

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**

February/March 2016

A Message from the Head of School



Saint Mark Accreditation Team:
Mark Sugimoto (Hanalani), **JoAnn Stepien**, (Iolani), **Amy Vorderbruegge** (Hawaii Baptist Academy), and **George Evensen**, (Our Savior Lutheran)

The WASC / HAIS / NLSA accreditation visiting committee has completed their four day visit at Saint Mark, and I am happy to report that their time with us was wonderful!

The team meticulously read our self-study document before their visit. Then once on campus, they thoroughly investigated our programs, visited our classrooms, met with our different constituencies, and then shared their findings in a comprehensive report. The entire process was extremely positive and reaffirming. They validated what we are doing well but also provided us with

specific ideas on how to enhance our programs and offerings in the future. The full results of their visit will be given to us after the accreditation commission meets later this spring. We are excited to move forward with some clear goals that help to pave a meaningful path for school improvement in the years to come.

Our profound thanks goes to all the faculty/staff, students, parents, and board members who worked in support of this valuable and extremely important process!



We especially thank the four members of our accreditation visiting team - **Mr. Mark Sugimoto**, Head of School at Hanalani Schools, **Ms. JoAnn Stepien**, Assistant Dean, Lower School (Ret.) at Iolani School, **Mr. George Evensen**, Principal at Our Savior Lutheran School, and **Ms. Amy Vorderbruegge**, Principal at Hawaii Baptist Elementary School. We greatly appreciate the time and talent they graciously donated to our school!

I would like to conclude on an unrelated note by wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Spring Break and inviting those of you without a church home to join us on Easter Sunday to celebrate our risen Savior!



Easter Services

Sunday, March 27



You are invited to join us for Easter Service on Sunday, March 27.

Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 a.m. at HPU Windward Campus

Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt - 8:15 a.m. at Saint Mark Church

Easter Service - 10:00 a.m. at Saint Mark Church

Dates to Remember

March 7-11: Saint Mark Spirit Week

March 11: 3rd Quarter Ends

March 14-25: Spring Break

March 14-18: Grades 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

March 24: Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00pm at SMLC

March 25: Good Friday Service at 7:00pm at SMLC

March 27: Easter Sunday Service at 7:00am at HPU Service at 10:00am at SMLC

March 28: Easter Monday - No School

March 29: School Resumes Grades K-5 Report Cards go home with students

April 8: Spring Pictures

April 14: Grades 5-8 Track & Field Day

April 17: Grades 5 & 6 sing in church 9:30am

April 23: Family Work Day at 9:00 a.m.

April 27: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

April 29: May Day at 12:45pm

May 2-6: SAT Testing

May 12: Athletic Banquet at 5:30 p.m.

May 11-13: Grade 4 Big Island Trip

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: February and March were filled with lots of exciting things in kindergarten! Chinese New Year was celebrated with a lion dance and a yummy Chinese lunch. Kindergarteners learned how to jump rope and Zumba during our "Get Active" event. And to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, the kindergarteners tried green eggs and spam, read *The Lorax*, and learned about taking care of our planet. In the classroom, the kindergarteners watched in amazement as caterpillars changed into chrysalises and hatched into beautiful Monarch butterflies. What a wonderful way to compare the hatching of our butterflies with the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

First Grade: The first graders have been busy reading and learning about what the president of the United States does and a little bit about Washington and Lincoln's life. They used what they learned to creatively write about what they would do as our next president. They also discussed ways to keep their heart healthy this month and had four weeks of Zumba classes prior to our annual "Get Active" event and pot-

luck with the whole school. The students celebrated Valentine's Day with centers including art, math, STEM, and a healthy snack. They worked hard to prepare and present an oral book report with a container representing their book, which also served as their valentine container. In March, we celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss by reading many of his books, especially *The Lorax* and made green eggs, spam and rice with our kindergarten friends. We enjoyed our 3rd Open Market of the year and are having a blast during Spirit Week. We have worked hard this quarter and look forward to Spring Break!

Second Grade: What a busy month the second graders had! The students learned how to write a proper "compare and contrast" paper and culminated their final writing piece by comparing and contrasting the new 2016 Tesla Model X with a car that they own at home. The students had to analyze the various features

on the cars, create a graphic organizer and write a final paper on it. The students also used the information that they had received to create and design their own, "concept car" blueprint. The second graders are also learning about telling time and creating different



Grade 2 students having a blast at UH learning how to extract DNA from a papaya

types of graphs. In Bible, the students are learning about the miracles of Jesus and just completed a reflection piece on the armor of God. They are also learning about important American symbols in social studies and have each researched their own American President. Last but not least, the second graders went on a field trip to the University of Hawaii to complete a course about DNA. They were very excited to be in a real college laboratory!



