



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

February 04 – 10, 2019



Welcome to the fifth week of the second semester and the first full week of February!

IF YOU ARE NOT A BETTER PERSON IN FEBRUARY THAN YOU WERE IN JANUARY, WHAT NEED HAVE YOU FOR A FEBRUARY?

--an adaptation of words by Rebbe Nachman, an Hasidic rabbi who lived and taught in Ukraine from 1802 to 1810.

I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR MY OFFENSES AND OMISSIONS OF TODAY, AND I RESOLVE TO MAKE TOMORROW A BETTER DAY.

--SPS End of Day Prayer

Mon, Feb 4 (Regular; G A B C)

- **This Day in History:** In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Premier Joseph Stalin meet at city in Yalta in the Crimea to discuss and plan the postwar world--namely, to address the redistribution of power and influence. Many believe this to be the birth of the Cold War.
- **National Thank Your Mailman (or postal carrier to be gender correct!) Day:** Some fun postal facts:
 - In 1775, Second Continental Congress establishes first organized mail service in America. Benjamin Franklin appointed first Postmaster General.
 - Postage stamps were invented in 1847.
 - On April 3, 1860 the famous Pony Express officially took off.
 - In 1863, free city delivery started and in 1896, free rural delivery began.
 - In 1963, the Zip Code began.
 - Postal rates just went up to 50 cents a letter! Think twice before using SPS postage. Could it have been emailed?
- **Bowling:** Wolves v. Hammond at Tangi.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences (5 – 7)**

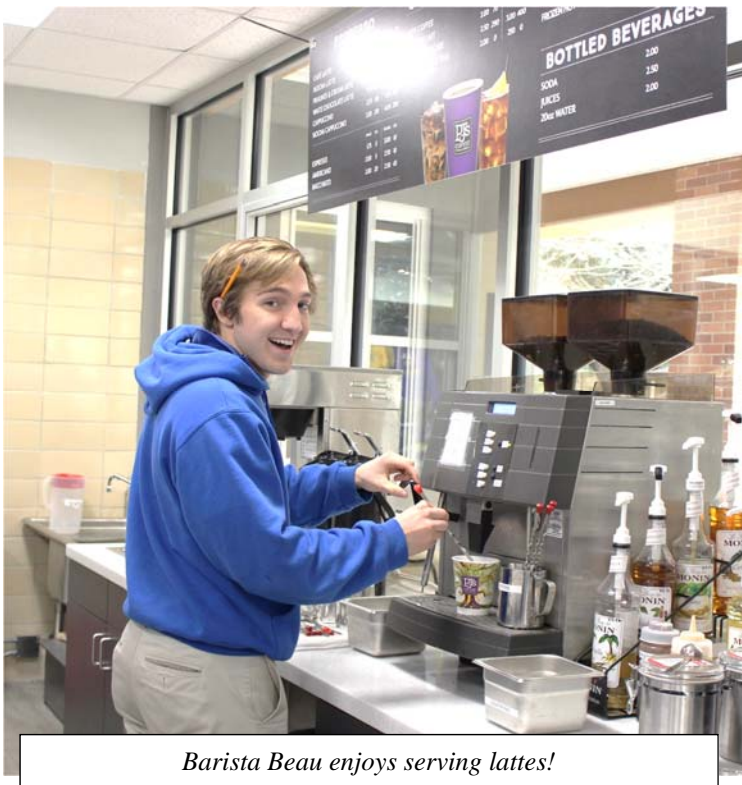
Tue, Feb 5 (Wolf Packs; D E F G)



- **TDIH:** In 1971, Apollo 14, the 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands and Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell walk on Moon for 4 hrs. Alan Shepard was USA's first man in space in 1961 in a sub-orbital flight in a space capsule called Friendship 7. This was part of the Mercury Program, which had Americans just orbiting the earth. Mercury gave way to the Gemini and Apollo programs.
- **Vietnamese New Year** (known in Vietnam as **Tet Nguyen Dan**, or simply **Tet**) begins today. Tet holiday starts on the beginning of a new year based on Chinese lunar calendar. In Vietnam, Lunar New Year celebrations last at least three days. During this time, the Vietnamese spend time with family and friends while reminiscing about the past year. According to Vietnam zodiac, Vietnamese New Year 2019 is a year of the "pig". The Pig is the last animal sign on the Vietnamese zodiac. A Dog year always comes before a Pig year, and a Rat year always comes afterward 12-year Chinese zodiac animal cycle. Year of the Pig stresses communicative people who are popular with their friends and have a strong sense of timekeeping. Happy New Year to our Vietnam brothers & sisters, especially our Vietnamese Lasallians (yes, we have Lasallian institutions in Vietnam!)
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Ponchatoula

Wed, Feb 6 (7:15 am mass; Regular; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1952, after a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies at the royal estate at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the king's two daughters, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27 – and remains queen today!
- **Bowling:** Wolves v. Ponchatoula at Tangi Lanes
- **ASVAB Testing for Seniors during Periods A & B in the BAC**



Barista Beau enjoys serving lattes!

