

Warning about the Newsletter: This is a LONG newsletter, but there's a lot to cover as we begin school. So pour another cup of coffee (or beverage of your choice!), relax, and read. Feel free to take breaks!



The President's Newsletter for Aug 4 - 10, 2014

2014 – A Year of Family and Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans



Once again, welcome to 2014-15 school year – the beginning of the fourth year of our second century of life! I'm glad last week's mammoth newsletter didn't scare you off! I tried to make this one shorter!

As we begin a new year of Lasallian education at SPS, I invite you to reflect on the theme we have chosen for the year: **make courageous choices**. To Lasallians, this theme is in honor of Servant of God Brother James Miller, FSC – who gave his life for the people of Guatemala. In case you aren't aware, being declared "Servant of God" by the Catholic Church is the first step toward formal sainthood. Thus, Brother James has been recognized by the Church as a model of emulation and worthy of canonization.



Servant of God
Brother James Miller, FSC

As Brother Louis Welker writes: *Brother James Miller was martyred on Feb 13, 1982. He knew the risks of ministering among the poor of Guatemala. Family and friends tried to dissuade him from going back to Guatemala fearing for his safety. He responded in a letter: "I trust God's Providence and I place my life in his hands." I met him when he stayed with us on his way back to Guatemala....He was a good man with a hearty laugh and a jack of all trades. A little over a month later he was shot down in front of the school while repairing a wall. It was a warning to the Brothers to back off in their fight to keep the young men in the school from being forced into the Army.*

We certainly pray that no one will suffer martyrdom for acting courageously, but the "ultimate sacrifice" of Brother James can inspire us to make courageous choices, as each day provides us with many opportunities to do so – which I'll address in newsletters and with students in assemblies.

Sometimes, making courageous choices **just means doing the ordinary in an extraordinary way – our theme for last year. This should fill all of us with hope**, as we can all do this!

As we work with faculty on making courageous choices as Lasallian educators, we **encourage you, as parents, to work with your sons in a similar manner. Don't let him get by with "just enough", whether it's grades or chores or a simple "good morning, Mom and Dad!"** Exhort him to sainthood by making courageous choices by doing the ordinary in an extraordinary way. You and the sons will hear more about this theme from me throughout the year. I invite you to join me, together and in association, in making courageous choices. I look forward to traveling that path with you.

Thanks for being a part of the 2014-15 edition of Saint Paul's School!

Mon, Aug 4 (Feast of St. John Vianney -- 1786-1859)

- **St. John Vianney's** 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.
- **Cross Country Team Camp** through noon Wed
- **National Chocolate Chip Day:** Enjoy this iconic treat!
- **International 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!
- **8th & New 9th Grade Orientation (4-9):** Our Lasallian Young Leaders have a great program planned for our newest young wolves. Thanks to Myrle, Brad, Jeaneen, and all who will be helping tonight.



Tue, Aug 5 – Faculty Meetings

- **This Day in History:** 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 II:** In 1850, French writer Guy de Maupassant, considered to have had the greatest impact upon the development of the short story as a literary genre in Europe, is born. His stories are characterized by clever plots, clear style & surprise endings. Read some 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! In New York City, in Times Square at Broadway between 46th and 47th St, another attempt will be made for the Guinness Book of Records by having the largest crowd ever to show up in underwear. They need 2200 participants to win. Glad I'm not in NYC! 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?
- **National Oyster Day:** Indulge today in this LA favorite! 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 located in Chesapeake Bay.
 - Humans have eaten oysters since the dawn of humanity. Oyster farming and cultivation can be traced back to Roman times in France and England.
 - Two billion lbs are eaten annually and only 1 out of 10,000 will have a pearl
- **National Fresh Breath Day:** Floss, brush, rinse with mouthwash, and carry mints! 'Nuff said!

Our new "jumbotron" score board is ready to go! Many thanks to Banner Ford & Chevrolet, Resource Bank, Mugshots, Hornbeck Offshore, and Domino's for making it possible!

- **8th Grade Football Sign Up and Football Spirit Night: 5-7 in the Gym.** See below for info.

