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Allison Kuntz and Matty Weldon offering food for the poor at the first Special Needs Mass on the Northshore.



Students listening to Archbishop Aymond before Martin Luther King Jr. Day On Not Off, hosted by the Office of Black Catholic Ministries.

News from Jan...

Dear Colleagues,

In January of 2015, we had our first-ever collection to support Catholic schools during Catholic Schools week. As our third year approaches, we will have the second collection on January 29, 2017. To support our family of Catholic schools, this will kick off Catholic Schools Week. The collection supports the *Champions of Catholic Education* fund, which is dedicated to helping more families afford the cost of Catholic education.

Catholic Identity is what sets Catholic education apart from any other. Our Catholic schools

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 Catholic Schools and ESSA Workshop

All schools and Civil Parish LEA Coordinators are invited to attend the 2017 Catholic Schools and ESSA Workshop on Wednesday, February 22nd from 8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Catholic Life Center Main Auditorium, Baton Rouge. Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided at a cost of \$25 per person to be invoiced to the schools. Additional information can be found on the [attached flyer](#). Please register by February 10th.

Referee Payment Policy

Please see attachment [here](#) for the Archdiocese of New Orleans Referee Payment Policy.

have three key components that show their identities: A Catholic faith-filled education, an academically excellent focus, and a sense of community. The 2015 Annual Report, "[Why Catholic Schools?](#)" may help you answer any questions parents may have in regard to supporting our second collection. You can also find the link on our website at <http://ocs.arch-no.org/>

Here are a few highlights:

- Catholic school graduates score consistently higher than the state average on the ACT,
- 85.7 percent of Catholic high school graduates attend college,
- Catholic school students are more likely to receive the sacrament of Confirmation,
- Catholic school graduates are more likely to continue practicing the faith,
- Catholic school students are taught to know, love, and serve the Lord.

You will also receive a hard copy of this letter and our annual report in the mail this week.

I look forward to seeing you as we celebrate Catholic schools at our Catholic Schools Week Mass on Friday, February 3rd at 10:00 a.m. at St. Dominic Catholic Church.

Yours in Christ,

Jan

Calendar at a Glance...

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

New Principals' Meeting - **January 19th**

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

Second Collection for Champions of Catholic Schools - **January 29th**

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

Test Coordinator Meetings

For schools that participate in the Louisiana Scholarship Program and/or the Tuition Donation Rebate Program - LDOE mandates training for all school test coordinators. The training will be held on Monday, February 6, 2017 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at OCS.

There will be a training meeting for ACT Aspire test coordinators on Thursday, February 9, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. at OCS. New school test coordinators are strongly encouraged to attend; it is optional for returning school test coordinators.

Facility Managers' Meeting

The next training session for Facility Managers is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Office of Catholic Schools. The training will focus on building maintenance relative to paint issues. Please RSVP to khanson@arch-no.org.

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. Attached [here](#) you will find the week's agenda for each school to follow throughout the week.

Calling All 5th Graders

Please see attachment [here](#) for the next "Calling All 5th Graders" event.

Lakeside Kids Expo

Please see attached flyer [here](#) for the Lakeside Kids Expo at Lakeside Shopping Center. The event will be held Saturday, March 11th, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. To sign up click [here](#); for information on the mascot competition click [here](#).

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.

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.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Science Workshop

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.

"Louisiana GIS K-12: ConnectED and ArcGIS Online"

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.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Passion and Purpose by Matthew Kelly

Mr. Kelly is a renowned Catholic evangelisor 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.

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.

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.