



## *The President's Newsletter for January 12-19, 2015*



Can you believe we arrive at the mid-point of January this week? Strains of “Auld Lang Syne” are still ringing in my ears! And my quickly fading New Year’s resolutions remind me that January is a good time for self-review and mid-year correction.



St. John Baptist de La Salle, however, wanted the first Brothers to do regular self-examination and correction. Accordingly, he instructed the first brothers to have a “fixed day for the weekly account of conscience” in which the Brother would “take time to examine [himself]” in all areas of his conduct. I offered the following “examination” points from St. La Salle to our faculty as we begin the second semester – points which are equally applicable to us as educators today and, I humbly suggest, to parents as well. Just substitute “children” for “students” and “home” for “school.”

- *Are you ardent and zealous for the salvation of your students and in the performance of your duties?*
- *How do you do your work in school? Do you observe the [rules]?*
- *Have you wasted time?*
- *Do you follow everything carefully during the lessons? Are you assiduous in correcting?*
- *Do you leave class? [Even La Salle knew teachers should not leave classroom unattended!]*
- ***Do you talk too much? (the boldface is mine)***
- *Do you take care that students make progress?*
- *Are you equally careful that they advance in piety?*
- *How do you act toward your pupils? Too strict? Too easygoing? Too familiar?*
- *Have you been impatient? In what frame of mind have you corrected them?*

I told the faculty that these insightful questions from this educational giant are as equally relevant today as they were 330+ years ago. I invited them to take time to examine our consciences this week, both our professional conscience and our personal one and to take corrective measures where needed. I invite parents to do the same.

### **Mon, Jan 12 (Regular; G A B C)**

- **TDIH:** 1969, in the most celebrated performance of his prolific career, quarterback Joe Namath leads New York Jets to a stunning 16-7 victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III, held in Miami.
- **National Pharmacists Day:** We salute all pharmacists!
- **National Clean Off Your Desk Day (always 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon):** This will take me more than a day!

### **Tue, Jan 13 (Pack Time; D E F G)**

- **TDIH:** The Beatles release “Yellow Submarine.” Listen to this iconic song today! *We all live in a yellow submarine!*
- **National Rubber Duckie Day:** OK with me if you want to splash around the tub with this iconic childhood toy!
- **Poetry at Work Day (always 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue of Jan):** In a recent survey of 1500 CEOs, IBM reported that **creativity** was the top leadership quality needed to take businesses into the future. While you might find this result surprising, it won’t surprise you that poets are creative! Perhaps that is why Harvard Business Review recently discussed the value of poetry for professionals. And why a business leader like Sidney Harman

(scientist-businessman who co-founded Harman/Kardon in 1953 and made high-quality audio equipment for homes and businesses, and later navigational and other devices for cars and was worth over \$500 million at his death in 2011) asked his staff to hire poets as managers. Read poetry today – especially at work!

- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup>, JV & Varsity at Mandeville
- **Soccer:** JV v. Northshore (5:30); Varsity v. Mandeville (7)

### Wed, Jan 14 (Regular; A B C D)

- **National Hot Pastrami Sandwich Day:** Created as a way to preserve meat before modern refrigeration, pastrami is beef that's brined, dried, seasoned, smoked and then steamed. It was first served in New York delis in 1887
- **National Dress Up Your Pet Day:** Today you have the opportunity to show off your pet's fashion sense – or not.
- **National TDIH:** 1973, Miami Dolphins defeat the Washington Redskins 14-7 at the Los Angeles Coliseum in Super Bowl VII, becoming the first team in National Football League (NFL) history to finish with an undefeated season.
- **Soccer:** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at Rummel

### Thu, Jan 15 (Regular; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** in 1967, the first Super Bowl is played. Green Bay defeat Kansas City 35-10, led by Bart Starr.
- **National Strawberry Ice Cream Day:** Enjoy gold ole' strawberry today.
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> v. John Curtis (6 & 7)

