



***President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter***  
***Celebrating 108 years of educational excellence in Covington***  
***339 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world***  
***October 21 - 27, 2019***



Welcome to the second week of the second quarter and the final full week of October!  
Time marches on; all we can do is make the most of it!



As we begin the second quarter, now is a good time to remind ourselves of and recommit ourselves to the fundamentals of what we do and why we do it. Ten weeks ago, we committed ourselves to being Lasallian and to doing God's will. At the start of the second quarter, we must renew our Lasallian commitment to students and to parents. **We again commit ourselves to the five Lasallian Core Principles: *Provide a quality education, Build an inclusive community, Respect all persons, Show concern for the poor and social justice, and Have Faith in the presence of God.***

As we pray daily for help in continuing our Lasallian Mission, I offered the following words of St. John Baptist de La Salle to our faculty and staff and encouraged them to use these words of St. La Salle to inspire their work – just as, I'm sure, our Founding Brothers did. I respectfully submit that the words apply to you, too, in your role as parent just as much as they apply to us in our work as teachers:

- *It is God who has called you to this form of service; [parenting or teaching]*
- *Every day God calls you anew to the needs these children have; [as parent or teacher]*
- *It is God's own work that he entrusts to you; [as parent or teacher]*
- *Your presence among young people brings salvation to them; [as parent or teacher]*
- *Be satisfied with what you can do, since God is satisfied with it, but do not spare yourself in what you can do with grace; believe that, if you want it, you can do more with the grace of God than you think.*
- *In you, and through your ministry, these children encounter God, who knows each of them by name, who loves them, and who goes out searching endlessly for those who have gone astray.*

**Please pray this week that we live up the Lasallian Mission of education.**

By the way, the image of St. La Salle above is from an original oil painting that hangs in the Counseling Center. It was painted by famous Louisiana folk artist Eddie Mormon, known for his distinctive style of vivid colors, lots of paint, and use of a knife, not a brush for bold strokes. It was commissioned by a former SPS student who left here before he graduated – but remains grateful for SPS.

**Mon, Oct 21 (9 am start to allow for faculty meeting; B C D E)**

- **This Day in History:** In 2015, we held the official blessing and dedication of the new gym. Gene Bennett smiled on us that night, as it was a magical evening, with many, many supporters in attendance.
- **TDIH:** In 1879, Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp with a carbonized filament at his lab in Menlo Park, NJ, keeping it lit for 13 hours. We've come a long way! We are slowing replacing lights with LEDs. They are GREAT!
- **TDIH:** In 1967, 100,000 people marched on The Pentagon to protest the Vietnam War.
- **Babbling Day:** Calling all blatherskites (people who babble – yes, it's a real word!): today isn't a day to remain silent. We celebrate those with glib tongues who never stop talking. They babble on and on and turn a simple one-sentence statement into an endless dissertation. I'm not one of them, however!
- **National Pumpkin Cheesecake Day:** Don't want to babble today? Then enjoy this classic fall dessert!
- **National Clean Your Virtual Desktop Day:** My virtual desktop is as messy as my wooden desktop!
- **Reptile Awareness Day:** Become as aware as you want of these critters, but I'll stay clear of 'em
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences (5-7 in the BAC)**



**Tue, Oct 22 (Feast of St. John Paul II; Assembly; Shadow Day; F G A B)**

- **TDIH:** In 1962, President John Kennedy announces that he has ordered a blockade of Cuba in response to the discovery that Soviet missiles were being installed on the island, pushing the US to a nuclear showdown with Russia.
- **CAPS LOCK DAY: FEEL FREE TO CAPITALIZE EVERYTHING TODAY!** I will abstain, however!
- **Stuttering Awareness Day:** 1% of the population stutters or has some other speech impairment. Let's be sensitive to them and learn how to assist. There are some great tips on the ISAD website.



- **Smart is Cool Day:** Flaunt your IQ today! Tout your ACT score! Quote Plato and Shakespeare! Take an on line IQ test at [www.iqtest.com](http://www.iqtest.com) and see how smart you really are!
- **Manresa:** 17 juniors leave for a 24 hour SILENT retreat at this historic retreat site. We pray for them.

### Wed, Oct 23 (7:15 mass; Regular; C D E F)

- Today, the Lasallian world celebrates the memorial feast of Blessed Brother Arnold, a Christian Brother (1838-1890) who was beatified by Pope John Paul II. From the Brothers' web site: *Arnold was born into a poor family and left school early to work as a stable boy, coachman, and for local construction. He met the Brothers while attending evening classes at their school and joined. He taught for 14 years at a boarding school in Reims. Despite a full teaching schedule, he privately studied math, theology, science & agriculture. During Franco-Prussian War of 1870, he cared for medical & spiritual needs of the wounded on both sides; he was awarded the Bronze Cross. His work won the hearts of his students by his care for their spiritual and professional development. He died at 52 with a reputation for sanctity. Work and pray so that people will say the same about us! Blessed Brother Arnold— watch over us and inspire us!*
- **Mole Day:** Celebrated annually on Oct 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m., Mole Day commemorates Avogadro's Number ( $6.02 \times 10^{23}$ ), a basic chemistry measuring unit. Will Lee's classes make moles again this year? Stay tuned!
- **The Swallows Depart San Juan, Capistrano** today as they head for their winter home in Argentina.
- **Petroleum Engineering Field Trip to LSU School of Engineering**
- **Football:** JV & Varsity at Mandeville (5:30)
- **Drama:** "A Few Good Men" (7)

