



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



May 18 – August 2, 2020

Final 2019 – 20 Edition!

Alleluia! He is risen!

Welcome to Week Nine of the Fourth Quarter and Week Nine of SPS Online! Only one week to go!

And Welcome to the last newsletter of the 2019 - 20 school year!

My last newsletter (I hear you cheering!) will be brief. My final Lasallian thought is the same one I use every year at this time: a short excerpt from Saint John Baptist de La Salle's last Meditation for the Time of Retreat to the Brothers entitled: *On the reward that a Brother should expect in heaven, if he is faithful in the work.*

Saint La Salle wrote this meditation because the life of the early brothers was VERY hard – and he needed to assure them that Almighty God would reward them one day. He made sure they read this meditation often.

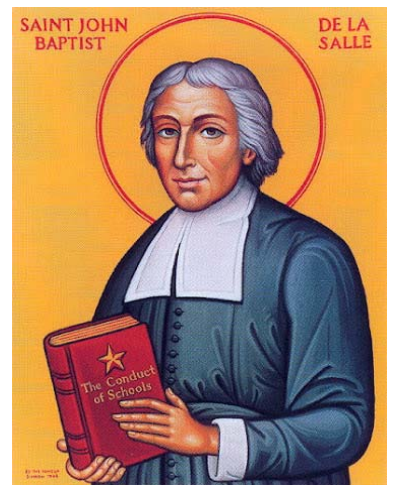
I shared the meditation with the faculty this week and asked them to believe that St. La Salle wrote the meditation for them, too, for their lives as teachers are challenging (especially today!), and they need to believe they are valued by Almighty God and doing His work.

I share the excerpt from the meditation with you, too, because as parents, you are the primary educators of your children as you lead them on the path to salvation. Your work as parent is hard, but it is God's work. I believe, therefore, that Saint La Salle's words apply equally to you, too:

Oh, what glory there will be for those who have instructed children, when their zeal and devotion to procure the salvation of children will be made public before all people!

All heaven will resound with the thanksgiving which these blessed children will render to those who have taught them the road to heaven.

Act, then, in such a way by your good and wise guidance of those who are entrusted to you, that you will procure all these blessings and all this glory for yourself.



Thank you for your parental ministry. I am profoundly awestruck by the responsibility you have in raising your children. I am most grateful that you have allowed Saint Paul's to share in your parental teaching ministry. I am confident that the good work we have done this past year will help insure the truth of Saint La Salle's words for all of us when our day of judgment comes and that "all heaven" is resounding with the good example and instruction you provide to your children.

Thanks for 2019 - 20 and here's looking to 2020 - 21 – the tenth year of our second century!

And we pray that it is COVID-19 free!

Mon, May 18 (SPS Online; E F G A)

- **This Day in History:** In 1980, Mount St. Helens, a volcanic peak in southwestern Washington, suffers a massive eruption, killing 57 people and devastating some 210 square miles of wilderness.

Tue, May 19 (SPS Online; B D C E)

- **TDIH:** In 1588, a massive Spanish fleet, known as the "Invincible Armada," sets sail from Lisbon on a mission to secure control of the English Channel and transport a Spanish invasion army to Britain from the Netherlands.

Wed, May 20 (Exam Schedule)

- **TDIH:** In 1873, San Francisco businessman Levi Strauss and Reno, Nevada, tailor Jacob Davis are given a patent to create work pants reinforced with metal rivets, marking the birth of one of the world's most famous garments: blue jeans.

Thu, May 21 (Exam Schedule)

- **TDIH:** In 1881, in Washington, D.C., humanitarians Clara Barton and Adolphus Solomons found the American National Red Cross, an organization established to provide humanitarian aid to victims of wars and natural disasters in congruence with the International Red Cross.
- **National Waiters and Waitresses Day:** Let's appreciate all who serve us in our favorite restaurants!