Wed, Aug 6 – Faculty Meetings

- **This Day in History:** 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 are killed as a direct result of the blast, and another 35,000 are injured. At least another 60,000 would be dead by the end of the year from the effects of the fallout. We pray that never again will atomic weapons be used.
- **National Fresh Breath Day:** Floss, brush, rinse with mouthwash, and carry mints! ‘Nuff said!
- **National Root Beer Float Day:** Celebrate the opening of school with this iconic summer treat!

Thu, Aug 7 (School Opens; Orientation Schedule; A B C D)

- **Purple Heart Day: Today** in 1782, in Newburgh, NY, General George Washington created the "Badge for Military Merit," a decoration 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, the decoration was largely forgotten until 1927, when the US Army Chief of Staff sent an unsuccessful draft bill to Congress to "revive the Badge of Military Merit." On February 22, 1932, Washington's 200th birthday, the U.S. War Department created of the "Order of the Purple Heart." We remember all American soldiers who have been wounded and thus earned The Purple Heart.



Lasallian Life Committee met last week to plan a Lasallian formation program for our faculty. I am grateful to them!

- **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 can't open a simple bottle of aspirin, let alone a milk carton?

Fri, Aug 8 (Feast of St. Dominic (1170-1221); Orientation Schedule; E F G A)

- **St. Dominic** founded the Order of Preachers (The Dominicans) in 1210 after years preaching to the people of his day. We wish all Dominican priests, brothers, and sisters a happy feast day today!
- **TDIH: Brother John Fairfax, FSC was born!** Brother John turns 87 years young today. After an extraordinary career as an exemplary educator, he continues to be an active and important member of the SPS community through his work with SPS Lasallian Youth Leaders, his presentations to our religion classes, his presence at school functions, and his friendly, generous, concerned and compassionate spirit. *Ad multos annos, Frater Johannes!* Happy Birthday!
- **Happiness Happens Day:** The purpose of today is to help people recognize more happiness and encourage them to talk about it. What a great day for us to start school – which should be the cause of great happiness for all of us at Saint Paul's! **Be happy today and don't dwell on the negative!**



THANK YOU!!!!

ST. PAUL'S
CROSS COUNTRY
TEAM



FOR RAISING FUNDS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES
FOR OUR SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE. YOUR COMMITMENT
TO THE COMMUNITY IS REMARKABLE AND WE THANK YOU!

The Covington Food Bank posted this on its Facebook page after CC Team donated school supplies last week. Congrats and thanks, CC Wolves!

- **Sneak Some Zucchini Onto Your Neighbor's Porch Night:** OK, you home gardeners with tons of zucchini! Here's your chance to get rid of this prolific vegetable. Or bring the zucchini to the Food Bank or Samaritan Center!

Sat, Aug 9 – (Feast of St. Benedicta of the Cross)

- **Born** into a prominent Jewish family in Poland in 1891, Edith abandoned her belief in God in her teens. A brilliant student, she earned a doctorate in philosophy in 1916. Through her studies, she became intrigued with Catholicism and converted in 1922, joining a Carmelite monastery in the Netherlands, taking the name of Sister Benedicta. When the Nazis occupied the Netherlands in 1940, the Dutch Catholic bishops denounced them. In retaliation, the Nazis

arrested all Dutch Jews who had become Christians. Benedicta and her sister Rosa, also a Catholic, died in a gas chamber in Auschwitz on August 9, 1942. Pope John Paul II canonized her in 1998.

- **TDIH:** Richard Nixon becomes the only man in history to resign as President of the United States; Gerald Ford is sworn in as the 38th President of the US.
- **TDIH II:** On this day in 1945, a second atom bomb is dropped on Japan by the United States, at Nagasaki, resulting finally in Japan's unconditional surrender, thus ending World War II.
- **Worldwide Art Day:** Celebrate the arts today by drawing, composing, writing, painting, dancing, acting, or singing – and look for ways to value the role that art plays in our lives!
- **New Moms' Tea:** This annual event, sponsored by the SPS Mothers Club, is a wonderful way for our new moms to learn about SPS and the MC. You are welcome to attend this social, starting at 3 in the cafeteria.

Sun, Aug 10

- **Let's get the school year off to a great start by attending church today. We encourage our Catholic Families to attend mass as a family.** We encourage our non-Catholic families to worship at the place of worship of their choice.
- **TDIH:** News of July 4th Declaration of Independence reaches King George III of England in 1776.
- **National S'mores Day!** Celebrate the opening of school and make some s'mores with the family!

