

Saint Paul's School

The President's Newsletter for the Beginning of July

"Wholly direct your thoughts to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, and worthy of praise. Then will the God of peace be with you."

--Saint Paul to the Philippians

Welcome to July – the seventh month of the year, named by the Roman Senate in honor of the Roman general, Julius Caesar, it being the month of his birth. And Happy Fourth of July! As we celebrate our wonderful country's birthday, and since I haven't bothered you for a while, I thought it appropriate that I communicate briefly with you.

July has something for almost everyone. Did you know that July is *Air-Conditioning Appreciation Month* (Amen!), *Bioterrorism/Disaster Education & Awareness Month*, *Cell Phone Courtesy Month* (and boy, do we need this!), *Family Reunion Month*, *Family Golf Month*, *Freedom From Fear of Speaking Month*, *Independent Retailer Month* (let's support our local businesses!), *International Zine Month* (I had to look this one up to find out what a zine was!), *National Blueberries Month* (love 'em!), *National Grilling Month*, *National Ice Cream Month*, *National Horseradish Month*, *National Hot Dog Month*, *National Make A Difference to Children Month* (we do this every month at SPS!), *National Recreation & Parks Month*, *National Share A Sunset With Your Lover Month*, *National Wheelchair Beautification Month*, *Nectarine and Garlic Month*, *Sandwich Generation Month*, *Smart Irrigation Month*, *Social Wellness Month*, *Tour de France Month*, & *Women's Motorcycle Month* (be careful, ladies!) So enjoy July!

I hope summer is proving to be a renewing one for your family. Too often, summers become hectic and chaotic with plans and projects – such as celebrating all those things in the paragraph above. With so much happening, it is easy to lose focus about important things. May the above words of Saint Paul help us provide to refocus! And even though we might be enjoying blueberries or horseradish, we need to "direct [our] thoughts to all that is true!" By doing so, the "God of peace" will be with us. Such is my prayer for you.

I hope, too, that you are preparing for the opening of the 2016 - 17 school year – a year which continues the unbroken chain of educational quality that began at Saint Paul's back in 1911. August 8th will soon be here! Much work is being done to prepare. Please note the following:

Attention Pre-Freshmen: Our Lasallian Youth Leaders are planning a special **Orientation Session for our incoming pre-freshman (8th graders) and NEW freshmen (9th graders)**. Here's some info:

- When? Thursday, August 4, from 4 – 8:00 pm
- Who? Pre-freshmen & NEW 9th graders. This is for students only. A parent orientation will be held Aug 15 (6:30) More info to come
- Where? Check in at Founder's Circle (by the big oak tree) by 4 pm
- What? Meet your teachers, learn about the school, acclimate to the campus, meet each other
- What to wear? Comfortable, appropriate T-shirts, shorts & shoes good for running and ice breakers
- What else? A pizza supper will be provided.
- Cost? None!

Please RSVP to Campus Minister Mr. Jeff Ramon (j.ramon@stpauls.com) by Friday, July 29th. More info will be sent later, but we hope you will mark this date on your calendars, RSVP, and plan to be present. Naturally, attendance is strictly optional, but the evening will be a fun and informative introduction to SPS.

New SPS Parents: Two special events are held for our new parents to welcome and orient them. Please note:

- **Mothers' Club New Mom Social** will be held Tue, Aug 8 at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. This is a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with our fantastic Mothers' Club and to be welcomed into the family of SPS.
- **New Parent Reception/Information Meeting** will be held Mon, Aug 15 at 6:30 in the BAC. All new parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend this event at which you will meet the key people involved with your sons' education and receive important information in the process. The event is over about 8.

