



## The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter February 01 - 14, 2016 in the Jubilee Year of Mercy



Today begins Catholic Schools Week, when Catholic schools throughout the United States celebrate and affirm the Catholic identity of our schools. Yes, I know OLL celebrated last week, but this is the actual week! Historically, we cannot overstate the contribution of Catholic education to this country. Today, Catholic schools continue to produce outstanding achievement, in spite of the many challenges to their existence. Here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, for example, the strategic plan designed to save the Catholic school system already has caused changes. Archbishop Aymond has stated that the Catholic school system in New Orleans will look very different twenty five years from now than it looks today.

We remember and celebrate, too, that Saint Paul's is not just a private school or a Christian school -- we are a Catholic school. We remind ourselves of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, who Pope Pius XII proclaimed Patron of All Teachers by virtue of his contribution to education. To be faithful to both our Catholic and Lasallian nature, we must remember that Saint La Salle insisted upon quality schools which not only "ran well" but were "places of salvation" (both spiritual and temporal) for the students by teaching them the "Truths of their Religion." In such a way, the Founder believed, the schools would "touch the hearts" of the students who attended. St. La Salle said that "to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to your care is the greatest miracle you can perform and one which God expects of you." He also insisted that those who work in Catholic schools must look upon themselves as "ministers of God's grace" and "co-workers with God." As I wrote to my faculty, **Saint La Salle would accept nothing less from the early brothers; we must offer nothing less today.**

**Mon, Feb 1 (Level Meetings at 7:45; Classes at 9; G A B C)**

- **WE HAVE A 9 AM START TODAY TO ALLOW FOR A FACULTY MEETING; CAFETERIA AND LIBRARY WILL OPEN AT REGULAR TIME, HOWEVER.**

- **TDIH:** In 1884, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the most comprehensive and accurate dictionary of the English language, is published. From History Channel Website: *The OED is the definitive authority on the meaning, pronunciation and history of over half a million words. The OED provides a chronological history, quoting a range of sources. The OED is famous for cross-references and etymologies. The verb "set" merits the OED's longest entry, at approximately 60,000 words and detailing over 430 uses. No sooner was the OED finished than editors began updating it. In 1984, Oxford Press embarked on a 5-year project to create an electronic version. The effort required 120 people just to type the pages from the print edition and 50 proofreaders to check their work. In 1992, a CD-ROM version of the dictionary was released. Today, the dictionary is available online to subscribers and updated quarterly with over 1,000 new entries and revisions.*

*At a whopping 20 volumes weighing over 137 pounds, it would reportedly take one person 120 years to type all 59 million words in the OED. Celebrate the OED today! Spend some time on the OED website ([www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com))*

- **National Working Naked Day:** Do what you want at home, but SPS is NOT celebrating this day.
- **Brother Chris Patino**, Vocation Director for the Brothers, will be on campus today. Welcome him.
- **Bowling:** SPS v. St. Thomas at Tangi Lanes (3:30)
- **Parent Teacher Conferences (5-7 in BAC) See below for more info**



*Fighting Math Wolves smile as they prepare to head to Baton Rouge at 7am on Saturday!*

## Tue, Feb 2 (President's Assembly; D E F G; Feast of the Presentation)

- **Feast of the Presentation.** This feast, told in Luke's Gospel, celebrates the child Jesus being brought to the Temple "according to the law of Moses." It was also the occasion of Simeon ("a righteous and devout man") proclaiming the famous "nunc dimittis" -- "now, Lord, you may dismiss your servant...for my eyes have seen your salvation..." Since the 10th Century, this feast has also been called Candlemas because candles were blessed and carried in procession, a devotional based upon Simeon's words that Jesus is the light who reveals God to all nations. In his meditation for this feast, St La Salle tells the brothers "How good it is to give oneself to God! Even in this life God rewards and fills with very tangible consolations the soul that consecrates itself to God. The more you give to God, the more God blesses you." Today, let's renew our own consecrations to God -- and encourage our students to do, so, too.
- **TDIH:** In 1887, Groundhog Day, with a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA. From the Official GH Day web site: *Pennsylvania's earliest settlers determined if the sun did appear on Feb. 2 so wise an animal as the groundhog would see its shadow and hurry back into its home for another 6 weeks of winter.* Let's hope Punxsutawney Phil sees no shadow!
- **TDIH:** Two years ago on this day, a memorial mass was celebrated in the G-Plex for **David Decareaux '94**, and his two sons. You may remember the tragedy: David and his sons were camping, got lost, and died of hypothermia. We continue to remember David and his family in our prayer.
- **President's Assembly:** A group of alums will be on campus this morning. We will serve them breakfast at 7; they will then attend the assembly, followed by a campus tour.
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity at Ben Franklin (5 & 7)
- **Basketball:** Varsity v. Hammond (7) **and Wrestling:** Varsity v. Brother Martin (6:30)



