



# The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



April 25 – May 01, 2016 in the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Alleluia! He is risen!

Welcome to the sixth week of the fourth quarter of the 2015-16 school year! Only four weeks left to go!

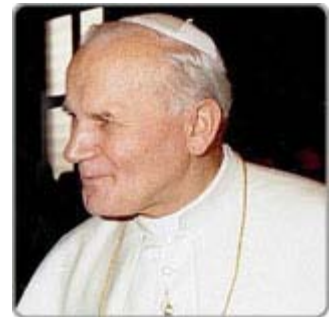
Two years ago this Wednesday, Apr 27, Pope Francis canonized the late Pope John XXIII and the late Pope John Paul II. In the Catholic Church, “canonization” makes the person an official “saint” of the Church. The Church stresses that both former popes were canonized because of personal holiness, not politics or Church governance. Few can dispute that both were among the most influential 20<sup>th</sup> Century spiritual leaders. Accordingly, I offer you the following quotations from Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II as we begin the final month of the school year. First, from Saint John XXIII:



- *See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little.*
- *A peaceful man does more good than a learned one.*
- *Anybody can be Pope; the proof of this is that I have become one.*
- *The feelings of my smallness and my nothingness always kept me good company.*
- *Men are like wine - some turn to vinegar, but the best improve with age.*
- *It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father.*
- *Consult not your fears but your hopes and dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.*

And from Saint John Paul II:

- *As the family goes, so goes the nation and the whole world in which we live.*
- *Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.*
- *From now on it is only through a conscious choice and through a deliberate policy that humanity can survive.*
- *The great danger for family life, in the midst of any society whose idols are pleasure, comfort and independence, lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish.*
- *To maintain a joyful family requires much from both parents and children. Each family member must be, in a special way, the servant of the others.*
- *Violence and arms can never resolve the problems of men.*
- *Young people are threatened... by the evil use of advertising techniques that stimulate the natural inclination to avoid hard work by promising the immediate satisfaction of every desire.*



**Saints John XXIII and John Paul II – Pray for us!**

**Mon, Apr 25 (Sophomore HR Breakfast; junior assembly in gym; B C D E)**

- **TDIH:** In 1990, the crew of the U.S. space shuttle *Discovery* places the Hubble Space Telescope, a long-term space-based observatory, into a low orbit around Earth.
- **TDIH:** In 1953, James Watson, Francis Crick, Maurice Wilkins & Rosalind first published papers in the journal *Nature* on the structure of DNA.
- **Hug a Plumber Day:** Well, we may not hug you but we sure do appreciate you! Thanks to all SPS plumbing dads!
- **Football:** Spring practice begins today for the next two weeks, climaxing with The Pie Bowl on May 6<sup>th</sup>
- **Rugby Semi-finals**
- **Tennis:** Wolves at state tournament through tomorrow.

## Tue, Apr 26: (President's Assembly; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** 1986, the world's worst nuclear power plant accident occurs at Chernobyl nuclear power station in Russia.
- **Richter Scale Day.** Today celebrates the birth of American seismologist Charles F. Richter (1900–1985) who invented the scale in 1935. Let's hope we don't have any earthquakes in his honor!
- **Audubon Day:** John James Audubon was born on this day in 1785. He was America's foremost ornithological illustrator. In 1886 the Audubon Society for the study and protection of birds was formed. Today there are many branches of the Audubon Society, and it remains dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and natural resources. Let's take care of the flora and fauna on our campus in Audubon's honor today!
- **National Pretzel Day:** Eat pretzels today! Pretzels are believed to be the world's oldest snack. Pretzels date back to 610AD in Southern France. Monks baked thin strips of dough into the shape of a child's arms folded in prayer. Add a little salt, and Voila! ...the pretzel industry was born.
- **Stuff the Bus Day (see below)**
- **Lacrosse Awards Banquet (BAC)**



