



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*

January 2 – 7, 2018



Welcome back to school and Happy 2018 – the seventh full year of our second century! I hope your holidays were physically renewing and spiritually fulfilling and that you have entered the New Year with hope, optimism, faith, and zeal. I hope, too, that your family grew closer during these special days. I know you've missed the weekly newsletter during the holidays, so here's the first edition of 2018.

In his meditation for January 1, Saint John Baptist de La Salle bluntly asks the first Brothers the following questions:

- *Is it only in vain that you live the name of Christian and minister of Jesus in the work that you do?*
- *Do you live in a manner that befits these glorious names? Do you instruct those for whom you are responsible with the attention and the zeal God asks of you in so holy a work?*

He then reminds the first Brothers (and us today) to make the following New Year's resolutions:

- *Act in a way that your life may begin today to be holy and edifying and continue to be so in the future.*
- ***By your good conduct**, make yourself worthy of your distinguished role.*

These sound like good resolutions to me! And while they were written for the first Brothers, they apply equally to parents, the primary educators of their children. Let's pray for the grace to put these resolutions into practice!



At our opening of school prayer service in August, Student Council President Matthew Stalder challenged the faculty to make the most of the 2017 - 18 year. He exhorted us to do our best to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care. He encouraged us to encourage the students to make the most of their year by getting involved and giving their best to all their endeavors. I asked the teachers in their newsletter this week if they have been faithful in doing so and, if not, to renew their resolve to adopt the tried and true methods of the Lasallian educator.

I think parents, too, need to encourage their sons to make the most of the opportunities being given them. I encourage you, therefore, to look for ways to have your sons make the most of each and every day.

Mon, Jan 1 – New Year Day Holiday

Tue, Jan 2 (Last Day of Christmas Vacation; Enjoy!)

- **Did You Know:** In 1911, the Benedictines of St. Joseph Abbey purchased Dixon Academy, a private school of no religious affiliation, and renamed it "St. Paul's College" in honor of the patron of the monastery abbot. The Benedictines operated the school until 1918, when they sold it to the Christian Brothers. Thus, 2018 is the centennial of the Christian Brothers' ownership of Saint Paul's – called Saint Paul's College back then.
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Newman

- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Northshore – beginning of District play
- **Science Fiction Day:** OK, all you sci-fi fans, read your favorite genre today. Why? It's the birthday of famed SF writer Isaac Asimov. Don't know what he wrote? Then you are not a true Sci-Fier.

Wed, Jan 3 (Regular; Second Semester Begins at 7:45; A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** In 1924, two years after British archaeologist Howard Carter and his workmen discovered the tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamen near Luxor, Egypt, they uncover the greatest treasure of the tomb—a stone sarcophagus containing a solid gold coffin that holds the mummy of Tutankhamen.
- **TDIH:** In 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower signs legislation admitting making Alaska the 49th and largest state.
- **DYK:** 19 Christian Brothers took over St. Paul's in 1918. In the book "The History of St. Paul's", Brother Ephrem Hebert describes them as "carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians, bricklayers, as well as janitors and yardmen. They were all things to all men."
- **Fruitcake Toss Day** (Sometimes listed as 1st Sat of Jan): Go ahead! Toss it! It's OK today!
- **Chocolate Covered Cherry Day:** Indulge, unless you swore off sweets for New Year!
- **Senior Retreat** begins today. Prayers and best wishes go with the seniors & Retreat Team. We owe the team a great deal of thanks for undertaking this important ministry. Special thanks, too, to those who will help with substitutions during retreat. Take this seriously and be available to assist subs who may need help. The group returns Fri afternoon. We are indebted to retreat coordinators Lee and Renee'.
- **Soccer:** JV at Northshore

Thu, Jan 4 (Regular, E F G A)

- **TDIH:** On this day in 1999, for the first time since Charlemagne's reign in the ninth century, Europe is united with a common currency when the "euro" debuts as a financial unit.
- **DYK:** The Benedictines offered five different courses of study at St. Paul's: preparatory, commercial, stenographic, academic, and classical. Each of these courses would last three years. Classes were very small, sometimes only two or three students but much was expected of them.
- **Trivia Day:** Learn a useless fact today!
- **National Spaghetti Day:** Grab a big bowl of spaghetti, top it with your favorite sauce and enjoy! Spaghetti is one of over 600 shapes of pasta (who knew?) Did you know that the word spaghetti means string or twine in Italian and that the average American consumes about 20 pounds of spaghetti a year?
- **Soccer:** 9th at Mandeville
- **Basketball:** 9th & JV at Jesuit



Coach Stephen Dale recognizes Devonte for scoring 1000 career points – quite the accomplishment

Fri, Jan 5 (Regular, B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1933, construction begins on the Golden Gate Bridge, as workers began excavating 3.25 million cubic feet of dirt for the structure's huge anchorages. The bridge officially opened on May 27, 1937, the longest bridge span in the world at the time. The first public crossing had taken place the day before, when 200,000 people walked, ran and even roller skated over the new bridge. With its tall towers and famous red paint job, the bridge quickly became an American landmark, and a symbol of San Francisco – the western end of our District.
- **TDIH:** In 1896, William Roentgen announces the discovery of X-ray radiation.
- **DYK:** In 1915, the St. Paul's track team was nicknamed "The Fast Bunch" and the baseball team was nicknamed "The boys who put it over the fence."
- **National Bird Day:** Take a moment to notice and appreciate our birds. At SPS, that's easy to do, as birds abound. And after lunch, like clockwork, black birds descend to feast on students' food droppings.
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Hammond
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Northshore