*Juniors intently listen to alum Chris McDonald speak on entrepreneurship and restaurant management. Chris owns Mug Shots*

## Wed, Feb 3 (Feast of St. Blaise; HR Breakfast for Pre-Freshmen; A B C D)

- **Mass at 7; over by 7:30. Encourage your son to attend.**
- **St. Blaise:** Catholic practice calls for "Blessing of Throats" today in honor of Blaise, who according to legend saved a young boy from choking as Blaise was being hauled off to prison for his Christianity. He was martyred in 316.
- **TDIH:** In 1959, a small plane crashed and killed three American rock and roll legends: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and JP "The Big Bopper" Richardson. Singer songwriter Don McLean wrote a song about the event, "American Pie," in which he dubbed Feb 3, 1959 **the day the music died.** (*So bye, bye, Miss American Pie, drove my Chevy....*)
- **TDIH:** Four Chaplains Memorial Day. On this day in 1943, four US Army Chaplains gave their lives to save other soldiers when their troop ship, the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed in WW II. The chaplains gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out, joined hands, said prayers and sang hymns as the ship sank.
- **Bowling:** SPS v. St. Amant at Gonzales

## Thu, Feb 4 (Regular; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Premier Joseph Stalin meet at city in Yalta in the Crimea to discuss and plan the postwar world--namely, to address the redistribution of power and influence. Many believe this to be the birth of the Cold War.

- **Catholic Schools Week Mass:** Trevor Watkins, Joe Dickens, and a student delegation will represent SPS at the official Catholic Schools Mass at St. Dominic Church at 10 am with Archbishop Gregory Aymond as celebrant. SPS will be honored at the mass for having been awarded the US Dept of Education Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.
- **Band:** The MWs will perform at the annual Parade for Children with Special Needs at Wal-Mart. This is always a moving event for our students. Thanks, Andrew and MWs!
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup>, JV, & Varsity at Covington. The game has been moved so as not to conflict with Orpheus Parade.



Freshmen gather for HR breakfast

#### **Fri, Feb 5 (Retreat Day for Faculty; no classes)**

- **TDIH:** In 1971, Apollo 14, the 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands and Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell walk on Moon for 4 hrs. Alan Shepard was USA's first man in space in 1961 in a sub-orbital flight in a space capsule called Friendship 7. This was part of the Mercury Program, which had Americans just orbiting the earth. Mercury gave way to the Gemini and Apollo programs.
- **Marching Wolves in Krewe of Hermes**

#### **Sat, Feb 6**

- **TDIH:** In 1952, after a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies in his sleep at the royal estate at Sandringham. His daughter, Princess Elizabeth, next in line to succeed him, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27.
- **Ice Cream for Breakfast Day:** (always 1<sup>st</sup> Sat in Feb) Indulge if you want, but I'll pass!
- **ACT on campus this morning**

- **Indoor Track: "Last Chance Meet" at LSU and Marching Wolves in Krewe of Endymion**

#### **Sun, Feb 7 -- Even though it's Mardi Gras, we encourage all to attend church today.**

- **TDIH:** In 2009, NO Saints defy the odds and win Super Bowl. Pigs reportedly fly as city celebrates.
- **TDIH:** On this day in 1812, Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England. Celebrate the birth of this incredible writer! Read some Dickens today. Who can forget some of his immortal lines such as the opening of *A Tale of Two Cities*? *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.*
- **Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day:** Greet your neighbors today with a big wave, but to show respect and appreciation, you must wave with all of your fingers, not just the middle one!
- **Marching Wolves in Krewe of Bacchus**
- **Super Bowl Sunday: Go Pancos! Go Bronthers! In other words, I don't care who wins.**