### Thu, Oct 24 (7:40 Eucharistic Adoration; Regular; G A B C)

- **Let Us Remember Dept:** Today marks the 14-year anniversary of the death of prodigious SPS English teacher Brother Bill Parsons. While fewer and fewer at SPS remember Bill, his presence and influence continue. We remember Bill and his contribution to the Christian education of youth and take comfort in the role he played in our lives. Brother Bill, pray for us! In his memory, let's pay attention to our English today – which was something on which he insisted.
- **TDIH:** In 1861, Western Union sends the first transcontinental telegram from San Francisco to Washington, DC, addressed to President Abraham Lincoln from the Chief Justice of California.
- **TDIH:** In 1945, The United Nations is founded.
- **National Bologna Day:** Eat a bologna sandwich! I'll pass!



*Students bubble answer sheets for PSAT.  
Stop mugging for camera, Jack, and bubble!*

- **Sudden Impact:** Mr. Eubanks B period will participate in this powerful program.
- **Drama:** “A Few Good Men” (7)
- **Football:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. Brother Martin (time and place TBD)



**Fri, Oct 25 (9 am start for Faculty Wellness Screening; D E F G)**

- **Wellness Screening and Flu Shots** begin as early as 6:30 in the BAC. To lessen class interruptions, we will begin classes at 9:00. If you have a post-9:00 am appointment and are in class, let us know and we will provide a sub for the 15 minutes it will take for you to get screened and get your flu shot. Stay healthy.
- **TDIH:** In 1854, during the Crimean War, the Charge of the Light Brigade occurred. Of the 673 British cavalrymen, 272 were killed. The Charge was later immortalized in the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. (*Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die. Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred*) Re-read this famous poem today!
- **TDIH:** In 1983, over 2000 US Marines and Army Rangers invade the tiny Caribbean island of Grenada “to restore order and democracy.”
- **TDIH.** In 1881, Pablo Picasso, co-founder of the Cubist movement and one of the greatest, most influential artists of 20th century, is born in Malaga, Spain. Spend time today viewing some Picasso. Here’s a link: [http://www.google.com/images?q=picasso&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&ei=D3XBTl\\_6AoT7lwff25nLCg&sa=X&oi=image\\_result\\_group&ct=title&resnum=4&ved=0CEoQsAQwAw&biw=1024&bih=578](http://www.google.com/images?q=picasso&oe=utf-8&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official&client=firefox-a&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&ei=D3XBTl_6AoT7lwff25nLCg&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ct=title&resnum=4&ved=0CEoQsAQwAw&biw=1024&bih=578)



- **TDIH:** In 2016, the Advanced Ed/Southern Association Quality Review Team arrived on campus for a three-day inspection of our school. SPS passed with flying colors!1
- **Sour Day:** Life given you lemons? Today's the day to shout about it. Reserve the right to be grumpy, irritable and sour about the world and everything in it. But tomorrow you've got to be sweet to everyone!
- **World Pasta Day:** Last week was National Pasta Day, now it's World Pasta Day – so eat some more pasta!
- **Swimming:** Metro Meet prelims at UNO
- **Football:** Varsity v. Mandeville (7)

### Sat, Oct 26

- **TDIH:** In 1958, Pan American Airways flies the first direct commercial jet flight from New York to Paris using a Boeing 707.
- **TDIH:** In 1881, the Earp brothers face off against the Clanton-McLaury gang in a shootout at the OK Corral in Tombstone, AZ. Relive some Old West history today!
- **Howl at the Moon Day:** Release your inner wolf and go wild – full moon or not!
- **ACT on campus**
- **Swimming:** Metro Meet finals at UNO
- **National Forgiveness Day:** The mission of NFD (last Sat of Oct) is to encourage people to ask for forgiveness and to forgive one another while creating an understanding of the power of love, the joy of forgiveness, and the peace of humility in the hearts of positive people. **I ask anyone whom I've offended to forgive me and will offer my forgiveness to anyone who wants it** – but I'm not easily offended so very few people fall into that category!
- **Drama: "A Few Good Men" – 2 pm and 7 pm (final performance)**

### Sun, Oct 27

- **TDIH:** In 1858, Theodore Roosevelt is born in NY City. Today, speak softly, but carry a big stick!
- **Cranky Co-Workers Day:** Let cranky co-workers enjoy their miseries. Fortunately, we have no cranky SPS ones – just a cranky President, Principal, AP, and Dean.
- **Navy Day:** In the US, ND is commonly celebrated on Oct 27. This date is the birth date of President Theodore Roosevelt, an avid navy supporter. In the 1970's, research determined that the birthdate of the US Continental Navy was Oct 13, 1775. Efforts were made to move ND to this date. However, Navy Day is still largely recognized as Oct 27. We salute all members of the US Navy, both past and present, and thank them for their service to our country.

