

# 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**

**November/December 2014**

## A Message from the Head of School



As we enter into the last school week of 2014, the fervor of the season ubiquitously abounds. Saint Mark is truly alive as students participate in exciting learning trips, rehearse for beautiful Christmas programs, complete end-of-semester projects, prepare for final exams, and anticipate the rapidly approaching Christmas vacation. The excitement is almost palpable!

In spite of the elation of the season, December is a time where I try my best to quell the noise/distractions, calm my heart, and reflect on the joy & love of the Christ Child's birth. It is also a time where we look back and offer our thanks to the many people who worked so diligently in support of Saint Mark. In particular, we want to express our sincere gratitude for those who supported our very important annual Gala fundraiser.

Thanks to the generous and dedicated hard work of the gala committee along with Event Coordinator, **Cissy Shaner**, we had another wonderful gala. As a result of the many generous contributions of our many supporters, we raised monies to support two very important needs - the capital campaign to build the early education facility and the financial aid program. While there are numerous people who helped make the gala the success it was, I want to particularly thank the gala committee and the PTC members who worked so hard.

We thank President **Cheryl Chang**, Vice President **Miki Henriques**, Secretary **Rachel Hilpert**, Treasurer **Mele Manu**, **Ashley Tani**, **Elena Bryant**, **Jamie Kekaulike**, **Tanya Flores**, **Penny Rapozo**, **Adele Kimura**, **Denise Warrington**, **Kau'i Dias**, **Lynn Buckley**, **Vanessa Souki**, **Miriam McMillian**, **Dale Gibo**, **Courtney Gibo**, **Pam Kong**, **Melelani Lawrence**, **Leilani Lee**, and **Victoria Flores** for their amazing work.

As we bid farewell to 2014, I wish our entire ohana well, thank you for your continued commitment to Saint Mark, and pray that you are able to slow down this Christmas season long enough to relax and enjoy the full splendor of our "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

**Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau`oli Makahiki hou!**



## Save Your Rummage

We are looking forward to another great PTC rummage sale on **Saturday, February 21, 2015**.

Please start saving items that can be donated to the sale. All of the money raised from these sales goes directly to the school!



### Dates to Remember

**December 16:** Grades 3-4 Choir and Beginning Band Christmas Concert at 6:30 p.m.

**December 18:** Grades 5-8 Choir and Advanced Band Christmas Concert at 6:30 p.m.

**December 19:** 2nd Quarter Ends 11:30 a.m. Dismissal with **No Aftercare**

**December 22-26:** Grades 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

**December 22 - January 2:** Winter Intersession

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Church Services 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

**December 25:** Christmas Day Church Service at 9:30 a.m.

**January 5:** School Resumes

**January 5:** K-5 Report Cards go home with students

**January 14:** "Get Active" Kick-Off at 8:30 a.m.

**January 14-16:** Optional Parent Teacher Conferences for Grades K-8

**January 16:** 11:30am Dismissal

**January 19:** MLK Jr. Day - No School

**February 1:** Grades 3 & 4 sing at the 9:30 a.m. Church Service

**February 5:** Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

**February 16:** Presidents' Day - No School

**February 20:** Spring Family Night

**February 21:** PTC Rummage Sale at 9:00 a.m.

## Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

**Kindergarten:** The holidays are in full swing in kindergarten! During Thanksgiving, the kindergartners learned about the Pilgrims and Native Americans and enjoyed a yummy Thanksgiving feast with the first graders. The next day we trotted around Kaneohe District Park during the Saint Mark Lutheran Turkey Trot. During these last couple of weeks of December, the kindergartners will be decorating gingerbread houses, performing in the Christmas Program, viewing the decorations at Honolulu Hale, shopping for children who are less fortunate, and most importantly, celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

**First Grade:** First graders have learned about communities near and far. Last month, they learned about the Wampanoag tribe of Native Americans and the Pilgrims who celebrated the first Thanksgiving. We studied how life for a child was back then compared to life

now. We also enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast and some harvest from our garden. We especially are enjoying hearing back from our 26 "Flat First graders". The "Flat First graders" have traveled near and far. The K-2 classes worked hard rehearsing for their Christmas Concert by learning new songs and speaking parts. It will be a great event to celebrate Jesus...the reason for the season.

