

The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter August 07 – 13, 2017





St. John Baptist de La Salle Founder of the Christian Brothers and Patron Saint of Teachers

Once again, welcome to 2017 - 18 school year – the beginning of the seventh year of our second century! I'm glad last week's mammoth newsletter didn't scare you off! I tried to make this one shorter!

As we begin a new year of Lasallian education, I invite you to reflect on the icon we have chosen for the year: **Our Lady of the Star.** To Lasallians, this icon is most appropriate, as Saint John Baptist de La Salle had a strong devotion to Our Lady and encouraged the Brothers to invoke her assistance often.

At last week's faculty meetings, Brother Jeffrey Calligan gave an informative and enjoyable presentation on our specialized devotion this year to Our Lady of the Star, one of only two official Institute feasts for Mary (the other being Our Lady of Good Counsel.) As Brother explained, in view of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's devotion to Mary, it is only appropriate that we focus this year on the ideals for which she stood, especially her ability to "guide us to God." The "star" is a metaphor used often in Scripture (think of the Magi using the star to find the

child Jesus)

Here is a brief history of Our Lady of the Star, from the Christian Brothers website:

The origin of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Star in Montebourg, Normandy, France, is lost in legend. A Benedictine monastery was founded there in the eleventh century and remained throughout the lower Middle Ages one of the four great abbeys of Cotentin. The sanctuary was demolished, along with the monastery, during the time of the French Revolution at the end of the eighteenth century. Both structures were rebuilt by the Brothers of the Christian Schools of Mercy, beginning in 1842. This diocesan community of religious teaching brothers, like the sisters of the same name founded by Saint Mary Magdalene Postel, followed the Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools of De La Salle. They chose to be incorporated in 1938 into the Lasallian Institute. Today the Institute supervises the Lasallian schools in Montebourg, and the Association of Friends of

the Monastery and Sanctuary acts as the custodian of this ancient Marian shrine. A number of Brothers of the Christian Schools are individual members of this association.



Our Lady of the Star Statue in Brother's Motherhouse in Rome

I encourage you, as parents, to stress the "star metaphor" with your sons this

year. Ask your son to look up to the stars above, and ask Our Lady of the Star to "guide him to God." I look forward to being guided to God along with your sons!

Our Lady of the Star! Guide us to God!

Mon, Aug 7 (First Day of Class; Assembly Schedule; A B C D)

- Today is a FULL DAY OF CLASS INSTRUCTION. Students must be in their Block A class by 7:45 am. Traffic is still an issue, so please allow plenty of time for prompt arrival.
- Uniforms for 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 Monday, Aug 7.
- Uniforms for Tuesday, August 8: Students with religion class in periods E, F or G wear DRESS UNIFORM today 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.
- Ordering school pictures is optional. 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.

Tue Aug 8 (Assembly Schedule; E F G A)

- **Feast of St. Dominic** (1170-1221). Dominic founded the Order of Preachers (The Dominicans) in 1210 after years preaching to the people of his day. We wish all Dominicans a happy feast day today!
- This Day in History: Brother John Fairfax, FSC was born!
 Brother John turns 90 years young today. After an extraordinary career as an exemplary educator, he continues to be an active and important member of the SPS community through his presence at school functions and his friendly, generous, concerned and compassionate spirit. Ad multos annos, Frater Johannes! Happy Birthday!
- Happiness Happens Day: Today helps people recognize more happiness and encourages them to talk about it. And starting school should be the cause of great happiness for all of us! Be happy today; don't dwell on the negative!
- Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Night: OK, you home gardeners with tons of zucchini! Here's your chance to get rid of this prolific vegetable.
- Uniforms for today: Students with Religion class today in periods E, F or G wear dress uniform. All others wear regular uniform.
- New Moms' Wine & Cheese Welcome: The Mothers Club invites all new SPS moms to a welcoming social, beginning at 6:30 in the Briggs Assembly Center. Come pass a good time with an incredible group of ladies who do so much for SPS. All SPS moms automatically "belong" to the Mothers Club but come find out ways to become involved. And the Bookstore will open at 5 to accommodate moms. Thanks MC again!