### Fri, Jan 16 – (Regular; B C D E)

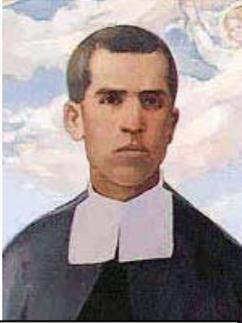
- **TDIH:** In 1919, the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution, prohibiting the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes," is ratified and becomes the law of the land.
- **National Fig Newton Day:** Enjoy this classic cookie!
- **National Do Nothing Day:** Saint Paul's will NOT be observing this day!
- **Soccer:** JV in Hahnville Tournament; Varsity at Northshore
- **Wrestling:** Varsity in LA Classic through Saturday
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup>, JV & Varsity v. Northshore

### Sat, Jan 17

- **TDIH:** In 1953, the Chevrolet Corvette sports car makes its debut at General Motors' (GM) Motorama auto show at in New York. The Corvette, named for a fast type of naval warship, would eventually become an iconic American muscle car and remains in production today – but is certainly out of my price range and comfort zone!
- **Kid Inventors Day:** We celebrate the youthful spirit of invention every year on January 17th, the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, who invented the first swim flippers at age 12.
- **Pre-Freshman Robotics:** Robo-Wolves travel to BR today for state qualifying competition. Geaux Robo-Wolves!
- **Soccer:** SPS 9<sup>th</sup> Tournament; JV in Hahnville Tournament
- **Fighting Math Wolves** travel to Brother Martin for competition
- **Wrestling in LA Classic**
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. Brother Martin (9) and De La Salle (12)
- **Lacrosse:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. Carrollton; JV & Varsity v. Dutchtown
- **Powerlifting:** Iron Wolves in PJP Invitational

**Sun, Jan 18: I encourage Catholic families to attend Mass and non-Catholic ones to worship at church of choice.**

- **Thesaurus Day:** Other words for thesaurus: glossary, lexicon, onomasticon, reference book, sourcebook, storehouse of words, terminology, vocabulary, word list. Other words for day: astronomical day, bright, dawn-to-dark, daylight, daytime, diurnal course, early bright, sidereal day, sunlight, sunrise-to-sunset, sunshine, working day. So a happy Onomasticon Diurnal Course to you!
- **This Day in History:** In 1937, Brother Jaime Hilario was martyred by Spanish revolutionaries in the Spanish Civil War. From the Christian Brothers Website: *Born in 1898 in northern Spain, Jaime was only 12 years old when, with the blessing of his parents, he entered the minor seminary. He soon developed hearing problems and was advised to return home. Convinced that God was calling him, he was overjoyed in 1917 to learn that the Institute of the Brothers would accept him. After sixteen years in various teaching assignments, his hearing problems forced him to abandon the classroom to work in the garden at one of the schools. In July of 1936 he was on his way to visit his family when the civil war broke out. Recognized as a Brother, he was arrested and jailed. In December he was transferred to Tarragona and confined in a prison ship with several other brothers. On 15 January 1937 he was given a summary trial. Though he could have been freed by claiming to be only a gardener, he insisted on his identity as a religious and thereby sealed his doom. He was brought to the cemetery known as the Mount of Olives on 18 January to face execution. His last words to his assailants were "To die for Christ, my young friends, is to live." When two volleys failed to meet their mark, the soldiers dropped their rifles and fled in panic. The commander, shouting a gross insult, fired five shots at close range and the victim fell at his feet. He was canonized in 1999 by Pope John Paul II.*



St. Brother Jaime

- **Pooh Day:** Winnie the Pooh Day is an opportunity to enjoy your favorite bear and his friends. This day was created to celebrate the birth of A.A .Milne in 1882. He was an author of children's story books, and created Winnie the Pooh and his friends. Winnie's pals include Christopher Robin, Tigger, Eeyore, Piglet, and Roo. Read some Pooh today!
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. Rummel (9) & Shaw (noon)
- **Soccer:** 8<sup>th</sup> at Catholic (BR)

**Mon, Jan 19: -- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday; no classes**

- **National Popcorn Day:** Enjoy this favorite snack today!
- **This Day in History:** In 1809, Edgar Allan Poe is born in Boston. Read a Poe story or poem today in his honor! And eat some popcorn while reading in honor of National Popcorn Day!



