



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter



March 13 – 19, 2017

Repent and Believe the Good News –
as we begin the fourth quarter!



We recently observed the one-year anniversary of the passing of literary giant Harper Lee, whose best-selling novel To Kill a Mockingbird continues to endear readers to the Finch Family and inspire students and adults alike.



I hope you know that Nelle Harper Lee (she went by Harper because she didn't want people calling her Nellie) was born in 1926 in Monroeville, AL. Her novel was published in 1960. Immediately successful, it won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize and has become a classic of modern American Literature. In 2007, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contribution to literature. Known for her reclusiveness, she rarely gave interviews.

Last year I printed some of my favorite quotations from the novel when Harper died. They are worth re-printing again this year, as they continue to move me every time I read TKAM or view the academy award winning film. So here are the quotations –

which provide great reflection material for Lent:

- *You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.*
- *I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what.*
- *The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience.*
- *Atticus, he was real nice. Most people are, Scout, when you finally see them.*
- *You just hold your head high and keep those fists down. No matter what anybody says to you, don't you let 'em get your goat. Try fightin' with your head for a change.*
- *It's never an insult to be called what somebody thinks is a bad name. It doesn't hurt you.*
- *Bad language is a stage all children go through, and it dies when they learn they're not attracting attention with it.*
- *So it took an eight-year-old child to bring 'em to their senses.... That proves something - that a gang of wild animals can be stopped, simply because they're still human. Maybe we need a police force of children.*
- *Atticus said to Jem one day: Shoot all the blue jays you want, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." That was the only time I ever heard Atticus say it was a sin to do something, and I asked Miss Maudie about it. "Your father's right," she said. "Mockingbirds don't do one thing except make music for us to enjoy....They don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.*

Continue to rest in peace, Harper Lee. And thank you.



Math and Engineering did a cross curriculum project last week. Wonderful!

Mon, Mar 13 (St. Joseph Altar Schedule; All Periods – A through G --meet)

- **Fourth Quarter Begins Today**
- **St. Joseph Day Altar.** All will view the altar (a traditional Sicilian and New Orleans event) during religion classes. All will feast at lunch – for free. We are incredibly thankful to Dr. Ann Kay Logarbo, her family, and friends for their work in preparing the altar. Since St. John Baptist de La Salle named St. Joseph as the Patron of the Institute, and his image appears in the very first logo of the congregation, it is fitting that we remember St. Joseph in this unique way.
- **National Napping Day** (day after DST to help us adjust): SPS will not observe this day – at least not until 3 pm! Hope you “sprang forward” yesterday!
- **Mar 13 – 19: Brain Awareness Week:** Let’s celebrate our brains and encourage the students to use their brains! Here’s a website with activities about the brain: <http://www.dana.org/resources/brainykids/>
- **TDIH:** In 2013, Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina was elected pope, choosing the name Francis I.
- **TDIH:** In 1942, the US Army begins training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or "K-9 Corps."
- **Lacrosse:** SPS v. Strake Jesuit (7)

Tue, Mar 14 (Assembly; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** In 1879, Albert Einstein is born, the son of a Jewish electrical engineer in Ulm, Germany. Einstein's theories of special and general relativity drastically altered man's view of the universe, and his work in particle and energy theory helped make possible quantum mechanics and, ultimately, the atomic bomb.
- **Pi Day:** Pi, Greek letter (π), is the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Pi Day is celebrated by math enthusiasts around the world on March 14th (3/14) since $\pi = 3.1415926535\dots$ Get it?
- **Learn About Butterflies Day:** Some scientists think that the health of the butterfly population has implications for the health of the rest of the earth. Learn about the beautiful, helpful butterfly today! Did you know that we have a Monarch Butterfly garden on campus – behind the new gym?
- **National Potato Chip Day:** Snack away!
- **International Ask A Question Day:** Ask questions today!
- **Track:** Jr Hi in Northshore HS meet
- **Baseball:** 8th v. Franklinton (double header); JV & Varsity at Northshore
- **Tennis at Northshore**

Wed, Mar 15 (Regular; E F G A)