#### **Mon, Feb 9 – Sun, Feb 14: Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays**

**Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays:** Please stress with your sons the need to make good, healthy choices during Mardi Gras – especially while at parades. Stress with him that any inappropriate action, on or off campus, that damages the good name of Saint Paul's School subjects him to disciplinary action by the school – including losing his privilege of attending Saint Paul's. Remember that Mardi Gras ends at midnight on Feb 9 – and Lent then begins with Ash Wednesday. The second part of the week should reflect the season of Lent. Let's all determine to make the most of the 2016 Lenten season.

**Apology:** After failing to include in the newsletter the Powerlifting Team's great showing in the PJP II tournament two weeks ago, I thought I had rectified the omission last week – only to be informed that I omitted one of the first place winners' names! I apologize to junior **Jon Rushing** for failing to mention his 1<sup>st</sup> place win and recognition as Outstanding Lifter! Sorry, Jon! Advancing age strikes again!

**Carline Patience:** Please be patient in morning carline. I know everyone's in a hurry, but a few cars have come too close for my comfort to students who are getting out of their vehicles. Thank you! Let's pray for patience!

**February:** Can you believe we are in February? How are our New Year resolutions coming along? So far, I'm not doing well! And here's a listing of some of the celebrations for Feb: Adopt A Rescued Rabbit Month, American Heart Month, Avocado and Banana Month, Bake for Family Fun Month, Beans Month, Dog Training Month, Exotic Vegetables and Star Fruit Month, Grapefruit Month, Boost Self-Esteem Month, Expect Success Month, Library Lovers Month, Bird Feeding Month, Black History Month, Care About Your Indoor Air Month, Cherry Month, Children's Dental Health Month, Haiku Writing Month, Hot Breakfast Month, Mend A Broken Heart Month, Parent Leadership Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Time Management Month, Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month, Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month, & Youth Leadership Month – something for almost everyone!

**Third Quarter Parent Teacher Conferences** will take place in Briggs Assembly Center on Monday, February 1, from 5-7 pm. We will limit conferences to 3-4 minutes in order to respect all. If a longer conference is needed, set that up with the teacher. Thanks for respecting the time of those waiting in line behind you. Naturally, if no one is waiting, feel free to speak with the teacher longer.

**Mass with the Archbishop:** I cannot say enough positive things or convey the number of positive responses I received (see below for a sampling.) One student felt I over-emphasized participation for the sake of the Archbishop as opposed to participation for the purpose of praising God. Sorry if I came across this way! Wanna' view the mass? Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uHAubcl3Fk> The sound is a little off at the beginning but then we adjusted it.

**Blue Ribbon Article Featured in The Clarion Herald:** In honor of Catholic Schools Week, The Clarion Herald published a very nice article on SPS's. I hope you read it. If not, here's the link: <http://clarionherald.info/clarion/index.php/news/latest-news/155-breaking-news/5232-blue-and-gold-of-st-pauls-merits-us-blue-ribbon>

**Tu B'shuvat:** Last Monday, Jan 25, while we Catholics celebrated the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrated Tu B'shuvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees Day. This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Our Jewish brothers and sisters mark the day of Tu B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. On this day we remember that "man is a tree of the field" (Deut 20:19), and reflect on the lessons that trees can teach us. Here's a New Year's "examination of conscience check list" for trees:



Env Sci class plants trees on Tu B'Shuvat

- *Did I grow towards the sun as a tree should, reaching up higher and higher towards that which I can never grasp, but which nurtures me all the same the more I strive towards it?*
- *Did I shelter the seedlings that live in my shade -- so they will grow up to be a next generation like myself?*

- *Did I make sure my roots remain firmly planted in the soil that nurtures them, and did I drop my leaves there in the fall to give back life to that which sustains me?*
- *Did I ensure that my fruits were sweet and nourished all that came to enjoy them? Did everyone walk away from me with a smile?*
- *Did I bend gently in the wind, accepting what G-d sends but never breaking or giving up hope?*
- *Did I grow in strength and wisdom with each new ring this year?*
- Come to think of it, not a bad checklist for us humans either!