Pre-freshman weigh King Cake options, thanks to Mothers Club!

**2015-16 Calendar:** St. Tammany Parish Public Schools has published next year's calendar so early. They will begin on Fri, Aug 7. Accordingly, I have completed a draft of our calendar, which follows their calendar when possible. I will present it to Admin & Faculty Board for reaction. Remember that we must schedule 178 days per archdiocesan policy. **We therefore will start on Thursday, August 6 with a full day of instruction and NO book day.**

**Musings on Last Week:**

- **Thanks!** Our first 2015 week was a successful one.

- **Senior Retreat:** Thanks to all who helped make the senior retreat successful. The retreat team was outstanding. The support given them by those “left behind” in terms of substitutions, etc. was equally outstanding. **Unfortunately, ten of our seniors violated the alcohol/drug rules. We are in the process of deciding consequences. The whole situation is very sad – and very personally depressing. More on this later, once decisions are made.**
- **Soccer:** Varsity soccer wolves won 1-0 over NCS and over Hammond.
- **Basketball:** The Varsity fought hard last week, winning at Slidell. And Harrison Prieto was named Northshore Player of the Week! Congrats to him!
- **Fighting Math Wolves** were up and at ‘em early Sat AM for competition -- and returned home with trophies!
- **Application Day Testing** went well. Thanks to the students who helped and acted as student proctors: **Blake Badeaux, Carson Bahle, Jonathan Benit, Christian Brown, Dominic Drago, Ben Gorringer, Austin Le Blanc, Matt Myers & Hayden Schwing.** They were great role models!
- **Football Awards Ceremony:** Congrats to all for making the ceremony on Saturday so successful.
- **Pre-freshman Robotics:** The Robo-Wolves competed at Loyola on Saturday and won **FIRST PLACE!** Wow! And they were competing against high school teams from all across the area. Geaux Robo Wolves!
- **Music Classes** had a productive field trip to the LPO’s rehearsal of New World Symphony on Thu.
- **Snack Day:** King Cake ruled the day last Tue; many thank, Mothers Club!
- **Wrestling:** Congrats to our District Champions! It’s pretty incredible that SPS has been District Champs since the inception of the District about seven years ago. That’s quite a tribute to the quality of program Coach Ketelsen has built. Our grapplers are outstanding. If a student is looking to join a sport, he should consider SPS Wrestling. Geaux Wrestling Wolves!

**Student Council Request:** This week Student Council is collecting used eyeglasses, used sunglasses, and eyeglass frames to benefit the Lion’s Club Eye Glasses for the Needy Campaign, which is part of the upcoming State Student Council Convention. Leave donations with Miss Janet in the Main Office or Mrs. Case in RM 107.

**Letters of Application:** More unedited excerpts:

- *Saint Paul’s will help me do well in collage. [well, yes, but first we need to teach him how to spell!]*
- *As the school motto says, “Rise up o men of God,” this is what I will hope to do with my new brothers.*
- *When my brother started at St. Paul’s he wasn’t a genius, but he was smart. Now, in his junior year, I still don’t think he is a genius, but he is much smarter.*
- *As I have always attended a public school, I thought I was getting the best education possible. After touring Saint Paul’s my thoughts changed quickly. For one, the student who led my tour during open house talked about his using the chapel for prayer. He seemed to value the importance of a relationship to God and to treat that relationship as part of his daily routine. I believe that surrounding people who remind me of this will be a positive influence on my life. Secondly, the students that I met were comfortable being themselves, without the social pressure of co-ed public schools. Thirdly, the teaching I observed was*



*Junior Class Officers lead the school in blessing seniors before they leave for retreat*