Sat, Jan 6 -- Twelfth Night! The Twelve Days of Christmas are over! No more turtle doves, French hens, milking maids, leaping lords or swimming swans. You can keep the golden rings, however. Enjoy the quiet from that angry partridge in the pear tree and those darn drummers drumming! Trivia Question of the Week: do you know the traditional names of the three kings? Answer at end of newsletter.

- **TDIH:** In 1838, the first electric telegraph is successfully tested by Samuel Morse.
- **National Bean Day:** Celebrate the lowly legume! Enjoy a tasty bean dish! The USDA suggests adults should eat more than 3 cups of beans weekly for health benefits, including reduced risk of heart disease and certain cancers -- but avoid crowded spaces.
- **Application Day Testing (8 am)** See below for more info.
- **Football Awards Ceremony (3 pm in the BAC)**
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi at Shaw; Varsity in Parish Tournament at Hannan
- **Rugby:** Varsity v. Jesuit at City Park (1)
- **Basketball:** 8th v. DLS and Shaw (at Jesuit); JV Round Robin Tournament
- **Soccer:** 9th & JV in CYSA
- **Lacrosse:** Alumni game (6)



Sun, Jan 7 -- Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – official end of the Christmas season; attend church!

- **TDIH:** In 1789, America holds first presidential election (Spoiler Alert: G. Washington won!)
- **TDIH:** In 1953, President Harry Truman announces the development of a hydrogen bomb one thousand times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Japan.
- **I'm Not Gonna Take It Anymore Day:** Well, I'll let you decide what you're not going to take anymore. Just hope it's not SPS, although some of you will probably vote for this newsletter – or the SPS President!

I offer the following in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance:

Alumni News: Congrats to the following alums who graduated from LSU in Dec:

- Business: Robert Boudreaux, Collin D'Angelo, Daniel Dubuc, Andrew Dysart, Don Gallaty, Michael Jennings, Sean Lozes, Chris Meraux, Matthew O'Malley, Rickie Ragan, Chris Reyes, Gray Westervelt
- Engineering: Christian Berry, Tyler Gettys, Chase Pereira (congrats, Josh!), Brandon Power, Marc Reagan,
- Human Sciences & Education: Kevin Nelson
- Humanities & Social Sciences: Michael Maggio
- Graduate School (Master's): Tyler Tamboli



Students gather around the publicity board, one of the popular spots in the school building. Thanks, Karen, for your hard work on this board!

Announcement: I am pleased to announce the hiring of James David (“JD”) Almond as our new PE/Coach for the second semester. JD just graduated from Northwestern State University in December, where he had an outstanding career as football player and student. Please welcome him.

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!

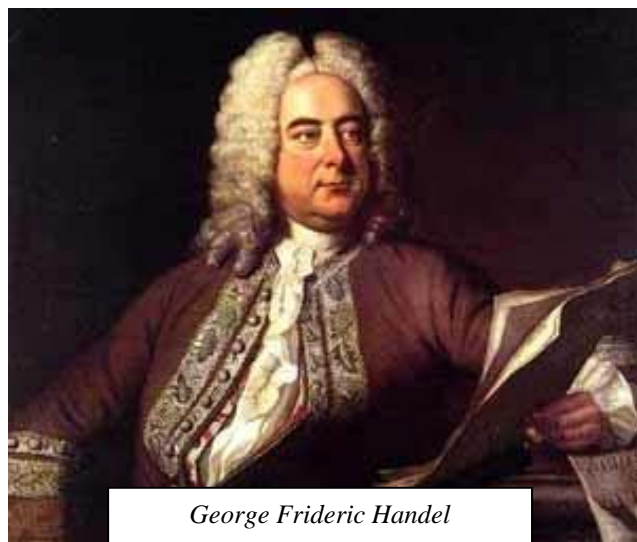
Application Day: In all 22 high schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, applicants for next year 8th grade and new 9th graders take the placement test this coming Saturday, January 6, beginning at 8 am. I pray for a successful day. By policy of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, priority in being admitted will be given to those who attend this day. If you know of any new student considering attending SPS for 8th or 9th grade next year, strongly encourage them to attend testing. This is not a commitment on anyone's part, but merely keeps the option open. Thanks for spreading the good word about SPS.

Application Letters Excerpts: Here are some more memorable lines:

- *The presence of God on St. Paul's campus was obvious to me when I walked through with my parents at Open House.*
- *The science classes stood out to me. Investigating a murder, dissecting cow brains and building machines were all things that I would like to participate in.* [OK -- he likes murders and cow brains. Hmmmm.....]
- *I enjoyed seeing the football locker room, even though it smelled.* [LOL! He tells the truth!]
- *The teachers don't treat you like students; they treat you like sons.*
- *I really liked my shadow day even though there was tropical weather and it rained all day.* [Neither rain, nor snow...]
- *I believe if I were to get accepted I know I would accel.* [yes, but first we need to teach him to spell "excel"!]

