



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

January 29 – February 4, 2018



Welcome to the last days of January! 1/12th (or 0.08333...% if you prefer) of 2018 is almost history! Wow!

Today begins Catholic Schools Week, when Catholic schools throughout the United States celebrate and affirm the Catholic identity of our schools. As Trevor reminded us last week, the National Catholic Education Association has designated the theme of the week as: "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed" and Jeff Ramon and his cadre of Lasallian Young Leaders have planned a series of events to flesh out the various aspects of this theme.

Historically, we cannot overstate the contribution of Catholic education to this country, especially here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Today, Catholic schools continue to produce outstanding achievement, in spite of the many challenges to their existence. Here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, for example, the strategic plan designed to save the Catholic school system already has caused changes. Archbishop Aymond has stated that the Catholic schools in New Orleans will look very different twenty-five years from now than it looks today.

We remember and celebrate, too, that Saint Paul's is not just a private school or a Christian school -- we are a Lasallian Catholic school. We remind ourselves of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, who Pope Pius XII proclaimed Patron of All Teachers by virtue of his contribution to education. To be faithful to both our Lasallian Catholic nature, we must remember that Saint La Salle insisted upon quality schools which not only "ran well" but were "places of salvation" (both spiritual and temporal) for the students by teaching them the "Truths of their Religion." In such a way, the Founder believed, the schools would "touch the hearts" of the students who attended.



Our chaplain, Father Matthew Clark, OSB, celebrated mass for us last week on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Caleb and Sam were the altar servers. Thanks, Caleb and Sam!

St. La Salle said "to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to your care is the greatest miracle you can perform and one which God expects of you." He also insisted that those who work in Catholic schools must look upon themselves as "ministers of God's grace" and "co-workers with God." As I wrote to the faculty, **Saint La Salle would accept nothing less from the early brothers; we must offer nothing less today.**

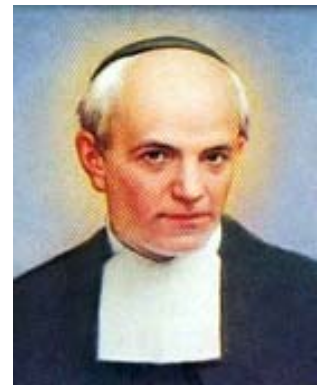
Thank you for supporting and being part of Lasallian Catholic education at Saint Paul's School!

Mon, Jan 29 (Regular; F G A B)

- **This Day in History:** In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven," is published. Enjoy rereading the poem today with its famous line: "Nevermore!"
- **Did You Know (SPS Trivia):** The end of WW II in Aug 1946 caused materials to be declared surplus that could be used by places such as Saint Paul's. Thus, the Brothers bought stoves, refrigerators, tools, furniture, building materials, etc. from the government at giveaway prices. In particular, the school acquired a modern cafeteria steam table to change the system of serving meals to the boarders from "family style" to cafeteria style. And we use cafeteria style serving today for the lunch program!
- **National Puzzle Day:** Work a puzzle today! A crossword, jigsaw, or any type will do fine. Enjoy!
- **National Corn Chip Day:** Eat a corn chip today! Did you know the corn chip was first marketed in 1961?
- **Walk through History:** In honor of the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Christian Brothers at Saint Paul's, we have prepared a special display of SPS memorabilia. Religion classes will visit the display, which will remain through tomorrow. The public is invited to view the display between 11 and 1 Mon and Tue. You are certainly welcome to attend, too! Thanks to the Development Office for sponsoring this display.
- **Warm Hearts Drive Begins – see below for more info**
- **Benilde Hall Renovation Reception:** We have invited potential supporters to a special reception at 6:30 this evening to hear about this exciting project and, we hope, to pledge their support. You are welcome to attend. The project is very exciting, ambitious – and expensive.
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Hammond at Tangi Lanes
- **Track:** Outdoor track practice begins this afternoon

Tue, Jan 30 (President's Assembly; C D E F)

