



Our thought, support, and prayer continue for junior Michael Doherty as he recovers from his recent football injury. At the present time, Michael remains at The Shepherd Center in Atlanta. We offer prayer and support. May all our holy Christian Brother saints, especially our newest saint, Brother Solomon, intercede with Almighty God on Michael's behalf!



## *The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter* *January 09 - 15, 2017*



Can you believe we arrive at the mid-point of January at the end of this week? Strains of “Auld Lang Syne” are still ringing in my ears! And my quickly fading New Year's resolutions remind me that January is a good time for self-review and mid-year correction.



St. John Baptist de La Salle, however, wanted the first Brothers to do regular self-examination and correction. Accordingly, he instructed the first brothers to have a “fixed day for the weekly account of conscience” in which the Brother would “take time to examine [himself]” in all areas of his conduct. I offered the following “examination” points from St. La Salle to our faculty as we begin the second semester – points which are equally applicable to us as educators today and, I humbly suggest, to parents as well. Just substitute “children” for “students” and “home” for “school.”

- *Are you ardent and zealous for the salvation of your students and in the performance of your duties?*
- *How do you do your work in school? Do you observe the [rules]?*
- *Have you wasted time?*
- *Do you follow everything carefully during the lessons? Are you assiduous in correcting?*
- *Do you leave class? [Even La Salle knew teachers should not leave classroom unattended!]*
- ***Do you talk too much? (the boldface is mine)***
- *Do you take care that students make progress?*
- *Are you equally careful that they advance in piety?*
- *How do you act toward your pupils? Too strict? Too easygoing? Too familiar?*
- *Have you been impatient? In what frame of mind have you corrected them?*

I told the faculty that these insightful questions from this educational giant are as equally relevant today as they were 330+ years ago. I invited them to take time to examine our consciences this week, both our professional conscience and our personal one and to take corrective measures where needed. I invite parents to do the same.

### **Mon, Jan 9 (Regular; C D E F)**

- **Feast of the Baptist of the Lord:** According to the calendar of the Catholic Church, today ends the Christmas season. In the early centuries, the birth of Christ didn't have its own feast. It was originally part of a great feast on January 6 called “Epiphany” (celebrated on Jan 6) that celebrated several “manifestations” of Christ – his birth, his recognition by the Magi, his baptism in the Jordan and his miracle at Cana. In about the fourth

century, Christians in the western world pulled Christmas out of Epiphany celebration and gave it a feast of its own on December 25. The time between this new feast on December 25 and the feast of the Epiphany on January 6 became the Christmas season – the 12 days of Christmas. But eventually an “octave” was added to feast of the Epiphany –which extended the celebration. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord was eventually placed at the end of the octave and now it is the feast that brings Christmas season to a close. Now you know.

- **This Day In History:** In 1793, Jean Pierre Blanchard made the first balloon aerial voyage in the New World at the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia at dawn. He sold tickets to the event and the excitement he generated was so great that almost the entire population of Philly turned out, in addition to a large number of visitors from the surrounding countryside.
- **TDIH II:** 1493, explorer Christopher Columbus, sailing near Dominican Republic, sees three "mermaids"--in reality manatees--and describes them as "not half as beautiful as they are painted" – a great example of understatement.
- **Static Electricity Day:** Find a Van de Graaff generator to touch and celebrate the wonders of the old balloon-sticking-to-the-wall trick, the hair-raising that takes place after we take off winter hats, and the shock of electricity that we get from petting a cat after scooting across a carpeted floor in socks.
- **National Clean Off Your Desk Day (always 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon):** This will take me more than a day!
- **Teen Life Counts Program Week.** All of our sophomores will participate in this important suicide prevention program this week which is conducted by Jewish Family Services. Suicide remains a problem for St. Tammany Parish. For your information, our protocol for any student who voices possible harm to self is very clear and non-negotiable: we will not allow that students to attend classes until a note from a mental health professional clears the student as not being a threat to himself or others. Unfortunately, we have had to invoke this policy, which is a caring one and not a punitive one, several times already in this school year.



