



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter

Celebrating 100 Years of Christian Brothers at SPS



Dec 10, 2018 – Jan 06, 2019

MARANATHA – Come, Lord!

Welcome to the second week of Advent and the final full week of the first semester – and my final newsletter for 2018!



Last week's Festival of Lights bathed our campus with beauty and inspiration. While 1000+ luminarias glowed softly but strongly on a cool, south Louisiana night, sounds of Christmas emanated from the caroling assemblage in Founders Circle and the melodic strains of our Jazz Band. A highlight for me was the talk by student council treasurer **Paxton Ballard** at the prayer service. I offer Paxton's words:

Welcome to Luminaries. St. Paul's is glad to welcome all of you into a great tradition that has helped mold St. Paul's into what it is today. As you have all seen in the stands, the word "Frere" was chosen for this Advent season. Traditionally, a Latin word has been chosen as the theme for Luminaries. However, this year, in commemoration of our French roots and Lasallian culture, a French word has been chosen.



300 years ago, the patron saint of teachers and the founder of the Brothers of Christian schools, St. John Baptist de La Salle, entered into eternal life. 100 years ago, the Christian Brothers found their way to St. Paul's and helped craft it into what it is today.

St. La Salle started his religious order in a way that was marked by a special comradery. This is why he chose the word "Frere," or brother, to refer to the members of his order. Brother is a word that envisions students as equals and allows for more of a mentor-like way of teaching. He understood that students spend almost as much time at school as at home, so he wanted to create a community of family within his schools.

100 years ago, after being banished from France, fleeing to Mexico, and then being banished from Mexico, The Christian Brothers found their way to Covington, Louisiana, where they have remained since.

Through all the hard times, the sense of brotherhood has held the St. Paul's community together. This phrase "Brotherhood" is thrown around a lot here at St. Paul's, but what does it really mean?

I love the quotation from Justin Addison, which you can find on the bench in front of the chapel: "What is evident at St. Paul's is our sense of brotherhood, both with our St. Paul's classmates and the Lasallian community across the globe. The presence of God drifts about our campus like a thick perfume, One can feel it, One can smell it."

I'm reminded of this quote every day, not because I walk past that bench on my way to the cafeteria, but through my daily interactions with my brothers here at St. Paul's. Yet, this sense of brotherhood here at St. Paul's is more than just a feeling, it's a call to action--a call to rise up as children of God.

So, during this season of Advent, I encourage you all to rise up in this community, and to be children of God like St. LaSalle intended.

Thank you, Paxton. You have enriched my Advent. Our Holy Founding Brothers smiled with delight last Thursday, as did Justin. Maranatha! Come, Lord!

Mon, Dec 10 (Regular; E F G A)

- **This Day in History:** In 1830, famous American poet Emily Dickenson is born. Read Emily today!
- **TDIH:** In 1896, Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel died in Italy. His will stipulated that his substantial estate be used to recognize persons who make valuable contributions to humanity. Today, Nobel Prizes are awarded in chemistry, physics, medicine, economics, literature and peace on the anniversary of his death. Each prize is valued at \$1 M.
- **TDIH:** In 1898, The Treaty of Paris was signed between the US and Spain following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. The US gained the Philippine Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico and Spain withdrew from Cuba. The treaty passed by a single vote in the US Senate and was signed by President William McKinley.
- **Human Rights Day** promotes awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlights the efforts of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions.
- **Dewey Decimal Day:** Today honors the birthday of Melvin Dewey who created the numerical classification of books used by libraries, known as Dewey Decimal System. If you are really bored, listen to the Dewey Decimal System Rap at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHUQb5xg7A#t=26>. Visit the library and review the DDS!
- **Basketball:** 8th v. PJH (5), 9th & JV v. Lakeshore (6 & 7)
- **Hanukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, ends today at sundown. We hope it's been wonderful!**



Juniors enjoy Mothers' Club Snack Day last week!

Tue, Dec 11 (Regular, B C D E)

- **TDIH: In 1941,** Germany declares war on the US, bringing the US into the European WWII Theater of operations.
- **TDIH: IN 2013,** we dedicated the **Alumni Veteran Plaque** in La Salle Hall. The late Mr. Harry Friedman '33 donated funds for a memorial to all SPS Alumni Veterans. The plaque is hung by the ROTC classroom. I doubt if many of us even know about this plaque, much less have taken the time to look at it and perhaps read some of the names. Sad. And I'm guilty, too, as I just walk by it so many times. In view of today's TDIH, it was an appropriate day for dedication. We give thanks for all who have so served our country, especially our SPS alums. Let's remember them! alumni Director Al Nastasi is updating the plaque.



Wed, Dec 12 (F G A B C; yes, it's a five period day)

- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Patroness of the Americas. Again, God shows his love for the poor. Mary assumes the form of an Indian lady and uses Juan Diego, a peasant, to bring the Message to all. This is a special day for Mexican people, since the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located in Mexico City. We pray, too, for the great Mexican Lasallian institutions.
- **This Day in History:** In 1901, Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi sends the first radio transmission across the Atlantic, disproving detractors who said that the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles or less. The message--simply the Morse-code signal for the letter "s"-- traveled more than 2,000 miles from Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland, Canada.
- **National Poinsettia Day:** Admire this iconic Christmas plant! The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett, an American botanist, physician and Minister to Mexico who in 1828 sent cuttings of the plant he'd discovered in Southern Mexico to his home in Charleston, South Carolina.
- **Athletic College Signings:** 7 of our seniors will sign this morning in the BAC
- **Wrestling:** Varsity v. F'Bleau
- **Soccer:** Varsity at East Ascension

Thu, Dec 13 (Regular; D E F G (A review) – five periods)

