



## The President's Newsletter for Apr 13 - 19, 2015



### Alleluia! He is Risen!



Welcome back from the Easter Holidays (not spring break!) and to the final stretch of the 2014-15 school year! I pray that your holidays were spiritually fulfilling and restfully renewing as the final five weeks will be filled with activity! As Trevor Watkins wrote the faculty on Friday, Apr 10: *Four weeks from today our seniors will be completing their last exam. Five weeks from today our pre freshmen will be completing their exams and we will have completed the band awards ceremony, the ROTC banquet, the art show, the 9-11 level awards ceremony, the senior level awards ceremony, the athletic awards ceremony, the major academic awards ceremony, the band concert, five third quarter honor role breakfasts, sophomore service day, 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat day, all of the events of leadership week, all of the events of Founder's week, various athletic team awards ceremonies, mother/son and father/son dinners, alumni crawfish cook off, a mass, the junior/senior prom, and grad night. A day later the seniors graduate in the BAC. Two days after that the pre freshmen are promoted to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in their ceremony in the BAC and our 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders begin to take their semester exams. This all culminates on Friday, May 22 with a teacher records day. Whew! I'm worn out just*

reading all of that!

Today we begin Leadership Week, organized by our Student Council. And while Saint John Baptist de La Salle didn't have "student councils", he did very much believe in empowering students through leadership roles. Here's what he directed the first schools to have in terms of school "officers", taken from *The Conduct of the Christian Schools* – perhaps the first "faculty handbook" ever written:

*There shall be several [student] officers in the school. These officers will be charged with several different functions which the teachers cannot or ought not do themselves. These officers shall be 1) the Reciter of Prayers, 2) the one who says what the priest says in the responsories at holy Mass and is called for this reason the Mass Officer, 3) the Almoner, 4) the Holy Water Bearer, 5) the Rosary Carrier and assistants, 6) the Bell Ringer, 7) the Monitors and Supervisors, 8) the First Student in the Bench, 9) the Visitors of the Absent Students, 10) the Distributors and Collectors of Papers, 11) the Distributors and Collectors of Books, 12) the Sweepers, 13) the Doorkeeper, and 14) the Keeper of the School Key.*

Note that there are no "pizza day organizers" or "prom committee chairs!" Note, too, that Saint La Salle even entrusted the school key to a student who was supposed to unlock and lock the school doors! (Sorry, Saint La Salle, I'm not willing to do that – although maybe a student would be more responsible than some of us adults in terms of locking the buildings at the end of the day!)

I was particularly struck by the Visitors of the Absent Students. Here's what La Salle wrote about these students: *In each class, there shall be two or three students charged with seeing to the assiduous attendance of the students living in several streets of a given section of the town which have been assigned to them.... Each Visitor shall take care to go and visit each absentee after school. The teacher should not have to remind the Visitor to do this. Each Visitor shall report to the teacher at the beginning of the next session what the Visitor found out at the home of each of the absentees; why the absentee was absent; to whom the Visitor spoke; and when the absentee would return to class.* Wow. How many of us check on our absent students or ask a student to do so? And all we have to do is email or phone! Thanks to Erin for checking on absent students!

Let's celebrate our student leaders this week and encourage all students to be leaders. I've asked teachers to look for opportunities to empower students in their classes. The more the teachers have the students to do, the better. As parents, I

encourage you to empower your sons, too. Don't be offended moms, but sometimes you do too much for them and they grow in dependency instead of independency! And as I reminded the teachers, personal example is a more powerful sign of leadership than words. Have a great Leadership Week and thanks to all of our SPS leaders!

### Mon, Apr 13 (Regular; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1742, George Friedrich Handel's *Messiah* (NOT "The Messiah") debuts in Dublin. What a masterpiece!
- **TDIH:** 1743, Thomas Jefferson, our third president, the main author of the Declaration of Independence, and the accomplisher The Louisiana Purchase, was born in Shadwell, VA.
- **National Scrabble Day:** Get out the old Scrabble Game and enjoy while listening to Handel! A double treat!
- **Louisiana Legislative** session begins today at noon. We pray for our elected officials as they address the many needs of our state.
- **Baseball:** 8<sup>th</sup> at Northshore for doubleheader (5 & 7)

