



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter

February 15 - 21, 2016 in the Jubilee Year of Mercy



Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return!

Welcome back and welcome to Lent! While we celebrated Mardi Gras last week, other Lasallian Schools were in session. Brother Nick Gonzales, president of Cathedral High in El Paso, sent the following Lenten thought to his faculty for Ash Wednesday. I've stolen, uh, borrowed, from Nick before, and this thought is good enough for us to read and ponder as we begin our Lenten journey:

John Baptist De La Salle encouraged the first teachers to enter fully into Lent. While fasting from meat is a Lenten practice, the founder encouraged fasting with one's eyes, tongue and heart. With your eyes by "turning aside from whatever might distract you." With your tongue you control what you say so that you only build up instead of tear down. And with your heart, you surrender your will to God's so that you open it others.



Canada Geese add even more beauty to SPS as they help us reflect on the meaning of Lent....

Thanks, Brother Nick! May we all take our Founder's exhortation to fast with our eyes, tongues and hearts! Happy Lent!

Mon, Feb 15 (Regular; B C D E)

- **Presidents Day:** We honor the 43 men who have had the incredible privilege of serving as President of the US. Question: If President Obama is the 44th president, how come there are only 43 names? Grover Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms, becoming both the 22nd and the 24th president. But you knew that!
- **This Day in History:** In 1898, the American battleship *Maine* was blown up while at anchor in Havana Harbor, at 9:40 PM. The ship sank quickly, and 260 members of its crew were lost. Inflamed public opinion in the US ignored the lack of evidence to establish responsibility for the explosion. "Remember the *Maine*" became the war cry, and a formal declaration of war against Spain followed on April 25.
- **World Whale Day:** Celebrate the whale today!
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Hannan (Tangi Lanes; 3:30)
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV, & Varsity v. Mandeville (beginning at 5)

Tue, Feb 16 (President's Assembly; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** In 1923, in Thebes, Egypt, English archaeologist Howard Carter enters the sealed burial chamber of the ancient Egyptian ruler, King Tutankhamen. Anybody remember when the Tut Exhibit came to New Orleans?
- **Innovation Day:** Spot a problem, think of a solution, and before you know it you're innovating! **Innovation Day** is all about imagining new, better ways of doing things. And you're never too young to innovate: lollipops, earmuffs, trampolines, Braille and countless smart phone apps have all been invented by children.
- **Do A Grouch A Favor Day:** Do something nice for your favorite grouch!
- **National Almond Day:** Celebrate the almond today! They are packed with vitamin E, magnesium and fiber and are considered a heart-healthy food.

Wed, Feb 17 (Regular; C D E F)

- **7 am Mass:** Join us in the chapel! In by 7:00; out by 7:30. It's a great Lenten practice
- **TDIH:** The electoral tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr was broken by the House of Representatives who elected Jefferson president.
- **Random Acts of Kindness Day:** Pretty self-explanatory! Spread some kindness today!
- **My Way Day:** Feel free to celebrate today, but if you're at SPS, make sure your way is our way.
- **TDIH:** In 1972, the Volkswagen Beetle overtakes iconic Model T Ford as world's bestselling car.
- **Bowling:** SPs v. Albany (3:30; Tangi Lanes) and **Golf:** Wolves at Beau Chene

Thu, Feb 18 (Regular; G A B C)



- **TDIH: Today** is the death anniversary, in 1564, of Michelangelo, artist, architect, and sculptor. Commissioned by Pope Julius III to paint the Sistine Chapel ceiling, Michelangelo was also architect of part of the massive church of St. Peter in Rome, and he designed its great dome. Michelangelo, however, thought of himself mainly as a sculptor. Two of his most famous sculptures are "David" in Florence and the "Pieta" in St. Peter. Michelangelo often saw potential in things other people did not see. On one occasion he was seen studying carefully what others saw as simply a large block of marble. Someone asked him what he was doing. He said "I can see an angel imprisoned in this marble and I must set it free." He then began the long and skilled job of carving a beautiful angel out of that marble. Although Michelangelo lived one hundred years before St. John Baptist de La Salle, our Founder also saw potential in things that other people did not see. He saw the children of the "artisans and the poor" who