Curriculum Enhancements: In continuing our response to the needs and wishes of our students, we have added the following courses to our curriculum for next year:

- **Algebra III:** This is another dual enrollment class with Southeastern where our students can earn college credit. It's a computer -based college algebra course taught over the whole school year which strives to strengthen algebraic concepts by introducing both the concepts and real life applications of these concepts. In addition, in the fall semester students will review and practice ACT skills including basic geometry and trigonometry among others.
- **Accounting:** This course will enhance our business curriculum offerings along with Marketing, Management, Economics, Finance and Entrepreneurship. **We remain grateful to the executive team of Hornbeck Offshore Services for sponsoring our engineering and business curricula.**
- **Speech III:** This is a course in persuasive writing.
- **Law Studies II:** Our law studies program continues to grow, so we are pleased to add a second year of study in this area. Law Studies I is a prerequisite to Law Studies II. This course is a continuation of Law Studies I, with students continuing their study of legal concepts covered in Law Studies I, but in a more in depth manner.

Tuition: Please note:

- **Tuition was due on June 1st. If you financed tuition with Resource Bank, the first bank payment was also due in June.**
- **Late tuition is subject to a 1% finance charge. Late loan payments will incur bank charges.**
- Call our Business Office at ext. 1005 or me at ext. 1001 for questions.
- **Class schedules will not be sent** to students who owe tuition or who are not current in their bank payments. Tuition bank payments must be current in order for students to begin school on August 8.
- **Please inform me if your son will not be attending Saint Paul's.**

Summer Reading and Virtual Bookstore: From Assistant Principal Joe Dickens:

*Welcome to a new school year. This is a reminder that all students have summer reading assignments for English, and students who are enrolled in an **honors or A.P.** social studies course do as well. Please take note of the following to ensure that your son completes these assignments as efficiently as possible.*

To make obtaining his English reading materials as facile as possible, our virtual bookstore opened for summer reading and for the school year on May 29. Any novel, play, or workbook he will need for English will be listed including new and used editions, and in some cases, eBooks. We offer this service for convenience, variety, and savings.

Simply go to our website at www.stpauls.com, click the "Order Your Books Here" button on the left, and you'll be directed to our virtual bookstore. You'll choose his titles for summer reading and for the school year based on his placement in English. Payment will be handled on-line through MBS Direct, and the books will be shipped by UPS straight to your home.

Next, all summer reading questions for English and social studies (if your son is in honors or AP history/civics) are posted on our website. **Please note that your son will independently have to obtain his own summer reading books for social studies if he is in honors or AP.** Click on the link for summer reading at the bottom of our homepage, www.stpauls.com, and find the class(es) applicable to your son.

If you have any questions about your son's placement in English or social studies, please contact our Assistant Principal, Joe Dickens, at joed@stpauls.com.

The First Day of School on Monday, August 8:

- **Monday, August 8 is a FULL DAY OF CLASS INSTRUCTION.** Here's the plan:
 - Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students during the first class meeting;
 - Pictures and ID cards will be taken and issued during religion classes during the first two days (Aug 8 & 9). You will be sent information for ordering pictures.
 - The cafeteria will be open W - F, Aug 3 - 5, from 7-2:30 for you to place money on deposit if your son will be using the Archdiocesan Food Service. Students must have money on account for them to receive food from the cafeteria. Breakfast is served for \$1.50 and lunch for \$2.50. It's a bargain – unless your son loads up with extra servings! And don't let your son say "the line is too long." After the first few days last year, all students were served within twenty minutes.
- The complete 2016 - 17 calendar can be found on our web site (www.stpauls.com). NOTE: To comply with the State of Louisiana attendance policy, we are vigilant in insisting that students not miss school. Please do not schedule vacations during school time.
- And speaking of Edline, in late-July we'll send Edline codes and SPS email addresses to new students to activate their accounts. Edline allows parents to check grades and assignments and to communicate with teachers. We want ALL parents to activate their Edline accounts to receive important info from the teachers.
- NOTE: **All students must wear their DRESS UNIFORM on EITHER Aug 8 or 9 – the days they will take school pictures.** Pictures will be taken during RELIGION CLASSES, so if your son's religion class is during Period A, B C or D, he wears his dress uniform on Mon, Aug 8. If his religion class is during Period E, F, or G, he wears his uniform on Tue, Aug 9. How will you know? The schedule we will email you will indicate the religion period.

Mothers' Club Book Store: The Bookstore will be open during the week of August 1. Exact times will be sent later. All required school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel.

Regular bookstore hours of operation will start on Monday, August 8.

