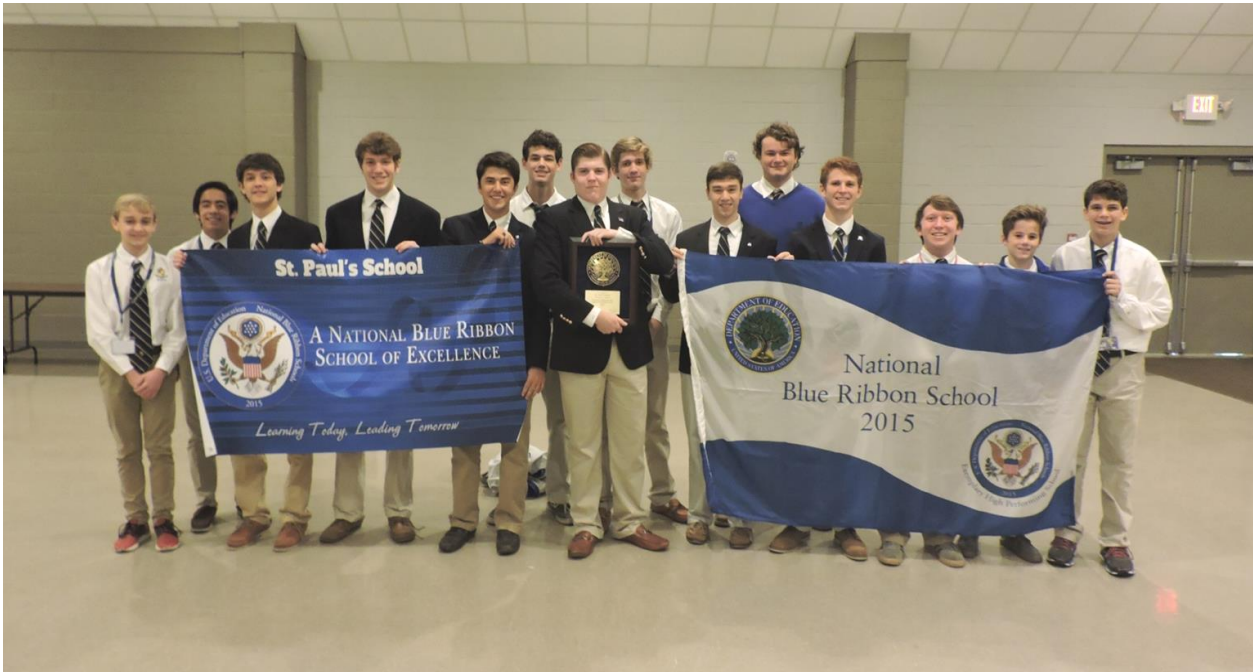


Warning about the Newsletter: This is a LONG newsletter, but there's a lot to cover as we begin school.
Pour another cup of coffee, relax, and read. Feel free to take breaks!



The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter
Opening of the 2020 - 21 School Year Edition
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
and
340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
August 03 – August 09, 2020



Welcome to the 2020-21 school year – the tenth year of our second century -- a year in which we will strive to keep the best of our 340+ year Christian Brother tradition with our 109-year Saint Paul's tradition while adding the quality of the present – in spite of COVID-19. And welcome to the seventh academic year of the San Francisco New Orleans District of Christian Brothers!

By popular demand (OK, one mom asked!), the President's Hebdomadal Blue-Ribbon Newsletter is back. I am sure your summer Sundays were vaguely unsettling without my weekly missive. As in the past, I plan to email the newsletter on Sunday mornings. If you have suggestions as to how I can make the newsletter more helpful & informative, let me know. Just email me a question or suggestion or topic to be addressed.

First and foremost, I hope and pray that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and well, protected from any debilitating effects of COVID-19. And I hope you are rejoicing with me that Saint Paul's has received permission from both the Louisiana Department of Education and the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to return to campus for in-person instruction beginning August 6!



Children's Hospital New Orleans LCMC Health

The email you received from Principal Trevor Watkins a few days ago outlined the many steps we are taking with our facilities, procedures and curriculum to insure, to the maximum extent possible, the safety of our students and staff.

One of our main resources in this endeavor is our official partnership with Children's Hospital of New Orleans. As we prepare for an exciting and joyous return to campus, the health and safety of our entire community remains our number one priority. Our partnership with CHNOLA through their "Return to School Support" program is just one of many ways St. Paul's commits to providing a healthy and safe campus for our students, parents, faculty, and staff.

The following represent just a few of the steps we are taking this year:

- **Face Masks:** All will wear face masks. The Mothers' Club Bookstore has official SPS face masks, but solid color blue, grey, white and black are acceptable. The only exceptions are:
 - Anyone who has a medical condition that prevents wearing a face covering (Doctor's note required)
 - Anyone who is consuming a drink or food
 - Anyone who is trying to communicate with a person who is hearing impaired
 - Anyone who is giving a speech for broadcast or to an audience
 - Anyone temporarily removing his or her face covering for identification purposes
- **Temperature Checks:** Each student will be issued a temperature bracelet, which flashes red if a student has a temperature of over 100 degrees F. NO DATA IS COLLECTED ON THE STUDENTS. THE TEMPS ARE NOT RECORDED OR SENT ANYWHERE!
- **Hand Sanitizer:** Each student will be required to sanitize his hands upon entry to each class.
- **Surface Sanitizing:** Each desk and high touch area (e.g. door handles, light switches, etc.) will be sanitized between classes. Bathrooms will be sanitized several times a day.
- **Hallway Movement:** Hallways will be designated "one way" zones to facilitate social distance movement. Class dismissals will be staggered in facilitate social distancing.
- **Social Distancing:** Student classroom desks will be socially distant to the extent possible. We removed any non-essential classroom furniture in order to maximize social distancing.
- **All school buildings have been professionally sanitized and will continue to be on a regular basis.**



And now on to August! According to *The Miriam-Webster* website, August comes from the Latin word *augustus*, meaning "consecrated" or "venerable." ... In 8 B.C., the Roman Senate honored Augustus Caesar, the first Roman emperor, by changing the name of their month "Sextilis" to "Augustus." Middle English speakers inherited the name of the month of August. August is Admit You're Happy Month, Family Fun Month, National Catfish Month, National Eye Exam Month, National Golf Month, Peace Month, Romance Awareness Month, Water Quality Month and National Picnic Month. Something for everyone. At SPS, it's the "Opening of School Month." I'm excited, and I hope you are, too. Thanks for being with us!

