



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



January 28 – February 03, 2019

Welcome to the last full week of January! 1/12th (or 0.08333...% if you prefer) of 2019 is almost history!



Thomas leads a decade of the Rosary for Life

Today begins Catholic Schools Week, when Catholic schools throughout the United States celebrate and affirm the Catholic identity of our schools. The National Catholic Education Association has designated the theme of the week as "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed" and events this week will flesh out 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 challenges to their existence. Here in the ARNO, for example, the strategic plan designed to save Catholic schools already has caused changes. Archbishop Aymond has stated that the Catholic school system in NO will look very different twenty-five years from now than it looks today. In the past two weeks, for example, four Catholic schools in ARNO announced they are closing, and one new, special needs school will open.

We remember and celebrate, too, that SPS is not just a private or a Christian school -- we are a Lasallian Catholic school. We remind ourselves of John Baptist de La Salle, who Pope Pius XII proclaimed Patron of All Teachers. Faithful to 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.

St. La Salle said that "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 Lasallian Catholic education at Saint Paul's School!

Mon, Jan 28 (7:45 am faculty meeting; 9 am school start; A B C D)

- **Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas**, a Catholic intellectual giant. My personal favorite St. Thomas story is when he said that he learned more by kneeling at the foot of the crucifix than from all his university studies.
- **This Day in History:** In 1986, space shuttle *Challenger* explodes after liftoff, killing seven astronauts aboard.
- **Fun at Work Day:** Have fun today at work! Fortunately, I have fun every day by working at SPS. Note: some celebrate this day on Jan 25. OK with me if you celebrate on both days!
- **National Blueberry Pancake Day:** Enjoy!

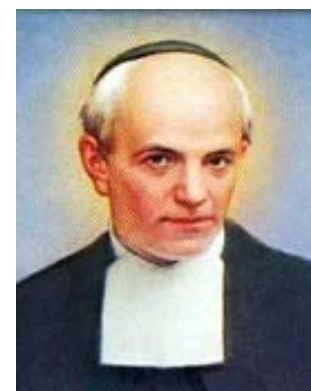
- **National Kazoo Day:** To celebrate kazoo playing in America, toot away today (does anyone still own a kazoo?) BTW, the kazoo was first introduced at the Georgia State Fair in 1852.
- **Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (always last Monday of Jan):** Feeling a little stressed? Get some bubble wrap and squeeze away! Feel the stress disappear with each Pop Pop Pop!
- **Bowling:** Wolves v. Holden at Tangi Lanes
- **Track & Field (Outdoor):** Practice begins today

Tue, Jan 29 (President's Assembly; E F G A)

- **In Memoriam:** Today is the two-year anniversary of the passing of 2014 alumnus Graham Jordan, an outstanding student, athlete, and person. We continue to pray for and with his family, who are SPS neighbors. I invite you to visit Graham's Memorial Tree and plaque today and offer a prayer for him and his family.
- **TDIH:** In 1845, E.A. Poe's "The Raven," is published. Enjoy rereading the poem today. "Nevermore!"
- **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?
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Hammond

Wed, Jan 30 (Senior HR Breakfast; assembly for pre-freshmen; B C D E)

- **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 perfecting 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!



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!

- **Career Day for Juniors**
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Hannan at Tangi Lanes

Thu, Jan 31 (Junior HRB; Assembly for seniors; F G A B)

- **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 and the Academy of Our Lady High Schools. We thank the Salesians for their work with the young people of the Archdiocese. Here's a sampling of some of John Bosco's words:



Pre-freshmen future scientists grow bacteria cultures in Julie Beck's Gateway to Technology classes.

- *Do good while you still have time. God does not pay us for results, but for effort.*
 - *Nobody can be truly happy in life unless he is at peace with God.*
 - *Put up willingly with the faults of others if you wish others to put up with yours.*
- January 31 also marks the 103rd 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!
 - **Journalism Wolves** travel to Loyola for spring conference
 - **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Livingston Academy