*exciting. I had never seen a class more engaged in a lesson, and it was by choice, not forced upon them. This would be highly beneficial to me, a student who is motivated by the enthusiasm of my teachers and classmates. Finally, the extracurricular activities at Saint Paul's are a great opportunity to make friends outside of the classroom. Saint Paul's has a great culture, academically and socially. It seems like the sort of place to make lifelong friends, and if that is not a benefit, then what is? I believe that Saint Paul's offers a great experience that most would envy, and I think this is the right place for me. [This guy's in!]*

**LHSAA Eligibility** rules require that student athletes pass six subjects in the first semester to be eligible for the second semester. Unfortunately, a couple of our students lost eligibility due to the rule. Also, students must earn a "C" average AS DEFINED BY THE SCHOOL in order to be eligible for first semester of next year. So our students must have a C average this semester in order to be eligible next year, but then can drop down and make all Ds and be eligible for second semester. Go figure. Confusing? Yes! My thanks to Craig for keeping all of this straight!

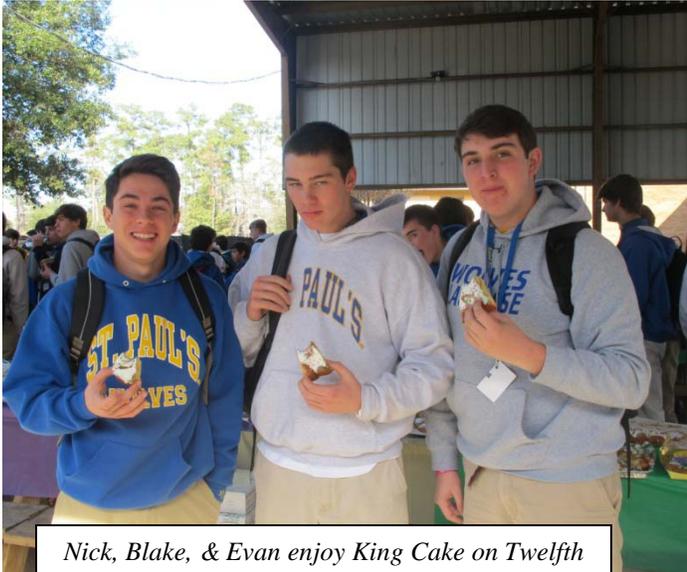
**Vocations Awareness Week:** We are in vocation crisis in the Catholic Church in America. If we take our Catholic faith seriously, we must consider what the future will look like with ever fewer numbers of priests and even fewer consecrated religious. Certainly, Saint Paul's will probably experience the disappearance of Brothers (at least active, employed Brothers) in the not too distant future. If the occasion arises, discuss vocations with the students. In any event, pray that young people are open to God's call and that the Spirit guide us as we face the future.

**H of the W:** More student answers to exam questions:

- *Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.*
- *Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines*
- *The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth.*
- *Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.*
- *Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went around giving people advice. They killed him. Socrates died from an overdose of wedlock. After his death, his career suffered a dramatic decline.*
- *In the Olympic games, Greeks ran races, jumped, hurled the biscuits, and threw the java.*
- *Eventually, the Romans conquered the Greeks. History calls people Romans because they never stayed in one place for very long.*
- *Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out: "Tee hee, Brutus."*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

**Credit Recovery:** Students who failed a semester average in a course will begin credit recovery next week. Those students and parents have been notified by Assistant Principal Trevor Watkins.

**Tutoring** will resume Tuesday, January 21st. The schedule will remain the same as last semester. The tutors are very friendly and welcome students to come for help.



