



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*

January 4 – 10, 2016 in the Year of Mercy



Welcome back to school and Happy 2016 – the fifth full year of our second century! I hope your holidays were physically renewing and spiritually fulfilling and that you have entered the New Year with hope, optimism, faith, and zeal. I hope, too, that your family grew closer during these special days. I know you've missed the weekly newsletter during the holidays, so here's the first edition of 2016.

In his meditation for January 1, Saint John Baptist de La Salle bluntly asks the first Brothers the following questions:

- *Is it only in vain that you live the name of Christian and minister of Jesus in the work that you do?*
- *Do you live in a manner that befits these glorious names? Do you instruct those for whom you are responsible with the attention and the zeal God asks of you in so holy a work?*

He then reminds the first Brothers (and us today) to make the following New Year's resolutions:

- *Act in a way that your life may begin today to be holy and edifying and continue to be so in the future.*
- ***By your good conduct, make yourself worthy of your distinguished role.***

These sound like good resolutions to me! And while they were written for the first Brothers, they apply equally to parents, the primary educators of their children. Let's pray for the grace to put these resolutions into practice!



At our opening of school prayer service last August, Student Council President Leland van Deventer challenged the faculty to make the most of the 2015-16 year. He exhorted us to do our best to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care. He encouraged us to encourage the students to make the most of their year by getting involved and giving their best to all their endeavors. I asked the teachers in their newsletter this week if they have been faithful in doing so and, if not, to renew their resolve to adopt the tried and true methods of the Lasallian educator.

I think parents, too, need to encourage their sons to make the most of the opportunities being given them. I encourage you, therefore, to look for ways to have your sons make the most of each and every day.

I wish you a happy 2016 and blessed second semester.

Mon, Jan 4 (Regular, A B C D)

- **Trivia Day:** Learn a useless fact today! In honor of TD, the newsletter will start featuring Trivia Fact of the D. Here's today's: The name for Oz in the "Wizard of Oz" was thought up when the creator, Frank Baum, looked at his filing cabinet and saw A-N, and O-Z, hence "Oz."
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Bogalusa (6)

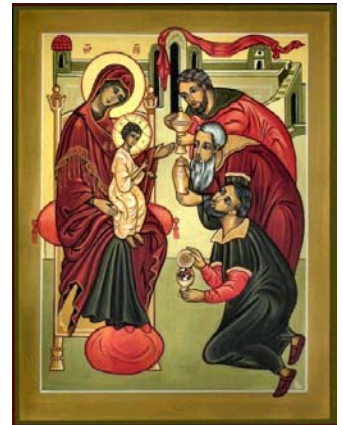
Tue, Jan 5 (President's Assembly; E F G A)

- **This Day in History:** In 1933, construction begins on the Golden Gate Bridge, as workers began excavating 3.25 million cubic feet of dirt for the structure's huge anchorages. The bridge officially opened on May 27, 1937, the longest bridge span in the world at the time. The first public crossing had taken place the day

before, when 200,000 people walked, ran and even roller skated over the new bridge. With its tall towers and famous red paint job, the bridge quickly became an American landmark, and a symbol of San Francisco.

- **TDIH:** In 1896, William Roentgen announces the discovery of X-ray radiation.
- **TFOTD:** A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
- **National Bird Day:** Take a moment to notice and appreciate our birds. At SPS, that's easy to do, as birds abound. And after lunch, like clockwork, black birds descend to feast on students' food droppings.
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV & Varsity v. Northshore in opening of district play (5, 6 & 7:30)
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Denham Springs (5:30 & 7:30)

Wed, Jan 6 (Regular; B C D E) -- Feast of the Epiphany – Twelfth Night! The Twelve Days of Christmas are over! No more turtle doves, French hens, milking maids, leaping lords or swimming swans. You can keep the golden rings, however. Enjoy the quiet from that angry partridge in the pear tree and those darn drummers drumming! Trivia Question of the Week: do you know the traditional names of the three kings? Answer at end of newsletter.



