

Warning: this is a very long newsletter so get another cup of coffee to stay awake and feel free to take breaks! But you are in luck: no newsletter next Sunday!



The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter *Nov 16 – 29, 2015*



In school & country, we are blessed with abundance. And so my final pre-Thanksgiving message concerns the same one I give each year at this time: the Lasallian commitment to the poor.



St. La Salle distributes bread to the poor of his day.

This commitment to the poor began with John Baptist de La Salle. The first schools were endowed parish charity schools, operating on shoestring budgets and often located in less desirable parts of town. Both rich and poor were welcome, provided all agreed to be treated as equals – revolutionary in those days! All were important.

Equally revolutionary was de La Salle's insistence on partiality. We often speak of the need for impartiality in dealings with students. Actually, St. de La Salle was very partial. Partiality was shown to those with less attractive qualities; they were to receive the most attention. Those with the least talents were to be supported and encouraged. Those who had extra food were to share it with those who had little. De La Salle was convinced that the poor needed the schools the most. The curriculum, therefore, combined practical & religious training, designed to help the poor succeed. Thus, service to the poor, both directly and indirectly, must be present at SPS if we are to be faithful Lasallians.

But it's not just Saint La Salle's thinking that compels us to care for the poor. Indeed, the **Concern for the Poor and Social Justice** is at the heart of Catholic social teaching. The United States bishops write: *In a world characterized by growing prosperity for some and pervasive poverty for others, Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.*

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, let us be mindful of those who are not blessed with material comfort. Let us strive to reach out to them. Let us find ways to welcome them to SPS.

Mon, Nov 16 (Regular; A B C D)

- **Feast of the Blessed Christian Brother Martyrs of Almeria:** Brothers José Cecilio, Aurelio María, Amalio, Valerio Bernardo, Edmigio Primo, Evencio Ricardo, & Teodomiro Joaquin. *Shortly after the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in 1936, the Popular Front in the Province of Almería gave orders to arrest...priests and religious. Five Brothers were arrested at school; two were taken in the street while on their way to mail letters to their families. The Brothers were condemned to death without trial for the crime of professing and teaching the Catholic faith.* (from the Christian Brothers Website) May the Blessed Brothers of Almeria bless SPS!
- **UN International Day for Tolerance:** let's practice tolerance today – everywhere.
- **Take A Hike Day** is either about going for an exhilarating walk, or telling somebody to get lost – I'll leave the interpretation up to you! Feel free to tell me to get lost.
- **Cross Country** leaves for state meet in Natchitoches today; they return Tue night.



- **Bowling Tryouts**
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Grace King (5:30 & 7)

Tue, Nov 17 (Wolf Pack; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1553, the Elizabethan Age begins when Queen Mary I dies and is succeeded by her 25-year-old half-sister, Elizabeth. William Shakespeare will be born eleven years later in 1564.
- **Homemade Bread Day:** Bake bread today! A great family activity!
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV & Varsity at Parkview Baptist
- **Cross Country:** Varsity runs in state meet; Geaux CC Wolves!

Wed, Nov 18 (Thanksgiving Prayer Service; B C D E)

- **Mass: 7 am start; 7:30 end; come join us!**
- **This Day in History:** The Walt Disney Company gives today as Mickey's exact birth date -- the release date of *Steamboat Willie*, his debut film. Happy Birthday Mickey! Celebrate by watching a MM cartoon.
- **Basketball:** 8th at Boyet (5)
- **Dads Club Meeting (7 at Abita Brewery Visitor's Center) – all dads are invited**



Pre-freshmen conduct experiment in Hornbeck Offshore Gateway to Technology class!

