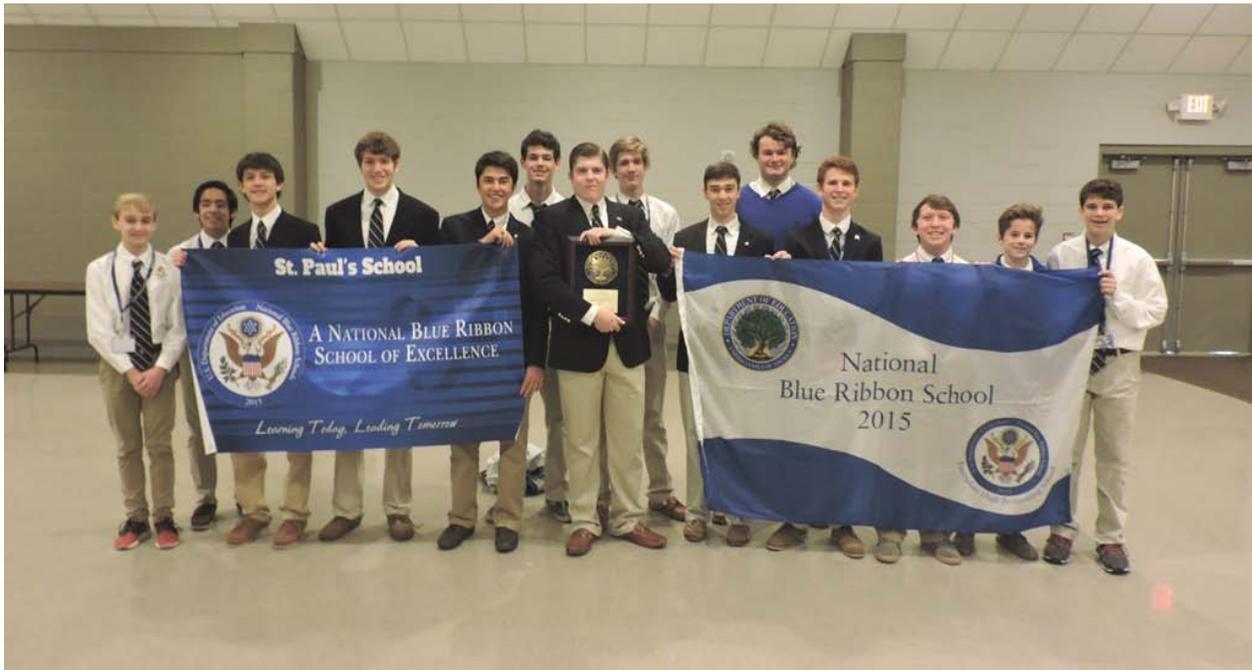


Warning about the Newsletter: This is a LONG newsletter, but there's a lot to cover as we begin school. So pour another cup of coffee, relax, and read. Feel free to take breaks!



***The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter***  
***In the Jubilee Year of Mercy***  
***Opening of the 2016 – 17 School Year Edition***



Welcome to the 2016 - 17 school year – the sixth year of our second century -- a year in which we will strive to keep the best of our 335+ year Christian Brother tradition with our 105 year Saint Paul's tradition while adding the quality of the present. This promises to be a great year. Thanks for being with us.

By popular demand (OK, again, one mom asked!), the President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter is back. I'm sure your summer Sundays were vaguely unsettling without my weekly missive. As in the past, I plan to email the newsletter on Sunday mornings. If you have suggestions as to how I can make the newsletter more helpful & informative, let me know. Just email me a question or suggestion or topic to be addressed.

And welcome to August. According to *The Miriam-Webster* website, *August comes from the Latin word augustus, meaning "consecrated" or "venerable."... In 8 B.C. the Roman Senate honored Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor, by changing the name of their month "Sextilis" to "Augustus."* Middle English speakers inherited the name of the month of August. August is Admit You're Happy Month, Family Fun Month, National Catfish Month, National Eye Exam Month, National Golf Month, Peace Month, Romance Awareness Month, Water Quality Month and National Picnic Month -- something for everyone.

At SPS, it's the "Opening of School Month." I'm excited, and I hope you are, too. Thanks for being with us.