STEM Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

Power Point, write an essay, create a visual project, and compose a riddle. We also had a special guest from the Invasive Species Committee that taught us more about Little Fire Ants and how harmful they are to our islands. The 4th graders are on their way to becoming invasive species experts as we continue to learn more about these disruptive animals.



In science we are putting a lot of focus on learning and understanding the solar system. Between projects, activities, videos and hard work, we are getting a deeper understanding of what is going on beyond our planet. We have also begun persuasive essays that will eventually integrate into official debates.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: The 3rd graders have been busy learning division this quarter. We are using our multiplication facts and skip counting to learn how to divide and find the remainders. We have learned almost all of our cursive letters so we have been writing a lot more during class in cursive. In science we are learning about classifying animals and how to divide them into groups. In reading we are holding group discussions about books and sharing our

feelings, thoughts, and art skills with a buddy in order to strengthen our comprehension skills when reading.

Fourth Grade: The 4th graders have been learning about the different species we have here in Hawaii and how special our island ecosystem is. Each student focused on an animal we have in Hawaii and did research. They collected lots of facts and used their knowledge to complete a

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Lots of great things have been happening in the 5th grade. We have had a good time comparing what is happening in our classroom to what is occurring around the United States. As the race for finding the Republican and Democratic representative for the Oval Office election is heating up, so is the election that we are having in the classroom. Each student has

chosen an icon, a fictional or non-fictional character that they look up to, and every day we have a different style of voting to vote someone out. This has been an interesting and exciting activity for the students. Not only are they learning different styles of voting, but they are also learning strategies with voting that are applicable to our present day situation with our presidential race.

Classroom News - Middle School

Mrs. Souki's News:

The Lenten and Easter season is the focus of Bible during this time. The students will be working on a daily devotion set up in Google Classroom. On Fat Tuesday we celebrated with malasadas with our chapel buddies. The students are also working on presentations about a service project that the entire middle school will participate in at the end of the year.

In grade 6 and 7 English the students just finished their class novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. This book helps the students to understand what it might be like for someone with a disability and can help create empathy and understanding for others. We continue our work with *Wordly Wise* and *Shurley Grammar*.

Grade 6 world history completed their study of Ancient China and the Empires of China just a couple of weeks ago. The students participated in a Chinese New Year celebration that included a lion dance, trivia from a panda, crafts, experiments, and a reflection of the historical accuracy of the Disney movie *Mulan*. The students got a chance to participate in an integrated unit that allowed them to focus on healthy lifestyle choices with a concentration on healthy food. We learned about the adverse effects of added sugar, came up with recipes for their own healthy snacks, calculated the nutritional values, and shared a cooking demonstration with the kindergarten and 1st grade students.

Grade 7 geography has been studying Asia this quarter. The students fin-

ished their study of China, Japan, South East Asia, and India. The students also participated in an integrated unit that allowed them to focus on healthy lifestyle choices with a concentration on muscles and exercise. We produced a collaborative exercise video.

Grade 8 U.S. history completed their study of World War I and the Great Depression. The students wrote a letter to President Hoover or President Roosevelt providing suggestions on how the Great Depression should be handled. We are currently studying the connections between WWI and WWII. We will start the 4th quarter with a study of the holocaust and a class novel *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry.

Mrs. Schroppel's News:

Grade 7 Bible is taking a closer look at Christian worship and how the focus of our worship and our lives is the cross of Christ, the means by which we are forgiven.

Grade 6 math students are learning the value of percent and are working hard to apply it mentally. We will find how the proportions we studied in the last chapter help us solve percent problems.

Pre-algebra students are being challenged with linear equations: understanding them, using them, and graphing them! In the next few weeks there will be exciting ideas learned.

Grade 8 English students have done a lot of writing this quarter: a Mulan reflection for Chinese New Year; a research paper on a topic of choice relating to our class novel, *Shabanu*; and a persuasive speech that was presented to the administration with proposals for healthy initiatives that came out of our Get Active unit.

Mrs. Pelletier's News:

In Grade 6 Bible, we are studying Holy Week and the events surrounding it. This is so fitting because we are in the church season of Lent right now!

In grade 6 science, we are looking at the geologic time scale and comparing the textbook's proposed timeline to the creation story in the Bible. Our next chapter will focus on energy resources.

In grade 7 science, we are studying the respiratory and excretory systems.

In grade 8 science, we are finishing a chapter on forces and Newton's laws of motion. Our next chapter will focus on energy.

