



***The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter***  
***Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington***  
***340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world***  
***March 01 - 07, 2021 – Second Week of Lent***



*Remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return!*

Welcome to the penultimate week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the first week of March, & the second week of Lent. Wow. Times flies when you are having fun!

Over Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent holidays, we observed (well, I did!) on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> the fifth anniversary of the passing of literary giant Harper Lee. I remember vividly that a freshman excitedly ran up to me that day and said: "Brother, did you hear that the dude who wrote "To Kill a Mockingjay" died?" I smiled and thanked him for letting me know, saying I was very sad on the loss of this great writer. I also gently corrected him: the dude was actually a dudette (dudess?) and the book is "To Kill a Mockingbird" not a mocking jay.



So allow me to duplicate what I wrote at that time: Nelle Harper Lee (she went by Harper because she didn't want people calling her Nellie) was born in 1926 in Monroeville, AL. Her (at the time) only novel was published in 1960. An immediate success, it won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize and has become a classic of modern American Literature. In 2007 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Known for her reclusiveness, she rarely gave interviews.

Here are some of my favorite quotations from the novel, which I think provide great reflection material for Lent:

- You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.*
- I want you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. Real courage is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what.*
- Before I can live with other folks, I've got to live with myself. The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience.*
- Scout: Atticus, he was real nice. Atticus: Most people are, Scout, when you finally see them.*
- You just hold your head high and keep those fists down. No matter what anybody says to you, don't you let 'em get your goat. Try fightin' with your head for a change.*
- It's never an insult to be called what somebody thinks is a bad name. It just shows you how poor that person is, it doesn't hurt you.*

- *I was born good but had grown progressively worse every year.*
- *It was times like these when I thought my father, who hated guns and had never been to any wars, was the bravest man who ever lived.*
- *Pass the damn ham, please.....Bad language is a stage all children go through, and it dies when they learn they're not attracting attention with it.*
- *So it took an eight-year-old child to bring 'em to their senses.... That proves something - that a gang of wild animals can be stopped, simply because they're still human. Maybe we need a police force of children.*
- *Atticus said to Jem one day, "I'd rather you shot [your BB gun] at tin cans in the backyard, but I know you'll go after birds. Shoot all the blue jays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." That was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it. "Your father's right," she said. "Mockingbirds don't do one thing except make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corn cribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."*

**Let's try and become a little more like mockingbirds this Lent. Rest in peace, Harper Lee. And thanks.**

**Mon, Mar 01 (G A B C; Senior Honor Roll Breakfast)**

- **This Day in History:** In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed legislation making Yellowstone the country's first national park.
- **Pig Day:** Honor our porcine friends today!
- **Baseball:** Varsity v. Curtis (Miley); 8<sup>th</sup> v. Curtis (DH)

**Tue, Mar 02 (D E F G – Juniors take in-school ACT)**

- **TDIH:** In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant made Yellowstone the country's first national park.
- **Baseball:** Sub-varsity v. Slidell (DH; 4 & 6)

**Wed, Mar 03 (A B C D; Freshman take Pre-ACT)**

- **I Want You To Be Happy Day:** I want this every day!
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Loranger at Tangi Lanes
- **Track:** Jr Hi in Trafton Invitational
- **Golf:** Wolves in N'shore league play at Pinewood
- **Senior Fun Lunch During Period D**

**Thu, Mar 04 (E F G A)**

- **TDIH:** In 1931, the US Congress makes The Star-Spangled Banner the official national anthem of the United States.