*Nick, Blake, & Evan enjoy King Cake on Twelfth Night Day, thanks to Mothers Club.*

**Report Cards and Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Report cards were emailed last week. Let me know if you didn't receive one. The Second quarter HR breakfast schedule is published below. All breakfasts last from 7:40-8:20. Note: HR is determined by **second quarter grades, not semester grades.**

**January 6 Assembly:** I hope the students enjoyed our first assembly of 2015! Here's what we did:

- Listened to a contemporary version of "Rise Up O Men of God" sung by Christian rock singer Phil Keaggy. I play it at the first assembly of a new year in order to set the tone for the year – that we must view 2015 as a new opportunity for the students to rise up as men of God. It's a powerful song that means so much to our school. While the music was playing,

**junior Jacob Bopp** lit the prayer candle to remind us of God's presence among us. We also prayed for **Mr. Jonathan Watts**, 32 year old first cousin of faculty member Mrs. Julie Beck, who died on Christmas Day.

- Introduced Mr. William Moran and Dr. Martin Kearney of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a group of Irish Catholics who do good work for the poor. They annually sponsor an essay contest with the theme "What My Catholic Education Means to Me" for the Catholic high schools of the area. They came to present **senior George Cazenavette** with a scholarship check for winning the contest.
- Recognized and congratulated Mr. Andrew Moran, Director of Bands at Saint Paul's School. Mr. Moran, who holds a master's degree in percussion, won first place in the solo snare drum competition for the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association at the Louisiana Renaissance Festival in November. We've had the privilege of hearing Mr. Moran play his instrument of choice, the marimba, at several school events. He does some magical things with that instrument.
- Recognized and congratulated junior **Ethan Desforges** and senior **David Glasgow** for placing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively in the Ceramics Competition at the recent Three Rivers Art Festival.
- Recognized and congratulated the following seniors who signed athletic scholarships recently: Athletic Signings on 11/17: **Carlo Graffeo (baseball at Southeastern in Hammond); Nick Chiasson (baseball at Springhill in Mobile); Peyton Lacoste (baseball at Washington University in Seattle, Kyle Schimpf (baseball at University of Louisiana at Monroe), and Beau Briggs (golf at University of Mississippi in Oxford.)**
- Showed the student body my new 2015 calendar, a publication of the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission. What I like about the calendar is that it contains essays by two Saint Paul's sophomores: Shane Strander and Will Murphy, who won first and second place, respectively, in the LEEC's essay contest last year. I took the occasion to encourage the student body to enter academic, essay, and artistic competition. I then told them about the Poetry Out Loud competition currently in progress. Four of them came up after the

assembly and expressed interest in participating. Parents, encourage your talented sons to enter competitions for cash, prizes, and honor – and maybe even get published in a calendar.

- Ran out of time before I could do any more recognitions – which will “roll over” to the next assembly! We then robustly sang the Fight Song for the first time in 2015, especially for all the activities going on that week: the opening of District play for basketball and soccer, the District meet for Wrestling, the Math Tournament, the Robotics competition, etc.
- We then turned to the seniors, who would leave on retreat the next day. The entire school extended a blessing on the seniors while Junior Class President and Vice President, **Sam Brown and John Cresson**, sprinkled the senior class with holy water. It was a moving moment.
- We then ended with junior **Billy Harrison** extinguishing the candle and my reminding the students what the candle represents – the presence of God among us. I exhorted them to leave the gym and spread God’s love to all whom they meet. The students then exited to the sounds of “Rise Up O Men of God!”
- It was a great assembly – at least I thought so!

**New Year’s Resolutions:** Please make the following part of your New Year Resolutions!

- If your son is absent, phone Erin before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1280, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns.**
- Have your son check Lost & Found which contains: coats, sweaters, shirts, lunch boxes, belts, etc.



*A bumper crop of new applicants takes placement test on Saturday. Look like we'll be open next year! God is good!*

**2015-16 Registration:** Please note the following:

- **Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders:** registration information will be emailed during the week of January 19. **Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders planning to return for 2015-16 will have until Jan 31 to re-register.** Unregistered spots will be offered to new 9<sup>th</sup> grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next year so I know how many new 9<sup>th</sup> graders we can accept. Call me if you have questions.

