



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

## *Celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christian Brother Ownership of SPS*

### *August 06 – 12, 2018*



*St. John Baptist de La Salle*

Once again, welcome to 2018 - 19 school year – the beginning of the eighth year of our second century of life! 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: **Saint Paul's Founding Brothers**. To Lasallians, this icon is most appropriate, as we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the sale of Saint Paul's College (as it was called then) by the Benedictines of Saint Joseph Abbey to the Christian Brothers.

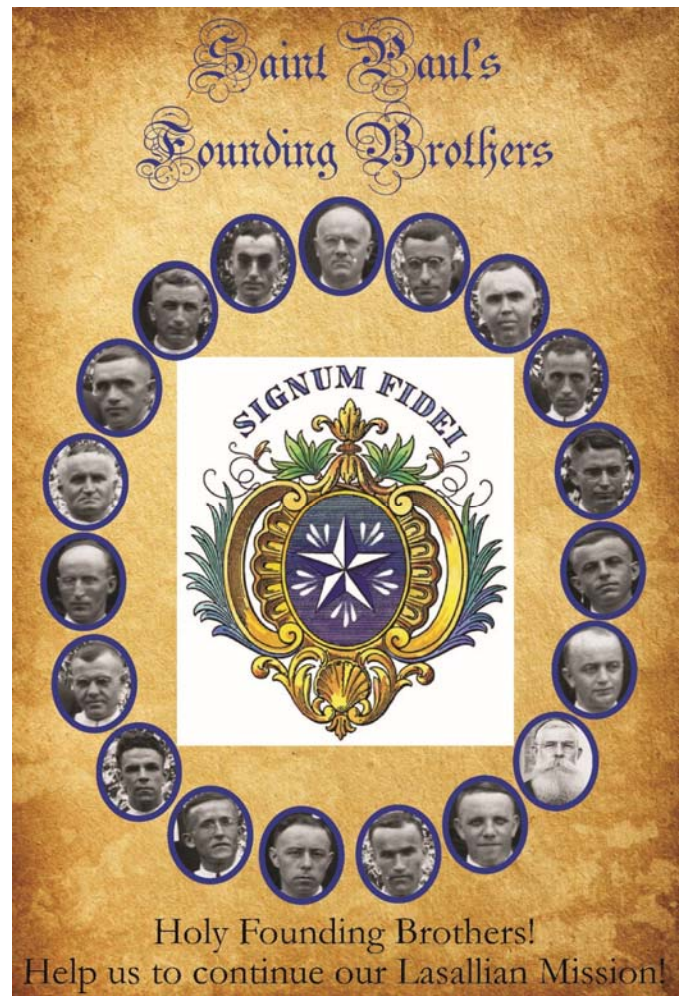
I hope you know the story of how this happened: in the early 1900's, the French government outlawed religious institutes. The Brothers, along with other religious congregations, had a decision to make: leave the Brothers or leave the country. While many chose the former, a courageous group chose the latter – and thus the Lasallian Mission was brought to many parts of the world.

One group of these exiled Brothers landed in Mexico. They learned the language and opened schools. Around 1914, a Mexican revolution overran the area where these Brothers were teaching and they, literally, escaped with their lives and ended up in the United States – where they again had to learn the language and find suitable employment. Eventually, they learned that the Benedictines of St. Joseph Abbey wanted to sell Saint Paul's College and the rest, as they say, is history.

Over the next few months, I'll be expanding on this foundational story, which is nothing short of miraculous. And so this year, we remember our Founding Brothers – and ask they intercession with Almighty God to help us continue our Lasallian Mission.

**I encourage you, as parents, to stress our foundational story with your sons this year – and learn what a courageous and committed group can do with God's help.** You and your sons will hear more about this theme from me throughout the year.

