



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian excellence throughout the world



May 04 - 10, 2020

Alleluia! He is risen!

Welcome to Week Seven of the Fourth Quarter and Week Seven of SPS Online!

PRAYER DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTD TIMES

Let us remember that we are in the Holy Presence of God!

Let us pray for our world, country, state, city, neighborhood, friends and family.

Let us pray for souls lost in this pandemic and for the ones we may lose in the future.

Let us pray for young people who face a different world than they were expecting.

Let us pray for Lasallian teachers to continue to help young people fulfill their dreams.

Let us pray for the Healthcare workers who are helping the sick at risk to themselves.

Let us pray for police officers, firefighters and women, military, all first responders, teachers and their families.

Let us pray for those who have lost employment and for those who may lose sources of employment in the future.

Let us pray for business owners and investors who have lost their source of income or may in the future.

Let us pray that we can all come together to help each other through the strange new world we find ourselves in.

Saint John Baptist de La Salle! Pray for Us!

Live Jesus in our hearts! Forever!

Mon, May 4 (SPS Online; A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** 1965, San Francisco Giants outfielder Willie Mays hits his 512th career home run to break Mel Ott's National League record for home runs.
- **Star Wars Day:** This is a day for *Star Wars* fans to celebrate the franchise's films series culture. The date was chosen as "May the 4th" due to its sounding similar to the series' phrase "May the Force be with you!" Who knew?
- **World Laughter Day:** Have a good laugh today! Laugh at me if you want!
- **Firefighters Day:** We honor the unsung heroes and thank them for protecting our lives and property. Wear a blue and red ribbon today, symbolic of elements firefighters work with – red for fire and blue for water.
- **Hoagie and Oyster Day:** Enjoy either or both of these treats!
- **Melanoma Monday**" (1st Mon of May; aka National Skin Self-Examination Day.) Check for skin cancer signs! Use sun bloc! As one who had a bout with skin cancer (thanks Drs. Baldone and Reina!), I encourage all to get checked regularly.

Tue, May 5 (SPS Online; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** Today, known as Cinco de Mayo, commemorates the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. The Mexican army was defeated, but the "Batalla de Puebla" came to represent a symbol of Mexican patriotism.

Wed, May 6 (SPS Online; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** 1937, the German airship *Hindenburg*, the largest dirigible ever, explodes as it arrives in NJ.
- **TDIH II:** Three years ago, representatives from Project Lead the Way came to campus to evaluate our implementation of their Biomedical and Engineering curricula. This led to Saint Paul's being the first accredited PLTW school in the state – a credential that is facilitating our students earning college credit for their work in these electives. That we have achieved this after only four years is highly unusual and speaks volumes about Trevor's vision, the instructors' dedication, and the community's support. Since then, we have been the "poster child" for PLTW!
- **Nurses Day:** We honor all of those in the nursing profession – especially in these days! Thank you!
- **No Homework Day:** I leave it to each teacher to decide whether to observe this day or not!



Evan returns books to masked Trevor on Friday.

Thu, May 7 (SPS Online; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** 1915, a German submarine torpedoes without warning British ocean liner *Lusitania*, bringing the United States closer to entry in World War I.
- **Day of Prayer** (First Thu of May): At SPS, every day is a day of prayer, but be extra prayerful today!

Fri, May 8 (SPS Online; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1945, Great Britain and US celebrate Victory in Europe Day. Cities in both nations, as well as formerly occupied cities in Western Europe, put out flags and banners, rejoicing in defeat of Nazi Germany.
- **No Socks Day:** OK with me if you observe this day! I might do it myself -- not!
- **Fintastic Friday: Giving Sharks a Voice Day (2nd Fri of May):** Who knew that sharks need help? Apparently, as many as 100 million sharks are killed each year for their fins. Shark populations have plummeted 75% to 90% in many ecosystems. Worldwide, sharks have little protection. Don't kill sharks!
- **Athletic Awards Ceremony** -- cancelled. If school were in session, we would have our annual AA Awards Ceremony. I've said it before and I'll say it again: I'll match our athletic program against any school. And ditto for our coaches – and not just for their knowledge of their sport, but for the content of their character, their commitment to Lasallian values, and their unswerving dedication to our students. We have had a great year – in spite of the abbreviated spring seasons. While I know the purpose of this morning would have been to honor the students, our coaching staff deserves great recognition, too. How many schools can boast what we regularly accomplish at district, parish, region, state and even national levels? Wow. Go Wolves!
- **Pie Bowl – cancelled.** Again, if we were in session, Spring Football would end this evening with the

tradition Pie Bowl at 6 pm, started by then head football coach Harry Nunez back in the mid 1990's.