- **TDIH:** In 2000, Vice President Al Gore concedes defeat to Texas Governor George Bush for the presidency, following weeks of legal battles over the recounting of votes in Florida.
- **Basketball:** 8th at PJH; Gene Bennett Memorial (Varsity v. St. Thomas)
- **Soccer:** JV at Mandeville; 9th v. Hannan

Fri, Dec 14 (Dress Uniform Day for Mass)

• SPECIAL EXAM/MASS/PRESIDENT'S ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| • 8:00 -8:15 Prayer, Roll and Announcements | 8:15 – 9:45 | Period A Exam |
| • 9:50-10:50 Advent Mass | 10:55- 11:40 | Period B Review |
| • 11:40-12:25 Lunch | 12:30-1:05 | President's Assembly (Gym) |
| • 1:05-1:15 Break | 1:20 – 2:05 | Period C Review |
| • 2:10 Dismissal | | |

- **TDIH:** In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole in Antarctica, marking the first time that humans reached the southern end of the Earth's axis. In 1799, George Washington, our first president, dies at his home in Mount Vernon, VA. He was 67 years old.
- **Monkey Day:** "Monkey business" is officially allowed today. Saint Paul's will NOT be celebrating this day!
- **Basketball:** Varsity v. Franklinton (7:30)

Sat, Dec 15

- **TDIH:** In 1791, Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making the first ten amendments to the Constitution law.

- **TDIH:** In 1939, *Gone with the Wind* premieres in Atlanta (where else?) and shocks audiences when Rhett Butler (Clark Gable) says to Scarlett O’Hara (Vivian Leigh): *Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn*” – an unheard of use of profanity in those days! Oh, for those days!
- **TDIH:** In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announces that US would recognize Communist China and sever ties with Taiwan, reversing long-standing US policy.
- **TDIH:** In 2005, ten million Iraqis take part in the first democratic election since defeat of Saddam Hussein.
- **National Cat Herders Day:** For all of you cat lovers, herd ‘em up today! But this is also a day to attempt an impossible task – like herding cats.
- **Basketball:** Varsity v. West Jeff (3:30); 8th & 9th at Brother Martin (10 & 11)
- **Alumni Basketball Game (following varsity)**
- **Soccer:** 9th & JV at Baton Rouge; 8th in Bro. Martin Tournament; Varsity in MS Showcase (Gulfport)



Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

- Sun, Dec 16 – Third Sunday of Advent; Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday for the coming of the Lord is near!**
- **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day:** Feel free to celebrate!
 - **TDIH:** In 1773, the “Boston Tea Party” occurs when Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British ships in Boston Harbor and dump 342 tea chests in the water. The three ships holding were built in America and owned by Americans. The [Boston Tea Party Ships & Museums](#) also states hundreds took part in the event, with 116 individuals taking credit for it. The Sons of Liberty carefully planned and executed the Boston Tea Party according to the museum, which could have attributed to the absence of violence and confrontation. The three-hour event occurred on Dec. 16, 1773, because "American colonists believed Britain was unfairly taxing them to pay for expenses incurred during the French and Indian War," according to Historic Tours of America.
 - **TDIH:** In 1944, the infamous Battle of the Bulge began and would last until Jan 25. This was a final and desperate attempt by Adolph Hitler to force a negotiated peace treaty with the Allied Forces on the Western Front. Caught unprepared, the Allied Forces suffered over 20,000 casualties before defeating the German army.



Biomed Wolves tour LSU Medical School

Mon, Dec 17

- **Today** begins the "final days of Advent", characterized by the "O Antiphons" taken from the Liturgy of the Hours. Today's antiphon: ***O Sapientia:** O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.*
- **TDIH:** In 1903, Orville & Wilbur Wright fly the first powered, controlled, heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, NC. The flight wasn't much - 12 seconds, 120 feet. But it was the first controlled, sustained flight in a heavier-than-air craft, one of the great moments of the century.
- 8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
- 8:30 -10:00 Period B Exam
- 10:00-10:10 Break
- 10:10-11:40 Period C Exam
- 11:40-12:25 Lunch
- 12:30-1:15 Period D Review
- 1:20-2:05 Period E Review
- 2:10 Dismissal

Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

Tue, Dec 18

- ***O Adonai:*** *O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai: come; stretch your hand & set us free.*
- **TDIH:** In 1777, the new United States celebrates its first national day of thanksgiving, commemorating the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga after the surrender of General John Burgoyne.
- **Bake Cookies Day:** Indulge!
- 8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
- 8:30 -10:00 Period D Exam
- 10:00-10:10 Break
- 10:10-11:40 Period E Exam
- 11:40-12:25 Lunch
- 12:30-1:15 Period F Review
- 1:20-2:05 Period G Review
- 2:10 Dismissal

Wed, Dec 19

- ***O Radix Jesse:*** *O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for his people: come to save us without delay!*
- 8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
- 8:30 -10:00 Period F Exam
- 10:00-10:10 Break
- 10:10-11:40 Period G Exam
- 11:45 Dismissal
- 12:00 Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon

Thu, Dec 20 – Sun, Jan 6 -- Christmas (not winter) Holidays! You are on your own for athletic events, TDIH, National Whatever Days, H of the W, W of E, etc.

Mon, Jan 7, 2019 -- School resumes at 8; regular; second semester begins A B C D



Jack, Hyde, & Austin place luminarias along DLS Drive.

Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!



Santa & Mrs. Claus give snacks to the seniors!

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

ACT Prep: SPS is very proud of our ACT scores – but we want to do even better. And ACT Prep is a marathon, not a sprint – it can't be done a week or two before the test. The time to start is years ahead. AP Joe Dickens promotes the following two sites that provide a free ACT question of the day. Encourage your son to use these resources. Make it a family activity! Have fun with competition! Here are the links:

- <https://academy.act.org/> (a lot like Khan Academy regarding its prep work and video tutorials)
- <https://www.varsitytutors.com/act-questions-of-the-day> (a lot like Khan Academy regarding its prep work and video tutorials)

Christmas holidays provide lots of time to do some ACT prep!

Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

Adopt-a-Family: This school year, we will be partner with St. Tammany Project Christmas. We have "adopted" 35 children from 16 families in St. Tammany Parish. Each of these children has three wish list items that have been shared with the religion classes. As in the past, we will collect for monetary donations through your son's religion classes to fund the purchase of the wish list items. In lieu of a monetary donation, if your family would like to purchase any of the wish list items, please reach out to Mr. Ramon for those details. In lieu of the above items, the sacrifice of time by helping shop for gifts and gift delivery to Project Christmas is always needed and appreciated. For any questions, please contact Mr. Ramon (j.ramon@stpauls.com) Gifts will be delivered on Tuesday, December 11 (delivery to St. Tammany Project Christmas HQ)



Wolves shop for Adopt A Family Program

Adopt a Family Project, Mission Collections, and Other Worthy Causes: We encourage our students to be generous with these causes. However, I again want to reassure parents that we DO NOT want to cause an economic hardship for our families. Please speak with your son about charitable giving. Perhaps you can reread as a family the parable of the Widow's Mite. Our teachers are aware that not every student can give a lot – or even give at all. Let me know if your son is feeling uncomfortable with our appeals. And that goes for you, too. Let's face it – tuition does NOT cover the cost of running Saint Paul's. Hence, we have fundraisers. As stated above, I've launched our Annual Fund Drive, and if you can give, that's great. If not, I understand but ask that you pray for Saint Paul's. In turn, we pray for financial health for all.

Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

Admissions for 2019 - 20: Yes, we are already looking ahead to next year. Here's how you can help:

- **If you know any family who might be interested in SPS, please encourage them to apply. We are committed to helping any family who wants to belong to the SPS family to do so.**
- **If a family missed Open House but still want to see the school, have them call for an appointment and I'll be happy to show them around.**
- **We rely on current and former families to spread the word about SPS! I know I can count on you!**



Ian gives the gift of life.

Advent: *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near!* Our students are singing these words in chapel at the beginning of each period's religion classes during Advent. It's a powerful moment in the faith life of our students. Ask your son about it.

After School Issues: Assignment Hall and detention are in full operation. Parents, please stress with your sons the need to do homework and follow rules. And if your son does end up in AH or detention, please establish a procedure for him to follow so that you are not wandering around looking for him. We tell the AH student to call their parents. We will provide a phone if needed.

The Annual Fund: Thanks to all who have responded so far. I am humbled by the response. But I need everyone to participate. No gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large! Let me know if you have questions. If you would like me to meet with you, I would be happy to do so.

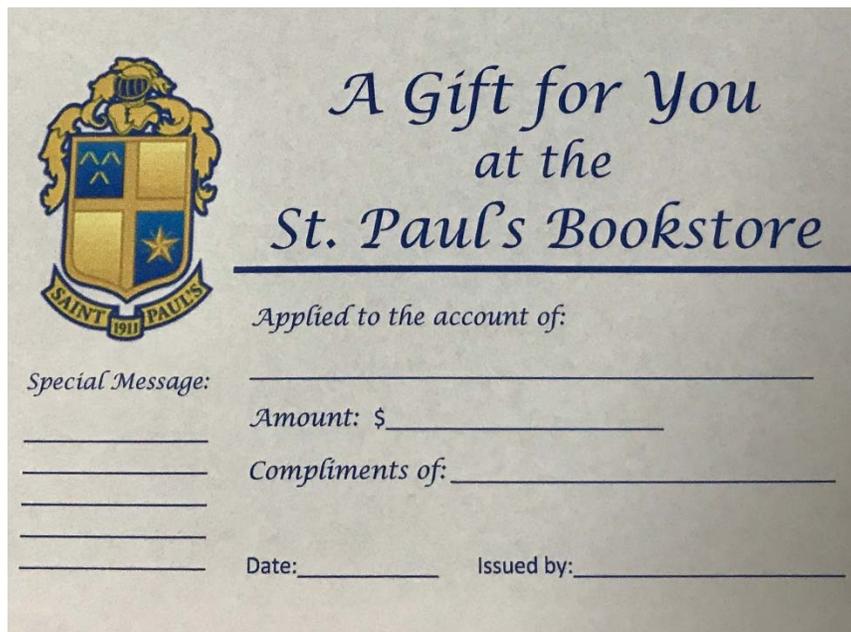
The Annual Fund and Grandparents: We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son's

grandparents or, if you want, I'll be happy to send them the information directly if you wish. Just provide me with the information. **I do not want to ask grandparents without your consent but we need their support.** I have already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift too small – and, of course, no gift too large.

Application Letters Excerpts: Here are some more memorable lines from next year's application letters:

- *I have never been a person to like school, but my first interaction with St. Paul's was so enjoyable that I think I can really learn to like school. [You can! Give a try!]*
- *As I stepped foot on campus, I felt the presence of God around the area and within the students. [Me, too!]*
- *At St. Paul's I will be supportive to those people who are on the fringe or seem lost. Everyone deserves kindness! [He has the Lasallian spirit!]*
- *I would be a good student at St. Paul's because I do not get in trouble, I do all of my work and rarely miss any school days. I always try to do my best at everything I do. [That's all we ask!]*
- *I believe I can be a great asset to St Paul's. I am intelligent, studious, friendly, and put others ahead of myself. [Sounds like an ideal applicant to me!]*

Attendance: Our Attendance Office is taxed to the max. Under ordinary circumstances, it is difficult enough to keep track of the students. When you call Erin and request “immediate” dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your student and have him check in with the attendance office when he comes to school to get a dismissal slip for the time requested. This is the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can’t stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a message – we just don’t have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.



