



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

April 08 – 14, 2019



Remember that we are dust and to dust we will return.

Welcome to the second week of April and fourth week of the fourth quarter of the school year!



Paxton lights prayer candle – purple for Lent -- at last week's assembly.

As we enter the penultimate week of Lent, the scripture readings at mass continue to hammer us with Jesus's command to forgive – setting the stage for the ultimate act of forgiveness on Calvary. In the Gospels, the word “forgive” is on the lips of Jesus 43 times, including those remarkable words from the cross: “Father, forgive them; they know not what they do.”

In addition to being good for one's spiritual health, moreover, forgiveness can also be good for a person's physical, social, and psychological health. In a groundbreaking study, the acclaimed Mayo Clinic discovered that letting go of grudges and bitterness can improve health and lead to great peace of mind. The study discovered that benefits of forgiving include healthier relationships, improved mental health, less anxiety, stress and hostility, lower blood pressure, fewer symptoms of depression, stronger immune systems, improved heart health, and improved self-esteem – all pretty good reasons to practice the example of Jesus to forgive. Want to read more about the Mayo Clinic study? Here's the link: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/forgiveness/art-20047692> Want to read more about Jesus exhorting us to forgive? Read the Gospels!

May the grace of Lent lead us to forgiveness, just as He has forgiven us!

Mon, Apr 8 (9 am start; Leadership Week Begins; E F G A)

- **This Day in History:** In 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hits his 715th career home run and breaks Babe Ruth's record.
- **Hanamatsuri**, literally “the flower festival”, is celebrated today in Japan & commemorates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama who became enlightened as the Buddha, marking release from suffering and sorrow.
- **Draw a Bird Day:** From the DABD website: *In 1943, Dorie Cooper was a 7 year old English girl. Her mom took her to a hospital in to visit her uncle who was seriously wounded in the war. She asked him "Draw a bird for me." Her looked out his window and drew a picture of a robin. After seeing the picture, Dorie laughed and proclaimed that he was not a very good artist, but she would hang the picture in her room. Her uncle's spirits were lifted by his niece's honesty and acceptance. Several other wounded soldiers also had their day brightened by the event and every time Dorie came to visit, they held drawing contests to see who could produce the best bird pictures. In several months, the entire ward's walls were decorated by bird drawings. 3 years later, Dorie was killed by a car. Her coffin was filled with bird images that had been made by soldiers, nurses and doctors from where her uncle had been. Ever since, those men and women remembered the little girl that brought hope by drawing birds on her birthday, April 8th. Draw a Bird Day*

grew through those soldiers and medical personnel. It is celebrated worldwide as a way to express joy in the very simplest of things in life and as a way to help soldiers forget war and suffering even if only for a short time.

- **Louisiana Legislative Session** begins today at noon and lasts no later than June 6th at 6 pm. Lawmakers will cram topics into two months, April 8 - June 6. This short, mainly fiscal session has constitutional limits. Legislators can file any number of bills dealing with the budget and taxes. But they can only file five proposals of statewide impact on issues beyond those items clearly spelled out on the financial list. We offer our prayer and best wishes to our legislators that they will act for the benefit of all people of our state.
- **Football:** Spring sign up during lunch
- **Baseball:** 8th at Brother Martin (4:30)
- **SSA-SPS Challenge Night:** Thanks to the two student councils for organizing this evening of fun. Stress that this is NOT a “sexist” event (as has been alleged in the past.) It’s good natured fun between boys and girls. Some people take PC just a tad too seriously! Know that SPS embraces equality between the sexes.

Tue, Apr 9 (Wolf Packs; B C D E)

- **TDIH: In 1682**, Robert La Salle claims lower Mississippi River and all lands that touch it for France
- **TDIH: In 1865**, at Appomattox, VA, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders 28,000 troops to Union General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. During the war, 4 out of every 100 Americans (over 600,000!) were either killed or seriously wounded. Of every 100 soldiers, five died in battle and 20 died of illness or disease. It is appropriate on this day that we remember Abraham Lincoln’s prayer for those who need justice and peace in their lives: *Grant, O merciful God, that with malice toward none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as you give us to see the right, we may strive to finish the work we are in” to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for those who have borne the battle...to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.*
- **Cherish an Antique Day:** Visit an antique store or spend time with antiques you own. Educate students about the value of “old things.” Do not let the students call you “antique”— although I definitely qualify.
- **Winston Churchill Day:** *On April 9th, 1963, Winston Churchill became the second person to become an Honorary Citizen of the United States, although this was the first time Congress had resolved that it was to be bestowed by the President of the United States, on a foreign national. This honour was bestowed upon him by President John F Kennedy. Although Churchill was not present at the ceremony, it had been hoped he would not only witness the event on television – which he did with his wife – but would be able to respond. Problems with a relay station in Cornwall prevented this from happening. Learn something about ole Winston today. Listen to a speech of this great orator.*
- **Teacher Appreciation Day / Student Snack Day (thanks, MC!)**
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity v. Slidell
- **JV Track:** District Meet at Mandeville
- **Tennis:** Wolves v. Mandeville at PAC



Austin and his dad prepare to enjoy HR Breakfast!

