

Catholic Schools LIGHT THE WAY...

Dear Families,

This week we begin our CELEBRATION of Catholic Schools—a time we set aside each year to celebrate what makes Catholic Schools special. There is no doubt that you decided that St. Michael School would nurture your child's growth in faith and prepare them academically to compete with confidence in Catholic or private high schools and beyond. In fact, we know our families can boast of their child's successes in high school because our Catholic High Schools share the names of students on the honor roll. In fact, we are proud to announce that the following students from St. Francis de Sales High School are on the honor roll for the first semester:

Principal's Honor Roll

Lucia Botello
Marc Loon
Alexis Pelaez
Byran Whiting

Honor Roll

Shiniqua Alford
Dejon Collins
Christopher Maxwell
Daniel Meraz
Jonathon Northern
Sergio Pedraza
Carlos Sandoval
Kevin Villagomez
Brandon Whiting

CONGRATULATIONS! We are so proud. Watch for the names of our St. Michael students who are on the honor roll for the second quarter. We would be so grateful if you devoted 5-10 minutes to sharing with us the reasons you chose St. Michael for your child(ren). There is a special yellow form in the packet. You would make a wonderful contribution to the celebration of Catholic Schools if you did devote a bit of time to this reflection. I, for one, would be most grateful. Simply return them in the communication folder this week.

A calendar is enclosed in today's packet that will give you an idea of some of the happenings during this month when we celebrate both Black History Month as well as Catholic Schools. Please note that next Wednesday, February 6th is our OPEN HOUSE for our school families. It begins with Ash Wednesday Mass in church at 8:30 and continues in school after Mass until 11:00. We hope that you might join us on that day. There will be other OPEN HOUSE opportunities beyond the month of February. We would, however, love to see you next week.

Please NOTE that we begin our CANDY SALE today. The packets are included in today's communication folder. The sale ends on February 20th. We are hoping for a very successful sale. Thank you, in advance, for the effort you give to this sale. As you know, we count on this money to meet our yearly budget.

I am so privileged to announce that one of our teachers—Ms. Bridget Agnew—is one of 100 semi-finalists in the Golden Apple award for excellence in

teaching. This is a prestigious award given to ten (10) teachers each year who are considered the very BEST in reflecting the teaching practices that are most effective for their learners. There are a number of stages that the Golden Apple Foundation goes through to arrive at the ten winners who will be announced in late March. Join me in celebrating Ms. Agnew's accomplishments!

Next week—on Tuesday, February 5th--- we will be taking 25 students in grades 3-8 to Holy Name Cathedral downtown for a very special Mass that will honor African American Heritage Month. **If your child has been invited to go, you will receive a permission slip this week to sign and return to us. Students should be dressed in their grey and burgundy uniforms.** This is an opportunity for us to join all of the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese for this very special event. **The theme for this month that all of our schools were asked to integrate in our curriculum is UJIMA, COLLECTIVE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITY.** As a faculty, we were asked to choose one of a number of suggested social issues of concern. At our in-service last week, our faculty decided to adopt both **racism** and **global warming**. **Our focus will be on learning more about and appreciating the cultures reflected in our student body as well as those that we know little about.** As members not only of a culture but of a world community, we also felt that we need to teach our students ways to preserve the environment that they will inherit as they grow to be leaders in our world in the future. We hope that you will join us by telling your child(ren) the family stories that are so important to your lives so that they can re-tell them here. Your family stories are stories that no one else could possibly write.

Blessings of peace,

Ms. Lee