## Monday, Aug 1

- **This Day in History: In 1914, World War I erupts in Europe.** The so-called “Great War” that ensued would be one of unprecedented destruction and loss of life, resulting in the deaths of some 20 million soldiers and civilians and the physical devastation of much of the European continent.
- **TDIH: 1943,** PT-109 sinks; Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, later to become President Kennedy, is instrumental in saving crew. If you are unfamiliar with this inspiring story, I encourage you to read about it today.
- **New SPS Teachers Meeting:** We have excellent new additions to our faculty and will spend today orienting them to the rich tradition of Lasallian education here at Saint Paul’s School.
- **Cross Country Camp through Thursday**

## Tue, Aug 2

- **TDIH:** In 1990, Iraq invades Kuwait, which would ultimately lead the US into the First Gulf War.
- **National Ice Cream Sandwich Day:** Enjoy this iconic summer treat!
- **New SPS Teachers Meeting:** Today, our new teachers join the new faculty of Lasallian schools in NO and learn the rich tradition of Lasallian education, which has been transforming lives since 1680.
- **8th Grade Football Sign Up & Football Spirit Night: 5-7 in Gym**

## Wed, Aug 3

- **TDIH:** 1958, the U.S. nuclear submarine *Nautilus* accomplishes the first undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole.
- **TDIH:** In 1923, Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as the 30th president of the US, hours after the death of President Warren G. Harding.
- **TDIH: In 1861,** the last entry of the serialized novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens is published. The book had been serialized in Dickens’ literary circular, *All the Year Round*. The novel tells the story of young Pip, a poor orphan who comes to believe he will inherit a fortune – and is one of my favorite novels and a part of my English class curriculum.
- **National Watermelon Day:** Enjoy this iconic summer treat! And it’s healthy for you, too!
- **World Yo-Yo Competition** begins today in Cleveland. Dust off your Duncan and brush up your yo-yo skills!
- **All Faculty Meeting (8 – 3)**



*Four additional campus security lights were installed this summer.*

## Thu, Aug 4 (Feast of St. John Vianney -- 1786-1859)

- **St. John Vianney’s** most remarkable accomplishment was his work as a confessor. In winter months, he spent 11 to 12 hours daily hearing confessions. In summer, time increased to 16 hours. As his fame spread, more hours were spent serving God’s people. Even the few hours he allowed himself for sleep were disturbed frequently by the devil.
- **TDIH:** In 1944, acting on a Dutch informer tip, Nazi Gestapo captures 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank and her family in a sealed-off area of an Amsterdam warehouse. Her father was the only family member to survive the Nazi death camps. After the war, he returned to Amsterdam via Russia, and was reunited with one of his former employees who had helped shelter him. She handed him Anne’s diary, which

she had found undisturbed after the Nazi raid. In 1947, Anne's diary was published by Otto in its original Dutch as *Diary of a Young Girl*. An instant best-seller and eventually translated into more than 50 languages, *The Diary of Anne Frank* has served as a literary testament to the nearly six million Jews, including Anne herself, who were silenced in the Holocaust.

- **National Chocolate Chip Day:** Enjoy this iconic treat!
- **International Assistance Dog Day** recognizes all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations.
- **Coast Guard Day:** On August 4, 1790, the Revenue Cutter Service was created by the Congress. Congress authorized the construction of ten cutters. These ships enforced U.S. tariff laws. The Revenue Cutter Service was the predecessor the U.S. Coast Guard, a term first used in 1915. We salute and thank our Coast Guard!
- **All Faculty Meeting Day (8 – 3)**
- **8<sup>th</sup> & New 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation (4-8):** Our Lasallian Young Leaders have a great program planned for our newest wolves. Thanks to Campus Minister Jeff Ramon and all who will be helping tonight.

### **Fri, Aug 5 – Last Day of Summer Vacation 2016!**

- **TDIH:** In 1914, the world's first electric traffic signal is put into place on the corner of Euclid Ave and East 105th Street in Cleveland. Little did they know what they started!
- **TDIH:** In 1850, French writer Guy de Maupassant, who probably had the greatest impact upon the development of short story as a literary genre in Europe, is born. His stories are characterized by clever plots, clear style and surprise endings. Read de Maupassant today! “The Necklace” & “Piece of String” are classic!
- **National Underwear Day:** I'll let you “briefly” (sorry!) decide if you're going to celebrate this – or not! DYK that sales of men's underwear - a discretionary purchase - is used by some Wall Street execs to measure how people feel financially? When sales decline, it often indicates the economy is headed for a fall. Who knew?
- **National Oyster Day:** Indulge today in this LA favorite! Some facts:
  - There are over 100 species of true oysters traditionally named after body of water where found.
  - The largest oyster-producing body of water is located in Chesapeake Bay.
  - Oyster farming and cultivation can be traced back to Roman times in France and England.
  - Two billion lbs are eaten annually and only 1 out of 10,000 will have a pearl

