



*The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter for
Nov 09 - 15, 2015*



Welcome to Blue Ribbon Week at Saint Paul's!

Trevor Watkins and Joe Dickens left for Washington, DC on Saturday morning to participate in the activities surrounding the official awards ceremony for 2015 Blue Ribbon Schools at the US Department of Education. They will return Tuesday night with our official award. We have a special assembly scheduled for Thursday morning to which we have invited a number of guests. The Mother's Club is preparing special treats for the students and a special lunch for the faculty and staff.



I was asked why we chose the “star picture” for the Department of Education’s Blue Ribbon page on SPS.

As I hope you know, the picture was taken in October, 2011 – our centennial year – on the occasion of a visit by the Superior General of the Christian Brothers, who asked every Lasallian school in the world to have their students form a star, which is one of the symbols of the Christian Brothers. Richard Pichon’s geometry classes designed the star’s dimensions, then-senior-

mom Leslie Mitchell choreographed the student body and the result was our iconic star picture.

When the US Department of Education asked us to submit our “propic”, I looked at what other schools had submitted. Most showed a few smiling students engaged a “hands on” learning activity or interacting with a teacher or administrator. A few showed a picture of the school. I wanted something uniquely Saint Paul’s – and the star picture defines us. To the Lasallian world, we are instantly identifiable as Lasallian. To the rest, they see something striking, celebratory, and inviting. Let them come to St. Paul’s!

Enjoy the week. We look forward to welcoming Joe and Trevor back on Wednesday, Blue Ribbon award in hand. By the way, while in DC, Trevor and Joe will lunch with Brother Tim Coldwell, former SPS teacher, AD, and state champion soccer coach and who now is stationed at our national headquarters there in his capacity of General Counselor to General, Brother Robert Schieler. Also, Joe and Trevor will visit St. John’s College Prep High School in Washington, the Lasallian school of our national’s capital.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our Blue Ribbon status – one of only three high schools in Louisiana to earn the award this year and one of only seven private high schools in the nation! Let’s all live up to this honor!

Dress Uniform for our Blue Ribbon Ceremony on Thursday, Nov 12!

Mon, Nov 9 (Regular; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1938, in a Holocaust foreshadowing, German Nazis terrorized Jewish people and destroyed their homes & businesses in Germany and Austria. The violence, which continued through Nov 10, was later dubbed "Kristallnacht," or "Night of Broken Glass," after the countless smashed windows of Jewish-owned businesses.
- **TDIH:** In 1989, the Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War.

Tue, Nov 10 (President's Assembly; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** In 1969, "Sesame Street," a TV show that would teach generations of children the alphabet and how to count, makes its debut with its memorable theme song ("Can you tell me how to get/How to get to Sesame Street"), SS is the most widely viewed children's program in the world, airing in more than 120 countries.
- **TDIH:** In 1942, following the British victory at El Alamein in North Africa during WW II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."
- **Tongue Twister Day:** Peter Piper and the girl selling sea shells by the seashore are child's play in comparison to what is considered, according to Guinness Book of World Records, the most difficult tongue twister in English: "The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick." Practice it!
- **Soccer & Basketball:** Meet the Team

Wed, Nov 11 (Veterans Day Assembly; C D E F)

- **Mass at 7 am:** come join us! It's over by 7:25.
- **TDIH:** At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, WW I ended, leaving 9 million soldiers & 5 million civilians dead and 21 million wounded. The "War to End All Wars" didn't. We pray for all who have served our country, especially those who made "the ultimate sacrifice." And we pray for an end to war.
- **National Young Readers Day:** READ today – both the young and the young at heart!
- **Marian Players:** *The Outsiders* opens tonight to the general public at 7 pm. Good luck, Marian Players!



Spanish club enjoys Mexican lunch after successful Dia de los Muertos ceremony.