Assembly on Dec 14: I hope the students enjoyed our Dec 14 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

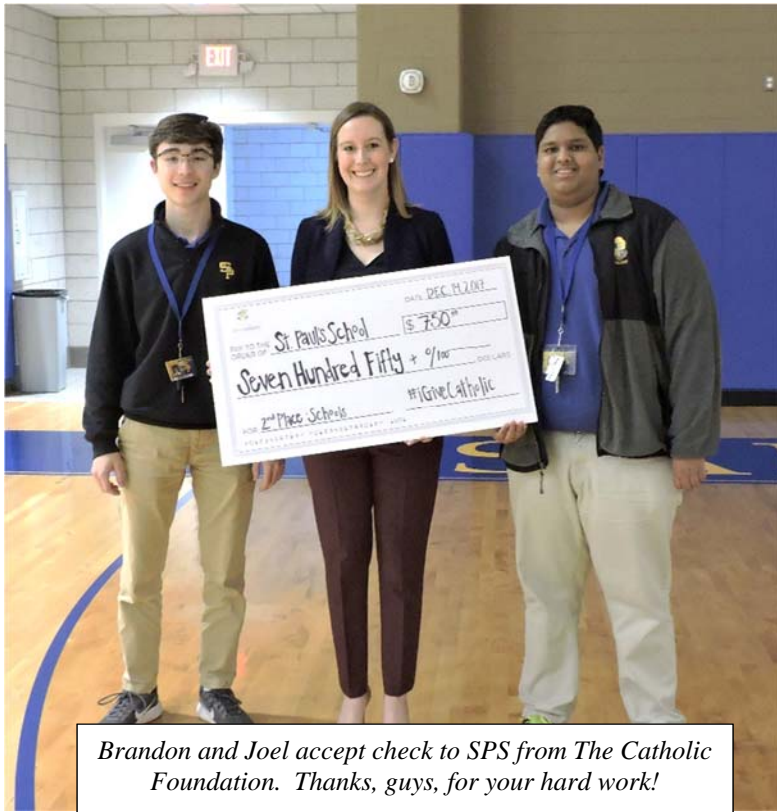
- Entered the gym listening to the overture to *Messiah* (never "*The*" *Messiah*), by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) -- one of the most beloved Oratorios (a musical selection for orchestras, choirs & solos often based on religious themes so they could be performed in churches.) It's one of the most famous musical compositions in the world, based on the Judeo- Christian concept of Messiah (anointed one). It was composed in just 24 days in summer of 1741 (incredible!) and first performed in April of 1742. It's one of my most favorite pieces of music. While the music was playing, **junior Beau Neelis** lit two Advent candles. I encouraged the students to make the most of the remaining days of Advent. And since Hanukkah started two days earlier, I had junior **Jackson Gold, senior Luc Hebert & freshman Max Salvant** tell the Hanukkah story, recite the Hanukkah blessing, and light the menorah candles. I was very pleased with the students' attention and hope they now know the Hanukkah story.



George Frideric Handel

- We then prayed for the following, who entered God's Kingdom since our last assembly: **Father Joseph Cazenavette, uncle of George '15 and Thomas '22; Mr. Harold Schultz, Grandfather of Joseph Cresson '22; Mr. Hubert Mizell, uncle of Aidan Brown '21; Mrs. Margie Cole, Grandmother of Gavin Clayton '21; Dr. Edmund (Bo) Jeansonne, Jr., brother of Mrs. Suzie Duplantier**

- Apologized to sophomore **John Baglow** for omitting him at the last assembly when I recognized the cast and crew of *Twelve Angry Men*. Sorry, John!



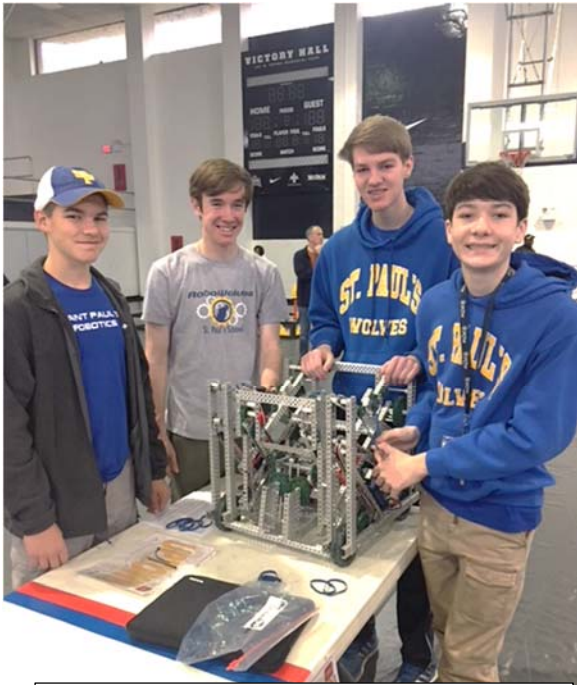
Brandon and Joel accept check to SPS from The Catholic Foundation. Thanks, guys, for your hard work!