Fri, May 22 (Final Day; Exam Schedule; Book Return)

- **TDIH:** In 1455, England's War of the Roses begins when Richard of York defeats Henry IV's troops at St. Albans, about 20 miles northwest of London.
- **TDIH:** In 1939, Italy and Germany agree to a military and political alliance, giving birth formally to the Axis powers, which will ultimately include Japan. Mussolini called The Pact of Steel.
- **National Museum Day:** Plan to visit a museum this summer and expand your cultural horizons!
- **Book / Supply Return:** Look for an email with directions on how this will work.

Sat, May 23

- **Lucky Penny Day:** These are pennies found on the ground. Good luck finding one today!
- **World Turtle Day:** Go the pond and wish the many turtles living there a happy day!
- **Emergency Medical Services Day:** Thanks to all in this vital profession!

Sun, May 24 – Sun, Aug 02 – You are on your own for TDIH, Whatever Days, and Weekly Humor!



Rise Up, O Men of God

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

ANNUAL FUND: One Last Appeal: If you have not contributed to the Annual Fund or supported SPS in any financial way and are in a position to do so, I would appreciate hearing from you as to “why” you have chosen not to. Perhaps it’s something I’ve done or not done and I would welcome the feedback. I have deliberately avoided having people call or directly solicit you as many other schools do with their annual funds. Again, I need your help to continue to make SPS the best school we can be because:

- **SPS cannot prosper** on tuition alone;
- **SPS tuition** is lower than almost every other boys’ Catholic high school in the Archdiocese;
- **Faculty salaries** are lower than public school salaries and we cannot lose good teachers to finances;
- And we’ve gotten some nice **Grandparent gifts** lately. Thank you! Grandparent gifts are welcome and needed – and they are often happy to help if asked. I don’t like to solicit grandparents so I rely on your to do so. They’ll get a very nice “thank you” note from me. And if you want me to directly ask a grandparent, send me the address and name.
- Gifts of stock are welcome and no gift is too small.
- If you are contribute to Capital Campaign or supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you!
- Please consider helping **if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so.** Many thanks!

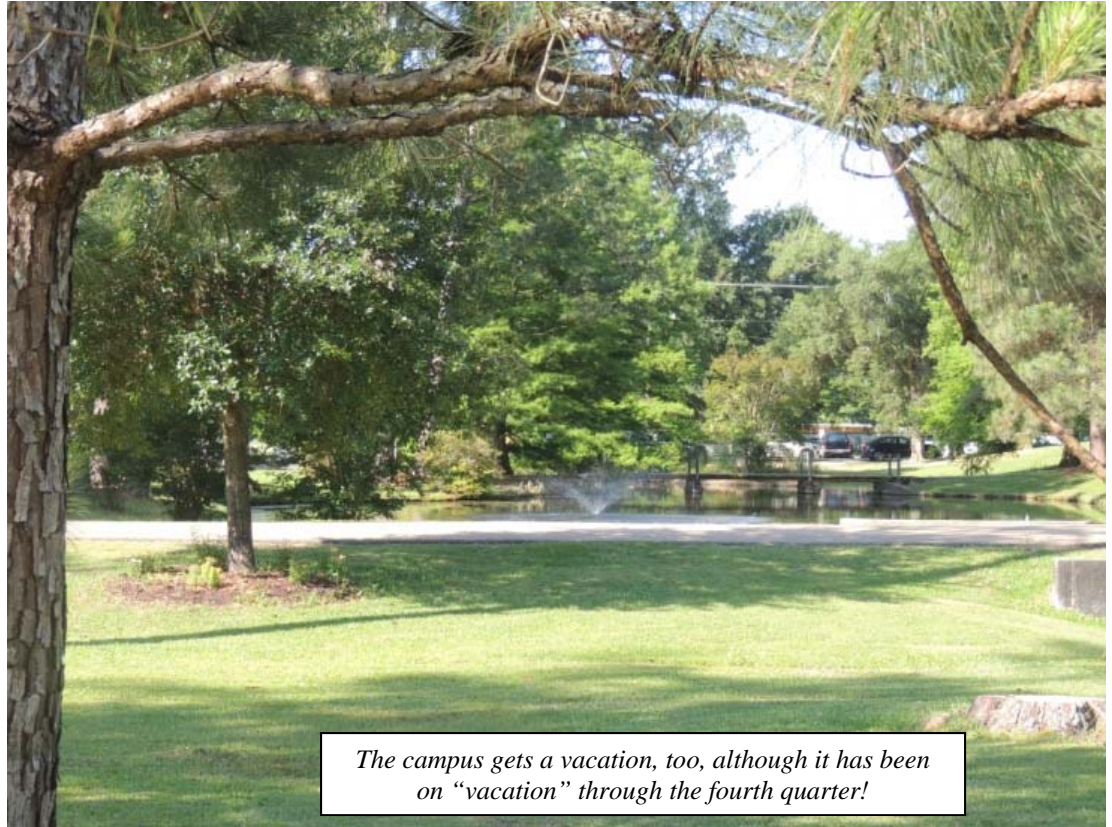
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS BANKRUPTCY: We offer our prayers to Archbishop Aymond at this difficult time. Note that the De La Salle Christian Brothers own and operate Saint Paul’s; it is a separate legal entity, distinct from the Archdiocese. **Therefore, Saint Paul’s is unaffected by this filing.**