Thu, Nov 12 (Special Blue Ribbon Assembly; G A B C)

- **DRESS UNIFORM DAY!**
- **Can parents come to BR Ceremony? Yes!**
- **TDIH:** In 1954, Ellis Island, gateway to America, closes; more than 12 million immigrants landed there since 1892.
- **Pizza with the Works except Anchovies Day:** Enjoy, but hold the anchovies.
- **Basketball:** Varsity in Tara Jamboree
- **Marian Players:** *The Outsiders* (7 pm)

Fri, Nov 13 (Regular; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1805, Johann George Lehner, a Viennese butcher, invented the "frankfurter." Enjoy a hot dog today!
- **TDIH:** In 1956, The US Supreme Court rules that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.
- **World Kindness Day:** perform an act of kindness today!
- **Wrestling:** JV in Brother Martin Tournament

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Sat, Nov 14

- **TDIH:** 1968, Yale University announced it was going co-ed. SPS has no plans to imitate Yale – although I did get a call last week asking if there was any way we would accept a girl!
- **TDIH:** Herman Melville's Moby Dick is first published. Can you recite the famous opening line? Answer at end.
- **TDIH:** French painter Claude Monet was born in 1840 He pioneered the impressionist style in his landscapes. See some Monet's works at <http://www.claudemonetgallery.org/the-complete-works.html>
- **National Loosen Up, Lighten Up Day:** loosen up today!
- **National American Teddy Bear Day:** I keep one in my office for those really tough days!
- **National Pickle Day:** If you like pickles, you're in luck: they're low in calories, have no fat and have probiotic benefits. Cucumbers were probably first pickled 4,500 years ago in Mesopotamia, and spread around the world across trade routes. Today, there are thousands of different types of pickles in the world's cuisine. Asia consumes more pickles per capita than any other region. Enjoy your favorite pickle today – but don't be one and stay out of 'em. (get it?) Interesting etymological fact: William Shakespeare actually coined the term "in a pickle" in his play, *The Tempest*. In Act V, King Alonso asks his jester, Trinculo, "How camest thou in this pickle?" What Alonso actually meant was "how did you get so drunk?" Shakespeare's original intent makes sense since many pickling processes used alcohol. Since Trinculo's drinking does cause trouble for him, the phrase morphed into meaning "being in trouble." And now you know!
- **National Spicy Guacamole Day:** Ole! Mix up a batch of spicy guacamole and have a "Guac 'n Roll" party with lots of rock and roll music and play games such as "Guac 'n Bowl" by using plastic water bottles as pins and clean, dried, avocado seeds as bowling balls!



Biomed IV student Austin presents his research project on the "effect of caffeine on adolescent males while multitasking"!

- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Brother Martin Tournament; Varsity in Mandeville Open
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity at Ocean Springs
- **Marian Players:** *The Outsiders* (7 pm)

Sun, Nov 15

- **TDIH:** In 1859, Charles Dickens's serialized novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*, comes to a close, as the final chapter is published. Can you quote the famous opening line? Answer at end of newsletter.
- **TDIH:** In 1864, during the Civil War, Union troops under Gen William T. Sherman burn Atlanta.
- **TDIH:** In 1969, the largest antiwar rally in US history occurred as 250,000 persons marched in Washington, DC to protest the Vietnam War.
- **TDIH:** In 1887, American artist Georgia

O'Keeffe (a fav of mine) was born. She favored flowers and desert landscapes. View some of Georgia's works at https://www.google.com/search?q=georgia+o%27keeffe&rlz=1C1VFKB_enUS647US647&espv=2&biw=1527&bih=863&tbm=isch&imgil=5QfE_Kf8rMsrzM%253A%253BcWz_u8MTdns6vM%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252Fwhitney.org%25252Fexhibitions%25252FGeorgiaOKeeffe&source=iu&pf=m&fir=5QfE_Kf8rMsrzM%253A%25252CcWz_u8MTdns6vM%252C_&dpr=1.1&usg=__xYMqKEEF1FV0JIOL5wwbZTss_N4%3D&ved=0CDkQyjdqFQoTCJK1h6PG9MgCFUhbHgodCRcIFg&ei=CdA4VtKMEsi2eYmuoLAB#imgrc=5QfE_Kf8rMsrzM%3A&usg=__xYMqKEEF1FV0JIOL5wwbZTss_N4%3D

- **National "I Love to Write" Day:** Write today – a poem, an email, a journal entry, a thought, a newsletter.... Enjoy!
- **National Recycling Day – pretty self explanatory! Think globally; act locally!**
- **Marian Players:** *The Outsiders* (3 pm)

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Errata: In last week's newsletter, I mistakenly identified Rudyard Kipling as the author of "I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree." Of course, the real author is Joyce Kilmer. Thanks to the alert reader [who just happens to be a retired English teacher!] who caught the error. The newsletter regrets this literary faux pas. And one mom said the newsletter overlooked that November is also National Novel Writing Month (affectionately known as NaNoWriMo)! Here's the website for you aspiring writers: <http://nanowrimo.org/> Again, the newsletter regrets the omission, which proves the old adage: it takes a village to produce a good newsletter!