Coach Gast lights the first prayer candle of the year at last week's faculty meetings, reminding us of our primary obligation. all gs Assembly Center. Come pass a good Il SPS moms automatically "belong" to the Bookstore will open at 5 to

Wed, Aug 9 (Assembly Schedule; B C D E)

• **Feast of St. Teresa Benedicta:** Edith Stein was born of Jewish parents in 1891, becoming an influential philosopher following her extensive studies at major German universities. After her conversion to Catholicism she became a major force in German intellectual life, entering the Discalced Carmelites in 1933. Sister Teresa Benedicta was arrested by the Nazi regime in 1942, along with all Catholics of Jewish

extraction and transported by cattle train to the death camp of Auschwitz. She died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz that same year.

- **TDIH:** Richard Nixon becomes the only man in history to resign as President of the United States; Gerald Ford is sworn in as the 38th President of the US.
- **TDIH:** On this day in 1945, a second atom bomb is dropped on Japan by the United States, at Nagasaki, resulting finally in Japan's unconditional surrender, thus ending World War II.
- Worldwide Art Day: Celebrate art today! Draw, sing, write, paint, dance look for ways to value art!
- **Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) begins today.** See below for more info about this important program. Tell your son to take this time seriously and to come prepared each day for SSR.
- Yearbook Distribution for Class of 2017 5-6 pm in cafeteria.

Thu, Aug 10 (Assembly schedule; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** In 1776, news of the July 4th Declaration of Independence reaches King George III of England.
- TDIH II: In 1945, Japan announces it will surrender, following the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.
- National S'mores Day! Celebrate the opening of school and make some s'mores with the family!
- First President's Assembly (in gym). I look forward to welcoming the whole school today. Students report to period F at 7:45 until dismissed for assembly.



Fri, Aug 11 (Regular schedule; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1951 The first major league baseball game to be televised in color was broadcast. The Brooklyn Dodgers defeated the Boston Braves 8-1.
- **TDIH:** 1994, the longest major league baseball work stoppage begins, causing cancellation of the 1994 World Series (the world shrugged.)
- **Student News** broadcasts begin this morning. Again, this is an opportunity to do the ordinary in an extraordinary way: monitor correct student behavior (no sleeping, no doing homework, no reading, etc.) MODEL correct

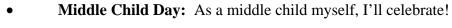
behavior (no computer work, lesson planning, grading,

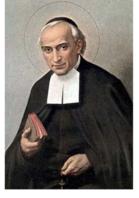
- etc.) After the broadcast is over, take a minute or two for feedback: ask leading questions, have them think critically about the issues covered, reinforce their connection to the world, draw Lasallian linkage when possible (e.g. there are Lasallian schools in places where there is
- Five Core Principle Rally for Pre-freshman during Period F: Lasallian Young Leaders will introduce our pre-freshmen to the Five Core Principles by our Lasallian Youth Leaders during period F. Prayer, play, presentations & provisions will fill the period.

Sat, Aug 12

- **TDIH:** In 1877, Thomas Edison invented the phonograph and made the first sound recording
- **TDIH:** In 1981, IBM releases its first personal computer (PC), a Model 5150 that had a whopping 16K memory and used 5.25 inch floppy discs (who remembers these?) Today's most basic phone can do more!

- TDIH: In 1939, *The Wizard of Oz* premieres in Oconomowoc, WI. We're not in Kansas anymore, Toto!
- **TDIH:** In 1961, East Germany begins construction of the Berlin Wall.
- World Elephant Day: Celebrate the elephant today!