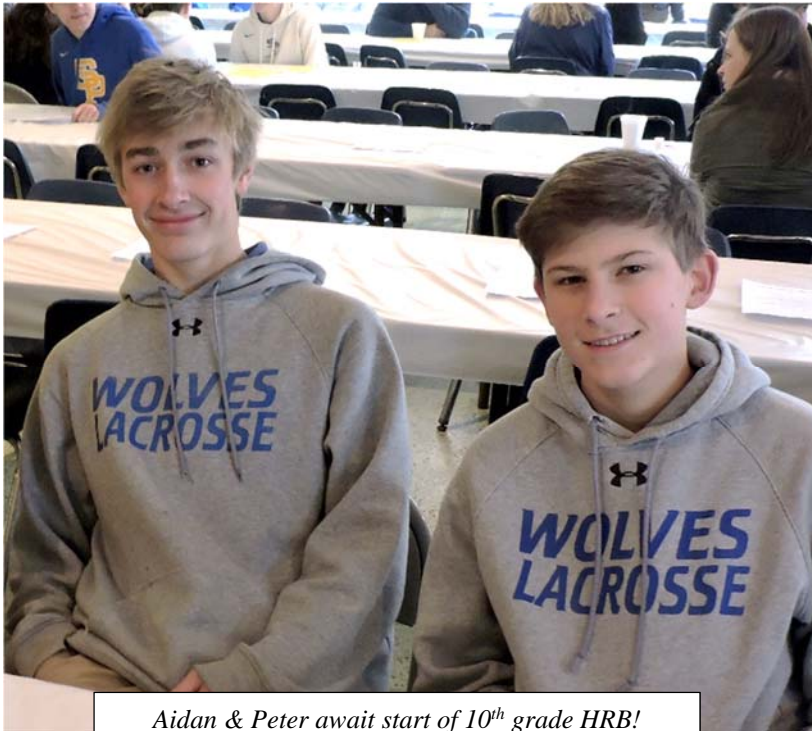
Fri, Feb 1 (Regular; C D E F)

- **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. 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)*



Barista Cole serves customer Waleed as Mr. Logarbo supervises in our very own PJ's.

- **National Working Naked Day:** Do what you want at home, but SPS is NOT celebrating this day!
- **Catholic Schools Week Mass:** A student delegation will represent SPS at the official Catholic Schools Mass at St. Catherine of Sienna Church at 10 am with Archbishop Gregory Aymond as celebrant.
- **OLL Pep Rally:** Marching Wolves will once again perform at OLL's Catholic Schools Week pep rally.
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV, & Varsity v. Covington (starting at 5)
- **Lacrosse Team Retreat**
- **Speech & Debate Team in Ben Franklin Tournament through Saturday**



Aidan & Peter await start of 10th grade HRB!

Sat, Feb 2 (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 devotion 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.
- **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 tidatm 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 this year.
- **Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (always 1st Sat of Feb):** Well, this one is up to you to decide to celebrate! Put a scoop on your crepes!
- **Robotics: SPS Tournament in BAC (8-5)** Saint Paul's School will be hosting a STATEWIDE VEX Robotics Competition today in the BAC. Games will begin at 9:00am and continue until 12:00 with an hour break for lunch. Competition will resume at 1:00 pm and continue until 4:00. If you have never seen a robotics competition, this is quite a sight to see. The Robo-Wolves would love to see you for a visit!

- **Basketball:** 8th v. Jesuit & Holy Cross at Holy Cross; SPS 9th Grade Invitational
- **Wrestling:** JF & JV State Tournament at Bro. Martin
- **Quiz Bowl:** Bro. Bill Parsons Memorial Tournament
- **Lacrosse:** JV A & B at Jesuit
- **Track (Indoor):** LSU Last Chance Qualifying Meet
- **Rugby:** Team travels to Houma

Sun, Feb 3

- **St. Blaise:** If today were not a Sunday, we Catholics would celebrate the feast of 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 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.



Soccer Senior Night! Thanks, Class of 2019 soccer players for outstanding seasons!

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

Admissions for 2019 - 20: We need your help:

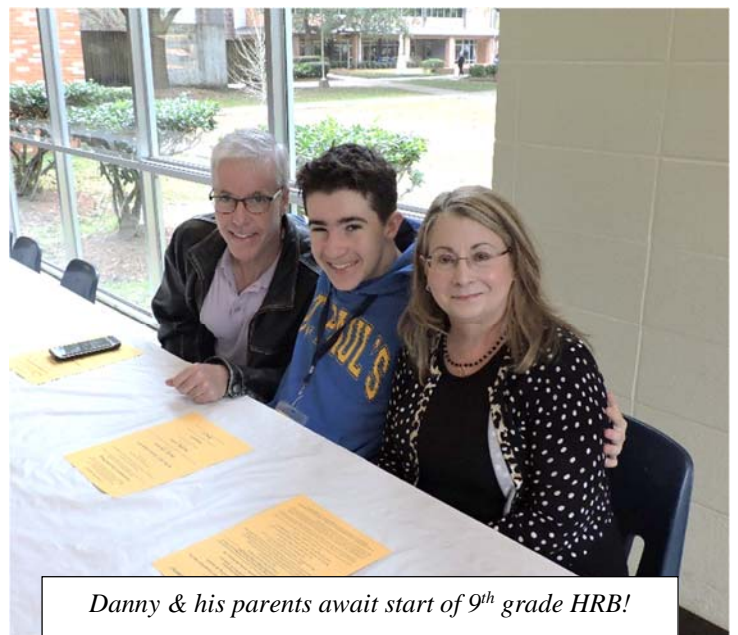
- **If you know a family interested in SPS, please encourage them to apply – even if they missed Application Day testing. We are committed to helping any family who wants to belong to the SPS family to do so.**
- **We rely on current and former families to spread the word about SPS! I know I can count on you!**

Annual Fund: Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high-pressured; ours is not – but I need your support to keep it from being high-pressured.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g. technology, special programs (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation and the \$4.5 million new gym.)
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- While we don’t send requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! If you would like to inform your son’s grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I’ll personally appeal. I’ll send them a nice “thank you” note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.
- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What’s important is that everyone participates. Of course, no gift is too large!
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

Application Letters: More unedited comments:

- *After my shadow day, I can clearly see that there is a place for everyone at St. Paul’s.*
- *By going to an all boy school, you become part of a brotherhood, which enables you to become a strong and independent student that is ready to succeed.*
- *Saint Paul’s will not only prepare me for college, but it will prepare me for life.*
- *The student tour guides for the open house also impressed me with the confidence they had in their school.*
- *I think Assignment Hall will be a big help so I don’t fall behind, but I still hope I don’t have to go often.*



Danny & his parents await start of 9th grade HRB!

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**

Box Tops for Education: We recently received a check for **\$328.40**. Many thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS. Keep those box tops a'comin!

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.

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

- Amazon Smile: This website, operated by Amazon, lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The difference is that when using AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – which we hope will be Saint Paul's School! Click here to shop on AmazonSmile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895>.
- Office Depot: We receive store credit from customers who give SPS ID at the checkout. Our number is officially 70041640 but saying Saint Paul's will do. This will help a lot.
- Box Tops for Education: Each top is worth 10 cents – which adds up quickly. Thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS financially..

Cold Weather: ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. On VERY cold days, a non-SPS coat (but not-camo) can be worn OVER an SPS sweatshirt. If you cannot afford one, contact me and I will take care of it confidentially.

Diaper Drive: Beginning Monday (1/28) and running through Friday (2/1), St. Paul's has partnered with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to supply families with necessary infant and toddler supplies. Items most needed are diapers (specifically sizes 4, 5, & 6) and wipes. Other items like bottles, formula, jarred foods, are also welcome. Any items can be dropped off at the Campus Ministry office on the first floor of Benilde Hall or outside Mrs. Suzy's office.

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.



Drug Testing: We continue to drug test, choosing students both randomly and “for cause.” Just because a student is tested does not mean he is suspected. You may 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.

Father-Son BBQ: Reservations for F-S BBQ on Mar 23 at 5 pm are now being taken! Reservations must be made by March 18. **Return form at end of newsletter with a check for \$20 per person to Mrs. Claire by March 18! You Can also be mailed to: St. Paul's School, Attn: Mrs. Claire, PO Box 928, Covington, LA 70434**

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/fornite-addiction-video-game-rehab/> Some parents have even sent their kids to Fortnite rehab! I definitely am concerned for some of our students!

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

- **Report Cards** were emailed on Dec 28, although grades had been accessible on PlusPortals for a while. **Let me know if you did not receive a report card. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb, so email any concerns to teachers.**
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) **What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience – which will pay dividends in the future.**
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Only two left to go:
 - Jan 30 – 12th HR Breakfast
 - Jan 31 – 11th “HR Breakfast

HRB lasts from 7:50-8:30. Note: HR is determined by **second QUARTER** grades, not semester grades.