were "far from salvation" and, while others did not care about them, he knew they had potential. He founded the Christian school to develop that potential and change those "blocks of marble" into "beautiful angels." As Lasallians, we are called to do this work, to adopt the eye of Michelangelo in looking at our students. Who knows what potential is "imprisoned" in each of them? In a Lasallian school, everyone is important; no one is insignificant. May we be the sculptors who, with God's help, release the beauty and potential of the young men of Saint Paul's School!

- **TDIH:** In 1885, Mark Twain publishes *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- **National Battery Day:** This day honors Italian physicist Alessandro Volta, the inventor of the battery, who was born on this day in 1745. Without batteries, where would that pink bunny with the drums be today?
- **Basketball:** JV and Varsity v. Fontainebleau
- **Soccer:** Wolves v. Captain Shreve in Quarterfinal Round of playoffs; 5:30 in Hunter Stadium

Fri, Feb 19 (Regular; D E F G)

- **Chocolate Mint Day:** Enjoy!
- **TDIH:** 3 years ago today, we formally dedicated the **Briggs Assembly Center** – a blessing to SPS.
- **TDIH II:** In 1878, the technology that made the modern music business possible came into existence in the New Jersey laboratory where Thomas Alva Edison created the first device to both record sound and play it back. He was awarded U.S. Patent No. 200,521 for his invention--the phonograph. We've come a LONG way!
- **TDIH:** In 1968, *Mr. Roger's Neighborhood* debuted on PBS. *It's as beautiful day in the neighborhood....*



Archbishop Aymond & Superintendent Lancaster honor Saint Paul's at Catholic Schools Week mass for earning the Blue Ribbon of Excellence.

- **Lacrosse:** V & JVA at Ocean Springs
- **Baseball Meet the Team (BAC)**
- **Track Meet the Team (Cafeteria)**

Sat, Feb 20

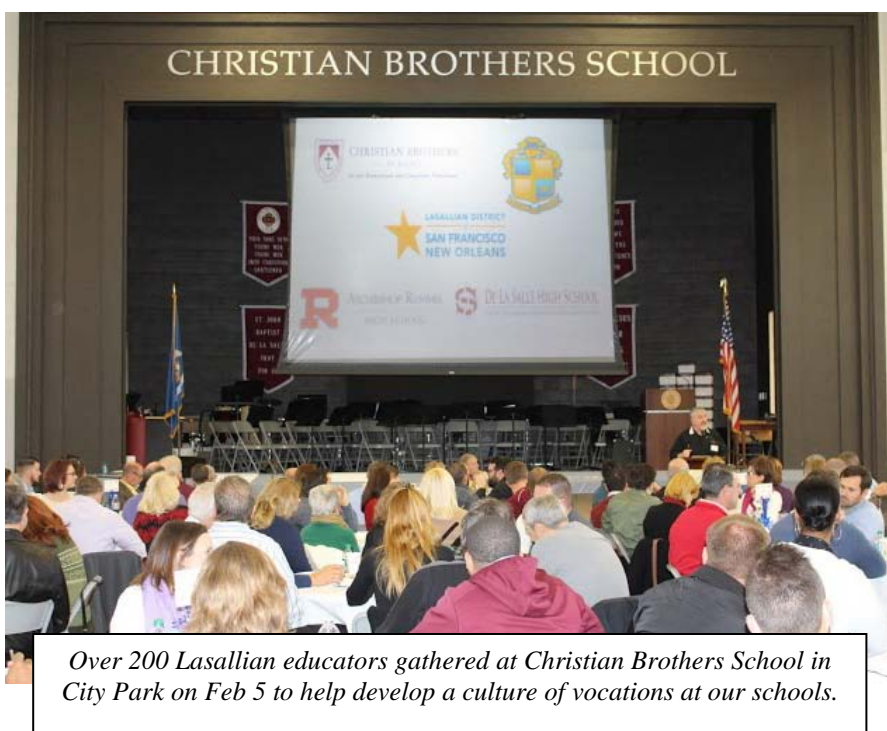
- **TDIH:** In 1962, John Hershel Glenn Jr. is successfully launched into space aboard the *Friendship 7* spacecraft on the first orbital flight by an American astronaut.
- **Cherry Pie Day: Enjoy!**
- **Lacrosse:** V at St. Martin's
- **Rugby:** SPS v. Bayou Hurricanes
- **Indoor Track State Meet**