Thu, Feb 7 (Regular; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 2009, the New Orleans Saints defy the odds and win the Super Bowl. Pigs reportedly fly as city celebrates with holidays and parades.
- **TDIH II:** On this day in 1812, Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England. Celebrate the birth of this incredible writer! Read some Dickens today. Who can forget some of his immortal lines such as the opening of *A Tale of Two Cities*? *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way.*

• Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day:

Greet your neighbors today with a big wave, but to show respect and appreciation, you must wave with all of your fingers, not just a particular one.

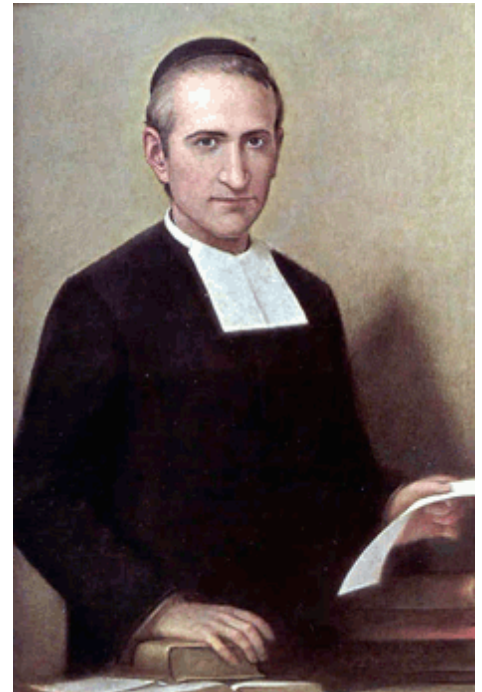
- **Soccer:** Wolves v. Mandeville in Regional Round of playoffs (Hunter Stadium; 7 pm)

Fri, Feb 8 (Regular; B C D E)

- **Boy Scout Day:** Today celebrates the birthday of Scouting in US. On Feb 8, 1910, Chicago publisher William Dickson Boyce filed incorporation papers in the District of Columbia to create BSA. SPS is proud to have so many students still actively involved in scouting and reaching Eagle
- **Wrestling:** State Championship Meet in Bossier City (through Sat)
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Slidell (Senior Night)

Sat, Feb 9 (Feast of St. Brother Miguel Febres Cordero)

- **TDIH:** In 1825, the U.S. House of Representatives votes to elect John Quincy Adams, who won fewer votes than Andrew Jackson in the popular **vote**.
- **National Pizza Day. Enjoy!**
- Today, Lasallians observe the feast of **Saint Brother Miguel Febres Cordero** (1854-1910.) Born into a prominent Ecuadorian family, and **crippled from birth**, Miguel became the **first native Ecuadorian Christian Brother**. He had such a reputation as scholar, teacher, & saint that **Pope John Paul II canonized him in 1984**. **Teaching remained Brother Miguel's priority, and his students admired his simplicity, concern for them, directness, and piety.** Miguel excelled as a teacher and looked “for every possible way to make the **lessons and work agreeable and pleasant** for students.” After Brother Miguel had taught the same material for twenty years, a confrere asked him why he **spent so much time with lesson plans**. Brother replied: ***I can find a better way of presenting it every year. If I teach this material for another 20 years, I will find newer and better ways of explaining it.*** His lessons were prepared, organized, clear and relevant -- even if he used student "lingo" to do it. **Miguel insisted on student mastery of material. How can we make this feast meaningful for us? Here are some reflection questions:**



- **Do I prepare** lessons that are clear, agreeable, and pleasant?
- From year to year, **do I look for ways to present it in a better way?**
- How do I improve my teaching? Through continuing education? Professional organizations? Collaboration with colleagues? Caring?
- **Can I say along with Brother Miguel, "I must engage in all the works that I undertake with a spirit of love, of gratitude for the divine goodness which employs me for His glory and the salvation of souls"?**

Brother Miguel is an Ecuadorian hero with stamps issued and public monuments in his honor. Even though our likeness may never be on a stamp or monument, **our dedication, preparation, patience, and masterful lessons will make us heroes in the lives of our students.** Saint Brother Miguel! Pray for us! Note: Saint Miguel is the Patron of San Miguel High School, the Lasallian School in Tucson. We wish our colleagues a most holy and happy feast day.