Bookstore Christmas Hours from the Mothers' Club: The Bookstore will be open on Monday, December 17th from 11 – 3, Tuesday, December 18 from 11 to 6, and Wednesday, December 19 from 7:30 – 12:30 for your shopping convenience. Come do your Christmas Shopping and take advantage of some great bargains! Winter has finally arrived, and we have some great new sweatshirts and scarves! Normal bookstore hours are weekdays 7:30-8:15 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm. All proceeds from the bookstore benefit of our students!

Gift certificates are now available!

Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

Calendar for 2019 - 20: Here is our tentative calendar for next year (for those who really plan!)

- M-W, Aug 05 – 07 Faculty meetings/prep days
- Thu, Aug 08 Full day of class instruction for SPS (public schools open on Aug 09)
- Thu, Aug 22 March through the Arch; Senior Unity Day; Senior Ring Ceremony
- Fri, Aug 30 Lasallian Formation Day for the four Lasallian schools in ARNO (no classes)
- Mon, Sep 02 Labor Day Holiday
- Fri, Oct 11 1st Q ends; Grandparent Day
- Mon, Nov 04 Archdiocesan Formation Day
- Mon-Fri, Nov 25-29 Thanksgiving Holidays
- Mon-Thurs, Dec 16-19 Semester Exams
- Mon, Jan 06: Classes resume & Second Semester begins
- Mon, Jan 20 Martin Luther King Holiday
- Fri, Feb 21 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
- Mon-Fri, Feb 24-28 Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays

- Fri, Mar 13 End of Third Quarter
- Fri – Fri Apr 10 - Apr 17 Easter Holidays
- Wed-Fri, Apr 29 – May 1 Senior Final Exams
- Fri, May 15 Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6 pm)
- Sat, May 16 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
- Tues – Fri, May 19 - 22 Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11

Remember that St. Tammany only has to schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools must schedule 177. So in the second semester, we will have two extra days.



Thanks to the Mothers' Club, the chapel is decorated for Christmas.

Cash Back Programs: Please keep the following in mind when you shop:

- AmazonSmile: 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 recently received a \$700 store credit from customers who gave 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..

Cheating: Parents, please stress with the sons the evil of cheating. An honest D is better than a dishonest A gained through cheating. The consequences for cheating are severe, so please stress with your sons the need to study – not cheat. It would be a terrible way to begin the Christmas holidays.

Christmas (not winter) Holidays: School close from Dec 19 in the afternoon through Friday, Jan 4. Teachers **will not** be available for grade discussions during this time. **The business office, counseling office, and administration offices will close.** Please anticipate any needs, e.g. transcripts, driver's license forms, etc. **I will be in my office on most days catching up, and feel free to call me. I will help if I can, but I don't always know how!** Thanks for understanding the need for the staff to have an uninterrupted Christmas break.

Christmas (not winter) Holidays II: I worry about our students over the holidays b/c of the temptations to which they will be exposed. Use any opportunity to encourage students to make healthy choices over the holidays. I offer the following from Psychemedics – a major drug testing company:

Early age marijuana use could have long-term consequences on your brain and it may even lower your IQ, according to a new study conducted at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. Researchers found that compared to nonusers, people who smoked marijuana starting as early as age 14 have less brain volume, or gray matter, in the orbitofrontal cortex. That's the area in the front of your brain that helps you make decisions. "The younger the individual started using, the more pronounced the changes," said Dr. Francesca Filbey, the study's investigator. "Adolescence is when the brain starts maturing and making itself more adult-like, so any exposure to toxic substances can set the course for how your brain ends up." Researchers also found increased brain connectivity in chronic users, important for adaptive learning abilities. It also helps your mind make associations. This wiring of the brain starts to deteriorate with chronic marijuana use. Dr. Susan Weiss, associate director for Scientific Affairs at National Institute on Drug Abuse said the study provides more strong evidence about the dangers of marijuana. "This is adds to the growing body of evidence that heavy marijuana use, particularly at a young age, is linked to significant adverse brain changes," said Weiss. "These mounting scientific findings certainly challenge the widespread belief that marijuana is harmless."

Alcohol is a drug. And every day, more than 4,750 American kids aged 15 and younger take their first full drink of this drug. That's according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA. Kids who start drinking before age 15 also are five times more likely to become alcoholics or abuse alcohol than are people who wait until adulthood for their first sip. Another problem for kids who experiment with this drug is that they are more likely than adults are to consume too much alcohol over a short period of time. What few people realize is that binge drinking poses many risks that go well beyond getting drunk and acting irresponsibly. People forget what happens when they are drunk because alcohol makes it harder for the brain to turn short-term memories into long-term ones. But for teens, alcohol's dangers go well beyond impairing memory. "For humans, this means binge drinking during adolescence may permanently change brain functioning," says Vivian Faden, a scientist at NIAAA. What's more, she adds, these changes "appear to be irreversible." Research has shown that teens who drink heavily lose more white matter in their brain over time than do teens who don't, Faden says. White matter acts a bit like the brain's superhighway system. It connects areas of the brain's so-called gray matter, which processes information. Alcohol also can hurt a portion of gray matter in a region known as the prefrontal cortex, Faden says. This area is used for attention, concentration, self-control and making decision. For full story, read: <https://student.societyforscience.org/article/alcohol-can-rewire-teenage-brainstory.html>

Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

Christmas (not winter holiday) Fun Fact Dept: The quintessential (love using that word!) Christmas song “Jingle Bells” was originally titled “One Horse Open Sleigh.” J.P. Morgan’s uncle, James Lord Pierpoint, wrote it in 1857 as a Thanksgiving song describing sleigh races. While it is now defined as ‘Christmas Music’, there is actually no mention of Christmas, or any other holiday, in the song. Another fun fact about Jingle Bells – It is the first song broadcast from space.

