



The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter

12/14/15 – 01/04/16

Final 2015 Edition!



Gaudete! Rejoice! Advent is almost over! The coming of the Lord is near!



For the past three years, I've quoted Brother Tim Coldwell, former Provincial of the former New Orleans-Santa Fe Province of Christian Brothers, on the occasion of his Gaudete (rejoice!) Sunday message to the Brothers. His words are worth reading again as we enter the final week of the first semester (more reason for rejoicing):

Holiness isn't looking like we shower daily at Lourdes. It's doing the daily with enthusiasm, fervor and zest. Bring a smile and a laugh and a peace to your reading, teaching, administering, worshipping, counseling, socializing, or adoring. Fr. James Martin [a Jesuit writer] says it better: "Joy evangelizes!"

What a great Gaudete week thought! On this third week of Advent, therefore, when the pressures of semester's impending end, the rush of the holidays, and the world being filled with unspeakable acts of evil bring stress to us all, I must remember to rejoice – so whatever happens this week, I intend to “bring a smile and a laugh and a peace” to it – and I invite you to do the same as we look forward to Friday at 11:45 AM! In that way, we will be holy! In that way, we will have Gaudeted! In that way, we will be better prepared for December 25. In that way, we will bring light to those whose lives are filled with gloom. Somehow, as difficult as it may be sometimes, we must rejoice!

Mon, Dec 14 (Exam schedule; regular E F G; Exam Review A; 2:15 dismissal)

- **TDIH:** In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole in Antarctica, marking the first time that humans reached the southern end of the Earth's axis. In 1799, George Washington, our first president, dies at his home in Mount Vernon, VA. He was 67 years old.
- **Monkey Day:** “Monkey business” is officially allowed today. Saint Paul's will NOT be celebrating this day!
- **Soccer:** Varsity at Northlake (6)



Wolves help Covington Police Department sort toys in preparation for Covington's Toys for Tots program.

Tue, Dec 15 – (8:15 start; Period A Exam; Prayer Service; President's Assembly; Periods B & C Review; 2:10 dismiss)

- **TDIH:** In 1791, Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making the first ten amendments to the Constitution law and completing reforms begun by the Declaration of Independence
- **TDIH:** In 1939, *Gone with the Wind* premieres in Atlanta (where else?) and shocks audiences when Rhett Butler (Clark Gable) says to Scarlett O'Hara (Vivian Leigh): *Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn* – an unheard of use of profanity on the silver screen in those days! Oh, for those days!
- **TDIH:** In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announces that the US would recognize Communist China and sever ties with Taiwan, reversing long standing US policy.
- **TDIH:** In 2005, ten million Iraqis take part in the first democratic election since defeat of Saddam Hussein.
- **National Cat Herders Day:** For all of you cat lovers, herd 'em up today! But this is also a day to attempt an impossible task – like herding cats.

Wed, Dec 16 – (8:15 start; Period B & C exam; D & E review; 2:10 dismissal)

- **Mass:** Since we are starting later, our mass will start at 7:30 this morning and be over before 8. Encourage your son to attend. It's a great way to make the most of Advent.
- **TDIH:** In 1773, the "Boston Tea Party" occurs when a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships in Boston Harbor and dump 342 chests of tea into the water. The three ships holding the British tea were built in America and owned by Americans according to [Boston Tea Party Ships & Museums](#). The museum also states hundreds took part in the event, with 116 individuals taking credit for it. The Sons of Liberty carefully planned and executed the Boston Tea Party according to the museum, which could have attributed to the absence of violence and confrontation. The three-hour event occurred on Dec. 16, 1773, because "American colonists believed Britain was unfairly taxing them to pay for expenses incurred during the French and Indian War," according to Historic Tours of America
- **TDIH:** In 1944, the infamous Battle of the Bulge began and would last until Jan 25. This was a final and desperate attempt by Adolph Hitler to force a negotiated peace treaty with the Allied Forces on the Western Front. Caught unprepared, the Allied Forces suffered over 20,000 casualties before defeating the German army.
- **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day:** Feel free to celebrate!

Thu, Dec 17 (8:15 start; D & E exam; F & G review; 2:10 dismissal)

- **Today** begins the "final days of Advent", characterized by the "O Antiphons" taken from the Liturgy of the Hours. Today's antiphon: *O Sapientia: O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.*
- **TDIH:** In 1903, Orville & Wilbur Wright fly the first powered, controlled, heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, NC. The flight wasn't much - 12 seconds, 120 feet. But it was the first controlled, sustained flight in a heavier-than-air craft, one of the great moments of the century.