- **DYK:** During the late 1940s, a couple of servers behind the steam table were the beautiful teen-age daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Trahan, who worked in the cafeteria. The Brother in charge assigned Sibyl to serve the food such as spinach. Even though the students didn't like spinach, many came back for seconds and thirds just to speak to Sibyl! Hmm, maybe we'll use this strategy at lunch to get today's students to eat their vegetables!
- **Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (always last Monday of Jan):** Feeling a little stressed? Get some bubble wrap and squeeze away! Feel the stress disappear with each Pop Pop Pop!
- **Croissant Day:** Treat yourself to this French pastry!
- **Today** Lasallians throughout the world celebrate a special Christian Brother feast: Saint Brother Mutien Marie. In Mutien Marie, we have another example of the Church raising someone to sainthood not for extraordinary deeds as the world might recognize, but for extraordinary devotion to and **zeal for Catholic education on a daily basis**. Mutien was a Belgian brother who spent **58 years** teaching and prefecting at the Brothers' boarding school at Malonne. He was an effective teacher, a vigilant prefect, a catechist in the nearby parish and a great influence on his students by his patience and piety. Among the Brothers, it was said that he had never been seen violating even the smallest points in the Rule of the Brothers -- and I can assure you that there were many rules back then and the Brothers were the first ones to point out deviations by each other! St. Brother Mutien Marie -- pray for us!
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Hammond and **Bowling:** Wolves v. Holden
- **Dad's Club Meeting:** For those of you that can make it, the first meeting of the new year is Tuesday, January 30th, at 7pm. Dads, we have a change for the 2018 school year. Our meetings will now be the 3rd Tuesday of the month instead of 3rd Wednesday. This is due to events at the Abita Brewery and the dates that were available to us, and we appreciate Abita allowing us to use the room at no cost. All SPS dads are



welcome to attend. We have a couple of events in the next couple months that we will be discussing. If you are not already signed up on the mailing list, please email spdadsclub@gmail.com. You can also see the meeting event schedule and become a member on our facebook page

:<https://www.facebook.com/groups/169835833172361/> Abita Brewery, 166 Barbee Road, Covington, LA



Wed, Jan 31 (Guest Speaker; G A B C)

• **DYK:** From 1944-47, Saint Paul's made a name for itself in athletics. Under the capable guidance of the athletic director, Brother Bernard, and with the superb coaching of Brothers Jasper, the track team came out first in nearly every meet they entered during a two year period, 1945-47. They ended with a State Championship in 1945. At the end of that meet in early May, Saint Paul's students held half of the track and field records in State competition. Today, under the capable leadership of AD Craig Ketelsen, Saint Paul's continues to make a name for itself in athletics throughout the state.

- **Feast day of St. John Bosco**, founder of the Salesian Order of Sisters, Brothers and Priests. In many ways, John Bosco was similar to St. John Baptist de La Salle – he had a loving concern for young people and was devoted to meeting their educational needs. Today, the Salesians minister in the Archdiocese of New Orleans by conducting Archbishop Shaw High School and the Academy of Our Lady High School. We thank the Salesians for their work with the young people of the Archdiocese. Here's a sampling of John Bosco's words
 - *Do good while you still have time. God does not pay us for results, but for effort.*
 - *Nobody can be truly happy in this world unless he is at peace with God.*
 - *Put up willingly with the faults of others if you wish others to put up with yours.*

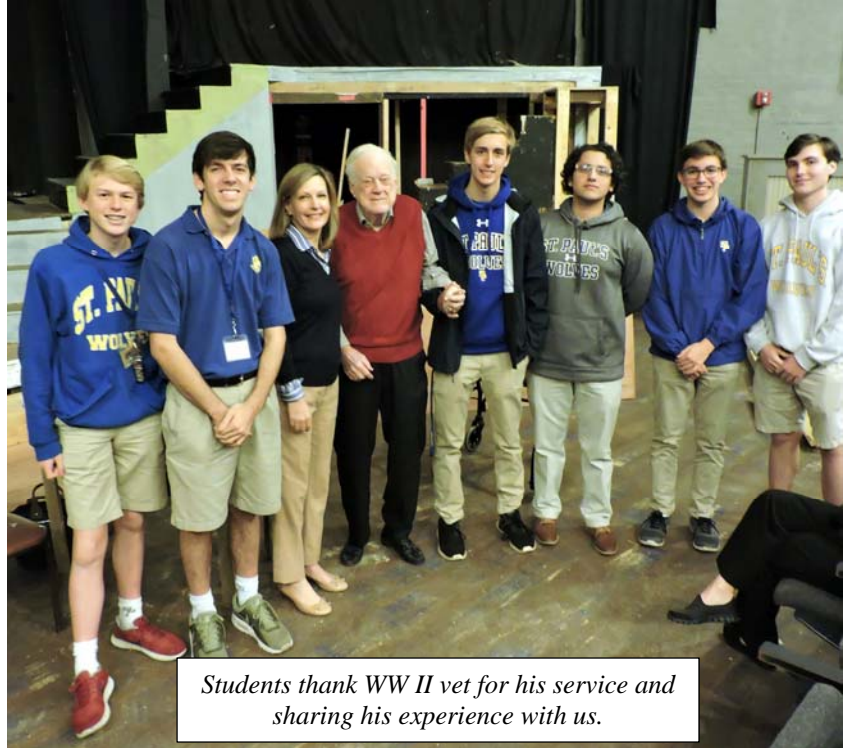
Jan 31 also marks the 102nd birthday of Thomas Merton, American Catholic writer and mystic. A Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, KY, he was a poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion. A few of his words:

- *We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.*
- *Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul.*
- *And one of my favorites: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

- **National Inspire Your Heart with Art Day:** Visit a museum, browse an art book, view art on the Internet, listen to music, paint a picture, read poetry, write poetry – liberate the artist inside of you. Enjoy art today!
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Madison Prep
- **Bowling:** Wolves v. St. Thomas
- **Wrestling:** SPS v. Covington – Senior Night – and honoring Craig Ketelsen on his 350th career win!

Thu, Feb 1 (Guest Speaker; D E F G)

- **Mass at 7 am**
- **TDIH:** In 1884, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the most comprehensive and accurate dictionary of the English language, is published. From History Channel Website: *The OED is the definitive authority on the meaning, pronunciation and history of over half a million words. The OED provides a chronological history, quoting a range of sources. The OED is famous for cross-references and etymologies. The verb "set" merits the OED's longest entry, at approximately 60,000 words and detailing over 430 uses. No sooner was the OED finished than editors began updating it. In 1984, Oxford Press embarked on a 5-year project to create an electronic version. The effort required 120 people just to type the pages from the print edition and 50 proofreaders to check their work. In 1992, a CD-ROM version of the dictionary was released. Today, the dictionary is available online to subscribers and updated quarterly with over 1,000 new entries and revisions. At a whopping 20 volumes weighing over 137 pounds, it would reportedly take one person 120 years to type all 59 million words in the OED. Celebrate the OED today! Spend some time on the OED website (www.oed.com)*
- **DYK:** In September of 1912, a new school year began with 127 students. Today the school has over 870!
- **National Working Naked Day:** Do what you want at home or your place of business, but SPS is NOT celebrating this day!
- **Media Classes (Yearbook, Newspaper & Media) Field Trip to Journalism Conference at Loyola**
- **Basketball:** 9th & JV at Ponchatoula; 8th v. Rummel



Students thank WW II vet for his service and sharing his experience with us.

Fri, Feb 2 (Wolf Packs; A B C D; Feast of the Presentation)

- **Feast of the Presentation.** This feast, told in Luke's Gospel, celebrates the child Jesus being brought to the Temple "according to the law of Moses." It was also the occasion of Simeon ("a righteous and devout man") proclaiming the famous "nunc dimittis" -- "now, Lord, you may dismiss your servant...for my eyes have seen your salvation..." Since the 10th Century, this feast has also been called Candlemas because candles were blessed and carried in procession, a devotional based upon Simeon's words that Jesus is the light who reveals God to all nations. In his meditation for this feast, St La Salle tells the brothers "How good it is to give oneself to God! Even in this life, God rewards and fills with very tangible consolations the soul that consecrates itself

to God. The more you give to God, the more God blesses you." Today, let's renew our own consecrations to God -- and encourage our students to do, so, too.

- **TDIH:** In 1887, Groundhog Day, with a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA. From the Official GH Day web site: *Pennsylvania's earliest settlers determined if the sun did appear on Feb. 2 so wise an animal as the groundhog would see its shadow and hurry back into its home for another 6 weeks of winter.* Let's hope Punxsutawney Phil sees no shadow!
- **TDIH:** In 2014 on this day, a memorial mass was celebrated in the G-Plex for **David Decareaux '94**, and his two sons. You may remember the tragedy: David and his sons were camping, got lost, and died of hypothermia. We continue to remember David and his family in our prayer.
- **DYK:** In the late 1940s, Brother Henry Herrera, principal, began the custom of having softball games between the Brothers and the parents on Sunday mornings. He promoted seafood dinners where the Brothers and parents could enjoy themselves in a pleasant atmosphere. The Brothers today, however, are too old to play softball!
- **Crepe Day:** Enjoy this French classic! In France, today is called la Chandeleur, Fête de la Lumière, or jour des crêpes. Not only do the French eat a lot of crêpes on Chandeleur, but they also do a bit of fortune telling while making them. It is traditional to hold a coin in your writing hand and a crêpe pan in the other, and flip the crêpe into the air. If you manage to catch the crêpe in the pan, your family will be prosperous for the rest of the year.
- **Catholic Schools Week Mass:** A student delegation will represent SPS at the official Catholic Schools Mass in Metairie at 10 am with Archbishop Gregory Aymond as celebrant.