Cold Weather Gear: Only Saint Paul’s outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. We will handle this confidentially and appropriately.** Remember that ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

Driver’s License Requirement: A new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant either has received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high



Jonathon and Matthew fill luminaria bag with sand.

school prior to applying for a driver's license. These forms are available in the Counseling Office or in the Administration Building.

Drug Testing: We have begun drug testing, choosing students both randomly and “for cause.” Just because a student is tested does not mean he is suspected. Naturally, you may confidentially request that we add your son to the test list. We have committed more resources this year to increase the number of students tested. Know our policy by reviewing the handbook. A second positive result jeopardizes a student’s place at SPS. Pray that students resist the allure of temporary pleasure over finding true meaning in life.

Exams: Semester exams begin on Dec 14. I’ve printed the schedule below. Remember that exams are SEMESTER exams that will cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the

only grade that counts in GPA and the only grade on the transcript) will be averaged in the following manner: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the semester exam. Encourage your son, therefore, to take his exams seriously. **It’s time to start reviewing.** A good review lasts several days and avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son considerably in college.

Fortnite Addiction: Several reputable journals ran stories last week on a growing phenomenon: addiction to Fortnite. Here’s an article from The Denver Post: <https://www.denverpost.com/2018/12/02/fortnite-addiction-video-game-rehab/>

Some parents have even sent their kids to Fortnite rehab! I definitely am concerned for some of our students!

It's a Wonderful Life Rerun: I have printed this the last six years but it's worth another read, as *IAWF* is one of those Christmas classics that many enjoy seeing over and over. Here's what Director Frank Capra said about the film: *IAWL* wasn't made for the oh-so bored critics or the oh-so jaded literati. It was for my kind of people. ... A film to tell the weary, the disheartened, and the disillusioned; the wino, the junkie, the prostitute; those behind prison walls and those behind Iron Curtains, that no man is a failure. To show those born slow of foot or slow of mind, those oldest sisters condemned to spinsterhood, and those oldest sons condemned to unschooled toil, that each man's life touches so many other lives. And that if he isn't around it would leave an awful hole. A film that said to the downtrodden, the pushed around, the pauper, "Heads up, fella. No man is poor who has one friend. Three friends and you're filthy rich." A film that expressed love for the homeless and loveless; for her whose cross is heavy and him whose touch is ashes; for the Magdalenes stoned by hypocrites and the afflicted Lazaruses with only dogs to lick their sores. To shout to the abandoned grandfathers staring vacantly in nursing homes, to the always interviewed but seldom adopted half-breed orphans, to the paupers who refuse to die while medical vultures wait to snatch their hearts and livers, and to those who take cobalt treatments and whistle -- I wanted to shout, "You are the salt of the earth. And *It's a Wonderful Life* is my memorial to you!"



Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

Lasallian Vocations: Beginning on December 2, Lasallians throughout the world come together to celebrate the Year of Lasallian Vocations with the theme “One Heart. One Commitment. One Life.” The Year of Lasallian Vocations marks the 300th anniversary of Saint John Baptist de La Salle’s entry into eternal life and celebrates the impact of the mission he started. The yearlong celebration will take place during the 2018-2019 liturgical year, beginning on December 2, 2018, with Advent and concluding on November 24, 2019, with the feast of Christ the King.



Last Week:

- **ACT Administration on Sat:** All went well.
- **Adopt A Family:** Thanks to those who brought students to shop and to wrap. Donations have been generous.
- **Advent Devotions:** Strains of “Wait for the Lord” filled the chapel last week
- **Basketball:** A good week for the Wolves; Varsity beat S. Plaqueman & 9th beat Brother Martin.
- **Blood Drive:** Thanks to all who gave the gift of life – 47 pints!
- **Burgers to Benefit SPS:** Thanks, *Five Guys!*
- **Christmas Dance:** Lots of Christmas spirit in the BAC last Friday!

- **Cross Country Awards Banquet:** A good time was passed by all. Congrats, CC.
- **Luminarias:** Another magical night on campus. Paxton's reflection on "frere" was moving and meaningful. See for yourself by reading my introduction.
- **Mothers Club:** The MC outdid itself this week with a snack day, luminarias refreshments, and a sumptuous Christmas dinner for the Brothers on Saturday
- **Soccer:** I think we had games but I got know results. I'm sure we did well.
- **Wolf Packs:** Students enjoyed preparing luminaria bags, complete with an inscribed prayer.
- **Wrestling:** A great varsity win over Catholic BR! Geaux Wolves!

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.



The Paper Wolf: We have an award winning digital newspaper that was named Best in State last year by the LA Scholastic Press Association. Please subscribe and have your sons to do, too. And send the staff feedback. They love hearing from you. Congrats to TPW for the flurry of articles being written and published. The quality of writing is excellent. Here's the link: <http://thepaperwolf.com>

Re-Registration of Current Students for 2019 - 20: For those of you who plan ahead, here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. 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 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 2019 - 20, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about January admissions.**

Rosary: a group of students recite one decade of the rosary each morning in the chapel, beginning at 7:40 on M, T, Th, and F and following mass on W. They would love to have your son join them.

SAFE DRIVING: Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, NO CELL PHONE USE DURING SCHOOL ZONE TIMES, 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.

Senior Parents: Senior Retreat is just around the corner. You should have received an email with all the details from Renee Miller and Lee Pierre, retreat coordinators. If you didn't receive this email, please email Renee at reneep@stpauls.com or Lee at leep@stpauls.com. **Also, we still have a number of March Through the Arch photos. If you don't want it, that's fine – just let me know.**

Social Hosting: With the holiday season upon us, the temptations for alcohol use by students increases. One issue facing parents is hosting parties where teens are exposed to or even given alcohol. This is known as “social hosting.” Here is a brochure on this activity, which may have legal consequences. Mr. Hal Fox, owner of Fox Litho of Mandeville and father of Hal, provided the brochure. Here’s the link:

<http://fb.mediarelay.com/pbda246>

Social Media: Connect with the Wolves on Social Media to see the latest pictures and posts of all the wonderful events at St. Paul's School. The Facebook and Twitter feeds are on our newly re-vamped website, or you can follow us at

Facebook @St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana

Twitter @SPSWolfpack



Freshman Geometry students proudly display their staircase projects, built with geometric principles.