Wed, Apr 10 (7:15 am optional mass; Assembly schedule; F G A B)

- **National Siblings Day:** Cherish your siblings today!
- **Safety Pin Day:** From the SPD website (who knew?): *Legend has it that, in 1849, Walter Hunt, inventor of the safety pin, owed a friend \$15 and decided to invent something to earn the money to repay him. His invention was the safety pin. Strong and sharp, yet safe enough to be used on clothing, safety pins are a simple yet ingenious invention. Take inspiration from Walter Hunt this and come up with a clever invention. It's a great challenge for children who love to come up with new ideas.*
- **Leadership Breakfast.** Retired Disney Imagineer Jack Blitch will speak to a group of student leaders.
- **Golf:** Wolves in Northshore League Play at Beau Chene (2 pm start)
- **Tennis v. Lakeshore (PAC)**
- **La College & TOPS Information Night (5:30 in the BAC)** Thanks, counseling department, for organizing this informative evening for our students!

Thu, Apr 11 (Assembly; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1861, the bloodiest four years in American history begin when Conf. shore batteries under General P.G.T. Beauregard fire on Union Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay, SC, beginning Civil War.
- **8 Track Tape Day:** Anyone remember 8 track tapes? We've come a LONG way!
- **Leadership Assembly:** Mrs. Anne Levy, a survivor of WW II Holocaust, will speak to the student body this morning. This promises to be a powerful and moving presentation. She is one of only two Holocaust survivors living in Louisiana.
- **Student Council Speeches and Elections**
- **Mu Alpha Theta Convention through Saturday:** Our Fighting Math Wolves conclude their season with the State Convention in Baton Rouge that begins this afternoon. Three days devoted to all things math? Heaven on earth! Geaux FMWs!
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity v. Mandeville
- **Lacrosse:** JVA & Varsity at Mandeville



Fri, Apr 12 (Assemblies -- yes there are two today! G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person to travel in space. When he returned to earth, he reported that he had not seen God in the heavens. Later, a Russian priest said "If you haven't seen God on earth, you will never see him in heaven."

- **DEAR Day:** D.E.A.R. stands for “Drop Everything and Read,” a national celebration of reading designed to remind folks of all ages to make reading a priority activity in their lives.
- **Be Kind to Lawyers Day.** We wish our SPS community lawyers a pleasant day. No lawyer jokes today!
- **Big Wind Day:** Today commemorates the highest wind speed ever recorded on the planet: in 1934, the staff of the Mount Washington Observatory recorded a wind of 231 mph! Wow!
- **Student Council Year in Review Assembly in the morning**
- **Golden Jubilarian Assembly in the afternoon:** We will welcome our 50 year graduates back to campus. The highlight of the assembly is having the alums induct the seniors into the Alumni Association.
- **Track:** JV & Varsity in Strawberry Relays in Hammond
- **Jazz Band in Southeastern Louisiana University Jazz Competition**
- **Marching Wolves participate in Mary Queen of Peace’s Pep Rally**



Sat, Apr 13

- **TDIH:** In 1970, *Apollo 13*, the third lunar landing mission carrying astronauts James A. Lovell, John L. Swigert, and Fred W. Haise experiences an on-board explosion. Lovell reported to mission control: “Houston, we’ve had a problem here.” The new mission objective became to get the *Apollo 13* crew home alive. The event is memorialized in the movie “*Apollo 13*” starring Tom Hanks
- **TDIH:** In 1742, George Friedrich Handel’s *Messiah* debuts in Dublin. What a masterpiece! Go Handel!
- **Peach Cobbler Day:** Enjoy this iconic dessert!

- **Scrabble Day:** Play scrabble today! Enjoy words!
- **ACT on campus today**
- **Crawfish Cook Off:** Good luck, Alumni Association, with one of your major events of the year.
- **Lacrosse:** JV A & B and Varsity at Catholic
- **Baseball:** JV & Varsity at Mandeville; 9th v. Hammond (10) & Covington (12)
- **Rugby playoffs – details TBA**

Sun, Apr 14 – Palm Sunday

- **International Moment of Laughter Day:** celebrate this day, tell jokes or do funny things that cause people to laugh. Just a smile is not a good enough. Successful participation today results in whole-hearted laughter.
- **TDIH:** In 1865, John Wilkes Booth, an actor and Confederate sympathizer, fatally shoots President Abraham Lincoln at a play at Ford's Theater in Washington.
- **TDIH: In 2011, in honor of our centennial celebration, we had a spectacular March to the Courthouse.** The Centennial Committee, chaired by then SPS mom Shawn Reed, assembled a stellar cast of dignitaries to honor our students and our school. We remain grateful. We showed our best by parading down Jefferson Street to the St. Tammany Justice Center.

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

Annual Fund: Our 2019 Annual Fund is underway – just like almost every other private school. You should have received in the mail a brochure explaining the drive and a response card. I'm humbled by the number of you who have already sent in your donations. The success of this drive is critical to Saint Paul's. Please keep us in mind as you plan your end of year giving. Again, thanks to all who have already contributed. We need everyone, to at least some degree, to follow suit. **And we need GRANDPARENT support, too!** And, yes, gifts of stock are welcome.

