



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



May 02 - 08, 2016 in the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Alleluia! He is risen!

Welcome to the seventh week of the fourth quarter of the 2015-16 school year! Only three weeks left to go – even fewer for seniors and pre-freshman!

I shared the following with our faculty this week. The words are from a recent talk given by Pope Francis to a group of Italian teachers. The words could have been written by St. John Baptist de La Salle, as the Pope's view of the role of the teacher is exactly what our Founder had in mind. I pray that Saint Paul's remains faithful to the following words:



In a society that struggles to find points of reference, it is necessary that young people find a positive reference in the school. It can do so or become so if it has within itself teachers that are capable of giving meaning to the school, to study and to culture, without reducing everything only to the transmission of technical knowledge, but aiming to build an educational relation with each one of the students, who must feel accepted and loved for who he is, with all his limitations and potentiality....You must teach not only the contents of a subject, but also the values of life and habits of life. ...To learn the content, a computer is sufficient, but to understand how one loves, to understand what the values and habits are that create harmony in society, a good teacher is necessary. -- Pope Francis

Mon, May 2 (Assembly; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea begins between Japan and the US. Lasting four days, it is considered the first modern naval engagement, resulting in 70 Japanese and 66 American warplanes destroyed. This was the first air-naval battle, as carriers did not fire at each other; planes did the battling. The US carrier *Lexington* was a casualty; "the Blue Ghost" (so-called because it was not camouflaged like other carriers) suffered extensive damage and was sunk by its crew. 216 *Lexington* crewmen died. Japan would go on to occupy all the Solomon Islands, but its victory was a Pyrrhic one: the cost in experienced pilots and aircraft carriers was so great that Japan had to cancel its expedition to other South Pacific targets.
- **"Melanoma Monday"** (aka National Skin Self-Examination Day.) Check for skin cancer signs! Use sun bloc! As one who had a bout with skin cancer, I encourage all to get checked regularly.
- **Two Different Color Shoes Day** celebrates the uniqueness and diversity of humanity. Students may observe this day if they wish. I'm not going to say anything, but if they read the newsletter and want to wear two different color shoes, it's OK with me.
- **No Pants Day:** Unlike Two Different Color Shoes Day, SPS will not observe this day.
- **Assembly:** This morning's assembly will focus on prescription drug abuse – the fastest growing substance abuse in the country according to many sources.
- **Biomedical IV Presentations:** The Biomed IV class will be presenting their independent projects on Monday, May 2, in room 212 of the main school building. Presentations will begin at 6:30 pm. These presentations serve as their final exam and promise to be of high quality. You are invited to attend. It would be a good chance to see the high quality of work the students have done all year leading up to these projects.

Tue, May 3 (Wolf Packs; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** SF Giants outfielder Willie Mays hits his 512th career home run to break Mel Ott's HR record.
- **Hug Your Cat Day**
- **Give NOLA Day:** We hope some of our generous supporters will join philanthropic people throughout the area and donate to SPS. Just go to givenola.com

Wed, May 4 (Regular; Senior Final Exams Begin; B C D E)

- **Mass at 7 am in campus chapel. Come join us!**
- **Star Wars Day:** This is a day for *Star Wars* fans to celebrate the franchise's films series culture. The date was chosen as "May the 4th" due to its sounding similar to the series' phrase "May the Force be with you!" Who knew?
- **World Laughter Day:** Have a good laugh today! Laugh at me if you want!



Wolves Stuff the Bus to benefit Covington Food Bank.