- **Mass (7):** Our Wed AM masses resume this week. Encourage your son to join us as a great New Year resolution. It's over by 7:30 at latest.
- **TDIH:** In 1838, the first electric telegraph is successfully tested by Samuel Morse.
- **National Bean Day:** Celebrate the lowly legume! Enjoy a tasty bean dish today! The USDA suggests adults should eat more than 3 cups of beans weekly for the health benefits, including reduced risk of heart disease and certain cancers -- but you may want to avoid crowded space
- **TFOTD:** The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket
- **Basketball:** 9th & JV v. Hammond (6 & 7)
- **Senior Retreat** begins today. Prayers and best wishes go with the seniors & Retreat Team. We owe the team a great deal of thanks for undertaking this important ministry. The group returns Friday afternoon. We are indebted to retreat coordinators Lee Pierre and Renee' Miller. **We have taken steps to avoid any repeat of last year's misconduct by some.**



Wolves bag collections from Warm Hearts drive

Thu, Jan 7 (Regular; F G A B) St. Raymond of Penafort: this 12th century Spanish Dominican Priest was known for scholarly work and holiness. He is patron saint of canon lawyers and all lawyers generally.

- **TDIH:** In 1789, America holds first presidential election (Spoiler Alert: G. Washington won!)
- **TDIH:** In 1953, President Harry Truman announces the development of a hydrogen bomb one thousand times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Japan.
- **I'm Not Gonna Take It Anymore Day:** Well, I'll let you decide what you're not going to take anymore. Just hope it's not SPS, although some of

you will probably vote for this newsletter – or, worse, the SPS President!

- **TFOTD:** There are 336 dimples on a regular golf ball.

- **Soccer:** 9th at Northlake (5:30)
- **Basketball:** 8th v. St. Aug (at Rummel)

Fri, Jan 8 (Regular; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1815, two weeks after the War of 1812 officially ended, U.S. General Andrew Jackson achieves the greatest American victory of the war at the Battle of New Orleans. Today we remember the 201st anniversary of this historic event.
- **TDIH:** In 1935, Elvis Presley is born in Tupelo, MS. Listen to some Elvis today!
- **National JoyGerm Day:** This is a day devoted to spreading joy via acts of kindness such as a hug, kiss, love letter, compliment, or any unexpected act of compassion.
- **Argyle Day:** Wear your argyle (diamond shaped blocks against a colored background) today!
- **Feast of the Patroness of Southeast Louisiana, Our Lady of Prompt Succor.** This devotion originated with a French Ursuline nun, who brought to New Orleans a statue she had commissioned under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. (Succor means “help.”) This statue now stands above the main altar in the Ursuline Chapel on State Street. OLPS played a prominent role in Battle of New Orleans and the great New Orleans fire. Today, we pray to her for help in the New Battle of New Orleans against violence, murder and racism. Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!
- **TFOTD:** The elephant is the only mammal that cannot jump.
- **Basketball:** Varsity at Hammond (7)
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Northshore (5:30)



*Original OLPS
brought from
France in 1727 by
Ursuline nuns.*

Sat, Jan 9

- **TDIH:** In 1793, Jean Pierre Blanchard made the first balloon aerial voyage in the New World at the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia at dawn. He sold tickets to the event and the excitement he generated was so great that almost the entire population of Philly turned out, in addition to a large number of visitors from the surrounding countryside.
- **TDIH II:** 1493, explorer Christopher Columbus, sailing near Dominican Republic, sees three "mermaids"--in reality manatees--and describes them as "not half as beautiful as they are painted" – a great example of understatement.
- **Static Electricity Day:** Find a Van de Graaff generator to touch and celebrate the wonders of the old balloon-sticking-to-the-wall trick, the hair-raising that takes place after we take off winter hats, and the shock of electricity that we get from petting a cat after scooting across a carpeted floor in socks.
- **TFOTD:** Q is the only letter that does not appear in the name of any US state.
- **Soccer:** 8th in SPS Tournament; 9th at Catholic High; JV in Covington Tournament (CYSA)
- **Rugby:** Varsity at West Jeff
- **Lacrosse:** SPS v. Catholic High
- **Application Day.** Applicants for next year take the placement test this morning. Pray for a successful day.
- **Fighting Math Wolves** compete in Catholic High Tournament
- **Wrestling:** JV & Varsity in District Meet at SPS; Jr Hi in Bro. Martin dual meet
- **Football Awards Ceremony** in the BAC (3)

Sun, Jan 10 -- – Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – official end of the Christmas season; let's get the New Year off to a great start by attending Church today!