**Rise Up, O Men of God**

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

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

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

**ADMISSIONS FOR 2020-21:** We, along with all private high schools, have started recruiting for next year. As usual, I count on you for your help in spreading the good news about SPS and inviting your friends and neighbors to come take a look at Lasallian education on the Northshore. The two best avenues are:

- Shadow Days: Only two left! Spread the word!
- **Open House: We will run a true Open House on Sat, November 2. Families can come anytime between 1 and 3 to tour the campus and speak with students, teachers, and administrators.**
- **I especially need our families who came from public school to spread the word among other public school families to come take a look at SPS!**
- **We don't produce yard signs in order not to "clutter" people's lawns and neighborhoods – that is why we need YOU to spread the word!**

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



**ATTENDANCE:** Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook, which is posted on PlusPortals. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.

## BOOKSTORE:

Here are the regular hours:

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am
- M – F: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Also by appointment. Email [spsbookstore@gmail.com](mailto:spsbookstore@gmail.com).
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds not help fund wonderful activities throughout the year and campus needs. For example, the MC funded over \$40,000 worth of school projects this past year.



**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH:** I have been remiss in mentioning this and it's certainly more important than National Dessert Day or Frustration Day. As an all-boys school, we must not overlook the teachable moments concerning issues pertaining primarily to women, and our boys need to know about this insidious disease, which can strike their grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and future wives and daughters. And we have current parents and friends battling this medical scourge. I encourage enlightened, appropriate discussion of this important health issue with our students when possible. We reach out in prayerful support to any family struggling with this issue. I invite you to pray the following:

We pray for those who are now ill. O God, Source of Life, heal them!

For those who are affected by illness, anguish and pain. O God, Source of Life, heal them!

Grant courage to those whose bodies, holy proof of Your creative goodness, are violated by illness.

O God, Source of Life, encourage them!

Grant strength and compassion to those who give loving care, support and help to overcome despair.

O God, Source of Life, strengthen them!

Grant wisdom to those who labor in the search for treatment and cures.

O God, Source of Life, inspire them!

Grant clarity of vision and strength of purpose to the leaders of our institutions and our government.

May they be moved to act with justice and compassion and find the courage to overcome fear and hatred!

O God, Source of Life, guide them and bless us all!

**DRUG TESTING:** We have begun drug testing, choosing students both randomly and "for cause." Over 1/3 of the student body will be tested this year. Know our policy. Reinforce with your sons. 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.



*Crows descend upon campus daily after lunch to scavenge from the boys' lunch droppings!*

**EMERGENCY CLOSINGS:** As we pass the height of the tropical season (Sep 10) and with safety foremost in our minds, I remind all of the directives from the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of NO:

- **Catholic schools will follow the closure and reopening schedules of their civil parish.** Therefore, monitor the St. Tammany Public School system announcements. Naturally, we reserve the right to close earlier if we feel it necessary and to reopen earlier if we are able and civil parish authorities give permission. For example, we opened weeks before the public school system following Hurricane Katrina.
- **Listen & Watch** for a robo-text message or phone call or email before calling school since it is difficult to handle a large volume of calls. Also, our phone system goes dark in a power failure.
- **Consult** PlusPortals and our web site.
- **Pray** to Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Patroness of Louisiana.

**HELPING SAINT PAUL'S:** Don't forget – here are painless ways to help:

- If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!
- SBox Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. Have your son bring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there's AmazonSmile! Choose SPS to receive a portion of your purchases!



*Business students prepare to open PJ's.*

**HOMEcoming CLOTHING MIXUPS:** We have three sports coats and a tie in Ms. Claire's office from homecoming and we have some students missing jackets from homecoming. Parents: make sure your son has the correct jacket and if missing one to check with Claire.

**HONOR ROLL BREAKFAST DATES:** We have set the first quarter HR breakfast dates – which will be in November. See below for the exact schedule in "A Look Ahead."

**ID CARDS:** Students must wear their ID cards on their lanyard DAILY. **Please check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing the ID.** If he forgets, he must purchase a temporary ID from Sgt. Pressley. If he loses his ID, he must purchase a replacement for \$10.

**INFORMATION:** Need More Info? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, or Assistant Principal Joe Dickens. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, AD. Naturally, call me if I can help. **My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1901 & my cell phone is 985/966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com!**



**JAZZ ‘N ROLL:** Saint Paul’s School will celebrate the **30th Jazz ‘N Roll** on **Saturday, November 2, 2019** from 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm. Original art by local artists, collectable sports memorabilia, a second line by our Marching Wolves Brass band, laughter and libations fill the night air at the thirtieth Jazz ‘N Roll. Profits from this party-with-a-purpose are used to support a number of programs vital to the quality education of students and faculty, including VEX Robotics, Habitat for Humanity, Wolves on Wheels, and continuing education for faculty to name a few. Capital improvements, such as the newly renovated Benilde Hall, receive funding from this signature event, providing students with a college-style union area and the religion, Spanish, and media departments with state-of-the-art classrooms. [Click here for tickets:](https://www.stpauls.com/support/events/jazz-n-roll/)  
<https://www.stpauls.com/support/events/jazz-n-roll/> Contact the Development (892-3200, ext 1970, for info.

