



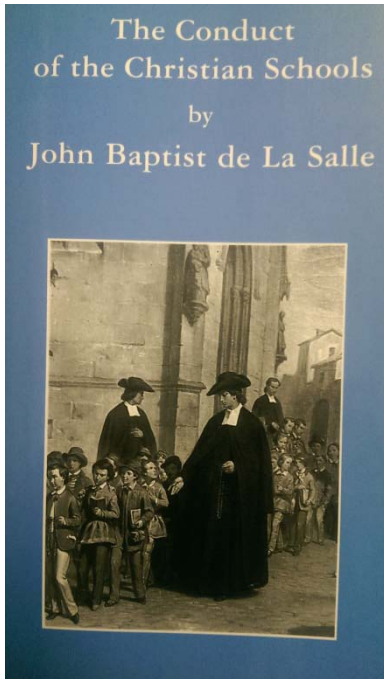
The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



April 11 - 17, 2016 in the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Alleluia! He is risen!

Welcome to the fourth week of the fourth quarter of the school year. Today we begin Leadership Week, organized by our Student Council. And while Saint John Baptist de La Salle didn't have "student councils", he did very much believe in empowering students through leadership roles. Here's what he directed the first schools to have in terms of school "officers", taken from *The Conduct of the Christian Schools* – perhaps the first "faculty handbook" ever written:



There shall be several [student] officers in the school. These officers will be charged with several different functions which the teachers cannot or ought not do themselves. These officers shall be 1) the Reciter of Prayers, 2) the one who says what the priest says in the responsories at holy Mass and is called for this reason the Mass Officer, 3) the Almoner, 4) the Holy Water Bearer, 5) the Rosary Carrier and assistants, 6) the Bell Ringer, 7) the Monitors and Supervisors, 8) the First Student in the Bench, 9) the Visitors of the Absent Students, 10) the Distributors and Collectors of Papers, 11) the Distributors and Collectors of Books, 12) the Sweepers, 13) the Doorkeeper, and 14) the Keeper of the School Key.

Note that there are no "pizza day organizers" or "prom committee chairs!" Note, too, that Saint La Salle even entrusted the school key to a student who was supposed to unlock and lock the school doors! (Sorry, Saint La Salle, I'm not willing to do that – although maybe a student would be more responsible than some of us in terms of locking the buildings at the end of the day!)

I was particularly struck by the Visitors of the Absent Students. Here's what La Salle wrote about these students: *In each class, there shall be two or three students charged with seeing to the assiduous attendance of the students living in several streets of a given section of the town which have been assigned to them.... Each Visitor shall take care to go and visit each absentee after school. The teacher should not have to remind the Visitor to do this. Each Visitor shall report to the teacher at the beginning of the next session what the Visitor found out at the home of each of the absentees; why the absentee was absent; to whom the Visitor spoke; and when the absentee would return to class.* Wow. How many of us check on our absent students or ask a student to do so? And all we have to do is email or phone! Thanks to Erin for checking on absent students!

Let's celebrate our student leaders this week and encourage all students to be leaders. I've asked teachers to look for opportunities to empower students in their classes. The more the teachers have the students do, the better. As parents, I encourage you to empower your sons, too. Don't be offended moms, but sometimes you do too much for them and they grow in dependency instead of independency! And as I reminded the teachers, personal example is a more powerful sign of leadership than words. Have a great Leadership Week and thanks to all of our SPS leaders!

Mon, Apr 11 (Regular; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1861, the bloodiest four years in US history begin when Confederate batteries under General P.G.T. Beauregard open fire on Union Ft Sumter in Charleston Bay, SC, beginning Civil War.
- **Education & Sharing Day:** *On E & S Day, we reflect on the teachings of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who embodied that humanitarian spirit. As a tireless advocate for youth around the world, he inspired millions to lift*

the cause of education, to practice kindness and generosity, and to aspire toward their highest ideals. His enduring legacy lives on in those he touched, and today, we resolve to carry forward his dedication to service and scholarship.

