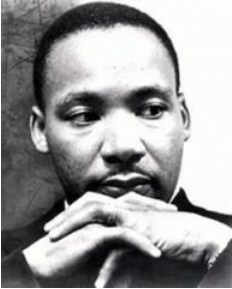




The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter
Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington
341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
January 17 – 23, 2022



I hope your three-day weekend is a pleasant one. Here's my annual Martin Luther King message:



In thinking about Dr. Martin Luther King, I annually remember one of his statements that has become a favorite of mine: *If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed or Shakespeare wrote. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.*

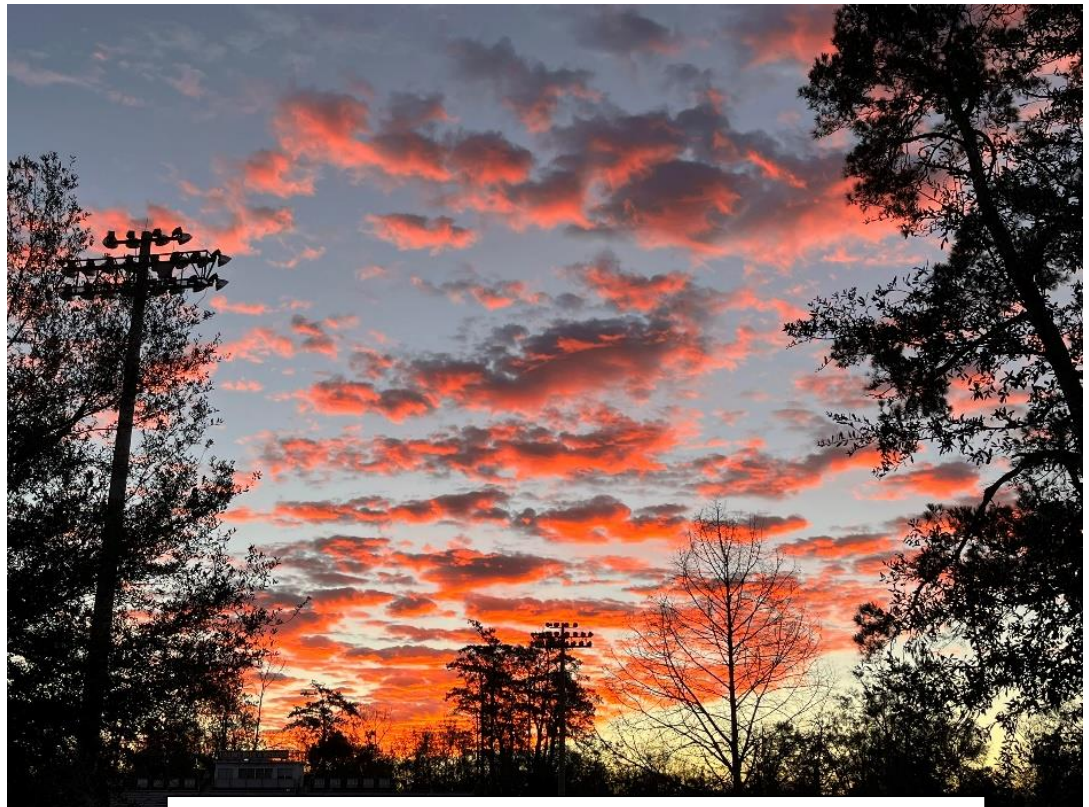
Saint John Baptist de La Salle wrote a similar thought to the first Brothers -- and thus to us today. In his last *Meditation for the Time of Retreat*, Saint La Salle tells the brothers: *Oh! What glory there will be for those persons who have instructed youth, when their zeal and devotion to procure the salvation of children will be made public before all people! All heaven will resound with thanksgiving! Act, then, in such a way by your good and wise guidance of those who are entrusted to you, that you will procure all these blessings and all this glory for yourself!*



Just think if each of us did our job so well that *all the hosts of heaven and earth* paused to recognize our efforts! This must be our daily goal for teachers, students, & parents! I wish you a great week!

Mon, Jan 17 (Martin Luther King Holiday)

- **This Day in History:**
 In 1953, the Chevrolet Corvette makes its debut at General Motors' (GM) Motorama auto show at in New York. The Corvette, named for a fast type of naval warship, would eventually become an iconic American muscle car and remains in production today – but is certainly out of my price range and comfort zone!



A new day dawns at SPS last week. Thanks to Science Teacher Gene Lipps for the pic.