Thu, Nov 19 (Regular; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** in 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivers The Gettysburg Address which consists of only 272 words yet is considered one of the most famous speeches in history. (Can you quote the first two lines?) Actually, the whole address is worth reading – better yet, hearing. Below is a link to an audio and text version of the address (you have your choice of speakers ranging from Johnny Cash to Colin Powell to Sam Waterston. I listened to both Colin and Sam.) After reading along while listening, you will be moved. At a time when our country seems more divided than ever, I STRONGLY encourage you to listen to President Lincoln and pray for our country. After listening, you can then click on the link at the bottom and see a copy of Lincoln's original copy. **I encourage ALL social studies classes today to study this important speech and make modern day connections.** Here's the link:
<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/gettysburgaddress.htm>
- **TDIH II:** Not nearly as important as The Gettysburg Address, but on this day in 1959, Rocky & Bullwinkle -- the most famous squirrel/moose combo in history – debuted. Who can forget Boris Badenov and Natasha Fatale, Dudley Do-Right, Peabody and Sherman, and Aesop and Son? Watch an episode or two on YouTube and howl!
- **“Have a Bad Day” Day:** Believe it or not, “*Have a Bad Day*” Day was created to have people stop saying "have a good day", and replace it with "have a bad day". DO NOT celebrate this day!
- **World Toilet Day:** The World Toilet Organization (who knew?) created WTD to raise global awareness of the struggle 2.6 billion face every day without access to proper, clean sanitation. WTD also brings to the forefront the health, emotional and psychological consequences the poor endure as a result of inadequate sanitation. Wow. It's amazing the things we take for granted. Remember this as we use this incredible device today.
- **Heuther Conference:** Jeff Ramon and Austin Ashcraft will represent SPS at this annual gathering of hundreds of Lasallians from throughout the region. They meet this year in Chicago with the theme *Lasallian Educational Community: Hands and Hearts Associated for Mission*. Thanks, guys, for going!
- **Blood Drive on campus today.** Give the gift of life! See below for more info.
- **Soccer:** JV v. Mandeville (CYSA)

Fri, Nov 20 (Regular; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1982, the Cal football team wins an improbable last-second victory over Stanford when they complete five lateral passes around members of the Cardinals' marching band, who had wandered onto the field a bit early to celebrate the upset they were sure their team had won, and score a touchdown. After catching the last pass of the series, Cal's Kevin Moen careened through the confused horn section and made it safely to the end zone. Then he slammed into trombone player Gary Tyrell. (A photograph from the *Oakland Tribune* of the jubilant Moen and the terrified Tyrell in the moment just before the collision is still displayed triumphantly all over Berkeley.) "The Play," as it became known remains one of the most famous in college football history. Wanna see it? Here's a link: <http://www.topendsports.com/videos/829/sports/american-football/play-1982-california-stanford-football-game/>
- **Thanksgiving Holidays** begin at 3:00 and end at **7:45 am on Mon, Nov 30!**
- **Soccer:** Varsity in St. Amant Tournament
- **Wrestling:** Varsity leaves for Woodward Duals in Atlanta
- **Swimming:** State Meet at Sulphur through Saturday; team leaves this morning.
- **Football:** Quarterfinal State Playoff game: Wolves v. John Curtis (7)



Env Sci Wolves plant trees in our man-made wetlands area behind new gym, under the direction of Botanical Wolves leader Linda Trahan.

Sat, Nov 21

- **TDI H:** In 1691, things were not going well in the newly found Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. I quote from Brother Donald Mouton, a Lasallian scholar: *The group of teachers founded by John Baptist de La Salle was in a precarious situation. Personal antagonisms, opposition to the Founder's work, internal problems, and fragile health that almost led to his death toward the end of 1690 posed critical questions for De La Salle as to the very future of his enterprise. In this crisis, De La Salle decided to bind himself by vow with two other Brothers, Nicolas Vuyart and Gabriel Drolin, to establish the Society of the Christian Schools at whatever the cost might be, even if all others should abandon it. This "vow of association and union" pronounced on November 21, 1691, often referred to as the "heroic vow" was an act of hope at a time when the work of the early Brothers was in serious jeopardy.* Today, when times seem tough, the Brothers often refer to this milestone in our history. We give thanks for the "heroic vow"! Because of it, we're still around!
- **Great American Smokeout Day:** The American Cancer Society marks the 38th GAS Day today by encouraging smokers to use today to plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking that day. By quitting — even for one day — smokers will be taking an important step towards a healthier life — one that can lead to reducing cancer risk. And let's extend this to e-smoking, too! Remember to remain vigilant on "pen sucking."
- **Family Volunteer Day:** This annual day of service, held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, celebrates families who volunteer together to support their community.
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Rummel Tournament; Varsity in Woodward Duals in Atlanta
- **Basketball:** 9th in Lakeshore Tournament
- **Soccer:** 8th v. Brother Martin 11); Varsity in St. Amant Tournament
- **Swimming:** State Finals in Sulphur

Sun, Nov 22

- **Feast of Christ the King: Christus Vincit! Christus Regnat! Christus Imperat!** We encourage our Catholic families to attend mass on this special day and our other families to worship at church of choice.