**How Trevor & Craig Spent Last Thu & Fri:** Trevor & Craig attended the LHSAA annual convention and participated with over 300 principals as they voted on many proposals affecting LA high school athletics. The most important, perhaps, was the vote to split more sports' playoffs into select and non-select categories – as it currently done in football. I did not miss attending the convention!

### **Musings on Last Week:**

- **Career Day:** All went well! Thanks, Alumni & Development Team! Juniors seemed very responsive.
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** The breakfasts went well. Four down; one to go. Mr. Eric Dunavent, representing the SPS Renaissance Board, gave a wonderful talk to our senior honor roll students. His message? If you want to succeed, don't quit. Sounds simple but it made a powerful impact.
- **Soccer:** Wow. Big wins this week. Well done, Soccer Wolves! On to the playoffs!
- **Wrestling:** Great Senior Night with lots of "fun wrestling!"
- **B'Ball:** Great wins over Mandeville and Northshore. Go Wolves!
- **Marching Wolves:** The MWs did well at OLL Catholic School Pep Rally and in the Eve, Olympia & Carrollton!
- **Fighting Math Wolves** were up and at 'em early Sat morn heading to BR for math competition. Geaux FMWs!
- **Rugby:** Wolves defeated Niceville 29 – 14. Geaux Rugby Wolves!
- **Wolf Tracks:** Congrats, Danielle, on another excellent issue which will be sent Jan 31!
- **Science:** Lee Pierre's chemistry classes celebrated Mole Day (it's a science number!) with games and homemade mole dolls and his physical science classes recycled CDs into racing cars, or mouse traps or something like that!
- **Bowling:** The keglers wolves are competing against much more established teams and are improving!



### **Application Letters:**

- *My big brother is as happy as he has even been and he has become so grown up and mature at St. Paul's. I want to be just like him.*
- *I would be a good ambassador for Saint Paul's in everything I do. I am a friend to everyone, and I am not afraid to include someone who may be quiet or sitting alone. I want to be part of this community as soon as possible.*

- *The most important reason is to be a part of the brotherhood that has been passed down for many years.*
- *It would be an honor to follow in my father and grandfather's footsteps, who are both St. Paul's graduates.*
- *Through my faith, I enjoy helping others by doing service hours at places such as St. Tammany Humane Society. I also work at Heritage manor to brighten the elderly's day.*

**Better Late than Never Dept:** Jan 31 was the feast day of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Order of Sisters, Brothers and Priests. In many ways, John Bosco was similar to St. John Baptist de La Salle – he had a loving concern for young people and was devoted to meeting their educational needs. Today, the Salesians minister in the Archdiocese of New Orleans by conducting Archbishop Shaw High School and the Academy of Our Lady High School. We thank the Salesians for their work with the young people of the Archdiocese. Here’s a sampling of some of John Bosco’s words:

- *Do good while you still have time. God does not pay us for results, but for effort.*
- *Nobody can be truly happy in this world unless he is at peace with God.*
- *Put up willingly with the faults of others if you wish others to put up with yours.*

January 31 also marked the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Thomas Merton, American Catholic writer and mystic. A Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, KY, he was a poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion. A few of his words:

- *We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.*
- *Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul.*
- *And one of my favorites: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

**H of the W:** Ancient history, according to students:

- *Ancient Egypt was inhabited by mummies and they all wrote in hydraulics. They lived in the Sarah Dessert and traveled by Camelot. The climate of the Sarah is such that the inhabitants have to live elsewhere.*
- *The Bible is full of interesting caricatures. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness, Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. One of their children, Cain, asked, "Am I my brother's son?"*
- *Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandments. He died before he ever reached Canada.*
- *Solomon had three hundred wives and seven hundred porcupines.*
- *The Greeks were a highly sculptured people; without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks had myths. A myth is a female moth.*
- *Actually, Homer was not written by Homer but by another man of that name.*
- *Julius Caesar extinguished himself on the battlefields of Gaul. The Ides of March murdered him because they thought he was going to be made king. Dying, he gasped out: "Tee hee, Brutus.*
- *Nero was a cruel tyranny who would torture his subjects by playing the fiddle to them.*
- *OK, I'll stop.*



*Senior soccer players pose on Senior Night. Thanks, seniors, for your soccer careers.*