Sun, Aug 13 (Feast of St. Brother Benilde, FSC)

If today were not a Sunday, we would be celebrating the feast of Saint Brother Benilde (1805-1862) -- the very person after whom Benilde Hall is named. His story should inspire us all. Doing the common things in an uncommon way led to Benilde's sainthood. This was our theme three years ago, and I don't want us to forget it. When you pass Benilde Hall, ask this wonderful Christian Brother saint to assist you in doing the common things in an uncommonly good way!

- **TDIH:** In 1521, Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captures Mexico City from the Aztec Indians.
- International Left-Handers Day: OK, all you southpaws! This is your day! Celebrate! BTW, 8 US Presidents were lefties. Other famous ones? Queen Victoria, Prince Charles, Prince William, Jay Leno, Chef Paul Prudomme, and athletes, writers, and musicians too numerous to list but a list is easily googled!

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

Athletic Call-Outs:

- **8th Grade Football**: A meeting will be held after school in the old gym on Tuesday, August 9. The first practice is on Wednesday, August 10. Meet at the locker rooms outside of the gym at 3:30 wearing St. Paul's PE or Football gym gear. You must turn your physical form into the office in order to participate.
- The Cross Country team invites any interested runners to come out and join the team. Please see Ms. Allen in Room 116 for schedules, team information, and any other information you may need. The team practices daily from 3:30-5:30, with competition on Saturdays. Come join the Running Wolves for an exciting season.
- **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!

Band: Become a Marching Wolf, one of the premier organizations around! See Mr. Andrew Moran, band director, in the band room. Beginners welcome!

Brothers' Residence Driveway: I hope you noticed the new, asphalt semi-circular driveway giving access to the retired Brothers' residence. The old surface had deteriorated so badly that it had become a hazard to the retired Brothers and was a real challenge for wheelchair-bound Brothers. The sidewalks also were not wide enough to accommodate walkers and wheelchairs. The Brothers and I are indebted to Mr. Eddie Riecke, Class of 1962, owner of Riecke Development & Construction Company in Covington. Eddie is a good friend of the Brothers and donated all materials and labor for this extensive project. His three sons, Jared, Bryant and Dennis, are also SPS alums and were involved in the project. Thank you, Eddie!

Cafeteria: Again, for those families experiencing difficult financial times, the free and reduced lunch/breakfast program can help. **Applications can be picked up from me or the cafeteria manager**. This does not embarrass your son as no one knows. It's all very confidential.

Cell Phone Policy: Students may use their phones during lunch but only outside. We will be relentless in enforcing the no cell phone ban during class time and inside buildings. So if you need to call or text your son, do so during the lunch hour. With our campus wide Wi-Fi, he can use his phone to surf the internet if needed. And, yes, our security firewalls are in effect.

Christian Brothers School in New Orleans has announced the appointment of Mr. Richard Neider as principal of the school's Canal Street Campus, effective August 1, 2017. Mr. Neider, who has been serving as assistant principal of the school's City Park campus, succeeds Heath Barker, who has assumed the position of Community, Mission & Ministry director for both CBS campuses. Best wishes, Richard! Thank you for your commitment to Lasallian education!

Driver's License Proof of Attendance: Don't forget: your son needs proof of attendance in order to get a learner's permit **and another one** when he gets his permanent license. The forms are in the counseling department or the administration building. I feel terrible when a parent waits two hours at the DMV only to be turned away b/c the son doesn't have his proof of attendance. This is a legislative act; don't blame me!

Extracurricular Activities: Clubs and teams are already forming. Encourage your son to get involved. Research shows correlations between academic achievement and extracurricular involvement.

Father Ronnie Calkins, long time pastor at Mary Queen of Peace and currently pastor at St. Catherine of Sienna, was recently diagnosed with cancer. From the SCS web site: Fr. Ronnie Calkins, our pastor, announced that he was recently diagnosed with cancer. Fr. Ronnie will be meeting with an oncologist this week to discuss different treatment options.

