

Warning about the Newsletter: This is ANOTHER long newsletter, but there's a lot to cover as we begin school. So pour another cup of coffee (or beverage of your choice!), relax, and read. Feel free to take breaks!



The President's Hebdomadal Newsletter for Aug 3 - 9, 2015



Once again, welcome to 2015-16 school year – the beginning of the fifth year of our second century of life! I'm glad last week's mammoth newsletter didn't scare you off! I tried to make this one shorter – but failed!



As we begin a new year of Lasallian education, I invite you to reflect on the theme we have chosen for the year: **Do God's Will**. To Lasallians, this theme is incarnate in the life of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and Patron Saint of Teachers. While the saint's life is replete with instances of him doing God's will, there is one particularly meaningful – and human – episode.

Brother Louis Welker, a member of the retired SPS Brothers Community writes: *John Baptist de La Salle went through a long period of doubt from 1711-1714. Things were going terribly wrong. There were conflicts in the schools, a major lawsuit, the continual battle with The Writing Masters, and his failing health. At age 62, he felt an increased desire for solitude and prayer. In short, he was worn*

out. He had doubts about his continued role in directing the future of the Brothers. It seemed to him that the Brothers would be better off without him. In 1714, he moved to a hermitage called Parmenie in France. While there, De La Salle conversed with Sister Louise, a barely literate nun who took care of the place. He confided to her about his desire not to return to the Brothers. Louise advised him to return to the Brothers and resume his leadership. Her advice was not what De La Salle wanted to hear. On April 1, 1714, De La Salle received a letter from the Brothers ordering him to return to Paris to assume leadership of the Brothers. De La Salle showed the letter to Sister Louise. Her response was a kind of "I told you so" and De La Salle thus began his journey back to Paris – to do God's will. Upon arriving, he told the Brothers: "Here I am. What will you have me do?"



Sister Louise, from an early 18th Century painting

This story shows the humanity of Saint La Salle: he had his moments of doubt and discouragement, too! This should fill us with hope, as all of us do. This year, we want to invoke Sister Louise to assist us to have the strength and courage "to do God's will" even when our human natures are pulling us in other directions.

I encourage you, as parents, to work with your sons in a similar manner. Don't let him get by with "just enough", whether it's grades or chores around the house or a simple "good morning, Mom and Dad!" Doing our **best** is God's will! Exhort him to sainthood by doing God's will, which involves making courageous choices (last year's theme) by doing the ordinary in an extraordinary way (theme from two years ago.) You and the sons will hear more about this theme from me throughout the year. I look forward to traveling this path with you – and striving to do God's will. **Thanks for being a part of the 2015 - 16 edition of Saint Paul's School!**

Mon, Aug 3 (Faculty Meetings)

- **This Day in History:** In 1958, the world's first nuclear submarine, *USS Nautilus* accomplishes the first undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole.
- **TDIH II:** In 1492, from the Spanish port of Palos, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus sets sail in command of three ships—the Santa Maria, the Pinta, and the Nina—on a journey to find a western sea route to China, India, and the fabled gold and spice islands of Asia. On October 12, they would sight
- **8th & New 9th Grade Orientation (4-8:30):** Our Lasallian Young Leaders have a great program planned for our newest young wolves. Thanks to all who will be helping tonight.

Tue, Aug 4 (Feast of St. John Vianney -- 1786-1859; Faculty Meetings)

- **St. John Vianney's** most remarkable accomplishment was his work as a confessor. In winter months, he spent 11 to 12 hours daily hearing confessions. In summer, time increased to 16 hours. As his fame spread, more hours were spent serving God's people. Even the few hours he allowed himself for sleep were disturbed frequently by the devil.
- **TDIH:** In 1944, acting on tip from a Dutch informer, the Nazi Gestapo captures 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank and her family in a sealed-off area of an Amsterdam warehouse. Her father was the only family



This was the scene each M, W & F summer morning at 7 am as the Gridiron Wolves prepare for the 2015 season!

member to survive the Nazi death camps. After the war, he returned to Amsterdam via Russia, and was reunited with one of his former employees who had helped shelter him. She handed him Anne's diary, which she had found undisturbed after the Nazi raid. In 1947, Anne's diary was published by Otto in its original Dutch as *Diary of a Young Girl*. An instant best-seller and eventually translated into more than 50 languages, *The Diary of Anne Frank* has served as a literary testament to the nearly six million Jews, including Anne herself, who were silenced in the Holocaust.