- **TDIH:** In 1963, at 12:30 p.m. on Elm Street in downtown Dallas, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the youngest man ever elected president, is assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald. The President was struck in the back, then in the head. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital where fifteen doctors tried to save him. At 1 p.m., the President the 35th President of the United States was pronounced dead. On board Air Force One, at 2:38 p.m., Lyndon Baines Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President. Camelot ends and America changes forever (Yes, I know that's editorializing!) Like most Baby Boomers, I can vividly recall exactly where I was when we got the news!

Mon, Nov 23 – Sun, Nov 29 – Thanksgiving Holidays! Enjoy! Note: Now that we are on Thanksgiving holiday, the newsletter won't list all the many, many events (mostly sports – related) for next week. The newsletter is tired and needs a break and, hence, won't publish next Sunday. Check the web site for all the schedules. Thanks!

Thanksgiving Holidays: School offices will be closed during the Thanksgiving holidays. Anticipate needs before Friday – especially the new form for a driver's license. I will be around, if needed, most of the holiday week so feel free to call on me (phone or email) if you need something, but there's no guarantee I'll know how to help. Thanks for your understanding the need for the staff to have a break. They will not be responding to questions about grades, etc.

Blood Drive: Saint Paul's will be hosting its annual Blood Drive on Thursday, November 19th from 8:00am to 2:30 pm. You must be sixteen to donate and weigh 110 pounds. If you are an athlete having practice you may not donate. Permission slips for students 16 and 17 are located on the table across from Mrs. Erin's office. 18 year students do not need a permission slip. Please eat a good breakfast before donating, and you must bring a photo id. Please sign for an appointment time on the table in Mrs. Erin's office. Donors will receive one service hour. Each pint of blood saves three lives. Please contact Ms. Hebert with questions.



Officer Corps for the LA 41st AFJROTC program at SPS following the Veterans Day ceremony last week!

Greater Lasallian World Dept: The residence of the Mullen High School Brothers Community in Denver was damaged by fire on November 10. The Community's three Brothers were uninjured by the accidental blaze, which destroyed the garage and both Community cars. Parts of the kitchen and dining room sustained limited damage, and smoke inundated most of the residence. The Brothers, as well as the District Director of Communications' office, have relocated to temporary accommodations. Damage assessment is underway.

C & V: As we approach holidays, remember John Baptist De La Salle's concerns: care & vigilance – our mantras this week. **Know that we will be extra vigilant this week and will teach all the way through 3 pm on Friday. Parents: please encourage your sons to be worthy of our Blue Ribbon this week and do not even think about celebrating the holidays until Friday at 3. We will not slack off!**

Blue Ribbon Assembly: Our assembly was incredible. Here's an annotated program:

Master of Ceremonies..... Luke Avenel '16

- **Welcome & Introduction of Guests**.....Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC [Our guests included Covington Mayor Mike Cooper, Covington Police Chief Tim Lentz, Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools Jack Truxillo, Office of Catholic Schools Director of Marketing Donna Wallace, SPS Trustees Todd Richard, Adrienne Baumgartner, David Briggs, Barry Morse, Teddy Barkerding and Michael Sciortino, former long-time SPS teachers Judy Lacour, Ann Forster, Françoise Butchart, Jon Craig and Merle Dooley, Kehoe-France Northshore Administrators Kie France and Brad Humphrey, Direct of Education for San Francisco New Orleans Province of Christian Brothers Charles Legendre and Saint Scholastica President Dr. Elizabeth “Cissy” Lafarge.]
- **Opening Songs**
 - *Honneur a toi, glorieux de La Salle. Apotre des enfants et gardien de leur foi. Vainquer de l'ignorance, a l'ame si fatale. Honneu a toi, Honneur a toi! O toi que les elus comme nous applaudissent Et chantent triomphant dans les parvis due ciel Exalter ta gloire ici nos voix s'unissent Avec transport au cantique eternal*
 - *Rise up O men of God! Have done with lesser things; Give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of Kings. Rise up O men of God! His kingdom tarries long. Bring in the day of brotherhood and end the night of wrong. Lift high the cross of Christ. Tread where His feet have trod. As brothers of the Son of Man, rise up O men of God!*
- **First Reading**.....Oliver Guice '16
- **Responsorial Psalm**.....”Here I am Lord”
 - *I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them, whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me; I will hold your people in my heart I the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain; I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone; give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my words to them. Whom shall I send? I the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them; my hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied I will give my life to them; whom shall I send?*
- **Gospel Acclamation**..... “Word of God Enthroned”
 - *Word of God enthroned, dwell in us forevermore, love has come to show the way! Alleluia! Peace be with us, love has come to show the way! With one voice the angels sing/ songs that make creation ring. Prophets hear and call us to/ live in Spirit and in truth. Word of God....*
- **Gospel**..... Alex Oliveri '17
- **Student Reflection**.....John Cresson '16
- **Intercessions**.....Student Council Executive Committee (Leland van Deventer, Adam Schmitt, Will Murphy & Logan Haydel)
 - *We praise you O Lord; for all your works are wonderful We praise you O Lord; forever is your love.*

- **Mayor's Remarks***The Honorable Mike Cooper, '71* [The Mayor issued a mayoral proclamation naming November 12, 2015 as Saint Paul's School Blue Ribbon Day in the City of Covington.]
- **Office of Catholic Schools Remarks**.....*Mr. Jack Truxillo Associate Superintendent*
- **Ave Maria***Kurt Thompson '16* [who received a standing ovation!]
- **Presentation of Blue Ribbon Award** [We watched a video of Trevor and Joe receiving the award in DC; they then presented the plaque, banner and flag to the class officers, who then “second lined” around the Briggs Assembly Center while the SPS Brass Band played celebratory music!]
- **Retired Christian Brothers Response**.....*Brother Jerry Vincent, FSC* [The retired brothers proclaimed a holiday – which will be April 22—and an early dismissal on Friday!]
- **Closing Song**..... *“O God Beyond All Praising”*
 - *O God beyond all praising, we worship you today. And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay. For we can only wonder at every gift you send. At blessings without number and mercies without end. We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word. We honor and adore you our great and Mighty Lord. Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring. That we who know your favor may serve you as our king. And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, We'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still. To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*
- We then dismissed the boys for a snack prepared by the SPS Mothers Club: donuts (with blue icing!) and milk. They consumed 1800 donuts! Thank you, MC! The faculty was treated to a special lunch that day, too -- chicken cordon bleu in keeping with the theme! Again, thank you, Mothers Club!

Musings on Last Week:

- **Veterans Day Assembly:** Thanks to Sgt. East and the LA 41st for the meaningful program. I thought the students responded well. And thanks to our SPS vets: Sgt. East, Sgt. Pressley, Tommy Lahey and Brother Duane Gregory (Hope I didn't forget anyone!) Hope your son told you great things about it!
- **The Outsiders:** Congrats to Denny and The Marian Players for an outstanding run of the play, which had sold out audiences every night. Well done!
- **Athletic Signings:** Congrats to Hunter Romero & Bradley Yaeger who signed baseball commitments to Spring Hill for next year. Thanks to Karen Hebert for arranging the ceremony.
- **Basketball:** Congrats on a strong scrimmage win!
- **Soccer**
- **Wrestling:** Wrestlers were active on Sat with varsity at Mandeville and Jr Hi & JV at Brother Martin.
- **Fighting Math Wolves:** 43 FMWs were up early Sat, heading to Ben Franklin Math Tournament. It was an impressive and wonderful sight to see them off! They returned with lots of gold.
- **Hunter Stadium:** WGNO TV did a feature on Hunter Stadium last Friday. They interviewed Joe Hunter, son of the late Dr. Patrick Hunter for whom the stadium is named, and father of senior Michael Hunter. Brother Jeffrey was also



interviewed as he was the principal of SPS at the time and was responsible for the stadium being named in Dr. Hunter's honor. The good doc had five sons graduate from here and was the team physician for MANY years, providing untold hours of professional services. He also was on call for the Brothers and the boarding students as his office was right by the hospital. He was the consummate gentleman and espoused the values which we hold dear. I'm glad the greater New Orleans area will soon learn about this man. We are honored to have his grandson as a senior!