- Introduced Ms. Callie Combs, Marketing and Communications Director for the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Ms. Combs was present to present a \$750 check to SPS for **second place for schools** in the recent #iGiveCatholic campaign. I asked **Joel Fernandez and Brandon Gallego** to accept the check in the name of the school, as these two boys spent hours making the videos that promoted SPS. **SPS had 171 donations for nearly \$19,000.** I also thanks faculty and staff who donated: **Mr. Jean duTreil, Mrs. Mimi Montiero, Mr. Trevor Watkins, Mrs. Tara Huguet, Mr. Al Nastasi, Mr. Joe Dickens, Mrs. Danielle Lavie, Mr. John Carambat, Mrs. Jo Sutherlin, Mrs. Pam Cullen, Mrs. Shellie Campo, Mr. Lee Pierre, Mrs. Claire Coutrado, Mr. John Glorioso, and Mrs. Elizabeth Grashoff . Finally, we**

viewed once again the composite video of all of the students and teachers encouraging people to give to SPS. It was wonderful.

- Projected a letter from Archbishop Gregory Aymond thanking and congratulating SPS students for their response to the Hurricane Harvey Drive.
- Projected a letter fro St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister thanking and congratulating SPS studentes for their response to recent hurricane disasters. President Brister closed her letter to me saying *You and your faculty are grooming these boys to be caring and giving men of our community. They will surely be the leaders of tomorrow.* I completely agree, President Brister!
- Recognized and congratulated all who helped make our blood drive a success. Over 35 pints of “the gift of life” were collected. I projected the following names on the screen of the donors: Students: **Landon Chambliss, Michael Philippe, William James, Duncan Fallen, Nicholas Briggs, Cooper Meibaum, Curtis Zuckerman** , **Gabriel Daigle, Jason Toups, Alex Prokop, Patrick Guidry, Mrs. Suzie Slade, Preston Scott, Forge Mathes, Mr. Roger Bacon, Christian Butler, Carson Caulfield, John Carambat, Gavin Grefer, Jackson Gold, Sgt A J East, Hyde Healy, Adam Moennich, Mr. Al Nastasi, Jarrett Eckel, Jason Lemoine, Mrs. Andrea Francis, Dayton Shirah, Zachary Russ, Mrs. Claire Coutrado, Beau Taranto, Robert Buquoi, Mrs. Shellie Campo, Andrew Lacoste, Tim Levet, Mr. Mick Nunez & Mrs. Karen Hebert**

- Recognized and congratulated all who helped with our annual luminaria celebration: the Student Council, the Liturgical Band, the Mother's Club and the Jazz Band. It was a beautiful evening – that makes a powerful statement to people. I gave a special thanks to sophomores Charles Hoy and Michael Valliant for taking aerial photos (with their drones) of Hunter Stadium, lit with the word Veni. The pics were great! I ended by projecting an email I received from a neighbor: *Last night, my wife and I enjoyed caroling and then cookies in the cafeteria. We also discovered that SPS has a jazz band. They were fantastic! It was truly a semi-professional show. And the young man who did the “homily” in the chapel was remarkable. Thank you for yet another example of SPS as a school of excellence.*



*Robo-Wolves bring home a 1st Place – again!
Congrats to Darrin, Lake, Adam & Blake!*

- Recognized and congratulated the Robo-Wolves for their great showing at the Dec 2 tournament: First Place: **Adam Smith, Darrin Lea, Blake Bollinger, Blake Inzinna**; Semi-Finals: **Magnus Laue, Eric Gray, Ryan Daly. And Andrew Norlin** was asked by tournament officials to be an official computer operator! Well done, Robo Wolves!

- As time was running short, At this point, I reminded the students of my custom of giving them a musical treat by playing one of my favorite pieces of classical Christmas music: *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from George Fredrick Handel's *Messiah* (not “The” Messiah!) and for three minutes and 45 seconds, the gym was transformed into an 18th century English concert hall with Handel, one of the greatest of the Baroque composers, conducting his musical masterpiece. It was beyond wonderful.

- Then, I reminded the students to pray “Maranatha” – one of the oldest prayers in the Church, which means “Come, Lord” in

Aramaic – the language Jesus probably spoke. Finally, I had them stand and sing along with Mr. Gene Lipps’ rendition of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” They were fantastic! Junior **Ian Varney** extinguished the Advent candles, and I reminded the students what the candles represent – the coming of the Lord into our hearts and our world.

- It was a magical assembly! At least I thought so!