#### **LAST WEEK:**

- **Cross Country:** Wolves were up and at ‘em again early Sat morning and returned home with 1<sup>st</sup>!
- **Football:** Pre-freshmen fought hard against Redemptorist from Pascagoula, 9<sup>th</sup> beat Northshore, JV lost a close one to Rummel, and Varsity won big against Northshore.
- **Marching Wolves, Golden Blues, & Cheerleaders:** As always, the MWs, GBs & CLs performed great.
- **Marian Players:** A great opening to “A Few Good Men.” Congrats!
- **Mothers’ Club:** All welcomed a student snack day and staff appreciation lunch! Thanks, MC!
- **PSAT:** A well-administered test by our counselors. Let’s hope the boys did well!

**LATE STARTS:** Two late (9 am) starts this week: Mon (to allow for faculty meeting) and Fri (to allow for faculty wellness screening). Early arrivals – no problem! Library and cafeteria are open!

**LOST & FOUND:** Lunch boxes, uniform shirts, books, shoes – all sorts of things are being left behind on campus – almost all with no names on them. Please stress with your sons to need to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is by Attendance Office.



*CORE Pack students were well taken care of on Snack Day last week!  
Thanks, CORE Pack moms!  
And all of the other students were well taken care of, too! Thanks, Mothers' Club!*



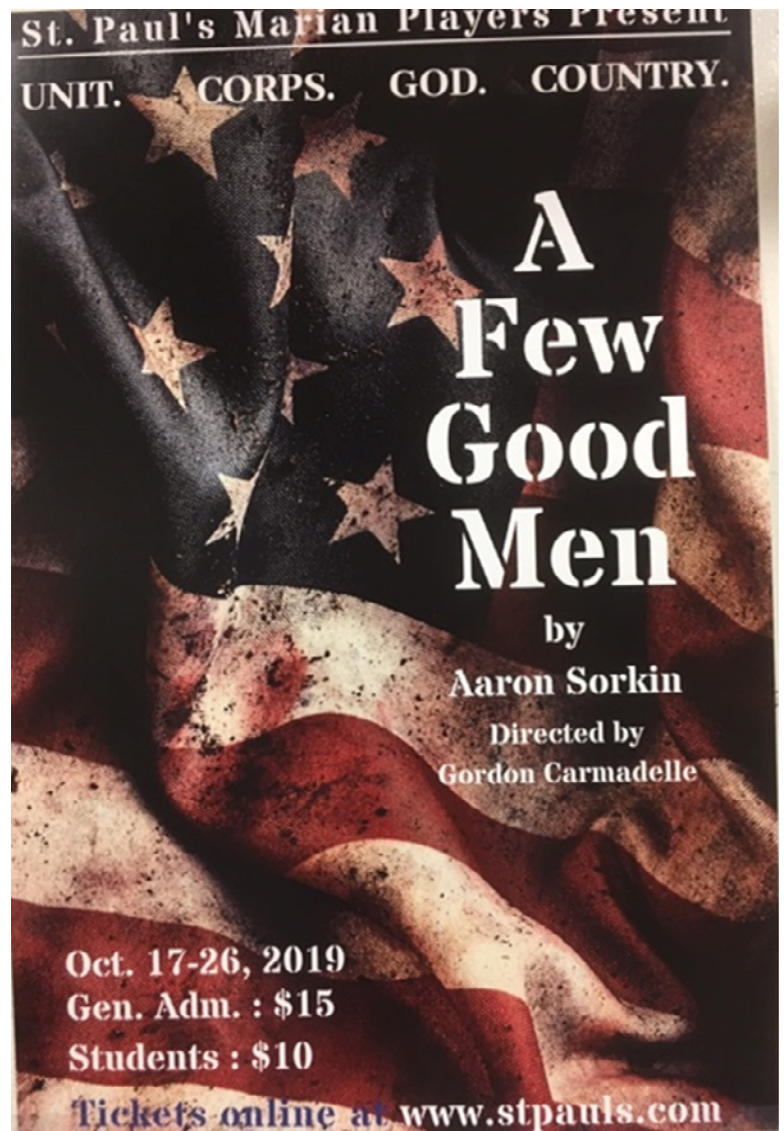
**MARIAN PLAYERS:** Our drama department is proud to present "A Few Good Men." The play opens Thurs, Oct 17, 7pm. Additional performances Wed, 10/23, 7pm, Thurs, 10/24, 7pm, and Sat, 10/26, 2 and 7. Tickets online on our website.