San Francisco New Orleans District of Christian Brothers: Welcome to the first academic year of the San Francisco New Orleans District of Christian Brothers! Know that we are part of a District that stretches from the states of Washington to Louisiana and now includes 20 schools.

Prayers Requested: Many of you know that sophomore Reagan Hill suffered a spinal cord injury recently. After surgery to remove the C5 vertebrae and fuse the C6, he faces at least 4-6 weeks of rehab at Children's Hospital. The good news is that the doctors are very optimistic about his prognosis. Reagan's parents, Keith and Kim Hill, have set up a Caringbridge.com account for people to follow Reagan's progress. Just "search" for Reagan Hill. They invite anyone who wishes to send words of encouragement to Reagan via this site. Naturally, we have been praying hard for Reagan and will support him in any way we can.

+ **Brother Gregory Wright, FSC:** Brother Gregory Wright, FSC, a member of the retired Christian Brothers Community at Saint Paul's, died peacefully in his sleep on July 31 at the Brothers Residence on campus. Brother came home from The Heart Hospital the day before after two weeks in ICU following surgery, but there was little

hope for his recovery. We arranged for round the clock sitters, so he was kept comfortable. A native New Orleanian, Brother Gregory earned a PhD in European History from the University of New Mexico. After a respected and long (well over 60 years!) career in higher education and an international reputation, having taught most of his life at The College of Santa Fe and De La Salle University in Manila with guest stints all over the world, Brother retired to Saint Paul's in March of 2013 due to health reasons. We were honored to have had him with us for the past year and a half. Due to his infirmities, he was unable to physically attend school events on our campus, but he kept up with what was going on here. His encyclopedic mind and razor sharp wit kept the Brothers informed and entertained. I am confident that he was met in heaven by Saint John Baptist de La Salle and all our holy brothers, who welcomed him into his new community.

*Eternal rest grant unto Brother Gregory, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen!*

School Safety: School safety remains a paramount issue for all of us, even in St. Tammany. Please discuss this with your sons. Know that in our faculty meetings, we will review all safety procedures that we have in place – and they are many. Safety is our priority – and it's EVERYONE'S JOB. **Report ANY rumor or threat to safety about which you hear.** Encourage your children to report, too. **If you come to campus, you must check in at one of three offices (Administration Building, Counseling Center or Records Office for a Visitor Pass before you may walk around.** Our prayers rise to heaven for a school year marked by safety and an elimination of violence everywhere.

First Day of School: Thu, Aug 7, is A FULL DAY OF INSTRUCTION for ALL students. **This is considered a school day** and attendance is expected. Students **must be in their A Block class by 7:45.**

- On Thursday, we have blocks A B C & D only. **Students only need to bring books and supplies for Blocks A B C & D.**
- **Important Info About Uniforms for August 7:** On Thursday, August 7, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. Students who have religion in periods E, F or G wear regular uniforms on Thursday.
- **Important Info About Uniforms for August 8:** On Friday, August 8, students with religion class in periods E, F or G wear DRESS UNIFORM for pictures. Students who had their pictures taken on Thursday wear regular uniforms.
- **Important information About Grooming: Student must be in compliance with our grooming regulations (especially hair and shaving -- all those special summer sartorial styles must be gone) in order to take school pictures; disciplinary action is a possibility.**
- **Purchasing school pictures is completely optional. Pricing and order form info was mailed to you with the Mothers Club mailing several weeks ago.**

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 August 7. It will be collected during English class.



Mothers Club Bookstore shelves are well-stocked and ready for sale this week. Thanks, MC!

From the Mothers Club:

- Bookstore will open on Mon, Aug 4, from 9 - 6, and from 9-4 on Tue and Wed, Aug 5 & 6. The Bookstore begins regular hours on Thu, Aug 7: 7:30 - 8:30, during lunch, & 2:30 – 3:15.
- Pre-ordered supply packs will be available for pick up in La Salle Hall during this time.
- ALL required school supplies can be purchased. Remember that all proceeds from the MC Bookstore help SPS.
- The MC summer mail-out was sent recently. If you did not receive it, email MC at mothersclub@stpauls.com.
- Send in your on-line volunteer form. Get involved!