### Tue, Apr 14 – (Pack Time; E F G A)

- **Global Day to End Child Sexual Abuse:** Over 40 countries (including 35 US states) have agreed to promote this day. *It is estimated that more than 300,000 children around the world are sexually abused a year, many by close relatives or people they know and trust. Experts state that one in four girls and one in six boys will experience sexual abuse by their eighteenth birthday. A majority of victims are under the age of ten.* We pray for an end to this tragedy!
- **International Moment of Laughter Day:** To celebrate this day, tell jokes or do funny things that cause people to laugh. Just a smile is not a good enough. Successful participation in this day results in whole-hearted laughter.
- **National Dolphin Day:** Celebrate the dolphin today! Watch clips of "Flipper" on You Tube! Am I the only one who remembers the TV show "Flipper?"
- **TDIH:** In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, an actor and Confederate sympathizer, fatally shoots President Abraham Lincoln at a play at Ford's Theater in Washington.
- **TDIH:** In 2011, the entire SPS school community participated in the **Centennial March to the Courthouse** from school to St. Tammany Justice Center. This was an outstanding event. The Committee, chaired by then SPS mom Shawn Reed, had assembled a stellar cast of dignitaries to honor our students and school. We remain very grateful.
- **Robo-Wolves leave for World Championships in KY today. Good luck, Robo-Wolves!**
- **Football Sign Up Day (11:15):** Hard to believe, but the 2015 edition of SPS Football begins today!
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity v. Mandeville (4 & 6:30)
- **Golf:** League leading Wolves in Northshore league play. Geaux Golf Wolves!
- **Track:** District JV Meet at Ponchatoula
- **Guest Speaker:** History of Covington for all juniors during Period G

### Wed, Apr 15 (Assembly; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** The "unsinkable" RMS Titanic sinks after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage, killing 1,517 people.
- **TDIH:** In 1865 Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the US, dies. Shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington the night before, he lived for 9 hours before succumbing to the severe head wound he sustained.
- **Rubber Eraser Day:** We all make mistakes! Where would we be with erasers? If only we could erase all the mistakes in our lives, not just the ones written in pencil on paper.



*Wolves prepare to deliver baby items to Northlake Crisis Pregnancy Center on Holy Thursday.*

- **World Art Day:** Celebrate art on the anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's birthday in 1452! Check out da Vinci's art (including The Last Supper & The Mona Lisa) on a search engine of your choice.
- **Leadership Breakfast**
- **Rugby:** Deep South Rugby Championships semi-final match will be held at Varsity Field on April 15 at 5PM. St Paul's is rated number one in the Deep South with an undefeated season. They would appreciate the student body's and faculty's support at the match.
- **Track:** JV & Varsity in Fontainebleau Invitational
- **Challenge Night:** The annual "Battle of the Sexes" between SPS & SSA takes place tonight in good natured fun and competition. This is NOT a sexist thing and we're not about to turn it into one.

#### Thu, Apr 16 (Assembly; F G A B)

- **National Librarian Day:** Be nice to a librarian today!
- **National Healthcare Decisions Day:** Today promotes the importance of advance care planning, educating all to express health care wishes through the use of advance directives and health care power of attorney documents, and to encourage health care providers and facilities to honor those wishes. The Archdiocese of New Orleans has worked very closely with LAPost (the Louisiana Physicians Order for Scope of Treatment) on developing information for



*My English class celebrated National Pencil Day on Mar 30 with new, #2 pencils!*

Catholics on end of life care issues. These are not always easy discussions, but important ones. I've done my "end of life" planning – although I hope my wishes won't be heeded anytime soon!

- **Leadership Week Guest Speaker (8)**
- **2015-16 Student Council Election**
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity at Northshore (4 & 6:30)
- **Swimming Awards Banquet**

#### Fri, Apr 17 (Special Assembly Schedule; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1970, with the world anxiously watching, *Apollo 13*, a U.S. lunar spacecraft that suffered a severe malfunction on its journey to the moon, safely returns to Earth.
- **National Blah, Blah, Blah Day:** The intent of this day is to do things that people have been nagging you to do.

- **National Haiku Poetry Day** is a celebration of the genre of haiku, poetic form whose origins date back a millennium in Japan. Write some haiku today – a 17 syllable poem divided into 3 lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables, and employing highly evocative allusions and comparisons, often on the subject of nature or one of the seasons. Some examples:

**Five syllables here**

**Seven more syllables there**

**Are you happy now?**

**Let's speak only in**

**Haikus for the entire day.**

**That's ridiculous.**

**The cool wind blowing**

**Immersed in nature's beauty**

**Calming my wild soul**

- **TDIH:** Ford Motor Company officially unveils the Ford Mustang automobile.
- **Student Council Year in Review Assembly (am)**
- **Golden Jubilarian & Class of 2015 Alumni Induction Ceremony (pm)**

#### Sat, Apr 18

- **TDIH:** In 1775, Paul Revere makes his famous ride to warn of British military movement, "one if by land; two if by sea" (one & two being the lanterns hung in steeple of Old North Church – but you knew that.)