*Hungry Wolves enjoy Mothers Club Snack Day.
Thanks, MC!*

Fri, Dec 18 (8:15 start; F & G exam; 11:45 dismissal)

- *O Adonai: O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai: come; stretch your hand & set us free.*
- **TDIH:** In 1777, the new United States celebrates its first national day of thanksgiving, commemorating the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga after the surrender of General John Burgoyne.
- **Bake Cookies Day:** Indulge!
- **Christmas Luncheon for faculty, staff, retired brothers, etc. – noon in cafeteria (thanks Mothers Club!)**
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV & Varsity v. Brother Martin (5, 6, 7)
- **Soccer:** JV in Hanhville Tournament

Sat, Dec 19

O Radix Jesse: "O branch of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

- **TDIH:** In 1843, Charles Dickens publishes "A Christmas Carol." Re-read this classic today, or at least recall the story, and don't be a "Bah! Humbug!" Scrooge today! God bless us, everyone!
- **National Re-gifting Day:** Reduce, reuse, and recycle ... regift!
- **Basketball:** 9th & JV in SPS Tournament

- **Soccer:** JV in Hahnville Tournament; 8th v. Christian Brothers (11)
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Rummel Tournament

Sun, Dec 20

- **O Clavis David:** *“O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.”*
- **Underdog Day:** Cheer for your favorite underdog today. Fortunately, SPS is not usually an underdog!



Christmas came early last week for Quiddich Wolves: custom made broomsticks and jerseys – and their own bulletin board!

Mon, Dec 21– Sun, Jan 3 -- Christmas (not winter) Holidays! You are on your own for athletic events, TDIH, National Whatever Days, H of the W, etc.

Mon, Jan 4 -- School resumes at 7:45 am; regular; second semester begins with ABCD

Christmas (not winter) Holidays: School will be closed from Dec 18 in the afternoon through Sunday, Jan 3. Teachers **will not** be available for grade discussions during this time. **The business office, counseling office, and administration offices will be closed.** Please anticipate any needs, e.g. transcripts, driver’s license forms, etc. **I’ll be in my office on most days during the holidays catching up, and you should feel free to call me. I’ll help if I can, but I don’t always know how!** Thanks for understanding the need for the staff to have an

uninterrupted Christmas break.

The Annual Fund: Thanks to all who have responded so far. I’m humbled by the response. But I need everyone to participate. No gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large! Let me know if you have questions. If you would like me to meet with you, I’d be happy to do so.

The Annual Fund and Grandparents: 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 don’t want to ask grandparents without your consent. I’ve already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large.

Christmas (not winter) Holidays: I worry about our students over the holidays b/c of the temptations to which they will be exposed. Use any opportunity to encourage your sons to make healthy choices over the holidays. I offer the following from Psychemedics (our drug testing company) which arrived recently:

Early age marijuana use could have long-term consequences on your brain and it may even lower your IQ, according to a new study conducted at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. Researchers found that compared to nonusers, people who smoked marijuana starting as early as age 14 have less brain volume, or gray matter, in the orbitofrontal cortex. That's the area in the front of your brain that helps you make decisions. "The younger the individual started using, the more pronounced the changes," said Dr. Francesca Filbey, the study's investigator. "Adolescence is when the brain starts maturing and making itself more adult-like, so any exposure to toxic

substances can set the course for how your brain ends up." Researchers also found increased brain connectivity in chronic users, important for adaptive learning abilities. It also helps your mind make associations. This wiring of the brain starts to deteriorate with chronic marijuana use. Dr. Susan Weiss, associate director for Scientific Affairs at National Institute on Drug Abuse said the study provides more strong evidence about the dangers of marijuana. "This is a complex and interesting study that adds to the growing body of evidence that heavy marijuana use, particularly at a young age, is linked to significant adverse brain changes," said Weiss. "These mounting scientific findings certainly challenge the widespread belief that marijuana is harmless."

Alcohol is a drug. And every day, more than 4,750 American kids aged 15 and younger take their first full drink of this drug. That's according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA. And the problem is not just that this consumption is illegal. Kids who start drinking before age 15 also are five times more likely to become alcoholics or abuse alcohol than are people who wait until adulthood for their first sip. Another big problem for kids who experiment with this drug is that they are more likely than adults are to consume too much alcohol over a short period of time. What few people realize is that binge drinking poses many risks that go well beyond getting drunk and acting irresponsibly. People forget what happens when they are drunk because alcohol makes it harder for the brain to turn short-term memories into long-term ones. But for teens, alcohol's dangers go well beyond impairing memory. "For humans, this means binge drinking during adolescence may permanently change brain functioning," says Vivian Faden, a scientist at NIAAA. What's more, she adds, these changes "appear to be irreversible." Research has shown that teens who drink heavily lose more white matter in their brain over time than do teens who don't, Faden says. White matter acts a bit like the brain's superhighway system. It connects areas of the brain's so-called gray matter, which processes information. Alcohol also can hurt a portion of gray matter in a region known as the prefrontal cortex, Faden says. This area is used for attention, concentration, self-control and making decision. For full story, read:

<https://student.societyforscience.org/article/alcohol-can-rewire-teenage-brainstory.html>

Hunter Stadium: The feature on Hunter Stadium finally aired last week on WGNO. It's worth three minutes of your time as it's a moving tribute to Doctor Pat Hunter, whose grandson is a senior. All of us should know the story. Here's the link: <http://wgno.com/2015/12/09/why-the-st-pauls-wolves-play-in-hunter-stadium/>

Musings on Last Week:

- **Immaculate Conception Mass:**

The mass was wonderful, with students singing and well-behaved. Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

- **Cross Country Awards:** A

good time was passed by all. Congrats CC.

- **Basketball:** Congrats on strong showing in F' Bleau Tournament.

- **Soccer:** great varsity win over Newman; 8th & 9th won big over Rummel; JV won big v. F' Bleau; 8th beat Gulfport & 9th beat St. Thomas More on Sat. GREAT.

- **Mothers Club:** The MC outdid itself this week with a snack day, luminarias refreshments, and a sumptuous Christmas dinner for the Brothers on Sat.

- **Adopt A Family:** Thanks to those who brought students to shop and to wrap. Donations have been very generous.



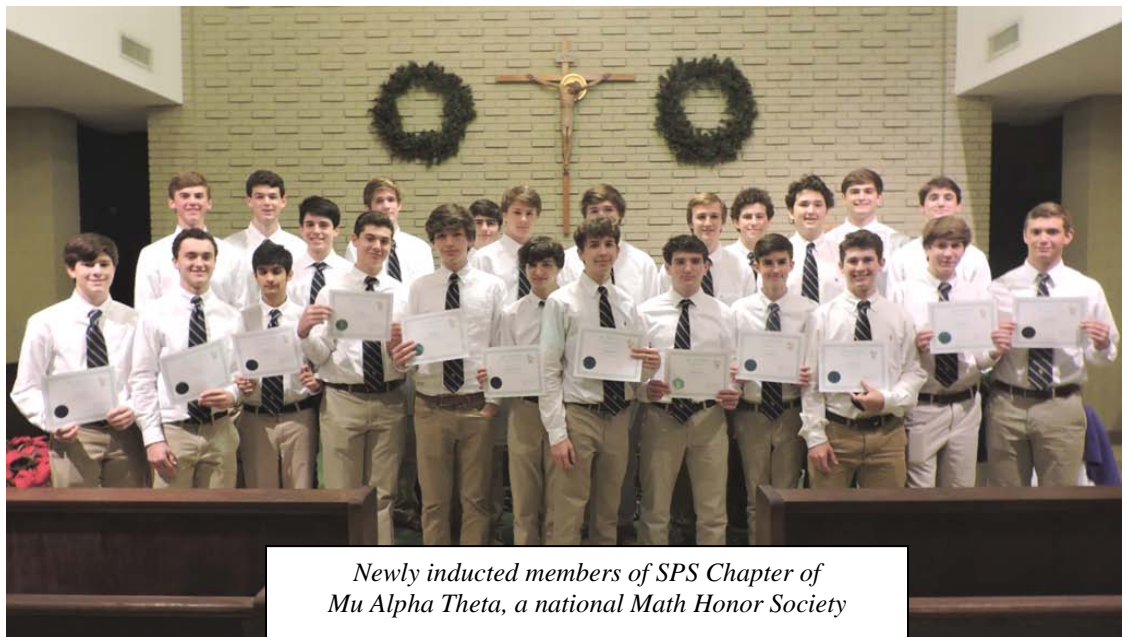
Varsity basketball team proudly displays 1st Place Trophy from the All State Sugar Bowl CYO Tournament!

- **Luminarias:** Last Thu was, once again, inspirational. Thanks, Student Council! And thanks to MC for refreshments and liturgical & jazz bands for music. By the way, the student council chose the Latin words *Ad Sum* for the stadium display. The words mean “I am here” – an affirmation that God is indeed “here” always. Very Lasallian (Let us remember...) And now you know. Congrats, Student Council, on a very original concept. And two years ago, WGNO TV produced a video on our luminarias. It’s worth a look, so here’s the link: <http://youtu.be/pwpDjiufPU>
- **ACT:** Don and his crew of proctors administered the test to a large group on Sat.
- **Class Presentations:** I enjoyed watching some excellent student presentations in English 8 H on Greek mythology. Our guys are getting better and better in making presentations – valuable skills. And Joanna Case’s English III H class had an outstanding class discussion on *Catcher in the Rye*. I was VERY impressed!
- **Jazz Band:** The jazz wolves performed at Mandeville Trailhead on Sat, bringing Christmas cheer.
- **Mu Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony:** 24 new inductees! Thanks, Math Department!
- **Robo-Wolves** were up and at ‘em early Sat morning, heading to competition at Holy Cross. No results at time of printing newsletter, but I’m sure they represented us in exemplary fashion!
- **Drug Dog Search:** St. Tammany Sheriff’s office brought their drug dogs to campus last week for an unannounced search. Fortunately, no “hits” at all. We give thanks. We will continue to have these unannounced searches. Parents, please speak with your sons. Possession of drugs on school property carries harsher criminal penalties.
- **Wrestling:** Our JV & Jr Hi guys did well over the weekend: 1st -Cole Ulfers; 2nd - Charlie Layman, Connor Oviedo, Eli Applebaum, Christian McHugh, Evan Ulfers; 3rd - Matthew Algero, Colton Porter, Justin Streckfus, Michael Crockett, Mason Impastato, Ben Bobrowski, & Jake Arena