### **Sat, Aug 6**

- **Feast of the Transfiguration:** *In a resplendent cloud, the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.* May we listen to the Lord this new school year!
- **TDIH:** In 1945, at 8:16 am Japanese time, an American B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay*, drops world's first atom bomb, over city of Hiroshima. Approximately 80,000 people are killed as a direct result of the blast, and another 35,000 are injured. At least another 60,000 would be dead by the end of the year from the effects of the fallout. We pray that never again will atomic weapons be used.
- **National Fresh Breath Day:** Floss, brush, rinse with mouthwash, and carry mints! ‘Nuff said!
- **National Root Beer Float Day:** Celebrate the opening of school with this iconic summer treat!
- **National Mustard Day (always first Sat of Aug):** Spread this tasty condiment treat on your food today. Or visit the National Mustard Museum (who knew?) web site at <http://mustardmuseum.com/>

## Sun, Aug 7

- **International Forgiveness Day** (always first Sun in Aug): Let's all make an effort to forgive, especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.
- **TDIH:** The US Congress overwhelmingly approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Lyndon Johnson nearly unlimited powers to oppose "communist aggression" in Southeast Asia. The resolution marked the beginning of an expanded military role for the United States in Vietnam.
- **Purple Heart Day: Today** in 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington created the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with the word Merit across the face. The badge was presented to soldiers for "any singularly meritorious action" and permitted its wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge. After the war, the decoration was largely forgotten until 1927, when the US Army Chief of Staff sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to "revive the Badge of Military Merit." On February 22, 1932, Washington's 200th birthday, the U.S. War Department created the "Order of the Purple Heart." We remember all American soldiers who have been wounded and thus earned The Purple Heart.
- **Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day** -- Buy anything lately that was particularly hard to get out of the box or plastic wrap? What do we older people do when even mainstream society can't open a simple bottle of aspirin, let alone a milk carton?

**Attention All 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and NEW 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** Our Lasallian Youth Leaders are planning an Orientation Session for our incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders and NEW 9<sup>th</sup> graders on Thu, August 4, from 4-8:00 pm. An invitation was sent to you, and we hope you have marked this date on your calendars and plan to be present. Naturally, attendance is optional, but the evening will be a fun and informative introduction to SPS. Don't worry, however, if you can't make it. We'll "orient" you when school begins. Please RSVP by emailing our Lasallian Youth Leader moderator, Mr. Jeff Ramon, at [j.ramon@stpauls.com](mailto:j.ramon@stpauls.com).

## Monday, August 8, the First Day of School:

- **Monday, August 8, is a FULL DAY OF CLASS INSTRUCTION.** Students must be in their Block A class by 7:45 am. **Traffic has not gotten any better of late, so please allow plenty of time for prompt arrival.**
- **Important Info About Uniforms for Monday, August 8:** On Monday, August 8, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. Students who have religion in periods E, F or G wear regular uniforms on Tuesday, August 9. How will you know? Refer to class schedule which you should have received by now. If you haven't received a schedule, contact me.
- **Important Info About Uniforms for Tuesday, August 9:** On Tuesday, August 9, students with religion class in periods E, F or G wear DRESS UNIFORM for pictures. Students who had their



*This was the scene each M, W & F morning at 7 am this summer as the Gridiron Wolves anticipate the 2016 season!*

pictures taken on Monday wear regular uniforms.

- Students only need to bring materials for periods A B C & D on Monday, August 8. They only need to bring materials for periods E F G & A on Tuesday, August 9.
- Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students.

**School Pictures:** Ordering pictures is optional; an order form was mailed to you and will soon be posted on our web site. If you wish to order pictures, please have your son bring the order form and check with him on the day he is scheduled to take his picture (see above) – either Aug 8 or 9.

#### **Schedules:**

- Your son's first semester class schedule was emailed to you if you are current with tuition payments. Contact me if you didn't receive a schedule. The schedule is subject to slight modification as we balance class loads.
- **Teachers were hired and the schedule was built based upon the choices made in the spring during registration. A lot of time was spent this summer preparing the schedule based upon the choices made. A lot of time was spent "balancing" classes so that all classes are as small as possible. Therefore, few requests for changes will be honored. If you wish to request a change, follow procedure printed on the schedule you were sent.**
- A final schedule will be emailed to everyone on August 5; use this schedule for class on Aug 8.
- We will have a regular 4 period block schedule on Monday, Aug 8, periods A, B, C, & D.