- **International “Louie Louie” Day:** From the LLD website: *Today provides an annual opportunity to celebrate the song that has been called best party song of all time, has been recorded more times than any other rock song in history, and was very nearly declared the official state song of Washington State. Why April 11? It's the birthday of Richard Berry, the man who composed Louie Louie.* Now, if we could just understand the lyrics!
- **National Pet Day:** I have no pets (other than peeves); be extra kind to yours today!
- **World Parkinson’s Disease Day:** In Parkinson's, nerve cells that deliver the neurotransmitter dopamine to other cells are reduced in numbers. As cell death spreads to ever larger parts of the brain, more centers are affected. This results in an aggravation of motor and non motor disorders. We pray for a medical cure for this dreaded scourge.
- **LA Tech Engineering & Science Day Field Trip**
- **Challenge Night:** The annual “Battle of the Sexes” between SPS & SSA takes place tonight in good natured fun and competition. This is NOT a sexist thing and we’re not about to turn it into one.

Tue, Apr 12 (Assembly; E F G A)

- **DEAR Day:** “Drop Everything and Read,” designed to remind all to make reading a priority activity in their lives. Let’s all observe this day! Students: do SSR today!
- **National Be Kind to Lawyers Day.** We wish our SPS community lawyers a very pleasant day.
- **National Licorice Day:** Enjoy if you wish; I’m not a fan.
- **Mothers Club:** Executive Board meets at 8:30; B of Directors at 10
- **Track:** JV Meet in Slidell
- **Golf at Beau Chene in Northshore League play**
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity at Covington (4:30 & 6:30)



Caleb & Grant assist Father Matt at mass last week

Wed, Apr 13 (Regular; B C D E)

- **Mass at 7 am. I encourage students to attend.**
- **TDIH:** In 1742, George Friedrich Handel’s *Messiah* (NOT “The Messiah”) debuts in Dublin. What a masterpiece!
- **TDIH:** 1743, Thomas Jefferson, our third president, the main author of the Declaration of Independence, and the accomplisher The Louisiana Purchase, was born in Shadwell, VA.
- **National Scrabble Day:** Get out the old Scrabble Game and enjoy while listening to Handel! A double treat!
- **Leadership Breakfast (by invitation; 7:45 in cafeteria)**
- **Baseball:** 9th at Mandeville
- **Track:** Varsity at F’Bleau
- **LA Student of the Year Competition:** Six seniors in the whole state of LA will meet in Baton Rouge today for competition as the Student of the Year. Our own John Cresson is one of them. We wish John the best and, as far as we are concerned, he is the S of the Y!
- **Mother-Son Dinner** (6:30 in the BAC)

Thu, Apr 14 – (Assembly; F G A B)

- **Global Day to End Child Sexual Abuse:** Over 40 countries (including 35 US states) have agreed to promote this day. *It is estimated that more than 300,000 children around the world are sexually abused a year, many by close relatives or people they know and trust. Experts state that one in four girls and one in six boys will experience sexual abuse by their eighteenth birthday. A majority of victims are under the age of ten.* We pray for an end to this tragedy!
- **International Moment of Laughter Day:** To celebrate this day, tell jokes or do funny things that cause people to laugh. Just a smile is not a good enough. Successful participation in this day results in whole-hearted laughter.

- **National Dolphin Day:** Celebrate the dolphin today! Watch clips of “Flipper” on You Tube! Am I the only one who remembers the TV show “Flipper?”
- **TDIH:** In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, an actor and Confederate sympathizer, fatally shoots President Abraham Lincoln at a play at Ford's Theater in Washington.
- **TDIH:** In 2011, the entire SPS school community participated in the **Centennial March to the Courthouse** from school to St. Tammany Justice Center. This was an outstanding event. The Committee, chaired by then SPS mom Shawn Reed, had assembled a stellar cast of dignitaries to honor our students and school. We remain very grateful.
- **Leadership Guest Speaker Assembly**
- **Student Council Elections (1st Block)**
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity v. Ponchatoula (4 & 6:30)

