

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



## Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington 340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world September $21-27,\,2020$

Welcome to the final full week of September and the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the 2020 - 21 school year!

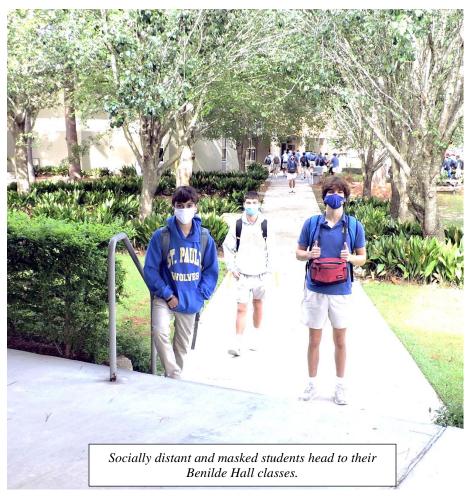


**The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual International Lasallian Days for Peace** (ILDP) begin this week on Sep 21 and run until Oct 21. The theme this year is *I Choose Peace*. The month-long observance encourages study, reflection, prayer, and action. As former Superior General Brother Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria said concerning ILDP: *Peace is possible if each of us gets involved. It is possible when we place persons above things. It is possible if we make God's plan for humankind our own plan. May this event bring peace, especially to those who need it most!* 

I invite you to join the Retired Brothers who daily pray the following, official Lasallian Prayer for Peace: We pray to You, Lord, God of life and God of those who hope! Listen to our prayer for the whole world, for peace among all peoples, for prosperity in all lands. We pray to You that evil may be overcome and that all wars may end. We pray to you especially for the members of our Lasallian Family, who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance and for the children and young people who are poor and neglected. We pray too, God, for peace in our lives; in our towns, in our schools, in our families and in our own hearts. We pray for a peace that the world cannot give us. We pray for a peace that will make us whole and transform us into ambassadors of justice for your sake. Lord, give us Your peace!

### Mon, Sep 21 (G A B C; Feast of St. Matthew – Happy Feast Day to the 40+ faculty & students with Matthew as first, middle or last name!)

- **This Day in History:** In 1779, the Louisiana governor Bernardo de Galvez, aided by American troops and militia, captures the British post at Baton Rouge, located in what was then British-controlled West Florida.
- International Peace Day. Let's all do our part by at least keeping peace locally!



• World Gratitude Day: We should be grateful EVERY day, but be extra grateful today!

## Tue, Sep 22 (Virtual President's Assembly; D E F G)

- The Autumnal Equinox, when the sun crosses the equator from North to South, occurs today 8:30 am, CDT. Fall officially begins! In the Southern Hemisphere, spring officially begins. Play Antonio Vivaldi's incredible "Autumn" from his Four Seasons Suite! In Japan, the Autumnal Equinox is a holiday to mark the new season and to pay respects to deceased parents and relatives. How meaningful! Marvel at God's wonderful creation today, anticipate the cool coming months (remember them?), and remember deceased loved ones.
- **Hobbit Day** and the celebration of two of JRR Tolkien's most

beloved characters – Bilbo Baggins and Frodo Baggins. The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings series is well known and loved by many. Here is a fun fact to remember: The Fellowship of the Rings, first in the Lord of the Rings series opens with Bilbo Baggins announcing his *eleventy-first* birthday. Instead of saying "one hundred and one" they say "eleventy first" and that with every other three plus digit number.

- **TDIH:** Ice cream cones debuted today in 1903 & the band aid in 1920! Where would we be without these?
- **TDIH:** In 1776, Nathan Hale was executed without trial after caught spying on the British. His famous last words? "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." Thank you, Nathan!
- **TDIH:** In 2015, Pope Francis began a six-day visit to the US. The Pope visited DC, New York and Philadelphia. He became the first Pope to address a joint session of Congress and he also addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations.
- **TDIH:** In 2005, after having re-opened from Katrina, we closed school to brace for Hurricane Rita. While spared Rita's brunt, many in our area suffered additional damage, while the southwest part of LA took a major hit. We continue to pray for those healing from Rita's wrath.
- White Chocolate Day: Go ahead and indulge!
- Elephant Appreciation Day: Celebrate the elephant today and learn something about these Endearing, Loyal, Elegant, Powerful, Heavy, Amusing, Noble, and Talented creatures. (get it?)
- **Teacher Appreciation and Student Snack Day:** These events are re-scheduled from last week.