*Wolves enjoy snack day last week. Thanks, Mothers Club.*

## Wed, Apr 27 (HR Breakfast for Juniors; C D E F)

- **Mass at 7:00 in chapel. Come join us!**
- **TDIH:** In 1941, the German army enters the Greek capital, signaling the end of Greek resistance.
- **National Teach Children to Save Day:** This day is a national campaign that raises awareness about the important role that banks and bankers play in helping young people develop lifelong savings habits.
- **National Sense of Smell Day:** Spend some time today appreciating the sense that most people feel they could most live without. Smell the flowers, the coffee, the Cajun spices, the cooking – all those freebies that add to life
- **Exchange Club Student of the Year Breakfast:** The Exchange Club of West St. Tammany will honor a S o t Y from each local high school this morning at TCC. John Cresson has been chosen to represent SPS. Congratulate John when you see him. From National Merit Commended student to non-public Student of the Year for the state of LA, John is deserving of this honor.
- **Student Host Award Luncheon (BAC):** I can't say enough good things about this premier organization. We would be hard pressed without them. They serve willingly and cheerfully. Thanks to Karen Hebert for moderating.
- **Soccer Award Banquet (BAC)**

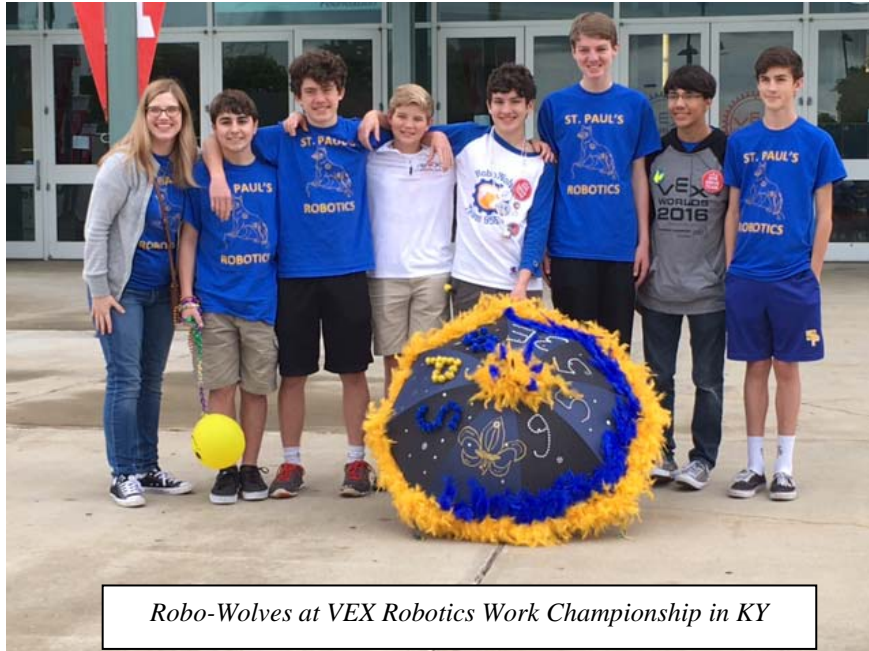
## Thu, Apr 28 (HR Breakfast for Seniors; G A B C)

- **Great Poetry Reading Day:** Don't just read any poem today; read a classic.
- **Level Student Council Elections during HR breakfast time**
- **Sophomore Service / Retreat Day** will begin in the afternoon
- **Regional Track Meet in BR**
- **AFJROTC Awards Banquet (BAC):** A shout out to Sgt East for single handedly keeping our program together this year – and doing so in an exemplary manner. We hope the program will grow and return to full approved status.

## Fri, Apr 29 (Regular; D E F G)

- **This Day in History:** In 1862, Union troops take possession of New Orleans after Confederate General Mansfield Lovell surveyed his tiny force and realized that resistance was futile. If he resisted, Lovell told Mayor John Monroe, the city would be bombed, causing severe damage and casualties.