- **International Firefighters Day:** We honor the unsung heroes and thank them for protecting our lives and property. Wear a blue and red ribbon today, symbolic of elements firefighters work with – red for fire and blue for water.
 - **National Hoagie and Oyster Day:** Enjoy either or both of these treats.
 - **Yom HaShoah Day** ("Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day") is observed as Israel's day of commemoration for the approximately six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust as a result of the actions carried out by Nazi Germany and its accessories, and for the Jewish resistance in that period. In Israel, it is a national memorial day.
- **Senior Final Exams/ Graduation practice with dismissal of seniors following practice**
 - **Call Out meeting for the 2016 Cross Country team: All current and new members of the cross country team are asked to meet with the coaches today, Wednesday, May 4, at 3:30 in Room 116.**

Thu, May 5 (Regular; Senior Final Exams; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** Today, known as Cinco de Mayo, commemorates the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. The Mexican army was defeated, but the "Batalla de Puebla" came to represent a symbol of Mexican patriotism.
- **National Day of Prayer** (First Thu of May): At SPS, every day is a day of prayer, but be extra prayerful today!
- **Senior Final Exams/ Graduation Practice with senior dismissal after practice**

Fri, May 6 (Regular; Last Day for Seniors; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** 1937, the German airship *Hindenburg*, the largest dirigible ever built, explodes as it arrives in NJ.
- **TDIH II:** Three years ago, representatives from Project Lead the Way came to campus to evaluate our implementation of their Biomedical and Engineering curricula. This led to Saint Paul's being the first accredited PLTW school in the state – a credential that is facilitating our students earning college credit for their work in these electives. That we are achieved this after only four years is highly unusual and speaks volumes about Trevor's vision, the instructors' dedication, and the community's support. Since then, we have been the "poster child" for PLTW!
- **National Nurses Day:** We honor all of those in the nursing profession day! Thank you!
- **No Homework Day:** Since it's Friday, feel free not to do homework tonight! Do it Sat or Sun!
- **Senior Final Exam / graduation practice.** Practice will last no later than 11:30. We will distribute caps & gowns and grad tickets. **We will withhold these if a senior has ANY obligation to the school.**
- **Pie Bowl:** Spring Football concludes today with the traditional Pie Bowl game.

- **Wolf Jam:** At the request of LYLs, we agreed to re-institute this event – with changes. ALL of the groups are composed of SPS students, there are a variety of groups, only SPS and SSA students and families may attend, and there is a lock in component. My thanks to the LYLs.

Sat, May 7

- **TDIH:** 1915, a German submarine torpedoed without warning British ocean liner *Lusitania*, bringing the United States closer to entry in World War I.
- **Physicals:** Free physicals for athletes and Marching Wolves will be given this morning at Pinnacle Medical Center from 7 – 9 am. All athletes and Marching Wolves must have a current physical on file in order to participate. We are grateful to the medical community for providing this valuable service to our students.



Chris and Trace make books in Bio Med class to illustrate topics learned.

Sun, May 8

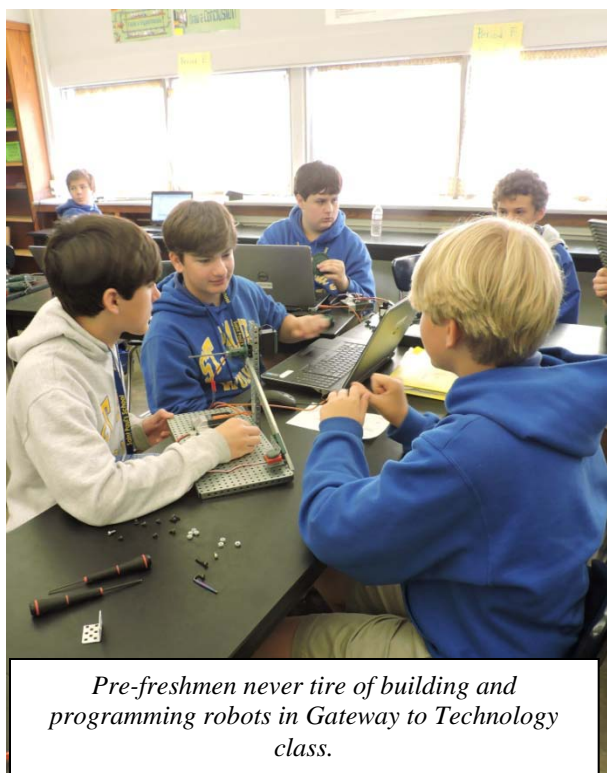
- **Happy Mother's Day:** We wish all SPS moms a blessed and enjoyable day.
- **TDIH:** In 1945, Great Britain and the US celebrate Victory in Europe Day. Cities in both nations, as well as formerly occupied cities in Western Europe, put out flags and banners, rejoicing in the defeat of Nazi Germany.
- **National No Socks Day:** OK with me if you celebrate – it's Sunday!