Sun, Feb 21– We encourage our Catholic families to attend mass today and our non-Catholic families to worship at the church of their choice.

- **TDIH:** In 1972, President Richard Nixon becomes first sitting US President to visit The People's Republic of China. Arriving in Beijing, the president announced his breakthrough visit to China is "The week that changed the world."
- **President & Principal Travel:** Trevor and I leave today to attend the annual Lasallian Chief Administrators' Conference. This year it's in San Antonio (our eastern colleagues like warm weather venues!). We return Wed night.

Musings on Last Week:

- **Culture of Vocation Conference:** On Feb 5, over 200 Lasallian educators from Saint Paul's, De La Salle, Archbishop Rummel and Christian Brothers School gathered for a conference on building a culture of vocations in our schools. I felt the time was productive. Parents, too, have a duty to discuss vocations (in the largest sense) with their children. We will work on bringing some of the good ideas generated back to SPS. To begin, we offer affirming words to the six SPS students (along with students from Rummel, St. Mike's in Santa Fe, Mullen in Denver & Cathedral in El Paso) who attended a District Vocation Retreat from Feb 13 – 15: Jacob Broussard, Christian Flick, Austin Grashoff, Oliver Sibley, & Patrick Stewart. Campus Minister Jeff Ramon accompanied them.



Over 200 Lasallian educators gathered at Christian Brothers School in City Park on Feb 5 to help develop a culture of vocations at our schools.

- **Marching Wolves** performed great at the Special Needs Parade at Wal Mart (we received many compliments!) on Feb 4 as well as in the Krewes of Hermes, Endymion, Bacchus and Zulu. Congrats, Marching Wolves & AFJROTC Color Guard! And many, many thanks to the Band Boosters for their incredible logistical support. For a video clip of the MWs at the special needs parade, visit the San Francisco New Orleans Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SFNODistrict/> Scroll down till you see MWs!
- **Catholic Schools Week Mass:** Thanks to Trevor Watkins, Joe Dickens, Jeff Ramon and a student delegation for representing SPS. We were honored by Archbishop Aymond for being a Blue Ribbon School. Thanks, Archbishop Aymond – again!

- **Basketball:** District wins over Ponchy & Slidell clinch a District Championship for SPS – and a 28 game win streak! And 8th grade finished their season on Sat with great wins over Jesuit and Rummel! Congrats, Basketball Wolves!
- **Soccer:** Great win on Thu pushes us into quarterfinal round of playoffs. Go Wolves as you defend your state title!
- **Wrestling:** Wolves traveled to Shreveport for state meet and did quite well, finishing 5th in state in Division I with Cole Houser winning an individual state championship!
- **Athletic Signing:** Congrats to Kenny Sears III for signing with Northwestern on Feb 3. Thanks to Karen for logistical arrangements.
- **Alumni on Campus:** Thanks to Al Nastasi and Development Team for hosting the large group of alums who came to campus on Feb 2 for breakfast, assembly, tour and memories. They were impressed with the new gym and all the great things happening at Saint Paul's these days!
- **Parent-Teacher Meetings:** A light turnout but positive spirit. I appreciate all who came on Feb 1.
- **Law Studies Project:** I had the privilege of watching our future lawyers engage in a real-life exercise. Attorney/teacher Greg Pellegrini divided his class into plaintiff and defense lawyers and then gave them a case, complete with discovered and undiscovered facts, to use in negotiating a settlement. Plaintiff lawyers were to get as much \$ as possible while defense lawyers wanted to give a little. It was fascinating to watch the guys negotiate! And the settlements were all over the place! Morris Bart et al: beware!
- **Biomed IV Project:** I also had the pleasure of watching Biomed IV guys pretend they were making a health related grant proposal to prospective investors. Fascinating! The proposed grants ran from eliminating the Naegleria fowleri amoeba found in St. Bernard Parish to reducing STDs among college students in LA to combating the Zika Virus in the US. It was a great combination of scientific research, financial figuring, persuasion and presentation skills.
- **RoboWolves:** The RBs hosted 24 teams from other schools in spirited robotic competition on Saturday. It was quite the event! Thanks Julie, Marie, Guerilla Wolves, and Robo Wolves!
- **Baseball:** Bats were swinging on Sat as the season begins!