- **Robotics:** The Robo Wolves were also active, heading somewhere but I don't have details yet!

Last Tuesday's Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Nov 10 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to a stirring rendition of the John Philip Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever*, designated by an Act of Congress as our National March. We listened to this patriotic song since it was the day before Veterans Day – a day on which we honor all those who helped protect the freedom we enjoy! I reminded the students of the story of how Sousa composed this stirring march while in Europe on Christmas Day in 1896 in honor of a deceased friend. Amazingly, he composed it in his head and didn't commit it to paper until his return to the US several weeks later. What a genius!
- Prayed in a special way, as the prayer candle was lit by junior **Christian Rabalasi**, for all the intentions which we brought into the gym that morning. In a special way, we prayer for **Mrs. Margie Quinlan Gravois**, paternal grandmother of **Charlie & Colin Quinlan**; **Mrs. Joan Marcotte**, grandmother of **Matthew Stalter**; & Mr. **Kerry Polk, cousin of freshman Spencer Fox**, who died in a boating mishap.
- We then welcomed representatives from Metairie Bank who made a presentation of \$250 to The Guerilla Wolves, which represented the 3rd place prize in a recent video contest sponsored by the bank. We then showed the video, which focused on our food drive, to the entire student body. It was great.
- Recognized and congratulated senior Parker Layman whose film "The Great Snack Caper" won first place in the Ponchartrain Film Festival.
- Recognized and thanked all the student hosts who helped at our recent Open House. Recognized and congratulated the six student speakers on that day: **John Cresson, Luke Avenel, Patrick Napier, Adam Schmitt, Yehia Elkersh, & Will Murphy**
- Recognized and congratulated the students who participated in the Cyber Discovery Camp at LA Tech in June: St. Paul's sent a team to the 2015 Cyber Discovery Camp at Louisiana Tech University, a program sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security. At the end of the week, the Wolves were crowned as the champions of the event and received an award of \$1,250 for the school! The team consisted of the following students: **Jacob Coutrado, Tonner Dougherty, Lester Guttuso, Forge Mathes, and Andy Smith**. Mr. Winston Capps and Mr. Matt Pinero moderated the team. The camp was an intense, multi-disciplinary camp that ran from 7:00am to 11:00pm for a week. The core curriculum of the camp focused on computer coding, robotics, cryptography (the breaking of codes), architectural design, drama, and essay



Reps from Metairie Bank present the Guerilla Wolves with \$250 3rd place prize in their recent community service video contest.

writing. The team was successful in every event but earned the bulk of its points in the four essay competitions, the cyber fort design, and the cryptography challenge. The team won the essay competition every day of the event and won the award for best fort design. And Mr. Pinero wrote me the following: *Although what our guys did in the classroom and in the robotics competitions was impressive, perhaps the most impressive thing they did was win over the support of the other teams. They befriended a number of students from other teams by continually helping them in any way they could. This all paid off in the final competition. In the final competition the teams' robots had to collect marbles and return them to their forts. The team that returned the most marbles would win. Going into the last round our team was winning by four points over Catholic High, and 100 points would go to the winner of the round. Catholic had purchased a 30 second head start for the round in the camp auction, so we were at a disadvantage. Without being asked, both NOMMA and Southwood sacrificed their own success and used their robots to help bring marbles to our fort and block other teams from intervening. These schools wanted us to win because they respected our students and became friends with them. That, to me, was more impressive than anything else we had accomplished in the camp.*

