



The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter
Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington
341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
January 31 - February 6, 2022



*The cold mornings have brought beautiful
sunrises over SPS!*

Welcome to February! Today begins Catholic Schools Week, when Catholic schools throughout the US celebrate and affirm the Catholic identity of our schools. The National Catholic Education Association has designated the theme of the week as: "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service."

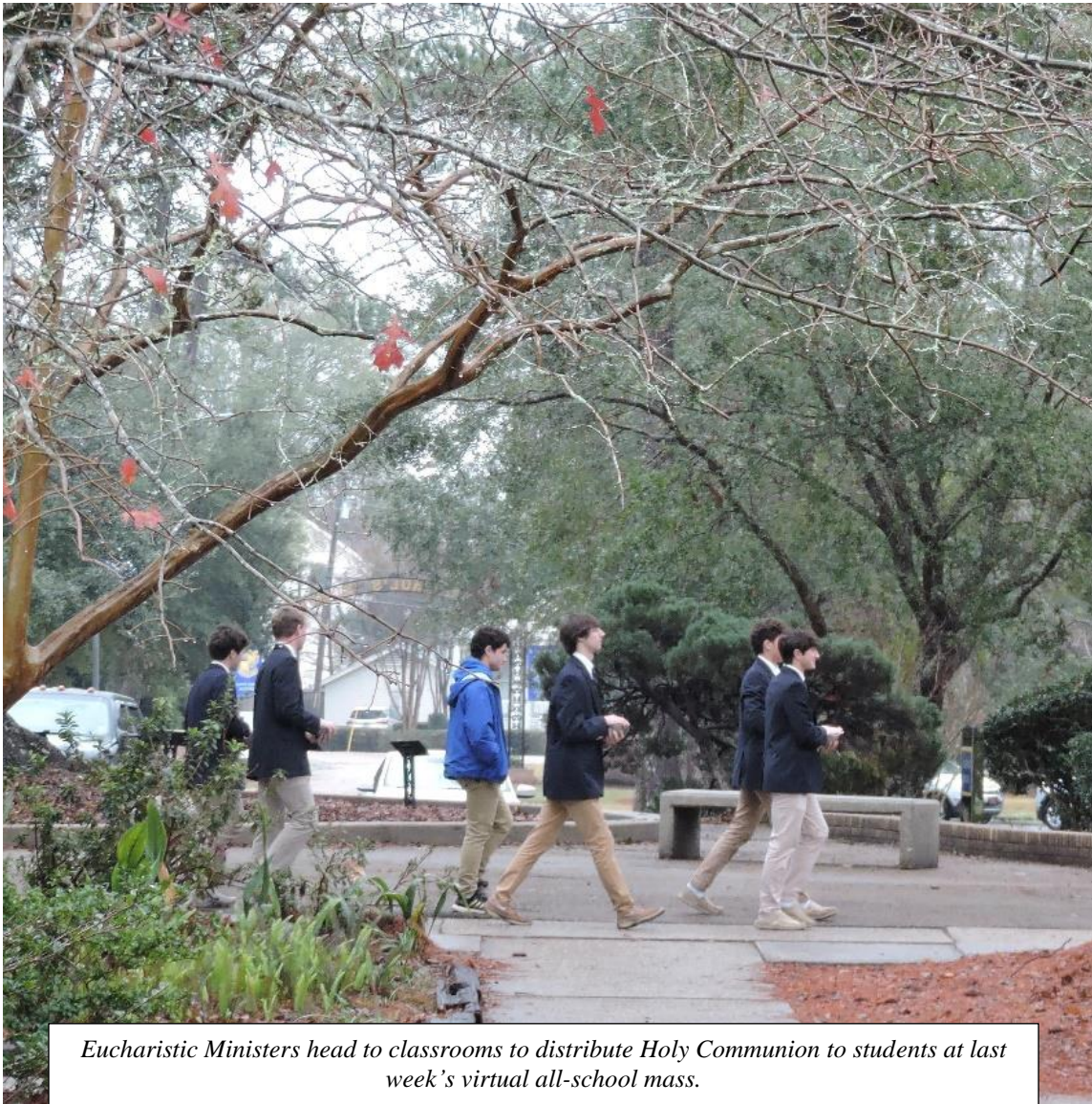
Historically, we cannot overstate the contribution of Catholic education to this country, especially in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Today, Catholic schools continue to produce outstanding achievement, in spite of the many challenges to their existence. Here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, for example, the strategic plan designed to save the Catholic school system already has caused changes. And three more Catholic elementary schools will close at the end of the year. The Catholic school system is looking different from my school days – admittedly many years ago!

