

The President's Newsletter for Dec 8 – 14, 2014

Dress Uniform Day, Monday, Dec 8!

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near!
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*



If we were asked, how many of us could give a lucid explanation of our advent wreath? Do you remember the Latin meaning of Advent (*ad veni – to come*)? Did you know the custom probably originated from bringing the wagon wheels into the house to keep them from warping in the snow and people gradually decorated them? Did you know that the candles stand for different virtues (hope, love, joy, peace, and Christ)? Did you know that the circular wreath stands for eternity? Did you know that the pink (rose colored) candle dates

back to ancient time when the Pope would give out roses on that Sunday to add joy to Advent and the priests started wearing rose (pink) vestments on that day? Did you know that traditional advent wreaths were suspended from ceilings so the wreath became a “peek into heaven” so that we could call to God, in the words of Isaiah: *O, that you would rend the heavens and come down!* And in sympathy with the season, as daylight grows shorter, we light more candles. The symbolism is powerful. The season is significant. Embrace it.

Mon, Dec 8 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception; Mass schedule; A B C D)

- **DRESS UNIFORM DAY!**

- Today is a holy day of obligation; we will have an all school mass in honor of the Immaculate Conception. In his meditation for the **Immaculate Conception**, Saint John Baptist de La Salle tells the early brothers to “*Look upon Mary as the masterpiece from God’s hands and ask him to free you from everything that might contribute to make you fall into the least fault, especially into any sins to which you are inclined.*” So great was this feast in the Brothers' history that in the rules of some early communities, the brothers are told that “everything that is most beautiful will be used” to celebrate it. And considering the austerity in which the early brothers lived, that’s an important statement! May Our Lady, so important to our Lasallian heritage, shower us with blessings! May “everything that is most beautiful” on our campus, especially the students & faculty, give honor to her always.



- **CD Recording:** At the end of mass, I will have the boys sing several of our signature songs. Andrew Moran will record them and add the songs to the Marching Wolves CD that is being made. This will be a nice complement to the music of our bands and we hope many people will want a copy. More info later.
- **TDIH:** In 1980, John Lennon, a former member of the Beatles, the rock group that transformed pop music in the 1960s, is shot and killed by an obsessed fan in NYC. All he was saying was give peace a chance.
- **TDIH II:** 11660, a female actress appeared as **Desdemona** in Shakespeare’s *Othello*, probably the first appearance by a woman actress in England. For years, female roles were played by boys or men. The British saw women on stage much earlier when a traveling troupe from France included women as well as men. But

they were not received well — according to one audience member, the women were "hissed, hooted, and pippin-pelted off the stage." In 1632, William Prynne published a 1,100-page document condemning the theater, particularly female actresses. But by 1660, actors were confident enough to feature a woman as Desdemona in *Othello*. There is no record of who the actress was, but scholars guess that it was Margaret Hughes, whom Samuel Pepys described as "a mighty pretty woman."

- **National Brownie Day:** Enjoy this chewy, chocolate treat!
- **Cross Country Awards Ceremony** (5:30 at Benedict's)
- **Soccer:** JV & Var. v. Brother Martin (5:30 & 7:00 – re-scheduled from last week)

Tue, Dec 9 (Assembly; Feast of St. Juan Diego; E F G A)

- Today's feast celebrates Mary's appearance to Juan Diego, an Indian peasant, in Mexico City. She told Juan, *"I will show and offer all my love, compassion, and help to the people. I am your merciful Mother. I will hear their weeping and their sorrows and will remedy their suffering."* She told Juan to ask the bishop to build a cathedral in her honor. The skeptical bishop asked for a sign; Juan offered his coat, where the image of Mary (still existing today) was miraculously imprinted as Our Lady of Guadalupe. "Guadalupe" means River of Light, as Mary gave birth to Jesus, Light of the World
- **TDIH:** In 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade," is published. It commemorates the courage of 600 British soldiers charging a heavily defended position during the Crimean War.
- **Soccer:** 9th v. Northlake Christian
- **Drama:** The theater classes present an evening of readings (7)



My Wolf Pack writes prayer intentions on luminaria bags.

