

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* *Opening of the 2017 – 18 School Year Edition*



Welcome to the 2017 - 18 school year – the seventh 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 106 year Saint Paul's tradition while adding the quality of the present. And welcome to the fourth academic year of the San Francisco New Orleans District of Christian Brothers!

By popular demand (OK, one mom asked!), the President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter is back. I am 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 as we continue the Lasallian tradition of transforming lives since 1680.

Monday, July 31

- **National Mutt Day:** Today is all about embracing, saving, and celebrating mixed breed dogs.
- **New SPS Teachers Meeting:** Today, our new teachers will join the new faculty of Lasallian schools in New Orleans and learn the rich tradition of Lasallian education, which has been transforming lives since 1680.

Tue, 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:** Today, our new teachers join the new faculty of Lasallian schools in NO (can you name the other three?) and learn the rich tradition of Lasallian education, transforming lives since 1680.
- **8th Grade Football Sign Up & Football Spirit Night: 5-7 in Gym**

Wed, 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 treat!
- **All Faculty Meeting (8 – 3)**
- **8th & New 9th 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.

Thu, Aug 3

- **TDIH:** 1958, the U.S. nuclear sub *Nautilus* accomplishes 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 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.
- **TDIH:** In 1492, from the Spanish port of Palos, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus sets sail in command of three ships. Can you name the three ships and the day he landed? (Answer at end of newsletter)
- **National Watermelon Day:** Enjoy this iconic summer treat! And it’s healthy for you, too!
- **All Faculty Meeting (8 – 3)**



Fri, 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. Here are wonderful words from St. John: *We do not have to talk very much in order to pray well. We know that God is there... Let us open our hearts to him. Let us rejoice in his presence. This is the best prayer.*

- **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!
- **Faculty Prep Day – no meetings**

Sat, Aug 5

- **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 the short story as a literary genre in Europe, is born. Clever plots, clear style, and surprise endings characterize his stories. 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 usually indicates the economy is headed for a fall. Who knew?
- **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/>
- **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 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

Sun, 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 on this first day of school – and every day throughout the new school year!



SPS Maintenance Crew power washes stadium to prepare for 2017 season.

- **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 die 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!
- **International Forgiveness Day** (always first Sun in Aug): Let's all make an effort to forgive. Please forgive me if I've offended you in any way! It was not intentional!



Flora beautify Founders Circle, thanks to the Botanical Wolves.

Mon, Aug 7 (First Day of School; Periods A B C D meet)

- **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.

- **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.
- **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?
- **This 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 7:** On Monday, August 7, 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 8. How will you know? Refer to class schedule that you should have received by now. If you have not received a schedule, contact me.
- **Important Info About Uniforms for Tuesday, August 8:** On Tuesday, August 8, students with religion class in periods E, F or G wear DRESS UNIFORM for pictures. Students who had their pictures taken on Monday wear regular uniforms.
- Students only need to bring materials for periods A B C & D on Monday, August 7. They only need to bring materials for periods E F G & A on Tuesday, August 8.
- Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students.

I draw the following to your attention (in alphabetical order, not order of importance):

Academic Success: 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 homework on a particular day are sent to assignment hall.**

Athletics: No student may participate in our athletic program without the necessary paperwork having been completed, including an LHSAA official physical form. FREE physicals were offered in May and will be offered again on Saturday, August 26, at 7:30 am at Covington Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Institute. I am very grateful to the physicians at COSMI for providing these professional services to our athletes.

Attendance Office: After twelve years of faithful service, Attendance Secretary Erin Abney retired. I thank Erin for her time with us. Replacing Erin in Mrs. Suzanne Slade. Please following all SPS attendance regulations as found in the Student-Parent Handbook and make Suzanne's job as easy as possible. Thank you for your cooperation. 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.**

Book Store: The Mothers' Club Bookstore opens on:

- Wednesday, August 2nd from 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
- Thursday, August 3rd from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Friday, August 4th from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Saturday, August 5th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- School supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Our regular bookstore hours of operation will start on Mon, August 7.
- M - F: 7:15 am - 8:00 am
- M - F: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Fri during Football Season: 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm
- By appointment. Email spbookstore16@gmail.com or text Angela Rovira at 985-788-3679
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds fund wonderful activities throughout the year. For example, the MC funded over \$10,000 worth of school projects this past year.