Mary's Month: May is traditionally devoted by Catholics to Mary, the Mother of God. How did this come to be? In many ancient cultures, May 1 was a day for spring festivals to celebrate the beginning of new life. For instance, the Greeks dedicated May to Artemis, goddess of fertility. The Romans dedicated May to Flora, goddess of springtime and flowers. To counter these pagan celebrations, the Church eventually came to celebrate May as the month of May. And know you know!

Musings on Last Week:

- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Thanks for your cooperation. They were a treat. As many of you know, I usually use the HR breakfast to teach new vocabulary words and tie them into life lessons. For the third quarter breakfast, I have seniors do the same thing – only they have to choose the words. This year, they were so good that I had the boys deliver their words to ALL of the level breakfasts. Congratulate **Luke Avenel, Jack Cheng, John Cresson and Ethan Desforges** who made outstanding presentations. Luke encouraged the HR students to consider their **legacy** (something received from a predecessor) and to **absquatulate** (leave quickly) when tempted to do something wrong. Jack taught the group Mandarin Chinese. He encouraged them to consider **机会 (JiHui)** (*Pronounced Gee-Hweigh*) -- An opportunity, a chance or occasion, hazard. He explained how JiHuis can be both good and bad opportunities and encouraged everyone to choose good JiHuis. He then taught us **决心 (Juéxīn)** (*Pronounced Juwheh-Shing*) -- State of mind of being determinate, to persevere, ability to maintain self-control. Ethan Desforges chose **Bardolatry** (idolization or excessive admiration of William Shakespeare) and **Slipshod** (careless, untidy or slovenly). He reflected on his study of Will during his SPS career and how April 23 was both the birth day and death day of Will. He then warned us never to do things in a slip shod way. Finally, John Cresson reflected on **Sojourn** (a temporary stay; to stay for a time in a place; live temporarily) and **Apostasy** (a total desertion of or departure from one's religion, principles, party, cause, etc.) and reflected on his SPS sojourn and how, indeed, our whole earthly existence is a sojourn and therefore we should never be guilty of apostasy. The boys spoke eloquently and convincingly – and seemed to enjoy themselves, too. I couldn't have been prouder. My work with them is done.
- **Sophomore Service/Retreat Day:** I've heard only positive things from students and staff, so congrats to all!

- **Baseball:** The 2016 season ended last week with a tough playoff loss. We are proud of our District Champion Baseball Wolves!
- **Wolftracks:** Congrats to Danielle for another great Wolftracks – in both quality and quantity of pages!
- **Golf:** A young team fought hard but missed qualifying for the state tournament.
- **Tennis:** Congrats to Kurt and Kent Shiell for winning a doubles state championship in Division I!
- **Exchange Club Student of the Year Breakfast** was very inspiring. Eight outstanding St. Tammany Parish seniors were honored, including our own John Edward Cresson.
- **End of Season Banquets** for Soccer, Lacrosse, and ROTC all went well! Lots of celebration last week!
- **Stuff the Bus:** Thanks for your cooperation and support. The six Catholic schools of Western St. Tammany collected 15,790 lbs of canned goods for the Covington Food Bank. My only concern was for the bus!
- **Band Concert:** Our musical wolves were excellent at Sat's concert. Congrats to them and to Band Director Andrew Moran and Assistant Jimmy Brinkman. We are very proud of our music program!
- **Rugby:** The Wolves won on Sat 12-0, thus capturing 3rd place in the Deep South Rugby League. Well done!
- **Art Exhibit:** Fantastic art work, Wolves!
- **Law Enforcement:** Thanks to the LA State Police who brought a roll over demonstrator to campus last week to visually illustrate to students the effect of a car accident – and the need to wear seat belts. That message was reinforced last Thu, when the Covington PD stopped students as they were driving away from school – and gave them a congratulatory T-shirt if the students were wearing seat belts. This is an annual event by the CPD, and we applaud their positive reinforcement methods of encouraging students to wear seat belts.
- **Student Host Luncheon** went well. Congrats, again, to the Student Hosts.