Admissions: This is a big week in the Archdiocese. On Mon the 9th, the Office of Catholic Schools will release the "white card" – the official application to any Catholic high school in the Archdiocese. Students in Catholic elementary schools must return the white cards to their principals on Wed, and the elementary schools will then send the applications to the high schools on Fri. Thus, this Fri, we'll have a pretty good idea as to our enrollment for next year's 8th grade, as we also made Fri the application due date for the non-Catholic elementary students. Christ Episcopal had another Open House last week, Northlake Christian is working hard, and public schools are touting the latest release of state test scores. Our competition is tough. Even with our Blue Ribbon, we cannot afford to become complacent. Thanks for spreading the good news about SPS. **Encourage prospective families to file applications this week.** You are our greatest "advertising."

Musings on Last Week:

- **Dia de los Muertos:** Meaningful, as usual. Thanks to Liz Brett, the Spanish Club & Liturgical Band for this event, which grows yearly in impact. Other Lasallian schools were also observing this tradition. Here's an article on Cathedral High School in El Paso's Dia de los Muertos altar: <http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/life/people/2015/10/30/facesplaces-d-de-los-muertos/74704732/>
- **Football:** Congrats on final regular season win against Fontainebleau and a return to the District Championship. On to the playoffs!
- **CLs/ MWs/GBs:** rose to the occasion, too, on Friday night.
- **Field Trip:** Our Petroleum Engineering Wolves traveled to LSU school of PE last week. Very informative!
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Our final two HRBs went well. Thanks to all who attended; three down, two to go. In case you are interested, the words this quarter were *indomitable* (adj -- Incapable of being overcome, subdued, or vanquished; unconquerable); *pusillanimous* (adj -- Lacking in courage and resolution; contemptibly fearful; weak spirited); *rara avis* (noun -- A rare or special individual; and *nebbish* (noun -- A pitifully ineffectual, luckless, and timid person). Do not let a Saint Paul's student call you a pusillanimous nebbish and try to convince you it's a compliment!
- **Cross Country:** In Saturday's Metro Meet, the Wolves finished 4th – a strong showing in a strong field but not what they expected. That's OK. We will finish strong at state next week.. Find an opportunity to congratulate these Wolves – they work VERY hard and represent us well. It's a shame that the CC has few students cheering them on.
- **Religion Dept:** First Friday adoration went well. Thanks, religion dept.
- **ASPIRE Testing:** Counseling Dept did a GREAT job in administering this successor to PLAN. It's VERY complicated and the administration was a nightmare! All proctors reported that the sophomores were VERY cooperative!
- **SAT:** Again, Don Pressley and staff administered a problem-free test on Sat.



A poignant pic of Justin on Dia de los Muertos altar

- **Biomed 4 Projects:** Excellent presentations – from the effects of stress on heart rate to whether sugar or artificial sweetener is better for blood sugar levels! Thanks, Biomed Wolves!
- **Aqua Wolves Turkey Leg Classic:** The AWs swam well with many qualifiers for state!
- **Soccer:** Let the games begin! Didn't hear about results on Sat but I'm sure they did well.
- **Wrestling:** The grapplers did great against Jesuit in an outdoor match! And in the Rummel meet, 13 out of 14 Wolves finished in top 3. Watch the Wolves in the outdoor match at <https://youtu.be/QDiaIqpUdJA>
- **Spanish Club Lunch:** Ole! The boys enjoyed the meal – a reward for Dia le los Muertos!
- **Robotics:** I know something was going on but not sure what! But they were working hard on Sat!
- **Louisiana Scholastic Press Convention at LSU:** The Guerilla Wolves and Paper Wolf returned home with MANY awards! More info to come later when I have all the results. Want to see some of the GWs work? Here's the link to their show last Friday: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ooIxUp0a7k> And The Paper Wolf had a great article on The Super Six. Here's the link that that story, complete with video: <http://thepaperwolf.com/2015/11/03/super-six-the-good-the-bold-and-the-funky-video/>

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LHSAA: The third dual playoff system pairing takes place today, Sun, Nov 8. Not sure where the Wolves will end up in the "select" category, but we'll be ready.