Each M, W & F morn at 7 am this summer, the Gridiron Wolves prepared for the 2017 season!



+ **Brother John Kelly, FSC:** Most of you never met Brother John, a member of the SPS Retired Brothers Community. Since his arrival here in 2011, his health confined him to the residence and he required round the clock attention by the nursing staff. He died two weeks ago at the age of 90 after a long and faithful career as a Christian Brother. We Brothers will remember him as a good, gentle, and very humble Brother with a strong devotion to the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother. Here's a link to his obituary:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theneworleansadvocate/obituary.aspx?n=john-kelly&pid=186188628&fhid=2709> *Eternal rest grant unto Brother John, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace! Amen!*

Cafeteria 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.**
- **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 that 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 the cafeteria manager or me. NEW: You may also apply online for free / reduced lunch by following these steps:**
 - ✓ Go to www.Applyforlunch.com (or access the link from our website 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.

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 30th 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.**

It is NOT embarrassing for a family to request free or reduced cafeteria meals if you have financial need. Nothing is done to identify which students are on free or reduced lunch.

Calendar for 2017-18 is posted on our web site (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.**

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.
- And it's against the law to use a cell phone (unless it's hands free) in a school zone! Let's set a good example for our students.

Dads' Club: If you would like to be included on the SPS Dads' Club email list to keep informed about upcoming meetings and events, please email spdadsclub@gmail.com or shea.duet@gmail.com. Also, if you would like to subscribe to the Dads' Club calendar or Facebook page, please see: Join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/169835833172361/> Subscribe to our calendar at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=spdadsclub%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago>



14 Lasallian Student Leaders and Two Chaperones spent a week on campus of St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA where they interacted with over 200 students from 15 Lasallian high schools.

Dress Code: Students must comply with the dress code beginning Aug 7. 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.

Driving Policy: The driving habits of some students (speeding, horn blowing; engine revving, tire screeching, etc.) cause grief for the neighbors. I have spoken at length with some neighbors and with the Covington Police. 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.**

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.

Edline: Edline allows parents and students to have secure access to grades, attendance, conduct & other information. 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. WE NEED EVERYONE TO ACTIVATE AN EDLINE ACCOUNT. (Sorry – I'm not shouting, just emphasizing.)

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. 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 that 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.

Enrollment: We open this year with a very healthy enrollment – and that's after having graduated a large class. I am humbled and proud that so many parents are willing to entrust their sons to us and make the sacrifices necessary to do so. Please stress with your son that he is being given a gift – a gift that others want. He must use this gift wisely and make good choices.

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.

Football: Calling all 8th graders interested in playing football for the Wolves! Come sign up for 8th grade football on Tuesday, August 1 at 6pm in the new gym. Information will be given regarding the upcoming season, practices, games, etc. You will also have a chance to meet the coaches. You are also invited to come out early and watch the end of Varsity practice prior to the meeting.

Homecoming Dances: The Junior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Sep 16. The Senior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Sep 23.



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

Jazz ‘n Roll: J n R XXVI is Sat evening, Oct 21. If you have questions, auction items and/or would like to work at J n R, call Shellie Campo at 892-3200, ext. 1273. More info to come, but mark your calendars!

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.

Musings on Last Week:

- **Dads’ Club:** The SPS Dads Club spent Saturday, July 22, on a number of campus projects, from power washing to tree trimming to minor repairs. Their work has made quite a difference! Thanks, SPS Dads Club! The campus is looking GREAT!
- **Football Team** left for Camp on 7/25 at Nicholls & returned Fri; LOTS of FB guys this year!
- **Cross Country** also had camp at The Solomon Center in Robert as they prepare to defend their state title.
- **Band Camp:** 70 Marching Wolves showed for camp. Fantastic but I want 100! And the MWs did a great Meet the Band even on Fri evening.
- **Mothers Club:** The Bookstore Crew was VERY busy preparing for sale this week.
- **Strength & Conditioning Camp:** The finale of the camp season –which was very successful.