#### Wed, Sep 23 (A B C D)

- **Checkers Day:** This day, begun on the anniversary of former Vice President Richard Nixon's "Checkers Speech" (look it up, history buffs!), has morphed into a celebration of the game of checkers. Enjoy a game or two today!
- **Innergize Day:** Today is the day to set time aside for yourself to do anything you want to do. OK to observe, but don't let it interfere with any of your obligations, especially students to their classes!

#### Thu, Sep 24 (E F G A)

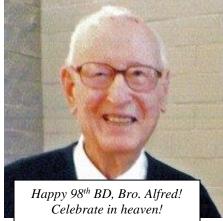
- **TDIH:** In 1957, President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce racial integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- **National Punctuation Day:** Let's all punctuate our writing correctly! I plan on celebrating! Here's a great website to help: <a href="http://www.nationalpunctuationday.com">http://www.nationalpunctuationday.com</a>.
- Eat Dinner with Your Children Day: Started by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia Univ, this day informs parents that the engagement fostered during frequent family dinners is an effective tool to help keep America's kids substance abuse free. *Dinner Makes A Difference!*
- **Brother Alfred's Birthday.** Brother would have turned 98 years old today. We value having had his presence as a member of our retired Brothers Community for so long. We give thanks for his life as a Christian Brother in the cause of Lasallian education, especially at SPS, where he has labored for so many years of his religious life. As we did for his brother, Brother Ralph, we will distribute popsicles to
  - the boys in his memory during lunch today. **Football:** Wolves scrimmage John Curtis tonight

#### Fri, Sep 25 (B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1513, Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa first sighted the Pacific Ocean after crossing the Isthmus of Panama. Imagine his reaction!
- **TDIH:** In 1981, Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first female U.S. Supreme Court justice in history when she is sworn in by Chief Justice Warren Burger.
- Comic Book Day: Read a comic book today! Or at least the comics in the newspaper! I read 'em daily!

#### Sat, Sep 26

- Funeral Services for Brother Alfred Baltz, FSC: Brother's cremains will be available for drive-by public viewing at Founders Oak on the campus from 9:30 to 11:00 am on Saturday, September 26. Guests will remain in their cars, drive up De La Salle Drive, stop briefly in front of the reliquary containing the cremains, and then drive off of campus. The Mass of Christian Burial at 11 will be private for the Brothers. Brother's final resting place will be in the St. John Baptist de La Salle columbarium at St. Joseph's Abbey.
- **TDIH:** In 1580, Englishman Francis Drake returns to England in the *Golden Hind*, becoming the first British navigator to sail around the earth. His voyage started on December 13, 1577.
- TDIH: In 1960, the first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon. Many who watched said Kennedy won, while those who listened to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined makeup, appeared haggard on TV in contrast to the youthful, tanned Kennedy.
- Shamu the Whale Day: Today is Shamu's birthday (who knew?) He was born in 1985!
- **Rabbit Day:** Celebrate the rabbit today! But no hunting!
- **Football:** Meet the Team scheduled for this morning in the BAC.



#### Sun, Sep 27

• Feast of Blessed Brother Scubilion: Jean Bernard Rousseau joined the Christian Brothers in 1822. After ten years in elementary schools, Scubilion left France to dedicate the remaining 34 years of his life to the enslaved natives on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Remembered as the "catechist of slaves," he started well attended evening classes, even after a long day of hard labor. He devised programs and techniques in order to teach essentials of Christian doctrine and prepare them to receive sacraments. He won them over by his kind manner and respect. After the emancipation of the slaves in 1848, he continued to care for them and to help them adapt to their new life of freedom. In the last years, despite failing health, he assisted pastors in visiting the sick, winning over sinners, encouraging



vocations, and effecting what seemed to be miraculous cures. At his death he was venerated on the island as a saint. As the Brothers put it – "Brother Scubilion – one in a million!"

- **TDIH:** In 1540, The Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) is chartered by Pope Paul III. The Jesuit movement was founded by Ignatius de Loyola, a Spanish soldier turned priest.
- **TDIH:** In 1964, after a ten-month investigation, the Warren Commission Report was issued stating a long gunman had been responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kenney in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Conspiracy theorists continue to dismiss the Report.
- Ancestor Appreciation Day: We all have ancestors. With genealogy popular today, take some time to discuss your family's ancestors. Our students should have a deep appreciation for those who made their existence today possible. And ALL of us have "characters" in our family background. Enjoy the stories!
- Yom Kippur begins tonight at sundown and lasts through Monday at sundown. This is the most important holiday of the Jewish year, which means "Day of Atonement". It is a day to atone for the sins of the past year. This day is a last appeal, a last chance to change the judgment, to expiate for sin. Yom Kippur atones for sins between man and God, not for sins against another person. For the latter, one must first reconcile with that person, righting the wrongs if possible. Yom Kippur is a complete Sabbath; no work can be performed, and you are supposed to refrain from eating and drinking (even water) on Yom Kippur. We pray that our Jewish brothers and sisters have a holy and blessed Yom Kippur!