Fri, Apr 15 (Double Assembly; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** The “unsinkable” RMS Titanic sinks after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage, killing 1,517 people.
- **TDIH:** In 1865 Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the US, dies. Shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford’s Theater in Washington the night before, he lived for 9 hours before succumbing to the severe head wound he sustained.
- **Rubber Eraser Day:** We all make mistakes! Where would we be with erasers? If only we could erase all the mistakes in our lives, not just the ones written in pencil on paper.
- **World Art Day:** Celebrate art on the anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci’s birthday in 1452! Check out da Vinci’s art (including The Last Supper & The Mona Lisa) on a search engine of your choice.
- **Student Council Year in Review / Election Results Assembly (am)**
- **Golden Jubilarian & 2016 Alumni Induction Ceremony (pm)**



Sat, Apr 16

- **National Librarian Day:** Be nice to a librarian today!
- **National Healthcare Decisions Day:** Today promotes the importance of advance care planning, educating all to express health care wishes through the use of advance directives and health care power of attorney documents, and to encourage health care providers and facilities to honor those wishes. The Archdiocese of New Orleans has worked very closely with LAPost (the Louisiana Physicians Order for Scope of Treatment) on developing information for Catholics on end of life care issues. These are not always easy

discussions, but important ones. I’ve done my “end of life” planning – although I hope my wishes won’t be heeded anytime soon.

- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity at Slidell (11 & 1:30)
- **Lacrosse:** JVB & Wolf Squad at Bayou Bash; Varsity in Quarterfinal Playoff Round
- **San Francisco New Orleans Christian Brothers District Day:** 31 Christian Brothers from throughout our province will gather at SPS today to celebrate our Mission and our Brotherhood. Please pray for us as we face our increasing age and diminishing numbers.
- **Alumni Crawfish Cookoff**

Sun, Apr 17

- **TDIH:** In 1970, with the world anxiously watching, *Apollo 13*, a U.S. lunar spacecraft that suffered a severe malfunction on its journey to the moon, safely returns to Earth.
- **National Blah, Blah, Blah Day:** The intent of this day is to do things that people have been nagging you to do.
- **National Haiku Poetry Day** is a celebration of the genre of haiku, poetic form whose origins date back a millennium in Japan. Write some haiku today – a 17 syllable poem divided into 3 lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables, and employing highly evocative allusions and comparisons, often on the subject of nature or one of the seasons. Some examples:

Five syllables here	Let's speak only in	The cool wind blowing
Seven more syllables there	Haikus for the entire day.	Immersed in nature's beauty
Are you happy now?	That's ridiculous.	Calming my wild soul
- **TDIH:** Ford Motor Company officially unveils the Ford Mustang automobile.

Musings on Last Week:

- **Mass:** Thanks to all who helped make the Founder's Feast Day mass so wonderful. We are grateful to SPS alumnus, Father Matthew Johnston '03 for celebrating mass for us.
- **Manresa:** A spiritual experience for the 14 young men who made the 24 hour silent retreat with no phones, texts, or communication with the outside world.
- **Foreign Language Festival:** Lobos represented us well on Fri at SLU.
- **Mu Alpha Theta:** Thanks to Pam Cullen, Susan Jordan and Karen Hebert who brought our Fighting Math Wolves to convention last week, where they did very well. Thanks, too, to Trevor Watkins for driving the bus.
- **ACT:** A problem-free administration on Sat.
- **Tennis:** 6-0 win against Salmen
- **Golf:** I know the Wolves played and did well, but I don't have specifics. Geaux Golf Wolves!
- **Baseball:** Varsity district win against F'Bleau & lost to Hammond & Northshore. JV beat F'Bleau & Northshore
- **Track:** 1st Place by a mile in the Parish Meet!
- **Crescent City Classic – Second Try:** Careful reader Myrle Wiggins pointed out that I omitted some SPS runners in last week's note about the CCC. So I'll try it again: Spencer Albright (31st), alum Pat Gavin (37), Evan Hendry (62), Jonathan Bertucci (63), alum Doug Fields (92), alum Brian Lozes (93), Patrick Elliott (100), Stephen Schlottman (101), alum Chris Pool (243), alum Eddie Montreuil (288), Frankie Durio (349), Henry Elliott (350), Henry Englehardt (future wolf) (471), alum Stephen Englehardt (474), & Zach Taylor (489). SPS was well-represented in the Top 500!
- **Wolves on Wheels** traveled to Alabama for competition. While they didn't win, the students felt it was a great experience since it proved that the boys' cars actually ran and performed well!
- **Covington Garden Club** named SPS as Garden of the Month! The sign is posted by the main oak tree. Thanks, Botanical Wolves and Maintenance Staff, for keeping our property so beautiful.
- **Statue Cleaning:** A group of students (Patrick Napier, Colin Sullivan & Chris Weintritt), supervised by Brother Jeffrey, cleaned and waxed the Sacred Heart statue in Founder's Circle & the Marian Statue in front of the theater. They look great. Many thanks.