- **National Zipper Day:** Have you ever thought about what your life would be like without zippers? Backpacks, blue jeans, gym bags ... the list is endless. On April 29, 1913, Swedish-born scientist Gideon Sundback was issued a patent for his "Hookless Fastener." The rest is history. To commemorate this feat of genius, here are some fun zipper facts: The U.S. Army was one of the first users of the zipper, applying them to a variety of uniform parts and gear. Yoshida Kogyo Kabushibibaisha is the world's largest zipper manufacturer. You are likely to see "YKK" engraved on many of your own zippers. The world's longest zipper can be found at the hotel in Fort Lauderdale's Executive Airport. It measures 6,000 feet long and was commissioned as a publicity stunt for the hotel's nightclub, "Zippers."
- **National Shrimp Scampi Day:** Take a little pasta, a few plump, juicy shrimp, throw in a bit of butter, garlic and white wine, and what do you get? The elegance that is shrimp scampi, of course!
- **Sophomore Service / Retreat Day** will continue through today



Robo-Wolves at VEX Robotics Work Championship in KY

### Sat, Apr 30 (Feast of St. Pius V)

- During his papacy (1566-1572), Pius V was faced with the crushing responsibility of getting a battered Church on its feet after being shaken by corruption, the Reformation, the threat of Turkish invasion and the bloody bickering of young nation-states. The Church's response was the Council of Trent, and Pius implemented the mandated reforms. No easy task.
- **TDIH:** In 1789, in New York City, George Washington is inaugurated as the first US president.
- **National Honesty Day:** Celebrate NHD in a completely open and honest way. There are few rules for this special day.....just be honest.
- **National Bugs Bunny Day:** The first

time audiences saw the wascally wabbit was on April 30, 1938, in a short cartoon called "Porky's Hare Hunt." In that first appearance he was called "Happy Rabbit." Bugs did not utter his famous catch phrase, "What's up, Doc?" until he came face to face with Elmer Fudd in "A Wild Hare" in 1940.

- **Happy Birthday Saint La Salle!** On this day in 1651, John Baptist de La Salle was born. Let us pause a moment today to give thanks for the birth of this extraordinary saint and educator whose work we continue today!
- **Happy Birthday Louisiana!** From the official Louisiana Website: *On April 30, 1812, the United States admitted Louisiana as the 18th state into the Union. Louisiana was the first state to have a majority Catholic French- and Spanish-speaking population, reflecting its origins as a colony under France from 1699-1763 and Spain from 1763-1803. Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Louisiana's road to statehood was not all smooth. Federal law required citizens of a newly admitted territory to apply to congress for statehood, and the admission of the Orleans Territory as the 18th state followed years of lobbying efforts by prominent citizens—both American and Creole (French-speaking Catholics). Finally in 1811, Democratic President James Madison signed the bill allowing the people of Louisiana to form a state constitution. Following the state constitutional convention in New Orleans, on April 14, 1812, President Madison signed the bill approving statehood. The bill designated April 30, 1812, as the day of formal admission. Join me in praying for our state on its birthday!*
- **Band Concert:** 11 am in the BAC
- **Art Show:** 11am in the BAC and will remain for several days. Support our wonderful art department.
- **Junior – Senior Prom (7:30 at the Abita Quail Farm)**
- **Passover ends at sundown today. We pray that our Jewish brothers and sisters had a great Passover celebration.**



## Sun, May 1 – Sixth Sunday of Easter; we encourage all of our families to worship today

- If today were not a Sunday, it would be the feast of St. Joseph the Worker. In response to the “May Day” celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker in 1955. Today honors all workers, reminding us that we all have a responsibility to build the Kingdom of God on Earth through our labor. Here at SPS, that takes on special meaning.
- **Mother Goose Day:** Read childhood nursery favorites and feel the warmth of Mother Goose's embrace once again!
- **This Day in History:** In 1933, the legend of the Loch Ness Monster is born when a sighting makes local news.
- **Great American Grump Out Day:** Calling all grumps! For one whole day, there is to be no grumping, no frowning, no grouching, or complaining! I'll try to do my part

