



# The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



March 27 – April 02, 2017

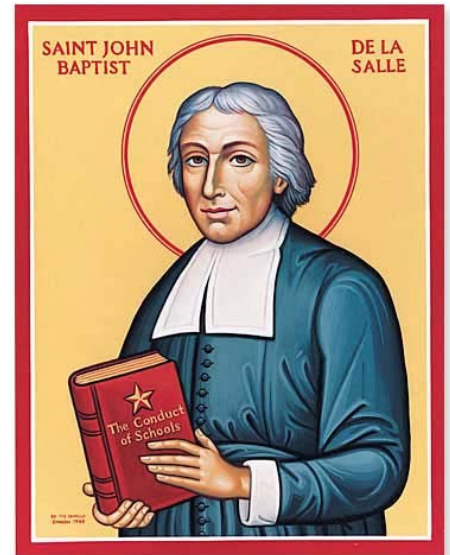
*Repent and Believe the Gospel!*

Welcome to the third week of the fourth quarter. Time is marching on. Please encourage your son to make the most of these final weeks, especially your senior sons, some of whom have graduation in the balance!

I shared the following thoughts of St. John Baptist de La Salle with the faculty this week to keep us focused as we end March and begin April:

- *It is God who has called you to this form of service;*
- *Every day God calls you anew to the needs these children have;*
- *It is God's own work that he entrusts to you;*
- *Your presence among young people brings salvation to them;*
- *In you, and through your teaching ministry, these students encounter Christ, who knows each of them by name, who loves them, and who goes out searching endlessly for those who have gone astray.*

I believe these thoughts are equally applicable to parents. Your parenting is God's work. Through you, salvation is brought to your children. Through you, they encounter God and as you love them, so does He. Thank you for joining us at SPS, doing God's will for the children who have been entrusted to you and to us. Have a blessed week!



### Mon, Mar 27 (Senior HR Breakfast schedule; B C D E)

- **This Day in History:** March Madness is born when, on this day in 1939, The University of Oregon defeats The Ohio State University 46–33 to win the first-ever NCAA men's basketball tournament.
- **Quirky Country Music Song Titles Day:** Celebrate by playing such classics as Lou Carter's *If I Had a Nose Full of Nickels*, *I'd Sneeze Them All Atchoo* or Johnny Cash's *Flushed from the Bathroom of Your Heart* or Kenny Chesney's *Being Drunk's a Lot Like Loving You* or Dan Hicks' *How Can I Miss You When You Won't Go Away* – and, no, I'm not making these up & these are other titles not printable by a Catholic school president who wants to keep his job!



*Student Hosts in action at Celebrity Waiters Dinner!*

### Tue, Mar 28 (Pack Time schedule; F G A B)

- **Confessions in the chapel during lunch today. Encourage your Catholic son to take advantage of this sacrament!**
- **TDIH:** In 1969, Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th president of the United States and one of the most highly regarded American generals of World War II, dies in Washington, D.C., at the age of 78.
- **TDIH:** In 1979, the worst accident in the history of the U.S. nuclear power industry begins when a pressure valve in the Unit-2 reactor at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg, PA fails to close.
- **TDIH:** In 1984, Bob Irsay (1923-1997), owner of the once-mighty Baltimore Colts, moves the team to Indianapolis. Without any sort of public announcement, Irsay hired movers to pack up the team's offices in Owings Mills, Maryland, in the middle of the night, while the city of Baltimore slept.
- **Something on a Stick Day:** Eat a popsicle, corn dog, or anything on a stick today!

- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity at Slidell; 8th v. Rummel (5)
- **Track:** JV at Slidell