- **TDIH:** The Eighteenth Amendment, the Volstead Act, took effect on this date in 1920, a year after it was ratified, making manufacture, sale, and transportation of liquor illegal. The temperance movement had fought this fight for almost 80 years. Its activists wanted to protect families and communities from the horrors of alcohol abuse. They saw the 18th Amendment as a major victory for morality—but in reality, it made criminals out of a lot of ordinary American citizens, and made liquor even more desirable than it had been before. In the end, the Depression led to the demise of Prohibition. A wealthy Republican named Pauline Sabin led the repeal movement. She said that making liquor legal again would create jobs, weaken organized crime, and generate tax revenue. It took almost 14 years before the 21st Amendment reversed Prohibition. It's the first and only time an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has been repealed.
- **Today is the birthday** of Benjamin Franklin, who was born in Boston in 1706. He was a printer, a scientist, an inventor, a writer, the founder of America's first lending library, and one of the Founding Fathers of America itself. He recalled in his *Autobiography* (1794) that writing well became "of great Use to me in the Course of my Life, and was a principal Means of my Advancement."
- **Kid Inventors Day:** We celebrate the youthful spirit of invention every year on January 17th,

Tue, Jan 18 (F G A B)

- **Thesaurus Day:** Other words for thesaurus: glossary, lexicon, onomasticon, reference book, sourcebook, storehouse of words, terminology, vocabulary, word list. Other words for day: astronomical day, bright, dawn-to-dark, daylight, daytime, diurnal course, early bright, sidereal day, sunlight, sunrise-to-sunset, sunshine, working day. I wish you a happy Onomasticon Diurnal Course!
- **Winnie the Pooh Day:** Enjoy your favorite bear and his friends. This day was created to celebrate the birth of A. A. Milne in 1882. He was an author of children's story books, and created Winnie the Pooh and his friends. Winnie's pals include Christopher Robin, Tigger, Eeyore, Piglet, and Roo. Read some Pooh today!



St. Brother
Jaime

- **TDIH:** In 1937, Brother Jaime Hilario was martyred by Spanish revolutionaries in the Spanish Civil War. From the Christian Brothers Website: *Born in 1898 in northern Spain, Jaime was only 12 years old when, with the blessing of his parents, he entered the minor seminary. He soon developed hearing problems and was advised to return home. Convinced that God was calling him, he was overjoyed in 1917 to learn that the Institute of the Brothers would accept him. After sixteen years in various teaching assignments, his hearing problems forced him to abandon the classroom to work in the garden at one of the schools. In July of 1936 he was on his way to visit his family when the civil war broke out. Recognized as a Brother, he was arrested and jailed. In December he was transferred to Tarragona and confined in a prison ship with several other brothers. On 15 January 1937 he was given a summary trial. Though he could have been freed by claiming to be only a gardener, he insisted on his identity as a religious and thereby sealed his doom. He was brought to the cemetery known as the Mount of Olives on 18 January to face execution. His last words to his assailants were "To die for Christ, my young friends, is to live." When two volleys failed to meet their mark, the soldiers dropped their rifles and fled in panic. The commander, shouting a gross insult, fired five shots at close range and the victim fell at his feet. He was canonized in 1999 by Pope John Paul II.*

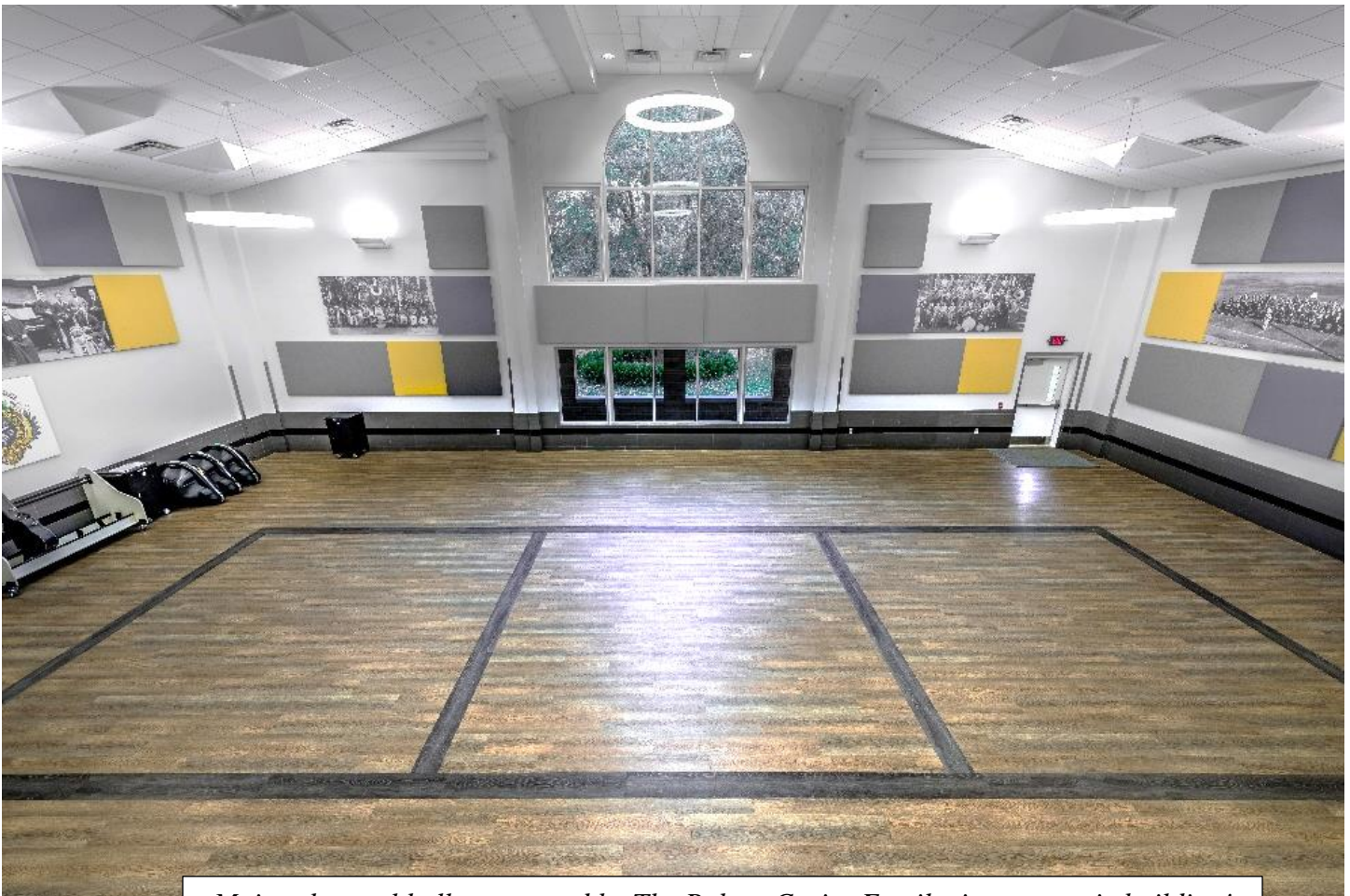
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Mandeville
- **Soccer:** Varsity at Northshore