- **ACT on campus today**
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Pearl River (2 & 3 pm)
- **Rugby:** Wolves in Marconi Rugby Pitch at City Park (12:30)
- **Lacrosse:** Varsity in Shreveport

Sun, Feb 10

- **If today were not a Sunday, we would celebrate the feast of St. Scholastica (480-547),** who was the twin sister of St. Benedict, founder of the Benedictines. We rejoice with SSA on this feast and offer them prayer. The Benedictine nuns no longer serve there, but we remember gratefully their work from St. Scholastica Priory (on Stafford Road) for north shore Catholic education at SSA, St. Peter, & OLL. In remembering the sisters, we recall St. La Salle's words *"What glory there will be for those who have instructed youth, when their zeal and devotion to procure the salvation of children will be made public before all people! All heaven will resound with thanksgiving!"* Remember and celebrate these wonderful women and ask St. Scholastica to bless their legacy -- and our school and work as well.

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

Alum News: Many of you may remember the basketball and academic prowess of Harrison Prieto '16, and I know some of you follow his basketball and academic career at Florida State U. Did you know Harrison majors in meteorology and aspires to a career in TV weather? Wanna' see him in action? He's the "chief student meteorologist" at FSU. Here's a recent broadcast – I'm very proud:

<https://www.facebook.com/fsuweather/videos/2025906124194125/UzpfSTExNTIyNzc1NDgxNzk3MTQ6MjM3MTY5OTc2MjkwNDE0Nw/>

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!**



Student artwork awaits finishing touches.

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!

Assembly Anniversaries: Last week marked the one year anniversary of the following two assemblies:

- **Matt Fradd.** Matt speaks to over 50,000 people every year on the topic of pornography – which has become a particular concern of Archbishop Aymond, who asked the schools to address this growing problem. In particular, Matt addressed pornography in light of human trafficking and social justice. As we learned on the Archdiocese Faculty Formation Day in 2017, pornography is a major plague impacting our youth. Matt's expertise was a great small step to battling this epidemic. Please have a talk with your son about pornography. I'm convinced some of our students still struggle with this issue, which is easier than ever to access.
- **Thomas Awiapo.** Raised in Ghana, Thomas benefitted from Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl initiative. He shared his story about growing up in poverty and *survived* only with the support of those who have the means to help. Thomas' story was a great opportunity to shed a light on life in Africa and particular to paint a clearer picture of those at our twin school, St. Paul's in Marsabit, Kenya. H



Dr. Jason Farrell '93 speaks to juniors about the career of veterinarian.

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: Last week we 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

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..