### Wed, Mar 29 (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast schedule; C D E F)

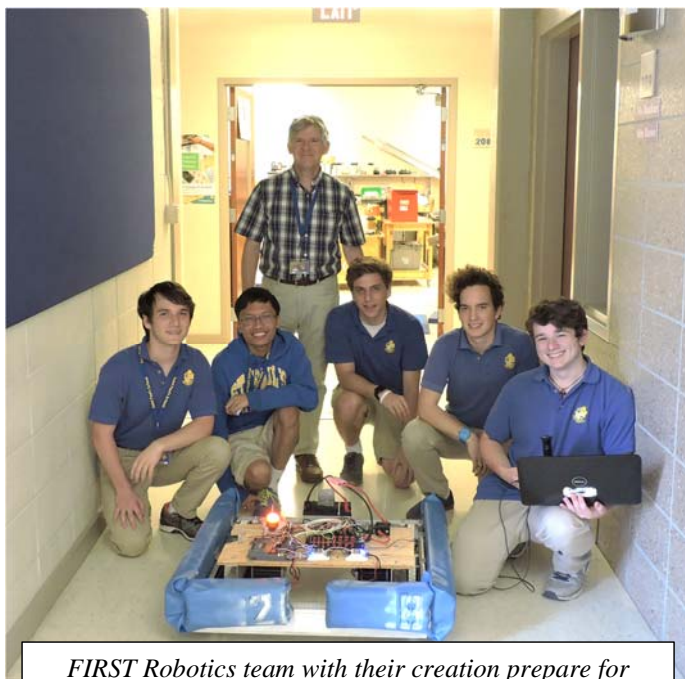
- **Mass at 7 am & Confessions during lunch in the chapel. Encourage your son to take advantage of these sacramental opportunities, especially during Lent.**
- **TDIH:** In 1929, President Herbert Hoover has a phone installed at his desk in the Oval Office of the White House.
- **TDIH:** In 1973, the last U.S. combat troops leave South Vietnam as Hanoi frees the remaining American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam. America's direct eight-year intervention in the Vietnam War was at an end.
- **TDIH:** 1848, ice blockages caused rivers to run dry, and reduced the flow of water to such an extent that Niagara Falls' 3,160 tons of water per second flow came to a halt.
- **Knights of Columbus Founders Day:** The first Knights of Columbus charter was granted in 1882 on this day by the state of Connecticut. This Catholic and family fraternal service organization has grown into a force totaling nearly six million who annually donate tens of millions of dollars and volunteer hours to countless charitable projects.
- **Honor Roll Breakfast** for Grades 8 & 9 & scheduling assembly for current juniors
- **Baseball:** 8<sup>th</sup> at Northshore (5)
- **Drama:** *Fiddler on the Roof* (7)
- **Sacrament of Penance is available in all Catholic parishes from 5 – 6:30 this evening.**

### Thu, Mar 30 (10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast schedule; G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward signs a treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska for \$7 million. Despite the bargain price of roughly two cents an acre, the Alaskan purchase was ridiculed in Congress and in the press as “Seward’s folly,” “Seward’s icebox,” and President Andrew Johnson’s “polar bear garden.”
- **TDIH:** In 1981, President Ronald Reagan is shot while leaving the Washington Union Hotel in Washington, D.C. by 25-year-old John Hinckley Jr.
- **TDIH:** A: This popular TV game show debuted today in 1964. Q: What is JEOPARDY? Alex: Correct!
- **National Doctors Day:** Prayers and thanks to all physicians. Thank you for your dedication! God bless!
- **Take a Walk in the Park Day:** Great idea! I may just spend the day walking around park-like SPS!
- **Honor Roll Breakfast for grades 10 & 11 & Schedule assembly for current sophomores**
- **8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat**
- **Mu Alpha Theta Convention:** Math Wolves leave for state convention after school today through Sat
- **Spring Testing begins at LSU (through Apr 01)**
- **Drama:** *Fiddler on the Roof* (7)
- **Track:** Parish meet at Lakeshore
- **Baseball:** JV & Var v. Mandeville

### Fri, Mar 31 (After lunch assembly; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1836, the first monthly installment of *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, by 24-year-old writer Charles Dickens, is published under the pseudonym Boz. Only 400 copies were printed of the first installment, but by the 15th episode, 40,000 copies were printed. When the stories were published in book form in 1837, Dickens quickly became the most popular author of the day.
- **TDIH:** In 1776, future first lady Abigail Adams writes to husband John Adams urging him to “remember the ladies” when drafting a new “code of laws” for the fledgling nation.