- **TDIH:** 1982, San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Dwight Clark makes a leaping catch in the end zone on a pass from quarterback Joe Montana with 51 seconds left in the NFC, sending the '9ers to the Super Bowl & beginning their dynasty of the 1980s. To see "the catch", click here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dCEaAlPytY>
- **Cut Your Energy Costs Day:** Pretty self-explanatory, so do all you can to conserve energy today.
- **TFOTD:** The average person blinks about 8 million times a year!

Welcome to January: Here are some of the causes celebrated in January: Apple and Apricots Month, Artichoke and Asparagus Month, Bath Safety Month, Be Kind to Food Servers Month, Birth Defects Month, California Dried Plum Digestive Month, Celebration of Life Month, Financial Wellness Month, Get A Balanced Life Month, Get Organized Month, International Creativity Month, National Clean Up Your Computer Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month, National Hot Tea Month, National Mentoring Month, National Polka Music Month, National Poverty in America Awareness Month, National Soup Month, National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Oatmeal Month, Rising Star Month, Shape Up US Month, Teen Driving Awareness Month, Tubers and Dried Fruit Month, Thyroid Awareness Month, & Worldwide Rising Star Month. Something for everyone!



Junior "elves" hard at work in Santa's workshop as they wrap gifts for their adopted families

Grades, Exams, Report Cards, etc.

- **Report Cards** will be emailed this week, although grades have been accessible on Edline for a while. Report cards for grades 8 & 9 will be emailed on Wednesday and report cards for grades 10, 11, & 12, will be emailed on Thursday. Let me know if you do not receive a report card by the end of the week. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb 1, so email any concerns to teachers.
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience – which will pay dividends in the future.
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Here's the schedule for the second quarter HR breakfast schedule:
 - **Tue, Jan 26** – Grade 12
 - **Wed, Jan 27** – Grade 11
 - **Thu, Jan 28** – Grade 10
 - **Fri, Jan 29** – Grade 09
 - **Wed, Feb 03** – Grade 08

All breakfasts last from 7:40-8:20. Note: HR is determined by **second QUARTER grades, not semester grades.**

Application Day: Saturday, January 09, all new applicants for NEXT year's 8th or 9th grade will take the placement exam at 8 am. We will administer the test in the Briggs Assembly Center. **New 8th grade applicants are being accepted on a wait list only basis as we've got a bumper crop of applicants right now.**

Mass with Archbishop Aymond: The Archbishop has graciously accepted our invitation to celebrate an all-school mass at 9:15 on Mon, Jan 25 – Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. **This will be a DRESS UNIFORM day. We have room for parents, so feel free to come if you wish. We intend to make this very special and memorable!**

Musings on Past Few Weeks:

- **Exam week** went well. We had a few “issues” but most understood semester grading policy.
- **Christmas Prayer Service:** Thanks to Jeff Ramon & GWs for organizing this event.
- **Christmas Staff Lunch:** Thanks to Mothers Club for an excellent luncheon to start the holidays on 12/18.
- **Adopt A Family:** Thanks to all who helped. We adopted ten families. The results were great. We also donated \$500 to the Covington Food Bank, \$500 to Sister Theresa Berlin and her “Blue Shack” work in Covington’s West 30’s area, and \$500 to the Rotary Club Feed the Needy Program, which used our facility.
- **Warm Hearts:** From the LYLs: *Thank you for your donations to the Warm Hearts Drive. Because of your generosity, nearly 1500 items were collected – the largest collection we have had to date! The items will be donated to needy families in our community starting with blankets. Thanks again to the St. Paul’s Community for your generosity and special recognition to several members of the varsity soccer team (led by Austin Wiles) who assisted the Lasallian Youth Leaders with collecting, sorting, counting and delivering the Warm Hearts items.*
- **Wrestling Wolves:** Congrats on adopting a pretty extraordinary family with lots of medical needs and nine children. And, oh yes, they wrestled pretty well, too, finished 2nd in the difficult Trygg Tournament.
- **Athletics:** Thanks to all the coaches who kept our student athletes focused on their seasons by having practices during the holidays, including Christmas Eve. This provided a positive, safe, healthy activity for our students.
- **Rotary Club Feed the Needy.** Thanks to all who helped. Over 1500 Christmas meals were prepared in our cafeteria and delivered on Christmas morn. Many SPS families and alums, including the varsity basketball team, helped out.
- **33rd Saint Paul’s Holiday Soccer Tournament** again attracted area top teams. It was both an athletic and PR success, bringing the #1 ranked Wolves a lot of publicity along with a nice 1st place trophy!
- **Gene Bennett Memorial Basketball Tournament** was a grand success. Thanks, Phil, for honoring Gene and showing off the new gym! And winning the tournament was a very nice Christmas gift to us!
- **Christmas Eve Mass:** Thanks to Brother Ken, and seniors Patrick Stewart & Adam Schmitt for organizing the 10 pm Christmas Eve liturgy in the school chapel. A large crowd, largely alums and current families, attended.
- **Quiddich Tournament:** Holy Harry Potter! A good time was flown by all! It was quite the sight!



Wolves tour Saints’ training facility over the holidays

- **Alumni: Christmas on Columbia Alumni Gathering** on Dec 26 went well. Thanks to Development Office for organizing. And the Alumni Basketball Game on 12/30 was a grand success, although their age was showing!
- **Wolf Tracks:** The holidays didn't stop Danielle from publishing a Dec issue! Excellent issue, Danielle!
- **Habitat Wolves:** Thanks to Richard Pichon and HWs for their work day on Sat, Dec 19 – Christmas spirit in action.
- **FB Field Trip:** A group of Wolves got a VIP visit to Saints & Pelicans Training Facility. They were impressed!

Alumni News: I noticed the following alums graduated from LSU in Dec. Congrats to them:

- Business: Jonathan Magee, Robert Rayer, Paul Toups, Tyler Tourelle
- Engineering: Harry (Trey) Frederick, Stephen Perera, Nicholas Vaccari
- Human Sciences & Education: Drake Arnold
- Humanities & Social Sciences: Andre Bezou, Bradley Hollingsworth,
- Mass Communication: Michael Gegenheimer
- Graduate School (Master's): Dakota Conravey

Application Letters Excerpts: Here are some more memorable lines:

- *The main reason I would like to attend St. Paul's is because I feel it will help me prepare for the future. You may think that is a little odd for me to be thinking about the future, but in my house it's a common topic.*
- *I play soccer, so when I heard St. Paul's [sic] has one of the best soccer programs in the country, any consideration of other schools was over. [But I'd like to be ranked #1 in spelling, too!]*
- *The amount of clubs you guys have is amazing. At Open House my sister who is in the 5th grade said "I hope SSA has all of this stuff."*
- *Thanks for the opportunity to apply to St. Paul's. I am so glad to have found a school whose values meet my own.*
- *Even when I leave Saint Paul's, I will keep supporting the school. [I will remind this guy of his pledge!]*

Looking for Vehicle Donation: Our campus truck is dying. It is used to pick up trash and landscaping debris along with other campus chores like delivering supplies to campus buildings, etc. If you have an old, light truck that you would like to get rid of (and receive a tax break for doing so), please let me know. We do not use the truck on city streets, so it just needs to be able to run. We are not in a position to purchase one, so we are looking for a donation.

Dec 15 Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Dec 15 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to the overture to *Messiah* (never "*The*" *Messiah*), by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) -- one of the most beloved Oratorios (a musical selection for orchestras, choirs & solos often based on religious themes so they could be performed in churches.) It's one of the most famous musical compositions in the world, based on the Judeo- Christian concept of Messiah (anointed one). It was



George Frideric Handel

composed in just 24 days in summer of 1741 (incredible!) and first performed in April of 1742. It's one of my most favorite pieces of music. While the music was playing, **junior Christian Roberts** lit three Advent candles – including the pink “gaudete” (rejoice) candle. I encouraged the students to make the most of the remaining days of Advent and of 2015. And since Hanukkah had ended the evening before the assembly, I asked freshman **Jackson Gold** and sophomore **Luc Hebert** to tell the Hanukkah story, while a blazing, fully lit menorah was projected on the screen. I was very pleased with the attention the students paid and hope they now know the Hanukkah story.