We remember and celebrate, too, that Saint Paul's is not just a private school or a Christian school -- we are a Lasallian Catholic school. We remind ourselves of Saint John Baptist de

La Salle, who Pope Pius XII proclaimed Patron of All Teachers by virtue of his contribution to education. To be faithful to our Lasallian Catholic nature, we must remember that Saint La Salle insisted upon quality schools which not only "ran well" but were "places of salvation" (both spiritual and temporal) for the students by teaching them the "Truths of their Religion." Thus, the Founder believed, the schools would "touch the hearts" of the students who attended.

St. La Salle said that "to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to your care is the greatest miracle you can perform and one which God expects of you." He also insisted that those who work in Catholic schools must look upon themselves as "ministers of God's grace" and "co-workers with God."

**Saint La Salle would accept nothing less from the early brothers.
We try to offer nothing less today. Celebrate our Lasallian Catholic heritage – always!**



Eucharistic Ministers head to classrooms to distribute Holy Communion to students at last week's virtual all-school mass.

Mon, Jan 31 (G A B C)

- Today we observe the **Feast of St. John Bosco**, founder of the Salesian Order of Sisters, Brothers and Priests. In many ways, John Bosco was similar to St. John Baptist de La Salle – he had a loving concern for young people and was devoted to meeting their educational needs. Today, the Salesians minister in the Archdiocese of New Orleans by conducting Archbishop Shaw High School and the Academy of Our Lady High School. We thank the Salesians for their work with young people. Here's a sampling of St. John Bosco's words:
 - *Do good while you still have time. God does not pay us for results, but for effort.*
 - *Nobody can be truly happy in this world unless he is at peace with God.*
 - *Put up willingly with the faults of others if you wish others to put up with yours.*
- January 31 also marks the 106th birthday of Thomas Merton, American Catholic writer and mystic. A Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemane, KY, he was a poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion. A few of his words:
 - *We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.*
 - *Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul.*
 - *And one of my favorites: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that*

the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

- **Inspire Your Heart with Art Day:** Visit a museum (virtually in the Age of COVID), browse an art book, view art on the Internet, listen to music, paint a picture, read/write poetry – liberate the artist inside of you.
- **Bowling:** Wolves v. Albany

Tue, Feb 1 (D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1884, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the most comprehensive and accurate dictionary of the English language, is published. From History Channel Website: *The OED is the definitive authority on the meaning, history, and pronunciation of over half a million words. The OED provides a chronological history, quoting a range of sources. The OED is famous for cross-references and etymologies. The verb "set" merits the OED's longest entry, at approximately 60,000 words and detailing over 430 uses. No sooner was the OED finished than editors began updating it. In 1984, Oxford Press embarked on a 5-year project to create an electronic version. The effort required 120 people just to type the pages from the print edition and 50 proofreaders to check their work. In 1992, a CD-ROM version of the dictionary was released. Today, the dictionary is available online to subscribers and updated quarterly with over 1,000 new entries and revisions. At a whopping 20 volumes weighing over 137 pounds, it would take one person 120 years to type all 59 million words in the OED.* Celebrate the OED! Spend time on the website (www.oed.com)
- **Working Naked Day:** Do what you want at home, but SPS is NOT celebrating this day.
- **Basketball:** JV & Var at Hammond