Spanish Cooking Club is looking for new members! Come join and enjoy some delicioso cuisine!

Study Hall After School: the library is open every afternoon (Monday-Thursday) until 4:30. Students are free to come and go by signing in and out. You are encouraged to mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who may be waiting for a late ride or a practice to begin. All we ask is that they treat the facility with respect and that they are quiet. The space will be supervised by faculty. We will offer this **service as long as there is a demand for it.**

Thanksgiving to Christmas: This period of the school year can be a challenge. While it should be a time of good will and cheer, often we find ourselves handling a crisis. The best

way to prevent any difficulty is through the Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance – which will be in full force. Teachers will teach until the very end. **Parents, please remind your students to adhere to ALL procedures & policies and to think before they act.** We will show care to the students, but we will be vigilant.

Tutoring: National Honor Society tutoring begins Tue, Sep 5, 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 a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just 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: Please speak with your son and make it clear that both you and the school (and the law!) completely disapprove of this insidious practice.

Vigilance: We've got 1 ½ weeks to go. The best way to prevent any difficulty is through the Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance – which will be in full force. Teachers will teach until the very end and proctor exams diligently. **Parents, please remind your students to adhere to ALL procedures & policies.** We will show care to the students, but we will be vigilant.

Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

Waiting Has Value: During Advent, a time of waiting, I remind all that the ability to “wait” is a chief characteristic for success in health, work, and life as shown by over 40 years of research at Stanford University. Beginning with the famous “marshmallow experiment” published in 1972 (children could choose to have one marshmallow now or two if they waited 15 minutes), researchers conducted follow up studies and tracked each child’s progress in a number of areas. **They found that the children who were willing to delay gratification and waited to receive the second marshmallow ended up having higher SAT scores, lower levels of substance abuse, lower likelihood of obesity, better responses to stress, better social skills as reported by their parents, and generally better scores in a range of other life measures.** The researchers followed each child for more than 40 years and repeatedly, the group who waited patiently for the second marshmallow succeeded in whatever capacity they were measuring. **In other words, this series of experiments proved that the ability to delay gratification was critical for success in life.** Now if we could only get our students to buy into this! Here is the full article: <http://jamesclear.com/delayed-gratification>



Miles, Colin, & Josh prepare to distribute luminarias.

Warm Hearts Drive: This week, we will conduct our 6th annual Warm Hearts Drive, collecting gently used cold weather gear (sweaters, coats, scarves, hats, gloves, etc) to distribute to the needy of our area. Started by SPS student Sean Noel, over 15,000 items have been collected and distributed over the years. Have your son bring any items to the library or school lobby. Contact Sean at sean.noel.2020@stpauls.com with any questions.

Weekly Humor: My traditional Christmas jokes:

- *Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus? A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.*
- *Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve? A: Okay everyone, sack time!!*
- *Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Snowflakes.*

- *Q: If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called? A: A subordinate clause.*
- *Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace? A: He wanted to sleep like a log.*
- *Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E? A: Because the angel had said, "No L!"*

- *Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Because it "soots" him!*
- *Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney? A: Pour Santa flush on him.*
- *Q: Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer now works for Proctor and Gambel b/c Comet cleans sinks*
- *Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? A: Claustrophobic.*
- *Q: Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? A: Because every buck is dear to him.*
- *Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive"? A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"*
- *Q: What's a good holiday tip? A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until the birds have gone south for winter.*
- *Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? A: It's Christmas, Eve!*
- *Q: What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month? A: The letter "D"!*
- *Q: What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? A: Santa Claustrophobia!*
- *Q: What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Black mail!*
- *And for the musically literate: Make out your Chopin Liszt early before Debussy season, when you have time to check out Verdi good bargains, can still get gifts Faure good price, not have to Handel large crowds and have time to give Bach things you decide you don't want.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

Dress uniform day on Friday, December 14!

A Look Ahead – Far, Far, Ahead:

- Thu, Dec 13 Exam reviews begin
- Fri, Dec 14 Semester Exams begin
- 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
- 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 /Lenten 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



Bookstore stocking caps are all the rage!

- 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 (6:30)
- Sat, May 18 Senior graduation (4 pm)
- M – T, May 20-23 Semester exams grades 9 – 11
- Fri., May 24 Conflict exam day
- Mon, May 27 Faculty Records Day

It’s not too early to plan for exams, so here is the first semester exam schedule:

First Semester Exam Schedule -- December 2018

Wednesday, December 12 – FGABC (5 period day) SPECIAL 5 PERIOD SCHEDULE

(68 min classes; 45 min lunch)

Chimes	8:00
Block 1	8:03-9:14
Block 2/SSR	9:21-10:44
Block 3	10:51-11:59
Lunch	11:59-12:44
Block 4	12:49-1:57
Block 5	2:04-3:15

Thursday, December 13 – DEFG(A)

Regular classes in periods DEFG - Review for Period A Exam

SPECIAL EXAM REVIEW SCHEDULE (76 min. classes)

8:00 – 9:31	Period D/CNN
9:38 – 11:09	Period E/SSR
11:09– 11:54	Lunch
11:50 – 1:15	Period F
1:20 – 2:26	Period G (Last class period of semester)
2:31 - 3:15	Period A Exam Review

Friday, December 14

SPECIAL EXAM/MASS/PRESIDENT’S ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

8:00 -8:15	Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:15 – 9:45	Period A Exam
9:50-10:50	Advent Mass
10:55- 11:40	Period B Review
11:40-12:25	Lunch
12:30-1:05	President’s Assembly (Gym)
1:05-1:15	Break
1:20 – 2:05	Period C Review
2:10	Dismissal



Jacques displays his pasta bridge using principles learned in physics class.

