

Warrior News

Saint Mark Lutheran School extends the love and care of Jesus Christ to all people, while nurturing families and preparing students to integrate faith with life, through quality Christ-centered education.

**Saint Mark Lutheran School
Kaneohe, Hawaii**

April 2013

A Message from the Principal

Saint Mark Lutheran School recently hosted a one-day WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) / HAIS (Hawaii Association of Independent Schools) Mid-Term Accreditation visit. This visit was a bit of a "check-up" to see how we have progressed on our six-year action plan drafted back in 2010. Our action plan is essentially a road map that sets clear goals for school improvement.

We are excited to report that our visiting team consisting of Sandy Theunick (Head of St. Andrew's Priory and current president of the HAIS Board of Directors) and Catherine Payne (Retired Principal of Farrington H.S) were very pleased with what they saw at Saint Mark. In fact, we have just received a very positive "Term of Accreditation" letter validating all of the school's hard work and our accreditation through 2016.

The letter received from HAIS' Executive Director, Robert Witt, reads in part:

"The accreditation of Saint Mark Lutheran School continues in good standing for three years, through the period ending June 30, 2016....The Action Plan was taken seriously, enrollment has increased, financial aid has doubled, facilities have been renovated, and there is a significant integration of technology. This is a school that has developed a culture of improvement."

We take this opportunity to thank our families for their steadfast support of Saint Mark and to assure them that we continue our commitment to school improvement in the days, months, and years ahead.



Fine Arts Display

The gym will be turned into a Museum of **Fine Arts** displaying work of every Saint Mark student.

Families are encouraged to come and enjoy the art work on **Thursday, April 25 from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m.** You will be impressed with our talented students.

Mahalo in advance for your support of this important event.



Dates to Remember

April 20: Family Work Day at 9:00 a.m.

April 21: K-2 Cantata at 5:00 p.m.

April 25: All School Fine Arts Display from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

April 29-May 3: SAT Testing

April 30: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

May 8-10: Grade 4 Big Island trip

May 9: Grades 5-8 Track Meet

May 14: Grades 3-6 Choir & 4-8 Band Spring Concert at 7:00 p.m.

May 16: Athletic Banquet at 5:30pm

May 24: Kindergarten Graduation at 7:00 p.m.

May 27: Memorial Day - No School

May 30: Grade 8 Graduation at 7:00 p.m.

May 31: Last Day of School 11:30 a.m. dismissal
K-5 Report Cards go home

June 3-7 Grades 6-8 Report Cards Mailed Home

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: The kindergartners are looking forward to quite a few "special occasions" while completing their kindergarten work: the "Charlotte's Web" play, six classmates celebrating their birthdays, presenting "Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo" with the first and second graders, Wheel Week, hosting the new kindergartners when they will "show and tell" all about kindergarten, and practicing speaking parts, songs, dances, and painting scenery for their graduation operetta. Fun academic activities have included two formal spelling tests, learning about our body, and singing songs about dinosaurs while we learn about them.



Grade 1 students enthusiastically listening to a story read by Mrs. Venegas

First grade: Since Easter was during Spring Break, the first graders spent the first week of April learning about the Easter story through Resurrection Eggs. The children took them home and were encouraged to share the story using the Resurrection eggs as props. They came back the next day excited to tell how they shared the story with others. Now they are busy learning about weather. We have been reading a lot of non-fiction books and learning about the water cycle, clouds, weather tools,

and more. Later this month they will be preparing their own autobiography of their life from birth until now. It will be a special keepsake for years to come.

Second grade: The second graders are busy finishing up their last edits and illustrations to meet their press date at the end of this month for their class book of poems. They had a great time experimenting with ideas and words as they wrote all kinds of poems like acrostic, diamante, and tercets, just to name a few. In a few short weeks, the second graders will receive their printed hard cover copies and will have a celebration to recognize all their hard work! The second graders have also been working hard practicing for the spring cantata. They can't wait to perform for their families and loved ones.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

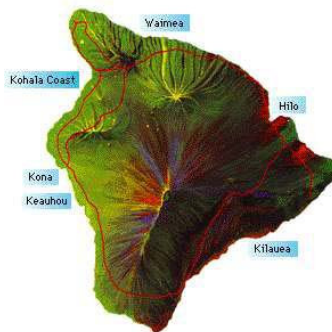
Third grade: A few weeks ago the third graders had a great science lab as they explored some substances and had to figure out if they were liquids or solids. They learned a new word, "colloid" that day. Ask them what it is. We walked to the Kaneohe Public Library last Friday 4/12 to gather information for our Wax Museum.