*Ultimate Frisbee practice has begun!*



- **Discover What Your Name Means Day** (always Wed of first full week of March): Talk about your family's names today: where they came from and what they mean! Tell some family stories, too!
- **Baseball:** Varsity v. Destrehan (6); 8<sup>th</sup> at Franklinton (5)
- **Bowling:** Wolves v. Holden at Tangi Lanes in Hammond

#### Fri, Mar 05 (B C D E)

- **Basketball:** SPS hosts quarterfinal game; opponent TBD
- **Baseball:** Wolves v. Dutchtown (6:30)
- **Track:** Wolves in Ponchatoula Invitational

#### Sat, Mar 06

- **TDIH:** In 1899, the Imperial Patent Office in Berlin registers Aspirin, the brand name for acetylsalicylic acid, on behalf of the German pharmaceutical company Friedrich Bayer & Co
- **TDIH: In 1986,** Georgia O'Keefe, who gained worldwide fame for her austere minimalist paintings of the American southwest, dies in Santa Fe at the age of 98. View some masterpieces of this incredible artist!
- **Dentist Day:** We thank all of our dental professionals today for their dedication to our dental health!
- **Frozen Food Day:** Where would we be without frozen food?
- **Oreo Cookie Day:** Eat an Oreo today! Twist 'em, dunk 'em, use 'em in recipes or just eat them.
- **Lacrosse:** numerous games in Hunter stadium
- **Rugby:** Tournament in Raceland
- **Golf:** Tournament in Lake Charles
- **Baseball:** Varsity v. St. Amant (12:30)

#### Sun, Mar 07

- **TDIH:** In 1923, *The New Republic* publishes Robert Frost's poem "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening." The poem, beginning with the famous line "Whose woods these are, I think I know. His house is in the village though," has introduced millions of American students to poetry. Re-read this classic today!
- **World Math Day!**  
Celebrate & work math problems!



*Faculty/staff receive COVID vaccine – thanks, Braswell's  
Drugs for your assistance!*

# Rise Up, O Men of God

**I call the following to your attention in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance.**

**ADMISSIONS FOR 21-22:** On Thursday, we mailed acceptance letters to next year's new students (mostly pre-freshmen but a few new freshmen, too) – as did all Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese. Both the quality and quantity for SPS are very good! **Thank you for spreading the good news about Lasallian education at SPS!** On Friday, we emailed a “welcome video” to our accepted applicants. Thanks to Junior Zachary van Zandt for making the video.

**ANNUAL APPEAL:** Many thanks to those who have responded. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not – but I need your support to keep it from being high pressured.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g., technology, special programs, etc. The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation, the \$4.5 million new gym, the \$4 million Benilde Hall renovation and now the \$2.5 million band building.)
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small.** What’s important is that everyone participates. Of course, no gift is too large!
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you! Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

**ANNUAL APPEAL AND GRANDPARENTS:** We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son’s grandparents or, if you want, I’ll be happy to send them the information directly if you wish. Just provide me with the information. **I do not want to ask grandparents without your consent but we need their support.** I have already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large.

**APPLICATION LETTER EXCERPTS:** Enjoy this installment from our newest Wolves:

- *St. Paul’s pushes you to the limits to become the best you can possibly be.* [We do!]
- *I would like to go to St. Paul’s because it is only 21 minutes form my house; my only other contender is an hour away.* [You will save 80 minutes a day! Wonderful]
- *I want to surround myself with peers who think that being smart is cool!* [Smart is indeed cool here!]
- *When I toured, I really liked how open and big the canvas is.* [And the campus is open and big, too!]
- *My obsession with St. Paul’s started when I was seven.* [Obsessed since age 7? You are in!]

**ATTENDANCE:** If your son is absent, phone Suzy in the Attendance Office before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1980, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns**

**BALLARD BRANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE:** Saint Paul's is grateful for the generosity of Ballard Brands. All of the coffee grounds from the PJ's Coffee on Hwy 21 near I-12 are being donated to the agriculture class project on composting, soil, and sustainability in agriculture. Thank you!!!