Attendance: Please make the following part of your New Year Resolutions: If your son is absent, phone Suzy in the Attendance Office before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1280, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns.**

Benilde Hall: An extensive renovation of Benilde Hall has begun. It will be a challenging semester for us until the project is completed in early August – but the benefits will outweigh the inconvenience. More classrooms, better restrooms, an elevator, improved lighting and HVAC, additional ingress and egress, student services, and more. In case you don’t know its history, Benilde Hall was built in 1959 under the principalship/presidency of the late Brother Cassian Lange. The second and third floors were open dormitories for 6th and 7th grades. The bottom floor contained study halls and recreation rooms. When SPS dropped 6th grade, the first two floors were converted into classrooms. Interesting trivia: Trevor had one of those non-air conditioned classrooms and

bought a window unit – making it one of the few air conditioned classrooms on campus. It was cool but that unit was loud! The third floor remained a dormitory for 7th grade. When we dropped 7th grade, the third floor became the band room! (Imagine lugging all those instruments up three flights of stairs!) The current band room was a rec hall for the boarders. When the number of boarders started dropping, we moved the rec hall into La Salle Hall and converted the third floor to classrooms. And now we begin the latest (and last – at least for me!) incarnation of that storied (pun) building! Saint Benilde! Help us turn that ordinary building into an extraordinary one!

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: We receive store credit from customers who give 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..



Max, Luc, & Jackson explain Hanukkah and light the menorah at assembly.

Centennial Year: During 2018, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Christian Brothers assuming ownership of Saint Paul's School in 1918, thus returning to the Archdiocese of New Orleans after an absence of many years. During 2018, we have a number of activities planned to celebrate this important milestone in our school's history – the bringing of the Lasallian dream to Covington, LA. The first – and biggest – event is the renovation of Benilde Hall (see above). More on these events later, but in addition to Benilde Hall, I am re-instating the Did You Know feature that I used for our Centennial Celebration of the school's founding during calendar year 2011. Enjoy these tidbits about SPS history!

Cold Weather: ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. On VERY cold days, a non-SPS coat (but

not-camo) can be worn OVER an SPS sweatshirt. If you cannot afford one, contact me and I will take care of it confidentially.

Driving: I call the following to your attention:

- **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.

- **SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let’s start 2018 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.

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

- **Report Cards** were emailed last week, although grades had 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, 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 continue with the new format: 8th & 9th will be on same day in the Briggs Assembly Center and 10th & 11th 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. 12th grade will remain in the cafeteria. Here’s the schedule for the second quarter HR breakfast schedule:
 - **Mon, Jan 22** – Grades 8 & 9 in the BAC
 - **Tue, Jan 23** – Grades 10 & 11 in the BAC
 - **Wed, Jan 24** – Grade 12 in the cafeteria

Breakfasts last from 7:40-8:20. Note: HR is determined by **second QUARTER grades, not semester grades.**

ID Cards: As part of our safety plan, students are required to wear their ID cards on their SPS issued lanyard on a DAILY basis. **Please check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing the ID.** If he forgets, he receives a detention. If he loses his ID, he must purchase a replacement for \$10.

January: According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the Latin month name *Januarius*, from which we get the word *January*, was associated by the ancient Romans with their god *Janus*. *Janus* was a god of doorways and gates (in Latin, *janua*), and also of beginnings, so the name seems appropriate for the first month of the year. Curiously, however, the early Roman calendar began with March, not January, so the origin of the Latin name is somewhat mysterious. Here are some of the causes celebrated in January: Apple and Apricots Month, Artichoke and Asparagus Month, Bath Safety Month, Be Kind to Food Servers Month, Birth Defects Month, California Dried Plum Digestive Month, Celebration of Life Month, Financial Wellness Month, Get A Balanced Life Month, Get Organized Month, International Creativity Month, National Clean Up Your Computer Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month, National Hot Tea Month, National Mentoring Month, National Polka Music Month, National Poverty in America Awareness Month, National Soup Month, National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Oatmeal Month, Rising Star Month, Shape Up US Month, Teen Driving Awareness Month, Tubers and Dried Fruit Month, Thyroid Awareness Month, & Worldwide Rising Star Month. Something for everyone!

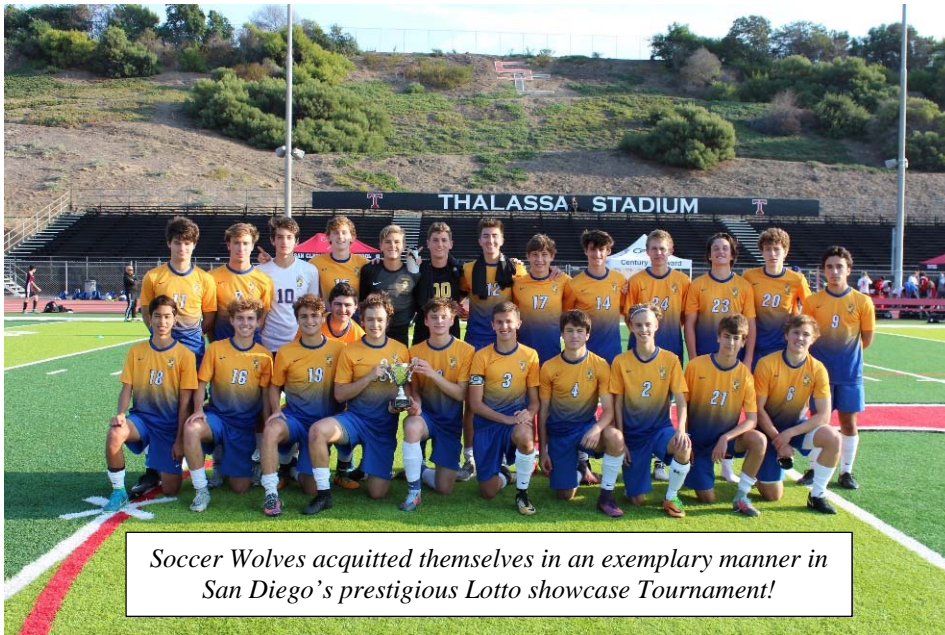
Lasallian World: Some developments in the San Francisco New Orleans District over the holiday:

- Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, has informed Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, that he will be appointed to a second four-year term as Visitor of the San Francisco New Orleans District.
- Mr. David Holquin has been appointed President of Justin-Sienna High School In Napa, CA, effective Immediately.
- Mr. Matt Powell has been appointed interim President of De La Salle North Catholic In Portland, effective mid-January.
- The Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation sent us check for \$4800 from September's Brother Timothy Cabernet Sauvignon wine sale. The funds are designated for financial aid for students who qualify for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program, which we are happy to do. I am grateful to those who purchased the wine to help low Income students attend SPS.

Last Two Weeks:

- **ACT:** A rescheduled ACT due to snow on 12/9 took place on 12/16 – with no problems. Thanks, Don & ACT staff.
- **Adopt A Family:** Thanks to all who helped. We collected enough to purchase gifts for 35 children. Thanks to Kevin Moore et al who brought our students to Target to shop and then to wrap. We also donated \$500 to Sister Theresa Berlin and her “Blue Shack” work in Covington’s West 30’s area and \$500 to the Rotary Club Feed the Needy Program, which used our facility to prepare and distribute meals to the needy.
- **Advent Prayer Service:** Thanks to Jeff Ramon for organizing this event. I hope your son told you about it. The video was inspiring and certainly put my problems into perspective
- **Alumni: Christmas on Columbia Gathering** on Dec 26 went well. Thanks to Al, Danielle et al who helped. And the Alumni Basketball Game on 12/29 was a grand success, although their age was showing!
- **Athletics:** Thanks to all the coaches who kept our student athletes focused on their seasons by having practices during the holidays. This provided a positive, safe, healthy activity for our students.
- **Basketball: Gene Bennett Memorial Basketball Tournament** was a grand success. Thanks, Coach Dale, for honoring Gene. And the Wolves performed respectably.
- **Bookstore:** The MC did brisk business with their extended hours before Christmas. Thanks, MC! Your hard work directly benefits our students and staff.
- **Christmas Dance:** A grand time was had by all. Thanks, Student Council, for providing this safe, wholesome activity for our students prior to Christmas.
- **Christmas Eve Mass:** Thanks to Brother Ken for organizing the 10 pm Christmas Eve mass, celebrated by Father Matthew, in the chapel. A large crowd, composed largely of alums and current families, attended.
- **Christmas Lunch:** Thanks to Mothers Club who organized this event for our staff on 12/19.
- **Exam week** went well. We had a few “issues” but most understood semester grading policy.
- **Habitat Wolves:** Thanks to Richard Pichon and HWs for their workday on Sat, Dec 16 – Christmas spirit in action.
- **Quiddich Tournament:** Our Annual Quiddich Tournament was a grand success, with students scampering about on broomsticks and snitches being thrown. Who says we don’t have something for everyone!
- **Rotary Club Feed the Needy.** Thanks to all who helped. Over 1000 Christmas meals were prepared in our cafeteria and delivered on Christmas morn. Many SPS families and alums helped out.

- **Soccer:** Wolves acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner in the Lotto Showcase Tournament in San Diego. And the **35th Saint Paul's Holiday Soccer Tournament** again attracted area top teams. It was both an athletic and PR success, bringing the #1 ranked Wolves a lot of publicity along with three wins!
- **Wolf Tracks:** The holidays didn't stop Danielle from publishing a December issue! Excellent issue, Danielle! I hope you read it.
- **Wrestling Wolves:** The WWs were quite active with practices and matches. Varsity went to Atlanta for a tournament and JV took the varsity's place in the Deep South Duals in Baton Rouge. Both acquitted themselves exemplarily.



Soccer Wolves acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner in San Diego's prestigious Lotto showcase Tournament!

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. Please put your son's name on items and stress responsibility with your sons for his belongings.

Money: Parents, please stress with you son that they should NOT bring large sums of money to school. There is absolutely no need for

students to have large cash amounts – which they invariable talk about which tempts others.

News worth Knowing:

- **Gaming Disorder:** From NOLA.com: Parents will soon have another reason to scrutinize video game purchases for their children because the World Health Organization plans to recognize excessive gaming as a mental health disorder, according to [Forbes Magazine](#). A draft of the World Health Organization's forthcoming 11th update of International Classification of Diseases now includes "gaming disorder," described as a pattern of persistent behavior where a person is continually playing digital or video games online or offline, and is unable to control their need to play. See more on this story at: http://www.nola.com/health/index.ssf/2017/12/video_gaming_a_mental_disorder.html
- **Christmas Views:** More from NOLA.com: The majority of Americans do not primarily view Christmas as a religious holiday. According to Pew Research Center polls, only 46 percent of Americans celebrate Christmas as primarily a religious (rather than cultural) holiday, a 5 percent decrease from 2013. And this doesn't appear to be changing anytime soon, considering that millennials are even less likely than older adults to include a religious component in their Christmas celebration. And most Americans recognize this, with a majority of adults - 56 percent - saying the religious aspects of Christmas are less emphasized in society than in years past. When asked whether Christian symbols such as nativity scenes should be allowed on government property, the percentage of Americans who say such displays should not be allowed is growing - from 20 percent three years ago to 26 percent today. Very sad! Our of Evangelization is definitely needed!