Monday, December 17

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:30 -10:00 Period B Exam
10:00-10:10 Break
10:10-11:40 Period C Exam
11:40-12:25 Lunch
12:30-1:15 Period D Review
1:20-2:05 Period E Review
2:10 Dismissal

Tuesday, December 18

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:30 -10:00 Period D Exam
10:00-10:10 Break
10:10-11:40 Period E Exam
11:40-12:25 Lunch
12:30-1:15 Period F Review
1:20-2:05 Period G Review
2:10 Dismissal

Wednesday, December 19

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:30 -10:00 Period F Exam
10:00-10:10 Break
10:10-11:40 Period G Exam
11:45 Dismissal
12:00 Faculty Christmas Luncheon in Cafeteria

Whew! I've worn you out again this week! **But the newsletter goes on Christmas (not winter) vacation so you get a break for the next two Sundays! The next newsletter will appear on Sunday, Jan 06.**

As usual, I'll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I wish I could listen to now and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

This is also my last newsletter for 2018 [I can hear you cheering!] As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace, I can think of no better way to end than to reprint the Lasallian Prayer for Peace which the Brothers pray at the end of their daily mass:

We pray to You, Lord, God of life and God of those who hope! Listen to our prayer for the whole world, for peace among all peoples, for prosperity in all lands. We pray to You that evil may be overcome and that all wars may end. We pray to you especially for the members of our Lasallian Family, who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance and for the children and young people

who are poor and neglected. We pray too, God, for peace in our lives; in our towns, in our schools, in our families and in our own hearts. We pray for a peace that the world cannot give us. We pray for a peace that will make us whole and transform us into ambassadors of justice for your sake. Lord, give us Your peace! Amen.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Ready to Rejoice for Christmas as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

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Have a blessed Christmas season! Thank you for the First Semester! Maranatha!



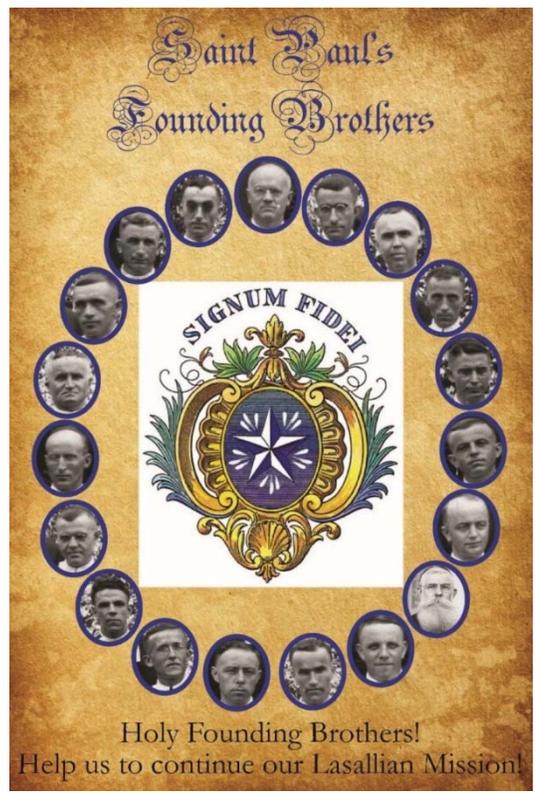
***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!***



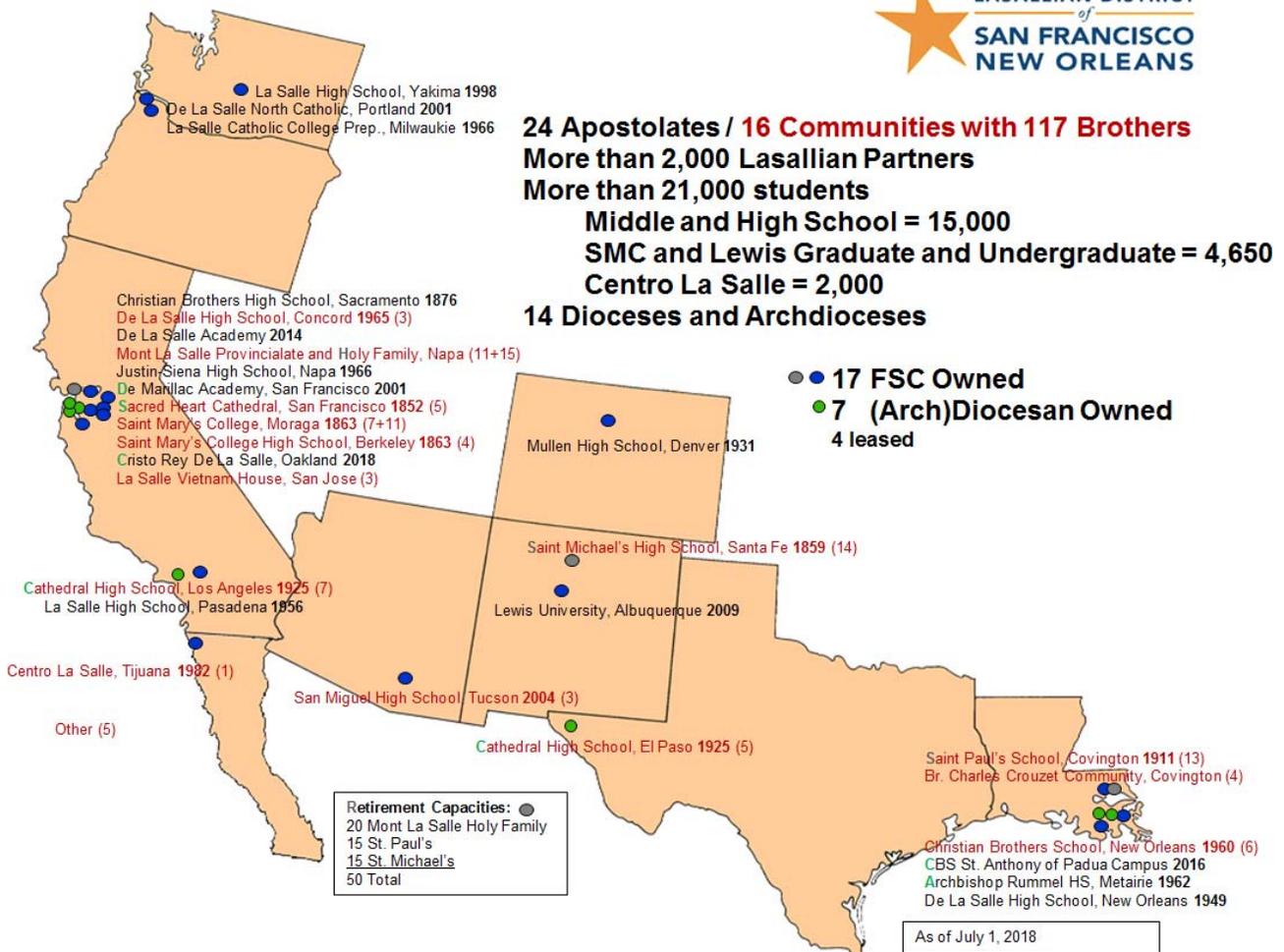
Photo courtesy of juniors Michael Valliant and Parker Pierson

