

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 2016

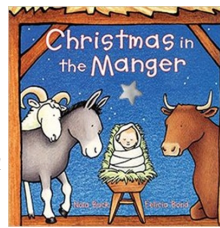
A Message from the Head of School



Every year as the Christmas season approaches I promise myself that this will be the year that I will not procrastinate my shopping responsibilities, yet here we are in mid-December and I find myself in the same frustrating predicament as in years past - Christmas is just around corner and I have not yet begun my Christmas shopping.

It's actually been weighing so heavily on my mind that I awoke early the other morning not with visions of sugar plums dancing in my head but rather with the stark reality that I have no gifts for any of my family or friends.

As I sat there in the dark of the predawn panicking about my Christmas shortcomings, I grabbed my iPad and started browsing Amazon.com for gift ideas. I started my search with "Christmas books" and scrolled through nearly three dozen titles when I ran across the first book that actually focused on the Christmas story. The book was "Christmas in the Manger" and its cover was so inviting that it motivated me to look up two of my favorite Christmas Bible readings:



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'" (Luke 2:10-11)

As I read the verses, it brought a smile to my face and a calmness to my spirit. It was the quick course correction I needed to keep my focus on Christ during this crazy Christmas season.



As we bid farewell to 2016, we profoundly thank our families for their commitment to Saint Mark and pray that every one of 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 25, 2017.**

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

December 15: Grades 5-8 Choir and Advanced Band Christmas Concert at 6:30 p.m.

December 20: 2nd Quarter Ends 11:30 a.m. Dismissal with **No Aftercare**

December 22-28: Grades 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

December 21 - January 3: 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 11-13: Optional Parent Teacher Conferences for Grades K-8

January 13: 11:30am Dismissal

January 16: MLK Jr. Day - No School

January 18: "Get Active" Kick-Off at 8:30 a.m.

January 29: Grades 3 & 4 sing at the 9:30 a.m. Church Service

February 2-3: Staff Professional Development Day - No School

February 7: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

February 17: Spring Family Night

February 20: Presidents' Day - No School

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: Kindergarten is busy! We are working on learning more sight words, and reviewing basic letter/number writing mechanics. We are very artistic, and write about what we draw! And we had a Thanksgiving Potluck, with a twist to surprise Ms. Vickie. We also learned about Squanto, the Native Americans, and Pilgrims, and we got to dress up! And we rocked it during the Turkey Trot. We learned about healthy foods that help our bodies grow, and we helped fill shoeboxes to donate to underprivileged kids overseas. We also learned how to help others, and about being thankful! We are working on the writing process, and our teachers are so impressed with our skills! We are getting into the spirit of Christmas and can not wait for our Toys-for-Tots shopping with the eighth graders and our Gingerbread House Decorating. Ms. Vickie and Mrs. Akaka want to send an extra special thank you to our fantastic parents: You are Amazing!



First Grade: The first graders built a thankful list last month as we prepared for the wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. Our class enjoyed a thanksgiving feast of homemade squash chicken stew with our first grade `Ohana. The K-5 annual Turkey Trot was a huge success as well as our drive to collect canned goods for our Church foodbank. The first graders also participated in completing over 8 operation Christmas Child shoeboxes that will be sent to needy children around the globe as well as share the love of Jesus with them. We especially loved hearing back from our "Flat Firsties". They traveled near and far which served as a springboard into our unit on geography. The K-2 classes are rehearsing in preparation for their Christmas Concert by learning new songs and memorizing speaking parts. We know it will be a



Grade 2 students fishing at the Hawaii Nature Center

wonderful event to celebrate Jesus... the Reason for the Season.

Second Grade: The second graders have been busy in class learning more about animals and what makes them special! We kicked off this study by visiting Hawaii Nature Center to learn more about the 5 cycles in nature. Students hiked through a forest observing the different plants and collecting the various decomposers. Being able to collect worms and other insects that help breakdown plants and animals had all the kids saying "eww!" but at the same time enjoying this interesting task. The day ended with a small fishing activity where the students used small nets to capture fresh water creatures. It was a beautiful muddy day that provided lots of wonderful learning experiences for the second graders.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: Third grade has been busy this quarter! We are continuing to work on our reading strategies and have wrapped up our first book club groups. In math, we have been learning and practicing our multiplication facts. We know all our facts 0-10 and are hard at work memorizing them. We finished our science unit on life cycles of plants and animals and are beginning a social studies unit on immigration and culture. Each student interviewed a family member and completed a project about their culture. We tried many delicious foods, watched dances, and played

games from each other's cultures. We will also discuss how Christmas is celebrated around the World.

Fourth Grade: The fourth grade students are becoming experts in multiplication this quarter. They are now able to multiply multi-digit numbers by multi-digit numbers! Some students are very proficient solving multiplication problems the traditional way and some learned a new trick called "lattice" multiplication. In writing, the students are finishing their comprehensive book reports and presented their book report boxes. They also prepared



and gave a 2-3 minute speech on a given topic and are learning to write an explanatory essay. For their Thanksgiving celebration, the fourth graders experienced their very first Makahiki festival. The Makahiki was a four month long celebration of peace in ancient Hawaiian times. The students played ancient Hawaiian games, ate traditional Hawaiian food and learned many basic skills that the ancient Hawaiians needed to have in order to survive. Speaking of celebrations, the fourth graders are in the spirit of Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: In science, we are practicing the idea of having to know a concept well enough to thoroughly teach it to the class. Students are learning different weather concepts, making a poster and creating an experiment based off it with their partners. They then will have to know everything well enough to

teach it to the class. For social studies, we are in the beginning steps of the Revolutionary War. We have had a good time learning about what shaped the start of our country. We are then using those ideas, combined with the presiden-



tial election, and doing other activities to understand what it means to have a democracy through voting.