Wolves prepare to depart for Manresa for 24 hours of silent retreat.

- **Pack Time:** I enjoyed seeing my Wolf Pack again, as it had been some time since we last met. I hope your son told you about the Ted Talk on GRIT. It was great! Watch the six minute video and then have a discussion with your son. Here's the link: http://www.ted.com/talks/angela_lee_duckworth_the_key_to_success_grit

Teens and Binge Drinking: The National Institutes of Health released a new study last year at the beginning of April. It's worth reminding ourselves of the key finding: *Adolescent binge drinking can disrupt gene regulation and brain development in ways that promote anxiety and excessive drinking behaviors that can persist into adulthood.* Read the full story at <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/apr2015/niaaa-02.htm>

Stuff the Bus: Again this year, the six Catholic schools in Western St. Tammany (Saint Paul's, Saint Scholastica, Archbishop Hannan, Saint Peter, Our Lady of the Lake and Mary Queen of Peace) will have a Stuff the Bus food drive on Tuesday, April 26, for the Covington Food Bank. Saint Paul's will supply the bus and driver, which will visit each of the schools and load whatever canned food donations that have been collected. Last year, we literally (OK, I hate the word "literally" but it makes a point here!) "stuffed the bus" and hope to do so again this year. Thanks!

Junior-Senior Prom: The Junior Senior Prom will be held Saturday, April 30 from 7:30 until 11:30. St. Paul's Juniors and Seniors who wish to go need to read the Prom Information form found on Edline or in room 107. The signature form should be returned with payment no later than Wednesday, April 27. Photo order forms are available in room 1



Thanks to the Botanical Wolves, irises decorate our Garden of the Month campus

Application Letters: More unedited snippets from our newly admitted wolves:

- *I like how you have enough time between periods to use the restrooms and socialize with friends.*
- *It's no wonder that your school was awarded the Blue Ribbon of Excellence.*
- *I really didn't think high school would come this fast but I really feel I am making the right decision.*
- *I promise I will not disappoint you while wearing the blue and gold!*
- *I cannot wait to be a Wolf.*

Best Private Northshore HS: For the second consecutive year, *Sophisticated Woman Magazine* has named Saint Paul's as Best Private High School on the northshore. We are honored. We will be featured in April edition of the periodical.

Louisiana Income Tax Tuition Deduction: Under LA Revised Statute 47:297:10, those with children in private and parochial schools who file LA income tax returns are allowed a deduction for tuition and other qualifying expenses. Don't forget to take advantage of this benefit for the 2015 tax year. The Archdiocesan lobbyist feels the statute appears somewhat vulnerable for 2016 given the state's fiscal condition.

March Madness Came to Saint Paul's 50 Years Ago Article: If you didn't read Shiela Stroup's article about the longest basketball game ever by SPS students in our gym 50 years ago, here's the link. It's a fun read:

http://www.nola.com/living/index.ssf/2016/04/recalling_march_madness_during.html#incart_river_index

Summer at Camp Abbey: As many of you will have heard by now, Camp Abbey was included in the flooding which struck much of the north shore on Friday, March 11th. The extent of the damage to the camp and the anticipated repair time has yet to be determined, but they remain optimistic. The Archdiocese is committed to getting the camp up and

running as quickly as possible. For now, they ask for your prayers as they work to restore this sanctuary for the young people of our Archdiocese. Camper registration and staff applications are still being accepted at this time. Visit the website at www.campabbey.com

Mary, Queen of Peace Parish Confirmation Program begins April 25. Sophomores from MQP Parish who wish to be confirmed during their junior year should register soon. Call MQP for info.