Assembly on April 02: I hope the students enjoyed our April 02 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Students entered the gym to the strains of hauntingly beautiful version of "Parce Domine" – one of the most recognized Lenten hymns. I explained that it's an ancient hymn and we don't really know who wrote it or when. The words "parce domine" mean "spare us, Lord" and remind us that Lent is a time of turning away from sin and toward God – who is "rich in mercy" according to the prophet Joel. I encouraged the students to make the most of the remaining weeks of Lent. And as the days lengthen, it's a time for us to lengthen our commitment to "put off the things of night" and walk in the daylight. While the music played, **junior Paxton Ballard** lit the prayer candle – still purple for Lent.
- *I then reminded our students that our Mission Statement calls us to offer strong academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs in a safe and disciplined environment and to live the Gospel values of Jesus.*
- Recognized and congratulated SPS teacher Joe David Wilkerson on his recent marriage. Student council president Josh Rovira presented Mr. Wilkerson with a small gift from the school.

- Welcomed Brother Chris Patino, FSC to our assembly. Brother Chris, stationed in California, is the vocation director for the San Francisco New Orleans Province of Christian Brothers.
- While Rossini's "William Tell Overture" played, I recognized and congratulated the Track Wolves for the outstanding seasons they are having. Specifically, **Junior High placed SECOND in the CHS- Trafton Invitational, with pre-freshman Jack Salvaggio being named the Track MVP. They also placed THIRD in the SLU Strawberry Relays. The Varsity Track Wolves have placed FIRST in the Ponchatoula Invitational, SECOND in the Andy Thiel F'Bleau Invitational, and FIRST in the Ponchatoula Relays. Their crowning achievement, though, was placing FIRST in the Parish Championship, with Dylan Dimitrius being name Field MVP. The team captains presented trophies to AD Craig Ketelsen. PHS Relays- 1st Place**
- Recognized and congratulated the 92 current students who have earned a composite score of at least 30 on the ACT – quite an achievement. As a small reward, we offered a pizza lunch to them the next day.



Our ACT 30+ Composite Club!

- Recognized and congratulated the SPS 4x800m relay team that 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 consists of Patrick Elliot, Luke Paille, Evan Hendry, and Jonathan Bertucci. Also recognized and congratulated Evan Pardo who placed 6th in the 3200 m race.

- Recognized, congratulated, and awarded medals to the 22 Wolves who placed in the recent District Literary Rally: **Andrew Aceves** (voice), **Will Allen** (4th in English I), **Brady Billiot** (3rd in Spelling), **Blake Bollinger** (2nd in Comp Science), **Wesley Coles** (3rd in Algebra II), **Hal Fox** (1st in Journalism), **Miles Gensler** (3rd in Chemistry), **Maxwell Hastings** (2nd in Physical Science), **Andrew Hollingsworth** (2nd in Accounting), **Ben Klein** (1st in Biology II), **Andrew Lacoste** (3rd in Biology II), **Davis Lagarde** (1st in World History), **Stephen Millet** (3rd in Physics), **Carter Murphy** (5th in Geometry), **Andrew Norlin** (2nd in Calculus), **Trey Paine** (2nd in Biology), **Landon Rees** (2nd in Journalism), **Adam Smith** (3rd in Advanced Math), **Alex Stagg** (1st in Accounting), **Brady Talley** (2nd in English II), **Peter Verges** (5th in Algebra I), and **Grant Vicknair** (2nd in Business)



- As I was running out of time, I told the students that I had many more recognitions (ranging from rugby to lacrosse to math tournaments to spring sports to writing awards to Literary Rally winners and many more) that will roll over to the next assembly.
- We ended with the whole student body standing and singing the fight song and a very moving rendition of that Lenten favorite, “O That Shame.” It was powerful. **Junior Sean Noel** extinguished the prayer candle while *Parce Domine* played in the background. I again begged the student body to concentrate only on “the good” during this Lenten season and to make safe choices. I closed by reminding the students what the candle represents – the love of God, the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I exhorted them to spread God’s love to all whom they meet.
- It was a great assembly; at least, I thought so!

Blood Drive: Saint Paul's will hold its annual spring blood drive on Thursday, April 18th. One pint of blood saves three lives. You must be 16 years old and weight 110 pounds. Students in active sports may not donate.

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 (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

Camp Abbey Summer Camp

- Camp Abbey Summer Camp is a one-week sleep-over camp run by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Campers at Camp Abbey make lifelong friends, great memories and grow in their relationship with Jesus! Activities include Arts & Crafts, Archery, Swimming, Hiking, Boating, Sports, Camping, Prayer, Mass, Reconciliation and Adoration. Campers must be completing 2nd-8th grades. Boys Camp weeks are June 2-8, June 9-15, June 16-22 and June 23-29. Girls Camp weeks are June 30-July 6, July 7-13, July 14-20 and July 21-27. Registration opens February 25. \$409 per week – all-inclusive.