Student body prays at mass on Feast of Conversion of St. Paul on Jan 25.

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

Last Week:

- **Basketball:** Big wins (9th, JV, & V) over F'bleau; Nice JV win over N'shore but tough 9th & V losses.
- **Bowling:** I know we competed this week but did not get results. Geaux Bowling Wolves
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Thanks to all who attended. Thanks to Shellie Campo and Physical Plant crew for logistics and Hwy 190 Chick-fil-A manager Rick Gonzales for excellent food service.
- **Lacrosse:** A cancelled tournament allowed Wolves to scrimmage Catholic Bears in BR
- **LHSAA:** Big changes in the playoff structure for select schools. I'm sure Trevor Watkins enjoyed every minute of the annual convention!
- **March for Life:** Our Wolves represented us well in Washington, DC!
- **Mass:** Our first 2019 mass was wonderful. Thanks to all. Hope your son told you about it.
- **Math Tournament:** 50 FMWs excitedly headed to BR for competition on Sat! Wonderful! And they returned with a 2nd Place Sweepstakes trophy! Outstanding! Geaux Fighting Math Wolves!
- **PJ's:** The grand opening was quite a hit! Thanks to Brian and business classes and especially the hard working *baristas* (an Italian word for a male or female behind-the-counter server of drinks, snacks, etc.) It's quite a sight!
- **Rosary for Life:** Religion classes recited Rosaries for Life this week, praying to uphold Catholic teaching on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. Well done, Religion Wolves!
- **Soccer:** ANOTHER (ho-hum) District Championship with strong wins over M'ville (with a great senior night) & F'bleau. And 8th grade tournament on Sat was successful with the Wolves finishing FIRST with a 1-0 win over Jesuit in the finals. Geaux Soccer Wolves!
- **Wrestling:** Another Parish Championship – our 23rd, Coach Pinero's first but certainly not his last.

Paper Wolf Update: Please encourage your students to read The Paper Wolf on line (www.thepaperwolf.com) and read it yourself. Compliment the staff. Subscribe. Support the future of journalism.

Parent – Teacher Conferences will be held next Monday, Feb 4, between 5 – 7 pm. The format is the same we used in Nov: 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.

Robotics: Saint Paul's School will be hosting a STATEWIDE VEX Robotics Competition on Saturday, February 2nd, in the Briggs Assembly Center. Games will begin at 9:00am and continue until 12:00 with an hour break for lunch. Competition will resume at 1:00 pm and continue until 4:00. Feel free to stop by and cheer on our state championship VEX Robotics Wolves or encourage prospective students to come see our innovative technology in action.



Liturgical band leads us in song during mass.

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

- Current 8th graders were emailed registration materials last week and will have until this Friday, Feb 01, to register. 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, please let me know.**

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: January 25 was deadline to order graduation announcements (not invitations – that’s by ticket only) and other senior products from Balfour. A late fee will now apply – which, unfortunately, occurs every year. Naturally, ordering of any of the senior products is completely optional.



Canada geese have returned!

Social Hosting: Even with the holiday season behind us, the temptations for alcohol use by students remains. 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: 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. Many thanks to Mimi Montiero for maintaining our social media information.

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.