*Seniors prepare to leave for retreat.*

#### **Tue, Jan 10 (Wolf Packs; G A B C)**

- **TDIH:** 1982, SF 49ers wide receiver Dwight Clark makes leaping catch in end zone on a pass from QB Joe Montana with 51 seconds left in the NFC, sending the '9ers to Super Bowl & beginning a dynasty of the 1980s. To see “the catch”, click here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dCEaAIPyTY>

- **Cut Your Energy Costs Day:** Do all you can to conserve energy today – see below!
- **Poetry at Work Day (always 2<sup>nd</sup> Tue):** In a recent survey of 1500

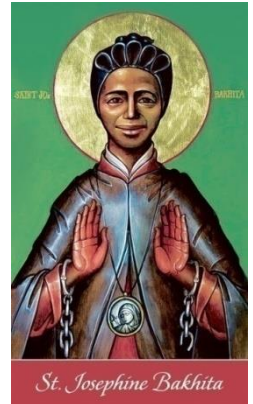
CEOs, IBM reported that **creativity** was the top leadership quality needed to take businesses into the future. While you might find this result surprising, it won't surprise you that poets are creative! Perhaps that is why Harvard Business Review recently discussed the value of poetry for professionals. And why a business leader like Sidney Harman (scientist-businessman who co-founded Harman/Kardon in 1953 and made high-quality audio equipment for homes and businesses, and later navigational and other devices for cars and was worth over \$500 million at his death in 2011) asked his staff to hire poets as managers. Read poetry today – especially at work!

- **Houseplant Appreciation Day:** With Christmas decorations gone, give a little attention to your houseplants.

- **Mothers' Club Snack Day**
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup>, JV & Varsity at Covington (beginning at 5)
- **Soccer:** JV v. Lakeshore; Varsity v. Hammond

### Wed, Jan 11 (Regular; D E F G)

- **Mass at 7 am; come join us!**
- **National Milk Day:** In 1878 milk was reportedly delivered in bottles for the very first time. Prior to this, milk was brought door to door in large metal cans and they'd ladle you out a portion.
- **TDIH:** In 2012, a special blessing and opening ceremony for the newly renovated La Salle Hall was held. The building has served us well, and we continue to marvel at this incredible transformation of the old dormitory into currently usable space. As we mark the five-year anniversary, let's not forget to remember all those who helped make it possible and treat the building with respect and appreciation.
- **TDIH:** In 2016, John Bel Edwards was inaugurated as Governor of Louisiana. Regardless of our party affiliation, we should offer our governor and other elected officials our prayers and best wishes as they address the problems of our beloved state. May they govern wisely and honestly!
- **Human Trafficking Day:** We don't think much about this human horror, so today attempts to raise awareness about the effects of what has been termed modern day slavery.
- **Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of those who are trafficked:** *St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery. Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us.*
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at Christ Episcopal; JV & Varsity make up games v. Hammond
- **Soccer:** Varsity flies to Orlando this evening for an "invitation only" 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Montverde Academy tournament for only the best teams (2 from CA, 3 from FL, 1 from AZ, 1 from TX and us! Sponsored by Gatorade & Adidas, ALL expenses (flights, hotels, meals, etc) are covered! All 8 teams are ranked in the top 25 in the nation according to ESPN Fab 50. All games are shown live on Montverde.tv. Final 2 games are broadcast nationally on TopDrawerSoccer.com. SPS plays Thu at 3 pm. The team returns Sun morning. This is quite a tribute to our soccer team! Geaux Wolves!



### Thu, Jan 12 (A B C D)

- **TDIH:** 1969, in the most celebrated performance of his prolific career, quarterback Joe Namath leads New York Jets to a stunning 16-7 victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III, held in Miami.
- **National Pharmacists Day:** We salute all pharmacists!
- **Soccer:** 9<sup>th</sup> v. Baton Rouge High