- Applications are now being accepted for Summer Camp staff. Students completing 9th—11th grades may apply to be **JUNIOR COUNSELORS** (two-week positions). Graduating HS Seniors, College Students, and older may apply to be **SENIOR COUNSELORS, EXTENDED STAFF, or ADMINISTRATORS** (one-month positions). Nurse positions are also available (one-week positions). All positions are paid, unless service hours are desired. Room/board and off periods are included. Training, orientation and formation precede the camp sessions. Please log on to our website, www.campabbey.org, to register or apply. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Emmons at (985)327-7240 ext. 100, Kristen Bourgeois ext. 102 or email campabbey@arch-no.org.



A crowded PJ's in the library on a rainy morning last week.

Care & Vigilance: We must stay focused in these weeks before Easter Holidays (not spring break), especially with seniors. We will do our jobs competently, and we expect the students to do theirs. Please stress this with your sons – especially seniors.

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

- **Amazon Smile:** This website, operated by Amazon, lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The difference is that when using AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the

charitable organization of your choice –

which we hope will be Saint Paul's School! Click here to shop on AmazonSmile:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895>.

- **Office Depot:** We receive store credit from customers who give SPS ID at the checkout. Our number is officially 70041640 but saying Saint Paul's will do. This will help a lot.
- **Box Tops for Education:** Thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS financially..

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.

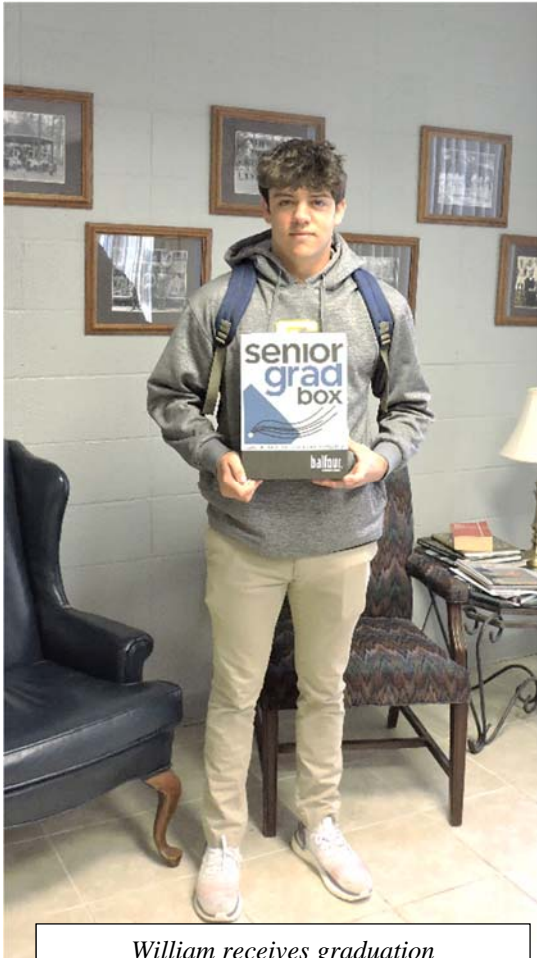
Easter Holidays (not spring break): These holidays begin on Good Friday, April 19. Classes don't resume until Monday, April 29 when seniors will return to final exams! Please stress with your sons that we give these holidays in honor of Easter, not in honor of spring. Please avoid using the terminology of "spring break" as we must stress the religious nature of these holidays. Note: **School offices will CLOSE during the holidays. Please anticipate any needs prior to Friday, April 19.**

Golden Torch Award forms are available for students to complete. The Golden Torch Award is one of the highest awards we give. A student qualifies by earning points, both for academics and involvement. Students must apply! Please let me know if you have any questions.

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

Last Week:

- **Alumni Meeting:** Thanks to Al for hosting a south shore alumni meeting. He hopes to establish chapters not only on the south shore, but in cities where a number of alums live (e.g. Houton, Baton Rouge, etc.) We wish him well in re-connecting our alums with their high school alma mater.
- **ACT 30+ Composite Lunch:** 90+ hungry Wolves were treated to a pizza lunch as a reward for earning a 30 or better composite score on the ACT. Wonderful! But I want more!
- **Baseball:** A split with Ponchy but a decisive win over Slidell. And 8th beat Northshore!



William receives graduation announcements – the end is near!

- **Bowling:** Singles tournament on Fri saw Peter Bertucci, Joseph Brown, Jack Bertucci, Jonathan Wellmeyer, Jacob Bounds and Zachary van Zandt representing us well.
- **Foreign Language Festival:** Lobos represented us well at Southeastern! Muchos Gracias!
- **Golf:** Wolves won their league match last week! Chris Wilson and Riley Hnatyshyn tied for first with 73 and Owen Hayden shot 75.
- **History Day at WW II Museum:** Wolves did GREAT! Details next week when I have more space, but trips were won!
- **Holocaust Talks:** We are grateful to SSA for allowing their Holocaust teacher to make five presentations, one to each level, in preparation for our Leadership Speaker, Mrs. Anne Levy, a Holocaust survivor.
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts** have ended. They were great. Beck Heebe, Hyde Healy, Jackson Gold, & Christopher Wilson gave the vocabulary lesson. Beck chose **Senioritis** (an ebbing of motivation & effort by seniors as shown by tardiness, absences, & lower grades) and applied it to SPS, encouraging students not to succumb to this but also saying that it's different at SPS as seniors really don't want to leave. Jackson chose **Spaghettification** (an object would be stretched and ripped apart by gravitational forces on falling into a black hole) and humorously described several SPS scenarios when he was almost spaghettified and urged all not to fall

into those black holes. Hyde waxed eloquently on **Lycanthropy** (a delusion that one has become a wolf) and talked about how he has fully embraced the SPS culture, thus becoming a metaphorical wolf but urged all to be passionate about whatever or wherever they are involved. Finally, Christopher reflected on **Luminary** (a person who inspires or influences others or of prominence.) He said we were all luminaries, capable of inspiring and influencing others but together, we become like the luminaries on campus at Christmas – one alone does not make the overall effect, but thousands together create a spectacular sight. Wow. I was so impressed with all four. My work with them is done.