Calling All Oenophiles: The Lasallian Education Fund of the San Francisco New Orleans district is offering a Brother Timothy Cabernet wine sale until December 14, 2015. Funds raised from the sale of this great wine can be designated to benefit SPS and must be used for financial assistance. (Brother Timothy Diener was the longtime wine master of Christian Brothers Winery.) Hess Winery partners with the Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans to produce limited Brother Timothy signature wines every season. Interested? Hurry! Here’s the link: <http://lcbfoundation.org/wine-for-scholarships/>

It’s a Wonderful Life Rerun: I’ve printed this the last three years but it’s worth a yearly read, as *IAWF* is one of those Christmas classics that many enjoy seeing over and over. Here’s what Director Frank Capra said about the film:

It’s a Wonderful Life wasn’t made for the oh-so bored critics or the oh-so jaded literati. It was for my kind of people. ... A film to tell the weary, the disheartened, and the disillusioned; the wino, the junkie, the prostitute; those behind prison walls and those behind Iron Curtains, that no man is a failure. To show those born slow of foot or slow of mind, those oldest sisters condemned to spinsterhood, and those



Newly inducted members of SPS Chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, a national Math Honor Society

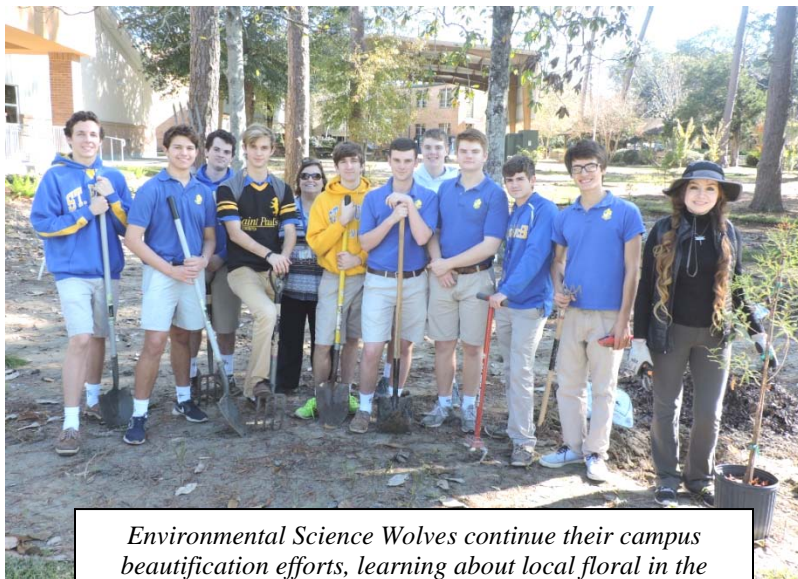
oldest sons condemned to unschooled toil, that each man's life touches so many other lives. And that if he isn't around it would leave an awful hole. A film that said to the downtrodden, the pushed around, the pauper, "Heads up, fella. No man

is poor who has one friend. Three friends and you're filthy rich." A film that expressed love for the homeless and loveless; for her whose cross is heavy and him whose touch is ashes; for the Magdalenes stoned by hypocrites and the afflicted Lazaruses with only dogs to lick their sores. To shout to the abandoned grandfathers staring vacantly in nursing homes, to the always interviewed but seldom adopted half-breed orphans, to the paupers who refuse to die while medical vultures wait to snatch their hearts and livers, and to those who take cobalt treatments and whistle -- I wanted to shout, "You are the salt of the earth. And It's a Wonderful Life is my memorial to you!"