Wed, Feb 2 (Feast of Presentation; A B C D)

- **Feast of the Presentation.** This feast, told in Luke's Gospel, celebrates the child Jesus being brought to the Temple "according to the law of Moses." It was also the occasion of Simeon ("a righteous and devout man") proclaiming the "nunc dimittis" -- "now, Lord, you may dismiss your servant...for my eyes have seen your salvation..." Since the 10th Century, this feast has also been called Candlemas because candles were blessed, a devotion based upon Simeon's words that Jesus is the light who reveals God to all nations. In his meditation for today, St La Salle tells the brothers "How good it is to give oneself to God! Even in this life, God rewards and fills with very tangible consolations the soul that consecrates itself to God. The more you give to God, the more God blesses you." Renew our consecrations to God -- and encourage students, too.
- **TDIH:** In 1887, Groundhog Day, with a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA. From the Official GH Day web site: *Pennsylvania's earliest settlers determined if the sun did appear on Feb. 2 so wise an animal as the groundhog would see its shadow and hurry back into its home for another 6 weeks of winter.* Let's hope Punxsutawney Phil sees no shadow!
- **TDIH:** In 2014, a memorial mass was celebrated in the G-Plex for **David Decareaux '94**, and his two sons. David and his sons were camping, got lost, and died of hypothermia. We continue to pray for his family.
- **Crepe Day:** Enjoy this French classic! In France, today is called la Chandeleur, Fête de la Lumière, or jour des crêpes. The French eat a lot of crêpes on Chandeleur, but also do a bit of fortune telling while making them. It is traditional to hold a coin in your writing hand and a crêpe pan in the other, and flip the crêpe into the air. If you manage to catch the crêpe in the pan, your family will be prosperous for the rest of the year.
- **Basketball:** 8th & 9th at Jesuit



*Lots of choices for the students on last Tuesday's snack day. The healthy stuff is to your left, guys!
Thanks, Mothers' Club, for all you do for the students of SPS.*

Thu, Feb 3 (Feast of St. Blaise; Career Day for Juniors; E F G A)

- Today, Catholics celebrate feast of St. Blaise. Catholic practice calls for “Blessing of Throats” in honor of Blaise, who legend says saved a young boy from choking as Blaise was being hauled off to prison for his Christianity. He was martyred in 316. **Blessing of the Throat Prayer:** *Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil.*
- **TDIH:** In 1959, a small plane crashed, killing three American rock and roll legends: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and JP "Big Bopper" Richardson. In his song “American Pie”, singer Don McLean dubbed Feb 3, 1959 **the day the music died.** (*So bye, bye, Miss American Pie, drove my Chevy to the levee*)
- **TDIH:** Four Chaplains Memorial Day. In 1943, four US Army Chaplains gave their lives to save other soldiers when their troop ship, the USAT Dorchester, was torpedoed in WW II. The chaplains gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out, joined hands, said prayers and sang hymns as the ship sank.

Fri, Feb 4 (B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Premier Joseph Stalin meet at city in Yalta in the Crimea to discuss and plan the postwar world--namely, to address the redistribution of power and influence. Many believe this to be the birth of the Cold War.
- **Thank Your Mailman (or postal carrier to be gender correct!) Day:** Some fun postal facts:
 - In 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the first organized mail service in America.
 - Benjamin Franklin was first Postmaster General.
 - Postage stamps were invented in 1847.
 - On April 3, 1860 the Pony Express officially took off.
 - In 1863, free city delivery began; in 1896, free rural delivery
 - In 1963, the ZIP Code began. What does ZIP stand for?
- **Catholic Schools Week Mass:** A group of Wolves will join student groups from all Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese at a special mass today at St. Ann in Metairie.
- **Ultimate:** JV & Varsity play at 3
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Covington