- **TDIH:** Albert Einstein, one of the world's most brilliant scientists, died on this day in 1955. Two worthwhile quotes from Albert: *When I see the Cosmos, I can't help but believe that there is a Divine Hand behind it all.* And *"Only a life lived for others is worthwhile."*
- **TDIH:** In 1906, the great San Francisco earthquake occurs, measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale. 3000 die and more than 300,000 are left homeless.
- **National Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day.** Well, we don't have school, so stay in your pajamas if you want.
- **National Poem in Your Pocket Day:** Select a poem you love during National Poetry Month then carry it with you to share with co-workers, family, and friends.
- **Baseball:** 9th at Mandeville; JV & Varsity v. Covington (2:30 & 5);
- **Baseball Home Run Derby (10:30)**
- **Rugby: State Championship Game at Pan American! Geaux Rugby Wolves!**
- **Alumni Crawfish Cookoff**
- **ACT on campus this morning**
- **Ultimate v. Madison, MS**
- **Lacrosse: Quarter Final Playoff Game**

### Sun, Apr 19

- **TDIH:** in 1775, the American Revolution begins with the Battle of Lexington. It's also **John Parker Day** who gave the order, "Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon; but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here."
- **National Garlic Day:** Spice up your food with this heart healthy herb! BTW, did you know that fear of garlic is called *alliumphobia*!

**New Phone System** was installed over the Easter holidays (not spring break.) No more dropped calls, we hope! It will take a few days to get all of the voice mail boxes up and running, so please be patient. Let us know if you experience any problems with calling SPS.

**More Alum Good News:** An alumnus who wishes to remain anonymous visited with me recently. He has come into a financial windfall and wants to share it with SPS. He handed me a check for \$10,000 to be used to sponsor a deserving, but financially needy, student to attend Saint Paul's. He assured me that this is an ongoing, yearly commitment and not a "one time" gift. He also informed me that he'll be paying for his grandson

to attend SPS – who wasn't planning on attending due to family finances. Naturally, I was a bit stunned, as I had not heard from this alumnus in all of my years as President. As he told me his story (which I wish I could relay), it became obvious why he hadn't been in touch with us before, but he assured me he has always been grateful for his SPS education. Who knows what seeds we are planting in our students? I am most grateful to this faithful alum – and pray that there are many more like him out there!



*Matt, Will & Adam pose with Superintendent Dr. Jan Lancaster at Rally Against Violence sponsored by NO Lasallian schools.*

### Musing on Last Two Weeks:

- **Holy Week:** Thanks to all who helped make the week spiritually special, especially participants in Passion Play and Mandatum Ceremony.
- **Golf:** I know the Wolves played and did well, but I don't have details. Geaux Wolf Wolves!
- **Baseball:** District wins against Mandy, Ponchy, Slidell (in extra innings!) and a tough loss against F'Bleau.

- **Track:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place by a mile (so what else is new?) in the Parish Meet!
- **Lacrosse:** Lots of games but I don't have scores! Some wins and some losses – I think!
- **Crescent City Classic:** The Wolves were well-presented in this Holy Saturday tradition that draws thousands of participants. The following names of current students “jumped out at me” in the listing of the Top 500: **Spencer Albright (36<sup>th</sup>)**, **Stephen Schlottman (56<sup>th</sup>)**, **Henry Elliott (79<sup>th</sup>)**, **Patrick Napier (133<sup>rd</sup>)**, & **Matt Wallace (401<sup>st</sup>)**. And a few alum names caught my eye, too: **Jonathan Thomas (28<sup>th</sup>)**, **Christian Bergeron (33<sup>rd</sup>)**, **Kramer Jackson (34<sup>th</sup>)**, **Pat Gavin (40<sup>th</sup>)**, **David Dessaure (234)**, **Chris Pool**, & **Stephen Englehardt (402.)** Sorry if I missed any!
- **Mission Trip:** Thanks to Mr. **Austin Ashcraft** for taking four Wolves (**Logan Cook**, **David Durand**, **Matthew Dysart**, & **Connor Slimming**) on a Mission Trip to work with the homeless in Denver, with a side trip to celebrate Easter services at Franciscan University in Steubenville. I've included a series of pictures at the end of this newsletter.
- **Sophisticated Woman** magazine named Saint Paul's “Best Private High School” in their April issue. We are honored.
- **Wolves on Wheels** traveled to Bay St. Louis for competition. While they didn't win, moderator John Carambat felt it was a great experience since it proved that the boys' cars actually ran and performed well!
- **And congratulations to Mr. Tommy Lahey on the birth of his daughter, Zoe, on Good Friday, Apr 3.**