Campus Memorials: I'm always humbled when people want their loved ones remembered at SPS. Here are the latest:

- Feb 13 marked the one year anniversary of the passing of respected SPS alumnus and DA employee Michael Swords, '78. In his memory, a sweet olive tree, plaque, and bench have been installed by the northwest corner of the campus pond. In addition, a scholarship fund in his name has been started. A memorial service for family and friends was held on the 13th. Mike's son, Michael, is also an SPS alumnus, as are his brother, Cullom '81 and father, '50.
- On Feb 5, Dr. Burns Crotty, Jr. died in his home. Burns is the father of SPS alum Cory '95 and was an active supporter of SPS during Cory's attendance. The family has requested memorial donations to SPS in the good dentist's memory. We are honored and offer them prayer and support.
- And, of course, we are humbled by the outpouring of love and support from family and friends of Ben Blanchard, 00. Almost \$15,000 has been donated in his memory and donations continue to arrive.
- Let us remember all of these memorials – as well as those that are already on campus. Robert Simpson does an excellent "tour" of the campus memorials with his sophomore classes.



Parking: The City of Covington has informed us that some of our students are parking illegally. City ordinance forbids parking within 30 feet of an intersection, and our guys (and maybe even some of us) have encroached upon that space. The City has installed cross ties to prevent this encroachment and will issue tickets to violators. Parents – speak with your sons about observing parking regulations!

Feb 02 Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Feb 02 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to world-famous cellist Yo Yo Ma play "Ecstasy of Gold", a song from the 1960's classic spaghetti - Western film, "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." I explained that I chose YoYo Ma's version because, in addition to being outstanding, Ma's life is dedicated to promoting world peace and human rights. Several years ago, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor an American President can bestow. And I told them I use the song at the assembly before Mardi Gras, because that holiday, while having so much good, is also sometimes filled with the bad and the ugly. I beseeched the students to choose only the good this Mardi Gras season and to avoid the bad and the ugly. As the prayer candle was lit by junior **Garrett Boyce**, we prayed in a special way for those who have entered into God's Kingdom since our last assembly: **Mr. Leonard Paul Hood, Sr, grandfather of senior Evan Hood; junior Josh Scherer's uncle, and SPS alum Deacon Louis Mire '52**
- Introduced over 40 alumni who were visiting campus and had the students warmly welcome them back to campus.
- Recognized and congratulated the Marching Wolves and ROTC Color Guard for performing exemplarily in the first three Mardi Gras parades: Eve, Olympia and Carrollton and wishes them well in the final four: Hermes, Endymion, Bacchus and Zulu!
- Recognized and congratulated the baseball players who participated in the Miracle League in the fall: helping mentally and physically challenged individuals play the sport of baseball. This demanded an 8 week commitment by these fourteen young men and lots of patience and determination. But as senior Rutger Fury told me, "I gained more from this than those we were helping." Congrats to **Andy Grashoff, Landon Waite, William Huertin, Trey Juneau, Nick Chifici, Curtis Zuckerman, Carter Jarrell, Blake LoCicero, Bradley Yaeger, Erik Carrera, Robby Darrah, Cam Cole, Kurt Thompson, Rutger Fury**



- Recognized and congratulated the staff of The Paper Wolf. Last semester, TPW was awarded a Gold Medal (the highest award) by the Columbia University School of Journalism – one of the best journalism schools in the country. This is the third consecutive year TPW has brought home the gold. The gold medal is awarded to only the top 5% of school newspapers in the country. Wow. Well done, TPW staff! The medal was presented by editors **Nick Ashton and Jordan Kliebert** to Principal Watkins and Assistant Principal Dickens.