**Mothers' Club Book Store:** The Bookstore open on:

- Wednesday, August 3rd from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Thursday, August 4th from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

All required school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Our regular bookstore hours of operation will start on Monday, August 8.

- M – F: 7:15 am - 8:00 am
- M – F: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Friday during Football Season: 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm
- By appointment. Email [spsbookstore16@gmail.com](mailto:spsbookstore16@gmail.com) or text Angela Rovira at 985-788-3679

**PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds not help fund wonderful activities throughout the year and campus needs. For example, the MC funded over \$13,000 worth of school projects this past year.

#### **Kudos and Thanks to:**

- **Botanical Wolves:** Linda Trahan and her cadre of BWs worked diligently in the hot sun on Sat, July 16, sprucing up our gardens – which look great. The students will be greeting by native flora to enhance their learning.
- **Dads' Club:** The SPS Dads Club spent Saturday, July 25, on a number of campus projects, from power washing to tree trimming to painting to minor repairs. Their work has made quite a difference! Thanks, SPS Dads Club! The campus is looking GREAT!

- **SPS Student Council:** With the assist of the Dads' Club, the SC erected a new pavilion on campus to house the outdoor cafeteria station, thus returning Horack Pavilion to student use. Thanks, President Will Murphy and the SC for your leadership with this project! Thanks, too, to Ibos Roofing for donating materials and labor.
- **Cross Country Team:** The team collected a car load of supplies & over \$900 for the back to school program at the Covington Food Bank. Several of the boys also helped fill the back packs later this. They have been a tremendous help with this program over the last few years. SPS teacher Jan Gardner is a leader in this program and thanks the team profusely.
- **Key Club and Marching Wolves:** Both these groups spent a hot Thu, July 21, assisting Sister Theresa Berlin and her Blue Shack Ministry in Covington, assisting the area residents with service and entertainment. This is in the finest tradition of Lasallian education.
- **Band Camp:** The Marching Wolves had a great week on campus last week with full band camp. New members are still welcome – even beginners! Just email Band Director Andrew Moran at [andrewm@stpauls.com](mailto:andrewm@stpauls.com) for more info. We'd love to have 100 Marching Wolves! Thanks to Band Boosters for their hard work in helping with camp.

**2016 - 17 Calendar** is posted on our web site ([www.stpauls.com](http://www.stpauls.com)). NOTE: since the State of Louisiana has tightened the attendance policy, we will be even more insistent that students not miss school for less than serious reasons. PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.

**Edline:** Edline allows parents and students secure access to grades, attendance, conduct & other info. Edline is used at other local Catholic schools (SSA, MQP, & St. Peter, for example) which will allow parents to consolidate all children on one account.

**Edline activation codes are printed on the schedules of new students.** Mr. Mike

Holmes is the Edline administrator. Contact him for help at 892-3200, ext 1044 or [mikeh@stpauls.com](mailto:mikeh@stpauls.com). WE NEED EVERYONE TO ACTIVATE AN EDLINE ACCOUNT. (Sorry – I'm not shouting, just emphasizing.)



*Sister Theresa thanks the Marching Wolves for performing at The Blue Shack Ministry recently.*

**Student Email Addresses:** An SPS email address (printed on the schedules) is issued to all students. The format is Firstname.Lastname.gradyr@stpauls.com, e.g. [John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com](mailto:John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com). This will allow us to better communicate with students. The student may keep this email forever, thus allowing us to continue contact with him as an alumnus. Naturally, we will delete the email upon graduation at the student's request. Your son's email will be printed on the schedule which you receive. **Since 95% of our communication with you is via email, please let us know if you change your email address.** And check your spam filter as sometimes our emails end up there.

**School Supplies:** All needed school supplies are posted on our school web site ([www.stpauls.com](http://www.stpauls.com)). Just click on the link at the bottom of the homepage. Supplies are listed by TEACHER, so check your son's class schedule

which was emailed last week. While we encourage you to shop at the Mothers Club bookstore, if **you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!**

**Summer Reading:** All students should be finishing their summer reading.

**New Parent Reception / Information Meeting:** A welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** will be held on Monday, August 15, at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. More information will be emailed in early August. We hope you have this on your calendar and that you will be with us!