- **National Chocolate Chip Day:** Enjoy this iconic treat today in cookies, ice cream or just plain!

- **International Assistance Dog Day**

recognizes all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations.

- **Coast Guard Day:** On August 4, 1790, the Revenue Cutter Service was created by the U.S. Congress. Congress authorized the construction of ten cutters. These ships were built to enforce U.S. tariff laws. The Revenue Cutter Service was the predecessor the U.S. Coast Guard, a term first used in 1915. We salute and thank our Coast Guard!
- **8th Grade (& new 9th grade) Football Sign Up and Football Spirit Night: 5-7 in the cafeteria**

Wed, Aug 5 – Faculty Meetings – Last Day of Summer Vacation 2015!

- **This Day in History:** In 1914, the world's first electric traffic signal is put into place on the corner of Euclid Ave and East 105th Street in Cleveland. Little did they know what they started!

- **TDIH II:** In 1850, French writer Guy (pronounced “Gee”) de Maupassant, considered to have had the greatest impact upon the development of the short story as a literary genre in Europe, is born. His stories are characterized by clever plots, clear style and surprise endings. Read de Maupassant today! “The Necklace” & “Piece of String” are classics!
- **National Underwear Day:** I’ll let you “briefly” (sorry!) decide if you’re going to celebrate this or not! In New York City, in Times Square at Broadway between 46th and 47th St, another attempt will be made for the Guinness Book of Records by having the largest crowd ever to show up in underwear. Glad I’m not in NYC! DYK that the sale of men's underwear - a discretionary purchase - is used by some Wall Street execs to take the measure of how well people feel financially? When sales go down, it's usually an indicator that the nation's economy is headed for a fall. Who knew?
- **National Oyster Day:** Indulge today in this LA favorite! DYK:
 - There are over 100 species of true oysters traditionally named after the body of water where found.
 - The largest oyster-producing body of water is located in Chesapeake Bay.
 - Humans have eaten oysters since the dawn of humanity. Oyster farming and cultivation can be traced back to Roman times in France and England.
 - Two billion lbs are eaten annually and only 1 out of 10,000 will have a pearl.

Thu, Aug 6 – (Opening Day; Orientation Schedule; Only periods A B C D meet)

- **Feast of the Transfiguration:** *In a resplendent cloud, the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father’s voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.* May we listen to the Lord on this first day of school – and every day throughout the new school year!
- **This Day in History:** On this day in 1945, at 8:16 a.m. Japanese time, an American B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay*, drops the world's first atom bomb, over the city of Hiroshima. Approximately 80,000 people are killed as a direct result of the blast, and another 35,000 are injured. At least another 60,000 would be dead by the end of the year from the effects of the fallout. We pray that never again will atomic weapons be used.



- **National Fresh Breath Day:** Floss, brush, rinse with mouthwash, and carry mints! ‘Nuff said!
- **National Root Beer Float Day:** Celebrate the opening of school with this iconic summer treat!

Fri, Aug 7 – (Orientation Schedule; only periods E F G A meet)

- **Purple Heart Day:** Today in 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington created the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with the word Merit across the face. The badge was presented to soldiers for "any singularly meritorious action" and permitted its wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge. After the war, the decoration was largely forgotten until 1927, when the US Army Chief of Staff sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to "revive the Badge of Military Merit." On February 22, 1932, Washington's 200th birthday, the

U.S. War Department created of the "Order of the Purple Heart." We remember all American soldiers who have been wounded and thus earned The Purple Heart.

- **TDIH:** The US Congress overwhelmingly approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Lyndon Johnson nearly unlimited powers to oppose "communist aggression" in Southeast Asia. The resolution marked the beginning of an expanded military role for the United States in Vietnam.
- **Twins Day:** Celebrate twins today! SPS is blessed to have several sets of twins!
- **Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day** -- Buy anything lately that was particularly hard to get out of the box or plastic wrap? Did you ever succeed in getting the darn thing open? What do we older people do when even mainstream society can't open a simple bottle of aspirin, let alone a milk carton?