- **Lacrosse:** Varsity defeated Newman & Bro. Martin; JVA & JVB split 1-1.
- **Rugby:** defeated Jesuit 35-5 on Sat. Next Sat, April 13th is the playoffs tournament at the NOLA Gold stadium at Shaw high school at 9:00 am.
- **State Rally:** Wolves competed well on Sat; results won't be known for a couple of weeks.
- **Tennis:** Touch match against Jesuit last week. Wolves will bounce back this week!
- **Track:** 1st Place (Varsity) in Allie Smith Covington High Meet! And Dylan was again MVP! Wow. JV's Chubby Marks? Cancelled due to weather.
- **Wolf Tracks:** Congrats, Danielle -- a great issue!



Sophomores prepare to enjoy the HR Breakfast!

Lenten Prayer: *Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs filling. Fill it, Lord. I am weak in faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times, I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you, I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.*

Louisiana Youth Seminar: Just a reminder that Louisiana Youth Seminar Registration is currently open and accepting students! We have welcomed students from your school over the past years and look forward to them attending LYS 2019 - July 14-19. If 2019 is like the last 5 years, we expect LYS to “sell out” in the next 3-4 weeks, and we want our loyal schools to be aware of this. We look hope you can assist your students in registering early. [Registration details can be found here](#)

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

News worth Noting: Volunteerism boosts self-esteem. The Journal of Adolescence reported that volunteering to assist strangers yielded more long-term benefits in teens than helping family or friends. In addition to having positive psychological impacts on teens, volunteering can increase physical exercise and prevent loneliness. Helping others does not have to be done on a grand scale, a small act of kindness is a great place to start. [Read more on this story.](#)

News worth Noting II: Wanted: Employees Who Can Shake Hands, Make Small Talk: New jobs require substantially more social skills than the manufacturing and factory jobs that once powered the economy. Robots still can't be friendly, make small talk and calm disgruntled customers, which offers opportunity for people. Turns out a lot of them aren't very good at it, either. That's why we need to continue to teach presentation skills, including how to shake hands, make eye contact, keep the conversation going, etc. And I'm editorializing here, but having their eyes glued to phone screens doesn't help. To read the article, click here: <https://patch.com/rhode-island/middletown/wanted-employees-who-can-shake-hands-make-small-talk>

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

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.

Prayers, Please: We request your prayers for long-time SPS Religion Teacher Robert Simpson, who was diagnosed last week with pancreatic cancer. Robert has made this publically known so I am not violating any confidence. Treatment options are being generated. In the meantime, many are assisting his family (two SPS sons!) and we are taking care of his classes – although he was here on Friday!



Pre-freshman Promotion Ceremony:

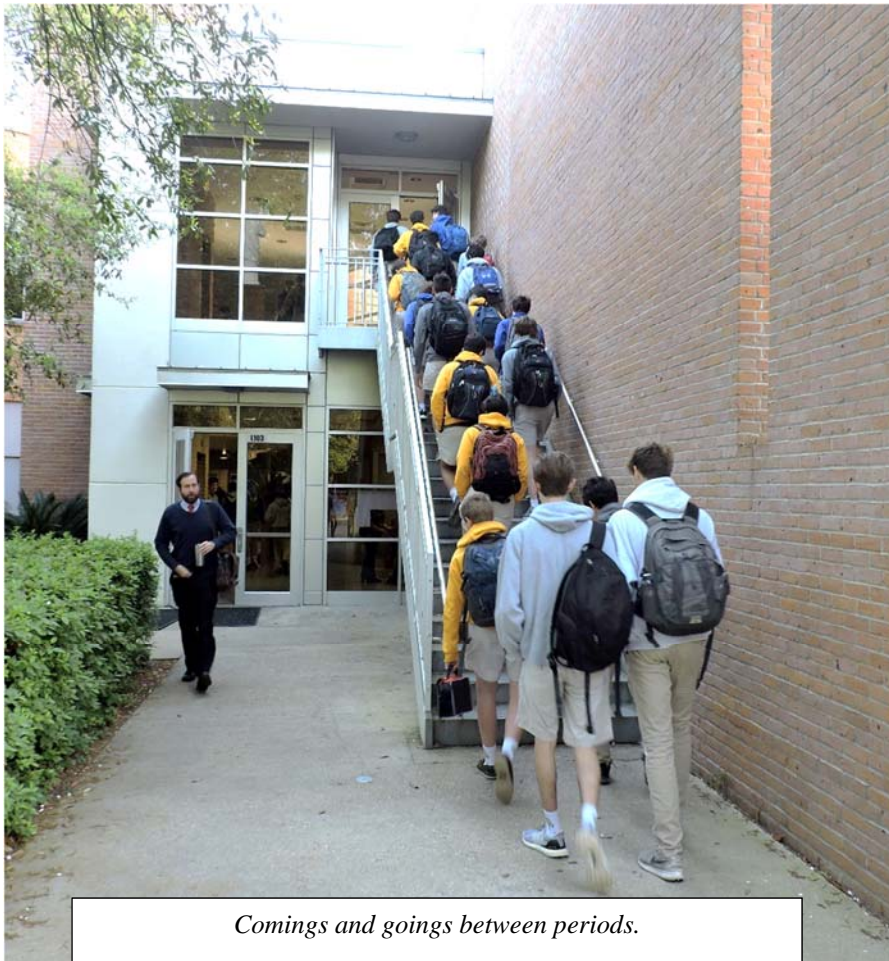
- Our Promotion Ceremony is Friday, May 17, at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. Students report to the Wolf Dome at 6:00 pm. The ceremony lasts about 75 minutes. Note that traffic on a Friday afternoon can be problematic. Please plan accordingly.
- Dress code for the ceremony is SPS dress uniform: white shirt, long khaki pants, school tie, dress socks, no athletic shoes. Students do not wear a jacket.
- Pre-freshman awards will also be given at the ceremony.
- Yes, grandparents are welcome to attend. While we do not limit the number of guests who may attend, we hope to average 5-6 guests only per family.
- A reception by the Mother's Club is after the ceremony. Attendance at this is optional.
- In the past, this ceremony has been a very positive and impressive one, and we'll do our best to make it so again on May 17. It takes place within a Catholic Liturgy of the Word, with the boys singing a number of songs.

