article on Japanese Sword Fighters but I can Samurais it for you. (hilarious!) I was kicked out of math class for one too many infractions. I used to climb rocks as a youth, but I was boulder back then. An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either. Never lie to x-ray technicians. They can see right through you. I used to be a banker but then I lost interest. A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired. A will is a dead giveaway. Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana. (a fav of mine!) A backward poet writes inverse. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it. He broke into song because he couldn't find the key. A calendar's days are numbered. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine. A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards a plane. The flight attendant says, "Sorry sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger." Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, 'Dam!' Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. It sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says, 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'I'm positive.' Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root-canal? His goal: transcendental medication. A geologist exploring an earthquake fell to his death through no fault of his own. OK, I'll stop!*



A Wolf's parents celebrate his honor roll at last week's Honor Roll breakfast.

9 AM start on Mon, Nov 3!

A Look Ahead

November 11 – Pack Time

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 – Luminarias – 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

Whew! I’ve worn you out again this week! As usual, I’ll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I’m not listening to now because I’m writing early in order to prepare for Open House): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Let me know if there’s an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

Pray that things go well! We’re already reached the fourth 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

Can’t Believe It’s November Already and I’m Still the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School



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

Did I mention we have a 9 AM start on Mon, Nov 3?