Sat, Aug 8 (Feast of St. Dominic (1170-1221))

- **St. Dominic** founded the Order of Preachers (The Dominicans) in 1210 after a number of years preaching to the people of his day. We wish all Dominican brothers, sisters and priests a happy feast day today!
- **TDIH: Brother John Fairfax, FSC was born!** Brother John turns 88 years young today. After an extraordinary career as an exemplary educator, he continues to be an active and important member of the SPS community through his example, his presence at school functions, and his friendly, generous, concerned and compassionate spirit. *Ad multos annos, Frater Johannes!* Happy Birthday!



Devin & Matt make Christmas ornaments at Cross Country Camp for the Christmas Fun Run. Oh, yes, the boys did a lot of running at camp, too!

- **Happiness Happens Day:** The purpose of today is to help people recognize more happiness and encourage them to talk about it. And starting school should be the cause of great happiness for all of us at Saint Paul's! **Be happy today and don't dwell on the negative!**
- **Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Night:** OK, you home gardeners with tons of zucchini! Here's your chance to get rid of this prolific vegetable.

Sun, Aug 9: Let's get the school year off to a great start by attending church today. We encourage our Catholic Families to attend mass as a family. We encourage our non-Catholic families to worship at the place of worship of their choice.

- **TDIH:** Richard Nixon becomes the only man in history to resign as President of the United States; Gerald Ford is sworn in as the 38th President of the US.
- **TDIH II:** On this day in 1945, a second atom bomb is dropped on Japan by the US, at Nagasaki, resulting finally in Japan's unconditional surrender, thus ending World War II.
- **Worldwide Art Day:** Celebrate the arts today by drawing, composing, writing, painting, dancing, acting, or singing – look for ways to value art in our lives!

San Francisco New Orleans District of Christian Brothers: Welcome to the second academic year of the San Francisco New Orleans District of Christian Brothers! Know that we are part of a District that stretches from the states of Washington State to Louisiana and now includes 20 schools.

School Safety: School safety remains a paramount issue for all of us, even in St. Tammany. Discuss this with your son. In our faculty meetings, we will review all safety procedures that we have in place – and they are many. Safety is our priority – it's EVERYONE'S JOB. **Report ANY rumor or threat to safety about which you hear.** Encourage your children to report, too. **If you come to campus, you must check in at one of three offices (Administration Bldg, Counseling Center or Records Office) for a Visitor Pass before you may walk around.** Our prayers rise to heaven for a school year marked by safety and an elimination of violence.

First Day of School: Thu, Aug 6, is A FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION for ALL students. **This is considered a school day** and attendance is expected. Students **must be in their A Block class by 7:45.**

- **Expect lots of morning traffic! Plan accordingly!**
- On Thu, Aug 6, we have blocks A B C & D only -- **STUDENTS REPORT DIRECTLY TO PERIOD A. Students only need to bring books and supplies for Blocks A B C & D.**
- **Important Info about Uniforms for Aug 6:** On Thu, Aug 6, students with **Religion Class** in periods A, B, C or D wear DRESS UNIFORM for pictures. All others wear regular uniforms.
- **Important Info about Uniforms for Aug 7:** On Fri, Aug 7, students with **Religion Class** in periods E, F or G wear DRESS UNIFORM for pictures. Students who took pictures on Thu wear regular uniforms.
- Students will be expected to dress out for PE if they are taking PE.
- **Expect lots of morning traffic! Plan accordingly!**
- **Grooming: Students must be in compliance with grooming regulations (especially hair and shaving -- all those special summer sartorial styles must go) in order to take pictures; disciplinary action is a possibility.**



Mothers Club Bookstore shelves are well-stocked and ready for sale this week. Thanks, MC!

- **Purchasing school pictures is optional. Pricing and order form is posted on our web site (www.stpauls.com) AND ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE BOOKSTORE.**

- **Did I mention to expect lots of morning traffic and to plan accordingly?**

Student-Parent Handbook Signature Card: The Student-Parent Handbook is posted on the Student Life page of our website. All students and parents must be familiar with our policies and agree to follow them. As evidence of that agreement, **students and parents must sign a form attesting that they have read the Handbook, understand the rules contained within the document, and intend to follow them.**

Print out the signature card (posted on the website under “recent news” and which is also the last page of the handbook) and bring it on August 6. It will be collected during English class.

