

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**

September 2013

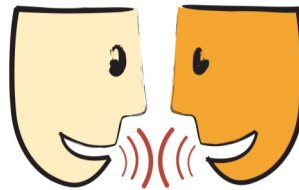
Message from the Head of School



One of our goals at Saint Mark is to maintain consistent and effective avenues of communication with our school community. This communication can take many forms. Some forms are of the more traditional nature such as notes, flyers, newsletters, and phone calls, while other modes such as email, websites, Facebook and Twitter are of the more contemporary variety.

With this in mind, Saint Mark school is excited to have recently unveiled three new school-wide communication tools. We introduced our completely redesigned school website with an enhanced email alert system, all new calendar as well as numerous other improvements. We also adopted an entirely new on-line administrative software program called Gradelink which allows students and parents to stay better informed of student progress. And finally, we upgraded our Accelerated Reader program by moving it completely on-line, so students and parents can now more easily monitor AR progress as well as have access to all AR quizzes.

While we continue to seek meaningful and efficient ways to better connect with our families and keep them well-informed, we must remember that face-to-face conversations are still the most important form of communication. Famed author, Charles Dickens, conveyed it well over 150 years ago when he said, *"Electric communication will never be a substitute for the face of someone who with their soul encourages another person to be brave and true."*



While there is certainly more to our school's mission than teaching our students to be brave and true, Dickens' point resonates now more than ever before. In this age of instant, digital communication, it is important that we all remember there is no substitute for the human connections forged by face-to-face encounters. Let's keep the lines of communication open wide as we teach, learn, and grow together.

Parents Given Access to Gradelink



Gradelink

LOG IN

Saint Mark School has been working hard to adopt a new student information system software program called Gradelink, and after months of planning and training, parents of students in grades 1 - 8 are gradually being granted access.

Parent letters including unique Usernames and Passwords (Each student will have their own individual Username and Password) were sent home for each student in grades 3-8 (letters for grades 1 & 2 go home today). Please use this information to login at www.gradelink.com.

Please call at 247-5589 should you have any questions or need any assistance logging in.

Dates to Remember

September 29: K-2 Concert & Potluck at 5:00 p.m.

October 1: Fall picture make-ups

October 4: 1st Quarter Ends

October 7-18: Fall Intersession

October 7-11: Grades 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

October 21: School Resumes; K-5 Report Cards go home with Students

October 23: Flu Vaccination Clinic at 8:30 a.m.

October 24 & 25: 11:30 a.m. dismissal due to Parent Teacher Conferences

October 30 - November 1: Grades 5 and 7 Outdoor Education at Camp Erdman

November 9: 4th Annual Benefit Gala at *The Pacific Club*

November 11: Veterans' Day Observed - No School

November 17: Grades K-2 sing at 9:30 a.m. church service

November 19: Frank Delima Performs

November 20: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

November 21: Open House for Prospective Parents at 5:30 p.m.

November 28 & 29: Thanksgiving Break - No School

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: The classroom was overflowing with grandparents and even great-grandparents for our Grandparent's Day celebration. One tutu came from California and one from the Big Island for the occasion. There were tears of joy and pride as the children sang, "Oh, Papa, Tutu, you know that I love you." The class is proud to have completed their huge ABC study project, and they have started reading, a special moment for all. We studied our 5 senses, enjoyed *A Korean Cinderella* at Tenney Theatre, made stone soup, and are excited to sing in our first concert with the first and second graders on Sunday, September 29.



First Grade: The first graders had a busy first quarter! In math, we learned new rules for addition and subtraction. We also began memorizing our addition facts. Our Gumball Math and Math Minute help us strengthen those skills. In reading, we strengthened our word attack skills by using different reading strategies. We also enjoyed reading *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown, as part of our social studies unit focused on "communities". We will be sending out our "Flat people" off to visit communities around the globe. Finally, we enjoyed visiting Boston's Pizza as part

of our community studies. We are also busy caring for and tending our garden with the second graders.

Second Grade: The second graders have been enjoying their reading unit comparing Cinderella stories from different cultures. They have been comparing and contrasting the stories' characters and plots and have also been observing how culture affects the story. The second graders have heard the traditional American story of Cinderella as well as a Korean, Native American, Japanese, and Chinese version. So far, their favorite has been a Hawaiian version of Cinderella, called "*Sumorella*"! The second graders had a great time as they went on a learning trip to the Honolulu Theatre for Youth to see a Korean K-pop version of Cinderella.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: Third grade continues to be busy. We are learning about our country's geography and maps. Fun discussions erupt daily as we read about landforms, natural resources, & communities. Our class is full of artists who showed their creativity during our rendition of *Starry Night*. We continue to learn about writing paragraphs and editing as we write, share, correct and present our writings in class. Also, our class choir sang in front of the congregation for the first time this month. It has been a busy month!