- Recognized and congratulated the many, many students who helped conduct the annual SPS Math Tournament. Individual winners included Adam Smith (1st in Pre-Algebra), Ben Klein (3rd Place in Pre-Algebra), Jonathan Bertucci (1st in Algebra I); Josh Devier (HM in Algebra I), Lenny Carollo (2nd in Potpourri), Jack Pellegrini (3rd in Potpourri). Team winners were Sean Hightower, Jesse Cheng, Adam Smith, & Collin Murray who won 1st in Pre-Algebra; Marshall Unkauf, Andrew Aceves, & Corbin Chitwood who won 2nd in Pre-Algebra; and John Paul Bourgeois, Chris Wilson, Beau Franklin, & Blake Ramsay who won third in Algebra I. We placed 2nd in the Whole School Test and 3rd in the Sweepstakes Division. Because it's our tournament, we do not enter students in any level of math above Algebra I. So we did pretty good with so few students participating!



John, Patrick, Adam, Luke, Will, & Yaheia gave outstanding talks at our recent Open House.

- Then, as if by magic, The Ride of the Valkyries from Richard Wagner's famous Ring of the Nibelung started playing: – which signals that the **Varsity Football Wolves** had done something pretty significant; in this case, they polished off two more district opponents, Mandeville and Ponchatoula, which clinched the District Championship for SPS.
- Then, as if by more magic, The William Tell Overture by Gioacchino Antonio Rossini (an Italian baroque composer from 1792–1868) started playing – which signals that the **Cross Country Wolves** are off and running. I

- Varsity: DISTRICT CHAMPIONS with Eric Coston finishing 1st and Spencer Albright, Stephen Schlottman and Henry Elliott finishing in the top ten.
- Junior Varsity: DISTRICT CHAMPIONS with Max Egan finishing first and Jack Verrret, Frankie Durio, Chris Weintritt, Austin Harris, Will Harp, Evan Vamprine, Patrick Napier & Bryce Smith in the top ten. In fact, the JV finished with a perfect score of 15 – the lowest score you can earn in CC, meaning that the top five finishers in the race were Wolves. Well done! The future looks bright for SPS Cross Country!

- Recognized and congratulated **The Marian Players** as they prepare to open “The Outsiders.” This popular play is always a sellout, and I encouraged the students to purchase their tickets early.
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- Ran out of time before I could do any more recognitions – which will “roll over” to the next assembly! But since it was Veterans Day eve, I had the student robustly sing our National Anthem, after instructing them on proper etiquette when the anthem is played: hand over heart, stand at attention, take off any headgear. We then robustly sang the Fight Song for all of the activities going on around school.
- As the prayer candle was extinguished by junior **Alex Nunez**, I reminded the students that they must leave the gym and be the Light of God to all whom they meet. The students exited to the strains of “Stars and Stripes Forever” by John Philip Sousa. It was a great assembly! At least I thought so!

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, and peanut butter. 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!

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!

New Admissions for 2016-17: Applications for new students for next year are due. Students in Catholic schools should have followed the guidelines of the Archdiocese through their elementary school. Students not in Catholic elementary schools apply directly to SPS. PLEASE encourage any family interested in SPS to apply this week. There is NO commitment at this time on either the family or SPS. By applying, the door is kept open for eventual admission and enrollment. We need all our families to spread the good news about SPS. We count on you.

Warm Hearts Drive: Upon return from Thanksgiving Holidays, we will conduct our annual Warm Hearts Drive, collecting used warm clothing for the needy. Be prepared to send usable but no longer needed sweaters, jackets, blankets, gloves – anything that can help someone stay warm this winter. Thanks, Lasallian Young Leaders, for this service.