From the Mothers Club:

- The Bookstore will be open on Mon, Aug 3, from 9 - 6:00, and from 9-4 on Tue and Wed, Aug 4 & 5. The Bookstore begins regular hours on Thu, Aug 6: 7:30 - 8:30, during lunch, & 2:30 – 3:15.
- Pre-ordered supply packs will be available for pick up in La Salle Hall during this time.
- ALL required school supplies can be purchased. Avoid the crowds and support our school! Remember that all proceeds from the MC Bookstore help SPS.
- Flyers for school pictures are available in the Book Store.
- And the supply packs are \$10 per student. One poor mom thought it was for each class! Ouch!

Newsletters: All newsletters, report cards, and school communication will be EMAILED. Make sure you keep us informed if your email addresses change.

New Parent Reception & Information Meeting: A welcome reception/info meeting for **new parents** will be held on Mon, Aug. 17 at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. The reception begins at 6:30 pm and an information meeting starts at 7:00 which will be over by 8:00. We hope new parents will be with us!

Student Email: We issued an SPS email address to every student: Firstname.Lastname.gradyr@stpauls.com, e.g. John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com. This allows us to better communicate with students. The student may keep this email forever, allowing us to continue contact with him as an alum. We will delete the email upon graduation at the student’s request.

Helping Saint Paul’s: Don’t forget – here are two painless ways to help so encourage all to participate:

- **If you shop at Office Depot, give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5%!**
- **We participate in Community Coffee program. Bring CC labels to your son’s math teacher!**

Odds and Ends:

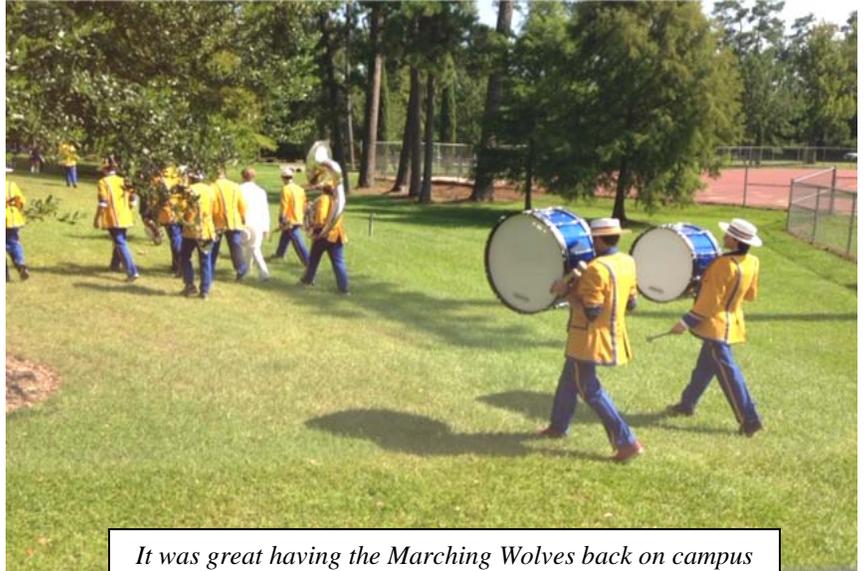
- Students must be in their first block class by 7:45 am. Classes dismiss at 3:00 pm.
- Students must be in uniform compliance (including shirts tails tucked in) from the moment they step foot on campus. On Thursday, August 6, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. Students who have religion in periods E, F or G wear regular uniforms on Thursday. (Yes, I know I’m repeating this but some people have bet me that I can’t pull this off!)
- Car lines: **There is no absolute designated drop off spot.** Be patient the first few days of school as traffic patterns form. Safety is paramount, so if you use Founder’s Circle as a departure point, **cars must drop off students in Founders Circle in the LEFT lane only** – you may not block traffic in the right lane to discharge the occupants. Dropping off at La Salle Hall or the tennis courts is OK.
- Traffic will be heavy heading into Covington this week as schools open. Please plan accordingly.
- Also, PLEASE observe traffic regulations. SPS is in a residential zone and speed limits are 25 mph – 15 mph during school zone hours. Covington Police will actively enforce traffic laws around SPS. See below for new traffic regulations. **Remember: it’s against the law and you can be ticketed for using CELL PHONES in a school zone! And driving and texting is NEVER allowed!**

- Did I mention to expect lots of morning traffic and to plan accordingly?