- We then prayed for the following, who entered God's Kingdom since our last assembly: Ms. Claire Christine Wally, freshman Michael Philippe's 26 year old first cousin, Mr. George Moennich, sophomore Adam Moennich's grandfather, Mr. Joseph Robert Yaeger, grandfather of senior Bradley Yaeger, Vincent F. Saia, great grandfather of sophomore Chandler Owenby, and the great-grandmother of junior Gideon McRaney.
- Recognized and congratulated all who helped with our annual luminaria celebration: the Student Council, the Liturgical Band, the Mother's Club and the Jazz Band. It was a beautiful evening – that makes a powerful statement to people. As proof, I projected on the screen the following email I received from a parent: *Once again, St. Paul's did not disappoint with the Luminaries! This year's message, "I am present" really spoke to me. In less than a year [my child] will be leaving home for College. I felt like God was telling me that I need to be present in my own life. [My child] is such a vibrant part of our family and will be leaving a huge void. I need to push all of those everyday distractions away and concentrate on these special moments, and know that God's presence will help fill that void. Thank you St. Paul's, for reminding me that God truly is present in our lives and that He speaks to us every day. Even through candle lit paper bags.* I stressed with the students that God does indeed speak to us in everyday ways, including a lit candle in a paper bag! All we need to do is open our eyes and ears to His call.
- Recognized and congratulated senior **Robert Ellis**, on earning the rank of Eagle Scout – quite a significant accomplishment!
- Recognized and congratulated senior **Leland van Deventer** for being named to the 2015 ALL-ACADEMIC SCHOLAR COMPOSITE FOOTBALL TEAM by the LHSAA.
- Recognized and congratulated senior **Patrick Connolly** for being named to the 2015 ALL-ACADEMIC SCHOLAR COMPOSITE BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM by the LHSAA.
- Recognized and congratulated senior **Jack Cheng** for being named to the 2015 ALL-ACADEMIC 4.00 SCHOLARS COMPOSITE BOYS' SWIMMING TEAM BY THE LHSAA.
- Recognized and congratulated freshman **Andrew Aceves** who auditioned and was chosen to be in the American Choral Directors Association Louisiana Allstate Choir. I think he is the first student from St Paul's to audition and be chosen for this ensemble. This professional association is made up of choir directors from all levels from elementary schools and churches through college and professional choirs like LPO Symphony Chorus. It is a prestigious honor.



SPS alum Alexander Sibley '11 sings selections from Handel's "Messiah" at 12/15 President's Assembly, accompanied by Bro. Ken

- Introduced and recognized SPS alumnus **Alexander Sibley**, Class of 2011. Last May, Alexander graduated with a BFA from Tulane University and is currently in a Masters of Vocal Music program at Loyola. Alexander treated us to two selections from Handel's *Messiah*: "Comfort Ye" and "Every Valley." He was stunningly good, and the students gave him a spontaneous standing ovation upon completion. He was accompanied by **Brother Ken** on the keyboard.

- At this point, I reminded the students of my custom of giving them a musical treat by playing one of my favorite pieces of classical Christmas music: *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from George Fredrick Handel's *Messiah* (not "The" Messiah!) and for three minutes and 45 seconds, the gym was transformed into an 18th century English concert hall with Handel, one of the greatest of the Baroque composers, conducting his musical masterpiece. It was beyond wonderful.

- With time having run out, I had the boys sing "Mercy" in honor of the Jubilee Year of Mercy as declared by Pope Francis. It's a great song! Have your son sing it for you! We then robustly sang the Fight Song for all of the

activities going on around school.

- Then, while listening to the Mr. Gene Lipps' rendition of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", junior **Zach Gallagher** extinguished the Advent candles, and I reminded the students what the candles represent – the coming of the Lord into our hearts and our world. While the song was playing, I addressed "the Mandeville Incident" with the school, expressing my disappointment and dismay and how the incident was completely against everything for which SPS and Lasallian education stand.
- In spite of ending on a less than positive note, it was a very great assembly! At least I thought so!