2016 -17 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:

- Wed, Aug 03: Faculty meetings begin for both public schools and SPS
- **Mon, Aug 08: Full day of class instruction for both public schools and SPS**
- Sat, Oct 8: Jazz n Roll
- Fri, Oct 14: 1st Quarter ends for both public schools and SPS
- Mon, Oct 17: By request of the Faculty Advisory Board, a fall break day has been added. No classes.
- **Fri, Dec 16: Christmas holidays begin for SPS at 11:45; St. Tammany continues until Tue, Dec 20.**
- **Tue, Jan 03: SPS begins second semester; St. Tammany begins on Wed, Jan 4**
- Fri, Feb 24: Faculty Retreat (no classes) followed by week off for Mardi Gras/Beginning of Lent Holidays
- Fri, Apr 14: Good Friday holiday followed by week off for Easter Holidays
- Sat, May 13: Graduation for the Class of 2017
- Mon, May 15: Promotion Ceremony for the Class of 2021
- Thu, May 18 – Wed, May 24: Final exams for grades 9 - 11
- **Wed, May 24: SPS ends; St. Tammany ends on Tue, May 23**
- **Why the slight discrepancy in dates? St. Tammany only has to schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools must schedule 177. So in the second semester, we will have two extra days.**

Admissions for 2016-17: At this point, any new 8th grade applications for next year will be on a “wait list” basis. We are VERY pleased with the quantity and quality of the Class of 2021.



Environmental Science Wolves continue their campus beautification efforts, learning about local floral in the process.

Application Letters Excerpts: More memorable lines from next year’s application letters:

- *On Shadow Day, I did not see one unhappy person.*
- *I attended Open House and remember walking to the Briggs Assembly Center thinking “Wow, I love this campus!” Then, after hearing the speeches and seeing the words “Rise Up, O Men of God”, I knew I wanted to become a man of God at St. Paul’s School. I hope to become a wolf and to one day proudly “March through the Arch” as a graduate of Saint Paul’s School.*
- *I get boggled when I think of all the possibilities I have at Saint Paul’s. [We’ll try to “unboggle” him when he’s here!]*

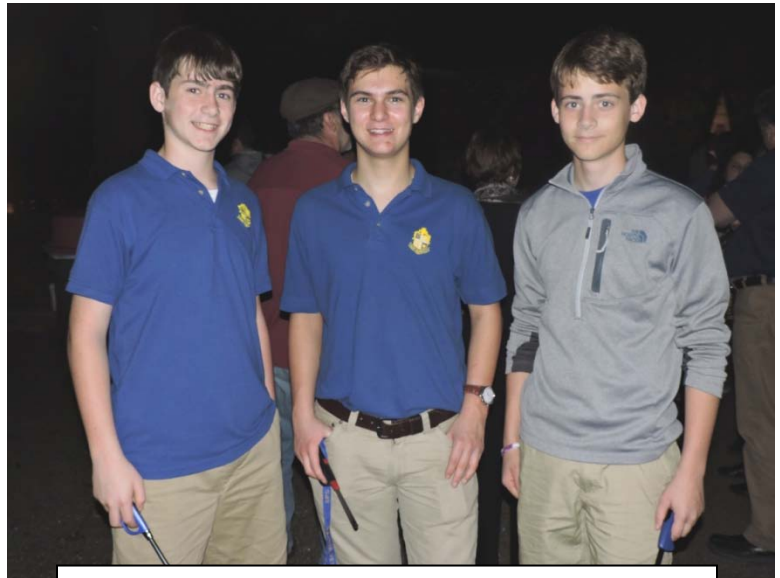
- *I had the opportunity to shadow and it was such a great experience. Brother Ray is such a good speaker and really grabbed my attention. [Shameless flattery will get this guy admitted!]*
- *I am the oldest in my family and hope to start a tradition of going to St. Paul’s for my two younger brothers.*

- *I want to go to St. Paul's not just because my parents and friends told me too [sic], but because I know St. Paul's is the best place for me to realize my hopes and dreams for the future. [But we will need to teach him about to v. too!]*

Senior Parents: Senior Retreat is just around the corner. You should have received an email with all the details from Renee Miller and Lee Pierre, retreat coordinators. If you didn't receive this email, please email Renee at reeneep@stpauls.com or Lee at leep@stpauls.com.

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 a number of khaki pants available – all for the taking.

A Word about Exams: Semester exams begin on Dec 15. The schedule is printed below and was sent by Trevor Watkins last week. Remember that exams are SEMESTER exams which will cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the only grade that counts in GPA and the only grade on the transcript) will be averaged in the following manner: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the semester exam.



Joey, Jack, and Ruston prepare to light the luminarias!

Encourage your son, therefore, to take his exams seriously. **It's time to start reviewing.** A good review lasts several weeks and avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son in college.

Adopt A Family: We again have identified several needy families in the local St. Tammany Parish area and have "adopted" them in order to provide them with a wonderful Christmas. Students on each level will shop, wrap and deliver the gifts. It's a very educational endeavor in social justice. We encourage your son to participate if he is able. Donations will be accepted for the next two weeks.