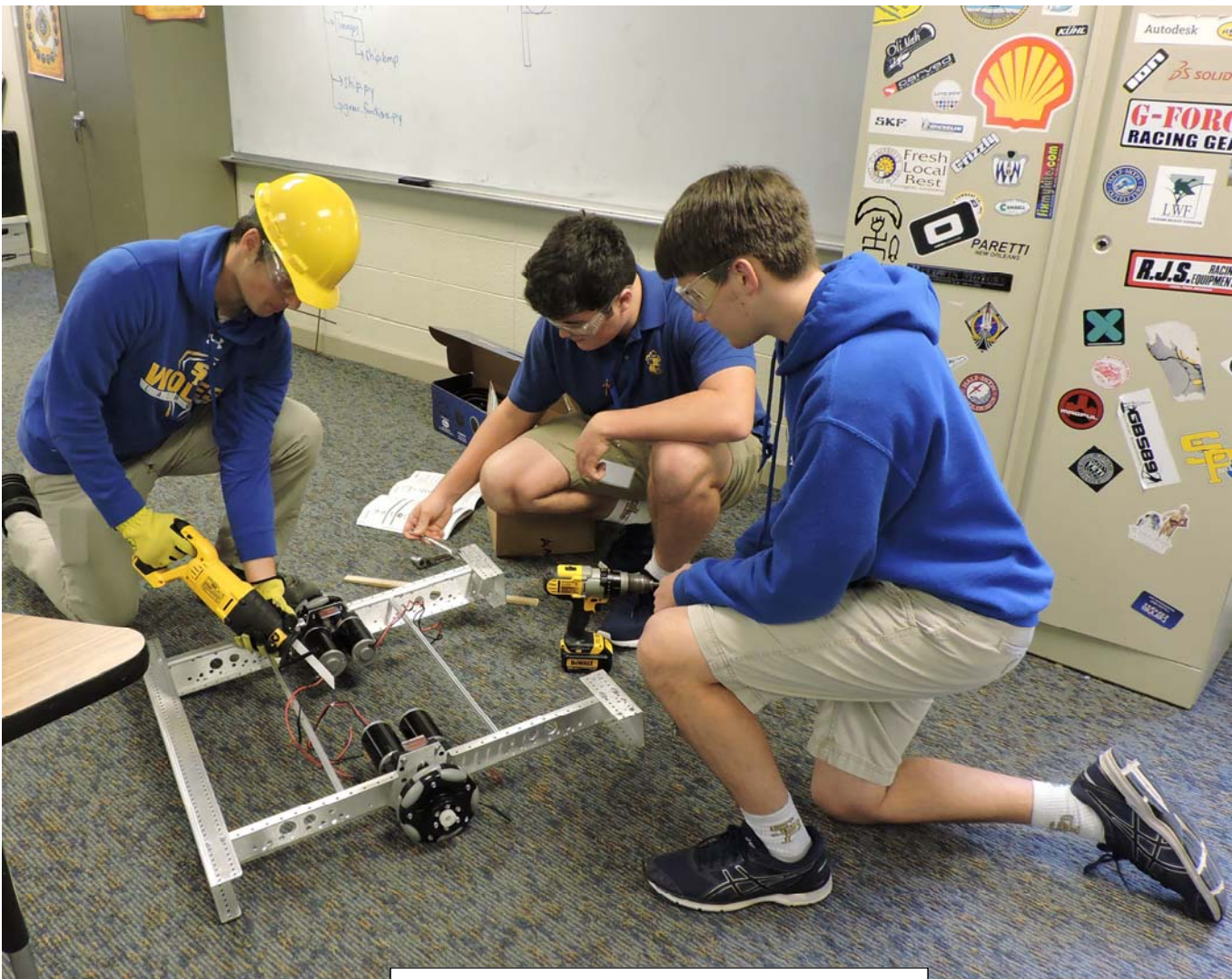
Founders Oak pays tribute to those whose generosity has helped us flourish.

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

Driving: I call the following to your attention:

- **Driver's License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner's permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don't blame me! This is a legislative action.
- **SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let's start 2018 with a resolution for safe driving! Set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, no cell phone use during school zone hours, buckle up, etc. Thank you!
- **School Zone Cell Phone Ban:** It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.

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.



Robotics Wolves hard at work!

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

Feb: Can you believe we are in February? How are those New Year resolutions coming along? So far, I'm not doing well! And here's a listing of some of the celebrations for Feb: Adopt A Rescued Rabbit Month, American Heart Month, Avocado and Banana Month, Bake for Family Fun Month, Beans Month, Dog Training Month, Exotic Vegetables and Star Fruit Month, Grapefruit Month, Boost Self-Esteem Month, Expect Success Month, Library Lovers Month, Bird Feeding Month, Black History Month, Care About Your Indoor Air Month, Cherry Month, Children's Dental Health Month, Haiku Writing Month, Hot Breakfast Month, Mend A Broken Heart Month, Parent Leadership Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Time Management Month, Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month, Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month, & Youth Leadership Month – something for almost everyone!

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!



Fighting Math Wolves placed 2nd in Baton Rouge Magnet Tournament!

Founders Oak: You may have noticed the dedication of the iconic oak near the chapel as Founders Oak. We did this in honor of the 100 anniversary of Lasallian education coming to campus (the tree was here to greet those first Brothers!) and we also dedicated it to our major donors. The plaques represent those benefactors

who have contributed \$100,000 or more to SPS over their lifetimes. We hope to see that number grow in the years ahead, as people invest in keeping the Lasallian dream alive on the campus of Saint Paul's School. I am grateful to Development for spearheading this project and to Mark Daigle's signage company for the work.

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.



Noah, Jacob, Stephen, & Quinn await the start of the Senior Honor Roll Breakfast – after visiting campus PJ's!