- Recognized and congratulated the Student Council for another outstanding showing at the state convention: **Austin**

Grashoff represented SPS as State Parliamentarian and the following delegates attended, behaving in an exemplary manner: **Seniors Adam Schmitt and John Cresson; Juniors Alex Nunez, Will Murphy, Andy Grashoff, and Oliver Sibley; Freshmen Chris Wilson, Daniel Wieseneck and Josh Devier; and Pre Freshman Paxton Ballard.** St. Paul's was awarded the Gold Honor Council Award and the Student Councils Week Award, was recognized for a donation of more than \$500 to the state charity, and we won the District II Food Drive trophy (we collected approximately 18,000 of the district total of 31, 000 pounds). **Will Murphy** was elected District II Vice-President, and **Austin Grashoff** was awarded the prestigious Dale Hawley Leadership Award, awarded for service and leadership

at the state level. Alex Nunez and Oliver Sibley facilitated a student led exchange. Trophies and plaques were presented to Principal Watkins and Assistant Principal Dickens.

- Recognized and congratulated the Wrestling Team for placing **FIRST** out of 14 teams in the Dale Ketelsen Memorial Tournament. First Place went to Sam Dufour, Cole Houser, Jared Thieler, Shane Ulfers, Seth Dragon, & Colin Francis. Second Places were won by Brandon Stein, Billy Harrison, Blake Huff, Josh Mascaro, & Christian Fortner. Fourth Places were won by Connor Oviedo, Grant Hughes & Nathan Bagnell. Colin Francis was also named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler
- Recognized and congratulated the 9th Grade Soccer Team for winning the SPS Freshman Tournament. Also, I was able to recognize and congratulate the 8th Grade Soccer Team for placing second in the Freshman Tournament! Well done, soccer wolves!



- Recognized and congratulated seniors **Hunter Romero & Nick Marinello** for selflessly helping a lady change her flat tire. The lady posted a big thank you to the boys and to SPS on her Facebook page, which was seen by many people. Thanks, Hunter and Nick!

- I then reminded the students that we were observing the third anniversary of the death of Justin Addison, who died in a biking accident. In memory of Justin, his friend and fellow competitive cyclist Zachary Russ, himself a survivor of a serious cycling accident, made a four minute video tribute to Justin. I thought the video good enough to show the entire school, and so we watched it. It was very moving.

- With time running out, the boys sang “Mercy” in honor of the Jubilee Year of Mercy (they sounded great) and then sing the fight son.

- Then, to show our solidarity with ALL the groups on campus that are representing us so well, we robustly sang the fight song
- By this time, we were well over time, so recognitions will carry over to the next assembly. We ended with **Bradley del Rio** extinguishing the prayer candle while Yo Yo Ma’s rendition of “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” played in the background. I again begged the student body to concentrate only on “the good” during this Mardi Gras season and to make safe choices. I closed by reminding the students what the candle represents – the love of God, the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I exhorted them to spread God’s love to all whom they meet.
- It was a great assembly – at least I thought so!

Lasallian Young Leaders Mardi Gras Bead Drive: The annual bead drive is back. LYL will collect beads throughout next week to support St. Michael's special school. Please bring all donations of beads to the marked bins in the school buildings or in the mornings in Founder's Circle.