- **Wolf Jam -- cancelled:** Again, if we were in session, I would invite you to hear our students as they show their talent and raise money for San Miguel HS– the Lasallian school for low-income families in Tucson.

Sat, May 9

- **TDIH:** The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee opens impeachment hearings against President Richard Nixon. They will ultimately vote to impeach him on July 30.
- **Physicals -- cancelled:** Again, if school were in session, local physicians from Pinnacle Medical Network would have donated their time to provide free physicals to our athletic and band students. As you know, all students in a sport or band must receive a physical each year.

Thanks to Mr. Randy Rush of Rush Masonry, our crumbling front archway columns are being re-built!



Sun, May 10 – Happy Mother's Day to all SPS moms!

- **TDIH:** In 1869, the first transcontinental railroad is completed.
- **Lupus Awareness Day:** Lupus is a debilitating, potentially fatal autoimmune disease capable of damaging virtually any part of the body, including the skin, heart, lungs, kidneys, and brain.
- **Clean Up Your Room Day:** OK, everyone, let's do this for mom today!



Rise Up, O Men of God

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS BANKRUPTCY: We offer our prayers to Archbishop Aymond at this difficult time. The Office of Catholic Schools has asked us to share the following with you:

- These are trying for the Archdiocese. The clergy abuse crisis and budget challenges have created an impossible situation for administrative offices. COVID-19 crisis has also compounded the situation. Thus, Archbishop Aymond, in consultation with trusted advisors, made the difficult decision to pursue Chapter 11.
- Since the De La Salle Christian Brothers own and operate Saint Paul's, it is a separate legal entity, distinct from the Archdiocese. **Therefore, Saint Paul's is unaffected by this filing.**

- Chapter 11 does not mean the Archdiocese of NO is closing; they will pay bills responsibly. Reorganization allows the Archdiocese to continue operations, address claims in a fair and timely manner, and emerge better prepared for the future.
- Providing quality, Lasallian Catholic education continues to be a top priority for SPS, and we renew our commitment to do so for our current and future students. Chapter 11 does not affect daily operations of Catholic education.
- The Archdiocese is committed to doing its best to provide clarity about the implications of this reorganization; as such, they have developed a website page specifically devoted to this reorganization. Visit www.nolacatholic.org/renew for updates, announcements and resources.
- Lastly, God is faithful; He will guide the Archdiocese in this process. With His grace, ARNO will emerge stronger, with a renewed commitment to mission. We join the Archbishop in remaining focused on Christ, His will, and His call to serve God's people.

CARE AND VIGILANCE: We must stay focused in these days as we return from Easter Holidays (not spring break) and help our students do their online jobs well. Let us know if any of them seem to be floundering in the midst of these unprecedented times.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS STATEMENT: I hope you read Superintendent Dr. RaeNell Houston's press statement last week: *The Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent school closures have been a challenge for our Catholic school families, school leaders, teachers, and staff members. The ways our teachers and students have responded to the upheaval of routines and to the cancelation of anticipated events and long-awaited milestones have been extraordinary. We once again assure our school families as well as our school leaders, faculties, and staff of our prayers during this challenging time.*

In light of Governor Edwards' extension of the "stay-at-home" order through May 15, we are announcing today the closure of our Catholic school campuses for the remainder of the school year. Remote learning will continue according to each school's calendar. In the coming weeks, school leaders will be contacting school families with school-specific plans for closing the school year. We ask for parents' continued patience as school leaders work with their faculty and staff to bring the school year to a close.