- **7 am mass in school chapel**
- **TDIH: Beware the Ides of March!** Julius Caesar was assassinated on this day in 44 BC. According to Shakespeare, when stabbed by close friend, Marcus Brutus, Caesar uttered *Et tu, Brute!*
- **Incredible Kids Day:** Celebrate by letting your kids know how good they are, and how much you love them.
- **Corn Dog Day:** Eat a corn dog today if you can handle it!
- **Cross Country:** Our State Championship Cross Country Team will receive their rings this evening in a special ceremony in the chapel

Thu, Mar 16 (Regular; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1802, the US Congress founds the United States Military Academy at West Point.
- **National Lips Appreciation Day:** Do something nice for your lips today! Use lip balm and civil language.
- **Baseball:** 8th in Northshore Tournament
- **LA College & TOPS Night (in the BAC) beginning at 5:30**
- **Track:** SPS/Trafton Academy Jr Hi Track Meet
- **Tennis v. Fontainebleau**

Fri, Mar 17 (Regular; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** In 461 A.D., Saint Patrick, Christian missionary, bishop and apostle of Ireland, dies in Ireland. Happy Feast Day to all Irish and Irish wanna-bees!
- **Baseball:** 8th in Northshore Tournament; Varsity v. John Curtis (at Miley in NO)
- **Lacrosse:** SPS v. Northshore (7)
- **Track:** Varsity in Andy Thiel Invitational at Fontainebleau
- **Powerlifting:** Iron Wolves in State Meet at UL at Monroe

Sat, Mar 18

- **TDIH:** On this day in 1852, in New York City, Henry Wells and William G. Fargo join with other investors to launch their namesake banking and shipping business.
- **Awkward Moments Day:** Celebrate our common humanity – we have all made awkward mistakes.
- **Track:** Varsity in Fontainebleau Meet
- **Baseball:** 9th in double header at Ponchatoula; Varsity v. DLS & Shaw (at Miley); 8th in Northshore Tournament
- **Powerlifting in State Meet**
- **Lacrosse** v. Pascagoula (12 and 3)
- **Marching Wolves** will participate in Battle of the Bands competition at UNO Lakefront Arena (6 pm)

Sun, Mar 19 – 3rd Sunday of Lent; I encourage our Catholic Families to attend mass today and our non-Catholic families to attend the church, synagogue or mosque of choice.

- **Swallows Return to San Juan Capistrano Day**
- **Poultry Day:** Eat chicken today! Or turkey! Or fowl of your choice!
- **TDIH:** In 1719, John Baptist de La Salle was gravely ill. Brother Luke Salm writes in his book “This Work Is Yours”: *As the Feast of St. Joseph drew near, de La Salle expressed a great desire to celebrate Mass in honor of this patron and protector of the Brothers. So weak was his condition and so intense the pain, that any such idea seemed out of the question. However, on the eve of the feast, he felt that pain was subsiding and his strength had returned. In the morning he was well enough to celebrate mass for the Brothers. They were overjoyed. But immediately thereafter, he relapsed. The end was near and that it was in honor of St. Joseph that he had celebrated Mass for the last time.* De La Salle died less than a month later, on Apr 7th.



LA 41st cadets on field trip to McDill AFB in FL.

Important 2017 – 18 Calendar Change: We learned last week of two first semester events that necessitate a change in next year’s calendar. Because of a Lasallian formation experience for the four Lasallian schools in the New Orleans area on Sep 1 and an Archdiocesan All Catholic School formation experience on Nov 6, **we will now end the first semester on Tuesday, Dec 19, after the last exam.** This still ends our semester a day before the public schools.

2017- 18 Registration: We will soon begin course selection for next year. Unregistered students will not be allowed to select classes. **If your son will not be returning, please give me the courtesy of an email so I can plan accordingly.**

Last Week in Review:

- **Mexico Exchange Program:** Six SPS Wolves have spent the past two weeks at a Lasallian school in Mexico City – the first phase of an exchange program that we are beginning with that school. From all accounts, it has been a wonderful experience for these students. We look forward to welcoming six students from this school to SPS in a few weeks – and look forward to expanding this program in the future. We welcome the boys back Monday.
- **Michael's Assembly:** Michael's assembly by The Shepherd Center was quite informative – and inspiring. The rep gave a brief biology lesson on the spinal cord and vertebrae and then explained Michael's injury, including showing the X-rays of Michael's spinal repair. She explained what Michael could and could not do and how we can help him. She stressed that he is still Michael – not a disabled kid, but a kid with a disability. I wish the whole school could have heard this inspiring message.
- **Pack Time:** Thanks to the Development Team for the lesson on philanthropy. I hope your son told you about it. They also got a lesson in writing thank you notes – which apparently was a new experience for most of them!
- **Bowling:** Wolves defeated Hannan & Ponchatoula last week. Good job, Kegler Wolves!
- **Baseball:** Some wins, some losses; the young season gets serious this week as District play opens.
- **St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Marching Wolves were back in action in the first St. Patty's Day Covington parade!
- **Engineering Field Trip:** A long drive to Lafayette but the boys said it was worth it.
- **HOSA:** We were well represented at the state convention; thanks, HOSA Wolves! The boys returned with many awards (details in a future newsletter) and the coveted HOSA Cup—the highest award!
- **Math Tournament:** Fighting Math Wolves were up and at 'em early Sat morning, headed to Brother Martin Tournament. As usual, they returned with a number of awards. Well done, FMWs!
- **AFJROTC Field Trip:** The LA 41st hit the road on Friday, heading to McDill AFB in FL. Thanks to Sgt. East for making these experiences possible for the cadets.
- **Lacrosse:** Senior night honored our seniors and their parents. And the teams did great, too.
- **Rugby:** Played on Sat but I didn't get a score!
- **SAT:** Another flawless testing.
- **Track:** Varsity placed 1st out of 16 teams in Judy Baehr Relays at Southeastern; Jr Hi placed 4th out of 16 teams in Trafton-CHS meet & JV did well in an unscored meet at Lakeshore.
- **Brothers' District Day:** 25 Christian Brothers gathered at SPS on Sat to celebrate Eucharist, remind ourselves of our common vocation, renew friendships, receive information from Brother Donald, our Provincial, and "pass a good time" together.
- **Habitat Wolves were in action on Sat.** Thanks!



Nico and Isaac rehearse for "Fiddler on the Roof" which opens next week.

Power of the Positive Educator: Here is the 6th of 7 points that motivational expert Jon Gordon says all teachers should adopt in order to be effective. I've been sharing these with our teachers but I also think many of them apply to parenting so I'm sharing them with you, too. So far, we have had "Be Positively Contagious" and "Take a Daily Thank You Walk" and "Celebrate Success", "Expect to Make a Difference" and "Believe in your students more than they believe in themselves." This week, it's "Develop Positive Relationships" – the heart of Lasallian education: Here is Gordon:

Author Andy Stanley once said, "Rules without relationship lead to rebellion." Far too many principals share rules with their teachers but they don't have a relationship with them. And far too many teachers don't have positive relationships with their students. So what happens? Teachers and students disengage from the mission of the school. I've had many educators approach me and tell me that my books helped them realize they needed to focus less on rules and invest more in their relationships. The result was a dramatic increase in teacher and student performance, morale and engagement.

To develop positive relationships you need to enhance communication, build trust, listen to them, make time for them, recognize them, show them you care through your actions and mentor them. Take the time to give them your best and they will give them your best.

Fiddler on the Roof: Tickets have gone on sale for our spring musical and are selling quickly. Encourage your sons to attend. This show will sell out, especially in the second weekend, so have them purchase tickets now. The show will be well worth their time. Tickets are available in the administration building.

Annual Fund: Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. 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 (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation and the \$4.5 million new gym.)
- 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!**
- While we don’t send requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! If you would like to inform your son’s grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I’ll personally appeal. I’ll send them a nice “thank you” note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.
- 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 are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

2017 - 18 (NEXT YEAR) CALENDAR: St. Tammany Parish Public School System has set its calendar for next year; we have modeled ours closely on theirs. Here are some important dates:

- **Mon, Aug 07: Full day of class instruction**
- Fri, Oct 06: 1st Quarter ends for SPS (11 am dismissal)
- Fri, Oct 06: Grandparent Day (11:30)
- Mon, Oct 16: Fall break. No classes.
- **Tue, Dec 19: Christmas (not winter) holidays begin for SPS at 11:45; THIS IS A CHANGE**
- **Wed, Jan 03: Class resume; SPS begins second semester**
- Fri, Feb 09: Faculty Retreat (no classes) followed by week off for Mardi Gras/Beginning of Lent Holidays
- Fri, Mar 30: Good Friday holiday followed by week off for Easter Holidays (not spring break)
- Sat, May 12: Graduation for the Class of 2018
- Mon, May 21 – Thu, May 24: Final exams for grades 8 - 11
- **Why the slight discrepancy in dates with the public schools? St. Tammany only has to schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools schedule 177. So in second semester, we will have two extra days.**

H of the W: In honor of track season:

- *Q: Did you hear about the lettuce and tomato race? A: Lettuce was a "head" and tomato was trying to "ketchup"!*
- *Q: Who is the fastest runner of all time? A: Adam, because he came first in the human race!*
- *Q: If twenty monkeys run after one banana, what time is it? A: Twenty after one!*
- *Q: What do you get when you run in front of a car? A: Tired!*
- *Q: What do you call a free treadmill? A: Outside.*
- *Q: What do you get when you run behind a car? A: Exhausted!*

- *Q: Why do dogs run in circles? A: Because it's hard to run in squares!*
- *Q: How do you know you're a dedicated runner? A: When your treadmill has more miles on it than your car.*
- *Q: Why do runners jog early in the morning? A: To finish before their brain figures out what they are doing.*
- *Q: If runners get athlete's foot what do astronauts get? A: Mistleto. [LOL! Get it? Missile Toe?]*
- *Q: Why did the vegetarians stop running cross country? A: They didn't like meets!*
- *Q: Did you hear about the marathon runner who ran for 3 hours but only moved 2 feet? A: He only had 2 feet!*
- *Q: Why can't you take a nap during a race? A: Because if you snooze, you lose!*
- *Q: What race is never run? A: A swimming race.*
- *Q: What does a runner eat when he is in last place? A: Ketchup.*
- *Q: How did the barber win the foot race? A: He took a short cut.*
- *Q: What do runners do when they forget something? A: They jog their memory*
- *OK, I'll stop!*



STATE Champion Robo-Wolves!

Fourth Quarter Period Rotation

March

- 13 – ABCDEFG – St. Joseph Altar
- 14 – ABCD – President's Assembly
- 15 – EFGA
- 16 – BCDE
- 17 – FGAB
- 20 – CDEF
- 21 – GABC
- 22 - DEFG
- 23 – ABCD – Juniors on Retreat/Angola
- 24 – EFGA – Juniors on Retreat/Angola
- 27 – BCDE – 12th Grade HR Breakfast in cafeteria
- 28 – FGAB – Pack Time
- 29 – CDEF- 8/9th HR Breakfast in BAC
- 30 – GABC -10/11th HR Breakfast in BAC
- 31 – DEFG – Mu Alpha Theta Convention