**Holy Founding Brothers!**  
**Help us continue our Lasallian Mission!**



## Mon, Aug 6

- **Feast of the Transfiguration:** *In a resplendent cloud, the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.* May we listen to the Lord on this first day of school – and every day throughout the new school year!
- **This Day in History:** In 1945, at 8:16 am Japanese time, an American B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay*, drops world's first atom bomb, over city of Hiroshima. Approximately 80,000 people are killed as a direct result of the blast, and another 35,000 are injured. At least another 60,000 would be dead by end of year from the effects of the fallout. We pray that never again will atomic weapons be used.
- **Did You Know (SPS Centennial Trivia):** 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.
- **National Fresh Breath Day:** Floss, brush, rinse with mouthwash, and carry mints! 'Nuff said!
- **National Root Beer Float Day:** Celebrate the opening of school with this iconic summer treat!
- **International Forgiveness Day** (always first Sun in Aug): Let's all make an effort to forgive.
- **Faculty Meetings**



## Tue, Aug 7

- **Purple Heart Day:** Today in 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington created the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with the word Merit across the face. The badge was presented to soldiers for "any singularly meritorious action" and permitted its wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge. After the war, the decoration was largely forgotten until 1927, when the US Army Chief of Staff sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to "revive the Badge of Military Merit." On February 22, 1932, Washington's 200th birthday, the U.S. War Department created the "Order of the Purple Heart." We remember all American soldiers who have been wounded and thus earned The Purple Heart.
- **TDIH:** The US Congress overwhelmingly approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Lyndon Johnson nearly unlimited powers to oppose "communist aggression" in Southeast Asia. The resolution marked the beginning of an expanded military role for the United States in Vietnam.
- **Did You Know (SPS Centennial Trivia):** 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."



- **Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day** -- Buy anything lately that was particularly hard to get out of the box or plastic wrap? What do we older people do when even mainstream society can't open a simple bottle of aspirin, let alone a milk carton?
- **Faculty Meetings**
- **8<sup>th</sup> & New 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation (4-8):** Our Lasallian Young Leaders have a great program planned for our newest wolves. Thanks to Campus Minister Jeff Ramon and all who will be helping tonight.



*SPS students celebrate the Centennial of Christian Brother presence at SPS at St. Louis Cathedral on July 28<sup>th</sup>.*

### Wed, Aug 8

- **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 91 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 friendly, generous, concerned and compassionate spirit. *Ad multos annos, Frater Johannes!* Happy Birthday!
- **DYK:** St. Paul's had a radio station with the call letters SEQ. The station was housed in the attic of the main school building and was used in a course in wireless telegraphy and to send and receive messages during WW I
- **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.
- **Faculty Preparation Day**



**Thu, Aug 9 (First Day of School – a full day; periods A B C D only meet)**

- **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 38<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **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.
- **Worldwide Art Day:** Celebrate art today! Draw, sing, write, paint, dance – look for ways to value art!

- **Book Lover's Day:** What a great day to open school!
- **This is a FULL DAY OF CLASS INSTRUCTION.** Students must be in their Block A class by 8:00 am. **Traffic has not gotten any better of late, so please allow plenty of time for prompt arrival.**
- **Important Info About Uniforms for Thursday, August 9:** On Thu, August 9, 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 Thu, Aug 09. How will you know? Refer to class schedule that you should have received by now. If you have not received a schedule, contact me.
- Books will be in the classrooms and teachers will distribute them directly to students.
- **Yearbook Distribution for Class of 2018 – 5-6 pm in cafeteria.**

#### **Fri, Aug 10 (Assembly Schedule; E F G A)**

- **Important Info About Uniforms for Friday, August 10:** On Fri, August 10, students with religion class in periods E, F or G wear DRESS UNIFORM for pictures. Students who had their pictures taken on Thu wear regular uniforms.
- Students only need to bring materials for periods A B C & D on August 9. They only need to bring materials for periods E F G & A on August 10.
- **TDIH:** In 1776, news of the July 4<sup>th</sup> Declaration of Independence reaches King George III of England.
- **TDIH II:** In 1945, Japan announces it will surrender, following the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.
- **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 S'mores Day!** Celebrate the opening of school and make some s'mores with the family!

#### **Sat, Aug 11**

- **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.)

#### **Sun, 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!
- **Middle Child Day:** As a middle child myself, I'll celebrate!





*Chris and Andrew were banner carriers at mass in St. Louis Cathedral in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coming of the Christian Brothers to Archdiocese of New Orleans*

**I draw the following to your attention (in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance).  
Some items are repeats from last week's newsletter as they bear repeating.**

**Academic Success:** Help your son develop proper attitudes and habits for success. Show confidence in his ability; work with him to set realistic academic goals. Help him develop an orderly study environment. Teens enjoy chaos, so the trick is to help your son create enough order in his chaos for proper study to occur. Designate a place and time to study. **Require 1-2 hours of study per night. Do not accept the "I have no homework" excuse.** He always has homework -- review, study, and advanced preparation. At the end of his study session, have him organize books, assignments, PE clothes, etc. for the next day.