New Students: Our Student Host organization will provide help for the first days. The student hosts are easily spotted because they will be dressed in GRAY student host shirts instead of the blue uniform shirt. Feel free to ask a student host if you need help. They are friendly!

Orientation: Discuss with your son the 4 assemblies he will have this week & next:

- A chapel prayer service
- A meeting with Level Teachers to review handbook and policies
- A meeting with the guidance department
- A meeting with Coach Ken Sears to review expectations of conduct. **Note: during this assembly, Coach Sears will conduct the Archdiocese-mandated Child Protection/Safe Environment presentation which informs students about the dangers of abuse, how to prevent it, and what to do if it is suspected.** Please discuss this with your son.



It was great having the Marching Wolves back on campus last week! Numbers are up! But I want more! Consider joining the MWs – one of our premier organizations. Beginners are welcome!

Enrollment: We open this year with a VERY healthy enrollment – and we were not able to admit everyone who applied. **Please stress with your son that you are giving him a gift by sending him to Saint Paul’s – a gift that is wanted by others. Stress with him the obligation to make the most of the gift he is being given. Stress with him that attending Saint Paul’s is a privilege and not a right. He can lose the privilege by making poor choices.**

Telephone/Email Info: A listing of all SPS staff phone extensions/email addresses is posted on our new website under Academics => Faculty Directory.

Cafeteria School Lunch / Breakfast Programs:

- SPS participates in the federal school lunch/breakfast program managed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. **Saint Paul’s does not directly manage the food service program;** we follow the directives of the Archdiocese and the cafeteria workers are employed by the Archdiocese, not SPS.
- Breakfast (\$1.25) is served from 7:15-7:35 am. This is a GREAT program and many students use it.
- Students may buy lunch (\$2.25). On most days, there is a choice of hot lunch or sandwich lunch.
- **Students may not “order out”, e.g. pizza, or have lunches delivered. WE CANNOT DELIVER LUNCHES TO STUDENTS. Please do not ask us to do so.**

- **Students participating in the cafeteria program must make an initial payment before school opens. This may be done on Aug 3 between 7 and 2:30 and Aug 4-5 between 7 and 2:00. A separate check will be needed. Students may NOT "charge" a meal if no money is on account.**
- **Students MUST use their ID cards for check out in the cafeteria. A temporary ID will be issued them on Thu, Aug 6, for use at lunch that day.**
- Parents may sign up for ON-LINE payments which will also allow them to see a complete record of everything their son is buying. Go to <http://www.schoolcafe.org/> and follow directions.
- **FREE or REDUCED LUNCH/BREAKFAST: There is no stigma to apply for free / reduced lunch. NO ONE knows but the cafe manager. Request forms from me or the cafeteria manager. You may also apply online for free / reduced lunch by following these steps:**
 - ✓ Go to www.Applyforlunch.com (or access the link from our website www.schoolcafe.org)
 - ✓ Click on "Start your Online Application"
 - ✓ Enter your Zip Code or State and select "Archdiocese of New Orleans" as the district.
 - ✓ Follow the wizard and use the guided help along the way
 - ✓ Continue to select "next" at the bottom of the page and "submit" when completed.



Mrs. Trahan and Members of the Class of 2015 recently planted new trees in front of cafeteria. Thank you!

Should you list an email address, you receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted. If you have any questions regarding Online Applications, please contact (504)596-3440 or (504)596-3434. Meal eligibility applications should be received prior to the 30th day of school or current meal benefits may change. **Students may also receive a free lunch by offering to help serve lunch during the lunch period.**

Attendance: The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss (whether excused or unexcused) and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. Consult the handbook.

New Moms Welcome: The Mothers Club "New Moms Welcome" is Monday, Aug 10th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Briggs Assembly Center. You should have received a snail-mailed invite. ALL NEW SPS moms are invited to this event. All moms automatically belong to the Mothers Club, so get involved.

Back to School Dance: Traditionally, SSA has hosted a Back to School Dance on the Friday of the first full week of school for the two schools. This year, we are splitting the Back to School Dance attendance with SSA: 8th and 9th graders will have the dance HERE AT SPS and 10th – 12th grade students will have the dance at SSA. Details will follow.