**W of E Dept:** Some emails I received from guests who attended Monday's mass:

- *My wife cannot stop talking about how wonderful the mass was. She was moved to tears by the boys singing and enthusiasm.*
- *Just wanted to tell you that I was able to catch the last quarter of the mass on the live streaming of it and it was so cool! Even though I couldn't be there in person, I really felt as though I was there and a part of it through the streaming. Thanks for doing that. I continue to be impressed. Happy Catholic Schools Week!*
- *I wanted to express my gratitude to you for the live streaming of today's mass. It was very nice to be able to participate from my office. It's times like these that confirm what I already know, [my son] couldn't be in a better place. The Archbishop's homily and after remarks were thought provoking and touching. I am looking forward to [my second son] joining his brother next year. Have a wonderful day.*
- *I wanted to take a moment to personally thank you for inviting the parents to the service today honoring Saint Paul. Both [my wife] and I were able to attend and were deeply moved from beginning to end. The singing, scripture reading from students and Archbishop Aymond's homily God were God inspiring. Please know how deeply grateful we are to both God and you for allowing our boys to part of such an amazing school and God honoring environment.*
- *And one parent sent the following to his whole family: I attended Mass today @SPS with the student body, Teachers, Admin, Brothers and the Archbishop. Re: Celebration of the Conversion of Saint Paul, and the celebration of the Blue Ribbon status afforded SPS by US Education Dept on the Saint Paul's School. The Eucharist was given and there were many other telling moments...but I would suggest- I thought most compelling that the Archbishop proclamation of the Blue Ribbon status of Education equal but certainly not greater than his perspective of the "other achievement of Blue Ribbon status" of SPS ---in what they are doing in the hearts and minds regarding the Christian teachings of/to the almost 900 boys/young men in attendance. Bravo, Bravo! and Blessings Indeed!!!*
- *I wanted to pass along to you a heartfelt thank you for a wonderful experience at mass on Monday. As a new parent at St. Paul's, I was overwhelmed by the boys' participation in mass. Please know how much we appreciate St. Paul's.*
- *[Monday's mass] was yet another incredible school event. The Mass was wonderful, the Archbishop's comments were very relevant, warm and engaging, and the Briggs Center was dazzling as always. In his comments during and after Mass, the Archbishop was visibly affected by the extraordinary spirit of the student body, staff and guests.*



*Juniors and families await start of HR Breakfast – eager to learn more vocabulary!*

- *After thanking the Archbishop for celebrating with us, Brother Ray gave resounding testimony to how strong the SPS community is today, punctuated by our Blue Ribbon Award (which the Archbishop mentioned numerous times in his remarks)...Archbishop Aymond and Archdiocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Jan Lancaster were both genuinely blown away by the experience. And so was just about everyone who could be there.*
- *Thank you for live streaming the mass. My son's two grandmothers, who live in India, were able to watch and thoroughly enjoyed it. [Wow!]*

**Apology:** I am WAY behind in sending thank you notes for Annual Fund donations! I will catch up over the Mardi Gras holidays! Thank you for your patience as well as your generosity! Advancing age strikes again!

**Annual Fund:** 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.

- 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 \$4.5 million 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 are not sending 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:** With the exceptionally cold weather last week, we relaxed our rule and allowed heavy coats and other warm weather gear. Now that things are more seasonal, we return to policy: **ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. If this presents a problem, please contact me.** We have some pre-owned sweatshirts in good condition which I’ll be happy to distribute. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son.

**IMPORTANT:** Many parents have not opened their Edline. We are using Edline for attendance contacting and for our SCHOOL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM! PLEASE, PLEASE make sure you have activated your Edline account so you can receive important SPS notifications. Call Mike Holmes at 892-3200, ext 1044 if you need assistance. Parents need to create their own account and not rely on their son’s account.