**MARCH THROUGH THE ARCH PICTURES ARE IN:** Senior parents, the MTTA pics are here! You may pick up your son's pic in the admin building or you may send a note with him requesting that we give the pic directly to him. We are reluctant just to hand the pics to the seniors, as we know that a number of them will end up in the back seat of a car or bottom of his book bag – and you will never see it! Many thanks to Expressions Photography for providing these pics free of charge!

**OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS** will take place on Saturday, Nov 02, from 1-3 in the Briggs Assembly Center. The format is new – it will be a true open house to better accommodate family schedules. People may come anytime between 1 and 3. We will begin in the new gym lobby. **Spread the word! Parents and students are our best publicity! People would much rather listen to you than to me!**

**OUR LADY'S FIGHTING TIGERS:** Do you have a student at LSU? Come join our Fall Day of Prayer on October 23 at Christ the King on the LSU campus. The schedule for the day is:

- 9:30 am Coffee and Light Breakfast
- 10:30 AM Speaker: Lisa Flood and Intercessory prayer
- 11:45 AM Mass
- RSVP at [CTKLSU.ORG/OLFT](http://CTKLSU.ORG/OLFT)





# The Paper Wolf.com



The official online news source of The Saint Paul's School · Covington, LA

**PAPER WOLF:** Please read The Paper Wolf! ([www.thepaperwolf.com](http://www.thepaperwolf.com)) I do! We've got an outstanding, AWARD WINNING digital newspaper! Compliment the outstanding staff. Subscribe! Support the future of journalism! Geaux Paper Wolves!

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES** will be on Monday, October 21, from 5 – 7 in the BAC. You may visit with one or all of your son's teachers.

**PLUS PORTALS:** Please activate your account and check Edline regularly for important info about your son's grades and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1944 if you need assistance.* And please adjust your setting to allow you to receive emails from school. It's very annoying when we get an Edline email with a question but your setting won't accept our response.

**REPORT CARDS:** We emailed report cards at the end of last week. While grades have been visible on PlusPortals, the report card made them official.

**ROSARY:** A group of students recites one decade of the rosary each morning, beginning at 7:50 on M, T, Th, and F and following mass on W. They would love to have your son join them. And since Oct is the month of the rosary – what a great witness! And on Thursday, we have ten minutes of Eucharistic Adoration before the rosary. This begins at 7:40.





**SLOW YOUR ROLL** is Mayor Mark Johnson's initiative to improve driving within Covington. Did you know:

- Two of the most often repeated complaints to the Mayor are speeding and the running of stop signs.
- On any given weekday, over 15,000 people drive into and out of Covington.
- Many of our streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of the automobile, thus not designed for traffic.

Mayor Mark's goal is "to change driving habits in our city...to have each of us understand that speeds over 25 MPH are not safe on most of our streets" The Mayor is asking everyone to "*relax, take a deep breath and slow down. In October, we will be stating more firmly the need to slow down. In November, there will likely be consequences.*" I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledge to him our support. Reinforce this with students whenever possible. I will do so with parents. And please set a good example yourself, as in the words of Saint La Salle: **"Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept."**

**TUTORING:** Tutoring offered by National Honor Society members is underway and occurs every day at lunch in the library for the remainder of the school year. All students are welcome to utilize this free tutoring service. Essay proofreading services also provided. Please encourage your son to take advantage of this awesome opportunity to get help from their most capable peers. **It is not embarrassing to do so!**

**VAPING:** We are ramping up enforcement on our ban of this latest insidious treat to health. We have made our position very clear – it is prohibited and strong consequences are imposed if it is discovered. But we can't police outside of school – parents, PLEASE insist with your sons that the dangers of his trend are not worth the risk. Do not allow him to become addicted. We have made too much progress in this area to go backwards.

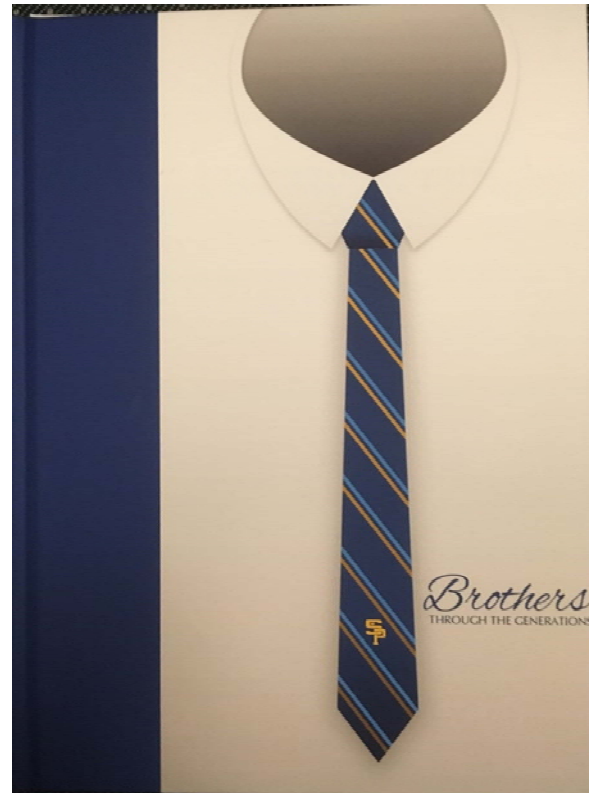
**WEEKLY HUMOR:** Some chemistry jokes in honor of Mole Day on Wed:

- *Two chemists walk into a bar. One tells the bartender, "I'll have an H<sub>2</sub>O." The other says, "I'll have an H<sub>2</sub>O too!" The second chemist dies. [H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen peroxide!]*
- *Why did the attacking army use acid? To neutralize the enemy's base!*
- *What do you do with a sick chemist? If you can't helium, and can't curium, then you might as well barium!*
- *Oxygen, hydrogen, sulfur, sodium, and phosphorous walk into a bar. "OH SNaP!" says the bartender.*
- *Old chemists never die. They just stop reacting!*
- *Did you hear oxygen went on a date with potassium? It went OK!*
- *A neutron walks into a bar and says "How much for a beer?" The bartender says, "For you, no charge!"*
- *Why do chemists like nitrates so much? They're cheaper than day rates!*
- *What's the dullest element? Bohrium!*
- *Have you heard the one about a chemist who was reading a book about helium? He couldn't put it down!*
- *The optimist sees the glass half full. The pessimist sees the glass half empty, but how does the chemist see it? Completely full, half with liquid and half with air.*
- *Why can you never trust atoms? They make up everything!*
- *Why does a hamburger have less energy than steak? Because it's in the ground state!*
- *What did the thermometer say to the graduated cylinder? "You may have graduated, but I've got degrees."*
- *What did one charged atom say to the other? I got my ion you!*
- *Why was the mole of oxygen molecules excited when he left the singles bar? He got Avogadro's number!*
- *Two atoms meet. One says, "I think I lost an electron!" The other asks, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I'm positive!"*
- *What's a chemistry teacher's favorite thing to teach about? Ammonia, because it's pretty basic stuff.*

- *Why are chemists great for solving problems? Because they always have a solution!*
- *Carbon and hydrogen went on a date. They really bonded.*
- *I want to write some jokes about the periodic table... But I don't think I'll be in my element.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

**YEARBOOKS** for 2019-2020 school year are now available.

- Order online at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com). This is the only option for ordering a yearbook, cash or checks are not accepted at school for pre-orders. We do not order extras.
- Remember to spell out the word Saint when searching for Saint Paul's School on the website.
- Price is \$65 until Mar 13
- Seniors ***do not*** order a yearbook; it is included in senior fees.



Senior parents, grandparents, and family members can purchase a senior ad at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com). The deadline to purchase a senior ad is Friday, Feb 21, 2020. All senior ads are created online. Email Mrs. Mimi Monteiro at [m.monteiro@stpauls.com](mailto:m.monteiro@stpauls.com) if you have any questions about

2019 Yearbook (*The Conifer*). Order this year's book.

## **A LOOK AHEAD**

### **October**

- 21 – BCDE – Late Start (9)
- 22 – FGAB – President's Assembly
- 23 – CDEF
- 24 – GABC
- 25 – DEFG – Late Start (9) for Faculty Wellness Day
- 28 – ABCD
- 29 – EFGA – Pack Time
- 30 – BCDE
- 31 – FGAB

### **November**

- 1 – CDEF – Mass Schedule – Dress Uniform Day
- 4 – Archdiocese Faculty Formation Day – students do not report to school
- 5 – GABC – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast
- 6 – DEFG – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade HR Breakfast
- 7 – ABCD – 10<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 8 – EFGA – 11<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast



- 11 – BCDE – Veterans Day Assembly
- 12 – FGAB – President’s Assembly
- 13 – CDEF – 12 HR Breakfast
- 14 – GABC
- 15 – DEFG
- 18 – ABCD – Senior Day with Archbishop
- 19 – EFGA – Pack Time
- 20 – BCDE
- 21 – FGAB
- 22 – CDEF

### December

- 2 – GABC – Late Start (9)
- 3 – DEFG – Pack Time
- 4 – ABCD
- 5 – EFGA – Snack Day
- 6 – BCDE
- 9 – FGABC
- 10 – DEFG – Assembly
- 11 – ABCDE
- 12 – FGABC
- 13 – DEFG + Per A Exam Review
- 16 - 19 Exam Schedules



*A portrait of concentration as a student finishes a test.*



**Worth Reading Department:** The following is a paper that recent graduate Christopher Wilson '19 wrote for a class he is taking at Loyola Marymount University – a highly selective school in Los Angeles. The Wall Street Journal ranks it in the top 15% of schools and its acceptance rate is 54% Christopher is taking an esoteric honors class entitled “On the Technological Sublime” and had to write a paper on the sublime in a piece of music of his choosing. His choice? Why, “O God Beyond All Praising” of course – an SPS favorite! Have your son sing it for

you! Christopher’s paper is worth reading for the following reasons: 1) it’s incredibly well-written; 2) it overflows with his higher order thinking skills; 3) it pays tribute to what we want the boys to get from the song. In short, the essay is more than encouraging – it’s inspirational. I showed my English students the syllabus for the class. It was eye opening for them. Want to take a look at the syllabus? Here’s the link:

<https://academics.lmu.edu/media/lmuacademics/centerforteachingexcellence/documents/Scheibler%20Technological%20Sublime.pdf>

And here’s the paper. I am VERY proud of Christopher, and it’s worth the read.