**BAND HALL HISTORY:** In the summer of 1966, the school constructed a “recreation center” for the recreational needs of the students living in La Salle Hall dorm. At a cost of \$15,000, a building was constructed to provide ping pong, pool, games and TV for boarders. Eventually, arcade-type games and a snack bar were added. In addition, a nine-hole miniature golf (putt-putt) course was built in front of the building, complete with lighting for nighttime use.

The facility, known simply as “the rec hall”, served the recreational needs of the boarding students until the summer of 1995, when, once again, the needs of the school dictated change. The overall population of the school was growing, but the population of the boarding program was shrinking. Accordingly, the decision was made to move the “rec hall” into La Salle Hall itself and to move the band hall (which was located on the third floor of Benilde Hall) into the rec hall building, thus allowing us to construct five more classrooms in Benilde Hall. The miniature golf course had also deteriorated and was removed.

The building has served the Marching Wolves well since that time, but, again, needs dictate change. In addition to overall building deterioration, our band programs have been expanding of late and now include concert, jazz, and drum corps components in addition to the renowned Marching Wolves, now almost one hundred members strong! They are deserving of a better facility. This new facility will provide expanded space, restrooms, acoustics, and aesthetics to our music program. Construction has begun and this \$2.3 million project will be completed in the summer of 2021. Interested in supporting the renovation, whose overall cost will approach \$2.3 million? We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or [development@stpauls.com](mailto:development@stpauls.com) or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or [broray@stpauls.com](mailto:broray@stpauls.com).





*Support the Marching Wolves by helping fund the new band hall, already under construction!*

We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or [development@stpauls.com](mailto:development@stpauls.com) or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or [broray@stpauls.com](mailto:broray@stpauls.com).

**BOOK STORE:** All school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Hours?

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am and 11:15 – 12:45 By appointment. Email [spsbookstore16@gmail.com](mailto:spsbookstore16@gmail.com)
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds fund activities throughout the year. **Recently, we received \$10,000 worth of Chromebooks for student use in main school building!**

**No, Really...**

*Take the Meals!*

Take advantage of the **Free Meals**  
provided to our students!

***Reasons why you should take advantage of free school meals:***

They are FREE and may help you stretch your household budget.

They save you time shopping and prepping meals.

They are available in school.

They are delicious, nutritious, fun and convenient.

Healthy food fuels students for learning.

Each meal served provides funding to your school's Nutrition Services department from the USDA.

You are helping keep our staff employed.

You are not taking food away from someone who needs it more. We have plenty to go around!

We love to provide meals to our students. It's what we do best!

*The USDA is covering the cost of these meals during COVID-19.*

*Free Meals will be provided throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year.*

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

- ALL students may receive a FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH **throughout the rest of the school year!** Students MUST still obtain the meals with their ID card (no ID, no food) but it is FREE.
- Students MUST still order lunch during first block, but it will be FREE. Note: “extras” such as juice, ice cream, etc. are NOT free and students will be charged. The free lunch includes milk.
- This is a great opportunity for our students – and savings for you! And it helps keep the cafeteria staff employed! Encourage your son to take advantage of this!

**CAFETERIA FREE BREAKFAST/LUNCH CLARIFICATION:** ONLY the basic lunch / breakfast is free. If students purchase “extras” such as juice, water, or desserts, they will be charged for these. Make sure your son understands this policy.

# CALENDAR FOR **NEXT** YEAR (2021-22): Some important dates:

## Saint Paul's School 2021 – 2022 (not this year) Calendar

Mon - Tue, Aug 2 & 3	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 4	Teacher Prep Day
Thu, Aug 5	School Opens <b>with a full day of instruction</b>
Mon, Sep 06	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 8	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 8	Grandparents Day (11:30 – 1:00 -- Tentative)
Sat, Oct 30	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon, Nov 08	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Nov 22 - 26	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 29	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon - Thu, Dec 13-16	Semester Exams
Thu, Dec 16	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Mon, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 17	Martin Luther King Holiday
Fri, Feb 25	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 28 - Mar 04	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Mar 11	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 13	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 15 – 22	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 25	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 27 – 29	Senior Final Exams
Sat, May 14	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tue – Fri, May 17 - 20	Final Exams for Grades 8 - 11
Mon, May 23	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tue, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

**CALENDAR FOR SECOND SEMESTER 2021** assumes that we are in full operation. Naturally, any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 or acts of nature may result in alteration.