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: 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.** Remember that ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

A SERVE TEN Reminder: Five service hours are due. Students must fill-out and turn in completed "Serve Ten" forms to the Counseling Department in order to get credit for their service hours. We have been advertising MANY service opportunities. Remember that service hours are mandatory, not optional.

Current Student Re-Registration for 2016 - 17: For those of you who plan ahead, here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- To register for 2016 - 17, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP.**

Important Driver's License Requirement: A new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently

enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license.

PLEASE: Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. Under ordinary circumstances, it is difficult enough to keep track of the students. When you call Erin and request “immediate” dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your student and have him check in with the attendance office when he comes to school to get a dismissal slip for the time requested. This is the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can’t stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a message – we just don’t have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.

The Paper

Wolf: The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. The



Freshman soccer wolves practice under watchful eyes of coaches.

students are very excited about this new venture. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here’s the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class! Here are some stories from last week worth reading:

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: Parents – 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, 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.

Cash Back Programs: Please keep the following in mind when you shop:

- Amazon Smile: This website, operated by Amazon, lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The difference is that when using AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – which we hope will be Saint Paul’s School! Click here to shop on AmazonSmile: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895>.
- Office Depot: Last week we received a \$500 store credit from customers who gave SPS ID at the checkout. Our number is officially 70041640 but saying Saint Paul’s will do. This will help a lot.

- **Box Tops for Education:** Each top is worth 10 cents – which adds up quickly. Thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS financially..

Mission Collections, Adopt a Family Projects, and Other Worthy Causes: We encourage our students to be generous with these causes. However, I again want to reassure parents that we DO NOT want to cause an economic hardship for our families. Please speak with your son about charitable giving. Perhaps you can reread as a family the parable of the Widow’s Mite. Our teachers are aware that not every student can give or give a lot. PLEASE let me know if your son is feeling uncomfortable with our appeals. And that goes for you, too. Let’s face it – tuition does NOT cover the cost of running Saint Paul’s. Hence, we have fundraisers. As stated above, I’ve launched our Annual Fund Drive, and if you can give, that’s great. If not, I understand but ask that you pray for Saint Paul’s. In turn, we pray for financial health for all.

And Speaking of Edline: Please check Edline regularly for important info about your son’s grade and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.*

Tutoring: The National Honor Society offers tutoring each Tue and Thu during ALL of Lunch in LaSalle Hall Room 205 and each Wed and Thu from 7:15AM in LaSalle Hall Room 212. It’s easier to be tutored early in the than to wait until later in the quarter. Get a jump on exam study by visiting our NHS tutors! The tutors are friendly and helpful! To borrow a line from a popular commercial “put these men to work!”

Lost and Found: The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it’s probably in our lost and found. Parents, please put your son’s name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

Warm Hearts Drive: We are conducting our annual Warm Clothing Drive, collecting gently used warm clothing for the needy. Be prepared to send usable but no longer needed sweaters, jackets, blankets, gloves – anything that can help someone stay warm this winter. Thanks, Lasallian Young Leaders, for this service. The drive ends Dec 15.

A Look Ahead – Way Ahead!

- December 15-18- Exam Schedules
- January 4 – ABCD
- January 5 – President’s Assembly -Snack Day
- January 6-8 Senior Retreat
- January 9 – Application Day (Explore Test)
- January 12 – Pack Time
- January 14 – Juniors to WWII Museum
- January 19 – President’s Assembly
- January 20 – 9th Grade PLAN Test
- January 22 – President’s Assembly (music practice)
- January 25 – 9:15 Mass (Conversion of St. Paul)
- January 26 – 12th Grade HR Breakfast
- January 27 – 11th Grade HR Breakfast
- January 28 – Career Day – Juniors / 10th Grade HRB
- January 29 – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
- February 1 – Late Start- Parent Teacher meetings
5:00-7:00
- February 2 – President’s Assembly
- February 3 – Pre Freshmen HR Breakfast
- February 5 – Faculty Retreat



Wolves’ art work displayed in La Salle Hall lobby

February 6 – ACT on Campus
 February 16 – Pack Time
 February 23 – President’s Assembly – Teacher Appreciation Lunch
 February 25-26- Juniors on Retreat/Angola Field Trip
 March 1 – Pack Time – Snack Day- Freshmen Service/Retreat



And even though the semester draws to a close, meaningful learning continues, as Koby and Shane concentrate on their chemistry experiment.