Sat, Feb 5

- **TDIH:** In 1971, Apollo 14, the 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands and Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell walk on Moon for 4 hrs. Alan Shepard was USA’s first man in space in 1961 in a sub-orbital flight in a space capsule called Friendship 7. This was part of the Mercury Program, which had Americans just orbiting the earth. Mercury gave way to the Gemini and Apollo programs.
- **Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (always 1st Sat of Feb):** Well, it’s your choice to celebrate – or not.
- **Wrestling:** JH/JV State Championship at Bro. Martin
- **Basketball:** Varsity in Booker T Washington Classic
- **Rugby:** Wolves at Brother Martin
- **Track:** Indoor Track in LSU Last Chance Meet

Sun, Feb 6

- **TDIH:** In 1952, after a long illness, King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dies in his sleep at the royal estate at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the king's two daughters and next in line to succeed him, was in Kenya at the time of her father's death; she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953, at age 27 – and remains queen today.



Students participate in Holy Mass being livestreamed from our chapel into the classrooms.

Rise Up, O Men of God

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

ADMISSIONS (NEW) FOR NEXT YEAR: I am pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to all who helped make this happen. Thanks for spreading the good news about Lasallian education at Saint Paul's School! We will still entertain a few new applications, so if you know of an interested family, please have them contact us soon. Thank you!

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. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What’s important is that everyone participates. Of course, no gift is too large!
- If you contribute to the Capital Campaign or financially support SPS in another way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. 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.

ATTENDANCE: Make the following part of your New Year Resolutions: 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**

APPLICATION LETTERS: More unedited comments:

- *Becoming a fellow brother at Saint Paul’s allows me, for the first time, to really take charge of my future.*
- *I have seen great people come out of Saint Paul’s and I hope I can be one of them.*
- *One day I hope to tell my son and grandson about my great experiences at St. Pau’s.*
- *I see boys going into St. Paul’s and they are happy and love their school.*
- *I am the product of my environment and want to surround myself with the best people – St. Paul’s.*
- *St. Paul’s represents brotherhood. I want to be part of that brotherhood.*
- *When I visited, I saw happy students and a beautiful campus.*

ASSEMBLY ANNIVERSARIES: Last week marked the three-year anniversary of the following assemblies:

- **Matt Fradd.** Matt speaks to over 50,000 people every year on the topic of pornography. Catholic schools are being asked to address this growing problem. In particular, Matt addressed pornography in light of human trafficking and social justice. As we learned on the Archdiocese Faculty Formation Day in 2017, pornography is a major plague impacting our youth. Matt’s expertise was a great small step to battling this epidemic. Parents, please speak with your sons about the dangers of porn.
- **Thomas Awiapo.** Growing up in Ghana, Thomas was a beneficiary of Catholic Relief Services’ Rice Bowl initiative. He shared his story about growing up in poverty and *survived* only with the support of those who have the means to help. Thomas’ story was a great opportunity to shed a light on life in Africa and to paint a clearer picture of those at our twin school, St. Paul’s in Marsabit, Kenya.



District Champion Soccer Wolves! On to playoffs, which begin this week!

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
- **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!**

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.

SAINT PAUL
Saint Paul's School 2022 - 2023 CALENDAR – NEXT YEAR
(Subject to change if needed)

Mon - Tues, Aug 1 & 2	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 3	Teacher Prep Day
Thurs, Aug 4	School Opens with a full day of instruction
Mon, Aug 15	New Parent Reception and Information Meeting (6:30)
Thu, Aug 18	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Day
Fri, Aug 19	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 22	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Fri, Sep 2	Lasallian Convocation for Faculty (no classes for students)
Mon, Sep 5	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 7	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 7	Grandparents Day (11:30 – 1:00)
Mon, Oct 17	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
Sat, Oct 29	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon-Fri, Nov 21 - 25	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 28	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Tues - Fri, Dec 13-16	Semester Exams
Fri, Dec 16	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Tues, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 16	Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 06	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 17	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 20 - 24	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Feb 27	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 10	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 07 – 14	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 17	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 26 – 28	Senior Final Exams
Thurs, May 11	Pre-Freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30)
Sat, May 13	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Thurs – Tues, May 18-23	Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11
Wed, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Thurs, May 25	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