Classroom News - Middle School

Miss DeMello's News:

In **eighth grade Bible** this quarter, our "God All Around" presentations are focusing on the presence of God in our families. Each of our eighth graders will pick an event from the lives of their family members in which God was present. Our goal is to be able to detect God's presence in our lives, and the lives of our families.

Our **sixth grade English** students are very gifted writers! They were able to use many different types of figurative language to enrich their personal narratives. Thank you, Mr. Fosket, for doing a great job teaching our sixth grade all about figurative language!

In **seventh grade English** the students are brilliant readers! Over half of our seventh grade have met their AR goal for the quarter, with 25% of them exceeding their goal by more than 10 points! Keep up the awesome reading, seventh grade!

Miss Pelletier's News:

In **sixth grade Bible**, we are studying Holy Week- Palm Sunday, Jesus in the temple, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and, of course, Easter Sunday!

In **sixth grade earth science**, we built earthquake-resistant houses and had lots of fun testing them! We are now studying volcanoes. We finished our chapter on modern genetics



Middle school students at Camp Erdman

in **seventh grade life science**. We listened to interesting radio articles, made posters about rare genetic disorders, and had a debate about GMOs. We were also visited by someone who works for the NCIS and uses forensics every day! **Eighth graders** are finishing the chapter on chemical reactions and will be studying acids, bases, and solutions in the next chapter as they continue to study physical science.

Seventh grade math students just finished a tough chapter on equations and inequalities. We will be learning about ratios, rates, and proportions in the next chapter. **Eighth grade algebra students** just finished a chapter on solving inequalities and are now studying graphs and functions.



"Warriors of Quarter" for the 1st Quarter

Mrs. Schroppel's News:

The **seventh graders** enjoyed eating lunch with their first grade chapel buddies on Wednesday, then they worked with them on an ornament project and a STEM activity. Now the class is looking forward to presenting their musical gifts in the fifth thru eighth grades' choir and band concert on Thursday evening, December 15.

In **pre-algebra**, the seventh and eighth graders continue their study of fractional operations as they begin some in-depth work with ratios, proportions and percentages. This will assist them in find-

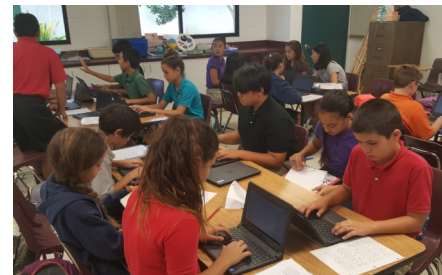


"Principal List" for the 1st Quarter

ing the best deals on their Christmas shopping!

In **sixth grade math** students have just finished perfecting addition and subtraction of fractions and are moving on to multiplication and division. If you have gotten a little rusty with your fraction operations, you might want to review some of the rules with your student. Letting them explain it to you is a good way for them to learn it better.

Eighth grade English students read the allegorical novel *Animal Farm*. We all agree: we do NOT like Napoleon the pig! This quarter they are doing an independent book report with an oral presentation. We continue to improve vocabulary and grammar skills with our *Wordly Wise* and *Shurley* practice.



Middle school students working on the new Chromebooks

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

Tuesday, December 20 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 JV volleyball season has ended. We had a lot of fun while learning and improving our volleyball skills, as well as learning other life skills. A special congratulations to our girls who finished the season undefeated and a big MAHALO to Coach Kuulei for coaching both the boys and girls varsity and JV seasons!



The Lutheran Schools Sports League (LSSL) held its Cross Country Meet on Friday, November 18th. We had a record number of students participating and both our **JV and varsity boy teams** won 2nd place, while our JV girls missed 2nd place by one point! Individuals placing in the top 10 were: **Milan Ah Yat** (5th, JV girls), **Andrew Lovell** (3rd, JV boys), **Ezekiel Rodrigues** (7th, JV boys), **Beau Pruett** (8th, JV boys), **Jacob Gaudi** (10th, JV boys), **Cole Pruett** (4th, varsity boys), **Peyton Rapoza** (7th, varsity boys), and **Hayden Jenkins** (10th, varsity boys). Congratulations to these individuals and to all who participated. Also, a mahalo nui loa to Coach Fosket. Great job everyone!

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the

2017 Rummage Sale!



Please join us at the next PTC meeting on Tuesday, January 17 at 5:30 p.m. when we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on February 25, 2017.

This & That

For December's chapel offerings, we are collecting unwrapped new toys, money, and food for Windward Oahu's needy keiki. With the monies collected kindergartners and their 8th grade chapel partners will go on a shopping trip to Ross' and purchase 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 13th at 6:30 p.m. and the **Grades 5-8 Choirs & Advanced Band Christmas Program** is on Thursday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m.



Grades K to 5 enjoyed Saint Mark's 5th Annual Turkey Trot

A **BIG Mahalo** goes to everyone for supporting Saint Mark's **7th Annual Benefit Gala**. And a special thanks to our Gala Committee and our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) for their hard work!

We want 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.

The **Geographic Bee** and **Spelling Bee** will be held in January. This



Kindergarten students enjoyed a visit from Saint Mark's Therapy Dog in Training "Koa"

will give our students a chance to show off their geographic and spelling knowledge!

If you have friends or family interested in applying to Saint Mark please let them know that we are **now accepting new applications** for the 2017-2018 school year. All applications received no later than **January 15, 2017** will get priority consideration.