

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 2015

A Message from the Head of School

2016
2015

The month of December is the time of year when many people tend to reflect on the year gone by. Some spend time recalling the many reasons for which they are thankful, while others pause to cherish their positive memories or reflect on how to learn from their past missteps.

For me, as I think back on the past year at Saint Mark, my mind is immediately flooded with imagery of the daily ups and downs that comprise an elementary/middle school setting. Specifically, I see images of smiling faces and tearing eyes. I see problems develop and problems solved. I see frustration and failure one moment then gratification and success the next. I see students get knocked down and then get right back up. I see empathic students supporting and consoling one another in powerful and endearing ways. I see true collaboration where students advocate and argue in one breath and then graciously concede and capitulate in the next. I see uncertainty and trepidation transformed into confidence and resilience. I see students and teachers who learn and grow together. Most importantly, I see Christ's gospel love entering our students' hearts in ways that will far outlast the rigors of the A, B, C's and 1, 2, 3's.



One kindergarten student wiping away the tears of another

As we bring 2015 to a close and look forward to successes and challenges of 2016, please know how very thankful we are to our Saint Mark families for entrusting us with their most precious children. We will continue to work our hardest to deliver a top-notch program where we fulfill our mission of *"extending the love and care of Jesus Christ to all people, while nurturing families and preparing students to integrate faith with life, through a quality Christ-centered education."*

And finally, I 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."*

Christmas starts with Christ

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau`oli Makahiki hou!



Save Your Rummage

We are looking forward to another great PTC rummage sale on **Saturday, February 27, 2016.**

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

December 17: Grades 5-8
Choir and Advanced Band
Christmas Concert at 6:30 p.m.

December 18: 2nd Quarter
Ends 11:30 a.m. Dismissal with
No Aftercare

December 21 - January 1:
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 4: School Resumes

January 4: K-5 Report Cards go
home with students

January 13: "Get Active" Kick-
Off at 8:30 a.m.

January 13-15: Optional Par-
ent Teacher Conferences for
Grades K-8

January 15: 11:30am Dismissal

January 18: MLK Jr. Day -
No School

February 4: Mid-Quarter
Reports go home with students

February 5: Staff Professional
Development Day - No School

February 7: Grades 3 & 4 sing
at the 9:30 a.m. Church Service

February 15: Presidents' Day -
No School

February 19: Spring Family
Night

February 27: 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 their first grade friends. They also trotted around the gym during the Saint Mark Lutheran Turkey Trot, shopped for toys with their chapel buddies for children who are less fortunate, and did an amazing job singing in the Christmas Program. During the last couple of weeks of December, the kindergartners will be decorating gingerbread houses, viewing the decorations at Honolulu Hale, and most importantly, celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ!

First Grade: First graders learned about communities near and far. We learned about the Wampanoag

tribe and the Pilgrims who celebrated the first Thanksgiving. We studied how life for a child was then compared to life now, and we enjoyed a thanksgiving feast with our kindergarten friends. The K-2 Tur-



Grade 1 students enjoying the Turkey Trot

key Trot was a huge success despite the rain; we had fun being fit with our friends and fighting hunger by collecting canned goods for the Foodbank. We harvested eggplant and basil from our garden and enjoyed a healthy recipe of eggplant parmesan and homemade pesto cooked up by one of our dad's who is a chef. We loved hearing back from our "Flat Firsties". They traveled near and far which was a springboard into our unit on geography. The K-2 classes prepared for their Christmas Concert by learning new songs and speaking parts. It was a

wonderful event to celebrate Jesus - the true reason for the season.

Second Grade: Second graders have learned so much this past month. They finished printing out their animals on the 3D printer as well as completed their very first research paper. The students also wrapped up their social studies unit and learned about the different regions of the United States. They worked very hard on their friendly letters and wrote to the President to help pardon their turkeys! December has been challenging for them because they are learning how to subtract and add with regrouping. However, they are getting better everyday with practice. Before they all go on Christmas break, they are excited to exchange gifts during our secret Santa exchange. Last but not least, they learned all about the chrismons that are displayed on the chapel tree. They each drew their favorite one and wrote about the meaning of it in class.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: Third grade has been busy this month learning how to read clocks and starting multiplication. We spent time learning to draw arrays with sidewalk chalk, making multiplication flashcards & practicing our skip counting. We have learned many of our cursive letters now and are starting to write our spelling tests in cursive. In reading, we are learning about problems in stories and predicting or finding the solution. In writing, we are concentrating on sentence structure and how to add details that make a sentence more enjoyable to read.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders have been working hard on a Hawaiian Studies project for the past month. Each student created a canoe model using any materials they wanted. The students were very creative and used all kinds of material; from plastic to drift wood and corks to banana husks! They needed to include important parts of the canoe and it needed to be able to float. The fourth graders gained a tremendous amount of knowledge about special outrigger



Grade 4 students excitedly showing off their homemade ancient Hawaiian canoes

canoes and the time and hard work it takes to complete a project such as this one.

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: These last few weeks have been filled with big projects, papers, presentations, and a whole lot of fun. The back of the classroom has been lined with shoe boxes filled with different biomes and ecosystems that they had to put inside. For social studies, each table group was a different colony. Then, once they did multiple days of research to write an essay on differ-

ent areas within their colony, they went down to 4th grade to "convince" them to join their colony. This is a small look into what we have been doing over the last few weeks.



Grade 5 students enjoying a recent learning trip to U.H.

Classroom News - Middle School

Miss Pelletier's News:

Sixth grade Bible students were very busy preparing for their chapel about Christmons which they presented last week. They will now return to learning more about Jesus' ministry.