Wed, Jan 19 (C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1809, Edgar Allan Poe is born in Boston. Read a Poe story or poem today in his honor! And eat some popcorn while reading in honor of National Popcorn Day!
- **Popcorn Day:** Enjoy this favorite snack today – especially while reading Poe!
- **Wrestling:** SPS v. Covington in a dual meet
- **Basketball:** 8th & 9th v. Rummel (5:30)
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Loranger at Tangi Lanes in Hammond

Thu, Jan 20 (G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt is inaugurated for his second term. It was the first-time presidents were inaugurated on Jan 20. Previously, Inauguration Day was on March 4. This amount of time was needed in the past for the winner to travel to Washington, before modern communication and travel.
- **TDIH II:** In 1961, John F. Kennedy inaugurated as President and utters famous “Ask not...” Poet Robert Frost read. Blinded by the sun reflecting off the newly fallen snow, Frost discarded his notes and recited the poem from memory. In a veiled imitation of this event, what post-Kennedy president had a famous poet recite an original poem at his inauguration? Answer at end of newsletter.
- **Penguin Awareness Day:** Today we give serious consideration to our tuxedo-wearing waddling friends. Did you know that penguins mate for life? Or that the word penguin means 'fat winged' one in Portuguese?
- **Cheese Lovers Day:** Indulge and enjoy!
- **Basketball:** JV & V v. Ponchatoula
- **Soccer:** JV at Fontainebleau
- **Outdoor Track/Field:** Call out meeting for all interested at beginning of lunch in Coach Moore’s room.



Main rehearsal hall, sponsored by The Robert Cruise Family, in new music building!