ARCHBISHOP GREGORY AYMOND’S MESSAGE TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE

ARCHDIOCESE: In the past, Archbishop Aymond issued the following letter at the end of the school year. While he didn’t issue it again this year, it’s worth reading again. I encourage our students to heed these words:

- *I pray in a special way for each of the young people in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Know that you are important to all of our ministries, in parishes, schools and other programs.*
- *I am aware of the educational experience you have received in regard to the use of electronic media. You know very well how to use the tools and you know intellectually the consequences when social media is not used respectfully.*
- *I want to reach out to you at the moral level and beg you to remember that it isn't how much you know that is crucial, but rather, the respect that you show for God, yourself, and others when you communicate through cell phones, computers, and other technology.*

- *Always treat other people in a manner that shows your awareness of their reflecting the image of God. In all ways let your friends, classmates, and acquaintances know that they are respected. Speak out if you know someone is being abused or bullied. Share the information with a parent, priest, or teacher who can step in and help. The Archdiocese of New Orleans has the staff available to help you in abusive or bullying situations.*
- *One of your many responsibilities at this time is to make choices that will allow you the opportunity to make decisions about your future education or career choices. Choose wisely. Choose only those opportunities and interactions which will give you a greater chance to achieve all of the goals you set for yourself and those which God has in store for you.*
- *If you need help, let a member of the clergy, a Catholic School Administrator, a Director of Religious Education, or your Youth Minister know.*



CAMPS: In pre-COVID-19 days, our camp staff would be gearing up for another full season of sports, drama, PSAT and other camps. The dates for these camps have been adjusted in order to comply with the re-opening directives of the state and St. Tammany Parish. I appreciate all that the camp staffs are doing to comply with the directives and at the same time to provide their usual level of excellent programs to campers. We are determined to run as many safe, enjoyable, and exciting camps as possible – and as usual.

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.

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.

CATHOLIC COUNSELING SERVICE: These are tough times, and I know some of students and families are struggling emotionally. Catholic Counseling Service (CCS) continues to offer telehealth services to through the phone or video-conferencing platforms. This method of counseling allows CCS to extend services across the archdiocese to areas not previously available. **To speak with someone or to make an appointment please call Catholic Counseling Service at (504) 861-6245 or email at CCS@arch-no.org or check the website at <https://nolacatholic.org/catholic-counseling-service>**



CATHOLIC PRAYER SERVICES: From streaming Mass to praying the Rosary to online Benediction and Adoration, local priests are making Mass, prayer, and faith formation opportunities available online amidst the "stay-at-home" order. Here is a complete list of online Catholic worship services:
<https://nolacatholic.org/news/taking-mass-online>

