

Student Body President
Mid-Year Report

To whom it may concern,

As the school year hits its halfway mark, I know I speak on behalf of the Student Council as well the entire student body when I say we are very pleased with the past six months. This year, I wanted to have an emphasis on redefining and rebranding the role of class officers and giving them numerous opportunities to dream up their own plans, work on them, and accomplish them. I am ecstatic with the way the class officers and student board have responded by taking the initiative and executing.

For instance, last August, recently appointed student board member Paul Stolin got news of a dire need for pet supplies in the overcrowded St. Tammany Humane Society due to the devastating flooding in Livingston Parish. Paul came to me and expressed the critical condition the facility was in and proposed a “pet drive” that aimed to donate pet supplies and food to the St. Tammany Humane Society. The work Paul did to facilitate the drive directly addressed a problem in the community and fixed it. The drive still remains a beneficial success that only started with Paul’s dedication to people (and animals) in the surrounding community.

Paxton Ballard, current freshman Class President, additionally demonstrated his dedication to his peers when he undertook the responsibility of planning and executing the Christmas dance geared to the 8th/9th graders. Paxton was instrumental in attaining the help and support from the administration to promote this dance, which has never been done in my five years at Saint Paul’s.

The last five years have also never seen such a well dressed senior class until this year. Senior Class President and Vice President Andy Grashoff and Liam Ordoyne argued for more polyester based seniors shirts that sported the Saint Paul’s logo along with the classic “Class of 2017” beneath it. These shirts are regarded very highly amongst the seniors for their comfort and stylish looks. The only way these shirts came into existence is from the senior officers hearing the wishes of their class and responding in kind with dedication and advocacy.

These examples persist to be only a handful of the many accomplishments completed by your student council officers. I strongly encourage each student to create dialogue with their individual representatives and help address problems and ideas at Saint Paul’s. However, the accomplishments have not solely been completed by individuals. The student council at large has taken many steps to ensure that the school year of 2016-2017 was the most successful year yet.

We started out in the late summer where the council met at school for a whole day and planned and mapped out the upcoming school year. This meeting consistently prevails to be a grueling day where we are locked in a classroom to create, problem solve, learn, hear problems, and lead. Five months later, I could not be more proud of everything since that meeting.

In early August, Andy Grashoff and myself, finished the work necessary to complete the “Wolf Bite Pavilion” which now hosts the grab n’ go lunch. This pavilion offers the cafeteria workers their own space, roofing, and electricity, but the workers expressed to me that their tremendous relief was from not having to bring their supplies up the ramp to the senior pavilion anymore. Additionally, the senior class expressed their gratitude when they had a space of their own which now fosters an atmosphere of togetherness and camaraderie. Furthermore, my greatest thank you has to be the select seniors, parents, and administrators who physically helped and supported the construction of this formidable project.

Before school started, Student Body Vice-President Oliver Sibley and I took on another formidable project of changing the prom venue. While I can not comment on the exact details, I will say the council has the best interests of Saint Paul’s students not only for this year but years to come. Oliver and I developed some contacts and options that will make prom better and better each year-- beginning this year.

Once school commenced, the council began our weekly meetings on Mondays. Every Monday we meet at lunch, and I would facilitate discussions about what is going on or what needs to be done at Saint Paul’s. Meetings constantly prove to be extremely effective due to the class officers willingness to listen and motivation to act.

Early in those meetings, we decided that we wanted to add more service oriented ideals into our council. So immediately Student Council volunteered at the foodbank and organized a school supply drive as result of the August/September flooding. Both these events were fruitful because of what we intended to do and what we actually did.

Once football season advanced, the council made some practical compromises and deals that really enhanced the Hunter Stadium experience. We decided that the student section would move to the smaller stands for the Mandeville and Jesuit games in exchange for guaranteed increased student section size in the big stands for all of the other home games and the ability to rush the field against rivalry teams. Next, we introduced game towels that were comprised of the classic howling wolf; the game towels were a major success especially when coupled with the student council-made bottle shakers that simply put were extremely loud.

Student Council, furthermore, aspired to delve into the more technological environment with Guerilla Wolves and devise first class snapchat filters for the campus. Brandon Gallego, Oliver Sibley, Carson Caulfield, and I got to work on this project and helped innovate the circular howling wolf geotag that is so often used today.

Homecoming marked a huge accomplishment this year due to planning and execution that went into it. Our executive board made sure to make a more visible dance floor instead of the usual warehouse setting. This year we installed trellises around the perimeter of the dance floor and draped each one with blue ribbon and christmas lights which were all well received. Additionally, the music remains an outstanding triumph because of the professional DJ that refrained from the typical style of playing whole songs, instead playing the best parts of popular songs.