Last Week:

- **Basketball:** Tough varsity losses to Hammond & Covington but a win over Livingston Academy. And 9th grade finished FIRST in the SPS tournament!
- **Bowling:** The boys beat Hannan on Wed, 24-3. 9th grader Kasey Gottschalk bowled his personal best 156 score and High Series 415. Jacob Bounds helped the team win with a Team High Score of 235. The Wolves are now 5-0 and in first place in district.
- **Brother Bill Parsons Memorial Quiz Bowl Tournament:** 14 teams gave honor to Bill's memory by engaging in spirited academic competition. I know Bill was smiling from heaven! The SPS placed 2nd! Great! Thanks to moderator Kelly Hightower and faculty/parent volunteers: Karen Hebert, Lauren Gee, Brian Logarbo, Mimi Monteiro, along with parents: Scott Gros, Steve Millet, Mark Bitterwolf, Neal Hightower, and Tara Palmer.

- **Career Day:** Thanks to Alumni Director Al Nastasi and the Alumni Board for a successful Career Day. The following participated: CPA- Michael Sciortino '03, Sciortino Financial; Engineer- Phil Nuss '72, Gulf Coast Shipyard Group, Inc./Trinity Yachts; Attorney- Chad Danenhower '92, Danenhower Law; Veterinarian- Dr. Jason Farrell '93, Hickory Small Animal Hospital; Vocation/Lasallian Volunteer- Brother Michael Livaudais, FSC, SFNO Vocation Team; Architect- Justin Greenleaf '04, Greenleaf Lawson Architects; Dentist- Joel Burvant '99, Burvant Family Dentistry; Construction- Adam Martin '06, Kent Design Build, Inc.; Physical Therapist – Craig Kingrea, '99, Foundation Physical Therapy. The juniors were exceptionally attentive. I am grateful and hope the day spurs their career thinking.
- **Catholic Schools Week:** Jeff Ramon's events were a fitting celebration of Lasallian Catholic school:
 - **Baby Items Drive for Catholic Charities**
 - **Celebration of Saint Brother Mutien Marie on Wed**
 - **Catholic Schools Mass on Fri:** Wolves joined students from all the Catholic schools in ARNO
 - **Teacher Appreciation Notes: They were appreciated!**
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Thanks to those who were able to attend. The return to the cafeteria enhanced the experience. These are very positive and affirming events. As usual, I gave a vocabulary lesson. I encouraged the boys to be: *alacritous paragons (enthusiastic, cheerful models of excellence) and never to be Torpid Gongoozlers (sluggish, apathetic, idle spectators)* At the senior breakfast, Mr. Rick Flick, SPS Renaissance Board member, owner of Banner Ford and Chevrolet, and father of Christian '16 and John Connor '18) gave wonderful, real world advice to our seniors, encouraging them to "finish strong." I am grateful to Shellie Campo and Physical Plan crew for logistics and Hwy 190 Chick-fil-A manager Rick Gonzales for excellent food service. And I'm grateful to Joe Dickens for providing the vocab lesson when my laryngitis prevented me from doing so. He did great!
- **Journalism Educators Association Spring Conference at Loyola.** We were well represented.
- **Lacrosse:** JV A & B played Jesuit on Sat. I have no results but I'm sure represented us exemplarily!
- **Mental Health Assemblies:** Feedback on Dr. Robert Gardner's suicide prevention talks was very positive. Please speak with your sons about this serious topic.
- **OLL Pep Rally:** Marching Wolves celebrated with OLL in style – always a hit!
- **Robotics:** the BAC hosted over 40 robotics teams on Sat; it was quite a sight. Thanks Robo Wolves for hosting a premier tournament in a premier venue!
- **Soccer:** A number 1 seed in the playoffs gave SPS a bye for first round. Round 2 has us playing Mandeville on Thursday in Hunter Stadium at 7 pm.
- **Track:** The SPS 4x800m relay team placed first and beat a meet record at the LSU Last Chance Qualifier Indoor Track Meet with a time of 8:15.11. The team consist of Patrick Elliot, Luke Paille, Evan Hendry, and Jonathan Bertucci. And Evan Pardo placed 6th in the 3200 m run! Great! Now on to state!
- **Wolf Tracks:** Congrats to Danielle Lavie for another great issue
- **Wrestling:** Wolves represented us well at Jr Hi & JV state meet on Sat

Cullen, Jack, & Dr. Pellegrini await start of Sr. HRB



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 Monday, Feb 4, between 5 – 7 pm. The format is the same we used in November: teachers will be in the BAC and parents can visit with some or all of their son's teachers.

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

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

- Current 8th graders were 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. Registration materials will be emailed this week.
- 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.**



Hungry juniors and their happy parents await start of junior HRB!