**Teens and Binge Drinking:** The National Institutes of Health released a new study on April 2: *Adolescent binge drinking can disrupt gene regulation and brain development in ways that promote anxiety and excessive drinking behaviors that can persist into adulthood.* The scientific evidence continues to mount – and yet some of our students just aren't getting the message. Read the full story at <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2015/niaaa-02.htm>



*AP & Honors Civics Wolves participate in legislative debate in the LA Senate Chamber, courtesy of Sen. Ben Nevers, grandfather of senior Drake Pierce.*

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Baseball:** One mom thought I wasn't giving 9<sup>th</sup> grade baseball enough attention (that's because no one's giving me the info!) so she sent me the following, which I'm happy to publish: *thought I would mention the 9th grade baseball scores for the last 3 weeks. We beat Mandeville in a double header 3 weeks ago. We swept Northshore in a double header 2 Saturdays ago and then this past Saturday we went 1 and 1 against Covington. We are doing great despite 2 injuries, 1 ineligible player and we lost our catcher [who was moved up to varsity.]* Geaux 9<sup>th</sup> Grade BB Wolves!

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

- The Mother/Son Dinner will take place on Wednesday, April 22nd in the Briggs Assembly Center. Check-in begins at **5:30 p.m. for all registered guests.** Please arrive in time to be seated prior to the beginning of the prayer service which begins at 6:30. Photos may

be taken between 5:30 and 6:30 and after the dinner. We look forward to seeing you there!

- Our 3rd Annual Sidewalk Sale will be on Friday, May 15th from 9:00-4:00. Come take advantage of huge savings and great bargains with pre-owned uniforms, clearance items, and overstock sales! If you have any St. Paul's clothing items that you would like to donate, please drop them off in the bookstore (weekdays 7:15-8:00, 11:00-12:30, and 2:15-3:15) anytime between now and May 15th! Any unclaimed items in Lost and Found will be donated to the Sidewalk sale, so please ask your son to check for any missing clothing!

- The Cyberbullying Parenting the Pack presentation scheduled for April 15th has been changed to May 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. ( FYI- the guest speaker has to travel to Washington D.C. and asked to change the date)
- Snack Day and Teacher Appreciation will take place on Tuesday, April 21st.

**WHY DO I CONTINUE TO INCLUDE ANNUAL FUND REMINDERS?** Because every time I do, I get responses. So, please – if you have not supported SPS this year and are in a position to do so, please contribute to the Annual Fund. **ANY amount is needed** as the new gym bills are coming in. Interested in having part of the new gym named after you? Contact me and we'll talk! **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT!** Please invite them to participate if they are able or I'll invite them with your permission .

**2015-16 Calendar:** St. Tammany Parish Public Schools has published next year's calendar. They will begin on Fri, Aug 7. Accordingly, I have completed our calendar, which follows their calendar when possible. 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 – which corresponds to what we did this year. Please plan vacations accordingly.**

**Paper Wolf Update:** Please encourage your students to read The Paper Wolf on line ([www.thepaperwolf.com](http://www.thepaperwolf.com)) and read it yourself. Compliment the staff. Subscribe. Support the future.

**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!**

**Free Money:** Recently we received checks from Target and Office Depot representing rebates on purchases: Target gives a 1% cash rebate and Office Depot gives a 5% store credit. **PLEASE:** anytime you purchase at Target or Office Depot, indicate that your rebate go to Saint Paul's School! This is **FREE** money! You're not being charged extra.

**H of the W:** More Student Answers to History Questions (read carefully!)

- *Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had a large number of children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handel was half German half Italian and half English. He was very large.*
- *Beethoven wrote music even though he was deaf. He was so deaf he wrote loud music. He took long walks in the forest even when everyone was calling for him. Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died for this.*
- *The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened and catapulted into Napoleon. Napoleon wanted an heir to inherit his power, but since Josephine was a baroness, she couldn't have any children.*
- *The sun never set on the British Empire because the British Empire is in the East and the sun sets in the West.*
- *Queen Victoria was the longest queen. She sat on a thorn for 63 years. She was a moral woman who practiced virtue. Her death was the final event which ended her reign.*
- *In 1776, God created the United States. Before then, everyone was under the rule of the tyrant king of Britain, Prince Charles, who put taxes on everything. The US was formed in retaliation to taxes. America is now president of the world. In the War of 1812, Osama bin Laden declared jihad on the West Coast. In conclusion, the US rules and everyone else drools.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

