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7th grade students at St. Peter Claver visited NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility. A teacher at the school, Katherine "Michelle" Sanders, is the granddaughter of Katherine Johnson, who was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in November 2015 for her work with NASA. Johnson will also be featured in the new movie, Hidden Figures, coming out this month. To learn more about this story click [here](#).

News from Jan...

Dear Administrators,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We have so much to look forward to in 2017.

Please make plans to attend and bring students to the Catholic Schools Week Mass on February 3rd at St. Dominic Church. Your pastor/chaplain has received an invitation and RSVP card. Please touch base with him and encourage him to attend. See more details in the newsletter.

Also, a reminder that the second collection for Catholic schools will take place in all parishes January 29th. Please remind

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catholic Schools Week Mass

This year's Catholic Schools Week Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Aymond at St. Dominic Church on Friday, February 3, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Every Catholic school is asked to participate by sending students with an administrator or teacher.

We will have our usual procession at the beginning of Mass, with one student from each school bringing a scroll to the altar. Attached here are the scrolls, you are asked to roll them and wrap them with a ribbon of your school's colors.

Each Catholic school is asked to make a commitment to support Pope Francis in promising to be an "outgoing" church. It is a promise to open doors and allow Jesus to

your parents and spread the word that this collection supports our efforts to provide Catholic education for more families.

Lastly, the LHSAA Catholic Schools breakfast will be on Thursday, January 26th from 7:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. you're invited to attend. Please register by clicking [here](#).

Thank you, again for all that you do and please don't hesitate to call me with any questions.

Happy New Year!

Jan

Calendar at a Glance...

Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference
- **January 12th - 14th**

Student of the Year Portfolios Due -
January 13th

Special Needs Mass - **January 15th**

MLK Day of Service - **January 16th**

Archdiocesan High School Principal's Meeting - **January 17th**

March for Life in Washington D.C. -
January 24th - 29th

Catholic Schools Week - **January 30th**
- **February 4th**

go outside. Please see [the attachment](#) for more information on the theme of the week and how we can commit to Pope Francis's call to go out.

Evaluation of Information Technology Office

The Archbishop has asked the Office of Pastoral Planning & Ministries to conduct evaluation surveys of various archdiocesan offices, inviting those parishes, schools, and other institutions most frequently served by that office to provide constructive feedback. A survey on the Office of Information Technology is available [here](#) and should be completed by January 23, 2017. The survey on the Office of Information Technology is meant for any clergy, archdiocesan staff, parish, staff, or school staff who utilize and/or are affected by the services of the office. This includes: filtered internet access, computer and other IT equipment management, VoIP phone services, electronic keycard building access, etc. Thank you for your participation.

SAAC Committee King Cake Party

Please join the SAAC Committee for Elementary Admissions for a King Cake Party at the Office of Catholic Schools. Click [here](#) for the invitation.

LHSAA Breakfast

The Catholic Schools LHSAA Breakfast will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge on Thursday, January 26 from 7:45 a.m. - 9 a.m. Deadline for registration is January 13, 2017.

Registration link: [2017 Catholic Schools LHSAA Breakfast](#)

Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

- You're invited to attend a special Science Workshop and dinner featuring educator, speaker, and HMH author Michael DiSpezio! The workshop will be offered on January 17th on the Eastbank and January 18th on the Westbank. See the [attached flyer](#) to learn more about STEM-Standards, Ideas, and Activities for the 21st-Century Classroom and to RSVP for the event. This high-energy, entertaining, and engaging workshop explores effective and realistic STEM experiences in the classroom using grade-band-specific content and an assortment of easy-to duplicate, inexpensive, and motivating hands-on activities.

- Certified GIS Professional Fran Harvey will lead another one of her successful "Louisiana GIS K-12: ConnectED and ArcGIS Online" workshops on LSU's campus in Baton Rouge on Saturday, January 21st. The program connects teachers with free resources from Environmental Systems Research, Inc. that are available for creating story maps to use in infusing geography into the teaching of other subjects. Spaces are still available, and registration is simple - just send an e-mail to lagea@lsu.edu, with your name, grade(s) taught, and school name. [See the attached newsletter](#) for more LAGea information.

Fingerprinting and Background Checks

There have been some changes with regards to the cost of the fingerprint/background checks that OCS conducts in the office. The [attached documents](#) have been revised to reflect the current cost. OCS will issue refunds to schools for the difference in the fees effective November 1, 2016.

National Geographic Bee 2017

National Geographic Bee registration is open! Help spread the word. Louisiana's school participation rate has increased for the past two years. Let's keep the momentum going! The Bee offers a fun way for our students to learn geography, build poise, develop social skills, and master the art of competing gracefully, all at the same time. It also provides your school with an activity that brings together students from different classes and grades, along with their parents and other family members. If your school bee has a minimum of six participants, the winner of your school bee is sent a written test. If that student scores above a minimum threshold on the written test, he or she is invited to the Louisiana State Geography Bee on March 31st. The winner of the state bee earns a free trip to Washington DC where he or she competes in the National Geographic Bee and enjoys several days of social and educational activities with the other state bee winners.

Find more details, including eligibility criteria, at <http://nationalgeographic.org/bee>. Registration (\$120 per school) ends on Monday, January 23, 2017.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

The Joy of Love

In his letter, "The Joy of Love," Pope Francis calls the family a school of love. Love is built upon respect. Our

families would love better if the members would use the following expressions on a regular basis:

- "Please.."
- "Thank you..."
- "I'm sorry..."

Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference

This is a reminder that the conference is on January 12-14, 2017. Administrators are encouraged to participate on the day for Priest, Deacons, and Parish and School leaders, which is Thursday, January 12th at 1:00 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza on Williams, just off of I-10. The rest of the conference is at the Pontchartrain Center.

Passion and Purpose by Matthew Kelly

Mr. Kelly is a renowned Catholic evangelist and author. His presentation at St. Dominic is already sold out. You can still get tickets for his presentation in Slidell, at the Northshore Harbor Center, on March 12, 2017, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. You can purchase tickets on www.dynamicCatholic.com, under events.

REMINDERS

New Principals Meeting

Our next new principals meeting will be held in the Office of Catholic Schools on Thursday, January 19, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A light breakfast will be available at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at the end of the meeting. At the meeting, we will pray together, share experiences and questions, and look ahead at upcoming events. Included in this meeting will be a discussion of evaluating and hiring faculty.

MLK Day

Don't forget, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service is January 16th. Please see [attached flyer](#) for information about MLK Day of Service.

2017 Student of the Year

All elementary and secondary schools are invited to participate in the 2017 Louisiana Student of the Year Program. This program is open to public and non-public students in grades 5, 8, and 12. Student portfolios are due in the Office of Catholic Schools by Friday, January 13, 2017.

Special Needs Mass

Please see the [attached flyer](#) for the special needs mass on the Northshore.

High School College Fair

Save the date for the College Fair on March 20, 2017. [See flyer](#) for more details.

Orleans Parish Schools: Textbooks

Mr. Greg Becnel (NOPS) has extended the submission dates for textbooks until January 31, 2017. Please send request for quotes first to School Books Supply, the official Louisiana depository for textbooks. Tim Randall of School Books can get most of the books, and he will save you money on shipping. No vendor information is necessary if using School Books. All orders must include a "selection process" justification.

Mrs. Baker is sending your schools all of the instructions and forms given out at the textbook workshops. Click [here](#) for the link to the allocations. In determining your allocation, remember that you may only use the amount in the school allocation column. The administrative amount is for OPSB to process the orders.