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/>

CLASS OF 2020: I offer the following by way of summary. Government regulations will determine much:

- Senior report cards were emailed last Wednesday
- Senior Mother-Son Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21 in the BAC – pending lifting of restrictions
- Senior Grad Night is Wed, July 22, on campus – pending lifting of social gathering restrictions
- **Senior Graduation is Sat, July 25 in the BAC – pending lifting of social gathering restrictions. Number of tickets issued will depend upon social gathering restrictions in place at that time.**
- Upon advice of the Office of Catholic Schools, we will not have prom due to social gathering restrictions
- Seniors needing college info should contact Mrs. Miller via email at reneep@stpauls.com
- We care for the seniors and want to support them in any way possible.

CONGRATS, SPS: Thank you Sophisticated Woman Magazine for naming Saint Paul's School the Best Private High School in West St. Tammany. Check out page 49 at <https://bit.ly/3b9cdLf>. Being honored as one of The Northshore's Best of 2019 reaffirms that Saint Paul's School continues to be a good place to grow up.

FEEDBACK: We spend time in the summer evaluating the past year and planning for next year. Toward that end, feel free to email me if you think we have fallen short or have a suggestion if you think we need to “beef up” an area of life around here. While I can’t promise we will implement every suggestion made, I assure you we will consider it. Be aware of our limitations in terms of personnel, finances, facilities, and interrupting class time when emailing me your suggestion.

FLOODING: Last week’s “100 year rains” negatively affected a number of families of both students and staff. We extend our support and prayers to those whose homes received flood waters. Please be sensitive to these families. Call on us if we can help.

CONGRATULATIONS
SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL
STUDENT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE BOARD
2020-2021

	Davis Lagarde President		Alvin Marks Vice President
	Walker Dubriel Secretary		Marco Vargas Treasurer

HIGH SCHOOL COTILLION: See flyer for info on this worthwhile program.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF JUNIOR COTILLIONS®

Northshore Chapter

proudly presents

our revised and fully updated



High School Cotillion Program

The High School Cotillion Program is a licensed program of NLJC® designed specifically for high school students. New etiquette and character development topics which are pertinent to the high school years, such as interviewing for scholarships and jobs, positive self-esteem, and handling peer-pressure will be presented and discussed at each class. This program will bridge the gap for today's high schooler between their education and the real world in a meaningful way.

Did you know the average high school student will graduate without knowing how to perform these basic "real life" skills?

- Pay income taxes
- Register to vote
- Pay a bill
- Apply for loans
- Buy a car
- Pay utilities
- Make a budget
- Dress for an interview

Interested in enrolling your student? For more information and to enroll, please visit our website at www.nljc.com/chapter/northshore or contact the Director, Catherine Lagarde at catherine.lagarde@nljc.com or (504-) 844-6575.

LAST WEEK: Many thanks to:

- Counselors and Administrators for sending schedules last week to students for final adjustments. Your son should have received his course selection email on Thursday. Only the requested courses were on the schedules, not teachers or periods. In a number of cases, the counselors had to adjust electives due to undersubscribed classes being cancelled. Follow the directions on the email if there are problems with his course selection requests.
- Campus Minister Jeff Ramon, for an inspirational prayer service on the Feast of Saint John Baptist de La Salle last Friday. If you would like to view it, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/86zZUpB4gtM>
- Finance Office for processing tuition payments. Thanks to those of you who have paid.
- Physical Plant Crew, who continue to clean and repair. Lots of painting going on, too, especially of doors and hand railings.
- The Hill Family, especially Reagan '17 for the moving video of De La Salle Drive with all the pics of the Class of 2020. We sent the video to all of the seniors and their parents. Here is the link if you wish to view it: [Senior Drive Video Final.mov](#)
- Student Council President Paxton Ballard for his End of the Year Review Video, which is posted on our Facebook page. Paxton spent hours going through Mimi's pics in putting together this traditional treat by the outgoing SC President. Congrats, former President Ballard! You have every reason to be proud of your term!
- To Mimi Montiero and the Development Team for all the great crossword puzzles, especially this last one featuring seniors. And to the same people for positing the legacy students and their dads/granddads on our Facebook page.