**Annual Fund: Last call for the 2018 Annual Fund, which ended on July 31 but it's not too late to be "in that number"!** Thanks to all who contributed, making all of our improvements possible. The President's Annual Fund Appreciation dinner will be held on Aug 29 for all who have contributed at the \$1000 level. I am humbled about how many fall into that category!

**Apology:** In the final newsletter of last year, when I listed all of the major award winners, I omitted then junior, now senior, Jonathan Wellmeyer for earning the Order of Saint La Salle medal --which is given to students who earn 100 or more service hours in the course of the year. Congrats, Jonathan, and I'm sorry about the omission!

**Athletic Call-Outs:**

- **8th Grade Football:** A meeting will be held in the old gym soon after school starts. 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 Coach Kevin Moore in Room B 201 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](mailto:rachelp@stpauls.com). Practices will begin August 8th, so be sure to have an updated physical on file!

**Attendance Office:** Please following all SPS attendance regulations as found in the Student-Parent Handbook and make Suzanne's job as easy as possible. Thank you for your cooperation. The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Please do not allow your sons to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**

**Band:** Become a Marching Wolf, one of the premier organizations around! See Mr. Andrew Moran, band director, in the band room. Beginners welcome! We are at 90 Marching Wolves! That's wonderful, but I want 100 in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christian Brother ownership of Saint Paul's.





*Benilde Hall is nearing completion.*

**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 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. The bottom floor contained study halls and recreation rooms. When SPS dropped 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade. When we dropped 7<sup>th</sup> 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! Here's the status of naming opportunities:

Media Area (Wolf Den)

**SOLD**

Retail Area

**SOLD**

Computer Lab (Br. Ray's Classroom)

**SOLD**



Video Production Studio (Guerilla Wolves, News Broadcast)	\$50,000
Publishing Room (Paper Wolf, Yearbook)	\$20,000
Campus Minister's Office	<b>SOLD</b>
5 Display Cases	<b>SOLD</b>
Outdoor Covered Patio with Seating	<b>SOLD</b>

### **2nd Floor**

Spanish Classrooms (3 still available)	\$15,000 each
Faculty Office	Sold

### **3rd Floor**

Religion Classrooms	All sold
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- Contact Danielle in the Development Office or me if you are interested in one of these naming opportunities. I am most grateful to those who have already responded.

**Book Store:** The Mothers' Club Bookstore opens on:

Aug 6, 2018	Bookstore Opens	9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Aug 7, 2018	Bookstore Opens	9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Aug 8, 2018	Bookstore Opens	9:00 am to 3:00 pm

All required school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Our regular bookstore hours of operation will start on Monday, August 7.

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am
- M – F: 11:15 am - 12:45 pm
- By appointment. Email [spsbookstore16@gmail.com](mailto:spsbookstore16@gmail.com) or text Angela Rovira at 985-788-3679

**PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds not help fund wonderful activities throughout the year and campus needs. For example, the MC funded over \$20,000 worth of school projects this past year.

**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.

**Car Lines:** There is no absolute designated drop off spot. Be patient the first few days of school as traffic patterns form. Safety is paramount, so if you use Founder's Circle as a departure point, **cars must drop off students in Founders Circle in the LEFT lane only** – you may not block traffic in the right lane to discharge the occupants. Dropping off at La Salle Hall or by the BAC is OK. Traffic will be heavy heading into Covington this week as schools open. Please plan accordingly.

**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 – not during class time. 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.



**Centennial Celebration:** On Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of people filled St. Louis Cathedral to celebrate with the Christian Brothers of the San Francisco New Orleans District on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brothers' continuous service in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The assembled included three archbishops, numerous priests, over 30 Brothers (including General Counselor Brother Tim Coldwell, all the way from Rome), affiliated members, students from the four Lasallian schools in the Archdiocese, and many, many alumni and parents of students, past and present. Following a very moving mass, guests were invited to visit a special centennial collection at the Old Ursuline Convent, tracing the last 100 years. Following that, guests were invited to a special celebration on the Steamboat Natchez, which cruised the Mississippi River – showing our Brothers from the West what Southern hospitality and celebration is all about. It was a magical day. Special thanks for former SPS Vice President for Development, Brother Gale Condit, who was responsible for organizing the events of the day, and to the many generous benefactors who underwrote the celebration. Ad multos annos, Lasallian education in the Archdiocese of NO! BTW, the Ursuline Convent display will remain for the entire month of Aug.