Sat, Aug 1

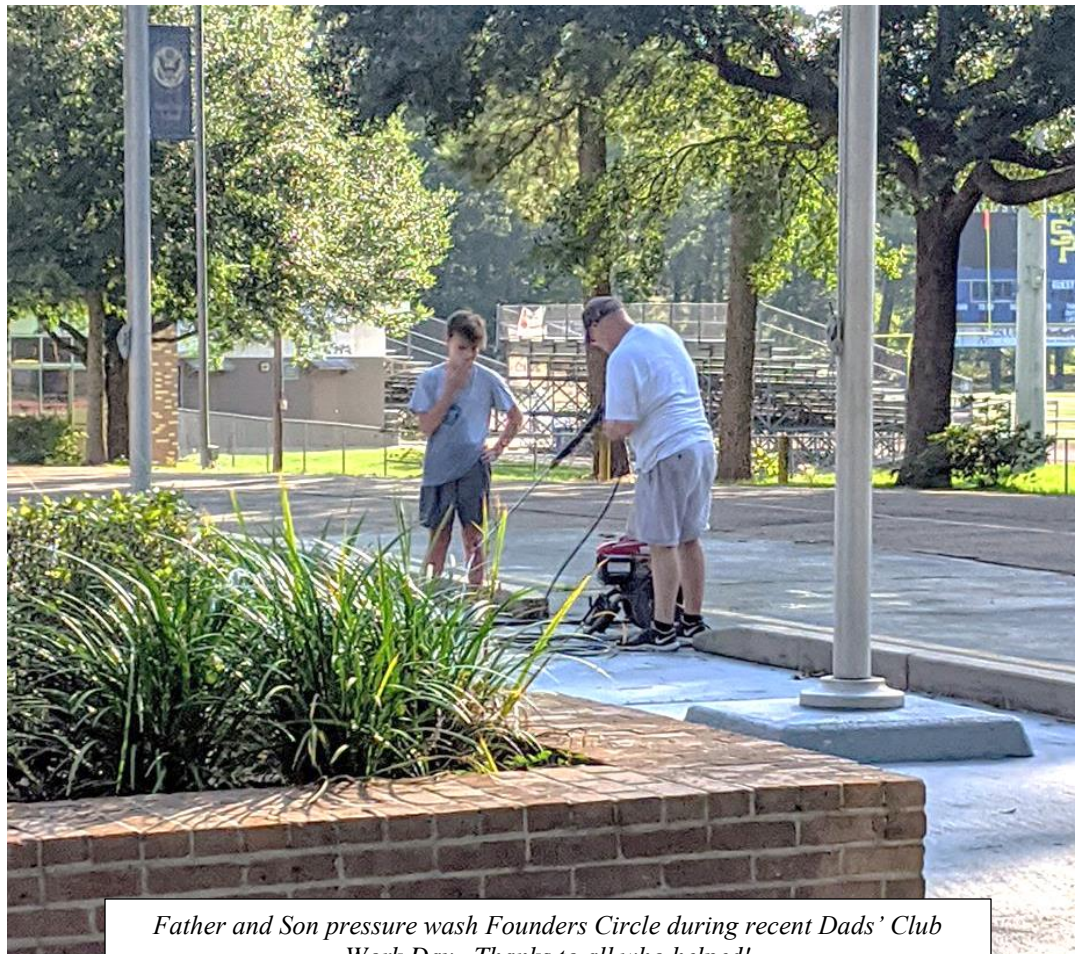
- **TDIH: In 1914, World War I erupts in Europe.** The so-called “Great War” that ensued would be one of unprecedented destruction and loss of life, resulting in the deaths of some 20 million soldiers and civilians and the physical devastation of much of the European continent.
- **TDIH: 1943, PT-109 sinks;** Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, later to become President Kennedy, is instrumental in saving crew. If you are unfamiliar with this inspiring story, I encourage you to read about it today.
- **National Mustard Day (always first Sat of Aug):** Spread this tasty condiment treat on your food today. Or visit the National Mustard Museum (who knew?) web site at <http://mustardmuseum.com/>

Sun, Aug 2

- **TDIH: In 1990, Iraq invades Kuwait,** which would ultimately lead the US into the First Gulf War.
- **National Ice Cream Sandwich Day:** Enjoy this iconic treat!
- **International Forgiveness Day (always first Sun in Aug):** Let’s all make an effort to forgive.

Mon, Aug 3 – Faculty Meetings

- **TDIH: 1958,** the U.S. nuclear submarine *Nautilus* accomplishes first undersea voyage to the geographic North Pole.
- **TDIH: In 1923,** Calvin Coolidge is sworn in as the 30th president of the US, hours after the death of President Warren G. Harding.
- **TDIH: In 1861,** the last entry of the serialized novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens is published. The novel tells the story of young Pip, a poor orphan who comes to believe he will inherit a fortune – and is one of my favorite novels and a part of my English class curriculum.
- **TDIH: In 1492,** from the Spanish port of Palos, Italian explorer Christopher Columbus sets sail in command of three ships. Can you name the three ships and the day he landed? Answer at end of newsletter.
- **National Watermelon Day:** Enjoy this iconic summer treat! And it’s healthy for you, too!