LHSAA: In pre-COVID-19 days, our sports programs would be preparing their summer schedules. Last week, the LHSAA issued a strong ruling that NO athletic activities (not even the distribution of equipment) could take place prior to June 8 – at the earliest. They followed up the next day with an even stronger warning about penalties they are prepared to impose upon schools that violate this directive. Saint Paul's will fully comply.

LOOKING AHEAD FOR THOSE WHO ARE RETURNING:

- Tuition for 2020 -19 is due on June 1st; the first payment for bank financed tuition is also due. Students cannot start school in August if tuition/bank loans are not current.
- **If your son is registered for next year and you change your mind about his attending SPS, PLEASE let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- **BE VIGILANT during the summer – there are many temptations that will face your sons this summer. Drug testing will resume in the fall!**
- **Thursday, August 6, is the first day of school.** It's a FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION and attendance is expected.
- A complete 2020 - 21 school year calendar has been published in my newsletter for several months. Be informed that the state has tightened the attendance policy and Saint Paul's is complying. **PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL TIME.**

NEWS WORTH NOTING: I have printed this before, but it is worth re-reading. The *2017 Children's Mental Health Report* from Child Mind Institute examines the role of smartphones and social media in adolescent mental health care. Concerning Smart Phones: *If this generation is going to be named after anything, the iPhone just might be it: according to a fall 2015 marketing survey, two out of three US teens owned an iPhone, about as complete a market saturation as possible for a product. The complete dominance of the smartphone among teens has had ripple effects across every area of their lives, from their social interactions to their mental health. Teenagers and young adults — ages 16 to 24 — are the most intense users of social media. Benefits of social media use include enhancing friendships and decreasing loneliness. But there is also evidence that overuse has a negative impact on self-esteem and satisfaction with their lives. And this social media use is also linked to an increase in mental health problems, including anxiety, depression and suicidality.* Social media's popularity among adolescents isn't surprising, since it has been shown to affect the reward centers that are so active in teen brains. An imaging study has shown that these regions are activated when participants viewed images with a lot of "Likes". The response is strongest when Likes are on images posted by participant. When viewing photographs of risky behaviors ostensibly taken and posted by peers, activation in the cognitive control network decreased. Increased time on social media has had dramatic effects on teen behavior, including fewer risky social activities and more mental health symptoms. "Displacement" may account for these effects. If social media replaces negative activities or isolation, it can be positive. If it replaces face-to-face interaction or exercise, it can be negative.

NEWS WORTH NOTING II: 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.](#)

PHASE I/NEXT YEAR: We welcomed on Friday the lifting of "stay at home" orders by Governor Edwards and the limited re-opening of businesses and commerce. We pray that conditions continue to improve, leading to Phase II lifting of even more restrictions on June 5. In the meantime, Trevor, Joe and I continue to participate in weekly ZOOM meetings with Office of Catholic Schools and the presidents/principals of the 22 schools in the Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans about issues facing all of us. We are grateful to OCS and SFNO for their guidance and support of all schools during this challenging time. What will next year look like? Honestly – we don't know! We are planning for a normal year but we will have to follow orders from LA Dept of Education, LA Dept of Health, St. Tammany Parish/City of Covington mandates, and Office of Catholic Schools directives.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT: To call a school Catholic, the Religion Department, among other things, must be in full compliance with Archdiocesan guidelines and mandates concerning faculty certification, curriculum, etc. Dr. Alice Hughes, Director of Religious Education for Archdiocese of NO, conducted an on-site evaluation of our Religion Department shortly before school closed – and found us in full compliance. Recently, we received her written report. Here is part of what Dr. Hughes wrote: *I enjoyed visiting all of you. Makes me miss teaching! I am so impressed with all you all are doing in conjunction with the other Christian Brother High Schools and how involved the Lasallian team is with working on a proposal for the USCCB. I am also excited about all the formational opportunities offered to both the faculty and parents. I hope all is going well with this new way of teaching. Please let me know if you need anything.* Thanks, Department Chair Luke Barwick and religion teachers for helping us stay authentically Lasallian and Catholic!