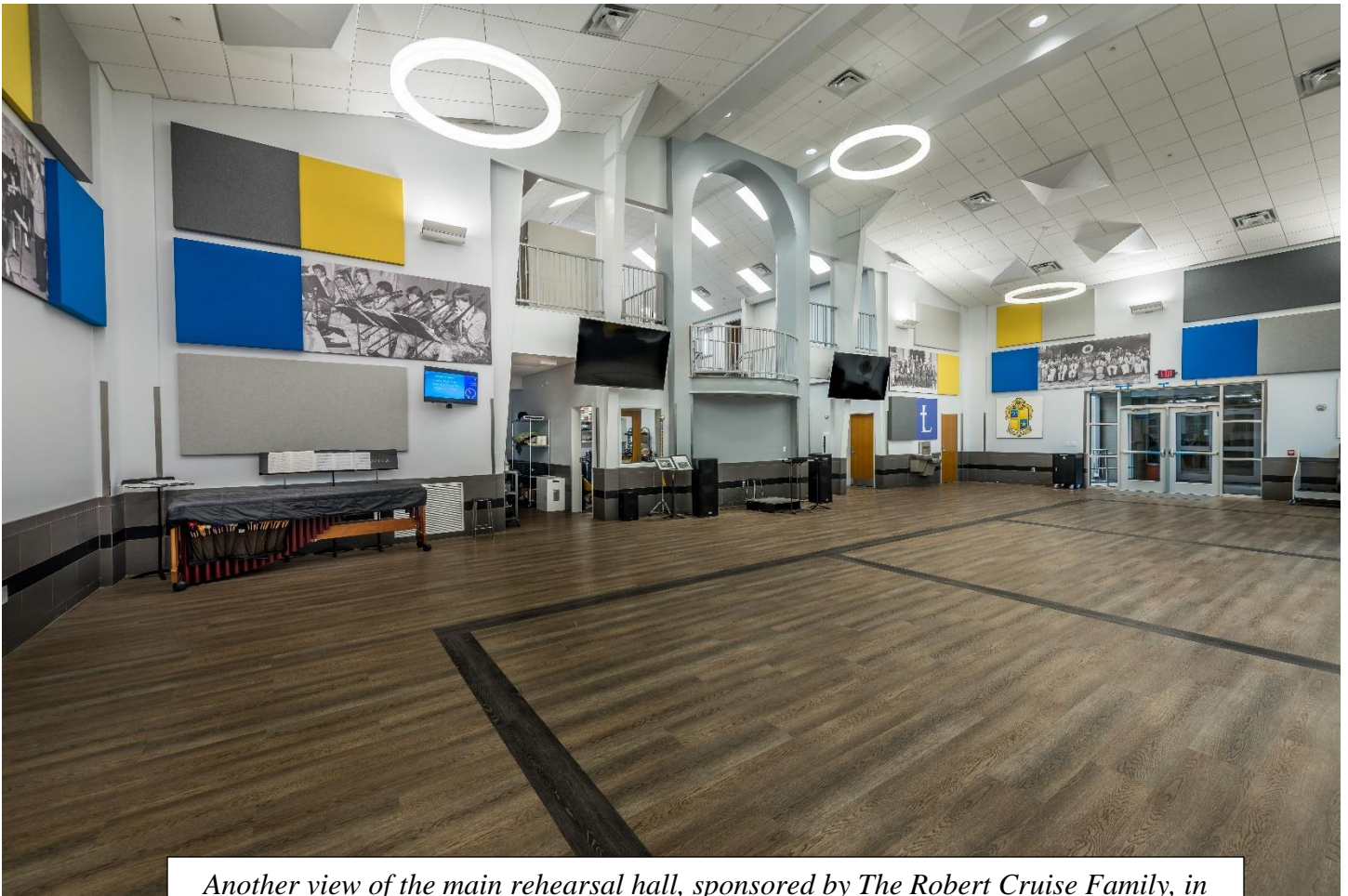
- **Fri, Jan 21 (D E F G)**
- **TDIH:** 1793, King Louis XVI is executed. The people eat cake.
- **Hugging Day:** No whining but no hugging either, due to COVID!
- **Squirrel Appreciation Day:** Enjoy our many campus squirrels today. Of course, the day could also apply to the human variety of squirrel!
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Mandeville (7)

Sat, Jan 22

- **TDIH:** in 1973, the US Supreme Court legalizes abortion in the infamous Roe v. Wade decision. As we observe this anniversary of the Roe v. Wade, it's most appropriate to remember the Church social teaching on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person. From the US Catholic Bishops Web Site: *In a world warped by materialism and declining respect for human life, the Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and assisted suicide. The value of human life is being threatened by increasing use of the death penalty. The dignity of life is undermined when the creation of human life is reduced to the manufacture of a product, as in human cloning or proposals for genetic engineering to create "perfect" human beings. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.*
- **TDIH II: On this day in 2013,** Justin Dakota Addison, a wonderful Saint Paul's Junior, died from injuries sustained in a biking accident on Tammany Trace. Today we remember Justin and all the good he represented. We continue to miss him. We pray for his still grieving family and friends. We regularly read some of his final written words, engraved on the bench in front of the chapel: *"What is evident at St. Paul's is our sense of brotherhood, both with our St. Paul's classmates and the Lasallian community across the globe. The presence of God drifts about our campus like a thick perfume, One can feel it, One can smell it."*
- **Day of Penance & Prayer:** The Bishops of the US have declared today, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, as a Day of Penance and Prayer: penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person through acts of abortion and prayer for the restoration of the legal guarantee of this right to life. We join our penance and prayer today to those of all who are concerned with the dignity of life.
- **Wrestling:** JV in Lakeshore Tournament; JH in Jesuit Tournament
- **Basketball:** Varsity in Hoopfest Classic (Calvary Baptist); 8th & 9th v. St. Aug (10)
- **Soccer:** SPS 9th Tournament (8th might participate)
- **Powerlifting:** SPS in Denham Springs Meet
- **Robotics:** Robo Wolves in Holy Cross Tournament (tentative)

Sun, Jan 23

- **TDIH:** In 1957, Wham-O Toy Company rolls out the first batch of their aerodynamic plastic discs--known as the Frisbee. Toss a Frisbee today in honor of its birth!
- **Pie Day:** Indulge!



Another view of the main rehearsal hall, sponsored by The Robert Cruise Family, in new music building! Thank you, Cruise Family!