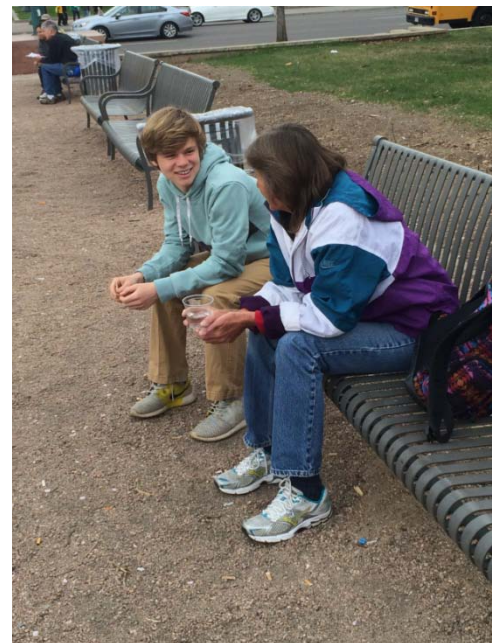
### **A Look Ahead** (And these are just some of the events!)

April 13 – Leadership Week begins  
April 14 – History of Covington presentation to juniors (Period G)  
April 15 – Leadership Breakfast  
April 16 – Leadership Week Guest Speaker  
April 17 – Year in Review Assembly /Alumni Presentation assembly  
April 20 – Founder’s Week begins; 9 am start for faculty meeting  
April 21 – President’s Assembly – Teacher Appreciation Lunch/Snack Day  
April 22 – Juniors order senior rings  
April 22 – Mother – Son Dinner  
April 23 – Mass Schedule – DRESS UNIFORM DAY!  
April 24 – Field Day (B&C meet in morning; field day in afternoon; attendance is mandatory)  
April 25 – Habitat Work Day  
April 25 – Father-Son Supper  
April 27 – Honor Roll Breakfast for Seniors  
April 27 – Spring Football Begins  
April 28 – Last Pack Time – Honor Roll Breakfast for Juniors  
April 29 – Jazz Band field trip to LPO – Honor Roll Breakfast for Sophomores  
April 30 – Honor Roll Breakfast for Freshmen  
May 1 – Honor Roll Breakfast for Pre-Freshmen & pre-freshmen retreat/service day  
May 2 – Junior/Senior Prom at Abita Quail Farm  
May 5 – President’s Assembly  
May 6-8 – Senior Exams  
May 8 – Pie Bowl  
May 9 – FREE Physicals for all athletes and band members; physicals are mandatory for athletic & band participation  
May 9 – Band Concert in BAC  
May 11-12 – Art Show in BAC  
May 12 – President’s Assembly  
May 12 – Band Awards  
May 13- 15 – Pre Freshmen Exams  
May 13 - Grad Night  
May 14 – 9-11 Level Awards  
May 14 – Athletic Awards 8:00 AM  
May 15 – Academic Awards Ceremony 8:00 AM – Senior Level Awards  
May 16 – Senior Graduation (4 pm in the BAC)  
May 18 – Pre Freshmen Promotion and Awards 6:00 PM  
May 19-21 – Exam Schedules

### *SPS Mission Trip*

I’m impressed that SPS teacher Austin Ashcraft and four of our students spent their Easter Holidays (not spring break) on a mission trip dedicated to learning from the homeless in Denver. The group partnered with Christ in the City Mission, *a holistic service program that integrates Catholic spirituality with charitable works and educational advancement aiming to form college-age Catholic missionaries whose mission is to serve the homeless with Christ's love.* Over the past week, Austin and the boys (Logan Cook, Matt Dysart, David Durand, & Connor Slimming) ministered to the homeless by serving lunches and just interacting with them. And they had a little fun, too! Below is a montage of pictures Austin sent:







Whew! Hope I wasn't too long winded this week! But you got a break last Sunday as the newsletter went on Easter vacation (not spring break!) I hope you enjoyed Easter Sunday without the newsletter clogging your in box! And only five more newsletters to go for this school year!

And even though it's the middle of April 2015, I will still close with a paraphrase from one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now as I write and LOLing): 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 march forward through 2015! Hard to believe we only have five more weeks in the school year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2014-15 edition of SPS!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Looking Forward to the Final Stretch of the School Year as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