Father and Son pressure wash Founders Circle during recent Dads' Club Work Day. Thanks to all who helped!

Tue Aug 4 – Faculty Meetings

- Today is the memorial of **St. John Vianney (1786-1859)**, whose most remarkable accomplishment was his work as a confessor. In winter months, he spent 11 to 12 hours daily hearing confessions. In summer, time increased to 16 hours. As his fame spread, more hours were spent serving God's people. Even the few hours he allowed himself for sleep were disturbed frequently by the devil. Here are wonderful words from St. John: *We do not have to talk very much in order to pray well. We know that God is there... Let us open our hearts to him. Let us rejoice in his presence. This is the best prayer.*
- **TDIH:** In 1944, acting on a Dutch informer tip, Nazi Gestapo captures 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank and her family in a sealed-off area of an Amsterdam warehouse. Her father was the only family member to survive the Nazi death camps. After the war, he returned to Amsterdam via Russia, and was reunited with one of his former employees who had helped shelter him. She handed him Anne's diary, which she had found undisturbed after the Nazi raid. In 1947, Anne's diary was published by Otto in its original Dutch as *Diary of a Young Girl*. An instant best-seller and eventually translated into more than 50 languages, *The Diary of Anne Frank* has served as a literary testament to the nearly six million Jews, including Anne herself, who were silenced in the Holocaust.
- **National Chocolate Chip Day:** Enjoy this iconic treat!
- **International Assistance Dog Day** recognizes all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations.
- **Coast Guard Day:** On August 4, 1790, the Revenue Cutter Service was created by the Congress. Congress authorized the construction of ten cutters. These ships enforced U.S. tariff laws. The Revenue Cutter Service was the predecessor the U.S. Coast Guard, a term first used in 1915. We salute and thank our Coast Guard!
- **Senior Portraits (refer to email or see below for more information)**
- **8th & New 9th Grade Orientation (5:30 – 6:30):** Our Lasallian Young Leaders have a great program planned for our newest wolves. Thanks to Campus Minister Jeff Ramon and all who will help tonight.



Campus butterflies are ready for school to begin!

Wed, Aug 5 – Teacher / Staff Prep Day

- **TDIH:** In 1914, the world's first electric traffic signal is put into place on the corner of Euclid Ave and East 105th Street in Cleveland. Little did they know what they started!
- **TDIH:** In 1850, French writer Guy de Maupassant, who probably had the greatest impact upon the development of short story as a literary genre in Europe, is born. His stories are characterized by clever plots, clear style and surprise endings. Read de Maupassant today! "The Necklace" & "Piece of String" are classic!
- **National Underwear Day:** I'll let you

"briefly" (sorry!) decide if you're going to celebrate this – or not! DYK that sales of men's underwear - a discretionary purchase - is used by some Wall Street execs measure how people feel financially? When sales decline, it's usually indicates the economy is headed for a fall. Who knew?

- **Oyster Day:** Indulge in this LA favorite – if you can find them with the algae bloom! Some facts:
 - There are over 100 species of true oysters traditionally named after body of water where found.
 - The largest oyster-producing body of water is Chesapeake Bay.
 - Oyster farming and cultivation can be traced back to Roman times in France and England.
 - Two billion pounds are eaten annually and only 1 out of 10,000 will have a pearl
- **Senior Portraits (refer to email or see below for more info)**

Thu, Aug 6 – First Day of Class; Periods A B C D for students with last names A – G.

- **Feast of the**

Transfiguration: *In a resplendent cloud, the Holy Spirit appeared. The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him. May we listen to the Lord on every day!*



- **TDIH:** In 1945, at 8:16 am Japanese time, an American B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay*, drops world's first atom bomb over city of Hiroshima. Approximately 80,000 people die directly from the blast, and another 35,000 are injured. At least another 60,000 would die by end of year from fallout. We pray that no nation will ever again use atomic or nuclear weapons.
- **Fresh Breath Day:** Floss, brush, rinse with mouthwash, and carry mints! 'Nuff said!
- **Root Beer Float Day:** Celebrate the opening of school with this iconic summer treat!
- **Full Day of Instruction for Students Whose Last Names Begin with A – G.**
- **Uniforms for Thu, Aug 6:** Today, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures.

Fri, Aug 7 – Periods A B C D (again) for students with last names H – Z.

- **Purple Heart Day:** Today in 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington created the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration consisting of a purple, heart-shaped piece of silk, edged with a narrow binding of silver, with the word Merit across the face. The badge was presented to soldiers for "any singularly meritorious action" and permitted its wearer to pass guards and sentinels without challenge. After the war, the decoration was largely forgotten until 1927, when the US Army Chief of Staff sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to "revive the Badge of Military Merit." On February 22, 1932, Washington's 200th birthday, the U.S. War Department created the "Order of the Purple Heart." We remember all American soldiers who have been wounded and thus earned The Purple Heart.
- **TDIH:** The US Congress overwhelmingly approves the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Lyndon Johnson nearly unlimited powers to oppose "communist aggression" in Southeast Asia. The resolution marked the beginning of an expanded military role for the United States in Vietnam.

- **Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day** -- Buy anything lately that was particularly hard to get out of the box or plastic wrap? What do we older people do when even mainstream society cannot open a simple bottle of aspirin, let alone a milk carton?
- **Full Day of Instruction for Students Whose Last Names Begin with H - Z.**
- **Uniforms for Fri, Aug 7:** Today, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures.
- **Students who have religion during period E F or G will take pics on Monday, Aug 10.**

Sat, Aug 8 (Memorial of St. Dominic)

- On this feast day of St. Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order, we wish our Dominican sisters, brothers, and priests a most blessed and happy feast day!
- **TDIH:** In 1786, US Congress unanimously chooses the dollar as the money unit for the United States.
- **Sneak Some Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day – self-explanatory!**
- **This Day in History: Brother John Fairfax, FSC was born!** Brother John turns 93 years young today. After an extraordinary career as an exemplary educator, he continues to be an important member of the SPS community through his friendly, generous, concerned and compassionate spirit. *Ad multos annos, Frater Johannes!* Happy Birthday!