Rise Up, O Men of God

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

ACT ACADEMY: A great New Year's Resolution! Preparation for success on the ACT is a marathon, not a sprint. DAILY practice is ideal, starting in 8th grade. MANY materials (often free!) are available. Here is a good one: the ACT Academy. ACT Academy has a wealth of free prep. It grows each year and has turned into the *Khan Academy* for ACT. Encourage your sons to prep for ACT regularly. Here is the link:

<https://academy.act.org/>

AFTER SCHOOL: The Library remains open to students until 4 pm. If your son is looking for a comfortable place to wait for his ride and get a jump on his homework, this is a good option for him.

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 supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund increase participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!



We pray that Sophs paid attention to Teen Life Counts presentation last week!

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.

APPLICATION LETTERS: More unedited comments from next year’s wolves:

- *I love the school and everything about it.* [Me, too!]
- *I want to go to college and, sadly, you have to go to high school first.* [He will be glad he went to SPS!]
- *I am a strait A student!* [Well, maybe not in spelling!]
- *The campus is well-organized.* [Well, of course!]
- *With my immense academic skill, a different school wouldn’t fit me.* [and his immense modesty, too!]
- *I look forward to being a good representative of St. Paul’s for the rest of my life.* [We will count on it!]

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.**

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
- All proceeds from the bookstore are used for the benefit of our students!

BROTHERS' RESIDENCE: The Brothers Residence continues on lockdown due to a brother testing positive for COVID. This is stressful for all of the brothers in the house, so please be sensitive to them and say a prayer. As Brothers Ken, Javier, and I are not currently living in the main residence and have not been in close contact with the infected brother, we escaped quarantine.

CAFETERIA:

- ALL students may continue to 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.
- 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 2021 - 22: The calendar assumes full operation. Any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 or other natural disasters may result in alteration of the calendar.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| • 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 |

COGNIA STEM CERTIFICATION: Following the successful COGNIA accreditation of our academic program in the fall, Joe and Trevor decided to seek COGNIA's unique and separate STEM certification – which evaluates our commitment to and implementation of science, technology, engineering, and math at SPS. Few schools earn this prestigious certification. After rigorous evaluation (and lots of paperwork and ZOOM meetings), COGNIA happily granted full accreditation in the areas of STEM. I am most grateful to Joe and Trevor for pursuing this additional layer of validity to our academic program! Special thanks, too, to the parents who participated in the interview process: Kathy Oubre, Mark Smith, Neal Hightower, James Seese, Letha Tepper, Sean Roberts, Tara Peltier, Jade Rung & Jeanne Lea.



To quote the lead COGNIA evaluator, "We found it very difficult to find any area of improvement to recommend to your school." Their suggested "improvement list" included:

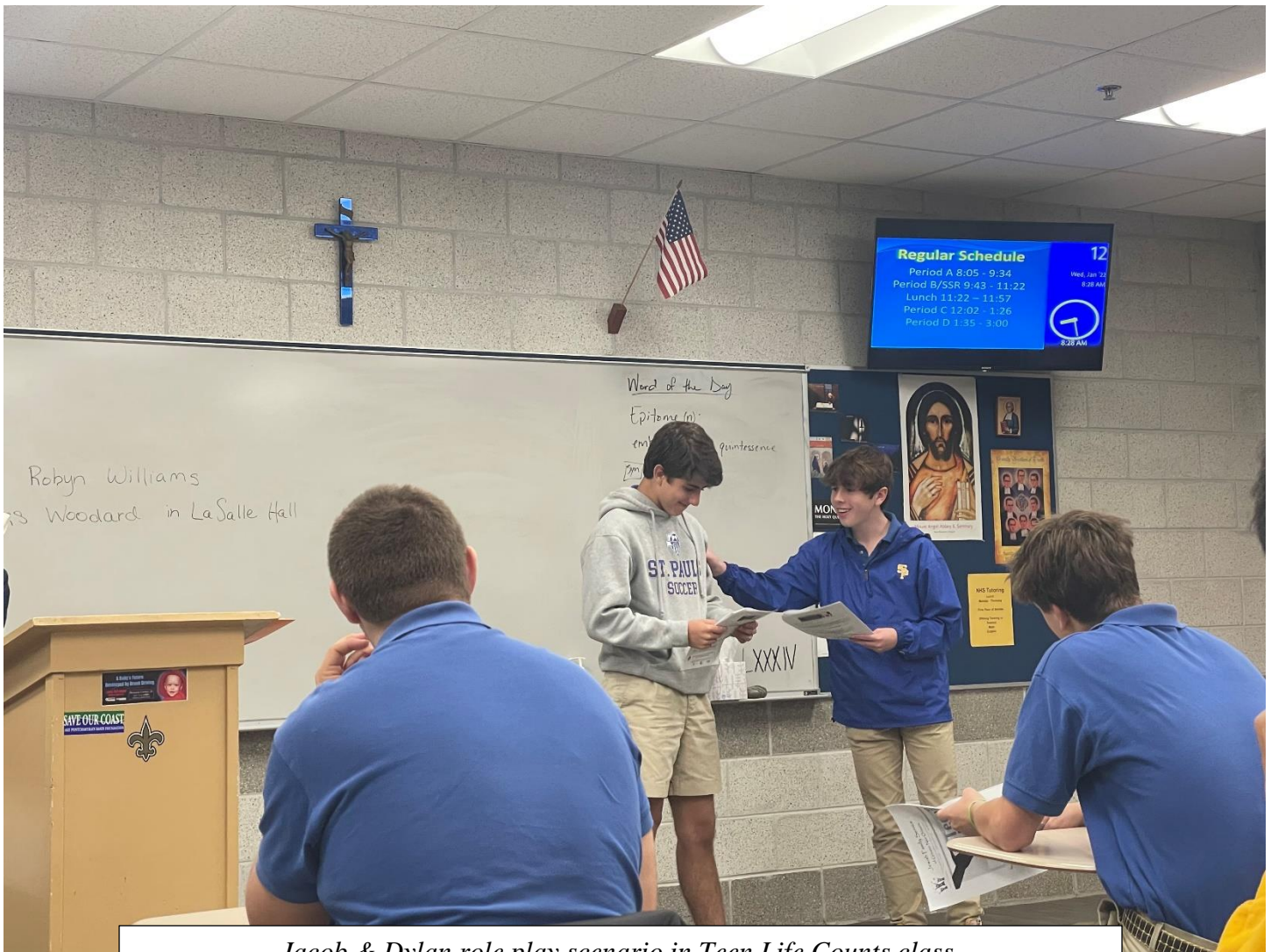
- 1. Continue to do what you are doing.**
- 2. Continue to collect data on the results of your programs so that five years from now you will be ready for your next certification.**
- 3. Consider including girls in some of your extracurricular STEM offerings (I am not yet ready for this one!)**
- 4. Celebrate your successes.**