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

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

2016 - 17 Registration: Please note the following:

- **Current 8th graders:** registration information will be emailed during the week of January 25. **Current 8th graders planning to return for 2016 - 17 will have until Feb 05 (two weeks) to re-register.** Unregistered spots will be offered to new 9th grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next year so I know how many new 9th graders we can accept.
- **Current 9th – 11th grades:** registration will take place in February, as soon as we return from Mardi Gras/Lenten Holidays. You don't need to do anything now
- **Current 12th grade:** You don't need to register for SPS for 2016 - 17! Rejoice!
- **Registration will involve the payment of the \$300 registration fee.**

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

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not – but I need your support to keep it from being high pressured.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g. technology, special programs (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation and the \$4.5 million new gym.)
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- While we don’t send requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! If you would like to inform your son’s grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I’ll personally appeal. I’ll send them a nice “thank you” note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.
- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What’s important is that everyone participates.
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. If you cannot afford one, contact me and I will take care of it confidentially.

A SERVE TEN Reminder: Five service hours are due. Students must fill-out and turn in completed "Serve Ten" forms to the Counseling Department in order to get credit for their service hours. We have been advertising MANY service opportunities. Remember that service hours are mandatory, not optional.

Important Driver’s License Requirement: A new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license. These forms can be obtained in the administration building or the counseling center. **Several students went for licenses over the holidays and were turned away because they didn’t have the form – in some cases they waited several hours before being turned away.**

2016 -17 (NEXT YEAR) CALENDAR: St. Tammany Parish Public School System has set its calendar for next year; we have modeled ours closely on theirs. Here are some important dates:

- Wed, Aug 03: Faculty meetings begin for both public schools and SPS
- **Mon, Aug 08: Full day of class instruction for both public schools and SPS**
- Sat, Oct 8: Jazz n Roll
- Fri, Oct 14: 1st Quarter ends for both public schools and SPS
- Mon, Oct 17: By request of the Faculty Advisory Board, a fall break day has been added. No classes.
- **Fri, Dec 16: Christmas holidays begin for SPS at 11:45; St. Tammany continues until Tue, Dec 20.**
- **Tue, Jan 03: SPS begins second semester; St. Tammany begins on Wed, Jan 4**
- Fri, Feb 24: Faculty Retreat (no classes) followed by week off for Mardi Gras/Beginning of Lent Holidays
- Fri, Apr 14: Good Friday holiday followed by week off for Easter Holidays

- Sat, May 13: Graduation for the Class of 2017
- Mon, May 15: Promotion Ceremony for the Class of 2021
- Thu, May 18 – Wed, May 24: Final exams for grades 9 - 11
- **Wed, May 24: SPS ends; St. Tammany ends on Tue, May 23**
- **Why the slight discrepancy in dates? St. Tammany only has to schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools must schedule 177. So in the second semester, we will have two extra days.**



Freshman “elves” wrap gifts for their adopted families!

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. The students are very excited about this new venture. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here’s the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class! Here are some stories from last week worth reading:

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: Parents –let’s start 2016 with a resolution for safe driving! Set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, no cell phone use during school zone hours, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

School Zone Cell Phone Ban: It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.

Cash Back Programs: Please keep the following in mind when you shop:

- Amazon Smile: This website, operated by Amazon, lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The difference is that when using AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – which we hope will be Saint Paul’s School! Click here to shop on AmazonSmile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895>.
- Office Depot: Last week we received a \$500 store credit from customers who gave SPS ID at the checkout. Our number is officially 70041640 but saying Saint Paul’s will do. This will help a lot.
- Box Tops for Education: Each top is worth 10 cents – which adds up quickly. Thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS financially..

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. Get a jump on exam study by visiting our NHS tutors! The tutors are friendly and helpful! To borrow a line from a popular commercial “put these men to work!”

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.