Newsletters: All newsletters, report cards, and school communication will be EMAILED. Make sure you keep us informed if your email addresses change.

New Parent Reception & Information Meeting: A welcome reception/info meeting for **new parents** will be held on Mon, Aug. 18 at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. The reception begins at 6:30 pm and an information meeting starts at 7:00 which will be over by 8:00. We hope you will be with us!

Student Email: We issued an SPS email address to every student: Firstname.Lastname.gradyr@stpauls.com, e.g. John.Smith.2019@stpauls.com. This allows us to better communicate with students. The student may keep this email forever, allowing us to continue contact with him as an alumnus. We will delete the email upon graduation at the student’s request.

Helping Saint Paul’s: Don’t forget – here are two painless ways to help so encourage all to participate:

- **If you shop at Office Depot, give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5%!**
- **We participate in Community Coffee program. Bring CC labels to your son’s math teacher!**

Odds and Ends:

- Students must be in their first block class by 7:45 am. Classes dismiss at 3:00 pm.
- Students must be in uniform compliance (including shirts tails tucked in) from the moment they step foot on campus. On Thursday, August 7, students who have religion class in Periods A, B, C or D must wear DRESS UNIFORM for school pictures. Students who have religion in periods E, F or G wear regular uniforms on Thursday. (Yes, I know I’m repeating this but some people have bet me that I can’t pull this off!)
- 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** – you may not block traffic in the right lane to discharge the occupants. Dropping off at La Salle Hall or the tennis courts is OK.
- Traffic will be heavy heading into Covington this week as schools open. Please plan accordingly.
- Also, PLEASE observe traffic regulations. SPS is in a residential zone and speed limits are 25 mph – 15 mph during school zone hours. Covington Police will actively enforce traffic laws around SPS. See below for new traffic regulations.

New Students: Our Student Host organization will provide you with help for the first few days. The student hosts are easily spotted because they will be dressed in GRAY student host shirts instead of the blue uniform shirt. Feel free to ask a student host if you need help. They are friendly!

Orientation: Please discuss with your son the four assemblies he will have this week & next:

- A chapel prayer service
- A meeting with Level Teachers to review handbook and policies
- A meeting with the guidance department
- A meeting with Coach Ken Sears to review expectations of conduct. **Note: during this assembly, Coach Sears will conduct the Archdiocesan-mandated Child Protection/Safe Environment presentation which informs students about the dangers of abuse, how to prevent it, and what to do if it is suspected.** Please discuss this with your son.

Enrollment: We open this year with a very healthy enrollment. **Please stress with your son that you are giving him a gift by sending him to Saint Paul's – a gift that is wanted by others. Stress with him the obligation to make the most of the gift he is being given. Stress with him that attending Saint Paul's is a privilege and not a right. He can lose the privilege by making poor choices.**

Telephone/Email Info: A listing of all SPS staff phone extensions/email addresses is posted on our new website under Academics => Faculty Directory.



Tommy Leahy instructs campers at our Soccer Camp, one of the many successful ones we had this summer. Thanks to all the coaches for their hard work!

Cafeteria School Lunch / Breakfast Programs:

- 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 SPS.
- Breakfast (\$1) is served from 7:15-7:35 am. This is a GREAT program and many students use it.
- Students may buy lunch (\$2.25) On most days, there is a choice of hot lunch or sandwich lunch.
- **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 4 between 7 and 2:30 and Aug 5-6 between 7 and 2:00. 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 Thu, Aug 7, for use at lunch that day.**

- Parents may sign up for ON-LINE payments which will also allow them to see a complete record of everything their son is buying. Go to <http://www.schoolcafe.org/> and follow directions.
- **FREE or REDUCED LUNCH/BREAKFAST: There is no stigma to apply for free / reduced lunch. NO ONE knows but the cafe manager. Request forms from me or the cafeteria manager. NEW: You may also apply online for free / reduced lunch by following these steps:**
 - ✓ Go to www.Applyforlunch.com (or access the link from our website www.schoolcafe.org)
 - ✓ Click on “Start your Online Application”
 - ✓ Enter your Zip Code or State and select “Archdiocese of New Orleans” as the district.
 - ✓ Follow the wizard and use the guided help along the way
 - ✓ Continue to select “next” at the bottom of the page and “submit” when completed.