As he begins this challenging journey, we invite all people of faith to join us in praying for him, for his doctors, nurses, and medical staff, for his family members and friends, and for all who have experienced God's

Lots of shopping last week in the well-stocked Mothers' Club

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love and mercy through his priestly ministry during the last 40 years. We are a people of faith who believe in the God who can do great things. We entrust Fr. Ronnie to the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos!

We add our prayers to those of so many others for this good priest – who is a good friend to Saint Paul's School.

ID Cards: Students must wear their **ID** cards on a lanyard every day. No one has to pay for an **ID** card unless you want an extra one. We will give one to your son on picture day. You will have to pay for a replacement if he loses the one we give him or if for some reason you want an extra one.

Last Week Musings:

- New Teachers: Our new teachers spent Monday in getting SPS oriented and Tuesday getting Lasallian World oriented at the St. Anthony campus of Christian Brothers School along with new teachers from the Lasallian schools of NO. (Can you name them?) Brother Jeff and Gina Hall were the presenters at Tuesday's meeting. Congrats to all for a well-organized day.
- Faculty Advisory Board spent Tuesday preparing with Joe and Trevor.
- **Teacher Meetings:** Thanks to those who prepared our time together last week. We are ready I think.
- The Mothers Club deserves a shout out as the bookstore was open long hours last week. They also provided us with great lunches and supplied each of our classrooms with necessities such as tissue and wipes.
- Physical Plant Staff deserve a shout out as they worked hard with last minute repairs and cleaning.
- **Football Coaches** had a successful 8th Grade Sign Up and Varsity Spirit Night last Tuesday. Lots of blue and gold apparel was in evidence.
- The new gym floor was restored to pristine status and for only \$4000! (yes, I'm being sarcastic.)
- Wolf Tracks: Congrats to Danielle Lavie for another great issue.
- New Student Orientation Last Wed: Congrats and thanks to Campus Minister Jeff Ramon, the Lasallian Youth Leaders, Student Council members, and faculty who made last Wednesday's orientation successful. All but eight pre-freshmen and most of our new freshmen attended and the weather cooperated. Our newest Wolves were feeling relaxed by the end of the evening and seemed ready to join our 106 year SPS tradition.
- Student Council spent Aug 5 in a daylong session to plan for next year. We have a GREAT council!



Student Council President Matthew Stalter gave a wonderful talk to the faculty last week, stressing the impact that they have on the students.

Let Us Remember....: Three years ago, Brother Jeffrey Calligan encouraged us "to return to a practice of hundreds of years in our Lasallian family - that of creating a moment of silence after the leader calls the community to remember the presence of God before going on to any other vocal prayer." We will continue this excellent practice, a custom, Brother Jeffrey wrote, "that dates itself to the time of De La Salle and his first companions." "That moment of silence," he continued, "helped the street kids of his schools to learn that God is in the quiet and silence of our heart and our being together." It's a good way to start family prayer time, too, especially grace before meals. By so doing, you will continue a practice that has been transforming lives since 1680.

Lost & Found: Please insist that your son show responsibility for his belongings. And please CLEARLY mark his clothing with his name to facilitate return of lost items. BTW, the lost and found locker is located outside the School Attendance Office.

Mothers' Club New Moms Social will be Tuesday, Aug 8 at 6:30 in the Briggs Center. Bookstore will open at 5 for those interested.

New Parent Reception & Information Meeting: We will hold a welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** on Mon, Aug 14 at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. The reception begins at 6:30 pm and an information meeting starts at 7:00 and will be over by 8:00. We hope you will be with us! I will send out more info this week.

News Worth Noting:

- A new study by researchers in Seattle has found adolescents with chronic or severe depression are at a higher risk of developing a cannabis-use problem at 18. Here's the link:
 https://www.upi.com/Health_News/2017/07/17/Cannabis-use-at-18-linked-to-depression-in-young-teens/3671500317250/?utm_source=sec&utm_campaign=sl&utm_medium=3
- The suicide rate among 10- to 14-year-olds doubled between 2007 and 2014, for the first time surpassing the death rate in that age group from car crashes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Here's the link: https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2017/07/14/america-sees-alarming-spike-middle-school-suicide-rate/479478001/

School Mass: Our first all-school mass is Tuesday, Aug 15 – Feast of the Assumption. DRESS UNIFORM

required -- white long sleeved shirt, school tie, long khaki pants, & brown belt.