*Senior Student Council members put finishing touches on new cafeteria serving pavilion.*

**Mothers' Club New Moms**

**Reception:** The Mothers' Club New Moms' Reception is Tuesday, Aug 9th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Briggs Assembly Center. ALL SPS moms, and especially new moms, are invited to this event. All moms automatically belong to the Mothers Club, so get involved.

**Homecoming Dances:** The Junior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Sep 24. The Senior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Oct 01.

**Senior Parents:** Note the following upcoming special senior events in

**Senior Week, Aug 15 - 19:**

- **All School Mass, Mon, Aug 15. Dress uniform required.**
- **Senior Class BBQ, Tue, Aug 16, 5 – 7 pm.** Appropriate casual attire required.
- **Football scrimmage v. John Curtis.** Seniors are urged, but not required, to come cheer for the Wolves.
- **March through the Arch, Thu, Aug 18, at 8 a.m.** Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional "rite of passage" ceremony for our seniors. SPS dress uniform required.
- **Senior-Parent Continental Breakfast** following the March. The breakfast will be in the cafeteria and "al fresco" (from the Italian meaning "in the fresh" -- in this case, fresh air! We'll have outdoor seating.)
- Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by pizza lunch and then Ring Ceremony practice. They will be dismissed following practice – 2 pm at the latest. Seniors may remain in dress uniform or change to regular school uniform after the breakfast.
- **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional ceremony, a highlight of the senior year. ALL seniors are required to attend the ceremony whether they are receiving a ring or not. And, yes, family rings can be used. Dress for the ceremony is dress shirt, tie, slacks, shoes and socks.
- **Fri, Aug 19, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.**

**Dress Code:** Students must be in compliance with the dress code beginning Aug 8. WE INTEND TO INCREASE OUR ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRESS CODE THIS YEAR. Refer to previous newsletters or the student handbook on our website for particulars if you are still unsure. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts in good condition. If the family budget is tight, feel free to ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to those families who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.**

**Uniforms:** Reminders:

- Uniform shirts and socks are sold by Bayou Uniform (13488 Seymour Myers Blvd ) in Covington. Only white SPS socks are allowed.
- Sweatshirts, fleeces, PE uniforms, etc. are sold by the Mothers Club book store.
- Khaki pants/shorts may come from any vendor as long as they are NOT cargo pants and are standard tan khaki color, not green or brown.
- There is no uniform shoe but no sandals, etc. are allowed. The more conservative the better.
- We now have a “dress uniform” which will be worn on special occasions: LONG khaki pants, dress white shirt (any brand is OK even if it has a small logo), dress socks, belt, SCHOOL TIE, and any shoe that is not a tennis/athletic shoe.
- ID cards must be worn DAILY on an SPS lanyard which will be given to students. This is a school safety measure.

**Extracurriculars:** New parents often ask how their sons find out about our extracurricular program. Shortly after school opens, we will introduce students to our offerings.

**Cafeteria School Lunch / Breakfast Programs:**

- SPS participates in the federal school lunch/breakfast program managed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Saint Paul’s does not directly manage the food service program; we follow the directives of the Archdiocese and the cafeteria workers are employed by the Archdiocese, not Saint Paul’s.
- Breakfast (\$1.75) is served from 7:15-7:35 am. This is a GREAT program and many students use it.
- Students may buy a basic lunch (\$2.75.) They will be charged for extra servings – so make sure your son is aware of this and knows how much he can spend. On most days, there is a choice of hot lunch or sandwich lunch.
- **Students may not “order out”, e.g. pizza, or have lunches delivered. WE CANNOT DELIVER LUNCHES TO STUDENTS. Please do not ask us to do so.**
- **Students participating in the cafeteria program must make an initial payment before school opens. This may be done on Aug 3-5 between 7 and 2:30. A separate check will be needed. Students may NOT "charge" a meal if no money is on account.**



*SPS Maintenance Crew power washes stadium to prepare for 2016 season.*

- **Students MUST use their ID cards for check out in the cafeteria. A temporary ID will be issued them on Mon, Aug 8, for use at lunch that day.**
- Parents may sign up for ON-LINE payments which will also allow them to see a complete record of everything their son is buying. Go to <http://www.schoolcafe.org/> and follow directions.
- **FREE or REDUCED LUNCH/BREAKFAST: There is no stigma to apply for free / reduced lunch. NO ONE knows but the cafe manager. Request forms from me or the cafeteria manager. NEW: You may also apply online for free / reduced lunch by following these steps:**
  - ✓ Go to [www.Applyforlunch.com](http://www.Applyforlunch.com) (or access the link from our website [www.schoolcafe.org](http://www.schoolcafe.org))
  - ✓ Click on “Start your Online Application”
  - ✓ Enter your Zip Code or State and select “Archdiocese of New Orleans” as the district.
  - ✓ Follow the wizard and use the guided help along the way
  - ✓ Continue to select “next” at the bottom of the page and “submit” when completed.