March 2 – Freshmen Service/Retreat
 March 5 – SAT on Campus
 March 7 – St. Joseph Altar (All periods meet)
 March 8 – President’s Assembly
 March 11 – End of Third Quarter
 March 15 – ACT for juniors
 March 21 – Late start for faculty meeting
 March 22 – President’s Assembly
 March 23 – Passion Play (two lunch schedule)
 March 24 – Mandatum
 March 25 – Good Friday holiday
 April 5 – Pack Time
 April 7 – Mass (SJB DLS)
 April 9 – ACT on campus
 April 11-15 – Leadership week
 April 12 – President’s Assembly –Teacher Appreciation Lunch
 April 18 – Late start
 April 19 – Pack Time – Snack Day
 April 20 – Life Skills day for seniors –Pre Freshmen HR Breakfast

April 21 – 9th Grade HR Breakfast
 April 22 – Blue Ribbon Holiday
 April 25 – 10th Grade HR Breakfast
 April 26 – President’s Assembly
 April 27 – 11th Grade HR Breakfast
 April 28 – 12th Grade HR Breakfast
 April 28-29 – Sophomore Service Days/Retreat
 May 3 – Pack Time
 May 4-6 – Senior Exams in BAC
 May 10 – President’s Assembly – Band Awards in Evening
 May 11 – 13 – Pre Freshmen Exams
 May 11 – Grad Night
 May 12 – Athletic Awards in am
 May 13 – Academic Awards in am
 May 14 – Senior Graduation 4:00 pm in BAC
 May 16 – Pre Freshmen Promotion
 May 17-19- Exam Schedule
 May 20 – Teacher records day

First Semester Exam Schedule

Monday, December 14 – EFG(A)

(80 Minute Classes)

7:40 Chimes

7:45 – 9:20 Period E
 9:27 – 11:02 Period F/SSR
 11:02 – 11:42 Lunch
 11:47 – 1:12 Period G
 1:19– 2:04 Period A Exam Review
 2:10 Dismissal

Tuesday, December 15

Special Exam/Prayer Service/ President’s Assembly/Snack Schedule

8:15 -8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
 8:30 – 10:00 Period A Exam
 10:05-10:45 Advent Prayer Service (Gym)
 10:55- 11:40 Period B Review
 11:40-12:25 Lunch
 12:30-1:00 President’s Assembly (Gym)
 1:00-1:15 Break
 1:15 – 2:00 Period C Review
 2:10 Dismissal

Wednesday, December 16

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
 8:30 -10:00 Period B Exam
 10:00-10:10 Break
 10:10-11:40 Period C Exam
 11:40-12:25 Lunch
 12:30-1:15 Period D Review
 1:20-2:05 Period E Review
 2:10 Dismissal

Thursday, December 17

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
 8:30 -10:00 Period D Exam
 10:00-10:10 Break
 10:10-11:40 Period E Exam
 11:40-12:25 Lunch
 12:30-1:15 Period F Review
 1:20-2:05 Period G Review
 2:10 Dismissal

Friday, December 18

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
 8:30 -10:00 Period F Exam
 10:00-10:10 Break
 10:10-11:40 Period G Exam
 11:45 Dismissal
 12:00 Faculty Christmas Luncheon in Cafeteria



Colin writes his prayer intention on a luminaria bag in last week's Wolf Pack.

Care and Vigilance: We’ve got one week left to go. The best way to prevent any difficulty is through the Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance – which will be in full force. Teachers will teach until the very end and proctor exams

diligently. **Parents, please remind your students to adhere to ALL procedures & policies.** We will show care to the students, but we will be vigilant.

Ben Blanchard '00 Update: From Ben's brother, Chris '05 sent Fri night: *Ben's new X-rays and a CT scan performed Monday showed the areas of concern in his right lung have grown more than two times larger in size than his last scans. After speaking with a thoracic surgeon and learning that Ben is not a candidate for surgery he returned to his previously scheduled Chemo this week. The plan is to perform another CT scan in two weeks to analyze any changes which occur and then develop any further battle plans from that information. I respectfully ask those of you inclined to please continue to pray for Ben. Though he has not been feeling his best, he has maintained his upbeat and positive attitude. He continues to be an inspiration and an example for all of us touched by his courage. We are forever grateful for our many friends and family who have lifted up us and supported Ben.* The Brothers regularly pray for Ben. I respectfully ask that you do, too.

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING (Yes, I know I'm repeating this!): Parents – 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. Obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting driving, buckle up, etc. Thanks!

H of the W: More Christmas jokes to honor the season:

- *Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus? A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.*
- *Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve? A: Okay everyone, sack time!!*
- *Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Snowflakes.*
- *Q: If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called? A: A subordinate clause.*
- *Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace? A: He wanted to sleep like a log.*
- *Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E? A: Because the angel had said, "No L!"*
- *Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Because it "soots" him!*
- *Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney? A: Pour Santa flush on him.*
- *Q: Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer now works for Proctor and Gambel? A: It's true: Comet cleans sinks*
- *Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? A: Claustrophobic.*
- *Q: Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? A: Because every buck is dear to him.*
- *Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive"? A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"*
- *Q: What's a good holiday tip? A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until the birds have gone south for winter.*
- *Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? A: It's Christmas, Eve!*
- *Q: What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month? A: The letter "D"!*



"I am here!" – Student Council reminds all that God is present to us during Christmas – and always!