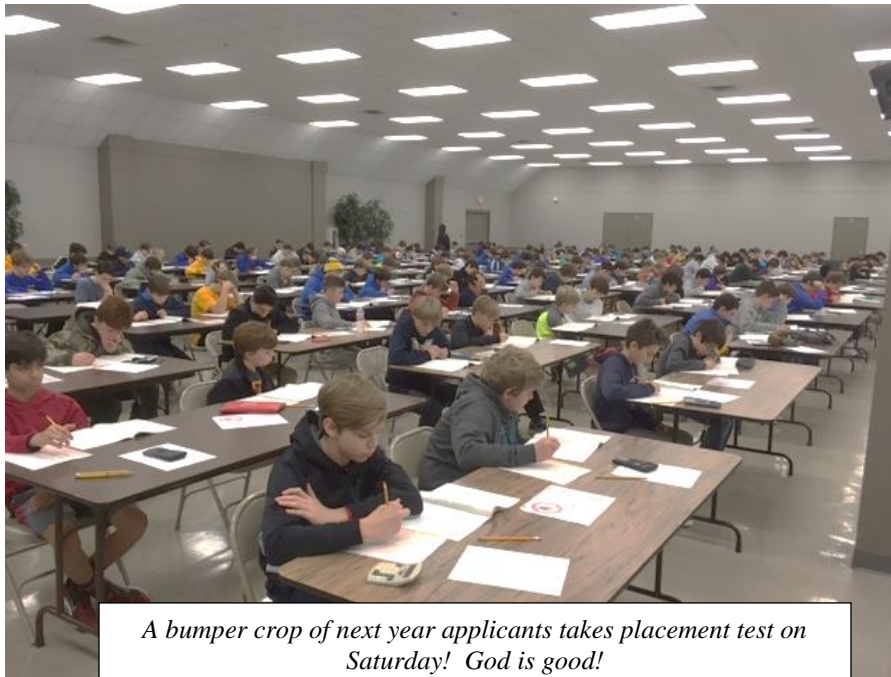


### Fri, Jan 13 (Regular; E F G A)

- **Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>** – A traditionally unlucky day with no data to substantiate it! If you are superstitious on this day, you have “triskaidekaphobia.”
- **TDIH:** The Beatles release “Yellow Submarine.” Listen to this iconic song today! *We all live in a yellow submarine!*
- **CPR Training:** In the fall, half of our juniors and seniors were trained in CPR; today, the other half will be training during their religion classes. We are grateful to Lakeview Regional Medical Center and local EMT personnel for their assistance in this important life skill for our students.
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup> & Varsity v. Ponchatoula
- **Wrestling:** Varsity in LA Classic (BR)

### Sat, Jan 14

- **National Hot Pastrami Sandwich Day:** Created as a way to preserve meat before modern refrigeration, pastrami is beef that's brined, dried, seasoned, smoked and then steamed. It was first served in New York delis in 1887
- **National Dress Up Your Pet Day:** Today you have the opportunity to show off your pet's fashion sense – or not.
- **National Rubber Duckie Day**
- **National TDIH:** 1973, Miami Dolphins defeat the Washington Redskins 14-7 at the Los Angeles Coliseum in Super Bowl VII, becoming the first team in National Football League (NFL) history to finish with an undefeated season.
- **Fighting Math Wolves in BR High Tournament**
- **Basketball:** JV in Covington Tournament
- **Student Council leaves for the state convention today through Monday**
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. Holy Cross (9) and DLS (noon)
- **Eagle Scout Ceremony in Chapel (11 am)**



*A bumper crop of next year applicants takes placement test on Saturday! God is good!*

**Sun, Jan 15 -- I encourage Catholic families to attend Mass and non-Catholic ones to worship at church of choice.**

- **TDIH:** in 1967, the Super Bowl I is played. Green Bay defeats Kansas City 35-10, led by Bart Starr.
- **National Strawberry Ice Cream Day:** Enjoy gold ole' strawberry today.

**Mon, Jan 16 – Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday; no classes**

- **TDIH:** In 1919, the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution, prohibiting the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes," is ratified and becomes the law of the land.

