



***The SPS President's Hebdomadal Newsletter
Opening of the 2021 - 22 School Year Edition
Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington
341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
August 2 – August 08, 2021***



Welcome to the 2021 - 22 school year – the eleventh 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 110-year Saint Paul's tradition while adding the quality of the present. And welcome to the eighth academic year of the San Francisco New Orleans District of Christian Brothers! Our District continues to evolve, but we have survived seven years. Our District is made up of a dynamic network of 18 secondary

schools, three middle schools, one elementary school, two Universities, and an Educational Center, as well as 15 Brothers' communities stretched across the western and southern United States, and Tijuana, Mexico.

By popular demand (OK, one person asked), the President's Hebdomadal 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.

And I hope you are rejoicing with me that Saint Paul's is planning to open for in-person instruction with a full day (8 am – 3 pm) on August 5, while following guidelines from both the Louisiana Departments of Education and Health and the Department of Catholic Education and Faith formation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The emailed letter you received from Principal Trevor Watkins a few days ago outlined the 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 opening of school, the health and safety of our entire community remains our number one priority. Our partnership with LCMC 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.

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 Opening of School Month. I'm excited and hope you are, too. Thanks for being with us!

Sun, Aug 1

- **This Day in History: 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.
- **International Forgiveness Day** (always first Sun in Aug): Let's all make an effort to forgive.

Mon, Aug 2 – Faculty Meetings

- **TDIH:** In 1990, Iraq invades Kuwait, ultimately leading the US into the First Gulf War.
- **National Ice Cream Sandwich Day:** Enjoy this iconic treat!
- **Senior Portraits (refer to email sent by Counselor Miller or see below for more information)**
- **Senior Football Pics (8)**



Tue, Aug 3 – Faculty Meetings

- **TDIH:** 1958, U.S. nuclear sub-Nautilus accomplishes first undersea voyage to 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? Answer at end of newsletter.
- **Watermelon Day:** Enjoy this iconic summer treat! And it's healthy for you, too!
- **Senior Portraits (refer to email or see below for more information)**
- **Football Team Pics (4 pm)**

- **8th & New 9th Grade Orientation (5:30 – 7:30):** Our Lasallian Young Leaders have a great program planned for our newest wolves. Thanks to Campus Minister Jeff Ramon and all who help tonight.

Wed, Aug 4 – Faculty / Staff Preparation Day

- 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.
- **Chocolate Chip Day:** Enjoy this iconic treat!
- **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!
- Football Team BBQ (varsity)- 5:30 under the Wolfdome.

Thu, Aug 5 – First Day of Class; Full Day (8-3) of Instruction for Periods A B C D

- **Uniforms for Thu, Aug 5:** Today, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. All others wear regular uniform.
- **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!

Fri, Aug 6 – Full Day (8-3) of Instruction for Periods E F G A

- **Uniforms for Fri, Aug 6:** Today, students who have religion class in Periods E, F, or G must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. All others wear regular uniform.
- **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!



Sat, Aug 7

- **Purple Heart Day:** Today in 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington created the "Badge for Military Merit," 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, it was largely forgotten until 1927, when US Army Chief of Staff sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to "revive the Badge of Military Merit." On Feb 22, 1932, Washington's 200th birthday, the U.S. War Dept created of the "Order of Purple Heart." We remember all American soldiers who merited this badge of honor.
- **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?
- **Mustard Day (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/>
- **Student Council Retreat:** We look forward to a GREAT year from our Student Council.

Sun, Aug 8

- If today were not a Sunday, the Catholic Church would be celebrating the Feast of St. Dominic, founder of the Dominican Order. We wish our Dominican sisters, brothers, and priests a 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!

- **TDIH: Brother John Fairfax, FSC was born!** Brother John turns 94 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!

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 all SPS attendance regulations in the Student-Parent Handbook and make Mrs. Suzy's job as easy as possible. Thank you for your cooperation. The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Please do not allow your sons to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**



BAND HALL HISTORY: The new band building continues to take shape, although weather has delayed things a bit. Some 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 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 early fall of 2021. Interested in supporting the renovation, whose overall cost will approach \$2.3 million? **PLEASE CONSIDER A GIFT TO THE NEW BAND HALL IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO. NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL!** No gift is too small! (Not shouting; just emphasizing!)