- *Q: What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? A: Santa Claustrophobia!*
- *Q: What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Black mail!*
- *And for the musically literate: Make out your Chopin Liszt early before Debussy season, when you have time to check out Verdi good bargains, can still get gifts Faure good price, not have to Handel large crowds and have time to give Bach things you decide you don't want.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

Whew! I've worn you out again this week! **But the newsletter goes on Christmas vacation so you get a break for the next two Sundays! The next newsletter will appear on Jan 3.**

As usual, I'll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to right now and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

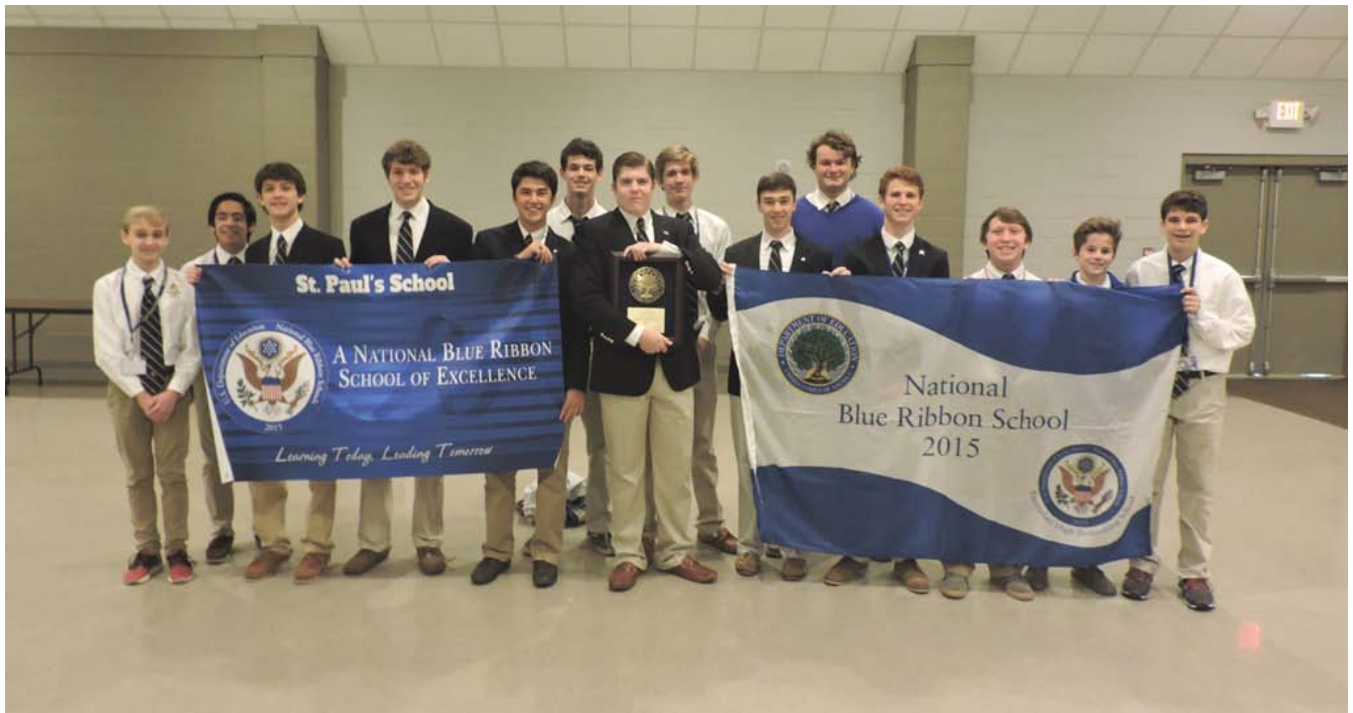
As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace, I can think of no better way to end than to reprint the Lasallian Prayer for Peace which we recited from Oct 21 to Nov 21 and which the Brothers pray at the end of their daily mass:

We pray to You, Lord, God of life and God of those who hope! Listen to our prayer for the whole world, for peace among all peoples, for prosperity in all lands. We pray to You that evil may be overcome and that all wars may end. We pray to you especially for the members of our Lasallian Family, who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance and for the children and young people who are poor and neglected. We pray too, God, for peace in our lives; in our towns, in our schools, in our families and in our own hearts. We pray for a peace that the world cannot give us. We pray for a peace that will make us whole and transform us into ambassadors of justice for your sake. Lord, give us Your peace! Amen.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Ready to Rejoice for Christmas as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

Have a blessed Christmas season! Thank you for the First Semester! Maranatha!



***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near!
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!***