### Musings on Last Week:

- **Blue Ribbon Holiday:** I hope the day provided all with rest and renewal, ready to return with a Blue Ribbon attitude and determination to give 100% to the finish line.
- **Safe Environment Training:** Thanks to those who showed up for this training. All of our faculty and staff are now current in their training cycle. We pray for the safety of all young people.
- **Wolf Packs:** We had a fun activity about pet peeves. Hope your son told you about it. Ask him what his pet peeves are. Share yours with him.
- **Soccer Assembly:** We are the champions – of the world! ‘Nuff said. Thanks, Max Preps, for a great assembly.
- **HR Breakfasts:** Two down; three to go. Four seniors (Luke Avenel, Jack Cheng, John Cresson, & Ethan Desforges) are doing yours truly's work by teaching vocabulary words to the breakfast attendees. They were great last week!
- **Life Skills Day:** Another great experience for seniors. Thanks, SPS Renaissance Board!
- **Northshore Catholic Foundation Dinner:** Thanks to Shellie Campo, Andrew Moran and physical plant crew for making the Archbishop's dinner a success.
- **Baseball:** Big wins over Mandy and F'bleau garner a District Championship for the Wolves! On to playoffs!
- **Tennis:** A regional championship last week propels the Wolves to the state tournament this week. Go tennis wolves!
- **Golf:** Wolves qualified for regional tournament this week. Good luck, Wolves!
- **Track:** Congrats for a FIFTH consecutive District Championship! Well done, Track Wolves.
- **Father-Son Supper:** Thanks to the Dads Club for their work on this event. A good time was passed by all in attendance.
- **Lasallian Young Leaders Elections:** An excellent slate of new officers insures the continuing Lasallian influence of this wonderful group.
- **Practical Applications:** Dr. Tom Lavin spoke to business students on Thu – not about medicine, but about entrepreneurship, since the good doctor has many business investments. The students asked outstanding questions. Thanks, Doctor! Mr. Charles Barnett spoke to the law class about private investigations in criminal and civil cases. Again, excellent, practical information. TAnd the Engineering and Design class presented their capstone projects to parents and guests. Very impressive! Suzanne Duplantier's chemistry class studied chemical reactions by making homemade ice cream!
- **Lacrosse:** Our LAX Wolves season ended Sat with a state semi-final playoff loss. We are proud of the great season the boys had.



*Mark enjoys his self-made ice cream after learning about the chemical reaction involved in the process.*

**In Praise of the Robo-Wolves:** In the midst of Honor Roll Breakfasts, Leadership Week, Soccer Championship Assemblies, Regional Championships, and a host of other uplifting accomplishments, I do not want our Robo-Wolves to be overlooked.

What this group of pre-freshmen did, under Julie and Marie's leadership, was truly extraordinary – back to back invitations to the World Championships. Adam Smith, Sean Hightower, Greyson Mangrum, Luke DuRapau, Andrew Norlin, Jonathan Wellmeyer, Jake DuRapau, Marie Childs and a number of parents represented us well at the VEX

Robotic World Championships in KY last week. The team competed hard, communicated and worked well with teams even though sometimes the teams spoke different languages. I feel privileged to have these guys as part of SPS.

**St. Benedict's Prep in Newark:** If you missed the CBS Sixty Minutes segment on this incredible school recently, set aside 15 minutes to watch the powerfully moving profile. The 7-12 school, which serves 550 boys from low-income neighborhoods in Newark, NJ, has a 98 percent graduation rate. In large measure, it is run by the students themselves. They look after one other with great love and care, a testament to the school's motto, "Whatever hurts my brother hurts me." Correspondent Scott Pelley reports that students at St. Benedict's call each other "brother," and every morning "celebrate a revival," singing songs, praying, and chanting: "You can be any good thing you want to be. Go and conquer!" Student leader Bruce Davis explains, "Benedict's men are different than the guys you see outside.... We learn what we're willing to accept, which is nothing but the best, nothing but finishing what we started." The school year at St. Benedict's is 11 months, and although tuition is \$12,000, 80 percent of students pay only half that amount. That leaves the school's headmaster, Rev. Edwin Leahy, with the challenge of filling the gap with the support of alumni, corporations, and philanthropists. Students earn the right to wear the school's black hoodie, fashioned after the habit of the Benedictine monks, only after completing a set of rigorous requirements, including a 55-mile hike along the Appalachian Trail. The 60 Minutes Overtime video that features the hike is well worth the watch. In it, Pelley reflects on the deep camaraderie the students share: "That's what you have in that school, boys taking care of each other," he says. "It is a remarkable ethic of love and affection that they have for one another." Here's the link: <http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/the-resurrection-of-st-benedicts>