# Rise Up, O Men of God

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

**AFTER SCHOOL:** The library is open until 4 pm, Monday - Friday, to accommodate students waiting for rides. It's environmentally friendly and welcoming for students to wait and start on their homework.

**ANNUAL FUND KICKOFF:** We launched our 2021 Annual Fund last Monday – the school's birthday – and with Sally knocking on our door. This year, the AF might be the most important one ever. Since our ability to fundraise is severely handicapped by COVID, and with traditional income sources such as football gate, etc. anticipated to be severely reduced, we will need the support of generous benefactors more than ever.

Thanks to the Development Team for celebrating celebrate our birthday last Monday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, with a giving day to **#BackThePack**. Your gifts to the Annual Fund ensure that not only will we endure for years to come, but we will thrive and continue to build upon our 109-year legacy of quality education. *The strength of the Wolf is the pack* and we ask for your support so that we may celebrate many more birthdays together. All sizes of gifts are appreciated and we thank you in advance for your generosity. Let's **#BackThePack!** Visit <a href="https://saint-pauls-school-af2020.square.site/">https://saint-pauls-school-af2020.square.site/</a> to gift Saint Paul's for our birthday! I know I can count on you.

**ASSIGNMENT HALL:** AH has started. Students go to AH if they come to class without homework. They will stay in AH after school until they finish the homework. AH is not a punishment but a helping structure. Please stress with your son the need to complete his homework on time and to bring it to class.

**ATHLETICS:** The LHSAA released rules last week for attending athletic events. Here are the main ones:

- Indoor and outdoor sport events shall be limited to 25% of the established seating capacity.
- Face coverings are required for all attendees and spectators.
- Social Distancing and Safety Rules:
  - Spectator seating shall be provided and shall be arranged so that a minimum of 6 feet of distance between individuals and small household groups is maintained.
  - o Seating should not be allowed within 6 feet of aisles or above pedestrian entrance and exits
  - Group seating shall not exceed 10 people and should be limited to persons who are members of the same household.
  - o Do not allow physical contact between coaches and players, or between staff and spectators.
  - o Eliminate gatherings in the areas while entering, exiting, or moving about

These rules will seriously alter our traditional game day experience (no tailgating, reduced attendance, etc.), but we have no choice if we want high school athletics. AD Craig Ketelsen has taken the lead in tailoring these rules to SPS. Stay tuned. We know we will not please everyone but the rules are clear.

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



**BOOK STORE**: All required school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Our regular bookstore hours of operation have started:

- M F: 7:30 am 8:15 am
- M F: 11:15 am 12:45 pm
- By appointment. Email <a href="mailto:spsbookstore16@gmail.com">spsbookstore16@gmail.com</a>
- PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore. Proceeds help fund activities throughout the year.
- **RESTOCKED:** A new shipment of SPS masks (blue with SPS logo) has arrived! \$5! We are told by Children's Hospital that the mask mandate is NOT going away soon, so invest in these comfortable, stylish, and re-usable masks, as ALL students and adults must wear them on campus.

+ BROTHER LOUIS WELKER, FSC: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brother Louis Welker, FSC. Brother Louis died of congestive heart failure last Monday, Sep 14, at the Saint Paul's Retired Brothers Residence, where he has lived since 2011. While Louis never taught at SPS, he spent a number of years here in his retirement. When his health permitted, he worshipped with us at all school masses, attended various school events, read my newsletter every week to keep up with SPS events, and enjoyed distributing popsicles to the boys on those special occasions. Louis's career as a Christian Brother is an illustrious one. He ministered at a number of schools in our District, especially Archbishop Rummel in Metairie and Saint Michael's High School in Santa Fe. For many years, he was the Director of our Holy Family Community (the retirement home) in Lafayette. While there, he also served as Vicar for Religious for the Diocese of Lafayette – which shows the respect that the Bishop had for Louis. The Brothers thought enough of him to nominate him to our Superior General for a term as Brother Visitor, the Provincial, where he had the unenviable task of protecting the retired Brothers in Lafayette and accommodating refugees during Hurricane Katrina. In his retirement at SPS, Louis was vivacious and active. He took pride in helping the Community celebrate special liturgical feasts. We shall miss his wit, energy, and compassion. By the way, Louis died on his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday – which is also the birthday of Saint Paul's School and the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, for which he had much devotion. May all of our Holy Christian Brother Saints welcome him as he enters Paradise. The Brothers will hold a private funeral liturgy for him on Saturday, October 3. Brother's final resting place will be in the St. John Baptist de La Salle columbarium at St. Joseph's Abbey in St. Benedict, LA. Once again, we are most grateful to our nursing staff for the kind care they showed Louis in his final days. Eternal rest grant unto Brother Louis, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace! Amen!