**Second Grade:** What busy second graders we have this month! We started the month off by learning geography through our mystery Skype lessons. So far we have talked to three classes all over the United States and one class in Australia! The second graders were also busy with field trips. We went to a Starlab present-

tation, the BFG play at the University of Hawaii, the Turkey Trot at the district park and the Hawaii Youth Symphony. The second graders are also working very hard to complete our very first animal research paper. We are making models of our animals and we are excited to share it with you all. The class also started learning how to regroup in math and have memorized all of their lines for the Christmas program.



*Second graders at the Saint Mark Turkey Trot*

## Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

**Third Grade:** The third graders have had an exciting month of math. We started the month learning about clocks and now we are learning multiplication. We enjoyed drawing our arrays and multiplication sentences in chalk. Also, we have been learning to play several



new card and board games which are developing our love of numbers and challenging us to think of numbers in different forms and patterns.

**Fourth Grade:** The fourth graders have been researching a plant or animal that lives in Hawaii. With their completed research they are creating a book on our iPads. These iBooks are filled with information they learned about their special plant or animal. They are writing about the physical characteristics, the habitats, how the early Hawaiians used



*Grade 4 students excited to be going to the Youth Symphony*

their species in their daily lives and other amazing facts they learned! It has been an eye opening learning experience

for the fourth graders because they are not only learning more about plants or animals, but also the connections all these species have with each other and with us.

## Classroom News - Fifth Grade

**Fifth Grade:** Fifth grade has been learning what life was like during the colonial days as they have studied New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. In class, they made butter, wrote with quill pens, and did limner portraits of each other. We also went to the Honolulu Museum of Art and dressed-up in colonial outfits, carded wool, wove on a loom, viewed colonial art, and

visited a reconstructed colonial home. All of these activities have been rich and wonderful opportunities for our class to learn more about what life was like in the 1700s.



*Grade 5 students dressed in their colonial outfits*



# Classroom News - Middle School

## Miss Pelletier's News:

In sixth grade Bible, students are learning the parables and stories Jesus used to teach.

Sixth grade science students are finishing up a chapter on earthquakes. To apply our knowledge, we built earthquake-resistant houses using cardboard, tape and play dough. In our next chapter we will learn about volcanoes.

In seventh grade math, students are writing and solving equations and inequalities.

Seventh grade science students just finished an exciting chapter on modern genetics.

Eighth grade algebra students have finished a chapter on solving equations and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Students in eighth grade science have been learning about atoms and bonding. Next, we will be looking at chemical reactions.

## Mrs. Schroppel's News:

The seventh grade Bible students are finishing a unit in Religion on the creative work of God the Father. He created us and still sustains us with everything we need in life! We'll be finishing the quarter with quizzes and a beautiful story by Max Lucado called *An Angel's Story*. We will also be spending some time with our 1st grade chapel buddies sharing a pizza lunch, making an edible Christmas decoration and wrapping gifts we purchased for others through the Angel Tree program.

Eighth grade English students are preparing speeches that will teach their classmates something, while the 7th graders are polishing up their choice of a Shakespeare passage or poem to present to the class.

The sixth grade math class is putting final touches on books that will present a math concept to younger students. In the last week of the quarter, they'll read their books to students in kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade.

## Mrs. Souki's News:

In sixth grade English, students recently began a new unit on theme. Theme is the lesson or moral taught through a story. We are beginning to explore children's books and will soon move on to our class novel, *The One and Only Ivan*. Theme is an important aspect of English, it is the reason we read. We read to connect with a purpose, a bigger lesson, we can then apply to our lives. It is hoped that once the students are able to dissect the theme of children's books they will be able to apply those skills to the novels they read. Students will also be practicing their reading fluency by reading books to kindergartners and first graders in the coming weeks.

Sixth grade world history students are continuing their travels through history with a trip to ancient Greece and Rome. We learned about ancient Greek culture, Greek gods, and the development of philosophy. They will also be learning the history of Athens and Sparta before moving on to Muslim civilizations, Africa, and Asia in the third quarter.