Pre-freshmen never tire of building and programming robots in Gateway to Technology class.

- **Spring Football:** The 2016 edition of Wolf football began practice on Mon. Lots of Wolves were on the field.
- **Level Officer Elections** were held last week. Congrats to the following class officers for 2016 - 17:
 - Senior President- Andy Grashoff
 - Senior Vice-President- Liam Ordoyne
 - Junior President- Ashton van Deventer
 - Junior Vice-President- Arson Caulfield
 - Sophomore President- Jake Durapau
 - Sophomore Vice-President- Ross Hightower
 - Freshman President- Paxton Ballard
 - Freshman Vice-President- Luke Vargas
 - Pre-freshmen will elect their officers at the beginning of the year in August
- **Teaching:** And in the midst of all of the activity, teaching and learning were taking place last week.

Alum News:

- **Austin Hummel '12** will open his Senior Exhibition "Aesthetic Despair" on Sat, May 7 beginning at 2 pm until 7 pm at

Loyola University's Dana Student Center Art Gallery. Austin's Senior Exhibition is the outcome of a two-month trip that he took to New York City in the summer of 2015, working for a noted NY photographer. During his free time, Austin would walk the streets and continue photographing. The Exhibition is Austin's photographic observation and insight of New York City and the people who live there. Austin will graduate from Loyola on Sat, May 21. Congrats, Austin!

- **Evan Heitzmann '12** will graduate from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chinese, both Summa Cum Laude. Evan recently received the Distinguished Senior Scholarship, the Taylor honor Award, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa honor Society. He was selected by the Federally Funded Language Flagship to spend next year in China studying at Nanjing University and intern at a Chinese company. Afterward, Evan will pursue a graduate degree either in the US or abroad.
- **Alexander Richard '08** will receive the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the Louisiana State School of Medicine in New Orleans. Alex will begin his residency at LSU hospital in New Orleans.



The bus was stuffed! The Covington Food Bank is grateful!
Thanks to the Catholic schools of Western St. Tammany!

From the BBC: The following BBC report was sent to me by a parent who does a lot of business in China: *China has been building the equivalent of almost one university per week. For decades, the United States had the highest proportion of people going to university. They dominated the graduate market. Reflecting this former supremacy, among 55 to 64 year olds almost a third of all graduates in the world's major economies are US citizens. But that is changing rapidly among younger generations. In terms of producing graduates, China has overtaken the United States and the*

combined university systems of European Union countries. The gap is going to become even wider. Even modest predictions see the number of 25 to 34-year-old graduates in China rising by a further 300% by 2030, compared with an increase of around 30% expected in Europe and the United States. It isn't simply about bigger student numbers. Students in China and India are much more likely to study mathematics, sciences, computing and engineering - the subjects most relevant to innovation and technological advance. In 2013, 40% of Chinese graduates completed their studies in a Stem (science, technology, engineering and maths) subject - more than twice the share of US graduates. So the graduates who are the cornerstone of economic prosperity in knowledge-based economies are increasingly disproportionately likely to come from China and India. To read the full story, here's the link: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-35776555>. BTW, I love the way the British pluralize math: "the maths."