- Fri, Mar 12 End of Third Quarter
- Fri – Fri Apr 2-9 Easter Holidays
- Mon, Apr 12 Classes resume from
- Wed-Fri, Apr 28-30 Senior Final Exams
- Sat, May 15 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
- Tues – Fri, May 18-21 Final Exams for all others, 8 - 11
- Mon, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Day
- Tues, May 25 Conflict/Makeup Day



**CAR BURGLARIES:** Mayor Mark Johnson and Covington Police Chief Culotta recently sent an email informing us that car burglaries are rising. Lock your car and do not leave valuables visible.

**COLD WEATHER CLOTHING:** Only Saint Paul's outdoor wear is permissible in cool/cold weather. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. This will be handled confidentially and appropriately.** ONLY SPS cold weather clothing is allowed.

**COVID-19 VACCINE:** I am most grateful to the overwhelming number of you who received the vaccine. And, of course, I am incredibly grateful to Braswell's Drugs for facilitating the administration.

In the course of the week, I was asked about the Catholic Church's stand on the vaccine. I offer the following:

- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been **ethically approved** by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- On Dec 21, 2020, The **Vatican's doctrinal office issued a note saying it is "morally acceptable"** for Catholics to take vaccines against the coronavirus, in what appears an unprecedented effort to convince believers to inoculate themselves to help end the global pandemic. Addressing concerns that some of the new vaccines were developed using cell lines connected to tissue obtained from two abortions decades ago, the **Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said the "grave danger" of spreading the coronavirus outweighs those concerns.**
- On Jan 11, 2021, **Pope Francis suggested that people have a moral obligation** to receive one of the new coronavirus vaccines as soon as possible, revealing in a new interview that he expects to get his own first dose. "I believe that morally everyone must take the vaccine," the pontiff said in an interview. "It is the moral choice because it is about your life but also the lives of others."
- On Jan 25, Archbishop Gregory Aymond received his second dose of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine. The **archbishop said he regarded being vaccinated as "an act of charity."** "It really is about charity, it seems to me," Archbishop Aymond said. "We want to control the virus. We don't want to give it to anybody. We don't want to receive it. It's all about charity – charity toward yourself and charity toward others because you don't want to spread the disease in case you get it."

**DRIVING:** I call the following to your attention:

- **Driver's License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner's permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don't blame me! This is a legislative action.
- **SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let's start 2021 with a resolution for safe driving! Set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, no cell phone use during school zone hours, buckle up, etc. Thank you!
- **School Zone Cell Phone Ban:** It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.

**FIVE CORE DINNER:** Please consider joining us in this innovative and enjoyable way to both help SPS and learn about Lasallian Catholic Education here at SPS. Here is a link for more

info: <https://www.stpauls.com/support/events/five-core-dinner/>

**FRESHMAN TESTING ON WEDNESDAY, March 3:** All freshmen will take the Pre-ACT on Wed during periods A and B. Here is the schedule from Mrs. Gina Hall. No pre-registration is needed for this test. Please be on time!

- **Arrive by 8:00 AM** with **#2 sharpened pencils, calculator, and sweatshirt** (NO mechanical pencils)
- Report directly to the Briggs Assembly Center
- All students should take their books with them and place them underneath their testing tables.
- Testing is 130 minutes. We will begin testing promptly at 8:05 AM. We will dismiss the Freshmen by 11:20AM.
- Freshmen will either go to 1<sup>st</sup> lunch or C period after testing, followed by D period. (Remember to take your backpack and belongings with you after testing)
- Freshmen will report to Period C & D for class.