Christopher Wilson  
Dr. Scheibler  
On the Technological Sublime  
19 September 2019

### The Sublimity Through and Within “O God Beyond All Praising”

“O God Beyond All Praising” is a classic Christian church hymn written by Michael Perry in 1982. The melody for the song, “THAXTED”, was originally crafted out of British composer Gustav Holst’s “Jupiter” movement in the Suite, *The Planets*, which was composed between 1914-1916. The melody is widely known for being applied to the poem “I Vow to Thee My Country,” a patriotic British tune. No matter how the song is played, whether it be choral, on piano, on organ, or orchestrally, feelings of the sublime are invoked. As Father James Usher writes, the sublime “takes possession of our attention, and our faculties, and absorbs them in astonishment” (Shaw 2). “O God Beyond All Praising,” particularly the version sung by the students of Saint Paul’s School, invokes the sublime across a multitude of disciplines, ranging from the divine, unity, regality, and power.

Starting with the bones of the song, the melody provides the backdrop for the encounter the listener will have with the sublime. The “THAXTED” melody sets the stage for an encounter with the divine and regality. As the melody originally applied to the planet Jupiter in *The Planets* Suite, one immediately can identify the connection between the regal sublime and the song. Jupiter, named for the Roman king of the gods, is the largest planet in the solar system. The grandest, most enveloping figure in the solar system, musically described in a sense of regality, runs parallel to the themes of “O God Beyond All Praising.” God is viewed as the king of kings, the most powerful being, omnipresent in all things. In particular, the orchestral performance of this melody places the listener in a sense of the “unknowable void, upon whose brink we finite beings must dizzily hover” (Shaw 2). One finds themselves pushed into a sense of awe of the divine and regality, teetering on the frustration that they cannot quite grasp the power and impressiveness of the piece. Michael Perry chose to match this enveloping sense of regality with his written music.

Lyrically, Perry masterfully matches the feelings of regality and the divine invoked in the melody of the song. In the first verse, the sublime is referenced: “...for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings

without number and mercies without end.” Perry discusses the very essence of the sublime here. The reference to wonder perfectly describes the sublime captured in the song. Humans will never be able to fully understand why or how the world came to be. These theories can be discussed and contemplated, but up to a certain point, one must simply stop in awe of the world inhabited. For those who are religious, one can only take what they understand and leave the rest up to the greater glory of God. Perry also references the sublimity of the divine in the second verse, writing “...to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.” The divine sublime renders the person awestruck. In response to this overwhelming position of confusion, fear, and appreciation, Perry responds with a piece of worship. As divinity helps us understand the unknown while blurring truths in the known, praise exists almost as a way to help one “cope” with the sublime and process everything that goes on.

Throughout the song, reference is also made to the sublime of power. When the audio pierces the human ear, it is “humiliated by contact with the profane, only to be raised up again by such contact” (Shaw 33). The presence of power given off by the song mimics the power of the divine, radiating through the chorus. The beginning lyrics of the song allude directly to this point, “O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay.” Here, the singer seeks to praise God, while still acknowledging the very fact that His power in divinity rests beyond any means to do so. This creates a paradox, again raising the point of the sublime. As Hertz points out, “sublimity is brought about at exactly the moment when a text is brought into conflict with itself (Shaw 37). This paradox fits in perfectly with the Christian faith. Time and time again, we see God stooping down to the levels of humanity. In particular, this paradox is displayed on Palm Sunday, as Jesus rides on a donkey into Jerusalem. It is a paradox that the Savior of the world would need a donkey to ride into a town where he would redeem all souls. He died grotesquely on a cross, another paradox. This song attempts to reverse the paradox. It is an attempt to show gratitude for infinite love, creating a beautiful, sublime experience for all.

“O God Beyond All Praising” also arises the sublime of unity. Especially in the rendition of the song done by the students of Saint Paul’s School. There is something unique and unequivocally powerful about 900 people joining their voices in unison. As the song transitions from the second verse to the final verse, all the



students stand together creating a subliminal atmosphere, powerful and unifying to all. The listener is pushed into a feeling “greater than anything that might be discovered...” (Shaw 8). It is truly difficult to describe what feelings arise listening to the rendition in person. Therein lies the sublimity of the song. The melody and lyrical combination, along with the singing from the students, invokes pieces of the divine, power, regality, and unity.

Michael Perry’s “O God Beyond All Praising” sung on the “THAXTED” melody, truly envelops the listener into a subliminal experience. In response to the paradox of God, this song comes as close as possible to expressing the infinite, unrelenting, reckless love back in return to God.