Michael, Adam, & Lucca enjoy HR Breakfast

- **OLL Pep Rally:** Marching Wolves will once again perform at OLL's Catholic Schools Week pep rally.
- **Marching Wolves in Krewe of Eve Parade**
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV & Varsity at Covington

Sat, Feb 3 (Feast of St. Blaise)

- **St. Blaise:** Catholic practice calls for "Blessing of Throats" today in honor of Blaise, who according to legend saved a young boy from choking as Blaise was being hauled off to prison for his Christianity. He was martyred in 316. **Traditional Blessing of the Throat Prayer:** *Through the*

intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God

deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil.

- **TDIH:** In 1959, a small plane crashed and killed three American rock and roll legends: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and JP "The Big Bopper" Richardson. Singer songwriter Don McLean wrote a song about the event, "American Pie," in which he dubbed Feb 3, 1959 **the day the music died.** (*So bye, bye, Miss American Pie, drove my Chevy....*)
- **TDIH:** Four Chaplains Memorial Day. On this day in 1943, four US Army Chaplains gave their lives to save other soldiers when their troop ship, the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed in WW II. The chaplains

gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out, joined hands, said prayers and sang hymns as the ship sank.

- **Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (always 1st Sat of Feb):** Well, this one is up to you to decide to celebrate!
- **Indoor Track:** Last Chance Meet at LSU
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Bro. Martin Tournament; other teams v. DLS in old gym
- **Rugby:** Wolves v. Barbarians (yes, really. That's the name of the team!) 1 pm on varsity soccer field
- **Lacrosse:** Varsity v. Airline Vikings (1)
- **Baseball:** Scrimmage v. Lakeshore (11 & 1)
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Holy Cross (9) and St. Aug (12) in our gym
- **Math:** Fighting Math Wolves in Bro. Martin Tournament
- **Robotics:** SPS will host the competition in the BAC
- **Marching Wolves in Olympia Parade in Covington**

Sun, Feb 4

- **TDIH:** In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Premier Joseph Stalin meet at city in Yalta in the Crimea to discuss and plan the postwar world--namely, to address the redistribution of power and influence. Many believe this to be the birth of the Cold War.
- **National Thank Your Mailman (or postal carrier to be gender correct!) Day:** Some fun postal facts:
 - In 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the first organized mail service in America.
 - Benjamin Franklin was first Postmaster General.
 - Postage stamps were invented in 1847.
 - On April 3, 1860 the famous Pony Express officially took off.
 - In 1863, free city delivery started and in 1896, free rural delivery began.
 - In 1963, the Zip Code began.
- **Superbowl Sunday:** Go Eagriots! Go Patrigles! In other words, I don't care who wins!
- **Marching Wolves in Carrollton Parade in New Orleans**



Eucharistic Minister Kyle give Holy Communion to Miles at last week's all-school mass in the BAC.

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

Anniversary Events: 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. Here are some of the events already underway or in the near future:

- The first – and biggest – event is the renovation of Benilde Hall. I signed a contract last week and you will see much work beginning.
- Did You Know tidbits of SPS history

- On Jan 29, we have invited guests and prospective donors to a Benilde Hall Renovation Reception from 6:30 – 7:30 in the BAC to officially kick off the campaign for the building project. Anyone so inclined is welcomed to attend.
- On Jan 29th and 30th, we will have a Walk through History. Those who were here in 2011 during the centennial celebration of the school's opening will remember this display of SPS history. All religion classes will visit and the public is invited during specific times between 11 and 1 on Mon and Tue.
- I am most grateful to the development team for coordinating all of these events! And more is in the works.



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 so I can show an increase in AF participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

Assemblies This Week: We have some special assemblies this week:

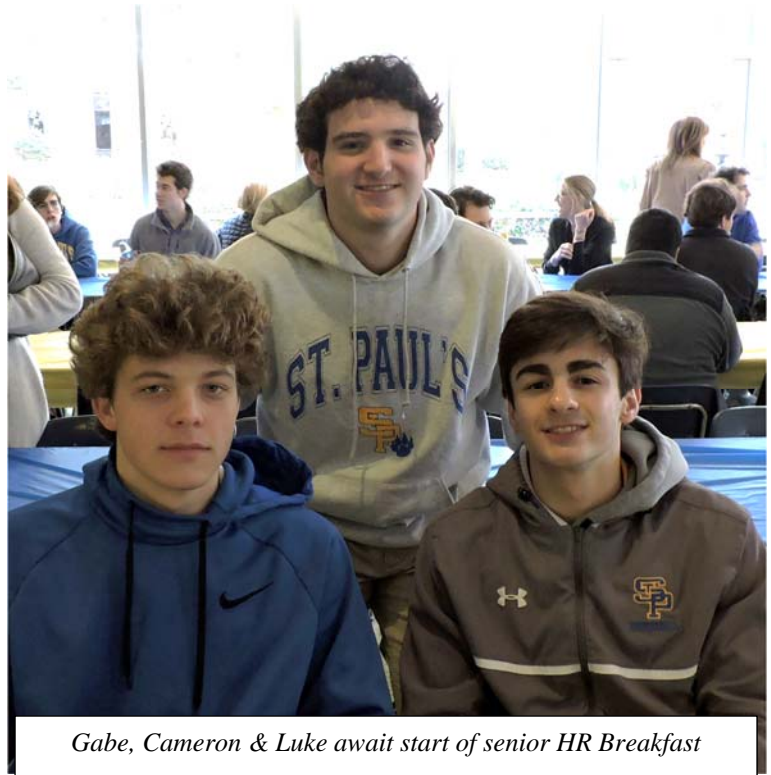
- On Tuesday, I will have my bi-weekly President's Assembly. I'm way behind in recognizing students for their wonderful accomplishments, so I'll make an effort to recognize as many as possible.
- On Wednesday, our speaker is **Matt Fradd**. Matt speaks to over 50,000 people every year on the topic of pornography – which has become a particular concern of Archbishop Aymond, who is asking the

schools to address this growing problem. In particular, Matt will address pornography in light of human trafficking and social justice. As we learned on the Archdiocese Faculty Formation Day, pornography is a major plague impacting our youth. Matt's expertise is a great small step to battling this epidemic.

- On Thursday, our speaker is **Thomas Awiapo**. Growing up in Ghana, Thomas was a beneficiary of Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl initiative. He will share his story about growing up in poverty and *survived* only with the support of those who have the means to help. Thomas' story is a great opportunity to shed a light on life in Africa and in particular to paint a clearer picture of those at our twin school, St. Paul's in Marsabit, Kenya.
- On Friday, we will have a Pack Time. The purpose of this Pack Time is to have a forum to intentionally discuss the previous two days' speakers.
- You may attend these events. In any case, please discuss the assemblies with your sons.

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!



Gabe, Cameron & Luke await start of senior HR Breakfast

Calendar for 2018-19: We have finalized the 2018-19 calendar. Here are some important dates:

- Mon - Tue, Aug 6 & 7 Teacher meetings
- Thu, Aug 9 Classes begin; Full Day of Instruction (same day as public schools)
- Thu, Aug 23 Senior March through the Arch

- Mon, Sep 03 Labor Day Holiday
- Fri, Oct 05 Fall Break Holiday (Parish Fair Holiday)
- Fri, Oct 12 End of 1st quarter; 11 dismissal followed by Grandparent Day
- M – F, Nov 19 – 23 Thanksgiving Holidays
- Wed, Dec 19 End of 1st Semester; Christmas holidays begin at 11:45 following last exam
- Mon, Jan 07 Classes resume; second semester begins
- W – F, Jan 9-11 Senior Retreat
- Fri, Mar 1 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
- M-F, Mar 4 -8 Mardi Gras holidays
- F-F, Apr 19-26 Easter Holidays
- W-F, May 1-3 Senior exams
- Sat, May 11 Senior graduation (4 pm)
- Fri, May 17 Pre-freshman promotion ceremony
- T-F, May 21-24 Final exams (9-11)
- Tue, May 28 Conflict Exam Day; Records Day

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: Thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS financially..

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 SPS tidbits!

Cold Weather: ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. On VERY cold days, a non-SPS coat (but not-camo) may be worn OVER 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.

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Goals for Graham: On Jan 29, we observed the one year anniversary of Graham’s passing. If you wish to view this moving video, here’s the link: <https://youtu.be/WOpmUCzUKyQ> And you can make a pledge at <https://pledgeit.org/goals-for-graham/@jordan>

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. **Check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing the ID.** If he forgets, he receives detention. If he loses his ID, he must purchase a replacement for \$10.

Last Week:

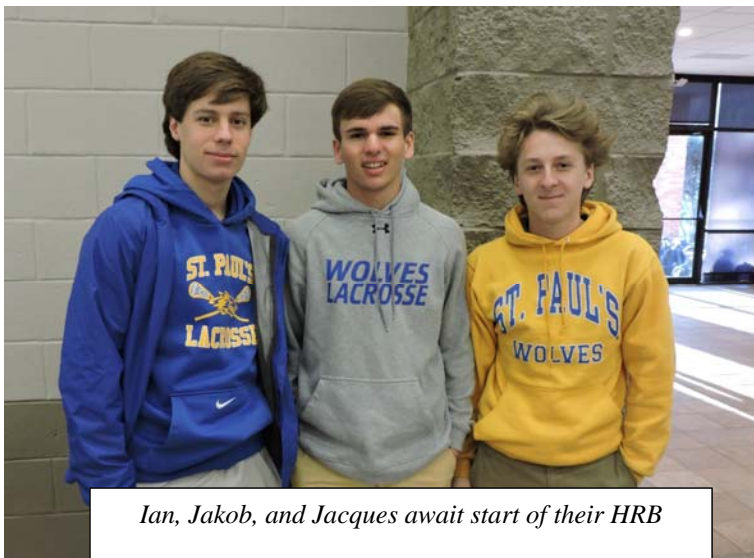
- **Basketball:** District wins over F’bleau, Slidell (thrilling!) and Northshore have the Wolves leading District.
- **Bowling:** Wolves defeated Albany 19.5 to 7.5 HIGH SERIES: SPS – Jonathan Wellmeyer with 463 pins. High Scorers for SPS were Jack Bertucci 215, Cole Bordelon 183, Joseph Brown 201, & Peter Bertucci 203
- **Career Day:** All went well! Thanks, Alumni & Development



Team! Juniors were responsive. These alums spoke:

- CPA-Michael Sciortino 2003, Sciortino Financial, LLC
- Engineer-Phil Nuss 1972, Gulf Coast Shipyard Group, Inc./Trinity Yachts
- Attorney-Chad Danenhower 1992, Danenhower Law Firm, LLC
- Veterinarian-Dr. Jason Farrell 1993, Hickory Small Animal Hospital
- Vocation/Lasallian Volunteer- Jeff Ramon 2008, Saint Paul’s School Campus Minister
- Architect-Justin Greenleaf 2004, Greenleaf Lawson Architects
- Dentist-Joel Burvant 1999, Burvant Family Dentistry
- Construction –Adam Martin 2006, Faith Division Manager, Kent Design Build, Inc.
- Nursing -Garland Ogden 1993, Registered Nurse, Vascular Access Centers

- **Debate:** Our newly formed debate team entered their first tournament on Sat, the Riverdale High School Speech and Debate Tournament in New Orleans. Congrats and thanks to **Tyler Beard, John Bergeron, Jack Hanks, Hal Fox, Reece Grimley, & Mason Samples**. Thanks to **Ms. Christina Zapata & Mr. Robert Heap** for moderating the group. Results? Tyler Beard and Johnny Bergeron won 3 of 4 rounds. Hal Fox and Reece Grimley won 4 of 4 rounds and advanced to Semifinals! Mason Samples and Jack Hanks diligently took notes, observed every round to critique, and recorded the highs and lows of arguments.
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Thanks for your cooperation. The combined levels in the BAC worked well. A few parents lamented the loss of the more “intimate” cafeteria setting, but the overwhelming majority understood and, overall, things worked well. I thought the breakfasts were very positive and affirming events – but I want even more student present! As usual, I gave a vocabulary lesson. I encouraged the boys to be *Ebullient Non Pareils* (*enthusiastic, high-spirited unrivaled persons*) and never to be *Splenetic Nimrods* (*angry, cross, peevish, irritable, silly fools.*) At the senior breakfast, Dr. Paul van Deventer, representing the SPS Renaissance Board, gave wonderful, real world advice to our seniors. I am grateful to Shellie Campo and our Physical Plant crew for logistics and Hwy 190 Chick-fil-A manager Rick Gonzales for excellent food service.
- **Lacrosse:** I think they played but I have no info. Perhaps the weather postponed their game.
- **LHSAA:** After the LHSAA rejected Trevor Watkins’s attempt to appoint Craig as his proxy vote on Friday’s convention voting, Trevor traveled to Baton Rouge to cast his vote. He also sponsored a proposal to allow wrestling coaches a voice in where the state meet is held! In my 30 years as principal, I never sponsored one thing! The Clarion Herald praised Trevor by name for this move – which is apparently a big deal. All attempts at undoing the “select v. non-select” split in sports failed.
- **March for Life:** Our Wolves represented us well in Washington, DC! Hope you saw the video they made!
- **Mass:** Our first 2018 mass was wonderful. Thanks to the many parents who attended.
- **Soccer:** Big wins over Mandeville & F’bleau claim a District Title for SPS.
- **WW II Veteran Talk:** The 94-year-old vet was wonderful and students responded very positively.
- **Wrestling:** Michael Algero placed 5th in Ken Cole Tourn, and Jr Hi Wolves did well at Holy Cross: 1st Grant Nastasi Jake Houser 2nd Ethan Viator Ryan Blanchard 3rd Daniel Dufour Jack Boudreaux



Ian, Jakob, and Jacques await start of their HRB

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

Marching Wolves begin their Mardi Gras season with parade appearances in Eve, Olympia, and Carrollton. We offer them our thanks for being such great ambassadors of SPS. And thanks, Band Boosters, for all you do to make this possible!