Homecoming Dances: The Junior High Homecoming Dance will be Sat, Sep 19 – not the 18th as I printed in last week’s newsletter! Thanks to the one observant mom who noticed the error. Old age strikes again! The Senior High Homecoming Dance will be Sat, Sep 26. Dances will be in Briggs Assembly Center. Details will follow.

Senior Parents: Note the following **upcoming special senior events on Thu, Aug 20:**

- **March through the Arch at 8 a.m.** Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional "rite of passage" ceremony for our seniors. **Dress for seniors is SPS dress uniform.**
- **Senior-Parent Continental Breakfast** following the March. The breakfast will be in the cafeteria and “al fresco” (from the Italian meaning “in the fresh” -- in this case, fresh air! We’ll have outdoor seating.)
- Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by pizza lunch and then Ring Ceremony practice. They will be dismissed following practice – 2 pm at the latest.
- **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional ceremony, a highlight of the senior year. ALL seniors are required to attend the ceremony whether they are getting a ring or not. And, yes, family rings can be used. **Dress for seniors is any dress shirt, tie, slacks and shoes.**
- **Fri, Aug 21, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.** They can dress as they please this day!

Dress Code: Students must comply with dress code beginning Aug 6. We will increase enforcement this year. Refer to previous newsletters or the student handbook for particulars if you are still unsure. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts in good condition. Feel free to ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to those families who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.**



Flora beautify Founders Circle, thanks to the Botanical Wolves.

ID cards must be worn DAILY on an SPS lanyard which will be given to students. This is a new school safety measure.

Extracurriculars: New parents often ask how their sons find out about our extracurricular program. Shortly after school opens, we will introduce students to our offerings.

Attendance: The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Do not allow your sons to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**

Jazz ‘n Roll: J n R XXV is Sat evening, Oct 03. If you have questions, auction items and/or would like to work at J n R, call Shellie Campo at 892-3200, ext. 1273.

Need More Information? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, or Assistant Principal Joe Dickens. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of

Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call on me if you think I can help.

My office phone is 892-3200, x 1001 & my cell phone is 966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com or hit “reply” to this email!

Student Hosts: Student Hosts will recruit and enroll new and returning members during the first few weeks of school in preparation for service at Jazz N Roll, Open House, Drama productions, Celebrity Waiters and other events. Students should see Ms. Hebert in the Administration Building for information.

Lost and Found: At the end of last year, we “rounded up” dozens of sweatshirts, uniform shirts, pants, socks, books, lunch boxes and numerous other items that were “shed” or left behind by students in various parts of the campus and never claimed. Everything was washed and dried. Most of the items had NO IDENTIFYING INFO and the ones that did had info that was illegible. Again, PLEASE stress with your son the need for personal responsibility of his items. **Please clearly label all clothing.** The items collected at the end of May represent hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

8th & New 9th Grade Football Sign-up and Spirit Night: Calling all 8th graders & new 9th graders interested in signing up for football! Please come to our Football Spirit Night, on Tuesday, August 4th in the cafeteria from 5:00 – 7:00. At this time you will be able to sign-up for football, purchase football apparel, including our Annual Game Day shirt, meet coaches and players, and enjoy some jambalaya with the Wolves! *SPIRIT NIGHT* is for all Varsity level families as well. Please join in welcoming the new players to the program. It’s a great time to get ready for the upcoming season and purchase your SPS Game Day Shirts and miscellaneous football apparel!!

Campus Beautification: Many, many thanks to the parents and students who continue to work hard to help make our campus even more beautiful. The “Botanical Wolves” under the tenacious leadership of Mrs. Linda Trahan has planted many varieties of flora at our main entrance and in Founders Circle.

Driving Policy: The driving habits of some students (speeding, revving of engines, screeching of tires, etc) are causing me grief with the neighbors. I have spoken at length with some neighbors and also with the Covington Police. The neighbors are declaring war on unsafe driving – and I’m supporting them. As our handbook states, driving to school and parking on our campus is a privilege, not a right. Accordingly, last year we adopted the following policies and some students felt the consequences:

- Covington Police will increase their presence and issue tickets;
- Neighbors have been instructed to take pictures or get license plates of speeding or unsafe drivers and send the information to us;
- SPS has increased the number of faculty street supervisors after school;
- **SPS has instituted a series of monetary fines (beginning at \$50 for a first offense) against students shown to be violating traffic laws around school;**
- SPS reserves the right to revoke the driving to school privilege – which we did with one student last year.

