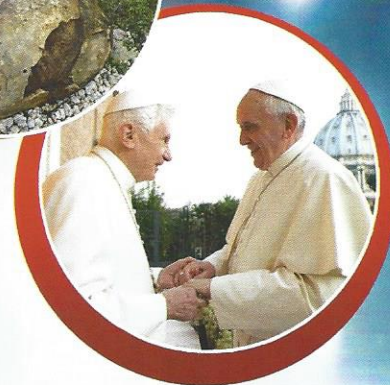
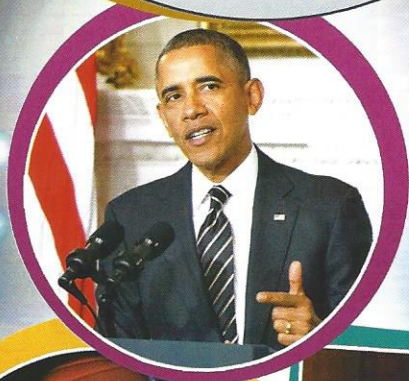


in the news



● Arvind Mahankali was named the 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee Winner after correctly spelling "knaidel". Arvind, a 13-year-old from Queens, NY, was one of 11 spellers in the finals. This was Arvind's 4th year to appear in the finals.

● President Barack Obama and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush were present for the dedication of the George W. Bush Presidential Center in April. The Center contains 80 terabytes of digital information, more than 200 million e-mails and more than 43,000 artifacts from the Bush Administration.

● On April 8th, Margaret Thatcher passed away. She served as the British Prime Minister from 1979-1990, making her the longest-serving 20th century Prime Minister, and the first female to hold the office.

● A meteor flared through the skies over Russia's Chelyabinsk region on February 15th, triggering an atomic bomb-sized shock wave. NASA said it was the largest reported fireball since the Tunguska event in 1908 – an asteroid explosion that flattened millions of trees over 820 square miles of remote Siberian forest.

● On February 11th, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation effective February 28th. He stated his unexpected resignation was due to declining health. His voluntary resignation was the first since 1294. 115 participating cardinal-electors elected Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the new Pope on March 13th. The 266th Pope of the Catholic Church took the papal name Francis. In December, Pope Francis was named as Time Magazine's Person of the Year.

● President Barack Obama's second-

term Inauguration took place twice this year. He officially took the oath of office on Sunday, January 20th in a private ceremony. A public Inauguration ceremony was held on Monday, January 21st. The 20th Amendment states that the President must take office by noon on January 20th.

● Happy 55th Birthday Lego! 55 years ago a Danish toy-maker submitted a patent for our favorite bricks. Lego, which means to "play well," has provided hours of enjoyment to kids of all ages.

● Prince William and Princess Kate, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, welcomed Prince George Alexander Louis on July 22nd, weighing in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. Prince George of Cambridge is the third in line to succeed his great-grandmother, after his grandfather and father. Prince George is the first grandchild of the Prince of Wales.