Mardi Gras: As we begin Mardi Gras season, I again worry about the temptations to which our students will be exposed. Parents: please speak with your sons about proper behavior if they are going to attend parades. As per our handbook, we reserve the right to take disciplinary action for improper behavior off campus. I pray for their safety during this season and will hold my annual “good, bad, and ugly” assembly on Tuesday.

Money at School: Parents, please stress with you son that they should NOT bring large sums of money to school. There is no need for students to have large cash amounts – which they invariable talk about which tempts others.

The Paper Wolf: The Journalism Class updates the DIGITAL Paper Wolf each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. The Scholastic Press Association recently named TPW BEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER in the STATE of LOUISIANA. Wow! We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. Support the staff and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here’s the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

Parent – Teacher Conferences will be next Monday, Feb 5, between 5 – 7 pm. The format is the same we used in November: teachers will be in the BAC and parents can visit with some or all of their son’s teachers.

Phones: Please stress with your sons the need to follow school phone rules. Students must turn OFF phones in class and may only use them outside (between classes or at lunch.) A \$10 fine is assessed for violating the rule – which, unfortunately, is happening way too frequently.

Registration of Current Students for 2018 - 19: Here’s the process:

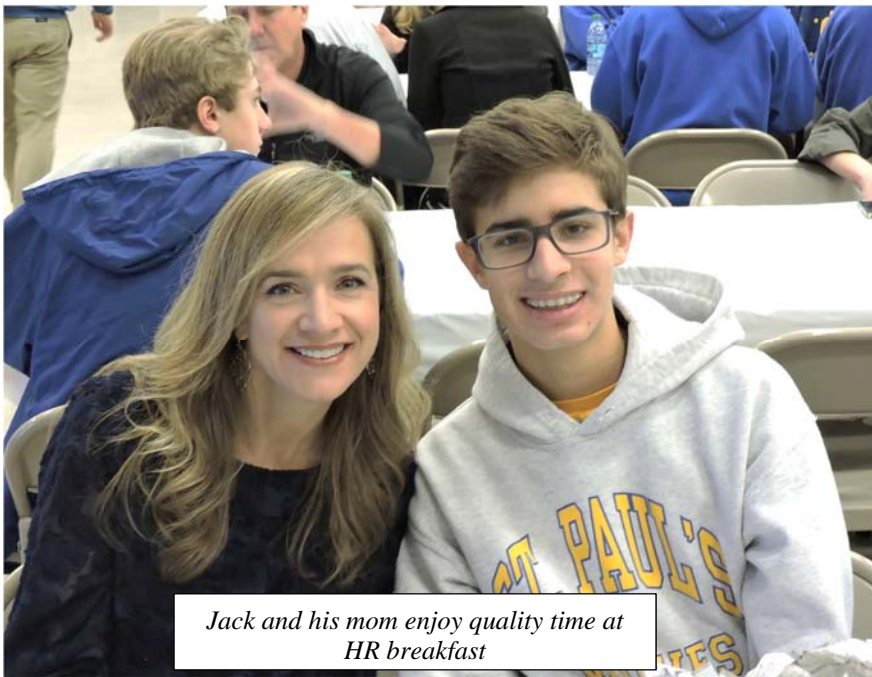
- Current 8th graders were emailed registration materials last week. Please observe the Feb 2 deadline. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new (if any) 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be emailed registration materials this week, with a return deadline of Feb 7th.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don’t have to worry about registering for SPS next year! Rejoice!
- In all re-registration for 2018 - 19, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **If your son is not returning to SPS next year, please let me know so I can accommodate those students who are applying for next year.**

Service Hours: As a Lasallian Catholic institution, we are called to demonstrate "Concern for the Poor and Social Justice." Our school wide response to this calling is our Serve Ten program. Every St. Paul's student is required to complete a minimum of ten (10) service hours during the school year. Service hours must be completed and submitted by May 1st, 2018 Acceptable service is that in which you volunteer with a charitable organization (like the Covington Food Bank and local churches), assist the elderly, help someone 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. You can find service hour forms on the SPS Edline homepage under "Links". Completed forms should be signed and turned in to the drop-off box in the library. You can also send electronic submission of the forms as well as any questions relating to service hours to Mr. Ramon (j.ramon@stpauls.com)

Social Media: Want up-to-date news on all of the good things happening at Saint Paul's School? Get event and classroom pictures, latest scores, calendar reminders, and spiritual uplifting by liking our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana/> or following us on Twitter @SPSWolfpack. The strength of the Wolf is in the pack! Many thanks to Mimi Montiero for maintaining our social media information.