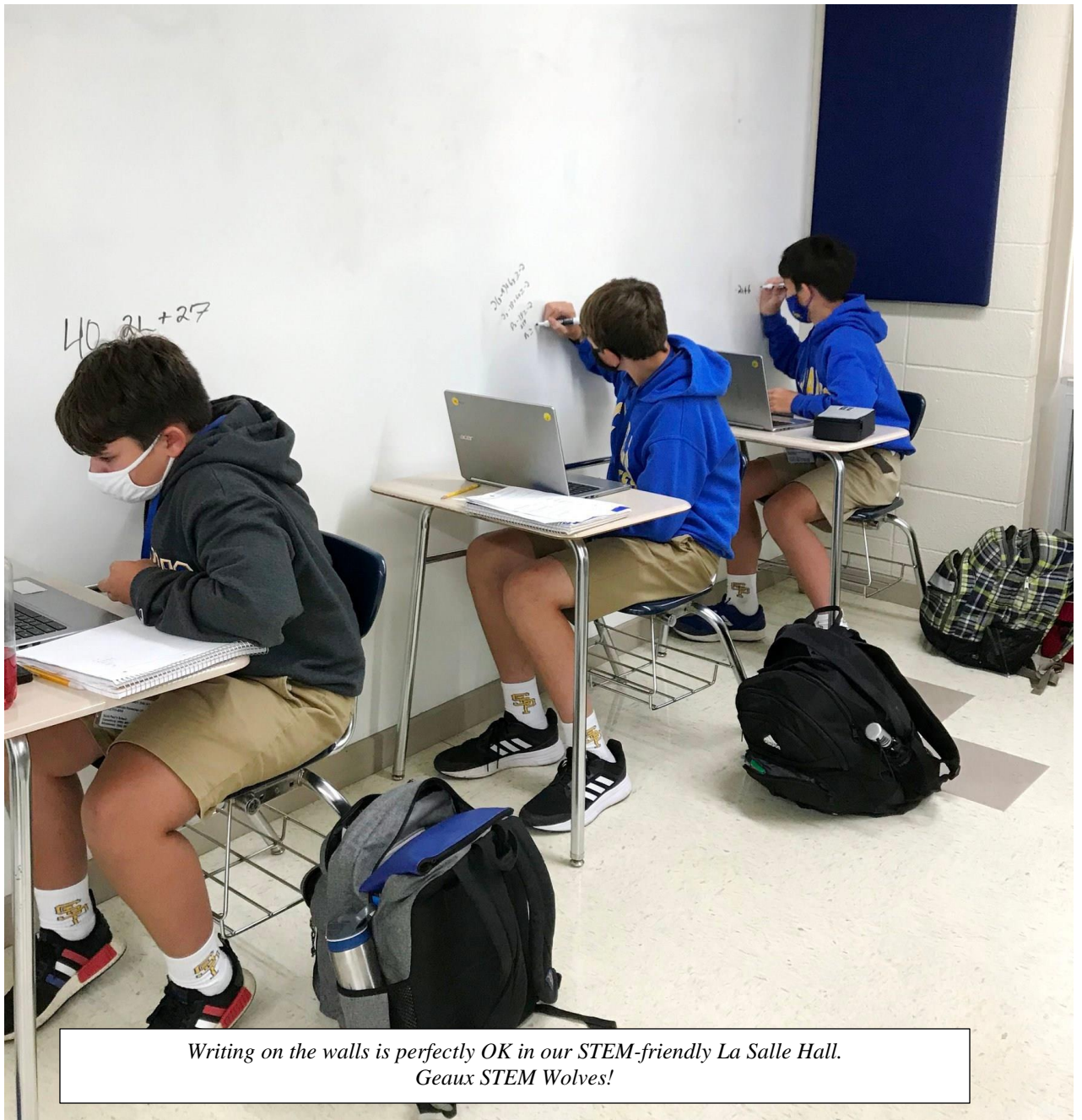
In case of emergency closings, make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays. Do not schedule vacations during school time.