Suit Up for the Future is a free, three-week legal institute, during which students attend an abridged law school session, field trips to law schools and courts, and an internship consisting of shadowing at area law offices and courts. The 2016 program, sponsored by the Louisiana State Bar Association, will be held in New Orleans from June 13 - July 1. Here's the link for more information: <http://files.lsba.org/documents/Diversity/2016SuitUpflyer.pdf>

SPS/SSA Challenge Night is Monday, April 11 from 6:00PM until 8:00PM in the new gym at St. Paul's. This event is open to all 8th through 12th grade students at SPS and SSA. Admission for St. Paul's students is \$2 which will be donated to the State Student Council Charity "Clefts for a Cause." Students may bring a canned good for the Food Bank and pay \$1 instead. Water and snacks will be available for purchase.

The SSA Benedictine Players would like to invite everyone to their production of "Seussical," running April 14th at 7:00 pm, April 16th at 7:00 pm and April 17th at 2:00 pm. Based on the works of Dr. Seuss, your favorite characters, including the Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant and all of the Whos of Whoville, have been lovingly brought to life in this fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza! Tickets can be purchased on SSA's website, www.SSAcad.org, or by calling 985-892-2540 ext. 127.

Senior Graduation Information:

- Monday and Tuesday, May 2 & 3: regular schedules for seniors; full days of school
- Wed, May 4: two exams in the morning; graduation practice in the afternoon; dismissal following practice
- Thu, May 5: two exams in the morning; graduation practice in the afternoon; dismissal following practice
- Fri, May 6: one exam in the morning followed by short graduation practice and distribution of caps, gowns, and graduation ceremony tickets. **Each senior will be issued EIGHT (8) tickets. The tickets are handed directly to the senior on this day. We are not responsible for lost tickets and they will not be replaced. Tickets and caps/gowns will NOT be issued to any student who still has an obligation to the school.**
- Mon – Thu, May 9 - 12: seniors **do not** report to school unless they are coming for an awards ceremony or AP Exam
- Fri, May 13 – Academic Awards Ceremony at 8 am. Seniors getting awards are expected to attend.
- Sat, May 14: the 105th commencement exercises of The Saint Paul's School; 4 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. Doors will open at 3 and **admission is by ticket only**. The beautiful ceremony, within the context of a Catholic mass, lasts about two hours.
- Note: Everything seniors need to know for graduation will be part of a printed set of instructions given to them on Friday, May 6th. I'll also email a copy to senior parents.



Students read Prayers of the Faithful at last week's mass in honor of Saint John Baptist de La Salle.

Saint Paul's Summer Sports Camps: Sports Camps for Boys, ages 8-14: One week in length, 9 am – 3 pm, beginning June 6 in baseball, football, wrestling, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, and speed and strength. Contact Craig Ketelsen at craigk@stpauls.com for more info.

ANNUAL FUND REMINDER: Please – if you have not supported SPS this year and are in a position to do so, please contribute to the Annual Fund. **ANY amount is needed** as I need to finish paying for the new gym. Interested in having part of the new gym named after you? Just contact me and we'll talk.

A Look Ahead

- April 11-15 – Leadership week
- April 11 – Challenge Night 6-8 pm
- April 12 – President's Assembly –Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- April 13 – *Leadership Breakfast in Cafeteria*
- April 13 – Mother-Son Supper
- April 14 – *Guest Speaker Assembly*
- April 15 – *Year-In-Review Assembly*
- April 18 – Late start 9:30 am
- April 19 – Pack Time – Snack Day
- April 20 – Life Skills day for seniors –*Freshmen HR Breakfast*
- April 21 – *Pre freshmen 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 – Sophomore Service Day/Retreat
- April 29 – Sophomore Service Day/Retreat
- April 30 – Junior – Senior Prom (7:30 at Abita Quail Farm)
- 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 for Seniors
- May 12 – Athletic Awards in am
- May 13 – Academic Awards in am
- May 13 – St. Joseph Seminary College Graduation (7:30 pm in the BAC)
- May 14 – Senior Graduation 4:00 pm in BAC
- May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6 pm)
- May 17-19- Exam Schedule
- May 20 – Teacher records day

Thank you for being part of the 2015 – 16 edition of Saint Paul's

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Praying for Leadership This Week as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