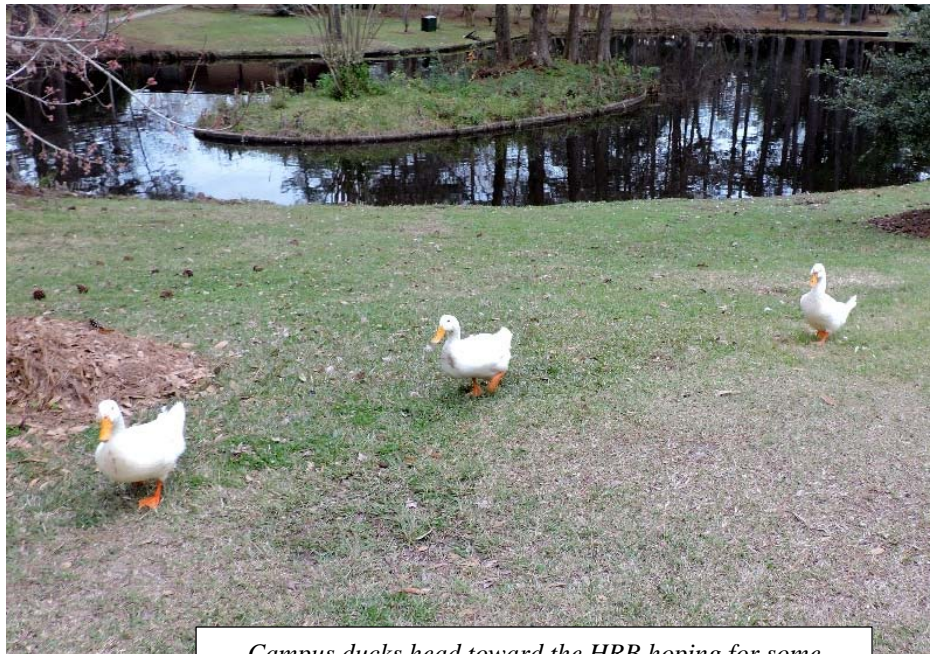
Teen Life Counts Program: All of our sophomores are participating in this important suicide prevention program which began last week and which is conducted by Jewish Family Services. Suicide remains a problem for St. Tammany Parish. For your information, our protocol for any student who voices possible harm to self is very clear and non-negotiable: we will not allow that students to attend classes until a note from a mental health professional clears the student as not being a threat to himself or others. Unfortunately, we have had to invoke this policy, which is a caring one and not a punitive one, several times already in this school year. I am grateful to Christine Woodard in the counseling department for spearheading this important program. Join me in praying that the message takes root.

Tutoring: National Honor Society tutoring takes place in the library at lunch. 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. Math XL help and essay proofreading services are available.**

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.

Tu BiShvat: I inadvertently overlooked this wonderful Jewish feast last week, which began at sundown on Jan 20 and ended at sunset on Jan 21. B'shuvat is 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 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 the lessons that 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 towards that which I can never grasp, but which nurtures me all the same?*
- *Did I shelter the seedlings that live in my shade -- so they will grow 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 leaves 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!*



Campus ducks head toward the HRB hoping for some leftover Chick-fil-A biscuit pieces!

Vaping: 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. The Covington Police Department informs us that it is AGAINST THE LAW for minors to purchase vaping equipment. Please make sure your son knows this – and complies with your wishes, the rules of the school – and the law.

Weekly Humor: Hilarious church bulletin bloopers, which I haven't used in years:

- *Sunday's sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.*
- *The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.*
- *A songfest was hell at the Methodist church Wednesday.*
- *Hymn: "I Love Thee My Ford."*
- *Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.*
- *Women's Luncheon: Each member bring a sandwich. Polly Phillips will give the medication.*
- *Announcement: The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.*
- *The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.*
- *Ushers will eat latecomers.*
- *We are grateful for the help of those who cleaned up the grounds around the church building and the rector.*
- *A worm welcome to all who have come today.*
- *Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.*
- *In the absence of Pastor, we enjoyed a rare privilege of a good sermon when Rev. Stubbs preached.*
- *Please welcome Pastor Don, a caring individual who loves hurting people.*
- *The new loudspeaker system was given by one of our members in honor of his wife.*
- *The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus*

Yearbook: Please make note of approaching deadlines for The Conifer, Saint Paul's award-winning yearbook.

- Deadline to order a yearbook is March 15, 2019. Seniors do not need to order a yearbook.
- Deadline to place a Senior Ad is March 15, 2019.
- All orders and ads must be placed online at www.yearbookforever.com
- We do not order extra books.
- Please contact Mimi Monteiro at m.monteiro@stpauls.com if you have any questions



*Father Mark, pastor of OLL, celebrated mass for us last Friday.
Altar servers were Trey, Sam, and Justin.*

A Look Ahead – Far, Far, Ahead

- Fri, Jan 25 All School Mass (Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul); Dress Uniform Day
- Mon, Feb 04 Parent-Teacher Conferences in BAC (5-7 pm)
- Tue, Feb 05 Pack Time
- Tue, Feb 12 President’s Assembly / Explore Test for 8th Grade
- Wed, Feb 13 PLAN Test for 9th grade
- Thu, Feb 14 Pre-ACT for 10th Grade
- Fro. Feb 15 LPO Concert in the BAC for students
- Wed, Feb 20 On campus ACT for juniors
- Mon, Feb 25 Late start; Life Skills Day for Seniors
- Wed – Thu Feb 27 – 28 Junior retreat days
- Fri, Mar 01 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
- M-F, Mar 4 -8 Mardi Gras /Lenten holidays
- Tue, Mar 12 Pack Time
- Wed, Mar 13 Mother-Son Dinner

- Fri, Mar 15 End of 3rd Quarter
- 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
- Wed, Apr 10 LA College & TOPS Night at SPS
- 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 (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



Pre-freshmen and their parents await start of HR Breakfast!