BTW, Brother Alfred's obituary is now posted on E.J. Fielding website: <a href="https://www.ejfieldingfh.com/obituaries/Alfred-Baltz/#!/Obituary">https://www.ejfieldingfh.com/obituaries/Alfred-Baltz/#!/Obituary</a>

#### **CAFETERIA: A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT from the Federal School Lunch Program:**

- ALL students may receive a FREE lunch beginning until funds expire or Dec 31. Students MUST still obtain the lunch with their ID card (no ID, no lunch) but it is FREE.
- Students MUST still order lunch during first block, indicating their choice of hot lunch or sandwich lunch, but it will be FREE.

CALENDAR FOR 2020-21: Here is our calendar for this 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.

• 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 9 - 11
 Mon, May 24 Conflict/Makeup 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. Also, please check the calendar for vacation dates and do not schedule vacations in conflict with school.

**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 onl**y – you may 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 this week as schools open. Please plan accordingly.

#### **CELL PHONES:**

• State Law: Motorists are prohibited from using any type of hand-held wireless communications device while traveling through school zones during posted hours. The law includes use of a cellular/wireless device for engaging in a voice call, accessing, reading, or posting to a social networking site, and/or writing, sending, or reading a text-based communication. The school zone cell phone ban does not apply if the

- device is being used to report an emergency, is being used in a hands-free manner, or while the vehicle is lawfully parked. Upon first violation of the school zone ban the fine is \$175, subsequent violations can be up to \$500, and if a crash occurs during the time of the violation, fines can be increased.
- SPS Law: students may use phones during lunch but only outside. If you need to call or text your son, do so during the lunch hour. Disciplinary action and fines will continue for policy violation. With our campus wide wi-fi, he can use his phone to surf the internet if needed. And, yes, our security firewalls are in effect

**DRESS CODE:** Students must be in compliance with the dress code — **which includes temperature bracelets and masks**. 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 here in the admin bldg. If the family budget is tight, please ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to families who supply us with outgrown uniforms.

**DRIVER'S LICENSE PROOF OF ATTENDANCE:** Your son needs proof of attendance in order to get a learner's permit **and another one** when he gets his permanent license. The forms are in the counseling department or the admin building. I feel terrible when a parent waits hours at DMV only to be turned away b/c the son doesn't have his proof of attendance. This is a legislative act; don't blame me!

**EMERGENCY CLOSING:** As we reach the height of the tropical season (Sep 10), and with safety foremost in our minds, I remind all of the directives from the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans – which we will follow now that public schools are back in session:

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

**FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB** – High school football is back! If your business would like to be a football sponsor this season, we have several opportunities. Your business graphic could be displayed during a home game streaming of football games on our NEW Wolf Pack Broadcast Network. Contact Mike Arnold at <a href="wolfpackbroadcastnetwork@gmail.com">wolfpackbroadcastnetwork@gmail.com</a> for more information. We also have in stadium opportunities such as business banners, scoreboard commercials and game day sponsorship packages. Contact Tommy Buckel at 985-688-2356 for more information.

**GET INVOLVED DAY:** Hope your son enjoyed Get Involved Week and told you all about it. Kudos to all who made this a successful venture. Certainly, Josh Pereira and his media wolves deserve gobs of thanks and recognition – in addition to all the students and moderators who supplied the videos and talking points.

**HIGH SCHOOL COTILLION:** While this is not an SPS-sponsored event, the program has been a good one in the past. The first class of the season is October 11 at Tchefuncta Country Club. All health mandates and regulations will be followed to make certain our students are safe while they learn and practice the life-skills that will help them succeed in the future. The High School Cotillion program is for students in the 9th through 12th grades.