REPORT CARDS:

- Senior report cards were emailed last Wednesday.
- Report cards for grades 8 – 11 will be emailed on Thu, May 28. Grades will be posted on Plus Portals.

RIP: The Lasallian Region of North America (RELAN) mourns the loss of eight De La Salle Christian Brothers from the Francophone Canada District due to COVID-19. The Brothers lived at Résidence De La Salle in Laval, Québec, and died between April 16 – May 7, 2020. Résidence De La Salle houses 70 residents, including members of other religious congregations. In addition to the Brothers who died, 13 residents from other congregations also died from COVID-19. “We were deeply saddened by the losses; they all had wonderful and dedicated lives and had all been retired for quite a number of years,” said Brother Florent Gaudreault, FSC, Visitor of the Francophone Canada District. “They all had serious underlying health issues but the virus hit them much harder than we had expected.” *Eternal rest grant unto these Brothers, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them! May they rest in peace! Amen!*

RIP II: Mr. Ken Philibert, SPS Class of 1956, died last week. His obituary prominently mentioned his time at Saint Paul’s College (as the school was known back then). Here is part of what was written: *He attended St Paul's College & Boarding School in Covington, LA where he called home from 3rd grade graduating in 1956. He played trumpet in the jazz quintet, was a hard punching boxer, very fast track star, an amazing football fullback, honor roll student, & student council vice president. Ken was inducted into St Paul's sports hall of fame in 2006. He was the most decorated athlete receiving a record 12 varsity letters, undefeated heavyweight boxing champion 4 years straight, of interest Ken was in a dead heat in the 100 yard dash with future Heisman trophy winner Billy Cannon.* The family has graciously requested donations to SPS in lieu of flowers. *Eternal rest grant unto Ken, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace! Amen!*

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR 2020 - 21: The school administration and Mothers Club are working to streamline the school supply process. Info should be sent out soon.

SCHEDULING FOR 2020-2021: Last week we emailed the courses that students are scheduled to take next year. 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!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS: In mid-June, we will gradually start reducing our summer office hours. While you can pretty much count on the office being open every morning during the summer, we will eventually start closing the office at 1 pm, so please contact us in the mornings if you need us. I will be available throughout most of the summer if needed. Call or email me if I can be of assistance. I'll be working enough to "earn my keep" and justify my existence at SPS but will take an occasional day off.

SUMMER READING: ALL students have a summer reading requirement! Check the website for details.

STUFF THE BUS: We were not in school for our annual Stuff the Bus, so please consider the needs of the Northshore Food Bank during this difficult time. The NFBmhas 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>

TUITION INVOICES: We re-sent tuition invoices last week to those students who are registered for next year, as tuition is due on June 1. Thanks to all who have already paid in full or taken out a bank loan. You still have a full month to arrange this guaranteed loan with any branch of Resource Bank. The Office of Catholic School has directed schools to follow their normal procedures for invoicing tuition. 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.

WEEKLY HUMOR: Final jokes for 2019 – 20!