*Marching Wolves use camp time to prepare halftime shows this football season.*

Should you list an email address, you receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted. If you have any questions regarding Online Applications, please contact (504)596-3440 or (504)596-3434. Meal eligibility applications should be received prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> day of school or current meal benefits may change. **Students may also receive a free lunch by offering to help serve lunch during the lunch period.**

**Attendance:** The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Do not allow your sons to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**

**Jazz ‘n Roll:** J n R XXVI is Sat evening, Nov 12. If you have questions, auction items and/or would like to work at J n R, call Shellie Campo at 892-3200, ext. 1273.

**Student Hosts:** Student Hosts will recruit and enroll new and returning members during the first few weeks of school in preparation for service at Jazz N Roll, Open House, Drama productions, Celebrity Waiters and other events. Students should see Ms. Hebert in the Administration Building for information.

**Lost and Found:** At the end of last year, we “rounded up” dozens of sweatshirts, uniform shirts, pants, socks, books, lunch boxes and numerous other items that were “shed” or left behind by students in various parts of the campus and never claimed. Everything was washed and dried. Most of the items had NO IDENTIFYING INFO and the ones that did had info that was illegible. Again, PLEASE stress with your son the need for personal responsibility of his items. **Please clearly label all clothing.** The items collected at the end of May represent hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Football Sign-up and Spirit Night:** Calling all 8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in signing up for 8<sup>th</sup> grade football. Please come to our Football Spirit Night, on Tuesday, August 2nd (Spirit Night) in the gym at 5 pm. At this time you will be able to sign-up for football, purchase football apparel, including our Annual Game Day shirt, meet coaches and players, and enjoy jambalaya! *SPIRIT NIGHT* is for all Varsity level families as well. Please join in welcoming the new players to the program. It's a great time to get ready for the upcoming season and purchase your SPS Game Day Shirts and miscellaneous football apparel!!

**Driving Policy:** The driving habits of some students (speeding, horn blowing; engine revving, tire screeching, etc) are cause me a great deal of grief with the neighbors. I have spoken at length with some neighbors and also with the Covington Police. The neighbors are declaring war on unsafe driving – and I'm supporting them. As our handbook states, driving to school and parking on our campus is a privilege, not a right. Accordingly:

- Covington Police will increase their presence and issue tickets;
- Neighbors have been instructed to take pictures or get license plates of speeding or unsafe drivers and send the information to us;
- SPS has increased the number of faculty street supervisors after school;
- SPS has a series of monetary fines (beginning at \$50 for a first offense) against students shown to be violating traffic laws around school;
- SPS reserves the right to revoke the driving to school privilege – which we did with one student who enraged the neighborhood on the last day of school a year ago.
- And remember: **it's against Louisiana law to use a cell phone (except hands free) during school zone times. Please don't drop your son off while using a cell phone – it's against the law and sets a bad example for him.**

We have tried to address the driving issue with students, but some are not getting the message. Hence, we will take stronger steps. Parents of students who drive to school – please stress safe driving with your sons. A car can be a lethal weapon if not used responsibly.



*Dustin Simoneaux, last year's senior drum major, stands between this year's drum majors, Ruston Keller and Andy Anderson during last week's Band Camp.*

**Attention Seniors:** The St. Tammany Clerk of Court's office has launched a campaign to recruit and train high school seniors as certified election commissioners. 17 and 18-year-olds enrolled in 12th grade can earn \$200 for working an election. Elections are scheduled in St. Tammany in November & December of 2016, and March, April, October and November of 2017. **Certification classes will be held August 23 in Slidell, August 26 in Covington and Sept 1 in Mandeville. You only need to attend one of the sessions, which last about three hours. To register for a class, go online at [www.sttammanyclerk.org/Departments/Elections](http://www.sttammanyclerk.org/Departments/Elections).** More info will be sent later and senior civics teachers will have all the details. Call the Clerk's Office at 809-8724 or the Election Department at 809-8700 if you have any questions or concerns. Note: SPS

students may not sign up to work elections that are held on a school day.