Wed, Dec 10 (Regular; B C D E)

- **This Day in History:** In 1830, famous American poet Emily Dickenson is born. Read some Emily today!
- **Human Rights Day** promotes awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlights the efforts of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions.
- **Dewey Decimal Day:** Today honors the birthday of Melvin Dewey who created the numerical classification of books used by libraries, known as Dewey Decimal System. If you are really bored, listen to the Dewey Decimal System Rap at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHUQb5xg7A#t=26>. And go visit Matt in the library

today and refresh yourself about the DDS!

- **Soccer:** 9th, JV & Varsity at Covington (starting at 5)

Thu, Dec 11 (Regular; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** In 1941, Germany declares war on the US, bringing the US into the European WWII Theater of operations.
- **TDIH II:** One year ago today, we dedicated the **Alumni Veteran Plaque** in La Salle Hall. The late Mr. Harry Friedman '33 donated funds for a memorial to all SPS Alumni Veterans. Jimmy Dykes and Mike

Richard spearheaded this project and the plaque has been hung by the ROTC classroom. I doubt if many of us even know about this plaque, much less have taken the time to look at it and perhaps read some of the names. I don't even know if we've updated it in the past year with those alums who have since joined the military. Sad. And I'm guilty, too, as I just walk by it so many times. In view of today's TDIH, it was an appropriate day for dedication. We give thanks for all who have so served our country, especially our SPS alums. Let's remember them!

- **Basketball:** Varsity in De La Salle Tournament
- **Luminaries – 6 pm.** Come join this annual Christmas display on our campus! Thanks to Student Council, Mothers' Club, Campus Ministry, Physical Plant, Liturgical Band, Marching Wolves and all who help with this incredible "festival of lights" on our campus. The Christian Brothers were one of the first ones to bring this holiday treat to the Covington area since they were knowledgeable about it from their schools in New Mexico.

Fri, Dec 12 (Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; regular; C D E F)

- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe,** Patroness of the Americas. Again, God shows his love for the poor. Mary assumes the form of an Indian lady and uses Juan Diego, a peasant, to bring the Message to all. This is a special day for the Mexican people, since the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located in Mexico City. We remember in particular the wonderful Mexican Lasallian institutions.
- **TDIH:** In 1901, Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi sends the first radio transmission across the Atlantic Ocean, disproving detractors who told him that the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles or less. The message-- simply the Morse-code signal for the letter "s"-- traveled more than 2,000 miles from Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland, Canada.
- **National Poinsettia Day:** Admire this iconic Christmas plant! The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett, an American botanist, physician and Minister to Mexico who in 1828 sent cuttings of the plant he'd discovered in Southern Mexico to his home in Charleston, South Carolina. Botanically, the plant is known as Euphorbia Pulcherrima. And now you know!
- **Basketball:** Varsity in DLS Tournament
- **Soccer:** Varsity in Clinton, MS Round Robin



Sat, Dec 13

- **TDIH:** In 2000, Vice President Al Gore concedes defeat to Texas Governor George Bush for the presidency, following weeks of legal battles over the recounting of votes in Florida.
- **National Cocoa Day:** Enjoy this perennial winter favorite today!
- **Day of the Horse:** Senate Resolution 452 designates the 2nd Sat of Dec as "National Day of the Horse" and encouraging the people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to economy, history and character of the United States. Who knew? If you own a horse, be nice to it today!
- **ACT** on campus today
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi at Jesuit; JV at Catholic; Varsity in Parish Tournament to defend their parish title!
- **Basketball:** 9th in SPS Tournament; Varsity in DLS Tournament
- **Soccer:** 8th in Rummel Tournament



Sun, Dec 14: Third Sunday of Advent; Gaudete (rejoice) Sunday! Advent is almost over! The Lord is at hand! The pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit to signify joy! I encourage

Catholic families to attend mass and non-Catholic families to attend the place of worship of their choice.