#### 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 in the 9th through 12th grades. New etiquette and character development topics which are pertinent to the high school years, such interviewing for scholarships and jobs, positive self-esteem, handling peer-pressure and etiquette in the era of social distancing 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
Tip in a restaurant

Make a budget
 Dress for an interview
 Business and dining

Buy a car

Write a check

Interested in enrolling your student? For more information and to enroll, please visit our website at <a href="https://www.nlic.com/chapter/northshore">www.nlic.com/chapter/northshore</a> or contact the Director, Catherine Lagarde at catherine Lagarde@nljc.com or (504-) 844-6575.

#### **HURRICANES:**

- LAURA: A total of \$3,271.29 was donated by students, staff, and parents. We sent half to Catholic Charities of Southwest LA in Lake Charles and half to St. Louis Catholic High School in Lake Charles, which suffered damage. BTW, St. Louis was formed in 1970 from three smaller Catholic high schools, one of which was Landry Memorial High School, which was staffed by the Christian Brothers for many years. St. Louis is the only Catholic high school in the diocese of Lake Charles.
- **SALLY:** While we give thanks for having been spared the brunt of Sally's wrath, we remember in thought, word, and deed those who were impacted. I never want to lose two days of school, but I would much prefer that loss than loss of local life and property and spend time and effort in cleanup and repair. Naturally, we were criticized by some for calling school too soon and by others for not acting soon enough. We monitored civil authorities, public schools, and Office of Catholic Schools and collaborated with SSA & Hannan. I stand by our decisions, made in an abundance of caution and with proper consultation.
- **BETA:** Yes, we have reached the Greek alphabet! The track of this storm is VERY uncertain at this time, but we will monitor and respond accordingly.

ID CARDS, TEMP BRACELETS AND MASKS: Students must have all three of these with them

**LOST & FOUND:** We are already finding shirts, books, lunch boxes, etc. left around campus. PLEASE stress responsibility with your son. And please CLEARLY mark his clothing with his name to facilitate return of lost items. BTW, the lost and found locker is located outside the School Attendance Office.



NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS: Last week, NINE SPS seniors were named National Merit Semi-Finalists – more than double any school in St. Tammany Parish. Wow. This is QUITE an accomplishment! I take great pride in recognizing the following NM Semis: Ben Broussard, Lucca Ferrante, Gabe Gros, Axel Henderson, Jake Holincheck, Hunter Kergosian, Davis Lagarde, Trey Paine, and Brady Talley.

**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!** 

PAPER WOLF: Please read The Paper Wolf! (www.thepaperwolf.com) I do! We've got an outstanding, AWARD WINNING digital newspaper!



Compliment the outstanding staff. Subscribe! Support the future of journalism! Geaux Paper Wolves!

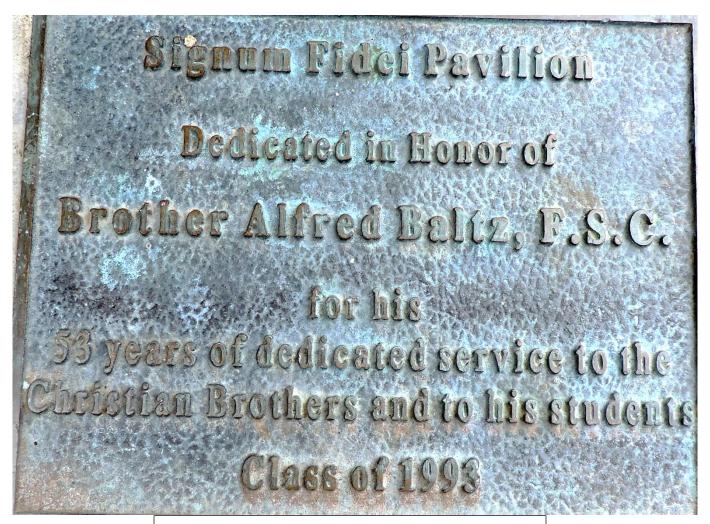
**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES** will take place from 3:30-6:00 on Thursday, October 1 (followed by a day off), with specifics to follow. But please mark your calendars if you feel the need for personal interaction with your son's teachers.

**PHYSICALS:** Dr. Kevin Darr will offer free physicals for students who need them for athletic or band participation from 7 am - 11 am Saturday, September 26, at Covington Orthopedics 19343 Sunshine Ave. Covington, LA 70433. Thank you, Dr. Darr!