Grade 3 students investigating states of matter in a recent science lab

The kids are really excited about this project. Mark your calendars for May 16 so you can attend our Wax Museum. We are currently doing lots of review work in math, science, and social studies to get ready for S.A.T. testing at the end of the month.

Fourth grade: The fourth grade students are gearing up for their Big Island Trip! They have been doing a lot of learning this year to prepare for this. We are all excited to explore Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Resource Center, Akaka Falls, Hawaii National Volcano Park, and much more. Keep us in your prayers as we travel and embark on this amazing adventure!



Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth grade: Westward Ho! We began our wagon train simulation last month to experience what it would be like to travel west on a wagon train. Your children have already selected their identities, selected their supplies, and have written about themselves in their journals. They are working as a team to make decisions that will affect whether or not

They are working as a team to make decisions ...

they will survive and make it to Hacker Valley! So far, the wagon trains have made it past Prairie Crossing and are headed for Fort Choice to replenish their supplies. Hopefully, they will be able to cross through Sunrise Pass before the winter snows arrive. We'll let you know their fate next month!



Westward Ho!

Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News:

Seventh grade Bible students are learning about God's love as they read and discuss the parables Jesus taught. They will then have the opportunity to write their own parables to share God's love and grace.

Eighth grade American History students are learning about the Civil War. They will read aloud the book *A Picture of Freedom: The Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl* to learn about slavery through the eyes of a young slave girl. In addition, they will be entertained by Mrs. Hantel attempting to read the story in a southern accent.

Bonjour! Guten tag! Ola! **Seventh grade geography** students are visiting Europe! They are learning about its vast and influential history before traveling to the modern day countries. Come and see their creations of Ancient Greek art!

Students in **sixth - eighth grade math** visited the Museum of Contemporary Art. They saw an exhibit showing how math influences art. Then they were challenged with incorporating math into their own artwork.

Miss Maddick's News:

Intergalactic time travel, trouble on the high seas, and segregated education are adventures the **sixth thru eighth grade language arts** students are reading about.

Sixth grade World History is looking at the causes and effects of exploration. Faith played a role in these events and still affects global interactions today.

Students in **seventh and eighth grade communications** are studying and creating poetry. There is great power in words, and that power can be increased when it is used in creative ways.

Dynamic Christian Living is guiding the **eighth graders** through daily life as they prepare to enter high school. It is important to start spiritual disciplines now so habits can keep them strong in their faith.

Mrs. Brooks' News:

Eighth grade science students finished a unit on solubility and pH. They tested substances to determine if they were acids or bases and were also able to bring in items from home to test. We now shift gears and learn about motion, speed and velocity.

In **seventh grade math** students are working on geometry. They learned the types of angles, triangles, and quadrilaterals as well as congruent shapes. We will be using our knowledge about circles to interpret circle graphs.

Eighth grade pre-algebra students are solving equations with fractions and decimals and converting word problems into equations.

The wind turbines students made in **sixth grade science** showed how wind energy is converted into electricity. They also learned about renewable and nonrenewable resources and now are learning about the earth, moon and sun.

Sixth grade Bible students are working on skit ideas, picking their favorite part of this class. Now, at their request, we will be searching the Bible to create food devotions. Our readings have included Hebrews and James and we will be continuing on with Peter this week.

Seventh grade science completed a unit on the Plant Kingdom. They learned about photosynthesis, types of plants and the life cycle of plants. Highlights of this unit included dissecting a bean to learn about seed structure and investigating the parts and function of flowers. They're starting a unit on the human body and will learn about the main systems of the body.

Miss Morris' News:

Keep working on your Presidential Fitness Goals so you can get an award at the end of the year! Don't forget about the Track and Field Meet coming up on May 9th. We will be practicing the different events in PE until the meet so you can see which events you would like to compete in. Let's see how many ribbons we can win for Saint Mark this year!