- **TDIH:** In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole in Antarctica, marking the first time that humans reached the southern end of the Earth's axis. In 1799, George Washington, our first president, dies at his home in Mount Vernon, VA. He was 67 years old.
- **Monkey Day:** "Monkey business" is officially allowed today. Saint Paul's will NOT be celebrating this day! Since it's a Sunday, celebrate all you want!

Dress Uniform Day, Monday, Dec 8!

Prayers Requested: We offer our condolences and prayers to the family of freshman Carson Caulfield. Carson's grandfather died last week. He had come down in October for Grandparent Day and took the opportunity for a fishing trip, which ended with a terrible accident. Mr. Foster Pettit finally succumbed to his injuries last week. May God's peace be with the family.

Admissions: At this point, any new 8th grade applications for next year will be on a "wait list" basis. We are VERY pleased with the quantity and quality of the Class of 2020.

Gym Construction: The City of Covington has issued a building permit and work began Sat. We will see increased activity – and experience inconvenience from time to time. Most will appreciate this a year from now – if I live through it! **Now, I just have to figure out how to pay for it. [Hint, hint] Naming opportunities are available. Contact me if so inclined.**

Thanksgiving to Christmas: I know I mentioned this last week, but it bears repeating as we dealt with a few serious incidents last week: This period of the year can challenge us. While it should be a time of good will and cheer, often we find ourselves handling crisis. We will handle this through Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance. Please stress with your sons that we will enforce all rules during this time and teach to the very end of the semester. We will show the students that we care, but be vigilant at all times.

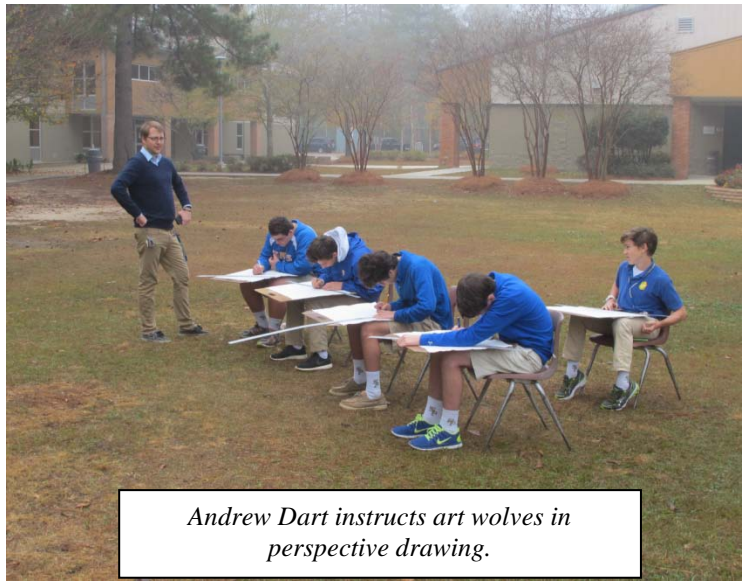
Calling All Oenophiles: The Lasallian Education Fund of the San Francisco New Orleans district will be offering a Brother Timothy Cabernet wine sale from December 5 – 19, 2014. Funds raised from the sale of this great wine can be designated to benefit SPS and must be used for financial assistance. (Brother Timothy Diener was the longtime wine master of Christian Brothers Winery.) Hess Winery partners with the Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans to produce limited Brother Timothy signature wines every season. Interested? Here's the link: <http://lcbfoundation.org/wine-for-scholarships/>

"Text Neck," the posture formed by leaning over a cell phone while reading and texting, is a big problem, according to the author of a newly published study in the National Library of Medicine. Kenneth K. Hansraj, chief of spine surgery at New York Spine Surgery & Rehabilitation Medicine, says the bad posture can put up to 60 pounds of pressure on the upper spine — sometimes for several hours a day, depending on how often people look at their devices. For more info, go to: <http://wwno.org/post/keep-your-head-text-neck-takes-toll-spine>

Dress Uniform Day, Monday, Dec 8!