April 26 Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our April 26 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Students entered the gym to the strains of "The Hallelujah Chorus" from George Fredrick Handel's incredible oratorio entitled "Messiah." Too often associated with Christmas, this iconic Baroque masterpiece actually musically represents the joy that Christians should feel over the Resurrection. That Handel composed this work in just 24 days in 1741 borders on the miraculous. I explained to the students that when King George III first attended a performance of "Messiah" in 1742, he was so astounded by "The Hallelujah Chorus" that he stood up in amazement. Naturally, the whole audience also stood. So, today, when you attend a performance of "Messiah", it is customary to stand for "THC." OK, enough music trivia! While the music played, junior **Michael Longo** lit the prayer candle – now the large Paschal candle, symbolically representing Christ's resurrection. We prayed in a special way for those who have entered into God's Kingdom since our last assembly: Adrian Couvillion, Cole Couvillion's grandfather; Sam Brown's uncle; Cade Icamina's grandmother; Mr. Jim Moll, Holden Huhn's grandfather; Mrs. Suzanne Montgomery, grandmother of Jack Fleming.

- Introduced a representative from Prudential Financial Services to a special Spirit of the Community Service Award to pre-freshman Sean Noel, for his considerable involvement in helping the community.
- Introduced Mr. John Mendow and Mr. Wayne Gardner of St. Benedict Parish Knights of Columbus. They presented senior Patrick Stewart with the Outstanding Catholic Male Award (which carries a \$250 cash award) from their Council. They then informed the students that Patrick was also named Outstanding Catholic Male for the entire Archdiocese of New Orleans (which earned Patrick an additional \$500.) Mr. Mendow then informed the students that in state competition, Patrick placed 3rd for Outstanding Catholic Male (which gave him an additional \$2000!) We are very grateful to the Knights of Columbus for promoting our Catholic faith among young people and we are VERY proud of Patrick!
- Introduced Dr. Jan Lancaster, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Dr. Lancaster informed the students that she was here to present a huge award: the Outstanding Non-Public Student for the State of Louisiana Award. She made it a point to tell everyone that Archbishop Aymond had never received this award – and neither had I. But a current SPS senior has been named the State of Louisiana Non-Public Student: John Edward Cresson. John graciously accepted the award and in his humble way, thanks his parents, teachers, and friends for helping him become who he is today. It was a great moment.
- Recognized and congratulated the District Literary Rally winners: **Luke Avenel (Physics-1st); Jonathan Bertucci**



District Literary Rally Winners!

(Geometry-1st); John Cresson (Civics-1st); Joshua Devier (Phys. Science-1st); Lloyd Guillot (Adv. Math-1st); Luc Hebert (Journalism-1st); Forge Mathes (English II-1st); Alex Oliveri (Bio II-1st); Dustin Simoneaux (Comp Sci-1st); Andrew Smith (Bio I-1st); Shane Strander (Stats-1st); Ian Varney (Business-1st); Jacob Broussard (Calculus-2nd); Kyle Hladky (US History-2nd); Andrew Norlin (Alg II-3rd); Julian Saliba (Chemistry-2nd); Adam Smith (Alg I-3rd); Andrew Aceves (Superior in Voice); Alex Seese (Spelling 1st); Ford Brasher (Comp Sci-2nd); Ethan Desforges (Physics-3rd); Cullen Irwin (Geometry-5th); Anthony LaCroix (Journ-2nd); Ryan Meraux (Calculus-

3rd); Jack Nunez (Eng II-3rd); Alex Paille (Chemistry-4th) & Max Tepper (Stats.-2nd)

- Recognized and congratulated the Rugby Wolves for advancing to the semi-finals of the state championship. I also projected an email that Athletic Director Craig Ketelsen received concerning the Rugby Wolves. Here's the text of the email: *I am the head coach of New England College rugby and president of the American Rugby Coaches Association. Recently I traveled to Louisiana to scout rugby players at your school, hoping to find some players to add to our two time national championship program. I wanted to write to you this morning, with news of what I discovered. You are a very lucky AD to have such a great group of players. I see many teams and High school players from around the country, but I rarely come across boys that carry themselves with the dignity and class I saw in your St. Paul rugby boys. You should be very proud of them. As a graduate of Franciscan University and founder of that rugby program in 2000 I can tell you it brings joy to my heart to see high school boys pray after practice and give thanks to God for their blessings. Rugby is the fastest growing sport in America and you are ahead of the curve with having a rugby program at your school. May God continue to bless your school and your boys. Jeremy A. Treece , Director of Rugby - Head Coach*
- Recognized and congratulated the Junior High Track Wolves for an excellent season: Second Place Finish in the Christ Episcopal- Trafton Invitational; First Place Finish in the SSA-Trafton Invitational and First Place Finish in their final meet, the SLU JH Strawberry Relays. The team captains presented trophies to the school.