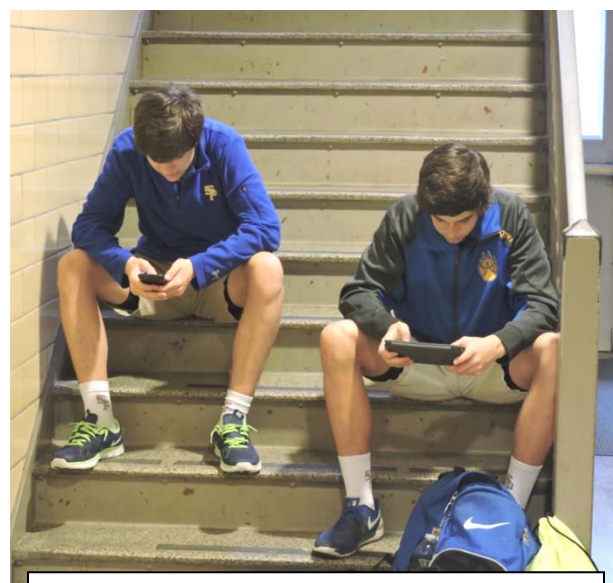
Kehoe-France Northshore Tennis Tournament: Registration is underway for this annual event, which benefits the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America as well as KFN school. The tournament is Feb 19 - 21. Deadline to register is Feb 13; sign up by Jan 22 for chance for your team to win two pair of tennis shoes, compliments of The Tennis Shop in Mandeville. Entry Fee of \$80 per player/ \$160 per team includes T-shirt, food, drinks and great tennis. For more info, contact Mr. Brad Humphreys at KFN at bhumphreys@kehoe-francens.com. Registration forms are available at KFN, The Tennis Shop (4626 Hwy 22), or at SPS administration building.

Archdiocese of New Orleans Family Life Apostolate’s FATHER-SON HUMAN SEXUALITY PROGRAM:

This program is Sun, Feb 28, from 5-8 pm at St. Peter Church in Covington. Fathers and their 12 – 14 year old sons are invited to grow together in God’s special gift of human fertility and the wonder of growing up and becoming a man. Topics include: the changes in a young man’s body as it prepares for fatherhood; the functions of the male and female reproductive systems; the sacredness of human life; appreciation and reverence for our sexuality and the virtue of chastity; and a confidential question and answer segment. The program is based on the teachings of Pope John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body”. The program, presented in an atmosphere of love and learning, explores the important topic of growing into manhood and establishes a foundation for continued communication between parent and child. Presenters include peers, health care professionals and fathers. For more information, please contact St. Peter Office of Religious Education, 985.893.2446 or email ore@stpeterparish.com. To register, complete a registration form found in the back of Church. The cost of the program is \$25. Create a memory with your son...a memory that will last a lifetime!

Humor of the Week: Some businesses with creative names!

- *A Brewed Awakening (coffee shop)*
- *Citizen Canine (a dog kennel – you need to be a classic movie fan to appreciate this)*
- *Berried Alive (a smoothie shop)*
- *Wreckless Drivers (a limo service)*
- *Waist Away (fitness center)*
- *Fish & Chips – A Salt & Battery*
- *Shearlock Holmes (hair salon)*
- *Pita Pan (sandwich shop)*
- *Bed Wetter (lawn sprinkler business)*
- *Lawn Order (landscaping company; get it?)*
- *Combing Attractions (hair salon)*
- *Wok This Way (Chinese restaurant)*
- *Planet of the Grapes (wine shop)*
- *Grate Expectations (fireplace shop)*
- *Mustard’s Last Stand (hot dog shop)*



And, yes, there was some studying going on during exam week!