7:15 am - 8:00 am

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

2:15 pm - 3:15 pm

PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore when possible. Proceeds not only help fund wonderful activities throughout the year, but the proceeds also help with campus needs. For example, the MC funded over \$13,000 worth of school projects this past year.

From the Dads' Club: *The Dads' Club meets monthly at 6:30 pm at the Abita Brewery. We are a very informal group, so please feel welcome to attend whenever you are available. Our mission is to assist in any way we can. Our goal is focus on three areas: volunteer our time when called upon by administration or other organization, host*

social events for the dads and their sons, and organize events to raise money for the Dads' Club. Recent activities included: assisted the Alumni Organization with the crawfish boil and golf tourney, the Botanical Wolves with irrigation and planting projects, assisted the administration on pressure washing and painting, laid sod for new gym, held a dads vs. sons paintball contest, tailgated and cooked for football games, and done a lot of socializing and forged many new friendships. For more information and to be added to our email list, send an email to Mike Sibley msib@me.com. Also, join our Facebook group by searching for St. Paul's Dads' Club. Mark your calendar for our upcoming meeting dates:

- August 17, 2016 – Meeting*
- September 2, 2016 - 8th Graders/Dads' BBQ (during tailgating prior to first home football game)*
- September 21st, 2016 - Meeting*

Cafeteria and Free / Reduced Lunch Program: If you wish to apply for free / reduced lunch, you can now do so on-line. There is NO stigma in applying and NO ONE knows. Nothing is done to embarrass your son or identify him as a free / reduced student. From the Archdiocesan Food Service:

Applying for your child(ren)'s school meal benefits is now faster, safer & easier than ever. To apply please visit our website at: www.schoolcafe.org and click on the link “Click Here to Apply for Reduced/Free Lunch” on the home page to begin your application. This service is provided to you free of charge by School Food & Nutrition Services of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Entering your application online is quicker, easier, and more accurate than filling out a paper application. Our step-by-step process and guided help makes applying for school meals simpler and easier to understand than ever before. Processing times are faster; therefore benefits are applied quicker too!

Listed below is what you will need to provide during the on-line application process:

- The names and incomes of every member of your household*
- The school, grade, & birth date of every student in your household*
- Your social security number and electronic signature*
- A valid email address and phone number for communication purposes about the status of the application.*

If you have any questions, call the School Food & Nutrition Services office at (504) 596-3434.

Service Hours: Summer is a great time for your son to start and even complete his service hour requirement of 10 hours. Remember that service hours must be done for those in need. Doing chores around the house does not qualify – your son should already be doing chores around the house. We are particularly stressing this year the need to help the truly needy. The Covington Food Bank, Habitat, parish mission trips, nursing homes – all of these provide legitimate service hour opportunities.

Remember that two special awards are given at the end of the year for service hours: The Brother Alfred Service Award for 50+ service hours and the Order of Saint La Salle Award for 100+ service hours. I'm always edified by the number of students who qualify for these awards. Let's aim for 100% of the student body earning these awards this year!

Class Schedules: Schedules will be emailed (if tuition is paid or bank payments current) by July 20 or very shortly thereafter.

Attention Seniors and Senior Parents: Note these important dates:

Senior March through Arch: Thu, Aug 18, 8 am

Senior – Parent Breakfast: Thu, Aug 18, 8:45 am (cafeteria and “al fresco”)

Senior Ring Ceremony: Thu, Aug 18, 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center
Senior Ring Holiday: Fri, Aug 19

Dress Code: Here it is again. I reiterate: the school is the final judge of uniform compliance:

- ONLY SPS sweatshirts/outerwear will be allowed in cool / cold weather EVEN FOR SENIORS.
- ONLY **regular tan** khaki pants / shorts (NO cargo) will be allowed. If the pants are too light or too dark, we will insist that the student buy tan khaki ones. Some students were “pushing the envelope” last year with this rule, so make sure they pants are TAN – otherwise we may have to mandate a specific brand of pants/shorts. We have a supply of slightly used pants/shorts which I am happy to give away. Please approach me if your budget is tight. Your son will not be embarrassed in any way.
- ONLY shirts sold by Bayou Uniform (13488 Seymour Myers Blvd) are allowed. If your son’s shirts have shrunk (shirt tails MUST stay tucked in) or have holes, he MUST buy new ones.
- ONLY **white, blue, gray, or gold T-shirts** may be worn under uniform shirt.
- ONLY PLAIN (no metal decorations) BROWN belts will be allowed.
- SPS WHITE socks will still be required. The multi-colored socks that made an appearance last year will no longer be allowed. These white socks can be purchased at Bayou Uniform or in the bookstore.
- We will continue to use the “formal” uniform on special occasions (school masses, ceremonies, etc). This uniform will include a school tie (purchased at Bayou Uniform) and ANY plain, white long-sleeve dress shirt. Long khakis with dark shoes, socks and belt are also part of the uniform which are purchased anywhere by the student.
- **AGAIN THIS YEAR:** As an additional level of safety, students will be REQUIRED to WEAR THEIR ID CARDS on a daily basis. We will supply them with an SPS lanyard when they received their cards on either Aug 8 or 9. This will also help with the cafeteria, as ID cards are used to check out and also with the attendance office, as ID cards are used to check in.

Football: Football camp for varsity begins July 26th and concludes July 29th. Incoming freshman meet at 7am on Monday, July 11th for practice with physical clearance. Pre-freshman signup for football is Tuesday, August 2nd (spirit night) at 5pm in the gym.

Band: The Marching Wolves invite ALL students to consider joining one of the premier band programs in the area. **Even beginners are welcome!** Note the following:

- Our New Member Camp will be July 18-20. Monday and Tuesday 18 & 19 are 9:00am- 4:00pm and Wednesday the 20th 9:00 am - Noon. It is bring your own Lunch
- Band camp for all members is July 25-29. Monday - Thursday is 9:00AM-6:00 PM and Friday 8:00AM-6:00 PM
- Band members must have physicals for participation.
- Contact Mr. Andrew Moran, Director of Bands, at andrewm@stpauls.com for more info.
- Band is a GREAT way to become involved, join in wonderful SPS tradition, and have fun in the process! My goal is to have 100 Marching Wolves. We are close, as last year we were at 80. I know we can reach 100. Give the MWs a try – you won’t regret it!

Athletics: From the Athletic Director, Coach Craig Ketelsen:

- Any student who wishes to play a sport must have his athletic paperwork (including a physical on a school medical history form) turned in to the office BEFORE the start of practices. Football, CC, and Swimming will begin the first week of school for new students.

Annual Fund: Thanks to those of you who have contributed. Even during the summer, I continue to get donations. **If you still haven't contributed and are able to, even to a small degree, please do so now so, as the 2016 Annual Fund Drive ends July 31.** Thanks. So far, we have used the funds to provide continuing education opportunities for faculty members, to upgrade technology, to fund curricula, and to help pay for the new gym.

Cross Country: The team welcomes any student-athletes interested in joining to come Run with the Wolves during our conditioning runs this summer. Please note that LHSAA-required physical and forms must be completed before conditioning begins. If interested, please email faculty moderator, Myrle Wiggins at myrlew@stpauls.com for the schedule.

Campus Summer Activities: We continue to be busy this summer. So far:

- Summer baseball teams are winding down. Other teams are practicing according to the LHSAA rules.
- Summer camps are in full swing. So far we have held baseball, football, basketball, wrestling, creative writing, robotics, math and drama camps. Soccer, lacrosse, band, and a speed-strength conditioning camp remain on the schedule. For more information on any of our remaining camps, check our web site or contact Coach Craig Ketelsen at 985-966-1147 or Keren Davis at 985-502-7132.
- Lots of cleaning, upgrading, and repairing are going on. So far we have removed dead pine trees (in preparation for hurricane season), installed new flooring in three classrooms, upgraded technology (a never ending task!) and added additional campus lighting.
- Mr. Andrew Dart, Mr. Jeff Ramon, Mr. Paul Scoriels and Mr. Ken Sears are currently at a two week program in California on Lasallian studies.
- Trevor Watkins and I spent a week in Napa, CA (it was rough, but someone had to go!) with presidents and principals of the 20 schools of the San Francisco New Orleans Province of Christian Brothers as we developed a strategic plan for the province for the next four years.
- Mr. Brian Logarbo and four Wolves traveled to El Paso to participate in a social justice workshop with students from other Lasallian schools in the San Francisco New Orleans Province.
- A group of SPS Lasallian Youth Leaders are preparing to head to California next week to attend a Lasallian Youth Conference. We look forward to hearing about the trip on their return.
- A number of teachers are studying, attending conferences, and upgrading their skills for next year, especially for our engineering and bio-medical programs.
- Many Wolves are involved in many different activities this summer and are distinguishing themselves. I'll have LOTS of material for my recognition assemblies when school starts!
- The Briggs Center will host the Covington Kiwanis Club Prayer Breakfast to a large crowd in mid-July. Thanks to Mrs. Shellie Campo and our maintenance crew for their hard work in setting up the breakfast.
- The St. Benedict Knights of Columbus Prayer Breakfast took place in our campus cafeteria. It was a wonderful event. Thanks to Ms. Karen Hebert and several student hosts for their hard work.
- The ever-faithful Botanical Wolves have been watering, planting, weeding and pruning and our campus looks great here in the mid-summer heat. Thanks, Mrs. Linda Trahan and your corps of BWs!
- And many more things are going on.... Stay tuned.

Proof of Attendance and Driver's License: If your son is getting his driver's license this summer, state law requires you to provide the DMV with a Proof of Attendance form. These forms are available here in the Administration Building. If you go to DMV without one, they will turn you away – even if you've sat there for an hour or more! And make sure it's signed in blue ink or they will turn you away, too! And don't blame me for this regulation! It was a legislative act.

PRAYERS REQUESTED:

- July 4 is the six year anniversary of the death of Coach Gene Bennett, who faithfully served Saint Paul's School for 48 years. Today we remember Gene and give thanks for his Lasallian vocation to our school. We continue

to offer our prayer and support to his family as they continue to adjust to life without his earthly presence. **And we continue to honor him with the expansion of the Gene Bennett Sports Complex! Please consider a gift in Gene's memory.**

- We pray for the safety of our students as they reach the midpoint of their summer break.

Free Money for SPS: Don't forget to mention SPS when you shop at Office Depot which gives a 5% store credit to the school on all of your purchases. Also, save those Box Tops for Education and have your son bring them to his math teacher. This is FREE money for SPS!

Congrats: Two more members of the Class of 2016 signed scholarships to play college athletics: Billy Harrison will wrestle at Huntingdon College and Mark Spicer will play rugby at Spring Hill. The Class of 2016 had twelve student athletes sign to play in college. Well done!

4th of July Humor: OK, I've used some of these before, but how many 4th of July jokes are there? And they still make me smile!

- *Why does the Statue of Liberty stand in New York Harbor? Because she can't sit down.*
- *Does Europe have a 4th of July? Of course. It comes right after the 3rd of July.*
- *What did George Washington say to his men before they crossed the Delaware? "Get in the boat, men!"*
- *What do you call an American drawing? A Yankee doodle!*
- *Alvin: My great-grandfather fought with Napoleon, my grandfather fought with the French and my father fought with the Americans. Alex: Your relatives couldn't get along with anyone, could they?*
- *Teacher: More than 200 years ago, our forefathers defeated the British in the Revolutionary War Caleb: Wow! The must have been pretty strong, four men defeating a whole army*
- *What was the patriots' favorite food in the Revolutionary War? Chicken Catch-a-Tory!*
- *Where the Declaration of Independence was signed? At the bottom.*
- *What's red, white and blue? A sad candy cane!*
- *Teacher: What are the last words of "The Star-Spangled Banner"? Johnny: "Play ball"?*
- *What did the colonists wear to the Boston Tea Party? Tea-shirts!If you crossed a vegetable with our first president, what would you get? George Squashington*