Musings on Last Week:

- **Marching Wolves:** Christmas spirit prevailed in Madisonville on Sat with the MWs in full swing. The marching, concert and jazz bands also worked hard on their CD recording on Thu.
- **First Fri Devotions:** Thanks, Religion Dept!
- **Wrestling:** The grappling wolves wrestled strong in Fort Walton over the weekend. They returned too late for results.
- **Basketball:** Varsity had big wins over Dunham & Hannan; 8th grade won big over OL of Lourdes.
- **Habitat:** Great pre-Christmas work day.
- **Homerun Club:** The players, coaches, and dads worked hard Sat to get the field ready for spring.
- **Soccer:** Wolves were active on Sat against tough competition, but, as usual, prevailed!
- **Cross Country Fun Run** was a big success! Thanks, CC!
- **Fighting Math Wolves** left at 6 am Sat for competition in Lafayette.
- **Wolf Packs** met last week to prepare for the luminaria celebration this Thursday.
- **Mothers Club** opened the bookstore all day on Saturday for Christmas shopping.
- **Botanical Wolves** were out in force on Sat making our campus even more beautiful.



Andrew Dart instructs art wolves in perspective drawing.

The Annual Fund: Last week, I officially launched our Annual Fund Drive – just like almost every other private school. I'm humbled, however, by the number of you who have anticipated the drive and have already sent in your donations. I spelled out the details of the drive in an email and a brochure that was mailed, but know that its success is critical to Saint Paul's. Please keep this in mind as you plan your end of year giving. Again, thanks to all who have already contributed. We need almost everyone, to at least some degree, to follow suit.

Senior Parents: Senior Retreat is just around the corner. You should have received an email with all the details from Renee Miller and Lee Pierre, retreat coordinators. If you didn't receive this email, please email Renee at reneep@stpauls.com or Lee at leep@stpauls.com.

Dress Uniform Day, Monday, Dec 8!

Uniform Shirts: We have a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have a number of khaki pants available – all for the taking.

A Word about Exams: Semester exams begin on Dec 16. The schedule is posted on our web site under "news." Remember that exams are SEMESTER exams which will cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the only grade that counts in GPA and the only grade on the transcript) will be averaged in the following manner: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the semester exam. Encourage your son, therefore, to take his exams seriously. **It's time to start reviewing.** A good review lasts several weeks and avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son considerably in college. The complete exam schedule is posted on Edline.



Wolves collaborate in learning.

Thanksgiving to Christmas: This period of the school year can be a real challenge. While it should be a time of good will and cheer, often we find ourselves handling a crisis. The best way to prevent any difficulty is through the Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance – which will be in full force. Teachers will teach until the very end. **Parents, please remind your students to adhere to ALL procedures & policies.** We will show care to the students, but we will be vigilant.

Adopt A Family: We again have identified several needy families in the local St. Tammany Parish area and have “adopted” them in order to provide them with a wonderful Christmas. Students on each level will shop, wrap and deliver the gifts. It’s a very educational endeavor in social justice. We encourage your son to participate if he is able.

Donations will be accepted for the next two weeks.

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: Only Saint Paul’s outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. I have a number of pre-owned SPS sweatshirts in good condition. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. This will be handled confidentially and appropriately.** Remember that ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

A SERVE TEN Reminder: Five service hours are due. Students must fill-out and turn in completed "Serve Ten" forms to the Counseling Department in order to get credit for their service hours. We have been advertising MANY service opportunities. Remember that service hours are mandatory, not optional.

Current Student Re-Registration for 2015-16: For those of you who plan ahead, here’s the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don’t have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- To register for 2015-16, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP.**

Dress Uniform Day, Monday, Dec 8!

Important Driver’s License Requirement: A new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license.

PLEASE: Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. Under ordinary circumstances, it is difficult enough to keep track of the students. When you call Erin and request “immediate” dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your student and have

him check in with the attendance office when he comes to school to get a dismissal slip for the time requested. This is the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can't stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a message – we just don't have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.