Should you list an email address, you receive an email confirmation that your application has been submitted. If you have any questions regarding Online Applications, please contact (504)596-3440 or (504)596-3434. Meal eligibility applications should be received prior to the 30th day of school or current meal benefits may change. **Students may also receive a free lunch by offering to help serve lunch during the lunch period.**

Attendance: The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss (whether excused or unexcused) and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. Consult the handbook.

OK, if you've made it this far in the newsletter, you deserve **Humor of the Week** (with apologies in advance): Some “English language & literature humor! With apologies in advance:

- *When is a sentence about to have a baby? When it has contractions.*
- *What was Charles Dickens' favorite and least favorite spice? The best of thymes and the worst of thymes!*
- *What happened when Past, Present & Future walked into the room? Things got tense.*
- *Why are apostrophes terrible to date? They're too possessive.*
- *What was Walt Whitman's favorite cereal? O Captain, my Cap'Crunch! [Walt wrote “O Captain, my Captain!”]*
- *How did Charlotte Brontë make it easier for everyone to breathe? She created Eyre [Get it? Jane Eyre?]*
- *Which dinosaur knows a lot of synonyms? The Thesaurus*
- *What's the difference between a cat and a comma? A cat has claws at the end of paws; a comma gives pause at the end of a clause.*
- *Why is John Milton terrible to invite to game nights? Whenever he's around, there's a pair of dice lost. [Get it? Milton wrote the famous “Paradise Lost.”]*
- *Why do words, phrases and punctuation keep ending up in court? To be sentenced.*
- *What happened when the verb asked the noun to conjugate? The noun declined.*



Lasallian Young Leaders practice New Student Orientation ice-breaker activities. I have absolutely no idea what they are doing!

- *What makes “Civil Disobedience” such a great essay? Thoreau editing* [Get it? Thoreau wrote Civil Disobedience.]
- *OK, I’ll stop!*

New Parent Reception / Information Meeting: A welcome reception and information meeting for **new parents** will be held on Monday, August 18, at 6:30 pm in the Briggs Assembly Center. More information will be emailed in early August. We hope you will be with us!

New Moms Tea: New Moms' Tea is Saturday, Aug 9th, at 3:00 p.m. in the cafeteria. ALL NEW SPS moms are invited to this event. All moms automatically belong to the Mothers Club, so get involved.

Homecoming Dances: The Junior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Oct 25. The Senior High Homecoming Dance will be Saturday, Oct 18.

Senior Parents: Note the following **upcoming special senior events** on **Thu, Aug 21:**

- **March through the Arch at 8 a.m.** Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional "rite of passage" ceremony for our seniors.
- **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’ll have outdoor seating.)
- Following breakfast, seniors will participate in **Senior Unity Day**, followed by pizza lunch and then Ring Ceremony practice. They will be dismissed following practice – 2 pm at the latest.
- **Senior Ring Ceremony at 6:30 pm** in the Briggs Assembly Center. Senior parents are strongly encouraged to attend this traditional ceremony, a highlight of the senior year. ALL seniors are required to attend the ceremony whether they are getting a ring or not. And, yes, family rings can be used.
- **Fri, Aug 22, is the Senior Ring Holiday. Seniors do not need to come to school.**



More Lasallian Young Leaders practice for the new student orientation. I still have no idea what they are doing, but I am very grateful to them and to the adults who work with them!

Dress Code: Students must comply with dress code beginning Aug 7. We will increase enforcement this year. Refer to previous newsletters or the student handbook for particulars if you are still unsure. **Note: We have a number of clean, pre-owned SPS uniform shirts in good condition. Feel free to ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student and no one will know. Thanks to those families who supply us with their outgrown uniforms. ID cards** must be worn DAILY on an SPS lanyard which will be given to students. This is a new school safety measure.

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.

Attendance: The State of LA 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.**

Jazz 'n Roll: J n R XXV is Sat evening, Oct 04. If you have questions, auction items and/or would like to work at J n R, call Shellie Campo at 892-3200, ext. 1273.