CHAPEL ONLINE: Thanks to Jeff Ramon for online chapel before school during Holy Week. Enough people viewed that he wants to continue this week at 8:30. Wonderful! Here is the Google Meet

Link: <https://meet.google.com/rsj-carx-cec>

CLARION HERALD: Please know that the Clarion Herald can be found on line either by clicking [here](#) or using the url: <http://clarionherald-la.newsmemory.com/>



Thanks, Mothers' Club, for this GREAT tribute to the Class of 2020!

LAST WEEK – HAD WE BEEN IN REGULAR SCHOOL:

- **Art Show:** Our outstanding art department would have conducted its annual Art Show in the BAC – featuring hundreds of pieces of art from our students. It is always a treat to see. You can see some of the pics on our Facebook page.
- **Baseball & Lacrosse** would probably be in the playoffs, defending their state titles.
- **Blood Drive:** Our spring Blood Drive would have been held.
- **Founder's Birthday:** Popsicles for the boys would have celebrated the birthday of St. La Salle on Thursday – hopefully distributed by the Retired Brothers.
- **Golf, Tennis and Track** would be in the final days of their seasons, preparing for post-season play.
- **Seniors** would have completed their exams, had graduation practices, and received their graduation supplies.
- **Student Host Appreciation Luncheon:** We would have provided a well-deserved treat to our student hosts who had accumulated at least 10 hours of service. Thank you, Student Hosts, for all you do!

LAST WEEK IN REALITY

- **Senior Activities:** Seniors drove through campus last Friday (observing social distancing) to return books, athletic uniforms, and other school-owned materials. Thanks to all who helped in this endeavor.
- **Senior Grad Night & Graduation:** Again, assuming that gatherings are allowed, Grad Night will be on Wed, July 22. Senior Level Chair Paul Scoriels will coordinate with event chair Kim Hill. **Graduation will be on Sat, July 25 at 4 pm in the BAC.**
- **Senior Signs:** The MC purchased a pictured sign of every senior and lined De La Salle drive with them to surprise the seniors when they showed on Friday to return textbooks. Many thanks, MC! De La Salle Drive never looked better – except when the students themselves were walking up that road!
- **SPS Online** completed six weeks of operation. Congrats to all of you!
- **What's the Word, Wolves?** Kudos to Development team for publishing the second edition of our SPS-themed crossword puzzle! Hope you completed it! Here is the Facebook link:
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana/photos/a.1201267363277610/3737351056335882/?type=3&theater>
- **Wolf Tracks:** Congrats to Danielle Lavie for publishing the monthly Wolf Tracks! Not even COVID 19 can stop WT! And special kudos to Matt Pinero, whose artwork graced the cover of WT! Wow! An artistic wrestling coach who is an exemplary English teacher! We are blessed to have Matt as a Lasallian!

MAY: Welcome to May, a month named for the Greek Goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman era goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May. Conversely, the Roman poet Ovid provides a second etymology, in which he says that the month of May is named for the *maiores*, Latin for "elders," and that the following month (June) is named for the *iuniores*, or "young people" (*Fasti VI.88*). **May** is the fifth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian Calendars and the third of seven months to have a length of 31 days. The month of May observes the following: Foster Care Month, Lupus Awareness Month, National Barbecue Month, National Bike Month, National Blood Pressure Month, National Hamburger Month, National Photograph Month, National Salad Month, Older Americans Month – something for everyone!

MAY AS MARY'S MONTH: Catholics traditionally devote May to Mary, the Mother of God. How did this come to be? In many ancient cultures, May 1 was a day for spring festivals to celebrate the beginning of new life. For instance, the Greeks dedicated May to Artemis, goddess of fertility. The Romans dedicated May to Flora, goddess of springtime and flowers. To counter these pagan celebrations, the Church eventually came to celebrate May as the month of Mary. And now you know!

OFFICE HOURS: At present, someone (usually Jo Sutherlin, Karen Hebert or me) is in our administration building office from 8 - 12. Call on us if we can help.

RETIRED BROTHERS COMMUNITY: While the Retired Brothers are doing well, the nursing staff has instituted some preventive measures. Until further notice, our evening mass is not open to the public. We are indebted to the Benedictine Fathers of Saint Joseph Abbey who continue to provide Eucharist for the Retired Brothers Community. In addition, visitors are discouraged and at the very least must submit to a temperature check by one of the nursing staff. A number of people have offered to help the Brothers in any way needed. We are grateful!