**Off to a Good Academic Start:** Help your son develop proper attitudes and habits for success. Show confidence in his ability; work with him to set realistic academic goals. Help him develop an orderly study environment. Teens enjoy chaos, so the trick is to help your son create enough order in his chaos for proper study to occur. Designate a place and time to study. **Require 1-2 hours of study per night. Do not accept the "I have no homework" excuse.** He always has homework -- review, study and advanced preparation. At the end of his study session, have him organize books, assignments, PE clothes, etc. for the next day. **Students who do not have their homework on a particular day are sent to assignment hall.**

**Student-Parent Handbook Signature Card:** The Student-Parent Handbook is posted on the Student Life page of our website. All students and parents must be familiar with our policies and agree to follow them. As evidence of that agreement, **students and parents must sign a form attesting that they have read the Handbook, understand the rules contained within the document, and intend to follow them.**

**Print out the signature card (posted on the website under "recent news" and which is also the last page of the handbook) and bring it on August 8.**

### **Wolves on Video:**

- 2016 graduate Grant Fowler was featured on WGNO's News with a Twist this summer for his Eco Car project at Saint Paul's. It's worth a view. Here's the link: <http://wgno.com/2016/07/06/look-what-one-louisiana-kid-created-for-his-senior-class-project/>
- 2010 SPS alum and 2014 University of Notre Dame alum Colin Babcock, who became an All-American swimmer while in college, produced a pre-Olympic video entitled "Speedo Rap." It's hilarious --and very creative! Here's what Colin wrote about why he did it: In 2014 I made a swimming video called "The Swimmer's Mentality" that was kind of my swan song to the sport. After getting overwhelming positive support and feedback from the swimming community, I decided I wanted to continue producing videos and creating new and unique content. For the past year, I have been working full time during the day and learning about filmmaking and the creative process at night. Most of my projects have been very introspective and gritty, so I wanted to take a break and have some fun and do another swimming video. A few weeks before Olympic Trials, I had this random idea to create a rap song and video for Speedo that pretty much just promotes their brand right before the Olympics. I told this idea to my friend and teammate Kevin, who was immediately on board. We wrote the lyrics and recorded the rap in our hotel room in between prelims and finals at Trials in Omaha and we took a weekend and filmed all the footage at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, where we train. After a quick turnaround with editing, *we have our final product;* hope you all enjoy it! I did indeed enjoy the video, Colin! Congrats! Here's the link: <https://swimswam.com/watch-the-original-swimtastic-rap-video-the-speedo-rap/> Colin's the one on the right.



*Mothers Club Bookstore shelves are well-stocked and ready for sale this week. Thanks, MC!*

**Wolves in the Press:** Two of our football players had published interviews recently in Louisiana Football Magazine. Congrats to Hayden Ocman and Josh Tourelle. Here are links to interviews:

- <http://lafootballmagazine.com/news/c48-recruiting/recruiting-interview-lbte-josh-tourelle-st-pauls/>
- <http://lafootballmagazine.com/region/recruiting-interview-de-hayden-ocman-st-pauls-high-school/>

**New Receptionist in Administration Building:** After ten years of faithful service, Mrs. Janet McRae retired as school receptionist at the conclusion of last school year. I am grateful to Janet for her service and know that she aided many of you when you called or stopped by. We wish her the best in her retirement, especially as she spends time with her four grandchildren. And we welcome Mrs. Andrea Francis, mother of 2011 SPSs graduate Patrick and 2016 graduate. Andrea is no stranger to SPS, having spent many hours on campus volunteering with the Mothers Club, Band Boosters and Wrestling Boosters. She thus knows what we are all about. Thanks, Andrea for your willingness to accept this important position in the school community.

**Need More Information?** For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, or Assistant Principal Joe Dickens. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call me if I can help.

**My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1001 & my cell phone is 985/966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com or hit “reply” to this email!**

**Odds and Ends:**

- Students must be in their first block class by 7:45 am. Classes dismiss at 3:00 pm.
- Students must be in uniform compliance (including shirts tails tucked in) from the moment they step foot on campus. On Monday, August 8, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. Students who have religion in periods E, F or G wear regular uniforms on Thursday. (Yes, I know I’m repeating this but some people have bet me that I can’t pull this off!)