Sun, Aug 9

- **TDIH:** In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon resigned at noon as the 37th president of the United States. He is the only president ever to resign. Vice-President Gerald Ford became the 38th president. Ford, the first president who came to the office through appointment rather than election, had replaced Spiro Agnew as vice president only eight months before. In a political scandal independent of the Nixon administration's wrongdoings in the Watergate affair, Agnew had been forced to resign in disgrace after he was charged with income tax evasion and political corruption.
- **Book Lover's Day:** What a great day at the beginning of the school year!

Rise Up, O Men of God

I draw the following to your attention (in alphabetical order, not order of importance):

ACADEMIC SUCCESS: Help your son develop proper attitudes and habits for success. Show confidence in his ability; work with him to set realistic academic goals. Help him develop an orderly study environment. Teens enjoy chaos, so the trick is to help your son create enough order in his chaos for proper study to occur. Designate a place and time to study. **Require 1-2 hours of study per night. Do not accept the "I have no homework" excuse.** He always has homework -- review, study, and advanced preparation. At the end of his study session, have him organize books, assignments, PE clothes, etc. for the next day. **Students who do not arrive to class with their homework are sent to assignment hall.**

ATTENDANCE: Please follow SPS attendance rules as found in Student-Parent Handbook. Thank you. The State of LA limits days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Do not allow your son to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**

BENILDE HALL: Two years ago, we began occupying the newly renovated Benilde Hall. It was a challenging project, but the benefits outweighed the challenges. More classrooms, better restrooms, an elevator, improved lighting and HVAC, additional ingress and egress, student services, and more. In case you don't know its history, Benilde Hall was built in 1959 under the principalship / presidency of the late Brother Cassian Lange. The second and third floors were open dormitories for 6th and 7th grades. The bottom floor contained study halls and recreation rooms. When SPS dropped 6th grade, the first two floors were converted into classrooms. Interesting trivia:



Trevor had one of those non-air-conditioned classrooms and bought a window unit – making it one of the few air-conditioned classrooms on campus. It was cool but that unit was loud! The third floor remained a dormitory for 7th grade. When we dropped 7th grade, the third floor became the band room! (Imagine lugging all those instruments up three flights of stairs!) The current band room was a rec hall for the boarders. When the number of boarders started dropping, we moved the rec hall into La Salle Hall and converted the third floor to classrooms. And now we have the latest (and last – at least for me!) incarnation of that storied (pun) building! Saint Benilde! Thank you for helping us turn that ordinary building into an extraordinary one! A FEW NAMING OPPORTUNITIES STILL EXIST. Contact Danielle in the Development Office or me if you are interested in one of these naming opportunities. I am most grateful to those who have already responded.

BOOK STORE: The Mothers' Club Bookstore will be open on the following days:

- Mon, Aug 3 9:00am to 3:00pm
- Tue, Aug 4 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Wed, Aug 5 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Thu, Aug 6 Bookstore Regular Hours (7:30 am to 8:15 am & 11:00 am to 12:30 pm)
- COVID-19 PROTOCOLS WILL BE IN PLACE, LIMITING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE BOOKSTORE AND INSISTING UPON MASK WEARING. THANKS FOR COMPLYING.
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore when possible.** Proceeds not only help fund wonderful activities throughout the year, but the proceeds also help with campus needs.



CAFETERIA PROGRAMS:

- SPS participates in the federal school lunch/breakfast program managed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Saint Paul's does not directly manage the food service program; we follow the directives of the Archdiocese and the cafeteria workers are employed by the Archdiocese, not Saint Paul's.
- Breakfast (\$2.25) is served from 7:15-7:45 am.
- Students may buy a basic lunch (\$3.25) but will be charged for extra servings – so make sure your son is aware of this and knows how much he can spend. On most days, there is a choice of hot lunch or sandwich lunch. **DUE TO COVID-19, CHOICES WILL BE LIMITED AND FEW EXTRAS, IF ANY, WILL BE AVAILABLE. LUNCHES WILL BE BOXED FOR SAFETY REASONS AND TO EXPEDITE SERVING.**
- Students may not “order out”, e.g. pizza, or have lunches delivered. **WE CANNOT DELIVER LUNCHES TO STUDENTS. Please do not ask us to do so.**
- Students participating in the cafeteria program must make an initial payment before school opens. This may be done on Aug 3 - 5 Between 7 and 2:30. A separate check will be needed. Students may NOT "charge" a meal if no money is on account.
- Students use their ID cards for check out in the cafeteria. A temp ID will be issued on their first day.
- Parents may sign up for ON-LINE payments that will also allow them to see a complete record of everything their son is buying. Go to <http://www.schoolcafe.org/> and follow directions.
- **FREE or REDUCED LUNCH/BREAKFAST: There is no stigma to apply for free / reduced lunch. NO ONE knows but the cafe manager. Request forms from the cafeteria manager or me. NEW: You may also apply online for free / reduced lunch by following these steps:**
 - ✓ Go to www.schoolcafe.org
 - ✓ Click on “Apply for Reduced/Free Lunch” on the home page.
 - ✓ Enter the following data:
 - Names & incomes of all members of the household
 - Name of school, grade, & birthdate for every student in household
 - Your social security number and electronic signature
 - A valid email address and phone number
 - ✓ Call School Food and Nutrition Services at (504) 596-3434 with questions.

It is NOT embarrassing for a family to request free or reduced cafeteria meals if you have financial need. Nothing is done to identify which students are on free or reduced lunch.