SCHEDULING FOR 2020-2021: Scheduling for next year is moving ahead and classes are filling up. Only registered students scheduled. Many thanks to Mike Holmes, Jo Sutherlin, and counselors for their hard work in doing the scheduling online. If your son is not registered but plans to return, please let us know.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS: Mimi Monteiro continues to post seniors on our Facebook page. They will reflect on their SPS experience. They are excellent. Check it out. Thanks, Mimi!

SENSITIVITY: We are hearing from a number of our families who are involved in health care or first responder occupations that this is a very stressful time. Please call on us if we can help! Know that we are praying for all, especially our health care workers, first responders, and those involved in essential services.



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.”**

And know that traffic tickets are being written by Covington PD! And obey crosswalks laws!

SPS ONLINE: To summarize again:

- Classes will continue online as long as stay at home orders are in effect – through May 22, if needed.
- Students need email access and their SPS email address (firstname.lastname.gradyear@stpauls.com)
- Daily schedule is as follows:
 - 8:30 SPS Online Chapel Service (optional)
 - 8:45 – text and email are sent. They include link to Morning Prayer and Pledge video.
 - 9:00-10:00 – First Period Meets
 - 10:15 -11:30 SSR/ Second Period Meets
 - 11:30 -12:15 – Lunch Break
 - 12:15-1:15 – Third Period Meets
 - 1:30 – 2:30 – Fourth Period Meets
- The following are expected of students: Punctuality, Attendance (Checked Daily by assignments turned in.), Participation, Good faith effort, Communication with teacher, Completion of assignments on time.

STUDENT COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS for offices of President, VP, Secretary, and Treasurer will be held virtually Monday, May 4 - Thursday, May 7.



STUFF THE BUS: We were not be in school for our annual Stuff the Bus, so please consider the needs of the Northshore Food Bank during this difficult time. The NFB has an online tool to donate food as well as an online registry to make a monetary donation. The Food Bank is in dire need of help as many children are typically fed both breakfast and lunch at school.

The Registry: <https://northshorefoodbank.org/our-wish-list>

Online Donation: <https://northshorefoodbank.org/online-donations>

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: May 4 – 8 is TA Week. If we were in school, the MC would be spoiling us with some wonderful treats. Since that is not possible, please ask your son to send a note of appreciation to his teachers – even those who he doesn’t like. This would mean more to teachers than any treat. The note doesn’t have to be long or elaborate – just say “Happy Teacher Appreciation Week and thanks for all you do!”

Naturally, he can embellish if he wants, but just a simple acknowledgement to his teachers would be of great help. Thanks!

TUITION INVOICES: We traditionally send our tuition invoices for the next school on April 1, as tuition is due on June 1. That gives families two months to pay in full or arrange for bank financing via Resource Bank. The Office of Catholic School has directed schools to follow their normal procedures for invoicing tuition. Thus, if your son is returning next year, you have received his tuition invoice. Please know we are sensitive to families in these uncertain times. The reality, however, is that SPS is a tuition-operated school, and without tuition, we cannot exist. Thus, while every effort has been made to keep tuition as low as possible (just compare our tuition to other comparable schools), we must ask for tuition payments for next year in order to hire the best teachers, provide the most extensive curriculum, and offer the facilities in which our students can thrive. Thanks for your understanding. Naturally, call me is extraordinary circumstances are causing problems.

VAPING: I am not sure what effect sheltering in place and social distancing are having on this growing problem among young people, but last week the National Institute of Drug Abuse released their final 2019 survey results about vaping among high school students. Suffice it to say that the results are alarming. If you wish to see all the stats, here is the link: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/monitoring-future-2019-survey-results-vaping>



WEEKLY HUMOR: Some oyster jokes in honor of oyster day on Monday!