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

#### Dances:

- **Back to School Dances:** The SPS Student Council will host the **10th, 11th, and 12th graders** from St. Paul's and St. Scholastica Academy and their guests at the Back to School Dance on **Friday, August 10 from 7-10PM** in the Briggs Assembly Center on St. Paul's Campus. All students must arrive no later than 7:30PM and may begin to leave at 9:30PM. All students will be breathalyzed upon entry. The \$10 admission includes water and DJ. Attire is appropriate casual attire that reflects the assigned class theme: Sports Sophomores: FIFA Juniors: NBA Seniors: Olympics
- The SSA Student Council will host the **8th and 9th graders** from St. Paul's and St. Scholastica Academy at the Back to School Dance on **Friday, August 17th from 7-9PM** in the SSA gym. All students must arrive no later than 7:15PM and may begin to leave at 8:45PM. All students will be breathalyzed upon entry. The \$10 admission includes water and DJ.
- **Homecoming Dances:** The Junior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Sep 22. The Senior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Sep 29.



**Dress Code:** Students must comply with the dress code beginning Aug 9. WE INTEND TO INCREASE OUR ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRESS CODE THIS YEAR. Refer to previous newsletters or the student handbook on our website for particulars if you are still unsure. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts in good condition. If the family budget is tight, feel free to ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to those families who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.**

**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!

**Edline – has ceased to exist. See PlusPortals below!**

**Email Addresses:** An SPS email address (printed on the schedules) is issued to all students. The format is Firstname.Lastname.gradyr@stpauls.com, e.g. [John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com](mailto:John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com). This will allow us to better communicate with students. The student may keep this email forever, thus allowing us to continue contact with him as an alumnus. Naturally, we will delete the email upon graduation at the student's request. Your son's email will be printed on the schedule that you receive. **Since 95% of our communication with you is via email, please let us know if you change your email address.** And check your spam filter as sometimes our emails end up there.

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

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

**Helping Saint Paul's:** Don't forget – If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase! We also collect Box Tops for Education (have your son bring them to his math teacher) and we receive a portion of sales from Amazon Prime. These are painless ways to help SPS.

**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.**

**Information:** Need More Information? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, or Assistant Principal Joe Dickens. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call me if I can help. **My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1001 & my cell phone is 985/966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com or hit "reply" to this email!**



*Principal and Mrs. Trevor Watkins prepare to bring the gifts to the altar at the Centennial Mass at St. Louis Cathedral last week.*

**Jazz ‘n Roll:** J n R XXVII is Sat evening, Nov 10. If you have questions, auction items and/or would like to work at J n R, call Shellie Campo at 892-3200, ext. 1273. More info to come, but mark your calendars!

#### **Last Week Musings:**

- **New Teachers:** Our new teachers spent last Tuesday in getting SPS oriented and Thursday in getting Lasallian World oriented at the St. Anthony campus of Christian Brothers School along with new teachers from the other three Lasallian schools of NO. (Can you name them?)
- **Faculty Advisory Board** spent Wednesday & Thursday preparing with Joe and Trevor.
- **Teacher Meetings:** Thanks to those who prepared our time together for this week. We are ready – I think.
- **The Mothers Club** deserves a shout out as the bookstore will be open long hours this week. They also will provide us with great lunches and supply 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **Wolf Tracks:** Congrats to Danielle Lavie for another great issue.

**Let Us Remember....:** Four 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.



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

- The **Mothers' Club New Moms' Reception** is Monday, Aug 13th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Briggs Assembly Center. ALL SPS new moms are invited to this event. All moms automatically belong to the Mothers Club, so get involved.
- We will hold a welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** on Mon, Aug 20 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 next 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](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/>

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

**Orientation for 8<sup>th</sup> & NEW 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** Our Lasallian Student Leaders are planning an Orientation Session for our incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders and NEW 9<sup>th</sup> graders on Tue, August 7, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. An invitation was sent to you, and we hope you have marked this date on your calendars and plan to be present. Naturally, attendance is optional, but the evening will be a fun and informative introduction to SPS. Do not worry, however, if you cannot make it. We will “orient” you when school begins. Please RSVP by emailing our Lasallian Youth Leader moderator, Mr. Jeff Ramon, at [j.ramon@stpauls.com](mailto:j.ramon@stpauls.com) so we can plan.