**Student Media:** Great articles in The Paper Wolf and great edition of The Guerilla Wolves. Here are the links:

- Guerilla Wolves: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlqsyKpd86o>
- <http://thepaperwolf.com/2016/01/28/a-leader-of-the-people-harrison-prieto/>
- <http://thepaperwolf.com/2016/01/27/zulu-added-to-stacked-marching-wolves-parade-schedule/>
- <http://thepaperwolf.com/2016/01/25/key-club-celebrated-at-banquet/>



*Sophomores await start of HR Breakfast.*

**2016 - 17 Registration:** Please note the following:

- **Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders:** registration information were emailed last Tuesday. **Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders planning to return for 2016 - 17 will have until Feb 04 (two weeks) to re-register.** Unregistered spots will be offered to new 9<sup>th</sup> grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next year so I know how many new 9<sup>th</sup> graders we can accept.
- **Current 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> grade:** You don’t need to register for SPS for 2016 - 17! Rejoice!
- **Registration will involve the payment of the \$300 registration fee.**

**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.

## **A Look Ahead**

February 1 – 9:00 am Start and Parent Teacher meetings 5:00-7:00 in the BAC

February 2 – President’s Assembly

February 3 – Pre Freshmen HR Breakfast (7:40 – 8:30 and we will have extra seating this time!)

February 5 – Faculty Retreat; no classes

February 6 – ACT on Campus

February 16 – President’s Time

February 23 – Pack Time – 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

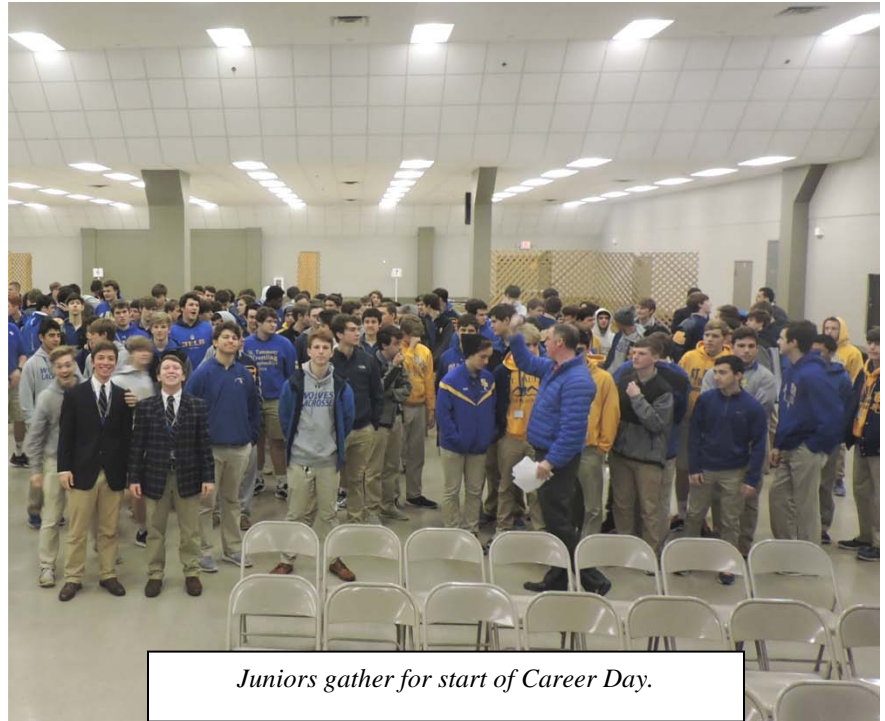
April 5 – Pack Time

April 7 – Mass (SJB DLS)

April 9 – ACT on campus

April 11-15–Leadership WK

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  
 April 21 – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast  
 April 22 – Blue Ribbon Holiday  
 April 25 – 10<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast  
 April 26 – President’s Assembly  
 April 27 – 11<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast  
 April 28 – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast  
 April 28-29 – Sophomore Service Days/Retreat  
 May 3 – Pack Time  
 May 4-6 – Senior Exams in BAC  
 May 10 – President’s Assembly – Band Awards in Evening  
 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/ BAC  
 May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion  
 May 17-19- Exam Schedule  
 May 20 – Teacher records day



*Juniors gather for start of Career Day.*

And even though it's 2016, I will still close with a paraphrase from one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now as I write and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

And you get a break next week as the newsletter goes on Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays. Next issue of the newsletter will be sent on Sunday morning, February 15. Enjoy next Sunday without your inbox being cluttered.

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

Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we march forward through 2016! Again, thanks for being part of the 2015 – 16 edition of SPS!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC  
 Still Thanking God for the Privilege of Being the 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



*Still not growing tired of this picture!*