- **Current 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grades:** registration will take place in early - Feb. You don't need to do

anything now

- **Current 12<sup>th</sup> grade:** You don't need to register for SPS for 2015-16! Rejoice!
- **Registration will involved the payment of the \$300 registration fee.**

**Annual Fund:** Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g. technology, special programs (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation.)

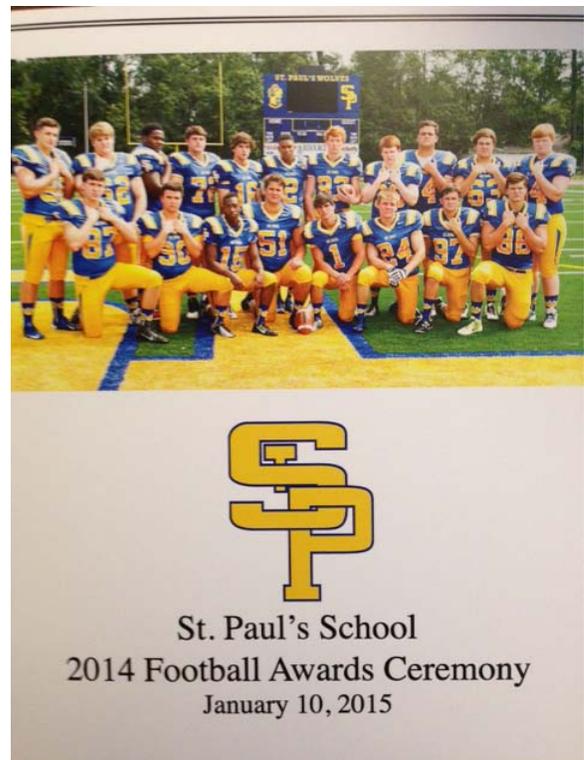
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. WONDERFUL!
- While we are not sending requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT!** Other schools directly solicit grandparents. I don’t unless you give me permission. **If you would like to inform your son’s grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I’ll personally appeal. I’ll send them a nice “thank you” note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.
- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What’s important is that everyone participates.
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

**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.

**Service Hour Opportunity:** St. Peter School will be hosting the 5th and 6th grade NIAL basketball championship tournament to be held Monday, February 2nd - Friday, February 6th. The tournament will be held at Northshore Sportsplex. Ms. Amy Faherty, the Athletic Director at St. Peter is looking for some help with the tournament, and will provide service hours for volunteers. Teams include Mary Queen of Peace, Our Lady of the Lake, St. Peter, Lake Castle, Christ Episcopal among others. There will be 4 games a day (4:00, 5:00, 6:00 and 7:00) and during these times will need several volunteers to help run the concession stand, work the admissions table and work at the score table. Anyone interested can contact Ms. Amy K. Faherty via email at [afaherty@stpetercov.org](mailto:afaherty@stpetercov.org)

**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. These forms can be obtained in the administration building or the counseling center. **Several students went for licenses over the holidays and were turned away because they didn’t have the form – in some cases they waited several hours before being turned away!**

**Sweatshirts & Cold Weather:** If your son needs one and you can’t afford it right now, just have him come see me. This will be confidentially. ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted.



## **A Look Ahead**

January 19 – MLK Holiday – no classes meet  
January 20 – President’s Assembly  
*January 22 – Guest Speaker – details to follow*  
January 26 – Senior H. Roll breakfast  
January 27 – Pack Time – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade H. Roll Breakfast  
January 28 – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast  
January 29 – Career Day – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast  
January 30 – 8<sup>th</sup> 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 – Feast of St. Scholastica  
February 13 – Faculty Retreat Day  
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  
March 17 – ACT for all juniors in BAC  
March 19 – Mass – Feast of St. Joseph  
March 25 – Life Skills Day for Seniors

Even though it’s 2015, I will still 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!

Again, please 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.

Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2014-15 edition of Saint Paul’s! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Amazed That It’s 2015 and I’m Still the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School



**Quality education, inclusive community, respect for all, concern for poor & social justice, faith in God’s presence – our mantras this week, throughout 2015, and always!**