*Flora beautify Founders Circle, thanks to the Botanical Wolves.*

- Car lines: There is no absolute designated drop off spot. Be patient the first few days of school as traffic patterns form. Safety is paramount, so if you use Founder’s Circle as a departure point, **cars must drop off students in Founders Circle in the LEFT lane only** – you may not block traffic in the right lane to discharge the occupants. Dropping off at La Salle Hall or the tennis courts is OK.

- Traffic will be heavy heading into Covington this week as schools open. Please plan accordingly.
- Also, PLEASE observe traffic regulations. SPS is in a residential zone and speed limits are 25 mph – 15 mph during school zone hours. Covington Police will actively enforce traffic laws around SPS.

**A Message from Archbishop Gregory Aymond:** If you did not hear or read our Archbishop's message on the recent happenings in our country and world, it's worth reading. If you did read or hear, it's worth reading again:

*God, have mercy on us. The events of the past few weeks have been heart-breaking as we see disrespect for human life, revenge, hatred and terrorism. We have experienced bloodshed and murder in our neighboring city of Baton Rouge, also in Dallas, Falcon Heights MN, the stabbing in Kenner, the murder of a police officer in Jefferson Parish and the deadly attack in Orlando.*

*We must not forget the world events in Nice, France, the coup in Turkey and in the Middle East as Christians are killed daily because of their belief in Jesus. Our world can be deaf to God's commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" and act out of anger, revenge and hatred.*

*What can we do?*

- 1. Pray daily for eternal life for those whose lives have been taken, for their families that they know God's comfort and for the protection of those in law enforcement.*
- 2. Help our children as they try to make sense out of all this. They can be taught respect for human life and learn ways to express anger without violence.*
- 3. Continue to seek ways to end racism. We must look into our own hearts and ask God to take from us any hint of hatred and revenge.*

*Someone asked me, "Where is God?" My response is. GOD WEEPS! God weeps bitterly as we do not live out his dream for peace. Violence and racism divide us locally, nationally and worldwide.*

*We cannot lose hope. As people of faith we pray for peace and recommit ourselves to do our part to foster peace in our families and in our community.*

*Let us pray, God have mercy on us in the United States and throughout the world as we refuse to follow your command of peace. Give your blessing to those who have died, their families, and to those who protect us through law enforcement. Lord Jesus we weep with you. Please use our prayers, hearts and hands to build peace in our families and in our world. Wherever in my heart there is a hint of violence and revenge, mercifully help me to a change of heart. Lord, let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Amen*

I will again close with the passage that I like to use at the beginning of each new school year. I've been using it now for 29 years, but it still makes sense today! I wish I could take credit for the quotation, but it was written in the 1960's by the headmaster of St. Alban's School in New York. It provides food for thought for all of us as we begin another school year:

*The raising of children is a lot of fun and a lot of pain, whether it has to do with cars, books, the opposite sex, parties, or drinking, but it is also the greatest privilege we can have in life. We shall do it well or poorly, depending upon the quality of life we ourselves have been able to develop, the way we are able to learn, the humility of heart that is ours, which helps us to recognize that we do not have all the answers and that we can learn from each other, occasionally from our children, through whom God has been known to speak even to parents, and especially from that teacher who we recognize as The Teacher, Jesus the Lord.*

Whew! That was a lot of information! Hope I haven't scared you off! I'm sure I've forgotten something but that's enough for now. Email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

Since you've read this far, you deserve the traditional "Humor of the Week" with Teacher jokes:

**Opening of School Humor:** With apologies in advance:

- *Teacher: If I had 6 oranges in one hand & 7 apples in the other, what would I have? Student: Big hands!*
- *Teacher: If you got \$20 from 5 people, what you get? Student: A new bike.*
- *Teacher: I hope I didn't see you looking at John's exam? Student: I hope you didn't either.*
- *Teacher: What is the shortest month? Student: May, it only has three letters.*
- *Teacher: Didn't I tell you to stand at the end of the line? Student: I tried but someone was already there!*
- *Teacher: Name two pronouns. Student: Who, me?*
- *Teacher: Please pay a little attention! Pupil: I'm paying as little as I can!*
- *Teacher: In music, f means forte. What does ff mean? Pupil: Eighty!*
- *Teacher: What's the longest word in English? Pupil: Smile – there's a mile between first & last letters!*
- *Teacher: How do you make so many mistakes in a day? Pupil: I get here early!*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows: well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings. Pray that we have a good beginning! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and call me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Anticipating a Great 2016-17 as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President/CEO of Saint Paul's School



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