BENILDE HALL: Three years ago this week, we began occupying the newly renovated Benilde Hall. It was challenging, 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 presidency of the late Brother Cassian Lange. The second and third floors were dorms for 6th and 7th grades. The bottom floor had study halls and rec 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 loud! The third floor remained a dorm for 7th grade. When we dropped 7th grade, the third floor became the band room! (Imagine lugging 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! I am most grateful to those who have already responded.



BOOK STORE: The Mothers' Club Bookstore will be open:

- Mon, Aug 2 9:00am to 3:00pm
- Tue, Aug 3 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Wed, Aug 4 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Thu, Aug 5 Bookstore Regular Hours (7:30 am to 8:15 am & 11:00 am to 12:30 pm)
- **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.

SAINT PAUL'S MOTHER'S CLUB BOOKSTORE



Back to School “Book Week”
at the Bookstore:

NEW PARENTS ONLY:

Friday, July 30th -- 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

OPEN TO ALL:

Saturday, July 31 -- 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Monday, August 2 -- 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Tuesday, August 3 -- 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, August 4 -- 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

School Supply Packs will be available for pick up at the store!

Regular Bookstore Hours:

Monday - Friday -- 7:30 A.M. - 8:15 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Friday of a HOME Football Game -- 2:45 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

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

Your one stop
shop for just
about everything
you need!

CAFETERIA:

- 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 and lunch are FREE this year!** If a student wants more than one lunch, though, he must pay for the additional lunch along with any "extras" he wants (ice cream, etc.)
- **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 MUST use their ID cards for check out in the cafeteria. A temporary ID will be issued them on their first day of school.**
- 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.

CALENDAR FOR 2021 - 22: The calendar assumes that we are in full operation. Any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 or other natural disasters may result in alteration of the calendar.

Mon - Tues, Aug 2 & 3	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 4	Teacher Prep Day
Thurs, Aug 5	School Opens with a full day of instruction
Mon, Aug 16	New Parent Reception and Information Meeting (6:30 – tentative)
Thu, Aug 19	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, & Evening Ring Ceremony
Fri, Aug 20	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 23	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Mon, Sep 06	Labor Day Holiday
Friday, Oct 01	Fall Break—no classes for students
Fri, Oct 8	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 8	Grandparent Day (11:30 – 1:00)



Mon, Oct 18	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
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
Mon, Feb 07	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 25	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 28 -Mar. 04	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Mar 7	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 11	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
Thu, May 12	Pre-freshman Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)
Sat, May 14	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tues – Fri, May 17 - 20	Final Exams for Grades 8 - 11
Mon, May 23	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tues, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

In case of emergency closings, student make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays. Please do not schedule vacations during school time.

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

In case of closings, we will make up days from holidays. **School begins with all students on Thu, Aug 5th for a full instructional day (8 – 3).** Also, 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.



SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL

WOLVES



Senior Athletic Award Winners

Front row: Peyton Ward, David Barcelona, Ben Broussard, Austin Peak
Middle row: Cameron Darr, Dylan Knight, Connor Simon, Grant Vicknair, Cade Lanoux
Back row: Rhett Barker, Jacob Frolich, Nate Aupied. Missing from photo: Luke Beckendorf

Congratulations!

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.



God bless the Class of 2021! Ad multos anno!

COGNIA: Cognia is the national accrediting agency for schools. Being Cognia certified is a big deal. Cognia re-evaluates each school every five years – and this is the fifth year for SPS. Part of the evaluation is a survey of our stakeholders – in this case, our parents. Assistant Principal Joe Dickens has already sent you the link to the survey. **PLEASE COMPLETE IT THIS WEEK. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE OF SPS (AND MY JOB!).** Here is the link again: <https://eprovesurveys.advanced.org/surveys/#!/action/168577/7932>

DADS' CLUB: Thanks to the Dads Club for a great work day on July 24. They (plus Trevor) managed to:

- Weed-eat the island
- Clean all campus signage
- Power wash Founder's Circle, the pavilions, several sidewalks and curbs
- Power-blow the leaves off the chapel roof and clean gutters
- Repair the pond fountain
- Clean the statues around campus
- Clean brick benches in several locations

This work is a huge help in helping us prepare the campus for school opening next week. Congratulations and thanks to Chris Brown for organizing this event, the first since his assuming the leadership of the Dads' Club.



SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL

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Athletic Award Winners:

Front row: Reece Beckendorf, Conlan Enk, Jacob Khashou
Back row: Joshua Kellum, Nick Piazza, Grant Nastasi, Jackson Peak, Aiden Freret

Congratulations!

ENROLLMENT: We open this year with a VERY healthy enrollment – in spite of COVID-19 and after having graduated a very large class. And we were **not** able to admit all applicants. 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.

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.

ID CARDS: Students must wear their ID cards on a lanyard every day. No one has to pay for an ID card unless you want an extra one. We will issue one to your son on picture day. You will have to pay for a replacement if he loses the one we give him or if for some reason you want an extra one.

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): We will hold our annual mini-schedule for parents on Monday, August 23, 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!

NEED MORE INFORMATION? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, Assistant Principal Joe Dickens, or Curriculum Coordinator Lee Pierre. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me.

Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Sam Francis, Athletic Director. Naturally, call me if I can help. **My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1901 & 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 is TENTATIVELY scheduled for Monday, August 16, at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center.** The program will be over by 8:00.

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 3, from 5:30 – 7:30 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.

NEWS WORTH NOTING: I have published this for the past few years, but it bears repeating – perhaps now more than ever. 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 at Office Depot, give SPS school code (70041640) or just mention our name 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 5 or 6.

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. (Sorry – I’m 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 tuition payments (including bank loans) were current. 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: Note the following **upcoming senior events in Senior Week, Aug 16 – 20. Again, these are all TENTATIVE due to COVID:**

- **Senior Class BBQ, Tue, Aug 17, 5 – 7 pm.** Appropriate casual attire required. This is for seniors only.
- **March through the Arch, Thu, Aug 19, 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!) Seniors may remain in dress uniform or change to regular school uniform after the breakfast.
- **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Senior parents are 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 20, 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 2022 on **Mon, August 2** and **Tue, August 3**. Each senior will be photographed in cap and gown and tuxedo (both will be provided by Expressions). Here are the details:

- Expressions Photography will be at St. Paul's School to photograph the senior class of 2022 on **Monday, August 2** and **Tuesday, August 3**.
- Each senior will be photographed in cap and gown and tuxedo (both will be provided by Expressions).
- **When:** Seniors/parents will receive an email with the designated date (either 8/2 or 8/3) 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:** After seniors are photographed, the 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 AMBASSADORS: Student Ambassadors (formerly Student Hosts) will recruit and enroll new and returning members 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.**

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 – with pockets, belt loops, and a zipper.
- 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 a lanyard. This is a school safety measure.

WEEKLY HUMOR: Some jokes to start off the school year:

- *My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down.*
- *I went to buy some camo pants but couldn't find any.*
- *I failed math so many times at school, I can't even count.*
- *I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke.*
- *I was wondering why the frisbee kept getting bigger and bigger, but then it hit me.*
- *I heard there were a bunch of break-ins over at the parking garage. That is wrong on so many levels.*
- *Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.*
- *I know they say that money talks, but all mine says is 'Goodbye.'*
- *The problem with kleptomaniacs is that they always take things literally.*
- *I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off.*
- *Most people are shocked when they find out how bad I am as an electrician.*
- *Never trust atoms; they make up everything.*
- *I used to think I was indecisive. But now I'm not so sure.*
- *Russian dolls are so full of themselves.*

- *The easiest time to add insult to injury is when you're signing someone's cast.*
- *Light travels faster than sound, which is why some people appear bright before you hear them speak.*
- *My therapist says I have a preoccupation for revenge. We'll see about that.*
- *A termite walks into the bar and asks, 'Is the bar tender here?'*
- *People who use selfie sticks really need to have a good, long look at themselves.*
- *Two fish are in a tank. One says, 'How do you drive this thing?' [LOL!]*
- *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!*

A LOOK AHEAD: Here are the period rotations for the first semester (assuming no interruptions) to help you plan. If your son needs a driver's license or doctor appointment, try to schedule it during a "no school" day. I am always disappointed when we return from a week holiday and a student misses the first day of class to go get his license. PLEASE respect the academic time we have with your son.