1. *Some Chemistry Labs require Long-Sleeved shirts. However, in this lab, we don't; here, we have the right to bare arms!*
2. *Last night, I went out to dinner, and the waiter got so upset with me that he threw a salt shaker and a AAA battery at me. It was a clear case of a salt and battery,*
3. *I like to practice magic as a hobby. Last night, I was driving and I turned into a driveway.*
4. *I found my son in his room with a box of toothpicks. He was taking each one and snapping the tips off. I find him so disappointing!*
5. *If you adjust your posture, do you stand corrected?*
6. *I am thinking of getting a new computer, one of those new signing ones. You know, A Dell?*
7. *What did they give the guy who invented the door knocker? A no-bell prize!*
8. *Each year, people go off to Mime School, never to be heard from again.*
9. *My next exam will be called The World Exam. That way, my class can solve all of the world's problems.*
10. *Two goldfish are in a tank. One says to the other "Do you know how to drive this thing?"*
11. *Two parrots are sitting on a perch. One asks the other "Do you smell fish?"*
12. *I don't always tell Dad jokes, but when I do, he laughs..*
13. *What is orange and sounds like a parrot? A carrot!*
14. *I like to type "My Day" on a Power Point slide and highlight it. I then tell the class "This is the Highlight of My Day!"*
15. *"What do you do with a sick chemist? You try to Helium or Curium. If you can't, you Barium.*
16. *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:

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.

End-of-Year Schedule

- ***Monday, May 18** – **EFGA Elective Class Assessment during Class Periods
- ***Tuesday, May 19** – BCDE Elective Assessments during Class Periods
- **Wednesday, May 20** Science (9:00 – 10:00) Religion (11:00 -12:00)
- **Thursday, May 21** Math (9:00 – 10:00) Social Studies (11:00 – 12:00)
- **Friday, May 22** English (9:00- 10:00) Make Ups (11:00 – 12:00) Book and materials drop off - TBA
- *Monday and Tuesday Assessment times will follow SPS Online Schedule
- **Period E Teachers may choose to give elective Assessments on Monday or Tuesday
- **AP Exams:** Refer to AP Bulletin regarding AP Exam details.

Well, I wasn't brief with this newsletter as promised! Sorry! But you get a break as the newsletter goes on summer vacation. I'll only be sending things out periodically during the summer. **And for the Class of 2020, this is the final newsletter you'll receive.** Thanks for putting up with them – and with me, too. Naturally, you can always access the current newsletter on the SPS website if you get nostalgic or need a newsletter “fix”!

On a personal note, I apologize to anyone whom I've overlooked recognizing this year or offended or disappointed in any way by something I did, didn't do, said, or didn't say. I'm very aware of my failings and limitations, and I will definitely try to do better this coming year.

Thanks for having been part of the 2019 - 20 edition of Saint Paul's – the ninth year of our second century of existence. If the next 109 years go as well as this past year (except for the fourth quarter, of course!), Saint Paul's will have had an incredible second century of existence. Enjoy the final days of May – especially now that the stay at home order has been lifted a bit. May they be ones of grace and blessing. Know of my prayer for you throughout the summer, particularly for the safety and good decision-making of our students!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

The 17th Christian Brother President of St Paul's School

Have a great Lasallian summer but remember: the Core Principles of Quality Education, Respect for all, Concern for Poor & Social Justice, Inclusive Community & Faith in the Presence of God NEVER take a vacation!

Care and Vigilance and Faith and Zeal -- Hallmarks of the Lasallian Teacher and Parent throughout the summer!

******* SPS begins for all students on August 6 with a full day of instruction *******

Thanks for ALL you did in this unprecedented year!

Have a great Lasallian summer!



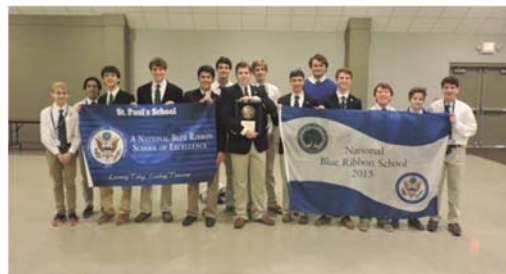
*And as we exit the year, the family of Canada Geese exits the campus, too, confidently heading through the arch as they head to the river, boldly facing the future!
(Thanks to Brother James Joost for the pic!)*

Have a blessed final week! Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!