New Parents: The following events are designed to welcome you and help you make the most of your SPS experience:

- The **Mothers’ Club New Moms’ Reception** is Tuesday, Aug 8th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Briggs Assembly Center. ALL SPS new moms are invited to this event. All moms automatically belong to the Mothers Club, so get involved.
- A **welcome reception and information** meeting for **new parents** will be held on Monday, August 14, at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. More information will be emailed in August. We hope you have this on your calendar and that you will be with us!

New 8th Grade and NEW 9th Grade Students: Our Lasallian Student Leaders are planning an Orientation Session for our incoming 8th graders and NEW 9th graders on Wed, August 2, from 5:30 – 7:00 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. Do not worry, however, if you cannot make it. We will “orient” you when school begins. Please RSVP by emailing our Lasallian Youth Leader moderator, Mr. Jeff Ramon, at j.ramon@stpauls.com so we can plan supper accordingly.

News Worth Noting:

- **Harvard Rescinded Admission of 10 Students Over Obscene Facebook Messages:** A definite lesson for our students. Here’s the National Public Radio article:
http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/06/06/531591202/harvard-rescinds-admission-of-10-students-over-obscene-facebook-messages?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20170611&utm_campaign=&utm_term=

Office Depot: If you shop at Office Depot, give SPS school code (70041640) and we receive 5% of purchase!



Paxton, Ryan, Luke and Michael represented SPS at the LA Association of Student Councils summer workshop

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 7 or 8.

School Schedules: Class schedules were emailed last week. If you request a change, read info on the schedule sent and follow directions. Changes will be made for only serious reasons.

School Supplies: All needed school supplies are posted on our school web site (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 that 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!

Senior Parents: Note the following upcoming special senior events in Senior Week, Aug 14 - 18:

- **Senior Class BBQ, Tue, Aug 15, 5 – 7 pm.** Appropriate casual attire required.
- **Football scrimmage v. John Curtis on Aug 16th.** Seniors are urged, but not required, to come cheer for the Wolves.
- **March through the Arch, Thu, Aug 17, at 8 a.m.** Senior parents are 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 will have some outdoor seating.) Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by pizza lunch and then Ring Ceremony practice. I will dismiss them 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.**

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.

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 7.**

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

Swim Team: Any student interested in joining the St. Paul's Swim Team for the 2017-2018 school year, please contact Mrs. Rachel Peak via email at rachelp@stpauls.com. Practices will begin August 8th, so be sure to have an updated physical on file!

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 bookstore.
- 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 that will be given to students. This is a school safety measure.

Web Site: I hope you have noticed our “new and improved” web site (www.stpauls.com) We felt it was time for an “updated look.” I am grateful to Danielle and Mimi in our Development Office for spearheading this project and, of course, our web designer, Mr. Andre Savoie of WSI and father of Adam '17 and Noah '19. As you peruse the website, let Danielle know of any problems you encounter in the new design. Please check out any buttons that pertain to you to make sure they work.

Since you have read this far, you deserve the traditional “Humor of the Week”:

- *Why was the baby ant so confused? ... Because all his uncles were ANTS!*
- *Why was the dolphin so sad? ... Because he had no PORPOISE in life!*
- *What happened when the frog parked illegally? ... It was TOAD!!*
- *What always falls and never gets hurt?.....rain!*
- *I heard they put a new wing on the school....That is true, but it still won't fly.*
- *What do astronauts have for dinner?...Launch meat!*
- *What letters are not in the alphabet?...The ones in the mail.*
- *Knock Knock!...Who's there?...Cargo!...Cargo who?...CarGo Beep Beep!*
- *What do you call a Stegosaurus with carrots in its ears?... anything you want, it can't hear you!*
- *What is the only bow that you can't tie?...Rainbow!*
- *Knock Knock. Who's there?...Dishes....Dishes who?...Dishes the police, come out with your hands up!!*
- *What is the loudest state?... ILL-I-NOISE*

- *Why did the boy throw the butter out the window?... to see a butterfly!*
- *How was that Camping Trip?...Intense (in-tents)!*
- *Why are Teddy Bears never hungry?...Because they are always stuffed!*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

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!**

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 30 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 have not scared you off! I am sure I've forgotten something but that's enough for now. Email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

As usual, I will 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 on me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC
Anticipating a Great 2017 - 18 as the 17th Christian Brother
President/CEO of Saint Paul's School



Answer to Aug 3 Trivia Question: Columbus's three ships were the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria and he landed on Oct 12, 1492.