US Public Becoming Less Religious: The Pew Research Center released a report last week that shows a modest drop since 2007 (the last time a report such as this was issued) in overall rates of religious belief and practice among Americans. The good news is that religiously affiliated Americans are as observant as ever. Among the findings:

- The share of Americans who say they are "absolutely certain" that God exists dropped eight percentage points, from 71% to 63% since 2007.
- The percentage of adults who describe themselves as "religiously affiliated" shrank six points since 2007, from 83% to 77%
- The shares of US adult population who consider religion "very important" to them, pray daily, and attend services at least once a month have declined between three and four percent over the last eight years.

You can read the more about the major findings at <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/11/03/u-s-public-becoming-less-religious/> Here at SPS, we are doing our best to counteract this disturbing trend.

Philosophy Dual Credit: Congrats to Austin Ashcraft who negotiated a dual credit opportunity with UNO for students in his philosophy class. For \$120, our guys can earn 3 college credit hours from UNO in Phil 2201 (Ethics). The UNO prof was impressed with Austin's curriculum. Of course, our boys have to pass. SPS marches on!

Food Drive: Student Council is hosting its annual Food Drive to benefit the Covington Food Bank. The drive began Mon, Nov 2 and runs until Tue, Nov 17. Students may bring non perishable goods to their classrooms for collection. Items that are requested include: canned fruit and vegetables, dried beans, rice, cake mix, pasta, canned meats,



Happy families await start of HR Breakfast – hungry for the food (courtesy of La Lou restaurant in Mandeville) and for the vocabulary words, too!

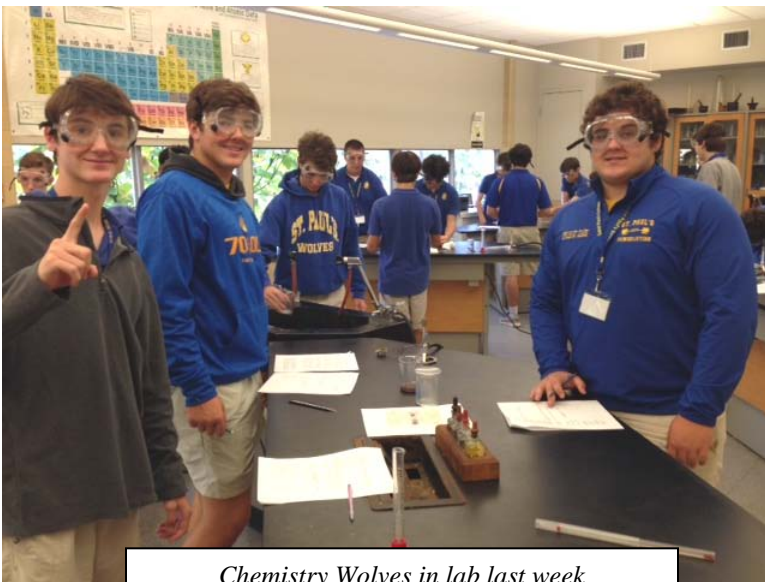
and peanut butter (plastic jars only, please.) Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

Reminder about Important Driver's License Requirement: Remember that 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. Any SPS student needing this form should come to Counseling Office or Administration Building Office to request the form. You won't be able to get a license without one!

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Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School's 8th Annual Christmas Market info:

- When: Thu, Dec 3, 3-8 pm and Fri, Dec 4, 12-8 pm
- Location: Church Parish Center, 1501 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville
- Santa will be available for pictures from 5-7 pm
- Admission: nonperishable item or monetary donation to benefit The Samaritan Center
- All are Welcome!
- Vendors include: Abba Dabba Beads, Young Living, Catholic Creations, All Wrapped Up, Twisted Peppermint, Susan Lange Designs, Origami; Owl Custom Jewelry, Thirty-One Gifts



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

The Paper Wolf: The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf. Here's the link: www.thepaperwolf.com.

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. The tutors are friendly and helpful!

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, NO CELL PHONE USE DURING SCHOOL ZONE TIMES, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

Newsletter Delivery: While I follow the same procedure each Sunday morning in sending the newsletter, I sometimes hear from a parent that he or she didn't receive it. My usual reply is that you should rejoice -- and then I re-send it. I have no idea why this happens. In any event, if you don't receive yours on Sunday morning (I usually aim for 7 am) and you actually want it, either email me or check our website. I always (well, almost always!) post a copy on the website (www.stpauls.com) under "news."

Attendance Office Issues: Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. The road construction on Hwy 21 (aka Tyler) is causing many students to be tardy. While we are trying to be understanding, the construction will be ongoing for a while, so students need to start leaving earlier. We are going to stop excusing these tardies. Also, 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 son 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.