Student Council: SPS Student Council is selling Valentine Candy grams for \$1 to be delivered to SSA on Thursday, February 8. Please see a Student Council member to order prior to Feb. 6.

Tu BiShvat: At sunset **January 30** and through sunset on **January 31**, our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate Tu B'shvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees Day. This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Our Jewish brothers and sisters mark the day of Tu B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds that are singled out



Jack and his mom enjoy quality time at HR breakfast

by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. On this day we remember that “man is a tree of the field” (Deut 20:19), and reflect on lessons trees can teach us. Here’s a New Year’s “examination of conscience check list” for trees:

- *Did I grow towards the sun as a tree should, reaching up higher and higher towards that which I can never grasp, but which nurtures me all the same the more I strive towards it?*
- *Did I shelter the seedlings that live in my shade -- so they will grow up to be a next generation like myself?*
- *Did I make sure my roots remain firmly planted in the soil that nurtures them, and did I drop my leaves there in the fall to give back life to that which sustains me?*
- *Did I ensure that my fruits were sweet and nourished all that came to enjoy them? Did everyone walk away from me with a smile?*
- *Did I bend gently in the wind, accepting what G-d sends but never breaking or giving up hope?*
- *Did I grow in strength and wisdom with each new ring this year?*
- Come to think of it, not a bad checklist for us humans either!

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, pants, etc: We have a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts and khaki pants and sweatshirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just have your son come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have a number of khaki pants available – all for the taking.

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 a recent 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.

Warm Hearts: The Annual Lasallian Leaders “Warm Hearts” drive begins Monday, January 29. Please donate new or gently used blankets, hats, gloves or socks – anything that can keep someone warm. We will distribute the collections in three civil parishes. Our goal is to collect 1000 items. There will be collection bins set up outside of Ms. Suzy's office, in the LaSalle lobby, and at Founder's Circle.

Weekly Humor: Some school jokes in honor of Catholic Schools Week:

- Q: *Why did the music teacher need a ladder?* A: *To reach the high notes.*
- Q: *What do you call the leader of a biology gang?* A: *The Nucleus*
- Q: *Why did the two 4's skip lunch?* A: *They already 8 (LOL!)*
- Q: *Name a bus you can never enter?* A: *A syllabus*
- Q: *Why do chemistry professors like to teach about ammonia?* A: *Because it's basic material.*
- Q: *What did one math book say to the other?* A: *Don't bother me I've got my own problems!*
- Q: *Why did the teacher write on the windows?* A: *Because he wanted it to be very clear*
- Q: *Why did the student throw his watch out of the school window?* A: *He wanted to see time fly.*
- Q: *Why do they never serve alcohol at a math party?* A: *Because you can't drink and derive...*
- Q: *What do you say when you are comforting a grammar policeman?* A: *There, Their, They're [LOL!]*
- Q: *What's another name for Santa's elves?* A: *Subordinate Clauses.*
- Q: *Why did the student take a ladder to school?* A: *Because he was going to high school!*
- Q: *What's a teacher's favorite nation?* A: *Expla-nation.*
- Q: *Why didn't the skeleton go to the school dance?* A: *He didn't have anybody to take.*
- Q: *Why didn't the quarter roll down the hill with the nickel?* A: *Because it had more cents.*
- Q: *What happened to the plant in math class?* A: *It grew square roots.*
- Q: *Why did the chicken cross the moebius strip?* A: *To get to the same side [Get a math teacher to explain this!]*
- Q: *What kind of school do you find on a mountain top?* A: *Heights school.*
- Q: *Why is a math book always unhappy?* A: *Because it always has lots of problems.*
- Q: *Why is 6 afraid of 7?* A: *Because 7 8 9*
- Q: *What is a chalkboard's favorite drink?* A: *hot chalk-olate!*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

A Look Ahead:

January

- 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
- 13 – ABCD – Pack Time
- 14 – EFGA



- 15 – BCDE - Junior Retreat/Angola
- 16 – FGAB – Junior Retreat/Angola
- 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

Help us renovate Benilde Hall by donating to the Annual Fund. Naming rights are available if you really want to help us!

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 - 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! Enough for now.

Even though it's 2018, 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 move into February! Again, thanks for being part of the 2017 - 18 edition of Saint Paul's! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can't Believe It's the End of January and I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



.....by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, and letting Our Lady of the Star guide us to God!



*Legacy Students – all of these current students had either a father or grandfather attend SPS!
The tradition continues!*