SAINT PAUL'S MOTHERS' CLUB BOOKSTORE



Back to School “Book Week”
at the Bookstore:

New Parents Only - Friday July 31st 9am -3pm

OPEN TO ALL Beginning:

9am - 3pm Saturday, August 1st

9am - 3pm Monday - Wednesday, August 3rd-7th

Additional hours Tuesday August 4th 3-6pm!

School Supplies Packs will be available for pick up at store!

Regular Bookstore Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 8:15 am, 11:00 am -12:30 pm

Friday of a Home Football Game - 2:45 pm - 4:00 pm

PE Uniforms, Outerwear,
Sack Packs, New and Old
St. Paul's Apparel, Ladies
Apparel, Socks, Used
Uniforms, School Supplies
and Much More...

Please be patient as
Covid protocol will be in
place at the bookstore!
We will have limited
occupancy ! Mask
Required! Temps Taken!

CALENDAR FOR 2020-21: Here is our calendar for next year. The calendar assumes that we are in full operation. Naturally, any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 will result in alteration of the calendar.

- M-W, Aug 03-05 Faculty meetings/prep days
 - Thurs, Aug 6 School Opens **with full day of instruction**
 - Mon, Aug 24 Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30) -- Tentative
 - 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
 - Mon, Oct 19 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 -- Tentative
 - Sat, Oct 31 Open House for Prospective Students (1 – 3 pm) -- Tentative
 - 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
-
- 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
 - Note that public schools schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools schedule 177.

In case of emergency closings, student make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays. **Note that school begins on Thursday, August 6 for a full instructional day.** Also, please check the calendar for vacation dates and do not schedule vacations in conflict with school. Thank you for recognizing the need to make the most use of our academic time.

CAR LINES: There is no absolute designated drop off spot. Be patient the first few days of school as traffic patterns form. Safety is paramount, so if you use Founder's Circle as a departure point, **cars must drop off students in Founders Circle in the LEFT lane only** – do not block traffic in the right lane to discharge the occupants. Dropping off at La Salle Hall or by the BAC is OK. Traffic will be heavy heading into Covington as schools open. Please plan accordingly.

DADS' CLUB: If you would like to be included on the SPS Dads' Club email list to keep informed about upcoming meetings and events, please email spdadsclub@gmail.com or shea.duet@gmail.com. Also, if you would like to subscribe to the Dads' Club calendar or Facebook page, please see: Join our Facebook group at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/169835833172361/>

The following is just some of the work done by the dads on July 10, 11, & 18:

- Power washed and painted the pavement at Founders Circle and Guiteau Plaza.
- Power washed the Main School Building entryways and stairs.
- Power washed the porch areas and outdoor furniture of Benilde Hall.
- Power washed the La Salle Hall courtyard and fountain.
- Cleaned the stucco siding at LaSalle Hall.
- Cleaned and cut undergrowth and weeds from the pond island.
- Cleaned the St. LaSalle, Boy Jesus, St. Paul and Wolves statues.
- Power washed the front porch of the new gym.
- Power washed hundreds of feet of sidewalks throughout campus.
- Who knows what else that we did not see happening as dads and sons swarmed all over the campus?
- As Trevor wrote: *It goes without saying that dads were an immense service to the school at a very busy and critical time, just before we welcome our students back to campus. Their help is a huge boost to all of us at St. Paul's and an encouraging sign of your faith in our common mission of educating their sons.*

DRESS CODE: Students must be in compliance with the dress code beginning Aug 6 – including face masks. WE INTEND TO INCREASE OUR ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRESS CODE THIS YEAR. Refer to previous newsletters or the student handbook on our website for particulars if you are still unsure. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts in good condition. If the family budget is tight, feel free to ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to those families who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.**

DRIVING POLICY: The driving habits of some students (speeding, horn blowing; engine revving, tire screeching, etc.) cause grief for the neighbors. I have spoken at length with some neighbors and also with the Covington Police. As our handbook states, driving to school and parking on our campus is a privilege, not a right. Accordingly:

- Covington Police will increase their presence and issue tickets;
- Neighbors have been instructed to take pictures or get license plates of speeding or unsafe drivers and send the information to us;
- SPS has increased the number of faculty street supervisors after school;
- SPS has a series of monetary fines (beginning at \$50 for a first offense) against students shown to be violating traffic laws around school;

- SPS reserves the right to revoke the driving to school privilege – which we did with one student who enraged the neighborhood on the last day of school a year ago.
- And remember: **it's against Louisiana law to use a cell phone (except hands free) during school zone times. Please don't drop your son off while using a cell phone – it's against the law and sets a bad example for him.**
- Parents of students who drive to school – please safe driving with your sons.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: An SPS email address (printed on the schedules) is issued to all students. The format is Firstname.Lastname.gradyr@stpauls.com, e.g. John.Smith.2021@stpauls.com. This will allow us to better communicate with students. The student may keep this email forever, thus allowing us to continue contact with him as an alumnus. Naturally, we will delete the email upon graduation at the student's request. Your son's email will be printed on the schedule that you receive. **Since 95% of our communication with you is via email, please let us know if you change your email address.** And check your spam filter as sometimes our emails end up there.



Wolves Football followed regulations of the LHSAA and Children's Hospital during their summer workouts.

ENROLLMENT: We open this year with a very healthy enrollment – in spite of COVID-19 and after having graduated a very large class. I am humbled and proud that so many parents are willing to entrust their sons to us and make the sacrifices necessary to do so. **Please stress with your son that he is being given a gift – a gift that others want. He must use this gift wisely and make good choices.**

EXTRACURRICULARS: New parents often ask how their sons find out about our extracurricular program. Shortly after school opens, we will introduce students to our offerings.