- *Why do oysters go to the gym? It's good for the mussel.*
- *What kind of picture does an oyster take? A Shell-fie.*
- *What do you get when you cross an owl and an oyster? Pearls of Wisdom.*
- *Why should you never trust an oyster? Cause they're "Shell-Fish" (selfish).*
- *Why are oysters always working out? Because they like to flex their mussels.*
- *What does an oyster do on it's birthday? It shellebrates!*
- *Did you hear about the lazy oyster? It wouldn't move a mussel.*
- *How do oysters communicate? With shell-phones.*
- *Did you hear about the oyster that was in a gang? It was the hired mussel.*

- *What do you call an oyster that won't share? Shell-fish.*
- *What happens when you bring an oyster to a party? It becomes a shellebration.*
- *What kind of jokes do oysters tell? Shell-arious ones!*
- *What happens when your wife wants a pearl necklace? You shell out a lot of money.*
- *What do you call an oyster that flies? A shell-icopter!*
- *Oyster jokes are so funny I almost pulled a mussel.*
- *If an oyster loses it's shell is it naked or homeless?*
- *"So, have you heard about the oyster who went to a disco and pulled a mussel?"*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

YEARBOOK: From yearbook moderator Mimi Monteiro:

We are fortunate that The Conifer 2020 staff has been hard at work all year covering events and adding content to the yearbook. They are still working remotely to make sure that the year will be documented and the story of SPS 2019-2020 will be told from cover to cover.

When we moved to SPS Online on March 13, approximately 85% of the yearbook content was already complete. We were just waiting to wrap up a few spring sports and a couple end-of-year events. The staff is working diligently to make sure that every aspect of this year is covered in the yearbook, including these remaining few weeks of school, however they may be experienced by our students and faculty. The deadline to buy a yearbook is Friday, May 29. The website is www.yearbookforever.com. Please feel free to contact me you have any further questions or concerns about The Conifer. I am available to answer your questions.

CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR--2020-21: Here is tentative calendar for next year (for those who plan!)

THIS IS NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR, NOT THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR!

Thurs, Aug 6	School Opens with full day of instruction (same day as public schools)
Thu, Aug 20	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Day
Fri, Aug 21	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 24	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Mon, Sep 7	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 2	In-service for faculty (no classes for students)
Fri, Oct 9	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 9	Grandparent Day (11:30 – 1:30)
Mon, Oct 19	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
Sat, Oct 31	Open House for Prospective Students (1 – 3 pm)
Tues, Nov 3	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Nov 23 - 27	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 30	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon - Thu, Dec 14-17	Semester Exams
Thu, Dec 17	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams

THIS IS NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR, NOT THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR!

Mon, Jan 4	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Jan 6-8	Senior Retreat
Mon, Jan 18	Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 1	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 12	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 15-19	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Feb 22	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 12	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 2-9	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 12	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 28-30	Senior Final Exams
Thu, May 13	Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)
Sat, May 15	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tues – Fri, May 18-21	Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11
Mon, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tues, May 25	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

Remember that public schools schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools schedule 177.

May 04 – May 22: SPS ONLINE CLASSES. NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES AT THIS TIME.

May

- 4 – A B C D
- 5 – E F G A – President's Assembly cancelled
- 6 – B C D E
- 7 – F G A B – Athletic Awards cancelled
- 8 – C D E F – Academic Awards cancelled
- 11 – G A B C –
- 12 – D E F G –
- 13 – A B C D –
- 14 – E F G A –
- 15 – B C D E
- 16 – Senior Graduation – moved to July 25
- 18 – – 22 -- Exam Schedule

Whew! Enough for now. Even though it's the beginning of May 2020 and we are operating SPS ONLINE for the next few weeks, 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 second half of the fourth quarter! Again, thanks for being part of the 2019 - 20 edition of Saint Paul's!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can't Believe It's May 2020 and I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

Now, let's close the newsletter with another prayer written by students.

Junior Matthew Collings is our prayer leader:

Let us remember, that we are in the Holy presence of God!

I would like to pray for all healthcare workers. Those who go to work every day unsure of what they will find. Those who put themselves and their families on the line for complete strangers battling the illness. I would also like to pray for the children who depend on the free lunch at school every day and now do not have access to that. For all of these things, I pray. Amen.