Celebrity Waiters Dinner: Come “Celebrate Sitcoms” at our annual Celebrity Waiters Dinner on Thursday, March 3 in the Briggs Assembly Center from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. This fun filled evening includes a full course meal, refreshments, entertainment and fellowship amongst St. Paul's families as well as the local business community. Proceeds from this event directly impact our students while supporting the College Tour, the student chapter of Habitat for Humanity, honor roll breakfasts, many other special student recognitions, Life Skills Day for Seniors, etiquette training for pre- freshmen, Wolves on Wheels, Robotics and Aqua Robotics, our Mu Alpha Theta competitions and many more programs which enrich the experience of the young men here at St. Paul's. For more information, please Click Here. <https://www.stpauls.com/support/events/celebrity-waiters-dinner/>

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!

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!



Hungry pre-freshmen await start of serving at Honor Roll Breakfast – I'm sure they were hungry for the vocabulary words, too, that were taught at the breakfast!

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.

2016 - 17 Registration: Please note the following:

- **Current 8th graders:** Your deadline to register has passed. I am now offering the spots of unregistered pre-freshmen to new 9th grade applicants.
- **Current 9th – 11th grades:** We will email your registration materials this week. Deadline for registering will be Friday, Feb 26.
- **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.**



Marching Wolves were crowd pleasers at seven Mardi Gras parades this season! Here they are in Zulu!

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.

Looking for ways to get more involved at SPS? The Mothers' Club is looking for volunteers to work various shifts in the bookstore. The bookstore is open Monday through Friday 7:15 -8:00, 11:00-12:30, and 2:15-3:15. No experience necessary! Contact Andrea Francis at 985-630-2555 or email adfrancis65@bellsouth.net. Thanks for your support!

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!

Application Letters: More unedited snippets from next year's applicant pool:

- *I have heard many cool stories about being a student there and about all of the cool teachers.*
- *At St. Paul's, I will start out as a 13 year old boy but grow up to be an 18 year old man.*
- *I have served as an altar boy for the past two years. [Wonderful, but he needs to learn how to spell altar!]*
- *I would love to be the mascot!*
- *I know people who are past graduates and I have seen the bond that they share with their classmates.*
- *I like when you walk onto the pretty campus, God is watching over you.*

H of the W:

- *What is a math teacher's favorite sum? Summer!*
- *Teachers who take class attendance are absent-minded.*
- *Teacher: 'Craig, you know you can't sleep in my class.' Craig: 'If you were just a little quieter, I could.'*
- *Stressing the importance of a good vocabulary, the teacher told her students, "Use a word ten times, and it shall be yours for life." From somewhere in the back of the room, came a male voice chanting, "Amanda, Amanda, Amanda, Amanda, Amanda, Amanda, Amanda, Amanda, Amanda, Amanda."*
- *Pupil: I don't think I deserved zero on this test! Teacher: I agree, but that's the lowest mark I could give you!*
- *What do you call a teacher without students? Happy!*
- *Teachers deserve a lot of credit. Of course, if we paid them more, they wouldn't need it.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*



Marching Wolves strut their signature style in front of Ogden Museum in Zulu Parade on a very cold Mardi Gras day!

Words of Encouragement: I share the following with you since it was addressed to the entire Saint Paul's School Community. It was written by Mr. M. E. Bernhardt, a cousin of Ben Blanchard, a 2000 SPS alum who died last month and whose funeral was on our campus. It's a moving tribute about Ben and his love for SPS – and gives us much to reflect upon as we begin Lent. Here is the intro to the letter which the writer sent me:

I had the great privilege of spending a great deal of time with Ben and his family this past year. Particularly, I was there the last 9 days of his life and witnessed the most beautiful transformative moments of love. I was next to Susan in the hospital when she called to tell you about Ben's rapidly failing health. She and Mark held tightly to each other after you talked to her. A profound testimony of faith and love. Thank you for all that you do for the young men of Covington and for my dear Blanchard family. Thank you for helping mold such fine men as Ben and Chris Blanchard. May your school continue to thrive and grow in love within your Covington community.