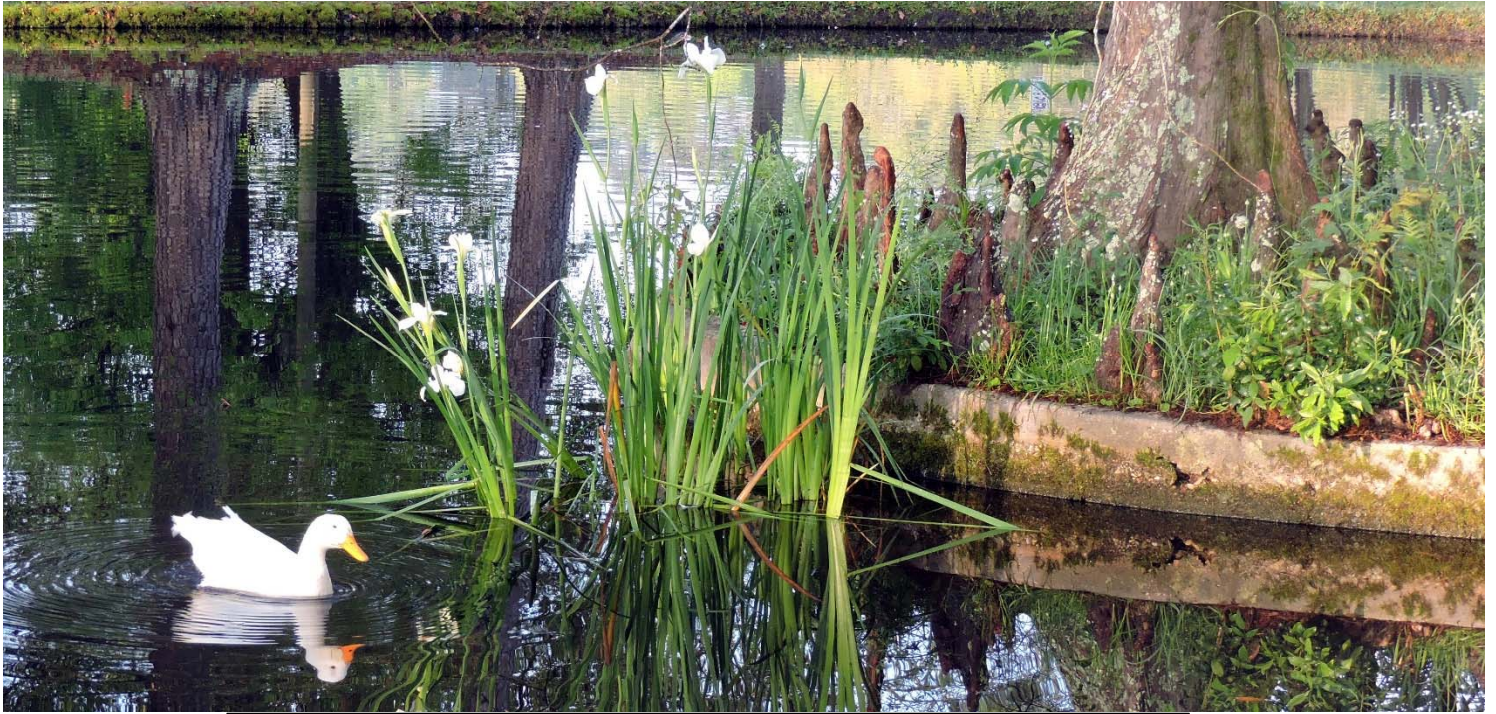
*...by doing ordinary things
extraordinarily well, making
courageous choices, doing
God's will, remaining faithful,
letting Our Lady of the Star
guide us to God and asking our*

*Holy Founding Brothers to help us continue the
Lasallian Mission!*



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!



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 seniors move toward culmination of the SPS careers.