**Wolves in Rome:** In case you didn't know, religion teacher Austin Ashcraft took six students (Jacob Bopp, Trey Braud, Logan Haydel, Bryce Jenkins, Brooks McMahon and Will Murphy) on a Mission Trip over the Easter Holidays – to Rome. The group stayed with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity and helped care for elderly men who are sick and dying. There is a great article in this week's Clarion Herald. Here's the link if you don't have a copy: <http://clarionherald.info/clarion/index.php/news/latest-news/155-breaking-news/5493-roman-holy-day-our-lady-of-lakes-six-missionaries>

**Prayers Requested:** 1975 graduate Donnie Pichon was one of the pilots who died in last week's Slidell plane crash. We extend our condolences to Donald's family, which includes his SPS son, Donnie, Class of 2001. We are told that both father and son were at the Crawfish Cookoff last Sat. Eternal rest grant unto Donald, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace! Amen.

**More Prayers:** We offer our support, thoughts and prayers to Mandeville High on the loss of two of their students. We pray for the young people of our area as they grapple with challenges of life in today's world. There are several community gatherings for those interested:

- **Community Forum for Learning, Coping and**

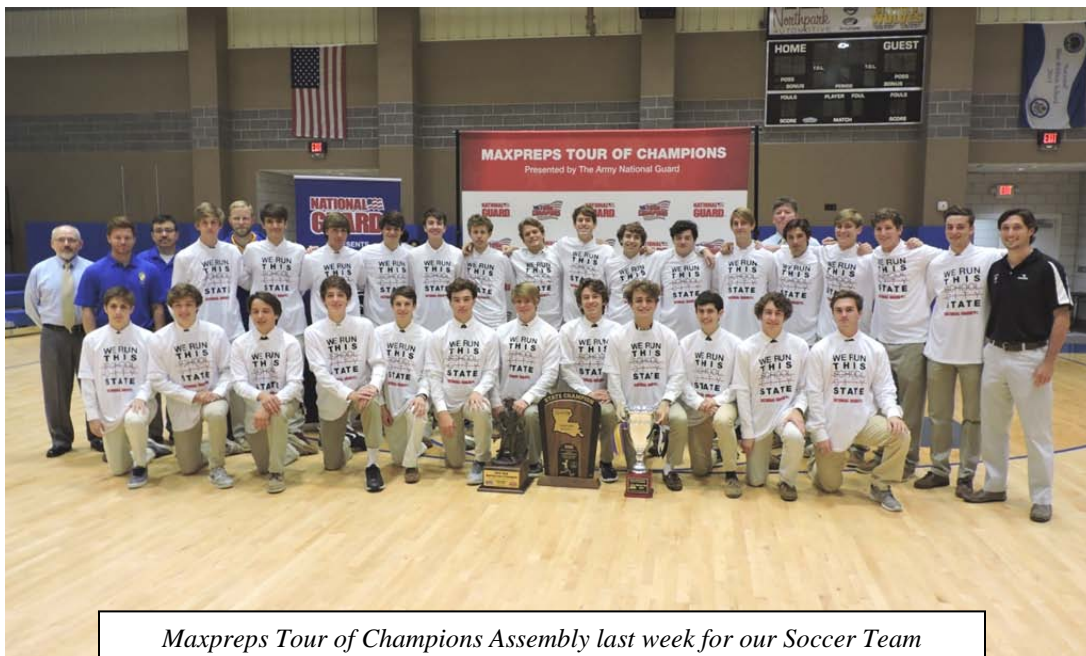
**Healing.** Monday, April 25th at 6 pm at the Mandeville Community Center. Speakers from STOPS, NAMI and St. Tammany Parish Coroner Dr. Charles Preston will be on hand to speak about warning signs and risk factors. It will also be a time for us to come together as a community to begin the healing process. This forum is for parents and teens.