School Safety: School safety remains paramount for all of us. Take every opportunity to promote safety with your son. In our faculty meetings, we reviewed all safety procedures that we have in place – and they are many. Safety is our priority – and it is EVERYONE'S JOB. Report ANY rumor or threat to safety about which you hear. Encourage your sons to report, too. All visitors to campus must sign in and receive a Visitor's Pass.



You may not just wander the campus. Thanks for understanding this procedure. Our prayers rise to heaven for a safe school year and the elimination of violence of all kinds in our schools – and in all of society.

School Zone Cell Phone Ban: State law prohibits motorists from using any type of hand held wireless communications device while traveling through school zones during posted hours. The law includes use of a cellular/wireless device for engaging in a voice call, accessing, reading, or posting to a social networking site, and/or writing, sending, or reading a text-based communication. The school zone cell phone ban does not apply if the device is being used to report an emergency, is being used in a hands-free manner, or while the vehicle is

lawfully parked. Upon first violation of the school zone ban the fine is \$175, subsequent violations can be up to \$500, and if a crash occurs during the time of the violation, the judge can increase the fine.

Senior Week: The Senior Class Moms will send senior parents an email with specifics, but here is the plan:

- Tue, Aug 15 Senior BBQ (5:30-7:30) under the Wolf Dome
- Wed, Aug 16 Varsity Football scrimmage v. John Curtis
- Thu, Aug 17 March through the Arch (8 am)
- Thu, Aug 17 Senior Parent continental breakfast 8:30
- Thu, Aug 17 Senior Unity Day /Ring Ceremony Practice: 9:30 2:00 (maybe earlier if we finish)
- Thu, Aug 17 Senior Ring Ceremony at **6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center;
- Fri, Aug 18 Senior Ring Holiday no classes for seniors

Service Hours: We remind all students of their obligation to do at least 10 hours of service this year. Last May, a number of seniors did not receive their caps and gowns because they had not completed their service hours. If a student does not want to help others by giving of his time, Saint Paul's is not the place for him.



Student Email Addresses: We issued each student an SPS email address through which we will communicate with him. If a student asks about how to get to his new email, there's a link on Edline in the bottom right, it says **St. Paul's Gmail access.** The temporary password for all students is **stpauls1**.

Student Hosts: Some Student Hosts will help our new students for the first few days. The hosts will wear their student host shirts instead of the blue uniform shirt – except on picture day.

Student Driving: We will be very vigilant and pro-active at dismissal

concerning student drivers. Both the Covington Police AND Saint Paul's will issue tickets to offenders. Again, our driving policy has a series of fines for infractions, in addition to other disciplinary action, and leading to loss of driving to school privilege. Take heed!

Student – Parent Handbook: The signature card indicating that you and your son have read and agree to abide by the Handbook is due on Monday. You can find the handbook on our web site home page.

Student Pictures: Ordering pictures is optional. If you want to order, have your son bring the order form and check with him to picture taking on Mon or Tue. Senior parents: these pictures are NOT the senior portraits, which will be taken on Sept 27 & 28th.

Sustained Silent Reading: On Wednesday, we begin daily SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) during the first 15 minutes of Block 2. During this time, everyone in the school (students, teachers, administrators, and staff) will read silently for 15 minutes. This is not a time for homework, tutoring, studying textbooks or doing assigned reading, but is designed to make reading a school-wide priority by reading for pleasure. We hope to develop a population of self-motivated readers. The program was created over 30 years ago at the University of Vermont and over the years has resulted in increased vocabulary development, reading fluency and comprehension, writing quality, improved standardized test scores, increased background knowledge on a wide range of topics, and increased reading time out of school. Students should bring their own reading material, but we will have classrooms stocked with magazines, novels, short stories, etc. Help your son prepare for this initiative and have him come prepared on Wednesday and every day thereafter. You might want to consider initiating a family SSR time, too! I will keep you posted as to how things go.