And so we will continue to celebrate! Again, SPS takes the lead! Your sons are getting an outstanding education! Spread the word!

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING: Only Saint Paul's outwear 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 cool weather clothing is allowed.

COMMITMENT DAY ON JAN 8: If you know of any prospective student considering SPS for 8th or 9th grade next year who missed testing on Jan 8, have them contact us. Due to a few COVID-related absences, we are offering a makeup test on Jan 22. This is not a commitment on anyone's part, but merely keeps the option open. Thanks for spreading the good word about SPS.

COVID: The Governor's address on Dec 30 concerning schools were followed up by recommendations from the Louisiana Department of Health and the Department of Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Trevor Watkins sent a letter on Jan 2 explaining SPS's response to these recommendations. As of now, these are recommendations and not mandates, but we encourage all to comply, lest they become mandates. And we continue to pray as we see more students diagnosed with COVID and more quarantines.



Jacob & Dylan role play scenario in Teen Life Counts class.

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 2022 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.

GRADES, EXAMS, & REPORT CARDS:

- **Report Cards** were mailed on Jan 5. **Let me know if you did not receive a report card. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb, so email any concerns to teachers.**
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) **What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience.**
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Due to COVID, we must postpone HR Breakfasts. Here is the **NEW schedule:**

Thu, Feb 24 - 12th grade

Wed, Feb 23 - 9th grade

Mon, Feb 21 -- 10th grade

Thu, Feb 17 - 11th grade

Wed, Feb 16 - 8th grade

- All breakfasts last from 7:45 – 8:20 Note: HR is based on **second QUARTER (not semester) grades.**

HELPING SAINT PAUL'S: Don't forget – here are painless ways to help:

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

LAST WEEK:

- **Basketball:** GREAT District wins over Covington and Northshore! Geaux BB Wolves!
- **Football Awards Ceremony:** An outstanding season was capped with a grand celebration on Sat.
- **Math Tournament:** Fighting Math Wolves were back in competition Sat at Bro. Martin. They did well!
- **Pack Time:** Thanks for cooperating with Jeff in learning from Dr. King!
- **Robotics:** Robo-Wolves represented us well at Liberty High's tournament on Saturday!
- **Soccer:** 8-0 mercy rule varsity win over Hammond and 7-0 v. Covington! 9th won over PJP but JV lost to Mandy. Weather cut short the 8th grade tournament on Sat. Geaux Soccer Wolves!
- **Student Council:** The annual State convention was this weekend. Joanna and Shannon hosted the moderators' luncheon and the Student Council learned and gave a lot. Thanks, SC!
- **Ultimate Frisbee:** Bro. Javier and his Frisbee Wolves were up and at 'em on Sat morning. Great! The weather, though, had other plans and the game was forced into postponement to another Saturday.
- **Wrestling:** Wolves represented us well at the LA Classic – a premier tournament.

LOST & FOUND: Lunch boxes, uniform shirts, books, shoes – all sorts of things are being left behind on campus – almost all with no names on them. Stress with your sons to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside Attendance Office.

MARCH THROUGH THE ARCH PICTURES FOR SENIORS ARE IN: Expressions Photography did an outstanding job in producing the pics, which are in the Administration Building and may be picked up during business hours. Your son may pick up his pic with a note from you. We do this as in the past, some seniors got the pics and left them in book bags or back car seats and the pics never made it home.