Rosary: a group of students recite one decade of the rosary each morning in the chapel, beginning at 7:50 on M - F. 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. After January 25, a late fee will apply – which, unfortunately, occurs every year. Don’t say I didn’t try to get you to order on time! Naturally, ordering of any of the senior products is optional.



Alum Adam Martin '06 of Kent Design Build speaks to juniors about careers in the construction industry.

Social Hosting: Even with the holiday season behind us, the temptations for alcohol use by students reemains. 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: Get event and classroom pictures, latest scores, calendar reminders, and spiritual uplifting by liking our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana/> or following us on

Twitter @SPSWolfpack. The strength of the Wolf is in the pack! Many thanks to Mimi Montiero for maintaining our social media information.

Sound of Silence: I had a three-day bout with laryngitis last week. While the students and faculty rejoiced that I could not speak, it was frustrating but taught me many things. While returning phone calls and meeting with people became out of the question, I was able to teach my classes and perform most of my duties without uttering a word. I kept thinking of “Silence” as one of the Twelve Virtues of a Good Lasallian Teacher and realizing why. As I typed instructions in class to the projector, I believed more students were actually “hearing me” than if I had been speaking! And it was amazing how easy it was to communicate with “sign language.” One of my students even remarked that I was easy to lip read! While I am anxious to return to the “land of the speaking” (still not back of 100%), my three days of oral communication fasting taught me great lessons. I appreciate the cooperation of my students. And if you tried to speak with me and I didn’t respond, now you know why!

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. Faculty will supervise.

Teen Life Counts Program: All of our sophomores will participate in this important suicide prevention program which began recently 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.

Vaping: I’m sorry I have to mention this, but please speak to your son about the dangers involved in this latest fad. We are hearing anecdotal reports of vaping by our students and have even taken disciplinary action against several of them who vaped at school events. We will continue to be vigilant and take strong measures against violators. 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.



Students prepare to cheer B'ball Wolves!

Weekly Humor: Some pizza jokes (who knew they had such things?) in honor of Pizza Day on Saturday:

- *Q: What does an aardvark like on its pizza? A: Ant-chovies*
- *Q: What do you call a sleeping pizza? A: a piZZZZZZa*
- *Q: What is a dog's favorite pizza? A: PUParonni!*

- *Q: How do you fix a broken pizza? A: With tomato paste.*
- *Q: Why are jokes about Pizza not funny? A: Because they are too cheesy.*
- *Q: Why did Johnny go into the pizza business? A: He wanted to make some dough.*
- *Q: When can a pizza marry a hot dog? A: After they have a very frank relationship! *
- *Q: Where do pepperonis go on vacation? A: The Leaning Tower of Pizza.*
- *Q: What does a pizza wear to smell good? A: Calzogne*
- *Q: Why does the mushroom always get invited to pizza parties? A: Because he's such a fungi*
- *Q: What did the pizza say when it went out on a date? A: I never sausage a beautiful face*
- *Q: Why was the pizzeria desperate for business? A: Because they kneaded the dough!*
- *Q. How can you tell if you are in love? If they stole a pizza your heart.*
- *Q. What does a pizza say when it wants to cuddle? Fold me close.*
- *Q. What type of person doesn't love pizza? A weirdough*
- *Q. What did the pizza say when it asked the topping out on a date? I never sausage a beautiful face.*
- *Q. What does a pizza say when it introduces itself to you? Slice to meet you!*
- *Q. What did the boss say to his pizza during their meeting? There's mushroom for improvement.*
- *Q. "Waiter, will my pizza be long?" "No sir, it will be round!"*
- *Q. What did the parmesan say when it broke up with the mozzarella? Sorry but I am too mature for you.*
- *Q. How can you tell if a pizza customer is a Buddhist? They ask you to make them one with everything.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

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

A Look Ahead – Far, Far, Ahead

- 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
- Fri. 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

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 if unavoidable conflicts (weather, etc.) occur.

February

- 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–admission by ticket only)
- 20 – DEFG (Review for Period A Exam)
- 21 – Exam Schedule
- 22 – Exam Schedule
- 23 – Exam Schedule
- 24 – Exam Schedule



*The SPS 4x800m relay team placed first and beat a meet record at the LSU Last Chance Qualifier Indoor Track Meet on Sat with a time of 8:15.11. The team consists of Patrick Elliot, Luke Paille, Evan Hendry, and Jonathan Bertucci.
On to State!*

Even though it's a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to anymore since it went off the radio but I still remember and LOL): 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’!

Giving Thanks for Making It to February as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



Now let's minister 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 our 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