Test Prep: Kaplan Test Prep is offering **two new FREE Prepathons** for the ACT and the SAT to make sure students feel confident and prepared on Test Day. The Prepathons offer **6 hours of free, online test prep.** Students can join for SAT Prepathon, the ACT Prepathon, or both.

• WHEN: SAT—August 13 and ACT—August 27, beginning at noon ET

• **WHERE:** Live Online

• **REGISTER:** Kaptest.com/prepathon

Kaplan also invites students to sign-up for a **live online teaching event with Harvard Medical School professor** Dr. Richard Schwartzstein. The session, To Breathe or Not to Breathe: Using Physiology to Understand the Human Body will give students a look into a health career.

WHEN: Thursday, August 10 at 6:30 PM ET

WHERE: Live Online

REGISTER: bit.ly/HMXevent

Traffic Flow on Campus: If you drop off or pick up your son, you will meet congestion on the roadways in the morning and afternoon around our campus. We ask your help in insuring safe traffic flow:

Consider an alternate pick up location for your son other than Founder's Circle.

These include the drop off area by the Gene Bennett Sports Complex, the parking lot on the corner of 13th and Jefferson St. or the parking lot at LaSalle Hall on 11th

Avenue. You can drive through these parking lots or wait in a parking space there without holding up traffic elsewhere.



- DO NOT pick up your son using the shoulder of 11th Avenue. This is a dangerous area with poor visibility and further backs up traffic when you stop to load or unload.
- If you use the LaSalle Drive (main entrance) car line, please wait to the left so that thru traffic can still move through our campus using the right lane.
- Coordinate with your son about where and when you will meet him in the afternoon. If he is not present when you drive through, please proceed to a parking lot and wait for him there. If you stop in the car line to wait, you are holding up all cars behind you.
- Remind your son to be on the lookout for your car as you drive up.
- Our primary concern is safety, so please adhere to all speed limit and traffic rules in the school area. We are working closely with the Covington Police Department to find solutions to traffic around school. Working together, we can improve both safety and circulation around our campus.

Weekly Humor:

- Why was school easier for cave people. Because there was no history to study!
- Why did the broom get a poor grade? Because it was always sweeping during school!
- Why do magicians do so well in school? They're good at trick questions.
- Why was the teacher wearing sunglasses to school? She had bright pupils!
- What's the king of all school supplies? The ruler!
- Teacher: Class, we will have only half a day of school this morning. Class: Hooray! Teacher: We will have the other half this afternoon.
- Stevie: I got a hundred in school today! Mom: That's great. Stevie: A 40 in Reading and a 60 in Spelling.
- Mom: What did you do at school today? Mark: A guessing game. Mom: I thought you had math exam. Mark: Right!
- Teacher: What is the chemical formula for water? Donald: H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O. Teacher: What are you talking about? Donald: Yesterday you said it was H to O.
- Phil: Why was Cyclops such an effective teacher? John: I don't know. Phil: He had only one pupil.
- Teacher: Where are the Great Plains located? Tommy: At the great airports! [LOL!]
- Math teacher: A man from Los Angeles drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour and a man from New York drove toward Los Angeles at 150 m.p.h. Where did they meet? Johnny: In jail!
- Where was the Declaration of Independence was signed? At the bottom.
- Why did the student eat his homework? Because he didn't have a dog!
- *OK*, *I'll stop*.

Whew! That's enough for now! I'm sure I've forgotten something so email me if you still have a question about the opening of school. As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to as I write and LOLing): 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 Start for 2017-18 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