- **National Fig Newton Day:** Enjoy this classic cookie!
- **National Do Nothing Day:** Since it's a holiday, feel free to observe this day – although it would be most appropriate to honor Dr. King by doing kindness to someone else.
- **Memorial Service for Mrs. Judy Martin – 10 AM in SPS Chapel**

#### **Grades, Exams, Report Cards, Honor Roll Breakfasts, etc.**

- **Report Cards** were emailed this week, although grades have been accessible on Edline for a while. Let me know if you did not receive a report card. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb 6, so email any concerns to teachers.
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience – which will pay dividends in the future.
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** We will experiment with a new format: 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> will be on same day in the Briggs Assembly Center and 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> will be on same day in the Briggs Assembly Center. We will have multiple serving lines for efficient serving, so the time frame should be the same, ending at 8:20. 12<sup>th</sup> grade will remain in the cafeteria. Here's the schedule for the second quarter HR breakfast schedule:
  - **Mon, Jan 23** – Grades 8 & 9 in the BAC
  - **Tue, Jan 24** – Grades 10 & 11 in the BAC
  - **Fri, Jan 27** – Grade 12 in the cafeteria



*Couldn't have done placement testing with student proctors: Louis, Steven, Trey, Blake, Thomas, Justin, Scott, Matthew, Brendan, Owen and alumnus Jack '15 whose brother is applying!*

#### **2017 - 18 Registration:** Please note the following:

- **Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders:** registration information will be emailed during the week of January 23. **Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders planning to return for 2017 - 18 will have until Feb 03 (two weeks) to re-register.** Unregistered spots will be offered to new 9<sup>th</sup> grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next year so I know how many new 9<sup>th</sup> graders we can accept.
- **Current 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grades:** registration will take place in February. More info later.
- **Current 12<sup>th</sup> grade:** You don't need to register for SPS for 2017 - 18! Rejoice!

- **Registration will involve the payment of the \$300 registration fee.**

**Annual Fund:** Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not – but I need your support to keep it from being high pressured.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g. technology, special programs (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation and the \$4.5 million new gym.)
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- While we don’t send requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! If you would like to inform your son’s grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I’ll personally appeal. I’ll send them a nice “thank you” note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.
- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What’s important is that everyone participates. Of course, no gift is too large!
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

**Sweatshirts & Cold Weather:** ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. If you cannot afford one, contact me and I will take care of it confidentially.

**A SERVE TEN Reminder:** Five service hours are due. Students must fill-out and turn in completed "Serve Ten" forms to the Counseling Department in order to get credit for their service hours. We have been advertising MANY service opportunities. Remember that service hours are mandatory, not optional.

**Important Driver’s License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner’s permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don’t blame me! This is a legislative action.

**2017 - 18 (NEXT YEAR) CALENDAR:** St. Tammany Parish Public School System has set its calendar for next year; we have modeled ours closely on theirs. Here are some important dates:

- **Mon, Aug 07: Full day of class instruction**
- Fri, Oct 06: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ends for SPS (11 am dismissal)
- Fri, Oct 06: Grandparent Day (11:30)
- Mon, Oct 16: Fall break. No classes.
- **Fri, Dec 15: Christmas (not winter) holidays begin for SPS at 11:45;**
- **Wed, Jan 03: Class resume; SPS begins second semester**
- Fri, Feb 09: Faculty Retreat (no classes) followed by week off for Mardi Gras/Beginning of Lent Holidays
- Fri, Mar 30: Good Friday holiday followed by week off for Easter Holidays (not spring break)
- Sat, May 12: Graduation for the Class of 2018

- Mon, May 21 – Thu, May 24: Final exams for grades 8 - 11
- **Why the slight discrepancy in dates with the public schools? St. Tammany only has to schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools must schedule 177.**

**The Paper Wolf:** The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. The students are very excited about this new venture. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here's the link: [www.thepaperwolf.com](http://www.thepaperwolf.com). Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class! Here are some stories from last week worth reading:

#### **Musings on Last Week:**

- **Thanks to all!** Our first 2017 week was a successful one.
- **Senior Retreat:** Thanks to all who helped make the retreat successful. The retreat team was outstanding. The support given them by those "left behind" in terms of substitutions, etc. was equally outstanding.
- **Soccer:** Great win over Baton Rouge. Didn't get the Saturday Northshore score!
- **Basketball:** The Varsity fought hard last week, beating Northshore. Hammond game was postponed due to weather. 1-0 in District!
- **Application Day Testing** went well. Thanks to the students who helped and acted as student proctors: They were great role models!
- **Football Awards Ceremony:** Congrats to all for making the ceremony on Saturday so successful.
- **Wrestling:** St. Paul's won its 9<sup>th</sup> district title and 19<sup>th</sup> Parish Title in Wrestling Saturday. The team's last Parish loss was 2009. St. Paul's is the only team to hold the district title since wrestling was allowed to compete for District honors 9 years ago. Congrats to our District Champions! What a tribute to the program Craig has built! We are VERY proud!