FOOTBALL: Calling all 8th graders interested in playing football for the Wolves! Come sign up for 8th grade football on Friday, August 7 at 5pm in the new gym. Information will be given regarding the upcoming season, practices, games, etc. You will also have a chance to meet the coaches. Naturally, we await word from the LHSAA concerning football in view of COVID 19.

GRADUATION: The Class of 2020 finally had its official graduation ceremony on Saturday morning, July 25 – as the remnants of Tropical Storm Hannah misted the area! Amid masks and social distancing, the 195 members of our largest graduating class ever proudly marched up De La Salle Drive for diplomas and photos before assembling in the stadium for a closing ceremony. Here is a link to our website with all the graduation information and some great pics:

<https://www.stpauls.com/academics/senior-graduation/>

HOMEcomings DANCES: TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19: While they will probably be postponed, the Junior High Homecoming Dance is tentatively set for Saturday, September 21. The Senior High (grades 10 – 12) Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, September 28. **AGAIN, THESE ARE TENTATIVE DEPENDING ON THE COVID-19 CONDITIONS IN LATE SEPTEMBER.**

HELPING SAINT PAUL'S: If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase! We also collect Box Tops for Education (have your son bring them to his math teacher) and we receive a portion of sales from Amazon Prime. These are painless ways to help SPS.

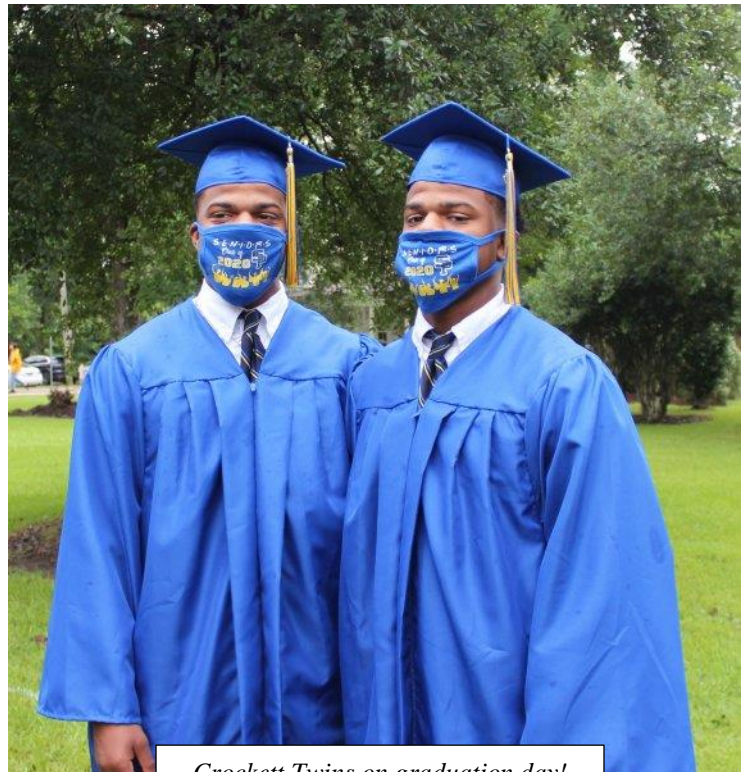
HIRES: We welcome (and in three cases we welcome back) the following to SPS:

- Amanda Duplantier (Counseling) Brother Javier Hansen, FSC (Religion)
- Gabe Emerson (Math) Travis Smith (English)
- Alex Lacour (Math) Christian Bobak (Religion)
- Chase Hawthorne (Science/Math)

LASALLIAN CATHOLIC ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (LCAP): This fall, SPS will be evaluated as to our fidelity to the Lasallian Catholic Mission of the Brothers. You will hear more about this in future newsletters, but in mid-August, all parents will be asked to complete a survey about your perception of our fidelity to Mission. We are counting on your helping us become an even better Lasallian Catholic school.

LAST FEW WEEKS:

- **New Teachers:** Our new teachers spent two days last week in getting SPS oriented and being introduced to the Lasallian Mission. Unfortunately, they were not able to join the new teachers from the other three Lasallian schools of our areas (can you name them?) as we usually do in order to stress our Lasallian connections.
- **Teacher Meetings:** Thanks to those who prepared our time together this week. We are ready.
- **The Mothers Club** deserves a shout out as the bookstore will be open long hours this week – and will be challenged to provide social distancing and insist on mask wearing. They will also provide us with lunches during our meetings and supply our classrooms with necessities such as tissue and wipes and sanitation materials.
- **The Physical Plant Staff** deserve a shout out as they worked hard with last minute repairs and cleaning.
- **Football Team** has been working hard all summer (in compliance with LHSAA guidelines) and will hold an 8th Grade Sign Up this Friday, August 7.
- **The new gym floor** was restored to pristine status last week – and for only \$4000!
- **Wolf Tracks:** Congrats to Danielle for another great issue.



Crockett Twins on graduation day!

- **Summer Camps:** Kudos to Craig Ketelsen and all the camp staff for a well-organized and successful summer camp season. Thanks to Ken Sears for football camps and to Gordon Carmadelle for Drama Camp. Elizabeth Grashoff and Shannon d'Hemecourt did Math Camps, and Susan Jordan, Robert Heap, Kim Gardner and Michelle Baudoin did PSAT Prep. All camps and programs followed COVID-19 guidelines and no incidents were reported. It's been a busy summer.

LOST AND FOUND: At the end of last year, we “rounded up” dozens of sweatshirts, uniform shirts, pants, socks, books, lunch boxes and numerous other items that were “shed” or left behind by students in various parts of the campus and never claimed. Everything was washed and dried. Most of the items had NO IDENTIFYING INFO and the ones that did had info that was illegible. Again, PLEASE stress with your son the need for personal responsibility of his items. **Please clearly label all clothing.** The items collected at the end of May represent hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

MINI-SCHEDULE NIGHT (TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19): We will hold our annual mini-schedule for parents on Monday, August 24, beginning at 6:30. Come follow your son's schedule with ten-minute classes and meet his teachers. This is always a popular event, so place it on your calendars. Thanks! Again, this is tentative depending on COVID restrictions.