- Recognized and congratulated the Varsity Track Wolves for their excellent season: First Place -- Andy Thiel Invitational; First Place -- Ponchatoula High School Relays; 4th consecutive St. Tammany Parish Title; 5th consecutive District Title. Individually, Tim Bedford was named Field MVP at the FHS and PHS meets and the following are Parish Champions: Matthew Melancon- Javelin; Deonte Sorapuru- 110 m Hurdles; Spencer Albright- 1600 m run; Eric Coston- 3200 m run and the 4x1 team of Matt Meyers. Christian Roberts, Cameron Vidal and Dominic Davenport.
- Recognized and congratulated the Mock Trial Team of SPS Mock Trial Team of David D'antonio, Miles Roppolo, William Murphy, Yehia Elkersh, Silas Anthony, Christopher Weintritt, Mr. Greg Pellegrini, Noah Seiden, Bradley Del Rio, Patrick Stewart, John Cresson, Addison Nick, & Cray Pennison. Patrick **Stewart** was voted “Best Witness” by the attorneys from the New Orleans Bar Association.
- Recognized and congratulated the students who participated in the Youth Legislative Conference in Baton Rouge: Evan Bauer, Addison Nick, Adam Satterlee, Yehia Elkersh, William James, Jordan Edney, Luke Avenel and John Cresson. Special recognition was given to John Cresson and Luke Avenel, whose mock bill, providing for state funded master's degrees for teachers, was passed by the Conference – no easy task.
- Recognized and congratulated our newest Eagle Scout, senior James “Oliver” Christopher Guice.
- Recognized and congratulated our three National Football Foundation/All State Sugar Bowl 2016 Scholar Athletes: Andrew Mercante, Kenny Sears, Briggs Simpson. The boys were recognized at a recent ceremony in NO. Further recognized and congratulated Briggs Simpson, who won a \$10,000 scholarship from the organization.
- Recognized and congratulated Hunter Romero and Bradley Yeager for signing baseball scholarships with Spring Hill College.
- Recognized and congratulated Kenny Sears for signing a football scholarship with Northwestern State University.
- Recognized and congratulated our students who represented SPS in the **Marine Advanced Technology Education ROV (remotely operated vehicle) competition in Dauphin Island, Alabama. Thanks to Jack Vining, Corbett Russell, Dominick Paternostro, and Joe Chuter**
- Senior religion teacher Austin Ashcraft than sang for the seniors the song *Timshel*. He got a standing ovation.
- We were running out of time, so the boys sang the fight song – the last time in the gym for the Class of 2016
- I then shared an email with the student body that I received from the Events Coordinator at SOAR, an autism awareness group here in St. Tammany. Here’s what it said: *I work for a local non-profit autism organization- SOAR, and I just wanted to let you know how thankful I was this past weekend when 3 of your students assisted me in preparation of our annual autism awareness walk and family fun day. **Nicholas Marinello (Sr), Rutger Fury (Sr) and Michael Capritto (8th)** started working early Saturday morning (7:30am) and did not stop until I told them to leave for their baseball games later that afternoon. I offered them service hours, but they said they had already met their hours and just wanted to help/support the organization. This day is such an important event for our autism community, it helps raise funds for our autism center that administers therapeutic services, resources, workshops, teacher trainings, etc to our SOAR families. The event was a success and we had a great turnout, just wanted to let you know how appreciative I was and if other St. Paul students are like these 3, I will be calling every year for their help!*



ROV Team of Jack, Corbett, Dominick & Joseph represent SPS in recent competition at Dauphin Island.