- *OK, I'll stop!*

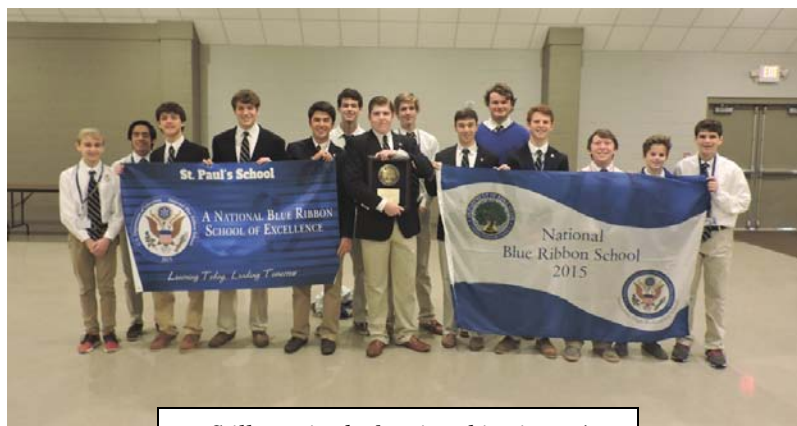
A Look Ahead – Way Ahead!

January 4 – ABCD
 January 5 – President's Assembly -Snack Day
 January 6-8 Senior Retreat
 January 9 – Application Day (Explore Test)
 January 12 – Pack Time
 January 14 – Juniors to WWII Museum
 January 19 – President's Assembly
 January 20 – 9th Grade PLAN Test
 January 22 – President's Assembly (music practice)
 January 25 – 9:15 Mass (Conversion of St. Paul) – Dress uniform day!
 January 26 – 12th Grade HR Breakfast
 January 27 – 11th Grade HR Breakfast
 January 28 – Career Day – Juniors / 10th Grade HR Breakfast
 January 29 – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
 February 1 – Late Start- Parent Teacher meetings 5:00-7:00
 February 2 – President's Assembly
 February 3 – Pre Freshmen HR Breakfast
 February 5 – Faculty Retreat
 February 6 – ACT on Campus
 February 16 – Pack Time
 February 23 – President's Assembly – Teacher Appreciation Lunch
 February 25-26- Juniors on Retreat/Angola Field Trip
 March 1 – Pack Time – Snack Day- Freshmen Service/Retreat
 March 2 – Freshmen Service/Retreat
 March 5 – SAT on Campus
 March 7 – St. Joseph Altar (All periods meet)
 March 8 – President's Assembly
 March 11 – End of Third Quarter
 March 15 – ACT for juniors
 March 21 – Late start for faculty meeting
 March 22 – President's Assembly
 March 23 – Passion Play (two lunch schedule)
 March 24 – Mandatum
 March 25 – Good Friday holiday
 April 5 – Pack Time
 April 7 – Mass (SJB DLS)
 April 9 – ACT on campus
 April 11-15 – Leadership week
 April 12 – President's Assembly –Teacher Appreciation Lunch
 April 18 – Late start
 April 19 – Pack Time – Snack Day
 April 20 – Life Skills day for seniors –Pre Freshmen HR Breakfast



Brandon and Mr. Ramon prepare for the Christmas prayer service.

April 21 – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
 April 22 – Blue Ribbon Holiday
 April 25 – 10th Grade HR Breakfast
 April 26 – President's Assembly
 April 27 – 11th Grade HR Breakfast
 April 28 – 12th Grade HR Breakfast
 April 28-29 – Sophomore Service Days/Retreat
 May 3 – Pack Time
 May 4-6 – Senior Exams in BAC
 May 10 – Assembly – Band Awards in PM
 May 11 – 13 – Pre Freshmen Exams
 May 11 – Grad Night
 May 12 – Athletic Awards in am
 May 13 – Academic Awards in am
 May 14 – Senior Graduation 4:00 pm in BAC
 May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion
 May 17-19- Exam Schedule
 May 20 – Teacher records day



Still not tired of seeing this picture!

Whew! I've worn you out in this first week of 2016, but you had the last two weeks off!

Even though it's a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now as I complete the newsletter and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Again, please let me know if there's an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2015 - 16 edition of Saint Paul's! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Blessed to See 2016 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

As Christmas 2015 fades into history, let us not forget the inspiration provided by the Student Council on luminaria night: *Ad Sum – God is here!*

Mark Twain's Classic Seasonal Quotation: *New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.*

Lasallian education – transforming lives since 1680 by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well and making courageous choices!

Answer to Trivia Question for Jan 06: The three kings are traditionally named Caspar of Tarsus, Melchior of Arabia and Balthasar of Saba.