*Faculty await their vaccine shots – socially distant.*

**GOOD NEWS DEPT:** Last week we received \$16,700 from the Richard M. Krannawitter Trust. Mr. Krannawitter was a very successful attorney /executive in New Mexico and brother-in-law of a Christian Brother. Upon his death, his estate established a Trust to pay the "tuition, education expenses and living expenses of youth" in Lasallian schools in the [then] New Orleans-Santa Fe Province. Each Jan or Feb, Saint Paul's and our other NOSF province schools receive a check for this purpose. Join me in prayers of thanksgiving for this benefactor, who never stepped foot on our campus, but believed passionately in Lasallian education. Our work matters. Let's not let Mr. Krannawitter down! **And let's hope that other Mr. Krannawitters are out there ready to do their part in insuring that our Mission survives and is available to financially less fortunate.**

**GRANDPARENT DAY:** We are planning a modified, virtual GP Day. It will be recorded and posted on our website starting March 12. We encourage your son to "make a date" with grandparents, either in person or via computer, at a mutually convenient time. They can then play the video together, spend some quality time, and perhaps even enjoy a nice meal. More details next week.

**GROOMING:** Our students are looking a bit sloppy of late: haircuts are needed, shaving is not being done, shirt tails are untucked, non-SPS cold weather wear is being worn. We spoke to the students on Friday and alerted them that we will become much more vigilant in enforcing our dress code. Parents – please support us in this and check your son's appearance before he leaves for school.

### **HELPING SAINT PAUL'S:** Don't forget these painless ways to help:

- Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) & SPS receives 5% of purchase!
- Box Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. ring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there's AmazonSmile!

**HONEY SALE:** We now have a Beekeeping Club! Yes, really! And they are selling honey. The club is called SASS – which stands for Saint Paul's Apian Student Society! Very clever! The honey comes from hives in Abita and has received rave reviews. Proceeds will go towards acquiring more hives and expanding the beekeeping club's operation.

- 1 pint = \$14/pint
- 2+ pints = \$12/pint
- Half pint = \$8
- Note: The price includes a \$1 deposit on the mason jar.
- If you are interested in buying honey, please text Dr. Shawn Mullet at 617-388-6643. If you know anyone beyond the Saint Paul's community who might be interested, please spread the word. Thank you for your support. By helping SASS, you are helping SPS students connect to the natural environment and experience what it means to run a small business in the community.

### **LAST WEEK:**

- **Admissions:** We mailed next year's acceptance letters on Thu, Feb 25. On Fri, we sent a congratulatory email and a welcoming video made by Zach van Zandt. People now have two weeks to accept our offer with a registration fee. We will continue to work hard to earn the trust that people are placing in us.
- **Baseball:** Big win v. Catholic on Mon;
- **Basketball:** With a bye in the first playoff round, the Wolves were idle last week.
- **Black History Videos:** Congrats and thanks to sophomore Cavin Taylor for initiating a video series last week of contributions of famous African-Americans in science, art, sports, and entertainment. Cavin gave a moving talk after the final episode on Friday. Thanks, Cavin!
- **Bowling:** Wolves are 6-1 in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the District. Geaux Wolves!
- **COVID Vaccine:** MANY thanks to Braswell's Drugs for supplying enough COVID vaccine for the entire faculty and staff! We pray that this is another important step in eradicating this insidious disease and an important step is keeping our school safe and open.
- **HR Makeup Breakfasts:** Done! Thanks for your understanding! Only senior HRB left – on Monday.
- **Golf:** I know they competed but I didn't get results.
- **Lacrosse:** I think they competed but didn't get results.
- **Pre-ACT:** Thanks, counselors et al, for a flawless test administration to our sophomores. And they were ALL on time (early at 7:45)! Congrats and thanks, Sophomores!
- **Powerlifting:** Regional Champs! Geaux Wolves!
- **Pre-ACT:** Congrats to sophomores for excellent cooperation with counselors in taking Pre-ACT on Tue.
- **Soccer: 2<sup>nd</sup> in State! Geaux Wolves!**
- **Tennis:** I think they competed but didn't get results.
- **Wrestling: STATE CHAMPIONS! Geaux Wolves!**





Congratulations to Evan Seicshnaydre '21 on scoring his 1,000th career point on Tuesday, February 16 vs. Ponchatoula! Evan becomes the 25th player in program history to join the 1,000 Point Club. (Please note: we only de-masked for the photo.)