In grade 7 math, we are studying geometry - lines, angles, triangles, polygons, and circles.

In grade 8 Algebra, we are studying the properties of exponents, geometric sequences, and exponential functions.

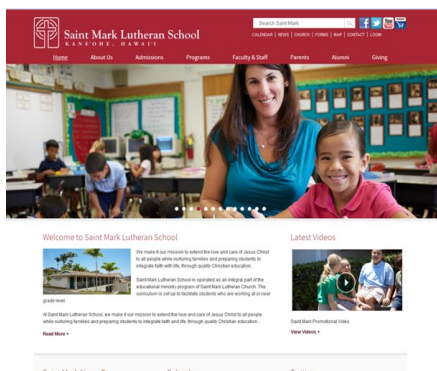
Miss Morris' News:

Congratulations to **Sara Cruz**, **Keanu Duarte**, **Cole Pruett**, **Matthew Tanji**, and **Peyton Rapoza** for beating their best mile time in February! This quarter middle school has been playing soccer and trying out some Zumba during our PE classes. Keep up the good work!



Middle school students were having some healthy fun during the recent "Get Active Day!"

Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!



Check out the **SMLS Website** as it continues to be updated!

Saint Mark Website
www.smls-hawaii.org

If you haven't done so already, please sign up to receive **automatic e-mail alerts** when new items are posted to the school website. It's a great way to stay connected!



Lenten Services

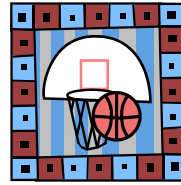
Lent is a time of solemn remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of the world. The 'ohana of Saint Mark Lutheran Church invites you to join us for these Lenten services.

Each Wednesday **Lenten service** will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a Soup Supper followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.

For more information please contact the church office at 247-4565.



Athletics



The varsity basketball season is over. The girls played hard and learned a lot of skills during the season. The boys made it all the way to the championship game but fell a bit short to a powerful Pearl Harbor team.

Thanks to **Coach Bruce** and **Coach Curtis** for all their time and hard work.

Congratulations to our all-stars **Mariah Basques** and **Abi Hilpert** (for the girls) and **Kahekili Catrett**, **Noah Gaudi** and **Harvey Welch** (for the boys). The MVP's awards went to **Mariah Basques & Noah Gaudi!**

The anxiously awaited JV basketball season will start when we return from Spring Break. Both the boys and girls are eager to get started with the first games scheduled to start in mid-April.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

On February 27, the PTC held its Annual Rummage Sale, which generated approximately \$1,200 in funds that will be used to support the PTC's mission of improving and enhancing the learning environment for the students of Saint Mark! Thank you to everyone who donated their items, time, and assistance to help make this event a great success! A special **MAHALO** goes out to our Rummage Sale Chair, **Denise Warrington**, for planning and organizing this event.

In addition to granting funding to purchase various student games and class equipment for the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Grades, including the purchase of a *Meccano MeccaNoid Robot* available for use by the entire student body, the PTC, in partnership with the Saint Mark Administration, is finalizing the purchase of 2 industrial-sized fans for the school gymnasium. We plan to have these fans installed before this year's May Day Program!

This & That

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** was a success! We sold \$3,297 worth of books and supplies. Profits go toward books for the library and teachers, and *Scholastic Magazine* subscriptions for the students. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped and to the generous parents who purchased "wish list" books.

Chapel offerings for February and March will be going to the American Heart Association. We have raised **over \$230** thus far. We appreciate your generosity!

Our "Get Active" campaign raised **\$4,104** which will go towards new P.E. and playground equipment. Congratulations to our top money raisers who were **Jacob Gaudi** (grade five), **Noah Gaudi** (grade seven), and **Kahiau Lapinad** (grade two).

We are completing **re-enrollment** for the 2016-2017 school year. Please be sure your paperwork has



Mrs. Akaka, Mrs. Gonzalez, Ms. Kau'i, Mrs. Venegas, and Ms. Courtney get into the spirit of Dr. Seuss' birthday with Lorax & Cat in the Hat costumes

been turned in to the school office. We have applicants for all grades and need to know what space is available. Paperwork was due on February 20th.

Congratulations to **Sirena Linton** (grade 8) for qualifying to compete in the state level competition of

Check out SMLS on....



the National Geographic Bee on Friday, April 1, 2016. Go Sirena!



The grade 4 & 5 students enjoyed an educational and DIRTY learning trip to the Waihe'e Poi lo'i in Kaha'u'u

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NOW ENROLLING
247-5589
www.smls-hawaii.org

Saint Mark is still accepting new student applications for the 2016-17 school year