The Paper Wolf: The all-new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. The LA Scholastic Press Association recently named TPW BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER in the STATE of LOUISIANA – again! Wow! We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE & support our journalists. Here's the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

Registration of Current Students for 2018 - 19: For those of you who plan ahead, here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning in order for us to know how many new (if any) 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2018 - 19, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **If your son does not plan on returning for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP.**

Service Hours: As a Lasallian Catholic institution, we are called to demonstrate "Concern for the Poor and Social Justice." Each student is required to complete a minimum of ten (10) service hours during the school year. Service hours must be completed by May 1st, 2018. Acceptable service is that in which you volunteer with a charitable organization, assist the elderly or less fortunate in the community, or assist at fundraisers for charitable organizations. . Assisting family is admirable, but does not count towards the service hour goal. Service hour forms can be found on the St.Paul's Edline homepage under "Links". Completed forms should be signed and turned in to the drop-off box in the library. Electronic submission of the forms as well as any questions relating to service hours can also be sent to Mr. Ramon (j.ramon@stpauls.com)

Tutoring: National Honor Society tutoring resumes next week, according to the following schedule:

- Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning at 7:15 in La Salle 207
- Monday and Thursday at lunch in LaSalle 207.
- Essay proofreading services also provided. Please encourage your son to take advantage of this awesome opportunity to get help from their most capable peers. **It is not embarrassing to do so.**

Uniform Shirts: We have pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult. Just come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have khaki pants available – all for the taking or a nominal fee.

Vaping: I'm sorry I have to mention this, but please speak to your son about the dangers involved in this latest fad. We are hearing anecdotal reports of vaping by our students and have even taken disciplinary action against several of them who vaped at school events. We will continue to be vigilant and take strong measures against violators. At last month's regular meeting with the Covington Police Department, we were informed that it is AGAINST THE LAW for minors to purchase vaping equipment. Please make sure your son knows this – and complies with your wishes, the rules of the school – and the law.



Weekly Humor: In honor of Trivia Day on Thu, Jan 4. Answers at end:

1. *How many colors are there in a rainbow?*
2. *What do you call a time span of one thousand years?*
3. *When did the world celebrate its most recent thousand-year observance?*
4. *How many degrees are found in a circle?*
5. *The Dewey Decimal system is used to categorize what?*
6. *How many squares are there on a chess board?*
7. *By what name is Norma Jean Baker more commonly known?*
8. *The word 'bible' comes from the Greek 'biblion' - what does biblion mean?*
9. *Name the historical prince whose name was used by Bram Stoker in his famous novel.*
10. *Who was the legendary king who was killed at the Battle of Camelford?*
11. *Name all four of the Marx Brothers.*
12. *What does the Latin phrase 'caveat emptor' mean?*
13. *Who wrote a series of novels about orcs, hobbits, goblins and elves?*
14. *Which book featured the eloi and the morlocks?*
15. *Which hormone controls the supply of sugar between muscles and blood?*

January

- 3 – ABCD – Seniors on Retreat
- 4 – EFGA – Seniors on Retreat
- 5 – BCDE – Seniors on Retreat
- 8 – FGAB
- 9 – CDEF – Pack Time – *Snack Day*
- 10 – GABC
- 11 – DEFG
- 12 – ABCD
- 16 – EFGA – President's Assembly

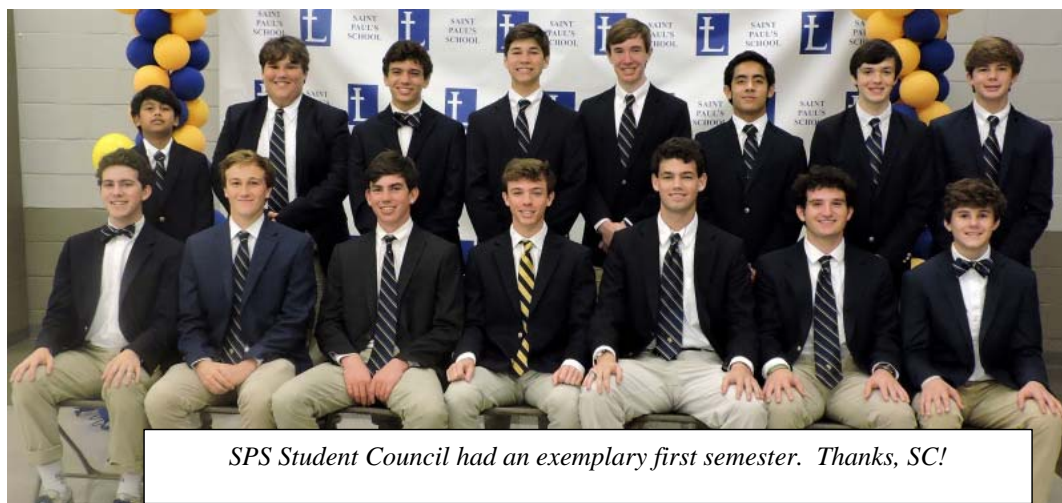
- 17 – BCDE
- 18 – FGAB
- 19 – CDEF
- 22 – GABC – 8/9 *HR Breakfast in BAC*
- 23 – DEFG – Pack Time 10/11 *HR Breakfast in BAC*
- 24 – ABCD – 12th *HR Breakfast in Cafeteria / Junior Career Day*
- 25 – EFGA – Mass Conversion of St. Paul
- 26 – BCDE
- 29 – FGAB
- 30 – CDEF – President's Assembly
- 31 – GABC – Guest Speaker