We built earthquake resistant houses and are now studying a chapter on volcanoes in **sixth grade science**. **Seventh grade science** is studying the theory of evolution and comparing it to God's creation as told in Genesis and **eighth grade science** is studying chemical reactions after disassembling and reassembling vacuum turbine heads.

Seventh grade math students are finishing their chapter on ratios, rates, proportions, and scales and **eighth grade algebra** students are finishing up their chapter on linear equations and their graphs.

Mrs. Schroppel's News:

The **seventh graders** helped their first grade chapel buddies make an adorable snowman ornament. Then they all shared a delicious Boston Pizza lunch. Now the class is looking forward to presenting their musical gifts in the **fifth-eighth grade choir and band concert** on Thursday, December 17.

In **pre-algebra**, the **seventh and eighth grade** students continue studying fractional operations and begin some in-depth work with ratios, proportions and percents. This will assist them in finding the best deals on their Christmas shopping! The **sixth grade math** students are finishing a study of fractions and will finish the semester with a test!

The **Eighth grade English** class produced some beautiful and thoughtful booklets of poetry and is finishing up a brief study of the allegorical novel *Animal Farm*. We all agree: we do NOT like Napoleon the pig! We continue to improve vocabulary and grammar skills with our Wordly Wise and Shurley practice.

Mrs. Souki's News:

This time of year is very busy in our Bible class. Students have been completing an Advent devotional and learning all about the Christmons on the tree in chapel. The students recently escorted their chapel buddies on a field trip to Ross. They were able to use the chapel offering money to purchase toys for **Toys-for-Tots**. The students had a great time with their buddies discussing how these toys will help spread the joy of Christmas to children in need.

In **sixth grade English** the students are busy preparing for their poetry reading. In the first quarter the students produced simple poems. This quarter, they will read a novel in verse and finish the quarter with a poetry performance of their choice.

Seventh graders are finishing up their class novel, *A Wrinkle in Time*. They have been studying plot sequence and the different parts of a story using Pixar shorts and they will apply this knowledge to the novel.

Sixth grade world history completed their study of early Rome and

the development of Christianity. They are completing an essay that requires them to use evidence to back up their opinion on how different types of movements contributed to the growth or decline of the Roman Empire.

Seventh grade geography has been studying Europe this quarter. They will end the quarter with a study of Russia. For their writing assignment the students are writing letters to Russian officials congratulating them on their progress after the introduction of democracy and making some possible suggestions on how they could improve.

Eighth grade U.S. history completed their study of the Civil War and Reconstruction. The students led discussions about the development of institutional racism in the South. This information will be important when they study the Civil Rights Movement later in the year. Their last unit is the displacement of Native Americans & the Trail of Tears.

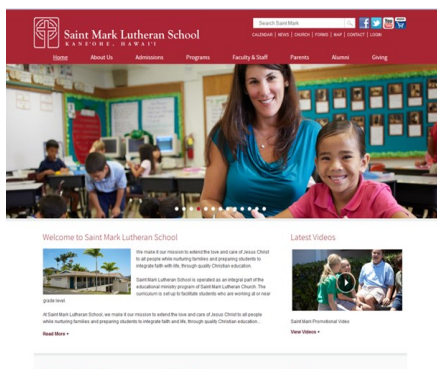


Middle school students at Camp Erdman

Miss Morris' News:

This quarter in PE we have been focusing on basketball. We are currently doing our Fitnessgram Testing, so be on the look out for those reports coming home. Congratulations to **Francisco, Kalina B., Keonimama, Sara C., Keanu, Ryli K., La'akea, Ethan S., Matthew T., Kaya, James T., Megan, Rylie W., Max, Danae C, Peyton, and Kahekili** for beating their best mile time this past quarter!

Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!



Check out the School 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!



No Aftercare

Friday, December 18 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

Our JV volleyball season is just about over; all we have left is our post-season potluck celebration! Many thanks to **Coach Kuulei** for all of her hard work and time coaching both the varsity and JV boys and girls volleyball teams. Mahalo also to **Coach Lorien** who was willing to coach our extra JV girls volleyball team at the last minute. We had a great, though short season with new skills learned and relationships built.



We are now on to varsity boys and girls basketball. We welcome back **Coach Bruce** and **Coach Curtis**. Practice has begun with our games starting when we come back from Winter Break.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the

2016 Rummage Sale!

Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Tuesday, January 12 at 5:30 p.m.** when we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on February 27, 2016.



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 went on a shopping trip to Ross' and purchased more gifts.

Everyone is invited to the wonderful Christmas programs put on by our students. We've already enjoyed the **K-2 Christmas program**. The **3-4 grade Choirs & Beginning Band Christmas program** is on Tuesday, December



The Saint Mark J.V. Cross Country team placed 2nd in their recent meet

15th at 6:30 p.m. and the **Grades 5-8 Choirs & Advanced Band Christmas Program** is on Thursday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m.

A **BIG Mahalo** goes to everyone for supporting Saint Mark's **6th Annual Benefit Gala**. We owe our special thanks to our Gala Committee and our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) for their hard work!

Now that we are dealing with some cold weather we wanted to remind everyone that the dress code states students are only al-



Kindergarten students enjoyed a recent baking activity

lowed 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.

The **Geography Bee** and **Spelling Bee** will be held in January. These will give our students a chance to show off their geographic and spelling knowledge!

On February 1st **Frank DeLima** will be visiting the school to share his Student Enrichment Program encouraging students to develop positive attitudes and values.