*FIRST Robotics team with their creation prepare for competition last week. Funds from the SPS Renaissance Board's Celebrity Waiters Dinner help fund this program. Thanks, Renaissance Board!*

- **World Backup Day:** Back up those computer files today that you've been meaning to do for months!
- **Assembly:** After lunch, we will welcome our Golden Jubilarians and induct the Class of 2017 into the Alumni Assoc.
- **Foreign Language Festival at SLU. Good luck, Lobos!**
- **Lacrosse:** JV & Varsity at Mandeville
- **Drama:** *Fiddler on the Roof* (7)

### Sat, Apr 01

- **April Fools Day:** In 1700, English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools' Day by playing practical jokes on each other. Although the day has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery. From The History Channel: *In modern times, people have gone to great lengths to create elaborate April Fools' Day hoaxes. Newspapers, radio and TV stations and web sites have participated. In 1957, the BBC reported that Swiss farmers were experiencing a record spaghetti crop and showed footage of people harvesting noodles from trees; numerous viewers were fooled. In 1985, Sports Illustrated tricked many of its readers when it ran a made-up article about a rookie pitcher named Sidd Finch who could throw a fastball over 168 mph. In 1996, Taco Bell duped people when it announced it had agreed to purchase Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and rename it Taco Liberty Bell. In 1998, after Burger King advertised a "Left-handed Whopper", scores of clueless customers requested the fake sandwich.*
- **Have Fun at Work Day:** Well, it's Saturday, but have fun anyway.
- **Crawfish Cookoff:** Good luck Al Nastasi and Alumni
- **Rugby:** SPS v. Bro. Martin (3)
- **Drama:** *Fiddler on the Roof* (7)



*Juniors problem solve at Camp Abbey retreat as they build skills to propel them into the senior year*

**Sun, Apr 02 -- I hope and pray that Catholic families will attend mass today. I encourage non-Catholic families to attend the church, synagogue or mosque of their choice.**

- **Peanut Butter & Jelly Day:** Enjoy this iconic sandwich today!
- **Children's Book Day:** Re-read your favorite children's book and re-live a simpler time.
- **Reconciliation Day:** Time to make amends....
- **Drama:** *Fiddler* finale! (3)

**Report Cards:** We emailed report cards. Contact teachers via email if you have questions. Let me know if you did not receive your son's report card after first checking your spam folder.

**Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Here is the schedule:

- Monday, March 27 – Seniors in the cafeteria from 7:40 – 8:20
- Wednesday, March 29 – Pre-freshmen and Freshmen in the BAC from 7:40 – 8:20
- Thursday, March 30 – Sophomores and Juniors in the BAC from 7:40 – 8:20

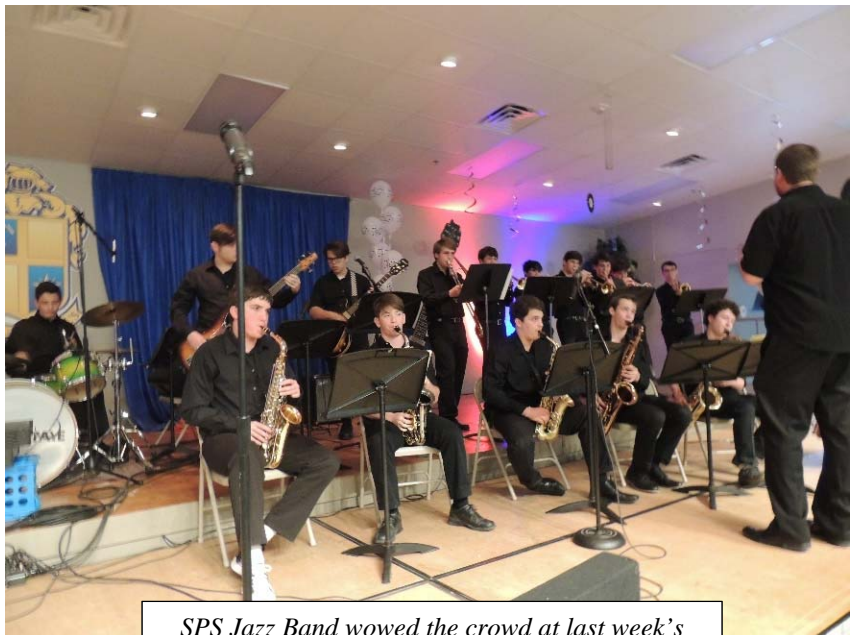
**2017- 18 Scheduling Assemblies:** Registered students for next year will receive their course selection sheets this week. Students who are not registered will not receive their packets. If your son is returning and you haven't registered him, he will be at a disadvantage in selecting courses as **unregistered students will not be allowed to select classes. If your son will not be returning, please give me the courtesy of an email so I can plan accordingly**