**POLITICAL ACTIVITY:** Elections are only a few weeks away and the political season is heating up faster than cyclone activity in the tropics. As expected, several SPS alums are vying for office. I remind all of the policy on the Archdiocese: we may NOT publicly endorse or favor any candidate. We also are prohibited from allowing campaigning on our campus. We regularly have to deny several candidates their wish to distribute campaign material on our campus. If you have interest in the full Archdiocesan policy, here is the link: <a href="https://d2wldr9tsuuj1b.cloudfront.net/16596/documents/2019/9/Political%20Activities%20Policy%20Copy%20for%20the%20e-Bulletin.pdf">https://d2wldr9tsuuj1b.cloudfront.net/16596/documents/2019/9/Political%20Activities%20Policy%20Copy%20for%20the%20e-Bulletin.pdf</a>

**PHASE 3:** Governor John Bel Edwards announced last week that Louisiana will move into Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan. State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley released the following statement in support of the Governor's decision: "We as an educational community are ready to move to Phase 3. We've been successful in Phase 2 in terms of mitigating the spread of the virus, and I think we will do well in Phase 3. **It's more important than ever that our schools continue to implement the safety procedures they have in place, as more students will soon return to campus."** We continue to examine what Phase 3 will mean for us at SPS and are awaiting guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools and Children's Hospital.

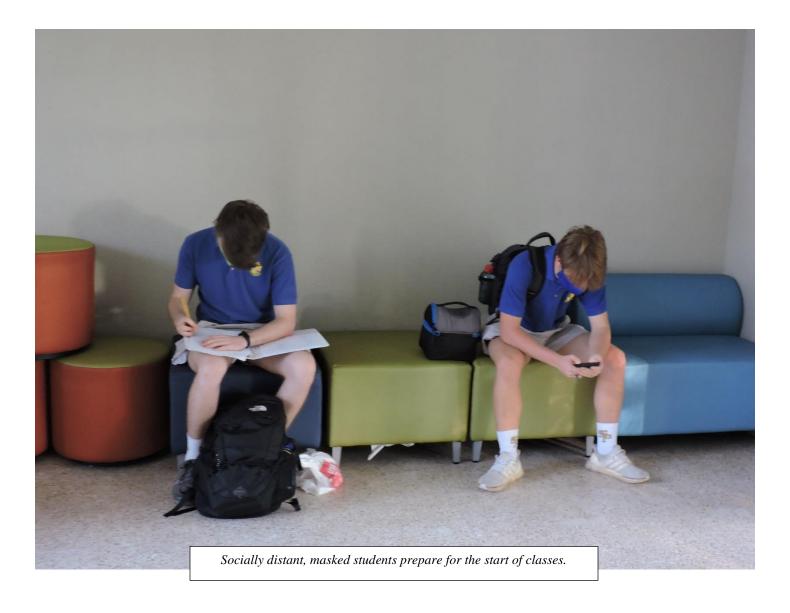
One thing that will NOT change is the mandatory mask policy.



Does your son know where this is located on campus? Do you?

**QUARANTINE UPDATE:** Our numbers of quarantined students continue to fall. Let's hope the upcoming two-week post-Labor Day anticipated spike in cases does not materialize among our students. Chris Stipe and Abbie Duhe continue to do Herculean work in staying on top of things and completing all state regulations. Thanks to all of you who are understanding and accepting of these needed procedures.

ROSH HASHANAH began at sundown on Friday, Sep 18 and ended at sundown on Sunday, Sep 20. The late Saint Pope John Paul II encouraged Catholics to learn more about our Jewish heritage and form closer ties with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Thus, we recognize the great feast of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It is the year 5781 in the Jewish calendar. The ten days starting with Rosh Hashanah and ending with Yom Kippur are known as the Days of Awe or the Days of Repentance. This is a time for serious introspection, a time to consider the sins of the previous year and repent before Yom Kippur. One of the ongoing themes of the Days of Awe is the concept that God has "books" that he writes our names in, writing down who will live and who will die, who will have a good life and who will have a bad life, for the next year. These books are written in on Rosh Hashanah, but actions during the Days of Awe can alter God's decree. The actions that change the decree are penance, prayer, & good deeds – great practices for people of all faiths. These "books" are sealed on Yom Kippur. This concept of writing in books is the source of the greeting during this time: "L'shanah tovah tikatevu! (May you be written [in the book of life] for a good year! We hope our Jewish brothers and sisters had a blessed Rosh Hashanah! "L'shanah tovah tikatevu!