NEED MORE INFO? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, Assistant Principal Joe Dickens, or Curriculum Coordinator Lee Pierre. For discipline, attendance, or dress code, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call me if I can help. **My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1001 & my cell phone is 985/966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com or hit “reply” to this email!**

NEW PARENTS: We traditionally hold a **welcome reception and information** meeting for **new parents**. **This year, it would have been** Monday, August 17, at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. Due to COVID-19, we are not able to hold this event, but we are making a video to be sent to all new parents. Watch for more information on this.

NEW 8TH GRADE AND NEW 9TH GRADE STUDENT ORIENTATION: Our Lasallian Student Leaders are planning an Orientation Session for our incoming 8th graders and NEW 9th graders on Tue, August 6, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. An invitation was sent to you, and we hope you have marked this date on your calendars and plan to be present. Naturally, attendance is optional, but the evening will be an informative introduction to SPS. Do not worry, however, if you cannot make it. We will “orient” you when school begins. Please RSVP by emailing our Lasallian Youth Leader moderator, Mr. Jeff Ramon, at j.ramon@stpauls.com. Our safety protocols will be in effect, so bring a mask and prepare to socially distance.

NEWS WORTH NOTING: I published this every year, but it bears repeating. Parents, please stress responsible social media use with your sons and monitor his accounts.

- **Harvard Rescinded Admission of 10 Students Over Obscene Facebook Messages:** A definite lesson for our students. Here's the National Public Radio article:
http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/06/06/531591202/harvard-rescinds-admission-of-10-students-over-obscene-facebook-messages?utm_source=npr_newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20170611&utm_campaign=&utm_term=

OFFICE DEPOT: If you shop Office Depot, give SPS school code (70041640) and we receive 5% of purchase!

PICTURES: Ordering school pictures is optional; an order form was mailed to you and is posted on our web site. If you wish to order pictures, please have your son bring the order form and check with him on the day he is scheduled to take his picture (see above) – either Aug 6, 7 or 10 during his first religion class.

PHYSICALS: No student may participate in our athletic program or our band program without the necessary paperwork having been completed, including an LHSAA official physical form.

PLUSPORTALS: Our PlusPortal platform will give you access to teacher lesson plans, homework, and grades. PlusPortal activation codes were sent to you last week. Please activate your account. Mr. Mike Holmes is the PlusPortal administrator. Contact him for help at 892-3200, ext 1944 or mikeh@stpauls.com. WE NEED EVERYONE TO ACTIVATE A PlusPortal ACCOUNT. (Not shouting, just emphasizing.)



SAFE ENVIRONMENT: all individuals planning to volunteer with St. Paul's must complete safe environment training as mandated by the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

SCHEDULES: Class schedules were emailed last week. If you request a change, read info on the schedule sent and follow directions. Changes will be made for only serious reasons. A change fee will be charged.

SUPPLIES: All needed school supplies are posted on our school web site (www.stpauls.com). Just click on the link at the bottom of the homepage. Supplies are listed by TEACHER, so check your son's class schedule that was emailed last week. While we encourage you to shop at the Mothers Club bookstore, if **you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!**

SENIOR PARENTS -- TENTATIVE: Note the following **upcoming senior events in Senior Week, Aug 17 – 21. ALL OF THIS IS TENTATIVE DUE TO COVID-19:**

- **Senior Class BBQ, Tue, Aug 18, 5 – 7 pm.** Appropriate casual attire required.
- **March through the Arch, Thu, Aug 20, at 8 a.m.** Senior parents are encouraged to attend this traditional "rite of passage" ceremony for our seniors. SPS dress uniform required.
- **Senior-Parent Continental Breakfast** following the March. The breakfast will be in the cafeteria and "al fresco" (from the Italian meaning "in the fresh" -- in this case, fresh air! We will have some outdoor seating.) Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by complimentary lunch and then Ring Ceremony practice. I will dismiss them following practice – usually around 2 pm (or earlier if they cooperate!)
- **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional ceremony, a highlight of the senior year. ALL seniors are required to attend the ceremony whether they are receiving a ring or not. And, yes, family rings can be used. **Seniors' dress for the ceremony is ANY dress shirt, tie, slacks, shoes and socks.**
- **Fri, Aug 21, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.**

SENIOR PORTRAITS: Expressions Photography will be at St. Paul's School to photograph the senior class of 2021 on **Tuesday, August 4** and **Wednesday, August 5**. Each senior will be photographed in cap and gown and tuxedo (both will be provided by Expressions). Here are the details:

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- **When:** Seniors/parents will receive an email with the designated date (either 8/4 or 8/5) and time. It is important to arrive promptly so your scheduled group can be photographed in a timely manner.
 - **Where:** Lobby area of New Gym
 - **What to wear:** Plain white tee-shirt and shorts (any kind is fine as long as they are in good repair). Seniors should be **clean-shaven** and have an **appropriate school-length haircut**. Facial hair will show if not properly shaved. (Moms are welcomed to attend)
 - **Portraits:** Senior proofs/order form will be mailed to your home address within the next three weeks. An email will be sent to notify families when proofs are mailed. If you do NOT receive proofs within a reasonable amount of time, please call the studio.
 - **Return** completed order form and proofs to Expressions.
 - **Select tux pose** that will be used for the yearbook (even if you DO NOT order portraits, a tux pose MUST be selected).



Student Council meets with Trevor Watkins to plan the year.

STUDENT COUNCIL: Campaigning and elections for Class President & Vice-President for grades 8 through 12 will be held the week of August 17. Qualifying will begin on August 10. Listen to announcements and watch your student email for further information.