**January 3 Assembly:** I hope the students enjoyed our first assembly of 2017! Here's some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to a contemporary version of "Rise Up O Men of God" sung by Christian rock singer Phil Keaggy. I play it at the first assembly of a new year in order to set the tone for the year – that we must view 2017 as a new opportunity for the students to rise up as men of God. It's a powerful song that means so much to our school. While the music was playing, **junior Landon Chambliss** lit the prayer candle to remind us of God's presence among us and we prayed.
- Reminded the pre-freshman that they now have an official high school grade point average, since several of their classes (World Geography, Spanish, Health & PE, and Algebra I) carry high school credit. Reminded the other levels that their GPAs have changed, since GPA is calculated on semester grades and to make the most of the remaining academic opportunities to raise their GPAs if needed.
- Recognized and congratulated **Saint Paul's Habitat for Humanity Club** for their work day on Dec 17 – a real Christmas gift of affordable housing to a needy family.
- Recognized and congratulated the **student body** on their excellent response to our Adopt-a Family program. Over 40 needy St. Tammany children were adopted and had a generous Christmas.

- Recognized and congratulated **all the SPS students and families** who helped the Covington Rotary Club Feed the Needy Program. Over 1000 Christmas dinners were delivered on Christmas morning to needy families.
- Recognized and congratulated the **Marching Wolves** for their participation in the Mandeville Christmas Parade in December. I projected a letter written on behalf of Mayor Villere which said that ***Your band exhibited professional musical abilities, precise marching skills, and your uniforms made for an outstanding presentation.*** Of course! And we were invited back for next year.
- Then, as if by magic, the Hedwig's theme from Harry Potter started playing, and I showed slides of the recent **Quiddich Tournament**. I never thought I'd be recognizing students for running around while riding broomsticks! Everyone loved it, though!
- Recognized and congratulated junior **Ruston Keller**, who was honored at the last Saints home game for being Oschner Hospital Hero of the Year for his stalwart and positive attitude during last summer's very difficult series of operations.
- Recognized and congratulated the **Varsity Basketball Team** for five consecutive victories over the holidays against Brother Martin, Rummel, Destrehan, John Ehret and South Plaquemine High Schools. the very first Gene Bennett Memorial Basketball Tournament over the holidays.
- Recognized and congratulated senior **TJ Bedford** who scored his 1000<sup>th</sup> basketball point over the holidays and was presented with a special game basketball acknowledging that prodigious feat.
- Recognized and congratulated the **Varsity Soccer Team** for winning the 34<sup>th</sup> Saint Paul's Holiday Tournament – again! Also recognized and congratulated the JV Soccer Team for winning first place in the Hahnville Tournament.
- Recognized and congratulated the Wrestling Wolves for their showings in Atlanta (9<sup>th</sup> out of 36 teams from 13 states.) Individually, **Cole Houser** placed 5<sup>th</sup> and **Brandon Stein, Jared Thieler Shane Ulfers and Grant Hughes** placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Also congratulated the Wrestling Wolves for placing 4<sup>th</sup> in the prestigious Trey Cullota Tournament. Individual places were: **Michael Rader 8<sup>th</sup>, Brandon Stein 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ben Davidson 6<sup>th</sup>, Cole Houser 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jared Thieler 1<sup>st</sup>, Shane Ulfers 2<sup>nd</sup>, Grant Hughes 2<sup>nd</sup>, Evan Ulfers 6<sup>th</sup>, Cole Ulfers 8<sup>th</sup>, & Jake Arena 5<sup>th</sup>**
- Recognized and congratulated The Paper Wolf for being named BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER in the state of Louisiana by the Louisiana Scholastic Press Association! TPW was recognized for the following:
  - • 1<sup>st</sup> Place: News Writing (Luc Hebert – on site competition)
  - • 1<sup>ST</sup> Place: Social Media (Paper Wolf Instagram)
  - • 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Photography (Luc Hebert – “New Gym”)
  - • 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Arts & Entertainment (Kyle Hladky – “Book Review”)
  - • 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Social Media (Paper Wolf Twitter)
  - • 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Sports (Nick Ashton – “LHSAA Select/Non-Select”)
  - • 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Photography (Nick Ashton – “Patrick Napier Tils Garden”)