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, 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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: This week, we partner with Catholic Charities' Spirit of Hope Program that is supporting over 400 families impacted by Hurricane Ida. Catholic Charities is currently in the process of finding housing for many families displaced from their rental homes and are also helping families get the resources they need to rebuild damaged homes. The families need the following household items

- **Cleaning items: wipes, Lysol spray, buckets, sponges, kitchen liquid soap etc. - kitchen towels**
- **Hygiene items: soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.- bathroom towels**
- **Bedding: twin and full sheet sets, pillows – bath towels**
- **Baby Items: baby wipes, diapers (sizes, 3,4,5)**
- Any donated items can be brought to Mr. Ramon/the Campus Ministry Office in the Library or Ms. Claire in the Main School Building. We will also run a special Mission Collection on Wednesday designated for Catholic Charities. Thank you for your support!



*Writing on the walls is perfectly OK in our STEM-friendly La Salle Hall.
Geaux STEM Wolves!*

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!

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:



*More high-tech STEM activities!
I have no idea what they are doing but they tell me it's pretty cool.*

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.

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.



FEBRUARY: Can you believe we enter February this week? How are those New Year resolutions coming along? So far, I'm not doing well! And here's a listing of some of the celebrations for Feb: Adopt A Rescued Rabbit Month, American Heart Month, Avocado and Banana Month, Bake for Family Fun Month, Beans Month, Dog Training Month, Exotic Vegetables and Star Fruit Month, Grapefruit Month, Boost Self-Esteem Month, Expect Success Month, Library Lovers Month, Bird Feeding Month, Black History Month, Care About Your Indoor

Air Month, Cherry Month, Children's Dental Health Month, Haiku Writing Month, Hot Breakfast Month, Mend A Broken Heart Month, Parent Leadership Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Time Management Month, Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month, Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month, & Youth Leadership Month – something for almost everyone!

GRADES, HONOR ROLL BREAKFASTS, & PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS:

- **Parent-Teacher conferences will be held in the BAC on Mon, Feb 7, from 5 – 7 pm. Parents may confer with some or all of their son's teachers.**
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Due to COVID, we had to 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.**
- **Invitations were emailed last week.**

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. Have your son bring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there's AmazonSmile!

LAST WEEK:

- **Band:** Jake Theriot was selected to perform with the LMEA District 9 honor band last weekend!
- **Basketball:** Great District wins against F'bleau
- **Bowling:** Didn't get results but I am sure they did well!
- **Mass:** Our virtual mass went well, thanks to organization by Jeff Ramon.
- **Math Wolves:** The Fighting Math Wolves won **FIRST PLACE** in Baton Rouge High Tourney on Sat! Wow! That's fantastic! Pics and details in a future newsletter.
- **Snack Day:** Snacks ruled the day on the Feast of St. Paul on Tue! Thanks, MC!
- **Soccer:** Strong Varsity District wins v. Ponchy Mandy, N'shore & F'bleua = **DISTRICT CHAMPS!** Playoffs begin this week!
- **9th Grade Soccer:** I am told our freshman soccer wolves are feeling unappreciated as I have not recognized their accomplishments enough! That's b/c we haven't been having assemblies due to COVID! But I am well aware of their outstanding season, including winning the SPS 9th grade tournament. A trophy presentation will take place as soon as we resume assemblies! We are proud of all of our soccer wolves! And both 8th & 9th grade soccer wolves finished their season on 1/29 with wins against Jesuit!
- **Track:** Trey Faherty - second-place pole vault at the LSU High School Qualifier
- **Wrestling:** Victories over Rummel and De La Salle in dual meet on Wed; and Parish Champs – **AGAIN** – on Sat in a dominating performance! **Geaux Wolves!**