#### Works Cited

“Before (and After) Longinus.” *The Sublime*, by Philip Shaw, 2nd ed., Routledge, 2017, pp. 17–40.

Shaw, Philip, and Phillip Shaw. “Introduction.” *The Sublime*, 2nd ed., Routledge, 2017, pp. 1–16

**Wow. What a great way to end the newsletter! Thank you, Christopher!**

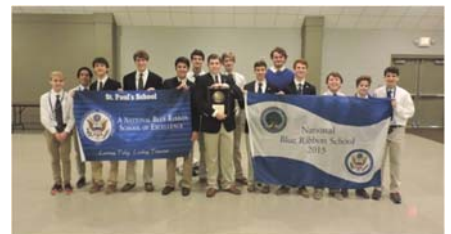
But enough for now! I can’t believe we are into the second quarter of the school year! As usual, I’ll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can’t listen to any more since WWNO stopped broadcasting the show but I’m still LOLing over past shows on its website!): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family and call on me if I can help! Again, thanks for being part of the 2019 - 20 edition of Saint Paul’s – our 109<sup>th</sup> year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

It’s the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of October and I’m Still the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

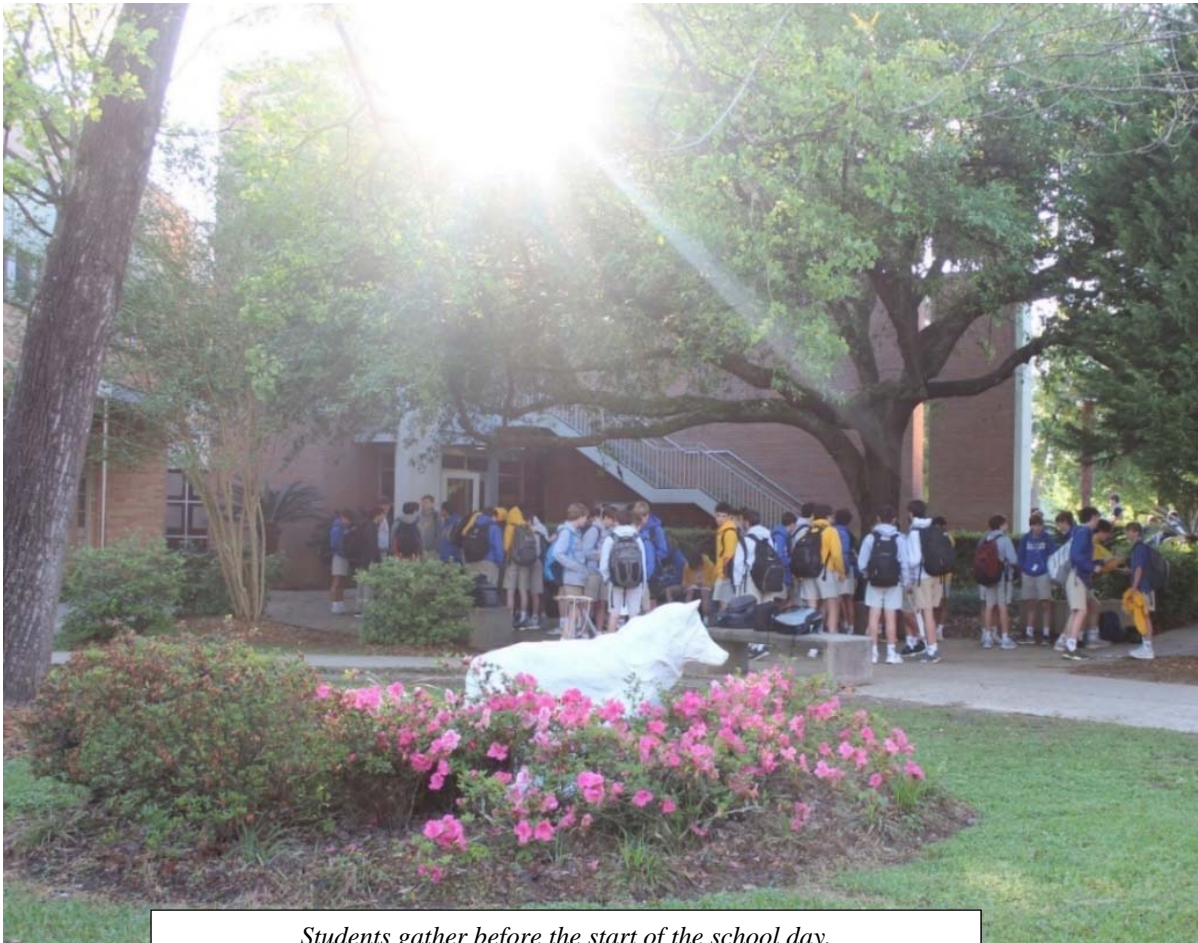


*...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God’s will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing our Lasallian Mission, and living courageously!*



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

--St. John Baptist de La Salle to the first Brothers – and to us today!



*Students gather before the start of the school day.*



*Hunter Stadium at sunset.  
Photo taken by sophomore Colin Garvey.*