## Musings on Last Week:

- **Championship Assembly:** Lots of celebration last Tuesday as we celebration our state championship soccer team, our state champion wrestlers (**Cole Houser, Jared Thieler and Shane Ulfers**) and our state champion indoor trackmen (**Eric Coston, Evan Hendry, Stephen Schlottman & Colin Sullivan.**) We also celebrated Head Soccer Coach **Sean Moser**, who reached his 500<sup>th</sup> win during our dream season and **Eric Coston** for being named Gatorade Male Cross Country Runner of the Year for Louisiana. It was a great assembly, with strains of “We Are the Champions” blaring through the new gym. Wonderful!
- **Bowling:** SPS Team fell in first round of playoffs, but Peter Bertucci and Jonathan Wellmeyer qualified for regional individual competition.
- **Golf:** Coach Barwick’s summation of last week: “The Team played well.”
- **Basketball Awards Banquet:** I’m told a good time was passed by all. Congratulations to Coach Stephen Dale on an outstanding inaugural season.
- **Tennis:** A win over PJP!
- **Lacrosse:** #1 ranked Wolves defeated #2 ranked Loyola of Shreveport, 8-7, coming back from a 1-5 deficit in the first quarter. And JVA beat Loyola’s JV, 10-0. Geaux LAX Wolves!
- **Baseball:** Nice wins over Hammond and Covington, the latter one by the 10 run “mercy rule.”
- **Track:** Jr Hi took first place (out of 11 schools) in SSA/Trafton Meet & Varsity took first place in Ponchatoula meet.
- **FIRST Robotics** represented us in an exemplary manner
- **Junior Retreat/Angola Trip:** Thanks to all who helped make these two events so successful. I’ve heard only positive comments about how powerful the Angola experience was and how good the boys were on retreat. Thanks to Coach Luke Barwick who organized the Angola trip and to Coach Lee Pierre who organized the retreat experience.
- **Drama:** A GREAT first week for *Fiddler!* The “Tradition” of excellence continues in spite of some casts members being ill! As of Friday, the only tickets left for this week are on Wednesday, March 29.
- **Air Conditioning:** I had \$8000 of unbudgeted repairs last week. OUCH! I really need your help with the annual fund! Any amount will help! And I need grandparents who are able and willing to help, too! Please mention it to them or I’ll send them something with your permission. Unlike other schools, I do not directly solicit grandparents without permission – but we need them!

**Celebrity Waiters Dinner:** We had a magical evening last Thursday. I am indebted to the many, many supporters of Saint Paul’s who participated and am humbled by their love for the school. The funds raised by this event go to support so many programs that benefit our students, ranging from Eco-car program, to capstone engineering projects, to life skills day for seniors, to honor roll breakfasts, to robotics competition, to math tournaments, to....well, the list goes on and on. Our Development Team did an outstanding job in organizing the event. Special thanks to the following sponsors:

- Ballard Brands
- DonahueFavret Contractors, Inc.
- Tom and Sue Lavin
- Resource Bank
- Daigle Fisse & Kessenich