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 white text and a central white box. At the top, the phrase "You are invited!" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, the school's crest is centered, which includes a shield with a cross, a fleur-de-lis, and a dove, surrounded by the text "Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School" and "Established 1997". Underneath the crest, the text "CELEBRATING 25 YEARS" is displayed in a bold, green, serif font. A horizontal line separates this from the motto "LEARN LAUGH PLAY PRAY" in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the white box, the event details "JANUARY 30, 2022 | MASS AT 2 PM" and "RECEPTION/OPEN HOUSE TO FOLLOW" are listed in a small, green, sans-serif font. To the right of the white box, a QR code is positioned above a white arrow pointing upwards and to the left. Below the arrow, the text "Scan to RSVP" is written 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.

NEWS WORTH NOTING: According to new figures released last week by the state Department of Education, fewer than half of Louisiana public school students in kindergarten, first, second and third grades are reading on grade level. This has significant implications for the future of these students' education. Very sad!

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!



RE-REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR 2022 - 23 Yes, it is time to commit for next year! We began registering current students for 2022-23 last week. Here's the process:

- Current 8th graders were sent registration materials last Monday and asked to register by Feb 1. 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 week of February. We will email materials this coming week.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year! Amen!
- In all re-registration for 2022 - 23, a \$300 registration fee will be due.

SLOW YOUR ROLL. This week is the two -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 streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of automobiles, 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



Junior Caleb celebrates Mole Day in chemistry class by reinforcing Mayor Mark's exhortation to the citizens of Covington – especially SPS students!

SOCIAL HOSTING /UNDERAGE DRINKING: With the Mardi Gras season looming, the temptations for alcohol use by students increases. One issue facing parents is hosting parties where teens are exposed to or even given alcohol. This is known as “social hosting.” I have sent a brochure on this activity, which may have legal consequences, to our parents. The brochure was provided to me by Mr. Hal Fox, owner of Fox Litho of Mandeville, and father of Hal. Here’s the link: <http://fb.mediarelay.com/pbda246>

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!

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.

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. 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: 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: Dictionary jokes in honor of the OED's birthday on Tue:

- *I bought a dictionary but all the pages were blank. I have no words for how angry I am.*
- *What's the longest word in the dictionary? Smiles, because there's a mile between the two.*
- *I'm performing in a theatrical production of the dictionary. It's a play on words.*
- *Covid bored me so I read the dictionary and found a word spelled wrong: Wrong.*
- *I am tearing out the pages of the dictionary. I am up to "mischief."*
- *"Mom, I've lost the dictionary." "Did you look upstairs?" "I can't look up anything!"*
- *Why is a dictionary dangerous? Because it has dynamite in it.*
- *What did the dictionary say when it got a cold? I had thesaurus throat ever! [read it slowly and then LOL!]*
- *I used to believe that sticks and stones could break my bones, but words could never hurt me. But then I got hit with a dictionary.*
- *I thank the guy who lent me a dictionary to look up the word "plethora." It means a lot!*
- *I opened the dictionary to see the meaning of "practical joke." It said "see fooling" so I checked "fooling" and it said "see practical joke."*
- *My dad ought to buy a dictionary. He often says "I need words with U."*
- *OK, I'll stop! Happy OED Birthday on Tuesday!*



Soccer Senior Moms pose on Senior Night with their sons' "big head" pics!

Second Semester

January

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 pm

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 – 8th HR Breakfast

17 – CDEF – 11th HR Breakfast

18 – GABC – Life Skills Day for Seniors

21 – DEFG – 10th HR Breakfast

22 – ABCD - President’s Assembly

23 – EFGA – Juniors on Retreat; 9th HR Breakfast

24 – BCDE – Juniors on Retreat; 12th HR Breakfast

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
- 2 – Jr Sr Prom
- 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 dismissa



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

Even though we start a new month this week, 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

Made It To February 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 February 2022 with no problems – as befits a Lasallian Catholic National Blue-Ribbon School.