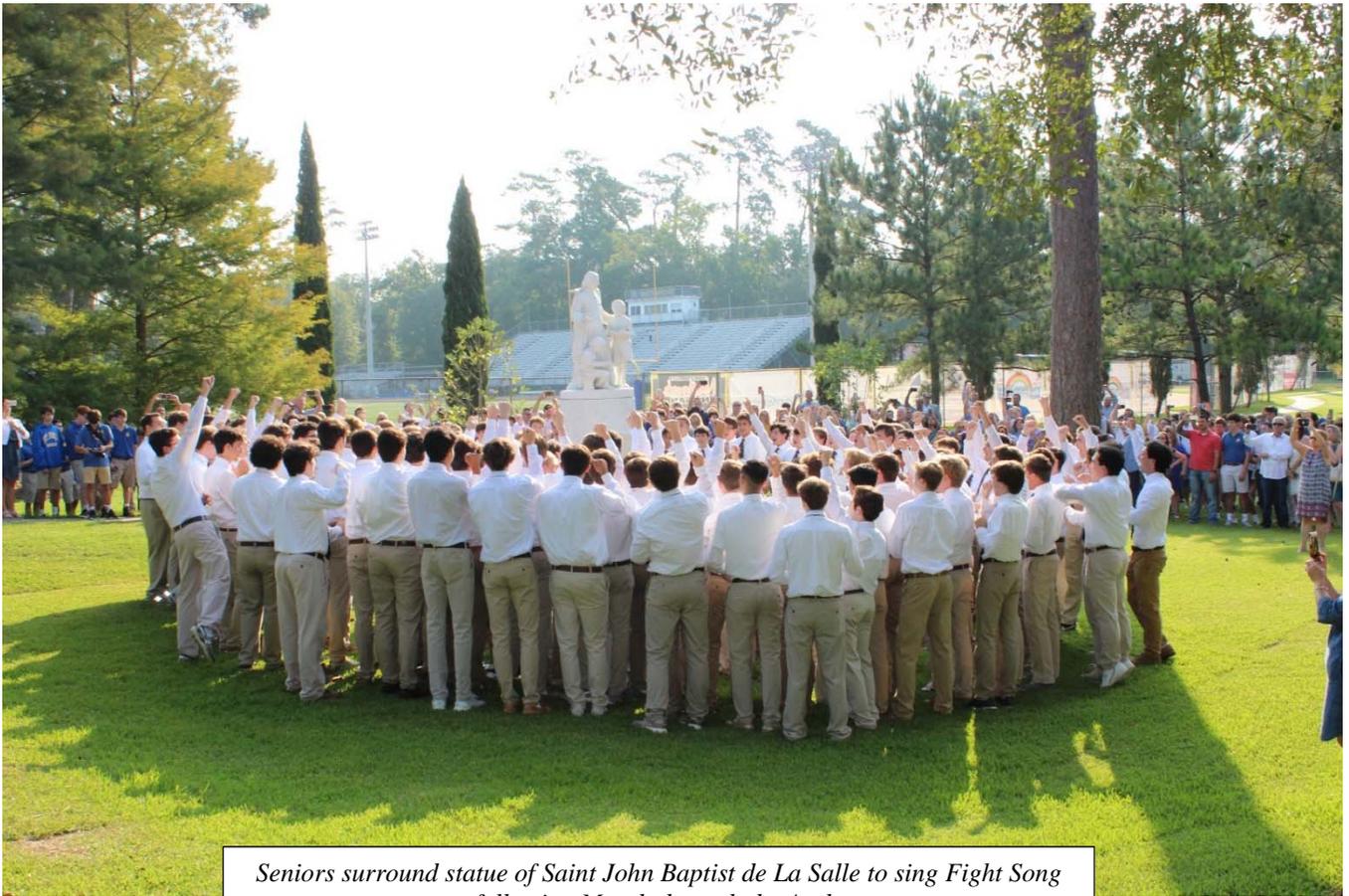


AP Scholars from the Class of 2019









Seniors surround statue of Saint John Baptist de La Salle to sing Fight Song following March through the Arch.