**SCHOOL SAFETY:** School safety remains paramount for all of us. Promote safety with your son. In our faculty meetings, we reviewed all safety procedures that we have in place – and they are many. Safety is our priority – and it is EVERYONE'S JOB. Report ANY rumor or threat to safety about which you hear. Encourage your sons to report, too. **All visitors to campus must sign in and receive a visitor's pass.** 

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Connect with the Wolves on Social Media to see the latest pictures and posts of all the wonderful events at St. Paul's School. The Facebook and Twitter feeds are on our newly re-vamped website, or you can follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

**SOCIAL MEDIA II**: Parents, please speak with your sons about responsible social media use. Inappropriate postings can have legal ramifications. In addition, SPS reserves the right to impose consequences on our students who misuse social media.

**STUDENT COUNCIL:** Kudos to the SC for getting up and running in spite of the challenges. Special congrats to all who ran. Here is the 2020-21 Student Council:

President: Davis Lagarde Vice-President: Alvin Marks

Secretary: Walker Dubreuil Treasurer: Marco Vargas Parliamentarian: Michael Slimming

#### **Class Officers:**

Senior President: Ryan Daly Senior VP: Chris Franke

Junior President: Andrew Hightower

Junior VP: Zachary Nichols

Sophomore President: Ben Barousse Sophomore VP: Sam Gold

Freshmen President: Jacob Strecker Freshmen VP: Peyton Kilgore

Pre-Freshmen President: Eddie d'Hemecourt Pre-Freshmen VP: Noah Montz

**STUDENT EMAIL ADDRESSES:** We issued each student a unique Saint Paul's email address through which we will communicate with him. He should use this email address when contacting his teachers or the school for any reason.

SUSTAINED SILENT READING (SSR): we have begun daily SSR (Sustained Silent Reading) during 15 minutes of Block 4. During this time, everyone in the school will read silently for 15 minutes. This is not a time for homework, tutoring, studying textbooks or doing assigned reading, but is designed to make reading a school-wide priority by reading for pleasure. We hope to develop a population of self-motivated readers. The program was created over 30 years ago at the University of Vermont and over the years has resulted in increased vocabulary development, reading fluency and comprehension, writing quality, improved standardized test scores, increased background knowledge on a wide range of topics, and increased reading time out of school. Students were instructed to bring their own reading material but we will have classrooms stocked with magazines, novels, short stories, etc. Help your son prepare for this initiative and have him come prepared on Monday and every day thereafter. He should bring a PRINTED READING MATERIAL – not electronic material You might want to consider initiating a family SSR time, too! I'll keep you posted as to how things go.

**TUTORING:** The National Honor Society will offer tutoring on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during both lunches in the library. Encourage your son to take advantage of this FREE service (which includes proofreading papers!) if he needs a little help.

VISITOR'S PASS: You may not just wander the campus. You must sign in at the Administration Building, the Attendance Office, or the Counseling Office to obtain a pass to be on campus during school hours. Thanks for understanding this procedure. Our prayers rise to heaven for a safe school year and the elimination of violence of all kinds in our schools – and in all of society.

**WEEKLY HUMOR:** Whale jokes in honor of Shamu the Whale Day on Thu:

- What do whales eat? Fish and ships.
- What do whales like to chew? Blubber gum!
- Where are whales weighed? At a whale weigh station!
- Did you hear about the flying whale? It's a whale of a story.
- What do you call a baby whale? A little squirt!
- What did the shark say to the whale? What are you blubbering about?
- What do you get when you cross a cow and a whale? Sha-Moo.
- How do you get banned from Sea World? Free Willy.
- How is a dog and a marine biologist alike? One wags a tail and the other tags a whale.

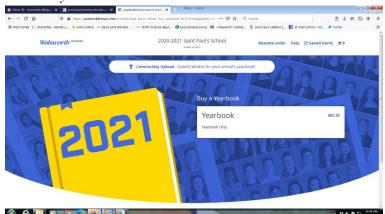
- Why did the whale cross the road? To get to the other tide!
- How do fish travel long distances? They whale (hail) a cab.
- How do you make a fish laugh? Tell a whale of a tale.
- I know a whale joke. It's a real killer.
- A man walks into Sea World and says whale whale whale what have we here?
- How do whales prepare for a party? They orca-nise it.
- What's a whale's favorite sandwich? Krilled cheese

**YEARBOOK:** The Conifer 2019-2020 is on the press as I write this. The 2020-2021 Conifer staff is already hard at work on the new yearbook. What you need to know for 2020-2021?