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!

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 easier to be tutored early in the than to wait until later in the quarter. Get a jump on exam study by visiting our NHS tutors! The tutors are friendly and helpful! To borrow a line from a popular commercial "put these men to work!"

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: Parents – set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

Application Letter Excerpts: Here are some more memorable lines from next year's application letters:

- *I will try to make this as short as possible, but I can't make any promises. When the St. Paul's open house day was finally here, I wasn't sure whether I was going to go. We were late already, and I thought I knew enough about it from my brother. I ended up going, and I am glad I did. When I went, it came to me that the school was so much more than I realized. It was about learning and education, but it was also about brotherhood and being part of a family away from your family and a home away from home. I went to the shadow day and all of the students and teachers made us feel so welcome. I felt like I already went there. You could sense the energy and excitement while they were at school. My brother already goes to St. Paul's and he never complains about going. He isn't a straight "A" student or anything but you can see that he really enjoys going. This is something that speaks to me about a school. ...There are also countless other things that I could write about I, but I am running out of room. And going to St. Paul's would help out my mom because I could just ride with my brother to school.*
- *I've met graduates of St. Paul's and they only say good things about the school. I've noticed that all of the graduates of St. Paul's wear wooden crosses around their necks almost all the time. I want to be part of that group. I want to rise up as a man of God.*
- *The moment my parents found out I was a boy, they immediately thought of me going to St. Paul's School.*

H of the W: Some Christmas humor as we approach the big day:



Nick and Devin have deep discussion in Luke's religion class.

Q: What do elves learn in school? A: The Elf-abet!

Q: What's the most popular wine at Christmas? A: "I don't like sprouts"!

Q: If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get? A: Missletoe!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? A: Frostbite.

Q: Why was Santa's little helper depressed? A: Because he had low elf esteem.

Q: Why does Santa have 3 gardens? A: So he can ho-ho-ho.

Q: Where do polar bears vote? A: The North Poll.

Q: What do you get when you cross an archer with a gift-wrapper? A: Ribbon hood.

Q: Why do birds fly south for the winter? A: Because it's too far to walk.

Q: What kind of bird can write? A: A PENguin.

Q: What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time? A: Sandy Claus!

Q: How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas? A: Fleece Navidad!

Q: What nationality is Santa Claus? A: North Polish.

Q: What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby? A: Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Q: What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus? A: Crisp Cringle.

Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus? A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.

Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve? A: Okay everyone, sack time!!

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Snowflakes.

Q: What do you get if you deep fry Santa Claus?: Crisp Cringle.

OK, I'll stop!

AmazonSmile: This is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The difference is that when using AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – which we hope will be Saint Paul's School! Click here to shop on AmazonSmile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895>.

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A Look Ahead:

December 9 – President' Assembly

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 13 – Pack Time
 January 20 – President’s Assembly
 January 26 – Senior H. Roll breakfast
 January 27 – Pack Time – 10th Grade H. Roll Breakfast
 January 28 – 11th Grade HR Breakfast
 January 29 – Career Day – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
 January 30 – 8th Grade HR Breakfast
 February 2 – 9:00 AM late start for Faculty In-Service/ Parent-Teacher meetings 5-7 PM
 February 3 – President’s Assembly
 February 10 – Mass Schedule
 February 13 – Teacher Retreat
 February 26-27 Junior Retreat/Angola Trip
 March 3 – Teacher Appreciation Day/Snack Day
 March 5 – Celebrity Waiter Dinner
 March 6 – 9:00 AM late start for teachers and students
 March 9 – St. Joseph Altar – all periods meet (FGABCDE)
 March 10 – President’s Assembly
 March 13 – Third Quarter Ends

*Yehia and Will write prayer intentions
on luminaria bags.*

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 listening to as I write 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 .

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

Praying for Patience this Advent as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

Did I mention that Monday, Dec 8 is a Dress Uniform Day?



Transforming Lives Since 1680

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart! Let’s do ordinary things extraordinarily well and make courageous choices this Advent – and always