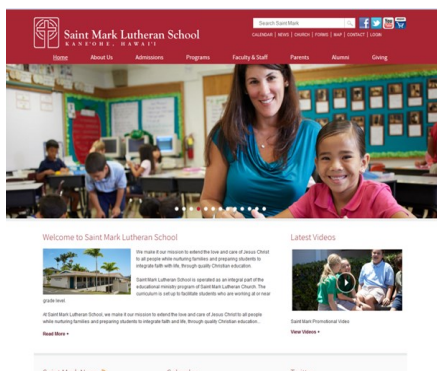
Seventh grade world geography spent this quarter covering the Americas. The students have been busy learning about the lives of teenagers in the different regions we study. They will apply their learning to broad essential questions like "Is conflict unavoidable?" and "How does geography shape a nation?". We will spend third quarter studying Europe.

Eighth grade Bible students worked very hard on their first Chapel which was presented on Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup>. With their chapel buddies, they did a skit about the testimony of candy canes. Candy canes were created as a testimony to Jesus. The hard candy represents the rock that the church was built on, the white represents the purity of Jesus, and the red stripe represents his blood. It is in the shape of both a J and a Shepard's staff since Jesus is the Good Shepard. The flavor is similar to hyssop, an aromatic plant used in the Old Testament for sacrifice and purification. They enjoyed sharing this message with the school.

## Miss Morris' News:

Merry Christmas!! Middle school is continuing to work on our basketball skills. Great job on your running and workouts this quarter!

## Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!



Check out the New Website as it continues to be updated!

**Saint Mark Website**  
[www.smls-hawaii.org](http://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!



## No Aftercare

Friday, December 19 is the last day of school before the beginning of the Winter Intersession. There is early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. with **NO AFTERCARE**. Please plan accordingly.



## Christmas Services

You are invited to worship with us during the holiday season. Saint Mark Lutheran Church is offering Advent church services on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and special services on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day:

Christmas Eve Services at 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.  
Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m.

*You're Invited*

## Athletics



The varsity basketball season for grade 7 and grade 8 boys and girls is underway with **Coach Curtis Lau** assisting **Coach Kuulei**. They have started practices with conditioning stations spread out all over the gym! They will be practicing from 3-5 every day until Winter Break and may even get some outdoor practice in during break. Their first game is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015.

A big mahalo to **Dr. Wendell Yim**, grandfather of **Makoa Wilson** (grade 2) and **Lilinoe Wilson** (grade 1) Wilson, for his donation of two very nice basketballs.



## Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the

### 2015 Rummage Sale!

Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Monday, January 12 at 5:30 p.m.** when we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on February 21, 2015.



## This & That

For December's chapel offerings, we are collecting unwrapped new toys, money, and food for Windward Oahu's needy keiki. With the money collected kindergartners and their 8th grade chapel partners will go on a shopping trip to Ross' and purchase more gifts.

If you have friends or family interested in applying to Saint Mark please let them know that we are **now accepting applications** for the 2015-2016 school year. Applications that are received before January 15, 2015 will get priority consideration.

Everyone is invited to the wonderful Christmas programs put on by our students. We've already enjoyed the **K-2 Christmas pro-**

**gram.** The 3-4 grade **Choirs & Beginning Band Christmas program** is on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m. and the **Grades 5-8 Choirs & Advanced Band Christmas Program** is on Thursday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.



*Congratulations to the winners of the Geographic Bee on December 11*

**Saint Mark's 5th Annual Benefit Gala.** We are extremely pleased to have raised approximately **\$20,000**. We owe our special thanks to our Gala Committee and our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) for their hard work!



*Congratulations to the varsity volleyball MVP's pictured here with Athletic Director Mrs. Kong*

Now that we are dealing with some cold weather we wanted to remind everyone that the dress code states students are only allowed to wear Saint Mark Lutheran School jackets. These are available through our uniform store, Campus Creations, in Aiea. We do have a few for sale in the school office if that is more convenient.