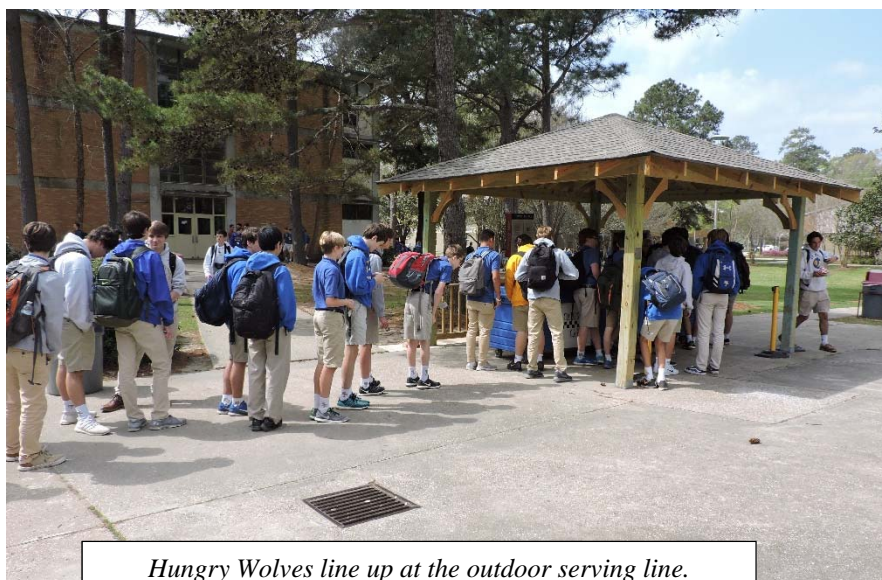
April

- 3 – ABCD – Leadership Week

- 4 – EFGA – President’s Assembly
- 5 – BCDE – Leadership Breakfast
- 6 – FGAB- Guest Speaker
- 7 – CDEF – Feast of St. La Salle
- 10 – GABC
- 11 – DEFG – Pack Time – Teacher Appreciation
- 12 – ABCD – Passion Play in BAC
- 13 – EFGA – Mandatum Assembly in Gym
- 24 – BCDE
- 25 – FGAB – President’s Assembly
- 26 – CDEF
- 27 – GABC
- 28-- DEFG

May

- 1 – ABCD
- 2 – EFGA – Pack Time (last)
- 3 – BCDE – Senior Exams
- 4 – FGAB – Senior Exams
- 5 – CDEF - Senior Exams
- 8 – GABC
- 9 – DEFG – Pres Assembly – Band Awards
- 10 – ABCD
- 11 – EFGA – Athletic Awards in AM
- 12 – BCDE – Academic Awards in AM
- 13 – Senior Graduation in BAC 4:00 PM
- 15 – FGAB – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 16 – CDEF – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 17 – GABC – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 18 – 9-11th Final Exams begin
- 19 – 9-11th Final Exams – Pre Freshmen Promotion in BAC at 6:30PM (yes, this is the correct date)
- 22 – Final Exams
- 23 – Final Exams
- 24 – Records Day



Hungry Wolves line up at the outdoor serving line.

Sudden Impact for Parents: All of our sophomores experience Sudden Impact – a powerful program by the LA State Police and local hospitals on the implications of unsafe driving decisions. Now, University Medical Center, in conjunction with St. Tammany Parish Hospital and the Louisiana State Police, will have one hour program for parents covering LA laws specific to teen driving, how to be your teen’s driving coach, how to log your teen’s driving experiences and more. The event will be on March 20 from 5:30 – 6:30 at St. Tammany Parish Hospital’s Covington Conference Room. Admission is free but you must register at

tracy.lemaire@lcmchealth.org



Michael has returned to SPS. We are making accommodations for his needs and welcomed him back enthusiastically. May all our Christian Brother saints intercede with Almighty God on Michael's behalf!

And even though it's mid-March of 2017, I will still close with a paraphrase from one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now as I write and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Thanks for being part of Saint Paul's School! I wish you a blessed week and a blessed Lent!

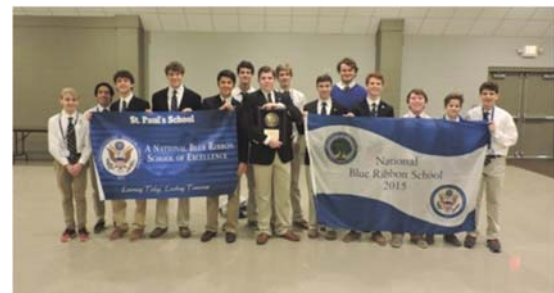
Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can't Believe It's the Fourth Quarter and I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President/CEO of Saint Paul's School

Quality education, inclusive community, respect for all, concern for poor & social justice, faith in God's presence – our mantras this week, throughout 2017, and always!



**...by doing ordinary things
extraordinarily well, making
courageous choices, doing
God's will, and remaining
faithful!**



Prayer for Lent

Eternal Father, we are sinners, yet you love us deeply. You see into the secret places inside us and you know us in our weakness and in our goodness. Give us the courage to look at our faults. Give us humility to ask for your help to repent and to make better choices. Guide us into new pathways that will draw our hearts home to you. In this time of Lent, may we turn away from our sinfulness and return ourselves to you, always aware of your presence and always obedient to your will. We ask this of you who lives and reigns with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.