**LENTEN PRACTICES:** The guidelines for Catholics are as follows: Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to each one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years or older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays of Lent. The determination of certain days as obligatory days of penance should not be understood as limiting the occasions for Christian penance.

**MARCH:** Welcome to March – a month named for Mars, the Roman god of war. March is Irish American Month, Music in Our Schools Month, National Celery Month, National Craft Month, National Frozen Food Month, National Nutrition Month, National Peanut Month, National Women's History Month, Red Cross Month, and Social Workers Month.

**NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS:** All nine SPS National Merit Semifinalists (the most of any school in St. Tammany!) have been named Finalists in the scholarship program and will advance in the competition for scholarship awards. Over 1.5 million students entered the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program and only 15,000 met all requirements to advance to Finalist standing in the competition: **Ben Broussard, Lucca Ferrante, Gabriel Gros, Axel Henderson, Jake Holincheck, Hunter Kergosien, Davis Lagarde, Trey Paine, and Brady Talley.** Wow! Congrats to them – and their teachers!





**QUOTE WORTH NOTING:** From LA State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley last week: *Our medical experts have shared that our schools are among the safest environments in the state when following mitigation measures. With this development, I hope to see more schools fully open for face-to-face instruction on a daily basis.... The pandemic doesn't end once our educators are vaccinated, but it does represent a light at the end of the tunnel. I believe the work you are doing now to maintain some semblance of normalcy and provide an education to our children is heroic. Continue moving forward. Together we have come far, and together we will get through this challenge.*

### **RE-REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR 2021 - 22:**

- **RE-REGISTRATION IS NOW OVERDUE!** We need to know if your son is returning in order to plan for next year. We will soon start scheduling and course selections, and non-registered students will not be allowed to choose classes.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for 2021-22, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about transfer admissions. And hiring of staff is based on enrollment, so we really need to know your intentions. Thank you for this courtesy.**

**RETREATS:** You've likely noticed that level retreats have been absent from the calendar. We are now confident in our ability to safely hold retreat experiences for all levels. Here are the dates for the various levels. Details will follow from Campus Ministry.

- **March 24th** (Pre-Freshmen)
- **\*March 24th-26th** (Seniors Pt 1)
- **March 31st** (Freshmen)
- **\*March 31-April 2** (Seniors Pt 2)
- **April 13th** (Sophomores)
- **April 14th** (Juniors)





**SLOW YOUR ROLL.** This week is the one-year anniversary of Mayor Mark Johnson's initiative to improve driving habits within Covington – one of his main campaign pledge 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. I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledged to him our support. Reinforce this with your sons whenever possible. And set a good example yourself!

**SOCIAL MEDIA:**

- **Parents: please stress with your sons the consequences of inappropriate social media posting. Cyber-bullying is against the law and has legal implications. And the school will take strong measures against any inappropriate posting.**
- Students: THINK before you post!