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH: Congrats to MQP on its 25th anniversary of establishment! Join them in celebrating on January 30 at 2 pm:

The graphic features a dark green background with the text "You are invited!" in a white, cursive font at the top. Below this is a white rectangular area containing the school's crest, which is a circular emblem with a cross and various symbols, surrounded by the text "Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School" and "Established 1996". Below the crest, the text "CELEBRATING 25 YEARS" is written in a large, green, serif font. Underneath, the motto "LEARN LAUGH PLAY PRAY" is displayed in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the white area, the date and time "JANUARY 30, 2022 | MASS AT 2 PM" and "RECEPTION/OPEN HOUSE TO FOLLOW" are written in a green, sans-serif font. To the right of the white area is a QR code, with a white arrow pointing from it to the text "Scan to RSVP" in a white, sans-serif font.

MONEY: Parents, please stress with you son that they should NOT bring large sums of money to school. There is absolutely no need for students to have large cash amounts – which they invariable talk about which tempts others.

PAPER WOLF: 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!

The logo features a white silhouette of a wolf standing on a dark blue background. To the right of the wolf, the text "The Paper Wolf" is written in a white, serif font, with ".com" in a smaller, sans-serif font. Below the logo and text, the website's tagline "The official online news source of The Saint Paul's School · Covington, LA" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. On the far right of the banner is a yellow and blue logo consisting of the letters "SP" in a stylized, blocky font.

RE-REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR 2022 - 23 Yes, it is time to start thinking about next year! Shortly after Christmas, we will begin registering current students for 2022-23. Here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new (if any) 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2022 - 23, a \$300 registration fee will be due.



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 pledges. Did you know:

- Two of the most often repeated complaints to the candidates in last year's election were speeding and the running of stop signs? And SPS students/parents came in for their fair share of blame!
- On any given weekday, over 15,000 people drive into and out of Covington?
- Many of our streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of the automobile, thus not designed for cars?

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. Please reinforce this with students whenever possible. And please set a good example yourself!



From Blake Davis's mom: *I wanted to share a story that I think you'll get a chuckle out of it. A group of senior families and players went to Cilantros after the game last Sat night and Mayor Mark Johnson was there, as you can see from the picture. The boys started chanting "slow your roll". Needless to say, we were all in hysterics. Let's hope the boys are truly slowing their roll. Let's hope so, indeed! And I did indeed get a much-needed chuckle -- Thanks, Mrs. Davis and BB Wolves!*

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 website, or you can follow us at Facebook @St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana Twitter @SPSWolfpackStudy

SOCIAL MEDIA II: Parents, speak with your sons about social media use. We have already dealt with issues. Inappropriate postings can have legal ramifications. In addition, SPS reserves the right to impose consequences on our students who misuse social media. And read about Tic Toc!



Plenty of storage room in the new music facility. Thanks, Band Boosters, for all your help constructing the cabinets.

SUMMER CAMP DIRECTORS: I have appointed Coaches Stephen Dale and Matt Pinero as co-directors of the SPS Summer Camp Program, one of the premier summer camp programs around. They will build on what Coach Craig Ketelsen established, bringing the program even greater success. Since both Stephen and Matt have some summer commitments with their respective sports of basketball and wrestling, the co-director model emerged as the best fit. **On-line-line registration, is available, just in time for late-Christmas or birthday giving.** I am deeply appreciative to both of these outstanding coaches for assuming this important position. Athletic Director Sam Francis will serve as a consultant and assistant when needed.

TEEN LIFE COUNTS: A guest speaker from the Jewish Family Service's Teen Life Counts will be visiting sophomore religion classes during January 10-21, 2022. Teen Life Counts is an educational suicide prevention program designed to help teens learn the warning signs of suicide and how to seek help if they need personal assistance or if they believe a friend is in danger. Through participation, students learn to be more sensitive to their friends' comments and feelings as well as how to appropriately deal with personal challenges in their own lives. Because of the rising suicide rate in St. Tammany Parish, St. Paul's takes this issue especially seriously. Believing it is beneficial for both our students and their families, our sophomores have participated in Teen Life Counts for many years. For additional information about the program, visit <http://www.jfsneworleans.org/programs-services/teen-life-counts/>. PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER!