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Quote of the Week: *The Church's first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy, to call to conversion, and to lead all men and women to salvation in the Lord.* -- Pope Francis in his closing remarks on the recent Synod on the Family



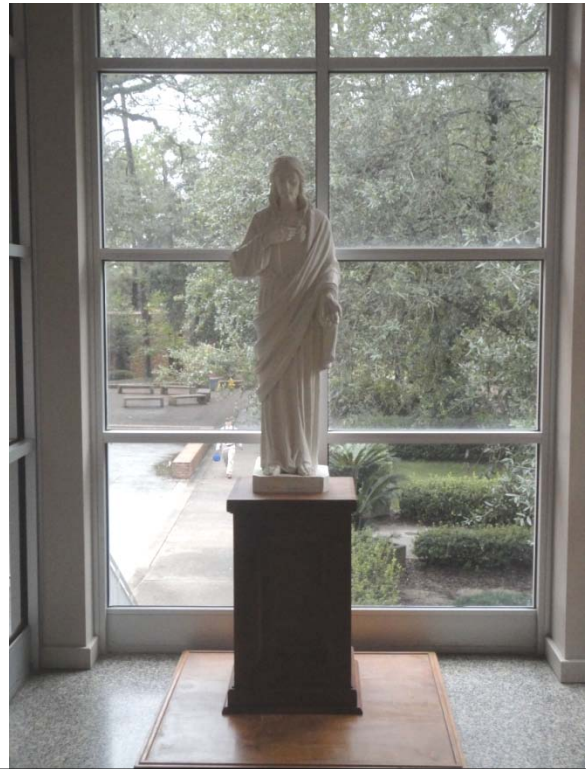
Petroleum Engineering Class visited LSU School of Petroleum Engineering last week.

Humor of the Week: Some useful measurement conversion units:

- *Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter: Eskimo Pi*
- *2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital: 1 I.V. League*
- *2000 pounds of Chinese soup: Won ton*
- *1 millionth ounce of mouthwash: 1 microscope*
- *Speed of a tortoise breaking the sound barrier: Mach Turtle*
- *Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour: Knot furlong*
- *365 days of drinking low calorie beer because it's less filling: 1 lite year*
- *16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone: 1 Rod Sterling*
- *Half of a large intestine: 1 semicolon [hilarious!]*
- *1000 aches: 1 megahertz*
- *Weight an evangelist carries with God: 1 billigram [LOL!]*
- *Basic unit of laryngitis: 1 hoarse power*
- *Shortest distance between two jokes: A straight line*
- *Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement: bananosecond [who thinks of these things?]*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

A Look Ahead

Nov 9 – ~~Late Start~~ – **Canceled; regular start time!**
Nov 10 – President’s Assembly
Nov 11 – Veteran’s Day Assembly
Nov 12 – Blue Ribbon Day! **Dress uniform required!**
Nov 17 – Pack Time
Nov 18 – Thanksgiving Prayer Service schedule
Nov 19 – Blood Drive on Campus
Dec 1 – President’s Assembly
Dec 8 – Pack Time (Luminaria bags) Mass Schedule
Dec 10 – Snack Day – Luminarias in the evening
Dec 12 – ACT on Campus
Dec 15-18- Exam Schedules
Jan 4 – ABCD
Jan 5 – President’s Assembly -Snack Day
Jan 6-8 Senior Retreat
Jan 12 – Pack Time
Jan 19 – President’s Assembly
Jan 20 – 9th Grade PLAN Test
Jan 21-22 – 9th Grade Retreat



View from second floor of main school building.

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Answer to Sat TDIH question: The opening line to Moby Dick is: *Call me Ishmael.* It’s considered one of the best opening lines ever.

Answer to Sun TDIH question: *A Tale of Two Cities* begins with one of the most famous opening lines in the history of literature: *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way...*

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

Pray that things go well! We’re already reached the fifth 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 2015-16 edition of Saint Paul’s – our 104th year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Giving Thanks in November That I’m Still the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

"Young people are not bad because they have bad hearts. They are bad because of bad example. As teachers, you have no greater responsibility than to give your students good example."

Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers, c.1705 Meditations for Sundays

Did I mention that we have a dress uniform day for our Blue Ribbon Ceremony on Thursday, Nov 12?



...and doing ordinary things extraordinarily well by making courageous choices and doing God's will!