- *If you crossed a rooster with the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, what would you get? John Hancock-a-doodle-doo*
- *If you crossed George Washington with cattle feed, what would you get? The Fodder of Our Country*
- *If you crossed a Patriot with a curly-haired dog, what would you get? Yankee Poodle*
- *If you crossed the American national bird with Snoopy, what would you get? A bald beagle.*
- *If you crossed a famous Founding Father with a famous monster, what would you get? Benjamin Franklinstein*
- *What quacks, has webbed feet, and betrays his country? Beneduck Arnold*
- *What did Americans do because of the Stamp Act? They licked the British.*
- *Why did Paul Revere ride his horse from Boston to Lexington and Concord? The horse was too heavy to carry.*
- *Why did the British cross the Atlantic? To get to the other tide.*
- *Did you hear the joke about the Liberty Bell? Yes, it cracked me up.*
- *What was the most popular dance in 1776? Indepen-dance.*
- *Who was the biggest jokester in Washington's army? Laughayette*
- *Do flags talk to other flags? No. They just wave.*
- *Who is a fake patriot? Uncle Sham.*
- *Where did George Washington buy his hatchet? At the chopping mall.*
- *What kind of tea did the American colonists want? Liberty.*

- *What was General George Washington's favorite tree? The infantry.*
- *Which colonists told the worst jokes? Punsylvanians*
- *Teacher: "True or False? The Declaration of Independence was written in Philadelphia." Student: "False. It was written in ink."*
- *Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? On the bottom.*
- *Why did the British soldiers wear red coats? So they could hide in the tomatoes.*
- *How was the food at the Fourth of July picnic? The hot dogs were bad, but the brats were the wurst!*
- *Why is the Liberty Bell like a dropped Easter egg? They're both cracked.*
- *What is Uncle Sam's favorite snack? Fire-crackers.*
- *What did King George think of the American colonist? He thought they were revolting!*
- *How did American colonists' dogs protest against England? The Boston Flea Party.*
- *Brother Ray, the aging school president, visited an American history class last year and asked the students to name the 50 states. They could only come up with 45. Brother Ray jokingly told them that when he took American history he could name all the states. One student raised his hand and said, "Yes, Brother, but in those days there were only 13 states." Ouch!*
- *OK, I'll stop! Happy Fourth of July!*

A Look Ahead:

- Mon, Aug 1 - 5 – Teacher Meeting and Prep Days
- Thu, Aug 4 – Pre-freshman and New Freshman Orientation Evening (4-8:00 pm)
- Mon, Aug 8 – First Day of School (FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION; Periods A, B, C, & D will meet). If a student has religion in these periods, he must wear his DRESS UNIFORM for pictures
- Tue, Aug 9 – Second Day of School (Full Day of Instruction; Periods E, F, G & A will meet). If a student has religion in periods E, F or G, he must wear his DRESS UNIFORM for pictures.
- Tue, Aug 9 – New Moms Meet and Greet (6:30 pm in Briggs Assembly Center) All new SPS moms are invited.
- Mon, Aug 15 – **All NEW SPS parents are invited to a reception/info meeting in the BAC (6:30 pm).**
- Mon, Sep 05 – Labor Day Holiday

Well, I wasn't brief with this newsletter as promised! Sorry! Thanks for being part of the 2016 - 17 edition of Saint Paul's – the beginning of sixth year of our second century of existence. If the next 106 years go as well as this past year, Saint Paul's will have had an incredible second century of existence.

Call if I can be of assistance. **Our July summer office hours (through July 22) are 8 am -- noon** Monday through Friday. While we will usually be in the office during part of the afternoon, your best bet for contacting us is in the mornings.

Enjoy the final weeks of summer! May they be ones of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you throughout the summer, particularly for the safety and good decision-making of our students!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Looking Forward to Another Year as the 17th Christian Brother President/CEO of Saint Paul's School

Have a great Lasallian summer but remember: the Core Lasallian Principles of Quality Education, Respect for all, Concern for Poor & Social Justice, Inclusive Community & Faith in the Presence of God NEVER take a vacation!

Care and Vigilance and Faith and Zeal -- Hallmarks of the Lasallian Teacher and Parent