**PlusPortals** is our new on-line grade and homework site. You should have received an email from Assistant Principal Joe Dickens with your unique log in code. Please activate your account and check it regularly.

**Safe Environment:** all individuals planning to volunteer with St. Paul's must complete safe environment training. Here are upcoming training dates

- 8/9 OLL 10:00 – 11:30 am
- 8/22 OLL 7:15 – 8:45 pm



*Mothers' Club Bookstore is well-stocked and ready for business. Thanks, MC!*

**School Mass:** Our first all-school mass is Wednesday, Aug 15 – Feast of the Assumption.

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

**School Pictures:** Ordering pictures is optional; an order form was mailed to you and will soon be posted on our web site. If you wish to order pictures, please have your son bring the order form and check with him on the day he is scheduled to take his picture (see above) – either Aug 9 or 10.

**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 Schedules:** Class schedules were emailed last week if tuition payments were current. If you request a change, read info on the schedule sent and follow directions. Changes will be made for only serious reasons. A \$25 fee will be charged unless we made a mistake.

**School Supplies:** All needed school supplies are posted on our school web site ([www.stpauls.com](http://www.stpauls.com)). Just click on the link at the bottom of the homepage. Supplies are listed by TEACHER, so check your son's class schedule that was emailed last week. While we encourage you to shop at the Mothers Club bookstore, if **you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!**

**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 Parents:** Note the following **upcoming special senior events in Senior Week, Aug 20-24:**

- **Senior Class BBQ, Wed, Aug 22, 5 – 7 pm.** Appropriate casual attire required.
- **March through the Arch, Thu, Aug 23, at 8 a.m.** Senior parents are encouraged to attend this traditional "rite of passage" ceremony for our seniors. SPS dress uniform required.
- **Senior-Parent Continental Breakfast** following the March. The breakfast will be in the cafeteria and "al fresco" (from the Italian meaning "in the fresh" -- in this case, fresh air! We will have some outdoor seating.) Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by complimentary lunch and then Ring Ceremony practice. I will dismiss them following practice – 2 pm at the latest. Seniors may remain in dress uniform or change to regular school uniform after the breakfast.
- **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional ceremony, a highlight of the senior year. ALL seniors are required to attend the ceremony whether they are receiving a ring or not. And, yes, family rings can be used. Seniors' dress for the ceremony is dress shirt, tie, slacks, shoes and socks.
- **Fri, Aug 24, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.**