August

- 5 – ABCD - First Day of School – Pictures during religion periods
- 6 – EFGA – Pictures during religion periods
- 9 – BCDE
- 10 – FGAB –President's Assembly
- 11 – CDEF
- 12 – GABC
- 13 – DEFG – Mass; dress uniform
- 16 – ABCD
- 17 – EFGA – Pack Time
- 18 – BCDE
- 19 – FGAB – MTA/ Senior Unity Day
- 20 – CDEF – Senior Ring Holiday
- 23 – GABC
- 24 – DEFG – President's Assembly
- 25 – ABCD
- 26 – EFGA
- 27 – BCDE
- 30 – FGAB
- 31- CDEF

September

- 1 – GABC
- 2 – DEFG
- 3 – ABCD
- 6 – Labor Day Holiday
- 7 – EFGA – Pack Time
- 8 – BCDE
- 9 – FGAB
- 10 – CDEF
- 13 – GABC – Late Start
- 14 – DEFG – President’s Assembly
- 15 – ABCD
- 16 – EFGA
- 17 – BCDE– Fun Lunch for 8th Graders during E
- 20 – FGAB – Fun Lunch for 9th Graders during B
- 21 – CDEF – Fun Lunch for 10th During F
- 22 – GABC – Fun Lunch for 11th during C
- 23 – DEFG – Fun Lunch for 12th during G
- 24 – ABC – Special Schedule
- 27 - DEFG
- 28 - ABCD – President’s Assembly
- 29 – EFGA
- 30 – BCDE

October

- 1 – Fall Break
- 4 - FGAB
- 5 – CDEF - Pack Time
- 6 - GABC
- 7 – DEFG - Mass
- 8 – AB - End of Quarter 1 11:00 Dismissal for Grandparents Day
- 11 - CDEF
- 12 – GABC - President’s Assembly
- 13 – DEFG - PSAT test
- 14 – ABCD
- 15 - EFGA
- 18 – BCDE - Late Start
- 19 – FGAB - Pack Time
- 20 – CDEF
- 21 – GABC
- 22 – DEFG
- 25 - ABCD
- 26 – EFGA - President’s Assembly
- 27 – BCDE
- 28 - FGAB

29 – CDEF

November

1 – GABC- Mass

2 – DEFG - Pack Time

3 - ABCD

4 – EFGA - 8th Grade HR Breakfast / Level Meetings?

5 – BCDE - 9th Grade HR Breakfast / Level Meetings?

8 - Archdiocese Formation Day

9 – FGAB - President's Assembly

10 – CDEF - 10th HR Breakfast / Level Meetings?

11 – GABC - 11th HR Breakfast / Level Meetings?

12 – DEFG - 12th HR Breakfast / Level Meetings?

15 - ABCD

16 – EFGA - Pack Time

17 – BCDE

18 – FGAB

19 – CDEF

29 - GABC

30 – DEFG - Pack Time – Luminarias

December

1 – ABCD

2 – EFGA

3 - BCDE

6 – FGAB - Late Start

7 – CDEF- President's Assembly

8 – GABC

9 – DEFG

10 - ABCD

13 - Mass

13-16 – First Semester Exams

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 34 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 2021 – 22 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.

Please join me in prayer for our new school year. Here is one you can use:

A Prayer for the Start of the School Year

Blessed are you, Lord God, Creator of body and mind and heart; you have sent the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge to guide your people in all their ways. At the beginning of this new school year, we implore your mercy: bless the students, teachers, and staff of our Catholic schools that together we may grow in faith, hope, and love as we learn from you and each other how to follow your Son Jesus.

Expand the horizons of our minds, that we may grow in wisdom, understanding, and knowledge; deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your ways; and enliven our faith to reach out to those in need. Glory and praise to you, Lord God, in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen

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