- · 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Story Graphics (AJ LaCroix – “Class of 2016 College Plans”)
  - · 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Arts & Entertainment (Tyler Petro – “Oscar Rant”)
  - · 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sports (Tyler Petro – “Fowl Play”)
  - · 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Social Media (Paper Wolf Facebook)
- Recognized and congratulate The Paper Wolf, the Confider Yearbook and Guerilla Wolves for being named BEST HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA PROGRAM in the State of Louisiana. The groups won the following awards:
    - Conifer: 2 AWARDS**
      - · 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Sports Photo
      - · 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Copywriting (Nick Ashton)
    - Guerilla Wolves: 5 AWARDS**
      - · 1<sup>ST</sup> Place: Entertainment Pak (“Rest in Peace, Marvin”)
      - · 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Entertainment Pak (“Mystery Adventures with Stanuel Samuelson”)
      - · Honorable Mention: News Feature (“Guerrilla Wolves Go to ComicCon”)
      - · Honorable Mention: Videography (“The Man Behind the Wifi”)
      - · Honorable Mention: Newscast (“Guerrilla Wolves News”)
  - Ran out of time before I could do any more recognitions – which will “roll over” to the next assembly! We then sang the Fight Song for the first time in 2017, especially for all the activities going on that week: the opening of District play for basketball and soccer, the District meet for Wrestling, the Math Tournament, the Robotics competition, etc.
  - We then turned to the seniors, who would leave on retreat the next day. The entire school extended a blessing on the seniors while Pre-Freshman Class President and Vice President, **Michael Slimming and Davis Lagarde**, sprinkled the senior class with holy water. It was a moving moment.
  - I then reminded the students that a Saint Paul’s mom who had five sons graduate from SPS donated hundreds of rosaries to us, as she does each year. I invited the students to make a New Year’s resolution of praying the rosary. The students can obtain one for free from their religion teacher.
  - We then ended with junior **Alvey Anderson** extinguishing the candle and my reminding the students what the candle represents – the presence of God among us. I exhorted them to leave the gym and spread God’s love to all whom they meet. The students then exited to the sounds of “Rise Up O Men of God!”
  - It was a great assembly – at least I thought so!

**Letters of Application:** More unedited excerpts:

- *St. Paul’s is a very old nostalgic campus while still being modern.*
- *My brother says he likes how his teachers at St. Paul’s treat him like a man and don’t baby him. That’s a good thing to do because it teaches you how to be independent.*
- *I like the concept of assignment hall because it is an “opportunity” not a punishment.*
- *The senior who showed me around was very nice and I knew what he was saying to me was genuine. I could tell he enjoyed going to St. Paul’s.*
- *I know that St. Paul’s means business when it comes to educational success. [We do, young applicant, we do!]*

**Admissions:** I annually get inquiries about “chances of getting in.” Please don’t tell people it’s “very difficult” or in any way discourage them from applying. The fact is, most qualified applicants who apply ON TIME gain admission. That’s the key – applying on time. FYI, here is the “official” line which we presented at Open House. Be familiar with it and do not contradict it: *Saint Paul's strives to accept all students who have the ability to benefit from enrollment. All applicants are given serious consideration. In years when the number of such applicants exceeds the available space, the following policies, issued by the Saint Paul's Board of Trustees, guide the Admission Committee in its deliberations:*

- *We are committed to our Lasallian mission to be an inclusive school community, with a special sensitivity and outreach to those in need, especially financial need.*
- *We are committed to families who have traditionally been associated with our mission and vision as evidenced by previous enrollment and support.*
- *We are committed to students in Catholic elementary schools that have traditionally been supportive of our mission and vision and whose students have historically enrolled here.*
- *We are committed to students who practice the Catholic faith.*
- *We are committed to all other students as space allows.*

*Thus, acceptance or non-acceptance is not determined by any one factor, including academic achievement. Non-acceptance does not mean that a student is not qualified or deserving of enrollment here. We do not wish to turn away any deserving student, but sometimes our physical facilities prevent us from accepting all such students*

**Carline Patience:** Please be patient in morning carline. I know everyone’s in a hurry, but a few cars have come too close for my comfort to students who are getting out of their vehicles. Thank you! Let’s pray for patience!