Scheduling for Next Year: Students have selected their courses for next year. **Only registered students were allowed to schedule classes.** If you did not register your son, please let me know your intentions as we are getting inquiries from new applicants.

Security: "Lock Your Car" Signs are appearing around Covington – including around SPS – courtesy of the Covington PD. Car burglaries are occurring, and almost always in unlocked cars. Parents – please stress with your sons the need to lock his car. And please lock yours when you come to campus for an event, especially an evening event.

Senior Graduation Information:

- Mon and Tue, Apr 29 & 30: regular schedules for seniors; full days of school; elective exams given
- Wed, May 01: two exams in the morning; graduation practice in the afternoon; dismissal following practice
- Thu, May 02: two exams in the morning; graduation practice in the afternoon; dismissal following practice
- Fri, May 03: one exam in the morning followed by short graduation practice and distribution of caps, gowns, and graduation ceremony tickets. **Each senior will be issued EIGHT (8) tickets. The tickets are handed directly to the senior on this day. We are not responsible for lost tickets and they will not be replaced.**
- **Tickets and caps/gowns will NOT be issued to any student who still has an obligation to the school.**
- Mon – Fri, May 06 - 10: seniors **do not** report to school except for the following:
- Wed, May 08: Senior Grad Night (5-9)
- Thu, May 09: Athletic Awards Ceremony (8 am); only senior athletes need attend
- Fri, May 10: Academic Awards Ceremony (8 am). Only those seniors getting awards need attend in dress uniform. Final graduation practice (if needed) at 10 am.
- Mon – Fri, May 13 – 17: Seniors to not report to school
- Sat, May 18: the 108th Commencement Exercises of The Saint Paul's School; 4 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. Doors will open at 3 and **admission is by ticket only**. The beautiful ceremony, within the context of a Catholic mass, lasts about two hours.
- Note: Everything seniors need to know for graduation will be part of a printed set of instructions given to them on Friday, May 03. I will also email a copy to senior parents.



Comings and goings between periods.

Service Projects:

- **St. Anselm Parish fish fry** is seeking volunteers for the final Friday in Lent, April 12th. Please e-mail stanselmfishfry@gmail.com to sign up!
- **St. Tammany Art Association's Spring For Art** event taking place Saturday, April 13 from 6-9pm on Columbia Street (200-400 blocks) and throughout the St. John's historic downtown Covington. Spring for Art includes a variety of exhibits in the local art galleries, musical performances, artist demonstrations, culture and community! There are two shifts available: 4-8pm and 6-10pm. Students can sign up for one or both shifts. Our Sign-In/Sign-Out will be in the rear parking lot of the STAA Arthouse - address 320 N. Columbia St. across the alley from Smith's Hardware store. For more information, contact Ms. Meriwether McGee. Cell: 973-479-