Humor of the Week in honor of Thanksgiving, here are my annual Thanksgiving jokes:

- *What kind of music did the Pilgrims like? Plymouth Rock*
- *If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Pilgrims*
- *Why can't you take a turkey to church? They use FOWL language.*
- *Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive? It had 24 carrots.*
- *What happened when the turkey got into a fight? He got the stuffing knocked out of him!*
- *What do you get when you cross a turkey with a banjo? A turkey that can pluck itself!*
- *Who doesn't eat on Thanksgiving? A turkey, because it is always stuffed.*
- *Why did the Pilgrims sail to America in the spring? Because April showers bring Mayflowers!*
- *If the Pilgrims were alive today, what would they be most famous for? Their AGE!*
- *Why do pilgrims pants keep falling down? Because their belt buckles are on their hats!*
- *Why did they let the turkey join the band? Because he had the drumsticks*
- *Mother turkey to her disobedient child? "If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!"*
- *Why did the police arrest the turkey? They suspected it of fowl play*
- *What's the key to a great Thanksgiving dinner? The turKEY*
- *What did the turkey say before it was roasted? Boy! I'm stuffed!*
- *What did baby corn say to mama corn? Where's popcorn?*
- *What happened to the Pilgrim who was shot at by an Indian? He had an arrow escape*
- *Where did the first corn come from? The stalk brought it!*
- *Why did the turkey join the band? Because he had drumsticks!*
- *Why do turkeys always go, "gobble, gobble"? Because they never learned good table manners!*
- *What sound does a space turkey make? A: Hubble, Hubble, Hubble!*
- *Why did the turkey cross the road? It was the chicken's day off!*
- *What's the best dance to do on Thanksgiving? The turkey trot!*
- *Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building? Yes - a building can't jump at all!*
- *What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus? Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving!*



- *How can you make a turkey float? You need 2 scoops of ice cream, some root beer, and a turkey!*
- *How did the Mayflower show that it liked America? It hugged the shore!*
- *OK, I'll stop! Happy Thanksgiving!*

John Cresson's Reflection: I hope your son told you about John Cresson's talk at our Blue Ribbon assembly last Thu. It was outstanding – not only in content but in presentation, complete with JFKesque gestures. It's worth a read:

Honored guests, faculty, staff, and most of all students of St. Paul's:

Today we mark a milestone in our storied 104 year history. Today, we celebrate an award that was not made to us as individuals, but, rather, to us as a community. It is not something we have, like presidential scholar, or a national merit finalist, but something we are. We are a national Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. It is something that we can all take pride in, because we all contributed to it, students and faculty alike.

This is an award that serves to memorialize our past, celebrate the present, and propel us into the future.