*Saint Paul our Patron, pray for us! Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Pray for us! Saint Benilde, help us do ordinary things extraordinary well! Blessed Brother James, Help us live courageously!
Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever!*

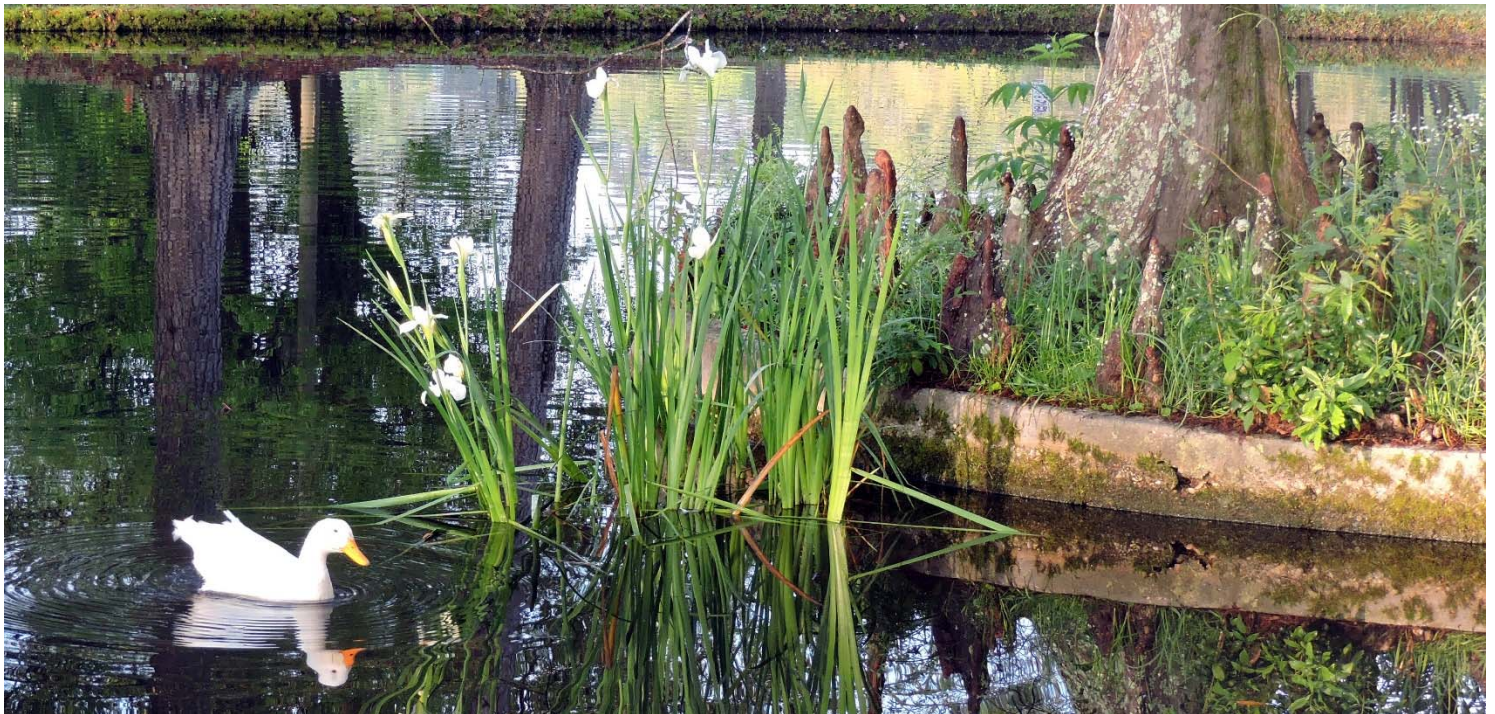


The Hadskey Family, owners of Sign Gypsies, had their son, Jack '23, install this greeting to cheer up the Retired Brothers!

Our Lady of Prompt Succor!
Hasten to help us!



Thanks to senior moms who arranged for this wonderful tribute to a wonderful class!



COVID-19 does not disrupt life in the campus pond, teeming with ducks, turtles, fish, geese, and irises! The ducks miss the students – a steady source of food after breakfast and lunch!



Each senior receives a coveted retreat cross – which they often wear long after their graduation from SPS. Non-Christian students receive a symbol of their religion. It's a moving moment as senior move toward culmination of the SPS careers.