8869 Email: meriwether.mcgee@gmail.com.

- **Pontchartrain Elementary School Spring Fling** , scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2019. Volunteers are vital to the success of the event. For more information and to sign up at: www.signupgenius.com... Search the email: pesspringfling@yahoo.com Or TEXT Ms. Amanda Colceriu-Dandu @ 985-630-4041
- **St. Peter's Fair** is seeking booth volunteers for the following time slots :
Saturday, May 4th--- 10:00 am – Noon, Noon - 2:00 pm, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, 8:00 - 10:00 pm, 10:00 - 11:00 pm (only 1hr shift - fair closes at 11:00 pm) Sunday. May 5th--- 10:00 am – Noon, Noon - 2:00 pm, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, 4:00 - 5:30 pm (1.5hr shift - fair closes at 5:00 pm then help w/ cleanup) For more information, please contact Ms. Mariana Martinez: email mzanotti@uno.edu or call/text (305)753-6171.
- **Ochsner Health Center for Children Live Oak:** Our clinic is looking for volunteers to be a part of a program that would help teenage boys with developmental delays by being peer models. For more information, contact Ms. Samantha Anderson at (985)875-2800.
- **Camp Tiger Paw** is a one-week camp for young adults with disabilities located at St Timothy's Church the week of July 8-12 from 9-3pm. Each camper is paired with a counselor and am in need of more male counselors. This camp is lots of fun but also lots of responsibility. This experience is often life changing for my counselors who often come back year after year. For more information, Please contact Ms. Peggy Wales 985-778-1523
- **AgriSafe** is a local nonprofit in Covington and we have service opportunities available for 11th and 12th graders. Students would assist with tasks for upcoming safety and health exhibits and presentations by conducting research, putting together safety kits, brochures, personal protective equipment (PPE) and helping manage our listserv of member contacts. For more information, contact Ms. Knesha Rose-Davison at 985.327.1627 or by e-mail krose@agrisafe.org

Sexual Assault Month: A parent reminded me that April is also Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This is a perfect opportunity for parents to have frank, open conversations with their children, especially their sons, about this insidious scourge in our society – about which we are reading more and more.

Student Council: This is Leadership Week, sponsored by SPS Student Council. Here are the events:

- Monday, April 8: Student Council invites All SPS students to attend the annual Challenge Night as we seek to continue our winning streak against the Doves of SSA! Monday, April 8 6PM-8PM, doors open at 5:45 PM in the SPS Gym. The \$5 admission fee will benefit the LASC state charity Grant's Gifts, a local charity that assists families of children with special needs.
- Tuesday, April 9: Pack time—Stuff the Bus info.
- Wednesday, April 10: Special schedule for Leadership Breakfast. Retired Disney Imagineer Jack Blich will speak to a group of student leaders.
- Thursday, April 11: Executive Board speeches and elections. Special Schedule for our much anticipated guest speaker Mrs. Ann Levy, Holocaust survivor.
- Friday, April 12: Special schedule and announcement of Executive Board 2019-2020 and Year in Review.

Summer Camps: SPS offers the following camps:

- Boys Sports: baseball, football, wrestling, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, speed/strength
- Drama (boys and girls 9-13)
- For more information, consult our website: www.stpauls.com

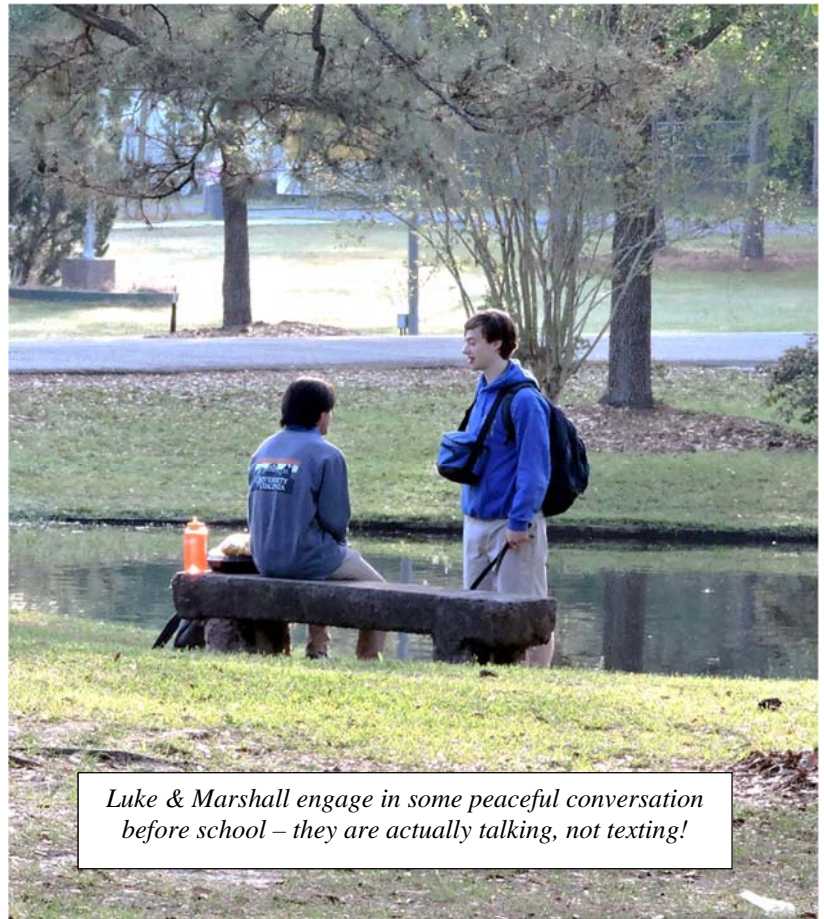
Unplanned: I have gotten info from parents about the movie *Unplanned*. Since it is R rated, I am not “recommending” the movie to students. Last week, however, Archbishop Gregory Aymond issued a statement about the film, which I will use and tell parents to make their decision. Here is statement from Archbishop Gregory Aymond concerning the movie: *I have been told [Unplanned] is a powerful movie that tells the story of the transformation of Abby Johnson from one of the leading abortion activist to one of the leading pro-life activist. It gives a good glimpse of the inner workings of Planned Parenthood. It is a reminder of our need to pray for a greater respect for all human life and to pray for all those who have been affected by abortion. It is rated R due to the topic and has a few bloody scenes.*