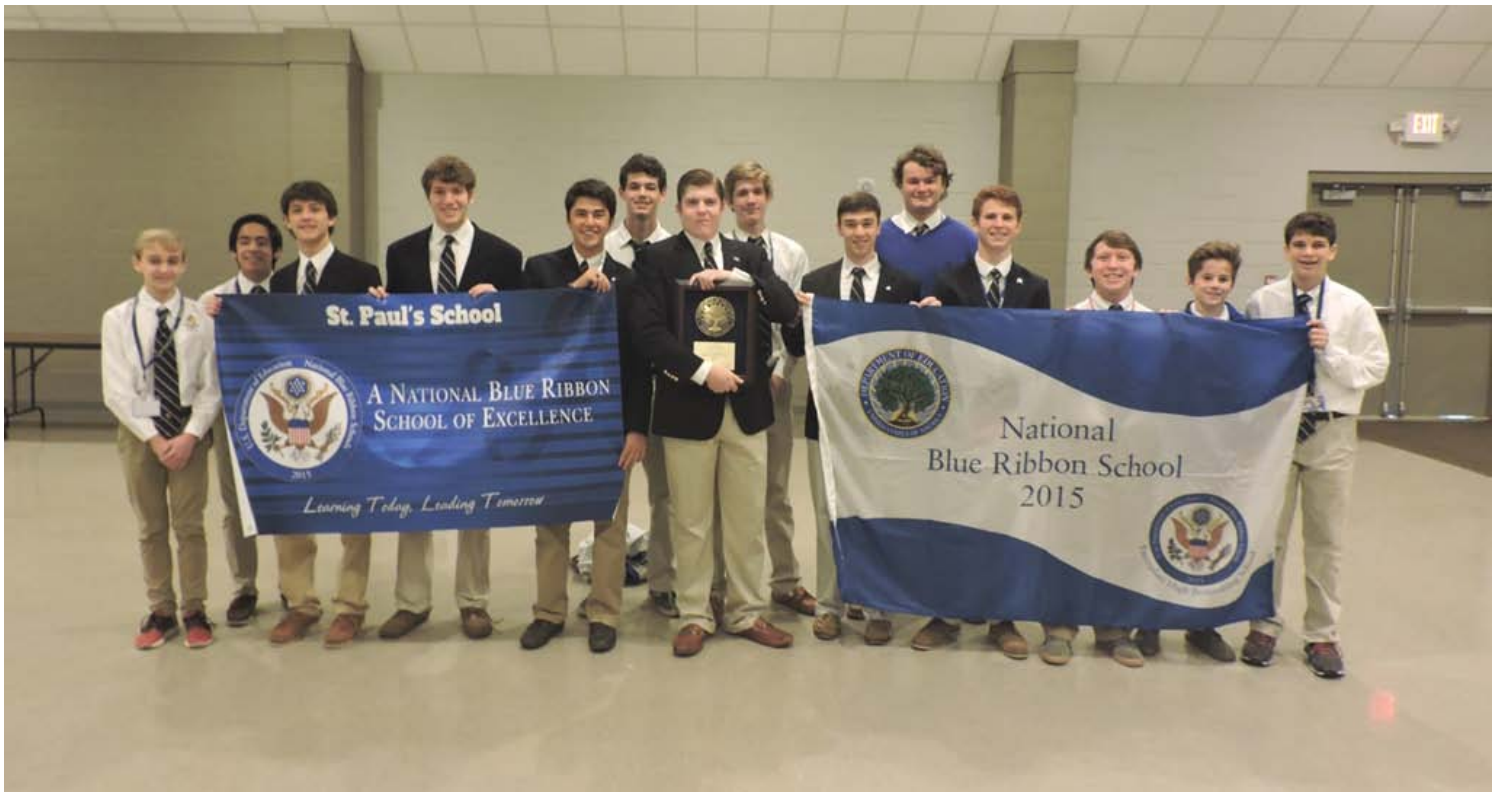
This blue ribbon remembers all the hard work of the Christian Brothers and lay teachers of the past who established the foundation of this school, a foundation which all those who have followed have only solidified and built upon. It remembers the thousands of students, now proud alumni, who have walked these beautiful grounds and have helped make St. Paul's what it is today. They set academic precedents, created new clubs and sports, and established the traditions that we now hold dear to our hearts.

This accolade celebrates where we stand today. It celebrates the hard work of Brother Ray and the administrators whose drive and vision have grown and transformed St. Paul's into the exemplary school that we have come to experience. It celebrates the dedication of our current teachers who help us students to grow not only academically, but also, and more importantly, as men of God. I believe that it is due to the hard work and caring attitudes of the teachers that we have reason to celebrate in this assembly center. Lastly, this award celebrates us, the current students of St. Paul's whose different passions and talents and characteristics have created a diverse, intellectual, friendly, encouraging, and brotherly environment. I have no doubt that this environment contributed greatly to us receiving this award.

And finally, this award propels us into the future. We do not stop to celebrate, but celebrate as we begin because with this achievement we turn the page and begin to pen a new chapter in St. Paul's history. A chapter in which years from now the halls will be crowded with students, where teachers push their students to work harder and to go further and to continue to reach for the stars, and where students are state champions in math and football alike. The possibilities are endless, but amidst this change, amidst this progress, the mission of St. Paul's endures.

As a student (and faculty member I'm sure) it is truly an exciting time to be at St. Paul's. It is exciting to remember and glorify the past. It is exciting to celebrate and live in the present. And it is exciting to consider the future. It is truly exciting to say with pride and passion to say that we are a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

Thank you, John, for helping make our Blue Ribbon Ceremony so special!



A Look Ahead

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

Whew! I’ve really taxed you this week! **But you get a break next Sunday as the newsletter goes on a much needed Thanksgiving holiday! Enjoy your next Sunday morning without my musings!**

As usual, I’ll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I’m listening to now and LOLing): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Let me know if there’s an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

Pray that things go well! We're already reached the sixth 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

Grateful that I've Made It to Thanksgiving as 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



...and doing ordinary things extraordinarily well by making courageous choices and doing God's will – and which has earned us a 2015 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award!