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH:** The St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce released the following last week:

- *St. Tammany Parish's unemployment rate is at its lowest since February 2020 according to the St. Tammany Corporation in its February edition of Snapshot: Impacts of COVID-19 on St. Tammany released last week. At 4.7%, this is the third consecutive month that St. Tammany's unemployment rate has trended downward, continuing to make it consistently lower than the state, regional and national average.*
- *St. Tammany has recorded more than 23,000 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and 474 COVID-related deaths. As the nationwide effort to vaccinate eligible individuals continues, 13.1% of adults have received vaccinations, and around 55% of adults report that they plan to get the vaccine once it is available.*
- *Consumer spending in St. Tammany has recovered compared to the same time last year, while small businesses revenues show a much rockier improvement and remain down more than half.*
- *Nationwide, more than a third of adults have struggled to pay for basic living expenses, and another third project that they will experience housing insecurity in the next two months as Americans await a second federal stimulus package.*
- *As gas prices rise nationwide, Greater New Orleans prices continue lower than the state, region and nation.*

**STUDY HALL AFTER SCHOOL:** Ben's Den (aka the library) opens every afternoon (Monday-Friday) until 4:00. You are encouraged to mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who may be waiting for a late ride or a practice to begin. All we ask is that they treat the facility with respect and that they are quiet. The space will be supervised by faculty.

**SUPERINTENDENT DR. RAENELL HOUSTON:** From Dr. Houston to all Catholic schools: *I respectfully request that you use prudent judgement and follow all civil parish guidelines for... events that take place outside of the regular school day and outside of typical school operations. If compliance with local civil guidance cannot be guaranteed and/or an event is likely to lead to a high risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the event should be rescheduled for a later date when it is safer to do so.*

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

**UNIFORM SHIRTS:** We have a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have khaki pants available – all for the taking.

**VAPING: ALERT! VAPING IS ON THE RISE!** After having made headway against this insidious habit, we are discovering increased levels of usage by some students. The message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, all too often ignore the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. We have made our position very clear – it is prohibited and strong consequences are imposed if it is discovered. But we can't police outside of school – parents, PLEASE insist with your sons that the dangers of his trend are not worth the risk. Do not allow him to become addicted. We have made too much progress in this area to go backwards.

**WEEKLY HUMOR:** Some dentist jokes in honor of Dentist Day on Mar 6. Just glad I had my dental checkup last week!

- *Why did the king go to the dentist? To get his teeth crowned!*
- *What is a dentist's favorite movie? "Plaque to the Future"!*
- *A judge to a dentist: "Do you swear to pull the tooth, the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth?"*
- *What do you call a dentist's advice? His flossophy.*
- *What does a marching band member use to brush his teeth? A tuba toothpaste!*
- *A book never written: "Dental Exama" by Hope N. Wide.*
- *What's a dentist's favorite time of day? Tooth-hurty!*
- *How are false teeth like stars? Both only come out at night!*
- *A book never written: "Life as a Dentist" by Flo Ride.*
- *A book never written: "Pain Management" by Nova Cane.*
- *A book never written: "I Have a Toothache" by Phil McCavity*
- *Dentist: What kind of filling do you want in your tooth? Boy: Chocolate!*
- *What does a dentist call an astronaut's cavity? A black hole.*
- *What did the dentist say to the judge in court? "You can't handle the tooth!"*
- *How do you fix a broken tooth? With tooth paste.*
- *Patient: What did you do in the Army? Dentist: I was a drill sergeant!*
- *Why did the doughnut go to the dentist? He needed a filling!*





**YEARBOOKS:** March is last month to purchase a yearbook for \$65. Price goes up to \$75 starting in April.

- Go to [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com)
- Search for "Saint Paul's" exactly as displayed here.
- Select "Purchase a 2020-21 Product" in the list.
- Select "Buy a yearbook" option on the right side of the page.
- Follow the rest of the on-screen instructions and submit your results.
- **\*Seniors do not purchase a yearbook. The yearbook is included in tuition.**



*Counselors treat our NINE National Merit Finalists to breakfast snacks last week!  
Did I mention that SPS had the most finalists of any school in St. Tammany?*

**A LOOK AHEAD AND SECOND SEMESTER PERIOD ROTATION:** Here is the period rotation for most of second semester to use when making unavoidable doctor appointments, etc. so your son will know what classes he is missing. This is subject to change if unavoidable conflicts (weather, etc.) occur:



## **March**

- 1 – GABC – Make Up HR Breakfast 12th
- 2 – DEFG – ACT – 11th
- 3 – ABCD – PreACT – 9th
- 4 – EFGA
- 5 – BCDE
- 8 – FGAB
- 9 – CDEF – President's Assembly
- 10 – GABC – ~~ACT for 11<sup>th</sup>~~ (canceled)
- 11 – DEFG
- 12 – AB –End of Q1; 11:15 dismissal; virtual Grandparent Day posted on website
- 15 – CDEF – 9:00AM Late Start
- 16 – GABC – Pack Time
- 17 – DEFG
- 18 – ABCD
- 19 – EFGA – Mass/Snack Day/ Senior Pinning Ceremony
- 22 – BCDE
- 23 – FGAB- President's Assembly
- 24 – CDEF – Senior Retreat (beginning during F); 8<sup>th</sup> grade retreat
- 25 – GABC – Senior Retreat
- 26 – DEFG – Senior Retreat
- 29 – ABCD
- 30 – EFGA - Virtual Mandatum
- 31 – BCDE – Senior Retreat (beginning during E); freshman retreat

## **April**

- 1 – FGAB – Senior Retreat
- 2 – Good Friday – no classes; Easter holidays begin
- 12 – CDEF
- 13 – GABC – President's Assembly; sophomore retreat
- 14 – DEFG – junior retreat
- 15 – ABCD
- 16 – EFGA
- 19 – BCDE
- 20 – FGAB – Pack Time (last for seniors)
- 21 – ECDF
- 22 – GABC
- 23 – DEFG
- 26 – ABCD
- 27 – EFGA – President's Assembly; Stuff the Bus Food Drive
- 28 – BCDE – Senior Exams
- 29 – FGAB – Senior Exams
- 30 – CDEF – Senior Exams

## **May**

3 – GABC

4 – DEFG – Pack Time

5 – ABCD

6 – EFGA

7 – BCDE

10 – FGAB

11 – CDEF – President's Assembly

12 – GABC

13 – DEFG – Academic Awards TBD

14 – ABCD – Athletic Awards TBD

17 – EFG

18 – Exams 8-11th

19 – Exams 8-11th

20 – Exams 8-11th

21 – Exams 8-11<sup>th</sup>

## **Late Breaking News:**

Powerlifting: St Paul's Iron Wolves  
2021 South regional champions!

Individual results:

Weight class

114	Tristan Cordes 2nd place
123.5	Zach Montz 2nd place
123.5	Christian Kramer 3rd place
132	Nick Raspino 2nd place
148	Joshua Kellum 1st place
165	Cody Campbell 3rd place
181	Jackson Luscy 3rd place
220	Chandler Loescher 2nd
heavy weight	Ryan Blanchard 2nd place



Wrestling: Dominant midday showing lifts St. Paul's to Division I wrestling championship. Jacob Houser (120 pounds), Grant Nastasi (145), Peyton Ward (160) and Blain Cascio (182) won their championship matches, and St. Paul's completed its Division I championship with 291 points at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge

Soccer: And we are very proud of our Soccer Wolves, for finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in State in Division 1! Well done, Wolves!

Whew! Enough for now. Even though it's the first week of March 2021, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to anymore since it stopped broadcasting but I still remember it and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family in these challenging times! Again, thanks for being part of the 2020-21 edition of SPS.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Made It To March 2021 as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



*...by doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God's will, remaining faithful, letting Our Lady of the Star guide us to God, beseeching our Holy Founding Brothers to help us continue the Lasallian Mission, living courageously and respecting all people.*





## Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick!



Wash your  
hands often



Wear a cloth  
face cover



Cover your coughs  
and sneezes



Keep **6 feet** of space  
between you and  
your friends