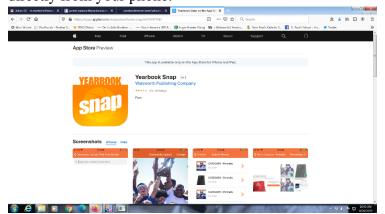
- Yearbooks can only be purchased online at <a href="www.yearbookforever.com">www.yearbookforever.com</a>. Make sure to spell out the word *Saint* when searching for *Saint Paul's School*.
- Purchase a yearbook before Oct 9 to receive the \$60 discounted price. The Conifer will be available for the regular price of \$65 beginning Oct 10.

New this year....share your best Saint Paul's photos with the yearbook staff! You can upload photos from your computer or your smart phone.

• On your computer, go to Walsworth website at <a href="www.yearbookforever.com">www.yearbookforever.com</a>. Search for Saint Paul's School, remember to spell out the word Saint. Click on the Community Upload - Submit photos for your school's yearbook button and follow directions.



• On your smart phone, download the *Yearbook Snap* app. Select Saint Paul's School and upload photos directly from your phone.



Please contact yearbook adviser Mimi Monteiro at m.monteiro@stpauls.com if you have any questions.

**Young Entrepreneurs Academy Accepting Applications**: Know a 6th-12th grader who would be a great business owner? The Young Entrepreneurs Academy can help them start building their dream now! This innovative program is hosted by Southeastern Louisiana University and the Louisiana Small Business

Development Center and offers dynamic instruction, mentorships with local business leaders, and the opportunity to earn real funding from investors. The class is limited to just 25 students each year, so apply today at yeanorthshore.org.



#### **September**

- 21 GABC Student Snack Day
- 22 DEFG T. Appreciation Lunch/V. Assembly
- 23 ABCD
- 24 EFGA
- 25 BCDE
- 28 FGAB
- 29 CDEF Virtual Assembly
- 30 GABC Lasallian Catholic Assessment Program (LCAP) Begins

#### **October**

- 1 DEFG
- 2 No classes meet LCAP Concludes
- 5 ABCD
- 6 EFGA
- 7 BCDE
- 8 FGAB
- 9 CDEF
- 12 GABC
- 13 DEFG
- 14 ABCD PSAT Test
- 15 EFGA
- 16 BCDE
- 19 FGAB
- 20 CDEF
- 21 GABC
- 22 DEFG
- 23 ABCD
- 26 EFGA
- 27 BCDE
- 28 FGAB
- 29 CDEF
- 30 GABC

Whew! That's enough for now! I'm sure I've forgotten something so email me if you still have a question. As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I miss listening to while writing the newsletter since it no longer broadcasts but I still LOL thinking about it!): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Pray that we continue to 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!

#### Let's end with Prayer for Hurricane Protection, especially as disturbances move into the Gulf of Mexico:

Our Father in Heaven, through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, spare us during this hurricane season from all harm. Protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

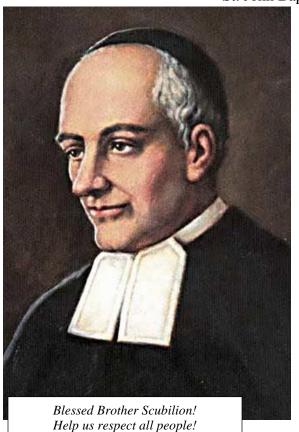
Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC Giving Thanks Daily for Being the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



Have a great Lasallian Week! ...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing the Mission, living courageously, AND RESPECTING ALL PEOPLE!

"Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept."

~ St. John Baptist de La Salle (Meditation 99.2)



Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau, FSC was a French Brother who spent 34 years of his religious life ministering to the enslaved people on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Pope Saint John Paul II beatified him in 1989. From the Christian Brothers Website (<a href="www.lasalle.org">www.lasalle.org</a>): As a devout young man in his native village in Burgundy, Jean Bernard Rousseau was serving as a catechist when he was introduced to the Brothers, who had just opened a school in a nearby town. He entered the Paris novitiate in 1822.

After ten years in elementary schools throughout France, Brother Scubilion left France in 1833 to dedicate the remaining thirty-four years of his life to the enslaved natives on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Remembered as the "catechist of the slaves," he inaugurated evening classes for them, which were well attended, even after a long day of exhausting labor. He devised special programs and techniques, suited to their needs and abilities, in order to teach the essentials of Christian doctrine and morality, and prepare them to receive the sacraments. He won them over by his kindly manner and his

respect for them. After the emancipation of the slaves in 1848, he

continued to care for them and to help them adapt to their new life of freedom and responsibility. In the last years of his life, despite failing health, he assisted the local pastor in visiting the sick, winning over sinners, encouraging vocations, and even effecting what seemed to be miraculous cures. At his death he was venerated everywhere on the island as a saint.