**New Year’s Resolutions:** Please make the following part of your New Year Resolutions!

- If your son is absent, phone Erin before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1280, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns.**
- Have your son check Lost & Found which contains: coats, sweaters, shirts, lunch boxes, belts, etc.

**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.

**Sweatshirts & Cold Weather:** **If your son needs one and you can’t afford it right now, just have him come see me. This will be done confidentially.** ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted.

**The Paper Wolf:** The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. The students are very excited about this new venture. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here’s the link: [www.thepaperwolf.com](http://www.thepaperwolf.com). Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class! Here are some stories from last week worth reading:

**PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let’s start 2016 with a resolution for safe driving! Set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all

times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, no cell phone use during school zone hours, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

**School Zone Cell Phone Ban:** It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.

**Cash Back Programs:** Please keep the following in mind when you shop:

- Amazon Smile: This website, operated by Amazon, lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The difference is that when using AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – which we hope will be Saint Paul's School! Click here to shop on AmazonSmile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895>.
- Office Depot: Last week we received a \$500 store credit from customers who gave SPS ID at the checkout. Our number is officially 70041640 but saying Saint Paul's will do. This will help a lot.
- Box Tops for Education: Each top is worth 10 cents – which adds up quickly. Thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS financially..

**And Speaking of Edline:** Please check Edline regularly for important info about your son's grade and SPS life. Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.

**Tutoring:** The National Honor Society offers tutoring each Tue and Thu during ALL of Lunch in LaSalle Hall Room 205 and each Wed and Thu from 7:15AM in LaSalle Hall Room 212. It's easier to be tutored early in the than to wait until later in the quarter. Get a jump on exam study by visiting our NHS tutors! The tutors are friendly and helpful! To borrow a line from a popular commercial "put these men to work!"

**Lost and Found:** The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it's probably in our lost and found. Parents, please put your son's name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

**H of the W:** In honor of Dress Up Your Pet Day, here are some pet jokes for birds, dogs, and cats:

- *What do you get when you cross a parrot and a centipede? A: A walkie-talkie.*
- *Q: What figure describes a lost parrot? A: A polygon!*
- *Q: What do you get when you cross a parrot and a shark? A: A bird that talks your ear off!*
- *Q: What do you call a parrot that doesn't eat? A: A polynomeal (Get it? Polynomial!) Q:*
- *Q: What is a parrot's favorite game? A: Hide and Speak!*
- *Q: What do you get when you cross a parrot and a tiger? A: I don't know, but when it talks you better listen carefully. Q: Why did the parrot wear a raincoat? A: Because she wanted to be a Polly unsaturated!*
- *Q: What's smarter than a talking parrot? A: A spelling bee*
- *Q: How does a dog stop a video? A: By pressing the paws button*
- *Q: What is the fastest dog in the world? A: A Labraghini.*
- *Q: Where do you put barking dogs? A: In a barking lot.*
- *Q: What was the special offer at the pet store this week? A: Buy 1 Dog get 1 Flea!*
- *Q: Where do dogs go after their tails fall off? A: The re-tail store.*

- *Q: What did the dog say to the flea? A: Stop bugging me!*
- *Q: What do you call a cat that lives in an igloo? A: An eskimew!*
- *Q: What is a cat's favorite book? A: The prince and the paw-purr.*
- *Q: What did the cat say to the dog? A: Check meow-t!*
- *Q: What do you call a cat on ice? A: One cool cat.*
- *Q: What is a cat's favorite musical instrument? A: Purr-cussion.*
- *Q: What do you call a cat that can address the media? A: A Press Kit.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