Vaping—the latest from the FDA: The FDA issued a special announcement last week as it has become aware that some people who vape have experienced seizures, **with most reports involving youth or young adult users**. Seizures or convulsions are potential side effects of nicotine toxicity and have been reported in the scientific literature in relation to intentional or accidental swallowing of e-liquid. However, a recent uptick in voluntary reports of adverse experiences with tobacco products that mentioned seizures occurring with e-cigarette use (e.g., vaping) signal a potential emerging safety issue. The FDA continues to monitor all adverse experiences reported to the agency about the use of e-cigarettes and encourages the public to report cases of individuals who use e-cigarettes and have had a seizure via the online [Safety Reporting Portal](https://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts/NewsEvents/ucm635133.htm), as further described below. Read the FDA’s special announcement. Here’s the link:

<https://www.fda.gov/TobaccoProducts/NewsEvents/ucm635133.htm>

Weekly Humor: This week’s humor presents some **Paraprosdokians**, which, as I’m sure you know, are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected.

- *Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were*
- *Dogs have owners; cats have staff.*
- *I didn't say it was your fault; I'm just blaming you.*
- *Get your facts first, then distort them as you please.*
- *A bank is a place that will lend you money, if you can prove that you don't need it.*
- *Well, I'm having a great day. Woke up this morning, got out of bed, went to the bathroom. In that order!*
- *You remind me of when I was young and stupid.*
- *If the enemy is in range, so are you.*
- *Why did they say I'm innumerate? It doesn't add up.*
- *Men can multitask, we read in the bathroom.*
- *Growing old is tough; not growing old is worse.*
- *I haven't slept for ten days, b/c that's too long.*



Luke & Marshall engage in some peaceful conversation before school – they are actually talking, not texting!

- *Experts know more and more about less and less till they know absolutely everything about nothing.*
- *Being smart is knowing how to get out of a tough situation. Being wise is not getting into it in the first place.*
- *Advertising messages have to be made loud and clear for the hard of thinking.*
- *A fine is a tax on doing bad, so a tax must be a fine for doing good.*
- *I had a chicken finger that was so big, it was a chicken hand.*

Words of Inspiration: Is SPS worth it? Here's a statement from a 2015 alum who visited with me recently to express interest in a teaching position at SPS. He will graduate next month from the University of Mississippi. He left a resume with a cover letter. I quote in part: *I would not be the man I am today without attending St. Paul's School. This is one of the reasons I am applying to teach at Saint Paul's. Saint John Baptist de La Salle's heart for educating others inspires me to educate myself and others. My education at a Lasallian institution set me on fire with a desire to learn and educate myself to the best of my ability. Attending Saint Paul's, I realized the importance of education from many teachers. Saint Paul's has given me a love of God, brotherhood, and education. I want to serve the students at Saint Paul's and shape them into true Lasallian men. I want to show students at Saint Paul's that they are important and I want to inspire them to rise up.*

A Look Ahead *(note changes in italics)*

- April 8 – Late Start (9 am)
- April 9 – Pack Time – Teacher Appreciation/Snack Day
- April 10 – Leadership Breakfast
- April 11 – Guest Speaker
- April 12 – Year in Review/Alumni Assemblies
- April 15 – ~~Mass Schedule~~ – *Regular Schedule*
- April 16 – President's Assembly
- April 17 – Passion Play Schedule
- April 18 – Mandatum Assembly
- April 19 – Good Friday Holiday
- *April 29 - Mass*
- April 30 – President's Assembly
- May 1-3 – Senior Exams
- May 7 – Pack Time
- May 9 – Athletic Awards
- May 10 – Academic Awards
- May 14-16 – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- May 21-24 – Final Exams 9th-11th



Signs of spring spot the campus. Easter draws nigh!

Period Rotation: Please use this when making unavoidable doctor appointments, etc. so your son will know what classes he is missing. Naturally, this is subject to change if unavoidable conflicts (weather, etc.) occur.

April

- 8 – EFGA – Late Start (9 am)
- 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 – Exam Schedule
- 22 – Exam Schedule
- 23 – Exam Schedule
- 24 – Exam Schedule

Whew! Enough for now. Even though it’s the second week of April of 2019, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which is no longer on 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 the fourth quarter! Again, thanks for being part of SPS.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can’t Believe It’s April and I’m Still The 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School



...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God’s will, remaining faithful, letting Our Lady of the Star guide us to God and asking our holy founding Brothers to help us continue our Lasallian Mission!

And have your son sing our Lenten favorite: *Oh that shame! Now ended in his glory! O that pain, now lost in joy unknown! Tell it out with praise, the whole glad story, human nature at the Father’s throne!*