*SPS Jazz Band wowed the crowd at last week’s  
Celebrity Waiters Dinner.*

- Biggs Construction
- Oakview Carwash
- Lucien T. Vivien Jr. & Associates, consulting engineers
- Harrison Custom Homes
- Patrick McMath
- The Center for ADHD
- Pinnacle Medical Network
- Rainbow Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram
- Christopher King, Financial Advisor
- Fat Tuesday Beverage Market
- And the following donated auction items:
- A Saints Special by French Quarter Guest Houses, the Biggs Family & the Brennan Family
- A Work of Art by Julie Gahagan
- Dinner for 8 at Keith Young's by Keith and Lynda Young
- Fishing Carter for 7 by SPS alumnus Michael Pittman
- Dinner for 6 at Dakota by the Dakota Restaurant
- Cocktail Part for 75 at Pat O'Brien's by Shelly Waguespack and Pat O'Brien
- 4 Night Stay in Puerto Villarta, Mexico by The Miller Family
- And the following were table sponsors:
- Advanced Pain Institute
- Banner Ford and Chevrolet
- The Paretto Family of Dealerships
- Nolan Power Group
- Kehoe-France Northshore
- LabTrust Laboratory Services
- H2O Salon Northshore
- Isolani Endodontics
- KFK Group
- Law Offices of Frank D'Amico, Jr.
- Scott & Michelle Evans
- The Heebe Family
- Alan & Regina Knight
- The Pilie Family
- The Rushing Family



*Costumes and decorations were the order of the day at CWD last Thursday!*

**From the SPS Student Council:**

- Student Council will host the annual battle of the sexes, Challenge Night, between SSA and SPS on Monday, April 3 at 6 pm in the St. Paul's gym. Admission is open to all SPS and SSA students for \$2 which will benefit a local charity. Water and snacks will be available for sale. Doors will open at 5:45 pm.
- Student Council is pleased to announce that the Junior-Senior Prom will be held ON CAMPUS on Saturday, April 29. Students will enter prom through the La Salle Hall courtyard and will enjoy DJ music and desserts in the Briggs Assembly Center. Registration forms may be found on Edline and in Room 107. The deadline to register is Wednesday, April 26.

**From SSA:** Saint Scholastica Drama Department will present *Legally Blonde* at the Fuhrmann Auditorium in Covington (317 N. Jefferson Ave) on Thursday, April 6 (7 pm), Saturday, April 8 (7 pm) and Sunday, April 9 (2 pm). Tickets are on sale at SSA: \$15 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

**From Archbishop Gregory Aymond:** *I pray that your Lenten journey has been a time of drawing closer to Christ and responding to his invitation to conversion. As we identify an area of our life that needs change, we can be assured of God's help for us to face our weakness and experience a change of heart. Lent should include standing before our merciful God and asking for his forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, better known as Confession. **Be reminded that a priest will be available in every church in the Archdiocese of New Orleans for the next 3 Wednesdays from 5:00pm – 6:30pm.** The heart of Jesus is open and he invites you to know and accept his mercy. Whether we have been to Confession recently, or perhaps it has been many years, now is the time to know that his heart is open and eager to forgive. Let us remember one another in prayer as we continue this journey through Lent to the new life of Easter.*

**Archdiocesan Anti-Pornography Initiative:** Archbishop Gregory Aymond is hosting a workshop for priests and administrators of Catholic Schools and Parish Schools of Religion this Tuesday to address the issue of pornography. This workshop is a collaborative initiative of many offices in the Archdiocese that will empower Catholic leaders with an awareness of the pervasiveness and harmful effects of pornography as well assist them in their own efforts to address this serious issue in their own communities. This is the first of many programs to be offered on pornography. Principal Trevor Watkins, Counselor Renee Miller and Campus Minister Jeff Ramon will represent SPS.

**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.
- **Tue, Dec 19: 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 schedule 177.**



*Student Hosts prepare for action at CWD!  
We couldn't do it without them!*

**Rest in Peace:** Saint Paul's lost two stalwarts last week:

- Mr. Raymond Maestri, Class of 1947: Mr. Maestri was a member of the legendary 1947 State Track and Field Championship team coached by then Brother Jasper Ward. It was the last state championship for many years! He was a member of the SPS Athletic Hall of Fame (which has since become dormant) and had three sons and five grandsons graduate from SPS. In addition, he was a neighbor, owning the house across from the tennis courts (northwest corner). Rest in peace, Mr. Maestri!
- Brother Michael Langlois, OSB: Brother Michael served St. Joseph Abbey faithfully for 68 years, 54 of them as sacristan for the Abbey Church. It was in this capacity that I got to know Brother Michael. For over 20 years (1972-1994), SPS held its graduation ceremonies in the Abbey Church. Our classes were small enough in those days for the church to accommodate the congregation – barely in the latter years – and only after renting several hundred folding chairs. The combination of the beauty of our graduation with the beauty of the Abbey Church was stunning. I still have warm and emotional memories of those ceremonies. Naturally, we needed the cooperation and assistance of Brother Michael during practices and the ceremony itself. Although he was more than gracious to me, it was obvious that our “intrusion” into his well-ordered sacristy monastic routine was a challenge for him. Nevertheless, he was always most welcoming and accommodating. I couldn't have asked for more. God bless you, Brother Michael! Thank you and rest in peace!