And now here's Mr. Bernhardt's letter to us:

Never Retreat, Never Surrender BMB

St. Paul, a man transformed on earth to spread Christ's Love, explains, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (4:18)." The unseen outpouring of human connectedness over Ben's life and death is a definite reflection of eternal love. Ben channeled that love within all his relationships. He guided and worked hard to build his physical, emotional and spiritual being to represent a non-judging, non-dualistic lifestyle, to reflect joy and love. He believed there is something loveable in everyone.

St. Paul Lasallian High School in Covington, Louisiana, is a special community where Ben knew thousands would gather to celebrate his life. A place Ben specifically chose to be waked and have a funeral Mass where over a thousand people would come to extend love, compassion and support for his family and friends. Ben was fully aware that his time on earth was limited. I called him after a young man, Joseph Delaune, lost his battle with Ewing's Sarcoma a little over a year into his diagnosis and Ben cried to me saying, I'm on borrowed time. He was fully aware of his humanity and severity of his cancer. He would have to leave his family behind, but knew that this community would serve as a source of comfort for his parents and brother.



Our delegation to the Catholic Schools Week mass – some of the next Ben Blanchards of the world!

Ben had spoken with each- mother, father and brother – preparing them, engaging with them to live, forgive and exist for meaningful purpose and that where he was going, they would one day join him... For Susan writes a powerful message to Ben in his book, Letters to a Son, "God brought Simon's and Relatives into our lives, touching Dad and I to share Joy and Love and Life Lessons – I love you more each passing Day. I am proud of the man you are." This message was so real to Mark and Susan's sons that Chris also would mention it in his brother's eulogy, in front of nearly 1,000 people. Chris and Mark, while giving the eulogy, spoke how Ben's relationships in life had lasting effects and would continue to carry their family.

Ben knew that people would come. His family reinforced constantly to him that they would continue to live and carry on. Susan reared her sons to be other oriented, to be connected to others. She selflessly shared her sons with the world using many of the thematic messages within that book as a guidepost.

Mark, Susan and Chris individually and collectively gave the greatest gift of 'loving generosity' to Ben, meaning they shared Ben's spirit, energy, passion, compassion, struggles, and successes with the world. Never did Mark, Susan or Chris dissuade Ben to a friend or relationship even during his last final days. Rather, they encouraged people to participate and witness his great love. So many people, man, woman, old, young, assumed Ben was his or her best friend. He had a gift enabling everyone to feel special and loved, helping that person feel special and necessary to society. How fitting to have a Mass for Ben at a place that focused on learning and growth for young men; because in living and dying Ben taught us that - to learn and grow. While Mark, Susan and Chris were writing the prayers of the faithful, the morning of the funeral, they were grateful for St. Paul's Lasallian Catholic high school and the message it teaches the young men of Covington.

Witnessing profound acts of charity, sincere kindness, deep humility, listening to beautiful testimonies and heartfelt stories among men, women, children, those struggling in sickness and health, resulted in moments of healing for the family as well as the community. Amid piercing sorrow a testimony of eternal love, a legacy of love, a way to be in relationship with each other came to pass.

Mother Teresa once said, "I am a little pencil in the Hands of a writing God who is sending a Love Letter to the world." Indeed Mark, Susan, Chris and Ben's story is a great Love Letter to the World. A Love Letter that begins in a small town of Covington, Louisiana, on the Bogue Falaya River, in the arms of a family who believes in the power of transformative love. Their collective example, though many were unseen has changed the lives of thousands, bringing immense love out of piercing sorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Bernhardt, As President of SPS, I'm more determined than ever to provide an environment that produces more Ben Blanchards into the world!

A Look Ahead

February 15 – Classes resume at 7:45 from the Mardi Gras/Beginning of Lent Holidays

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 (SJBDS)

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 – 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 – 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 in BAC
 May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion
 May 17-19- Exam Schedule
 May 20 – Teacher records 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!

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 Saint Paul’s!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC
 Praying for Grace of Lent as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School



**...by doing ordinary things
 extraordinarily well, making
 courageous choices, and doing
 God’s will!**



Still not tired of this picture!