*Seniors proudly pose in front the new arch.*

- **Finding Peace in Tragedy.** Sunday, April 24 at Mary Queen of Peace Church. 6 pm mass; 7:15 adoration, prayer and song. A reception will follow in the Parish Center at 1501 West Causeway Approach in Mandeville. All are welcome.
- **Crisis Teen Textline:** If you are a teen in crisis, support is just a text away. Text 504-777-3273 to reach a counselor.
- **STOPS** (St. Tammany Outreach for the Prevention of Suicide): For help, call 1-800-SUICIDE or 1-800-273-TALK or dial 211 or 911. WWW.stops-la.com

**All State Sugar Bowl Scholar Athlete Scholarship Awards Banquet:** Congrats to seniors **Matthew Mercante, Kenny Sears and Briggs Simpson** who were honored last week by this group. And the icing on the cake was when Briggs was awarded one of the five \$10,000 scholarships based upon his athletic and academic achievements plus an ESSAY which he wrote – which was outstanding!



*Maxpreps Tour of Champions Assembly last week for our Soccer Team*

**English I H Field Trip:** The boys completed their Brown Foundation Service Learning Project by traveling to a Hammond Title 1 school and reading their original books to the first grade students, interacting with them, and giving them gifts of laughter, candy, camaraderie, and crayons. The boys were moved by the event as they interacted with low income students who have few of the material goods that our guys have. It was a positive experience for them. Thanks to Karen Hebert for organizing.

**Post Easter Holidays Grooming and Dress Issues:** Our guys are starting to look shabby. It's not summer yet and we will continue to enforce our rules until the end of school. Parents: please help by trimming hair, making sure he shaves (if applicable), check his uniform before he leaves and encourage good hygiene. Help us by insisting your son conforms to policy. I'm not willing to ignore these rules during the final four weeks.

**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 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 Sat, April 30 from 7:30 until 11:30. St. Paul's Juniors and Seniors who wish to go need to read Prom Information form found on the website (under news) or in room 107. The signature form should be returned with payment no later than Wed, Apr 26. Photo order forms are available in room 107.



**Senior Yearbook Ads:** The deadline for yearbook senior ads is coming up (April 30th), and we will not be able to accept ads after that date. Click here if you wish to place an ad: <https://yearbookforever.com/#school/4576/2016>

Additionally, anyone wishing to purchase a book itself should follow the same link. Seniors do **NOT** need to buy a book as it is included in tuition.

**WHY DO I CONTINUE TO INCLUDE ANNUAL FUND REMINDERS?** Because every time I do, I get responses. So, 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 the new gym bills are coming in.

Interested in having part of the new gym named after you or your family? Contact me and we'll talk!

**And we need grandparent support!** Please invite them to participate if they are able or I'll invite them with your permission. Just send me names and addresses.

**2016 - 17 Calendar:** We will start on Monday, August 8 WITH A FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION and no book day – which corresponds to what we did this year. Please plan vacations accordingly.



*Eddy and Brycen enjoy snack day*

**Important Driver's License Requirement:** A new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license. These forms can be obtained in the administration building or the counseling center.

**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.

**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](http://www.campabbey.com)

**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>

**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 - 13: seniors **do not** report to school unless they are coming for an awards ceremony or AP Exam
- Fri, May 13: Academic Awards Ceremony. Only those seniors getting awards need attend in dress uniform. Final graduation practice (if needed) at 10 am.
- 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 6<sup>th</sup>. I’ll also email a copy to senior parents.

**Free Athletic & Band Physicals** will be given at Pinnacle Medical Services Building, 7 – 9 am, Sat. May 7.

### Look Ahead

- 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 – 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 (5 pm in the BAC)
- May 14 – 105<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises of the Saint Paul’s School -- 4:00 pm in BAC
- May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6 pm in BAC)
- May 17-19- Exam Special Schedules
- May 20 – Teacher records day

Thank you for being part of the 2015 – 16 edition of Saint Paul’s School.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

The 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