Second Semester Period Rotation: For those who really plan ahead, here is the period rotation for the second semester. Please use this when making unavoidable doctor appointments, etc. so your son will know what classes he is missing. Naturally, there is subject to change is unavoidable conflicts (weather, etc.) occur:

Second Semester Period Rotation

January

- 28 – ABCD – Late Start (9 am)
- 29 – EFGA – President’s Assembly
- 30 – BCDE - 12th in HR /10th in MH Talk/Career Day for Juniors
- 31 – FGAB – 11th in HR /8th in MH Talk

February

- 1 - CDEF
- 4 – GABC – Parent/Teacher meetings in BAC 5-7:00 PM
- 5 – DEFG - Pack Time
- 6 – ABCD
- 7 – EFGA
- 8 – BCDE
- 11 – FGAB
- 12 – CDEF – President’s Assembly - EXPLORE Testing 8th grade
- 13 – GABC - PLAN Testing 9th grade
- 14 – DEFG - PRE-ACT Testing 10th grade
- 15 – ABCD
- 18 – EFGA
- 19 – BCDE Pack Time
- 20 – FGAB – Juniors in ACT
- 21 – CDEF
- 22 – GABC – Late Start
- 25 – DEFG
- 26 – ABCD – President’s Assembly
- 27 – EFGA – Junior Retreat
- 28 – BCDE – Junior Retreat

March

- 1 – Faculty Retreat Day
- 11 – FGAB
- 12 – CDEF – Pack Time
- 13 – GABC
- 14 – DEFG
- 15 – ABCD –End of Third Quarter
- 18 – ABCDEFG – St. Joseph Altar
- 19 – EFGA – President’s Assembly
- 20 – BCDE

- 21 – FGAB
- 22 – CDEF – Late Start
- 25 – GABC
- 26 – DEFG – Pack Time
- 27 – ABCD
- 28 – EFGA – 9th Retreat/Trip
- 29 – BCDE – 9th Retreat/Trip

April

- 1 – FGAB
- 2 - CDEF – President’s Assembly
- 3 – GABC
- 4 – DEFG
- 5 – ABCD
- 8 – EFGA – Late Start
- 9 – BCDE – Pack Time
- 10 – FGAB – Leadership Breakfast
- 11 – CDEF – Special Schedule for Speaker
- 12 – GABC – Special Schedule of Year in Review
- 15 – DEFG – Mass
- 16 – ABCD – President’s Assembly
- 17 – EFGA – Passion Play Schedule
- 18 – BCDE – Mandatum Schedule
- 29 – FGAB
- 30 – CDEF – President’s Assembly

May

- 1 – GABC - Senior Exams
- 2 – DEFG - Senior Exams
- 3 – ABCD – Senior Exams
- 6 – EFGA
- 7 – BCDE – Pack Time
- 8 – FGAB – Level Awards
- 9 – CDEF – Athletic Awards
- 10 – GABC – Academic Awards
- 13 – DEFG
- 14 – ABCD – President’s Assembly – 8th Exams
- 15 – EFGA – 8th Exams
- 16 – BCDE – 8th Exams
- 17 – FGABC (8th Promotion 6:00 PM)
- 18 – Senior Graduation (4 pm–ticket only)
- 20 – DEFG (Review for Period A Exam)
- 21 – 24 – Exam Schedules



Pre-freshmen study vocabulary words for HR Breakfast!

Whew! Enough for now. And even though it's 2019, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to any more since it went off the air but I still LOL thinking about it): 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 2018 - 19 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



Now let's go out there to be light and love to the students entrusted to our care by doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, letting Our Lady of the Star guide us to God, and beseeching our Holy Founding Brothers to help us continue the Lasallian Mission!



Father – Son BBQ Reservation Form:

Name of father: _____

Name of son(s): _____

Grade Level(s):

Total of check (\$20 per person) payable to: St. Paul's _____

Return to Claire Coutrado in Attendance Office.