- With time running out, I had the boys sing “Mercy” in honor of the Jubilee Year of Mercy (they sounded great).
- I ended with thanking the seniors for the past five years of assemblies and for putting up with my classical music, vocabulary lessons, and poor attempts at humor. I apologized if I omitted their accomplishments and for anything that I did or failed to do for them during their SPS experience. If they are unhappy with SPS, I asked them to blame me and not the school. I assured them of my prayer and support, for they are a chosen people, royal priests, living stones building the edifice of the mystical God in our age and fulfilling the Lasallian Mission of Saint Paul’s School.
- We ended with **junior Luke Broussard** extinguishing the prayer candle while *Lean on Me*, which has become associated with our seniors, played in the background. 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!

Brother Jeffrey: Brother left for a six week stay in Australia at the invitation of the Brothers there. He will visit the schools and conduct Lasallian formation work with faculties and students. Jeff is excited to return to the Land Up Over (as he wrote in his newsletter to us), a place he came to have much love for during his multi-year stint there prior to his returning to SPS. We wish him safe travel and a renewing and enjoyable stay in that part of the Lasallian world.

Mother-Son Dinner/Clarion Herald Article: This week’s edition has a wonderful article on our Mother-Son Dinner, with special focus given to Burak Kandil and his journey with his mom from Turkey to Mandeville. It’s worth the read. Here the link in case you don’t have a printed copy: <http://clarionherald.info/clarion/index.php/parks-home/5518-a-mothers-day-reflection-from-turkey-with-love>

We Made the International Newsletter of the Institute: Soccer is big in the Lasallian world, and the weekly international newsletter of the Brothers had an article on SPS. Here’s the link; just scroll down till you see St. Paul’s: http://www.lasalle.org/?wysija_page=1&controller=email&action=view&email_id=143&wysijap=subscriptions&user_id=2325

The Subjunctive Mood and the Annual Fund: Two years ago, a parent sent me a NY Times article on the disappearance of the subjunctive mood in English (the “what” you are asking?) The subjunctive mood (the bane of English students everywhere!) is used express a wishful notion or a proposition contrary to fact: *If the man were rich, he could retire* (not *was rich*, because he’s not, and he needs the salary). The parent then wrote that I should use the subjunctive in my Annual Fund pleas:

If someone were to donate a million dollars to Saint Paul’s, Brother Ray could stop begging for donations to the Annual Fund!

And I’ll add this one: *If everyone were to donate even a small amount, Brother Ray could stop begging for donations to the Annual Fund!*

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! Thanks. Can you send \$10 to Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?

And WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! Thanks to those of you who are involving grandparents, whom I hate to ask personally unless you give me permission to do so.

W of E: At last Tuesday's assembly, Mr. Colin Berthaut of Prudential Financial Services gave an award to Sean Noel for his community service. After the ceremony, I emailed Mr. Berthaut to thank him and his company. Here's what he wrote back: *I appreciate the kind words but it is I who should thank you. I am honored to have been a part of your assembly. Words can't describe how impressed I was with everything from the passionate staff to the enthusiastic future leaders who filled the seats. I know you gave us the option to leave early but I didn't want to miss a minute. When I arrived this morning, I already knew something about Sean and his passion to help others; now I know something about your entire school. At least somebody likes my assemblies!*



Thanks, Botanical Wolves!

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.

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 given the state's fiscal condition.

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

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>

Soccer Assembly: If you would like to view the special soccer assembly, click the following link and then scroll down and click on SPS: http://www.maxpreps.com/m/tour_of_champions/sport.aspx?sport=soccer

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 6th. I’ll also email a copy to senior parents.
- **Special:** We again plan to LIVE STREAM the graduation so others can follow this beautiful ceremony. More info in next week’s newsletter, but start spreading the word about the live streaming.

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

Look Ahead

- 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 – 105th 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 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