Need More Information? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, or Assistant Principal Joe Dickens. 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. Craig Ketelsen, Athletic Director. Naturally, call on me if you think I can help. My office phone is 892-3200, x 1001 & my cell phone is 966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com or hit "reply" to this email!

Student Hosts: Student Hosts will recruit and enroll new and returning members during the first few weeks of school in preparation for service at Jazz N Roll, Open House, Drama productions, Celebrity Waiters and other events. Students should see Ms. Hebert in the Administration Building for information.

Lost and Found: At the end of last year, we "rounded up" dozens of sweatshirts, uniform shirts, pants, socks, books, lunch boxes and other items that were left behind by students in all parts of the campus and never claimed. Most of the items had NO IDENTIFYING INFO and the ones that did had info that was illegible. Again, stress with your son the need for personal responsibility. **Clearly label clothing.** Thanks

From The Touchdown Club: Please join us for our annual adult social and dance on Sat, Sep 13th in the Briggs Assembly Center (BAC). The band is The Issue. Cocktails start at 7:00 and the band starts for 8:00. \$25.00 at the door includes all refreshments. For information and details about reserving a table, contact Debbie Bodenheimer, 985-502-1315. The atmosphere is casual and festive! Don't miss out.

8th Grade Football Sign-up and Spirit Night: 8th grade football sign up is Tue, Aug 5th in the gym from 5:00 – 7:00. You will be able to sign-up, purchase apparel, including Annual Game Day shirt, meet coaches and players, and enjoy jambalaya with the Wolves! *SPIRIT NIGHT* is for Varsity families as well. It's a great time to get ready for the upcoming season and purchase your SPS Game Day Shirts and miscellaneous football apparel!!



New caladiums and other flora beautify Founders Circle, thanks to the Botanical Wolves.

Campus Beautification: Many, many thanks to the parents and students who continue to work hard to help make our campus even more beautiful. The "Botanical Wolves" under the tenacious leadership of Mrs. Linda Trahan has planted many varieties of flora at our main entrance and in Founders Circle.

New Driving Policy: The driving habits of some students (speeding, revving of engines, screeching of tires, etc) are causing me a great deal of grief with the neighbors. I have spoken at length with some neighbors and also with the

Covington Police. The neighbors are declaring war on unsafe driving – and I’m supporting them. As our handbook states, driving to school and parking on our campus is a privilege, not a right. Accordingly, we are taking the following steps:

- Covington Police will increase their presence and issue tickets;
- Neighbors have been instructed to take pictures or get license plates of speeding or unsafe drivers and send the information to us;
- SPS has increased the number of faculty street supervisors after school;
- SPS has instituted a series of monetary fines (beginning at \$50 for a first offense) against students shown to be violating traffic laws around school;
- SPS reserves the right to revoke the driving to school privilege – which we have already done with one student who enraged the neighborhood on the last day of school in May.

We have tried to address this issue with students, but some are not getting the message. Hence, we will take stronger steps. Parents of students who drive to school – please stress safe driving with your sons. A car can be a lethal weapon if not used responsibly.

Off to a Good Academic Start: 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 have their homework on a particular day are sent to assignment hall.**

And, Finally, the Ugly Department: I’m not an administrator who hides things that go wrong. And so my first “ugly” item this year deals with social media (surprise!) Last week we took disciplinary action against a student who posted something inappropriate about another student on an Instagram account. **WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO!** Parents – speak with your sons. Check their sites! If they block you, they’re up to something! **We will not tolerate cyber-bullying (or any kind) and will even report it to the police, as it’s a crime.**

Whew! That’s enough for now! I’m sure I’ve forgotten something so email me if you still have a question about the opening of school. As usual, I’ll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows, which I’m listening to know as I write this newsletter: 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

Anxious to Begin the New Year as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School (proving, once again, that the rumors of my retirement that swirled at the beginning of summer were false – obviously continued wishful thinking on some people’s part!)

PS: Want more about SPS to read? Here’s the latest edition of Wolftracks, published Friday:

<http://www.stpauls.com/alumni/wolftracks/>

Five Core Principles of Lasallian Education: Quality Education, Inclusive Community, Respect for All, Concern for the Poor & Social Justice, and Faith in the Presence of God