TUTORING: 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. **It is not embarrassing to go for tutoring!**

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: Unfortunately, vaping is on the rise, even among our students. The health 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:

- *Why does Humpty Dumpty love autumn? Because he always has a great fall.*
- *Why can't Elsa have a balloon? Because she will let it go.*
- *What did the beaver say to the tree? It's been nice gnawing you.*
- *What do you call two monkeys that share an Amazon account? Prime mates.*
- *How do you look for Will Smith in the snow? Just follow the fresh prints.*
- *Which rock group has four guys who can't sing or play instruments? Mount Rushmore.*
- *What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common? The same middle name.*
- *If you ever get cold, stand in the corner of a room for a while. They're usually 90 degrees.*
- *Where do spaghetti and sauce go to dance? The meat ball.*
- *Why do Dasher and Dancer love coffee? Because they're Santa's star bucks!*
- *Why is no one friends with Dracula? Because he's a pain in the neck.*
- *What time do you go to the dentist? At tooth-hurty.*
- *Why did the A go to the bathroom and come out as an E? Because he had a vowel movement*
- *What do you call a droid that takes the long way around? R2 detour.*

Second Semester Period Rotation

January

- 17 – MLK Holiday
- 18 – FGAB - President's Assembly
- 19 – CDEF - 8th HR Breakfast
- 20 – GABC - 9th HR Breakfast
- 21 – DEFG - 10th HR Breakfast
- 24 – ABCD – President's Assembly
- 25 – EFGA - Mass – Feast of St. Paul
- 26 – BCDE - 11th HR Breakfast
- 27 – FGAB - 12th HR Breakfast
- 28 – CDEF
- 31 – GABC

February

- 1 – DEFG - Pack Time
- 2- ABCD
- 3 – EFGA – Career Day of Juniors
- 4 - BCDE
- 7 – FGAB - Late Start – Safe Schools Training / Parent Teacher Conferences 5-7
- 8 – CDEF - President's Assembly
- 9 – GABC – Pre ACT for 8th Graders
- 10 – DEFG – Pre ACT for 9th Graders
- 11 – ABCD – Pre ACT for 10th Graders
- 14 - EFGA
- 15 – BCDE - Pack Time
- 16 – FGAB
- 17 – CDEF
- 18 – GABC – Life Skills Day for Seniors
- 21 - DEFG
- 22 – ABCD - President's Assembly
- 23 – EFGA – Juniors on Retreat
- 24 – BCDE – Juniors on Retreat
- 25 – Faculty Retreat – no classes for students

March

- 7 - FGAB
- 8 – CDEF - ACT for Juniors
- 9 – GABC – President's Assembly
- 10 - DEFG
- 11 – ABCD -End of 3rd Quarter
- 14 – EFGA - Late Start (9 am)
- 15 – BCDE - Pack Time
- 16 – FGAB

- 17 - CDEF
- 18 – GABC - Mass – Feast of St. Joseph
- 21 – DEFG - Benito Juarez’s Birthday
- 22 – ABCD - President’s Assembly
- 23 - EFGA
- 24 – BCDE - 12th HR Breakfast
- 25 – FGAB - 8th HR Breakfast
- 28 - CDEF
- 29 – GABC -Pack Time
- 30 – DEFG - 9th HR Breakfast / Senior Retreat (March 30 - April 1)
- 31- ABCD -10th HR Breakfast / Senior Retreat

April

- 1 – EFGA -11th HR Breakfast / Senior Retreat
- 4 – Blue Ribbon Holiday
- 5 –8 Leadership Week
- 5 – BCDE -Leadership Breakfast
- 6 – FGAB- Leadership Speaker
- 7 – CDEF – Founder’s Day Mass
- 8 – GABC – Year-In-Review Assembly
- 11 – DEFG – Late Start
- 12 – ABCD - President’s Assembly
- 13 – EFGA - Passion Play
- 14 – BCDE - *Mandatum*
- 25 – FGAB - Last Pack Time
- 26 – CDEF - President’s Assembly
- 27 – GABC – Senior Exams
- 28 – DEFG – Senior Exams
- 29 – ABCD – Senior Exams

May

- 2 - EFGA
- 3 – BCDE - Pack Time
- 4 – FGAB
- 5 – CDEF
- 6 – GABC
- 9 – DEFG – 8th Grade Exams
- 10 – ABCD - Last President’s Assembly / 8th Grade Exams
- 11 – EFGA - 8th Grade Exams
- 12 – BCDE - 8th Grade Promotion
- 13 – FGAB
- 14 – 12th Grade Graduation
- 16 – CDEFG (5 Period Day)
- 17 – 20 – 9th -11th Final Exams
- 20 – Last Day of School – noon dismissal



As Christmas 2021 fades, let us not forget the inspiration by Student Council on luminaria night: *AGAPE!*

CLOSING QUOTATIONS: It's appropriate to close with a few MLK quotes:

- *A man who won't die for something is not fit to live.*
- *Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.*
- *In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.*
- *He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.*
- *We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.*
- *Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.*
- *The time is always right to do what is right.*
- *Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

Whew! I've worn you out in this third week of 2022. Even though it's a New Year, 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, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of SPS 2021 - 22! Happy 2022!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Praying for an End to the Pandemic as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



.... by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing our Lasallian Mission, living courageously, respecting all people, and living the Gospel! Let's give it our best this week and begin 2022 with no problems – as befits a Lasallian Catholic National Blue-Ribbon School.

Trivia Question for Jan 20: President Bill Clinton invited poet Maya Angelou to write and recite an original poem at his inauguration in January of 1993. The poem was called "On the Pulse of Morning"