STUDENT HOSTS: We will recruit and enroll SHs during the first few weeks of school in preparation for service throughout the year. Students should see one of the ladies in the Development Office for information.

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

SIGNATURE CARD: The Student-Parent Handbook is posted on the Student Life page of our website. All students and parents must be familiar with our policies and agree to follow them. As evidence of that agreement, **students and parents must sign a form attesting that they have read the Handbook, understand the rules contained within the document, and intend to follow them. Print out the signature card (posted on the website under “recent news” and which is also the last page of the**

handbook) and bring it on their first day of school. The COVID-19 Release form must also be signed and returned on first day of school.

SUMMER READING: All students should be finishing their summer reading.

UNIFORMS: Reminders:

- Uniform shirts, ties, and socks are sold by Bayou Uniform (13488 Seymour Myers Blvd) in Covington. Only white SPS socks are allowed.
- Sweatshirts, fleeces, PE uniforms, etc. are sold by the Mothers Club bookstore.
- Khaki pants/shorts may come from any vendor as long as they are NOT cargo pants and are standard tan khaki color, not green or brown.
- There is no uniform shoe but no sandals, etc. are allowed. The more conservative the better.
- We now have a “dress uniform” which will be worn on special occasions: LONG khaki pants, dress white shirt (any brand is OK even if it has a small logo), dress socks, belt, SCHOOL TIE, and any shoe that is not a tennis/athletic shoe.
- ID cards must be worn DAILY on an SPS lanyard that will be given to students.
- **Masks are mandatory.**



Graduation finally took place on July 25! God bless the Class of 2020!

Weekly Humor: Since you've read this far, you deserve the traditional "Weekly Humor":

- *Q: Which school supply is always tired? A: A knapsack.*
- *Teacher: I see you missed the first day of school. Student: Yes, but I didn't miss it that much.*
- *Q: Why did the girl wear glasses during math class? A: To improve her di-vision.*
- *Q: Why did the math book look so sad when school started? A: Because it had so many problems..*
- *Q. Why was the obtuse angle so upset at school? A: Because it was never right.*
- *Q. What did the algebra book say to the science book? A: Boy, do I have problems!*
- *Q. What did the math book say to the history book? A: You know you can count on me.*
- *Q: What is a math teacher's favorite season? A: Sum-mer.*
- *Q. Why wouldn't the teacher allow her students to say 288 in class? A: Because it's two gross. (Get it?)*
- *Q. Why was the geometry book so adorable? A: Because it had acute angles.*
- *Q. What did the calculator say to the girl on the first day of school? A: I'll solve all your problems!*
- *Q: What do you get when you add 4 apples and 2 apples? A: A 2nd grade math problem!*
- *Q. What did the girl say to her math book? A: You're going to have to solve your own problems.*
- *Q. Why is glue bad at Math? A: It always gets stuck on the problems.*
- *Q. What tool did the boy bring to his first math class? A: Multi-pliers.*
- *Q. What do you get when you cross a teacher with a calculator? A: Someone you can always count on.*
- *Q: Why did the boy enjoy Sunday school? A: Because of all the ice cream!*
- *Q. Why did Echo get detention on the first day of school? A: He kept answering back.*
- *Teacher: Pay a little attention, please! Student: But I'm paying as little attention as I can!*
- *Q: How can you make the first day of school fly by? A: Throw a clock!*

- *Q: Where did the sheep say they went for summer vacation? A: The Baa-hamas*
- *Q: Who was in charge of the school during summer vacation? A: The rulers.*
- *Q: What did the lobster do when the first day of school ended? A: It shellabrated.*
- *Q: What do they do on the first day of sheep school? A: Have a baa-baa-cue.*
- *Q: Why was the school cafeteria clock behind on the first day of school? A: It went back four seconds.*
- *Q: Why was the snake upset when math class ended? A: He was an Adder!*
- *Q: Why did the teacher wear sunglasses in school? A: Her students were bright.*
- *Q: What should elves know before the first day of 1st grade? A: The elf-abet.*
- *And I'll end with two Knock Knock jokes:*
- Knock, knock Who's there? Justin. Justin who? Just in time for the first day of school.
- Knock Knock. Who's there? Noah. Noah who? Noah more summer – it's time for school!
- *OK, I'll stop!*

WELCOME BACK VIDEO: Thanks to Mimi Montiero and Jeaneen Schmitt for producing a welcome back video for the students. It is posted on our website. Here is the link if you wish to watch it. It's worth the three minutes: <https://www.stpauls.com/about-us/video-collection/>

I will again close with the passage that I like to use at the beginning of each new school year. I've been using it now for 33 years, but it still makes sense today! I wish I could take credit for the quotation, but it was written in the 1960's by the headmaster of St. Alban's School in New York. It provides food for thought for all of us as we begin another school year:

The raising of children is a lot of fun and a lot of pain, whether it has to do with cars, books, the opposite sex, parties, or drinking, but it is also the greatest privilege we can have in life. We shall do it well or poorly, depending upon the quality of life we ourselves have been able to develop, the way we are able to learn, the humility of heart that is ours, which helps us to recognize that we do not have all the answers and that we can learn from each other, occasionally from our children, through whom God has been known to speak even to parents, and especially from that teacher who we recognize as The Teacher, Jesus the Lord.

Whew! That was a lot of information! Hope I have not scared you off! I am sure I've forgotten something but that's enough for now. Email me if you still have a question about the opening of school.

As usual, I will close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which is now officially off the air but which I still listen to on its website): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings. Pray that we have a good beginning! Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's! May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and call on me if I can help!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Anticipating a Great 2020 – 21 (in spite of COVID 19) as the 17th Christian Brother President/CEO (yes, I'm still here!) of Saint Paul's School



Answer to Aug 3 Trivia Question: Columbus's three ships were the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria, and he landed on Oct 12, 1492.