A Look Ahead -- Second Semester Schedule

### **Third Quarter Period Rotation**

#### **January**

9 – CDEF  
 10 – GABC - Pack Time  
 11 – DEFG  
 12 – ABCD  
 13 – EFGA – CPR Training  
 17 – BCDE - President's Assembly  
 18 – FGAB  
 19 – CDEF  
 20 – GABC  
 23 – DEFG – 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in BAC  
 24 – ABCD – 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in BAC  
 25 – EFGA – Feast of St. Paul Mass  
 26 – BCDE – Career Day in AM for Juniors  
 27 – FGAB – 12<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in Cafeteria  
 30 – CDEF  
 31 – GABC – President's Assembly



*Seniors ready for retreat!*

#### **February**

1 – DEFG  
 2 – ABCD  
 3 – EFGA  
 6 – BCDE- Parent Teacher meetings 5-7  
 7 – FGAB – Pack Time  
 8 – CDEF  
 9 – GABC  
 10 – DEFG  
 13 – ABCD  
 14 – EFGA – Pre Freshmen in Explore Test  
 15 – BCDE – 9<sup>th</sup> in PLAN Test  
 16 – FGAB – 10<sup>th</sup> in Pre ACT Test  
 17 – CDEF  
 20 – GABC  
 21 – DEFG – President's Assembly  
 22 – ABCD  
 23 – EFGA  
 24 – Faculty Retreat Day – no classes

#### **March**

6 – BCDE  
 7 – FGAB – Pack Time

- 8 – CDEF
- 9 – GABC – NAPE test for certain 8<sup>th</sup> graders during G
- 10 – DEFG – End of Third Quarter

## Fourth Quarter Period Rotation

### March

- 13 – ABCDEFG – St. Joseph Altar
- 14 – ABCD – President's Assembly
- 15 – EFGA
- 16 – BCDE
- 17 – FGAB
- 20 – CDEF
- 21 – GABC
- 22 – DEFG
- 23 – ABCD – Juniors on Retreat/Angola
- 24 – EFGA – Juniors on Retreat/Angola
- 27 – BCDE
- 28 – FGAB – Pack Time
- 29 – CDEF- 8/9<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in BAC
- 30 – GABC -10/11<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in BAC
- 31 – DEFG – 12<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in Cafeteria

### April

- 3 – ABCD – Leadership Week
- 4 – EFGA – President's Assembly
- 5 – BCDE – Leadership Breakfast
- 6 – FGAB- Guest Speaker
- 7 – CDEF – Feast of St. La Salle
- 10 – GABC
- 11 – DEFG – Pack Time – Teacher Appreciation
- 12 – ABCD – Passion Play in BAC
- 13 – EFGA – Mandatum Assembly in Gym
- 24 – BCDE
- 25 – FGAB – President's Assembly
- 26 – CDEF
- 27 – GABC
- 28 – DEFG

### May

- 1 – ABCD
- 2 – EFGA – Pack Time (last)
- 3 – BCDE – Senior Exams
- 4 – FGAB – Senior Exams
- 5 – CDEF - Senior Exams
- 8 – GABC
- 9 – DEFG – President's Assembly – Band Awards in PM
- 10 – ABCD
- 11 – EFGA – Athletic Awards in AM
- 12 – BCDE – Academic Awards in AM
- 13 – Senior Graduation in BAC 4:00 PM
- 15 – FGAB – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 16 – CDEF – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 17 – GABC – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 18 – 9-11<sup>th</sup> Final Exams begin



*Wrestling Wolves – Parish and District Champions – Again!*



19 – 9-11<sup>th</sup> Final Exams – Pre Freshmen Promotion in BAC at 6:30PM  
22 – Final Exams  
23 – Final Exams  
24 – Records Day

Even though it's 2017, I will still 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!

Again, please let me know if there's an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2016 - 17 edition of Saint Paul's! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Amazed That It's 2017 and I'm Still the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President/CEO of Saint Paul's School

**Quality education, inclusive  
concern for poor & social justice,  
mantras this week, throughout**



**community, respect for all,  
faith in God's presence – our  
2017, and always!**



*Still not growing tired of this picture!*