February

- 1 – DEFG – Guest Speaker
- 2 – ABCD
- 5 – EFGA- 9:00 Late Start for Faculty In Service – *Parent/Teacher meetings in BAC 5-7*
- 6 – BCDE – Pack Time
- 7 – FGAB
- 8 – CDEF
- 9 - Faculty Retreat – no classes
- 19 – GABC
- 20 – DEFG – President's Assembly / Pre-Freshmen in Explore (BAC)
- 21 – ABCD – Freshmen in PLAN (BAC)
- 22 – EFGA – Sophomores in Pre ACT (BAC) – Freshmen on Retreat
- 23 – BCDE – Freshmen on Retreat
- 26 – FGAB – Senior Day with Archbishop Aymond at OLL
- 27 – CDEF – Juniors in ACT
- 28 – GABC – Pack Time

March

- 1 – DEFG
- 2 – ABCD
- 5 – EFGA
- 6 – BCDE – President's Assembly
- 7 – FGAB
- 8 – CDEF
- 9 – GABC – End of Third Quarter
- 12 – DEFG - 9:00 Late Start for Faculty In-Service
- 13 – ABCD – Pack Time
- 14 – EFGA
- 15 – BCDE - Junior Retreat/Angola
- 16 – FGAB – Junior Retreat/Angola



SPS Student Council had an exemplary first semester. Thanks, SC!

19 – ABCDEFG- St. Joseph Altar
20 – CDEF – Pack Time
21 – GABC
22 – DEFG – Celebrity Waiters Dinner
23 – ABCD
26 – EFGA
27 – BCDE – President's Assembly
28 – FGAB
29 – CDEF

April

9 – GABC
10 – DEFG – Pack Time – *8/9 HR Breakfast in BAC*
11 – ABCD – *10/11 HR Breakfast in BAC*
12 – EFGA – *12th HR Breakfast in Cafeteria*
13 – BCDE
16 – FGAB – 9:00 Late Start for Faculty In-Service
17 – CDEF – President's Assembly – *Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Snack Day*
18 – GABC – Mother-Son Dinner in BAC
19 – DEFG
20 – ABCD
23 – EFGA – President's Assembly
24 – BCDE – Pack Time (last with seniors)
25 – FGAB – Senior Exams
26 – CDEF – Senior Exams
27 – GABC -- Senior Exams – Final Day for Seniors
30 – DEFG

May

1 – ABCD
2 – EFGA
3 – BCDE
4 – FGAB
7 – CDEF
8 – GABC - Pack Time
9 – DEFG – Level Awards Assemblies
10 – ABCD – Athletic Awards Assembly BAC
11 – EFGA – Major Academic Awards Assembly BAC
12 – Senior Graduation (4 pm in the BAC; admission by ticket only)
14 – BCDE
15 – FGAB –President's Assembly - Pre freshmen Exams
16 – CDEF - Pre freshmen Exams
17 – Pre freshmen Exams /9-11 Exams
18 – 9-11 Exams /Pre freshmen Promotion in Evening
21 – Exams

22 – Exams

23 – Exam make up day

Whew! I've worn you out in this first week of 2018, but you had the last two weeks off! Even though it's a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now as I complete the newsletter and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2017 - 18 edition of Saint Paul's School! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Blessed to See 2018 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

Lasallian education – transforming lives since 1680 by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, and being guided to God!

Mark Twain's Classic Seasonal Quotation: *New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.*

Answer to Jan 06 Trivia Q: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar are the traditional names of the three kings.

Trivia Answers: 1.seven; 2.millennium; 3. Year 2000; 4. 360; 5. Books; 6. 64; 7.Marilyn Monroe; 8.Book; 9.Dracula; 10. Arthur; 11.Groucho, Harpo, Chico, Zeppo; 12. Let the buyer beware; 13. JR Tolkien; 14. The Time Machine; 15: Insulin;

I wish you a blessed and happy 2018 and blessed second semester – the final one for the Class of 2018!



And as Christmas 2017 fades into history, let us not forget the Student Council inspiration on luminaria night:
Veni! Come, Lord!

For a slideshow of luminarias by The Paper Wolf, click here: <https://thepaperwolf.com/2017/12/19/slideshow-luminaries-tradition-blazes-once-again/>