Junior High Awards

Principal's List

(GPA 3.75—4.0)

Fenua Aiu

Miriam Ha

Joshua Hilpert

Kara Dawn Iwamoto-

Skelton

Kathryn Koopman

Joshua Gonzalez

Sage Iona

Kathryn Johnson

Kala Kahapea-Aquino

Rhys Kalama

Melia Manu

John Rice

Tristan Scharfenstein-

Montgomery

Justin Taniguchi

Koby Tengan

Auahi Aiu

Kiana Lo

Martine Marantz

Samantha Navarrete

Lauryn Ohai

Zachary Ostrander

Johannah Wilford

Honor Roll

(GPA 3.0—3.74)

Kuulei Aona

Alexis Keliikipi

Kaleimakalii Saunders

Amy Warrington

Alexis Chang-Takayama

Christian Fee

Seth Denis

Kainoa Kawaiui

Manaia Moe

Kaiana Rosa-Grace

Makoa Sanchez

Mikayla Aki

Kainani Bradley

Amiee Clark

Isaiah Graham

Risa McGregor

Allison Munoz

David Murray

Kaimi Won

Principal's Award

Kaila Bruhn

Alexis Keliikipi

Kaleimakalii Saunders

Johannah Wilford

Citizenship Award

Fenua Aiu

Joshua Hilpert

Kara Iwamoto-Skelton

Alexis Keliikipi

Katy Koopman

Kaleimakalii Saunders

Amy Warrington

Alexis Chang-Takayama

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Awards (cont.)

Sage Iona
Rhys Kalama
Kala Kahapea-Aquino
Melia Manu
John Rice
Tristan Scharfenstein-
Montgomery
Justin Taniguchi
Koby Tengan
Risa McGregor
Martine Marantz
Allison Munoz
Samanatha Navarrete
Laurny Ohai
Zachary Ostrander



Athletics



Varsity basketball season concluded with the presentation of the MVP (Most Valuable Player) trophies. Congratulations to **Kaimi Won** and **Mareko Wolcott!**

JV basketball season has begun and both the boys and girls are off to a good start and practicing hard every day with Coach Curtis. The season runs through April and concludes on May 7. Check out the school website for their home games and come out and cheer them on.

Next up is the Track and Field Meet for grades five thru eight on Thursday, May 9. We need parent volunteers to help with this event. Please let Mrs. Kong know if you are available.



Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Tuesday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m.**

We are working hard planning for **teacher appreciation week** and preliminarily planning for the **4th Annual Gala** next fall - Saturday, November 9, 2013.

This & That

Please join us at the **K-2 Spring Concert** on Sunday, April 21 at 5:00 p.m. The children will present the musical cantata "**Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo.**"

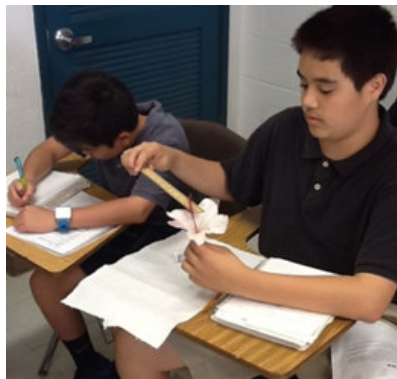
Chapel offerings for February and March went to the American Heart Association. We collected \$395.

S.A.T. Testing will be taking place next week from April 29 - May 3. Grades 1 - 8 will be taking the tests in the morning from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Please make sure your child comes to school well rested.

The **grades 3 to 6 Choir** and **grades 4 to 8 Band** will hold their **Spring Concert** at Saint Mark on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Kindergarten graduation is on Friday evening, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. Graduates will have their cap and gown ceremony and will present their operetta. They

do have school the last week of May when **Mrs. Gundermann** will refer to them as "first graders".



Grade 7 Students working on a recent science lab

A **BIG Mahalo** goes to the SMLS PTC (Parent Teacher Committee) along with all the families who worked so hard clipping **Box Tops for Education**. As a result of their hard work and generous donations, Saint Mark was able to purchase the beautiful new benches in front of the school. Mahalo nui loa!

The kindergartners of the Class of 2014 will be **invited to visit** kindergarten on either May 9 or 10 for an "Introduction to Kindergarten." It is a special occasion, and we don't know who is more excited - the 'almost first graders' who will be the hosts or the new children.

It's almost **Kickball** time! All students in grades K-3 can sign up to play in the After School Intramural League. Games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting at 3:05 p.m. and should last about 45 minutes. More information coming soon.

Grades K-4 enjoyed Ohia Productions' "**Under the Clear Blue Sea.**" The performers brought their show to us and through skits and songs showcased creatures of the sea and our responsibility to help protect our "sea."

On April 25 or 26 grades K-3 will attend "**Charlotte's Web**" presented by Honolulu Theatre for Youth.