We have tried to address this issue with students, but some are not getting the message. Hence, we are taking stronger steps. Parents of students who drive to school – please stress safe driving with your sons. A car can be a lethal weapon if not used responsibly.

Off to a Good Academic Start: Help your son develop proper attitudes and habits for success. Show confidence in his ability; work with him to set realistic academic goals. Help him develop an orderly study environment. Teens enjoy chaos, so the trick is to help your son create enough order in his chaos for proper study to occur. Designate a place and time to study. **Require 1-2 hours of study per night. Do not accept the "I have no homework" excuse.** He always has homework -- review, study and advanced preparation. At the end of his study session, have him organize books, assignments, PE clothes, etc. for the next day. **Students who do not have their homework on a particular day are sent to assignment hall.**

Academy Day: On Monday, August 3 (yes, I know it's short notice but the info just arrived on Friday), Senators David Vitter and Bill Cassidy and Congressmen Steve Scalise and Cedric Richmond will provide an opportunity for students and their families to learn more about the United States Service Academies (West Point, Air Force, etc.). Students who are unable attend can contact Senator Vitter's office at (504) 589-2753 for more information on the application process. The program will take place at **Federal City Auditorium, 2845 Guadalupe Street, New Orleans** with registration from **9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m** and formal presentation from **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with visits from academy and congressional personnel.**

Attention Seniors: The St. Tammany Clerk of Court's office has launched a campaign to recruit and train high school seniors as certified election commissioners. 17 and 18-year-olds enrolled in 12th grade have been can earn \$200 for working election day! With elections scheduled in St. Tammany in October and November, **commissioner certification classes will be held August 14, August 17 and August 26, soon after the start of the 2015-2016 school year. You only need to attend one of the sessions.** More info will be sent later and senior civics teachers will have all the details. Call Pat Lincoln at the Clerk's Office at 809-8724 if you have any questions or concerns.

The Ugly Department: "Heroin is alive and well and in our community," Mandeville Police Chief Rick Richard said in a newspaper article recently. Last week's "round up" of a "heroin ring" in our community was stunning at best. Parents, please speak with your sons about the nefarious nature of illegal drug use – and the devastating consequences that can ensue. We will continue our efforts to promote good, safe, healthy choices by our students. We trust them, but will continue to verify with random --and not so random -- drug tests.

A Look Ahead:

Aug 06 -- Opening Day of School (Periods A, B C D)

Aug 10 -- Mothers Club Social for New Moms (6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center)

Aug 12 – Opening of School Mass; DRES UNIFORM; commissioning of Eucharistic Ministers; parents invited.

Aug 13 – First President's Assembly; regular uniforms

Aug 14 – Pre-Freshman Five Core Rally during period G

Aug 14 – SSA/SPS Back to School Dance: 8th & 9th at SPS; 10th – 12th at SSA

Aug 17 – Pre-freshman Class Officer Election

Aug 17 – New Parent Reception and Information Meeting (6:30 in the BAC)

Aug 18 – First Wolf Pack meeting; Get Involved Day

Aug 19 – Football Scrimmage v. John Curtis

Aug 20 – Senior March through the Arch, Unity Day, Ring Ceremony (see above for details)

Aug 21 – Senior Ring Holiday

Aug 22 – Football Meet the Team
Aug 26 – Cross Country Meet the Team
Aug 28 – Football Jamboree v. Rummel
Aug 29 – 2015 Major Annual Fund Donor Dinner
Aug 31 – Safety Week Begins
Sep 07 – Labor Day Holiday

Whew! That's enough for now! I'm sure I've forgotten something so email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows, which I'm listening to know as I write this newsletter: well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Pray that we have a good beginning! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and call on me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Anxious to Begin the New Year as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School (proving, once again, that the rumors of my retirement that swirled at the beginning of summer were nothing more than wishful thinking on some people's part!)

Five Core Principles of Lasallian Education: Quality Education, Inclusive Community, Respect for All, Concern for the Poor & Social Justice, and Faith in the Presence of God