### **H of the W:**

1. *Why are bananas good at gymnastics... They do great banana splits!*
2. *Why won't the elephant use the computer? He's afraid of the mouse!*
3. *What do you call a sleeping cow? a bulldozer!*
4. *What did Mr. and Mrs. Hamburger name their daughter?....Patty*
5. *What did the square say to the old circle? Been around long?*
6. *What kind of hats do they wear at the North Pole? Ice Caps!*
7. *What kind of snack do you have during a scary movie? Ice cream (get it? I scream!)*
8. *What is a cat's favorite dessert? Pie a la meow'd!!!*
9. *Why is music like a fish? they both have scales!*
10. *What do you get when you cross a centipede with a parrot?.... a walkie-talkie*
11. *What happens when you wear a snowsuit inside? It melts!*
12. *Did you hear about the dog at the flea circus? He stole the show!*
13. *What does an envelope say when you lick it? Nothing. It just shuts up.*
14. *How can you tell the ocean is friendly? It waves!*
15. *Which are the stronger days of the week? Saturday and Sunday. The rest are weekdays.*
16. *Which runs faster, hot or cold? Hot. Everyone can catch a cold.*

### **A Look Ahead**

#### **March**

- 27 – BCDE – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast in cafeteria
- 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 – Mu Alpha Theta Convention

#### **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 (last one for seniors)
- 26 – CDEF
- 27 – GABC
- 28-- DEFG

**May**

- 1 – ABCD
- 2 – EFGA – Pack Time (last one for seniors)
- 3 – BCDE – Senior Exams
- 4 – FGAB – Senior Exams
- 5 – CDEF - Senior Exams
- 8 – GABC
- 9 – DEFG – Pres Assembly – Band Awards
- 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
- 19 – 9-11<sup>th</sup> Final Exams – Pre Freshmen Promotion in BAC at 6:30PM (yes, this is the correct date)
- 22 – Final Exams
- 23 – Final Exams
- 24 – Records Day



*\$8000 of AC repairs last week! Ouch! Hope you can help through Annual Fund!*



Michael has returned to SPS and attended the junior retreat last week. We are making accommodations for his needs and welcoming him back enthusiastically. May all our Christian Brother saints intercede with Almighty God on Michael’s behalf!

And even though it’s the end of March of 2017, I will still close with a paraphrase from one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I’m listening to now as I write and LOLing): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul’s School! I wish you a blessed week and a blessed Lent!



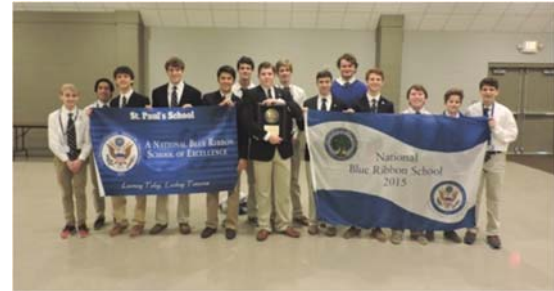
Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can't Believe It's 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and I'm Still 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President/CEO of Saint Paul's School

**Quality education, inclusive community, respect for all, concern for poor & social justice, faith in God's presence – our mantras this week, throughout 2017, and always!**



**...by doing ordinary things  
extraordinarily well, making  
courageous choices, doing  
God's will, and remaining  
faithful!**



Prayer for Lent

Eternal Father, we are sinners, yet you love us deeply. You see into the secret places inside us and you know us in our weakness and in our goodness. Give us the courage to look at our faults. Give us humility to ask for your help to repent and to make better choices. Guide us into new pathways that will draw our hearts home to you. In this time of Lent, may we turn away from our sinfulness and return ourselves to you, always aware of your presence and always obedient to your will. We ask this of you who lives and reigns with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.