**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!

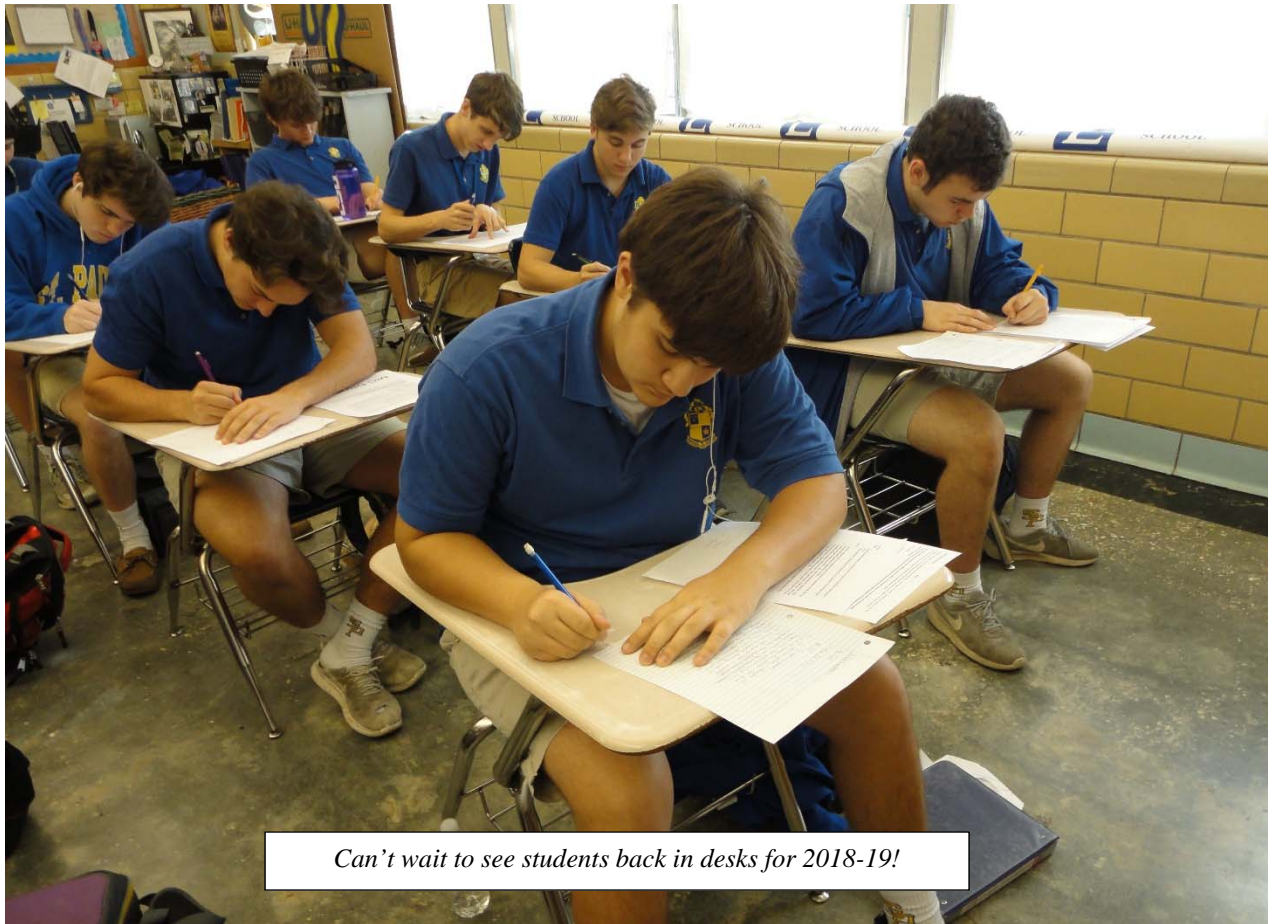
**Student Hosts:** Student Hosts will recruit and enroll new and returning members during the first few weeks of school in preparation for service at Jazz N Roll, Open House, Drama productions, Celebrity Waiters and other events. Students should see one of the ladies in the Development Office for information.

**Student-Parent Handbook Signature Card:** The Student-Parent Handbook is posted on the Student Life page of our website. All students and parents must be familiar with our policies and agree to follow them. As evidence of that agreement, **students and parents must sign a form attesting that they have read the**

**Handbook, understand the rules contained within the document, and intend to follow them. Print out the signature card (posted on the website under “recent news” and which is also the last page of the handbook) and bring it on August 9.**

**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 Thu or Fri. **Senior parents: these pictures are NOT the senior portraits,** which will be taken in Sep.

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



**Sustained Silent Reading:** Shortly after the start of school, we will 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.



**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 improving the traffic flow and safety:

- 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 13<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson St. or the parking lot at LaSalle Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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:** Some teacher jokes to start off the school year:

- *On his test, Billy was stumped as he didn't know any of the answers. So he wrote: God alone knows the answers. His teacher wrote on the test: God gets an A. You get an F.*
- *What does up but doesn't go down? Your age!*
- *Teacher: Give me an example of the past tense. Student: I don't know as I was absent yesterday. Teacher: Correct!*
- *Why did the egg laugh? It cracked up!*
- *Johnny: Would you punish me for something I didn't do? Teacher: Of course not. Johnny: Good cause I didn't do my homework!*
- *Boy: The principal is a dummy! Girl: Do you know who I am? I'm the principal's daughter! Boy: Do you know who I am? Girl: No. Boy: Thank Goodness!*
- *Teacher: How can you prove the earth is round? George: I can't and I never said it was!*
- *Teacher: Do you pray before eating dinner? Bobby: No. My mom is a really good cook.*
- *Father: Where's your report card? Son: My friend has it; he wants to scare his parents!*
- *Teacher: George, go to the map and find North America. George: Here it is. Teacher: Correct. Now, class, who discovered North American? Class: George!*
- *Teacher: Why did Washington stand in the bow of the boat crossing the Delaware? Student: Because he knew if he sat down he would have to row!*
- *Teacher: Where is your homework? Student: I lost it fighting a kid who said you weren't the best teacher in school.*
- *Tommy: I dropped out of school. Billy: Why? Tommy: I failed everything but history. Billy: How do you explain that? Tommy: I didn't take history.*
- *Teacher: Have you ever broken a bone? Billy: yes, but it didn't hurt. Teacher: Which arm did you break? Billy: my brother's right arm!*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