Along with Homecoming, I believe the pep-rallies have improved tremendously. Now, I will be the first to admit that no student will ever get super excited about attending pep-rallies, but I feel that they are part of the Saint Paul's tradition and if done right can be a huge success. As a council, we have our done our best to organize pep-rallies that are engaging and fun. From the donut eating contest to the "mannequin challenge," I am confident that the time spent have pep-rallies has become much more valuable in comparison to recent years.

On a more serious note, I must address how I proud I am of the way that Saint Paul's responded to Michael's devastating injury. I could not be more proud of how much support and love students have given him over the past weeks. Specifically, I must express my gratitude for the Junior class for stepping up and generating opportunities to back Michael and his family. Junior Class President Ashton Van Deventer, Junior Vice-President Carson Caulfield, Student Board Public Relations Luc Hebert, and Student Board officer Matthew Stalter all contributed in selling the coveted "Might Michael" wristbands, making get better soon videos, and presenting a get better sign for the student body to sign. The Junior class has proven to be instrumental in supporting Michael's long road to recovery.

The Thanksgiving Food Drive was another event that was organized by the Council in order to aid the community in a time of need. This has become an integral tradition at Saint Paul's of donating and delivering cans to the foodbank before every Thanksgiving. This year marks another example of how students and the Council both had high ambitions of how much we could donate. We have joined the past years in delivering an impressive 6,000+ pounds along with the class officers and Seniors to help unload it.

Recently, Student Council has adopted the responsibility of encouraging students to write letters to their teachers that we will deliver. While students enjoy writing to their favorite teacher, teachers love even more receiving all kinds of letters from their favorite students. The Council and I have made it a point to be large proponents of handwritten letters, especially in this Christmas time. It is now clear to the Student Council why moderators, Joanna Case and Audrey Pool, really endorsed the handwritten letters early on in the year.

Luminaries always persists as a highlight of the year for the Student Council and the community. The chosen word this year, “Lux,” spoke to all members in the community and provided a hopeful message of following the light as Jesus Christ did. However, the behind the scenes work was immensely helpful in that the Council collaborated with members of NHS and Key Club to spread the bags filled with candles around the entirety of our large campus.

Lastly, I am positive that the student body appreciates the constant updates on “everything Saint Paul’s” by our twitter account [@wolfnationsps](https://twitter.com/wolfnationsps) which is ran by Student Board Public Relations Luc Hebert and Student Body Secretary Alex Nunez. These members have fulfilled the important role of keeping our student body informed and engaged in the happenings at Saint Paul’s.

At this halfway mark, I don’t wish to describe what the Student Council has done to brag; on the contrary, I strongly believe that the Council has an obligation to the students to fulfill their promises and tell you what they have or have not done. While I am pleased by the actions taken this year by the Council, there is always more work to be done. We yearn to assist each and every one of the students, teachers, and administrators; so, please start a dialogue with us if anything or anyone in the Mid-Year report sticks out to you. We are always looking to improve our leadership, and we have a lot plans and events coming this next half term. Our fearless Saint Paul’s representative Chris Wilson and the Council are planning to run for Vice-President of all Louisiana Student Councils, Paxton Ballard intends to run for a district office in student council, Oliver Sibley is already working on making an entertaining Challenge night, I am organizing a Mugshots day for the school next January, and many more projects are happening everyday by the Student Council.

While this term is halfway over, I can not express enough how much I wish to restart it again and relive some of the greatest moments of my Saint Paul’s career. It has a been a joy to serve as Student Body President and attempt everyday to make Saint Paul’s a better place to grow up as men of God. I could not be more proud by all of the accomplishments our school has already completed-- whether it be in swimming, football, soccer, cross country, quidditch, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, The Paper Wolf, Guerrilla Wolves, Key Club, LaSallian Youth Leaders, Spanish Club, Wolves of Fury, Eco Car, and the many other clubs and teams that

continue to be excellent in all endeavours. Out of my five years, each year seems to get better and the school year of 2016-2017 is no exception. As Student Body President, I will continue to work towards an even better next half term and represent the needs of the Student body.

I must mention the young men who work closely with me to make Saint Paul's better as well:

Executive Board:

Student Body Vice-President Oliver Sibley

Student Body Secretary Alex Nunez

Student Body Treasurer Josh Devier

Class Board:

Senior Class President Andrew Grashoff

Senior Class Vice-President Liam Ordoyne

Junior Class President Ashton Vandeventer

Junior Class Vice-President Carson Caulfield

Sophomore Class President Jake Durapo

Sophomore Class Vice-President Ross Hightower

Freshman Class President Paxton Ballard

Freshman Class Vice-President Luke Vartges

Pre-Freshman Class President Michael Slimming

Pre-Freshman Class Vice President Davis Laguarde

Student Board:

Parliamentarian Ryan Flood

Public Relations Luc Hebert

SSA Liaison Matthew Stalter

Student Officer Chris Flood

Student Officer Paul Stolin

Along with the behind the scenes moderators: Joanna Case and Audrey Pool

Sincerely,

William Murphy

Student Body President

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