## **A Look Ahead – Far, Far, Ahead:**

- M-T, Aug 6-7 Faculty Meetings
- Tue, Aug 7 New student orientation (5:30 – 7:30; details will be sent as date approaches)
- Wed, Aug 8 Teacher Preparation Day
- Thu, Aug 9 Classes begin; Full Day of Instruction; periods A, B, C, & D meet
- Mon, Aug 13 Mothers Club Welcoming Social for New SPS Moms
- Wed, Aug 15 All School Mass (Feast of the Assumption) Dress uniform day!
- Sat, Aug 18 Football Meet the Team
- Mon, Aug 20 New Parent Welcoming Reception and Informational Meeting (6:30 in the BAC)
- Thu, Aug 23 Senior March through the Arch, Unity Day, Ring Ceremony (6:30)
- Fri, Aug 24 Senior Ring Holiday
- Mon, Sep 03 Labor Day Holiday
- Tue, Sep 04 Parent Mini-Schedule Night (a change from Aug 27 as printed on some calendars)
- Thu, Sep 13 All School Mass in honor of the Centennial Arrival of the Christian Brothers to SPS
- Sat, Sep 15 SPS Math Tournament
- Sat, Sep 22 Homecoming Dance (grades 8 & 9)
- Sat, Sep 29 Homecoming Dance (grades 10, 11 & 12)
- Tue, Oct 02 On-campus ACT for seniors
- Fri, Oct 05 SPS Alumni Golf Tournament
- Fri, Oct 12 End of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter; 11 dismissal followed by Grandparent Day
- Mon, Oct 22 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Sat, Oct 27 Open House for Prospective Students
- Thu, Nov 01 All School Mass (Feast of All Saints)
- Mon, Nov 5 Archdiocesan Retreat Day for all schools; no classes for students
- Sat, Nov 10 Jazz 'n Roll
- M – F, Nov 19 – 23 Thanksgiving Holidays
- Thu, Dec 06 Luminarias
- Wed, Dec 19 End of 1<sup>st</sup> 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
- Sat, Jan 12 Application Day for Prospective Students (8 – noon); Football Awards Ceremony
- Fri, Jan 25 All School Mass (Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul)
- Wed, Feb 20 On campus ACT for juniors
- Fri, Mar 01 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
- M-F, Mar 4 -8 Mardi Gras /Beginning of Lent holidays
- Wed, Mar 13 Mother-Son Dinner
- Mon, Mar 18 St. Joseph Altar Day
- Thu, Mar 21 Celebrity Dinner Event
- Sat, Mar 23 Father-Son Dinner
- Sat, Mar 30 Junior-Senior Prom
- Sat, Apr 13 Alumni Crawfish Cook-Off
- F-F, Apr 19-26 Easter Holidays (not “spring break”)



- W-F, May 1-3 Senior exams
- M-T, May 13-16 Pre-freshman exams
- Fri, May 17 Pre-freshman promotion ceremony (6:30 pm)
- Sat, May 18 Senior graduation ceremony (4 pm)
- M – T, May 20-23 Semester exams for grades 9 – 11
- Fri., May 24 Conflict exam day
- Mon, May 27 Faculty Records Day
- In case of emergency closings, we will make up days from scheduled holidays. **Note that school begins with all students reporting on Thursday, August 9th at 8:00 am for a full instructional day.** Also, please check the calendar for vacation dates and do not schedule vacations in conflict with school. Thank you for recognizing the need to make the most use of our academic time.

Whew! That's enough for now! And I guess I wasn't as brief as I had hoped! Sorry!

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 from its website as it no longer broadcasts but I'm still 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

Anxious to Start the 2018-19 School Year as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

**“Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.”**

~ St. John Baptist de La Salle (Meditation 99.2)