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders have been busy researching different natural disasters that can occur in our world. From blizzards to volcanic eruptions the students are becoming experts on these events. With the research they compiled

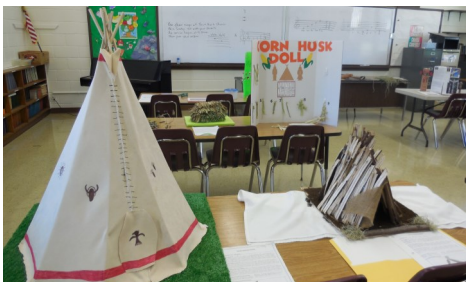
they are writing an essay and putting together a News Report skit on a fictional event showcasing one natural disaster. They used the iPads to record video of their performance and will put it together using iMovie.



Grade 4 students learned a lot on their recent visit to the He'eia Lo'i

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade students worked in collaborative groups to study the cultures of five major Native American groups; the Northwest Coast, California, the Southwest, the Plains, and the Woodlands Indians. Each group did research at Kaneohe Library and our classroom utilizing their textbook, the internet, and various books. Each group then



Students constructed numerous Native American Projects - including a detailed teepee

created a poster and shared the information with the rest of the class. In addition, each student constructed a Native American culture project. Projects, varying from fry bread to arrowheads, were to be made "in the Native American way" using natural materials and methods. They presented their projects in class, explained what they

had learned, and displayed them for the other classes to view.



A grade 5 student proudly shows her handmade Native American Canoe

Classroom News - Middle School

Mrs. Brooks' News:

Students in **sixth grade Bible** are having fun bringing in and sharing food relating to a Bible verse for their food devotions. We continue to learn about Jesus' life through the Gospel of Matthew.

In **eighth grade algebra** students have been calculating the probability of various events. We will move into solving various types of equations in the upcoming days.

In **seventh grade science** students are learning about how to use a microscope and using these skills to view various types of cells while learning about the function of each organelle. They have also been working on developing a model of a cell that they will present to the class.

Seventh grade math students are determining lowest common multiples and greatest common factors so that they can easily simplify as well as compare fractions.

In **eighth grade science** we are learning about matter and its physical and chemical changes. Ask your student about how we made glue and what that taught us. Next we will create skits or cartoons that demonstrate solids, liquids and gases.

Sixth grade science has been learning about the Earth while improving their map skills. If anyone is in the market for minerals, ask the sixth graders. They will be investigating and designing an advertisement for a mineral of their choice.

Mrs. Schroppel's News:

Seventh grade homeroom: The students are getting to know their first grade chapel buddies better; on Monday, they helped their buddies at the book fair. In **Bible**, we are finishing our unit on Preparations for Christ's Ministry, then His ministry will begin.

Sixth grade math along with **seventh and eighth grade Pre-Algebra** have been applying the properties of equality to solve equations for the variable. The pre-algebra students are also on a "Mathenger Hunt" in an effort to find out how they will be using this information the future.

The **seventh and eighth grade English classes** have been keeping busy classifying sentences and broadening their vocabularies, but the real fun has been the novels we are reading.

Student Council is up and running. Executive officers were elected: congratulations to Kainoa, Kaleimakalii, Katy, and Kuulei! And the first event is being planned: donations will be collected to support Aloha United Way. Any student making a \$3 donation will get to wear denim (jeans, shorts, or skirts) to school on Friday, October 4. Details are coming.



Grade 6 students collaborating

Mrs. Pelletier's News: Classes keep rolling along in the middle school. **Eighth grade** has been hard at work developing a Power Point presentation on one of the thirteen original colonies that they have been studying in American History class.

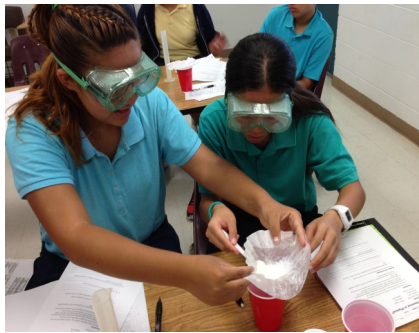
In **Bible**, students are delving into how we got the Bible and proofs for its inspiration.

The **seventh grade social studies** is tackling the physical geography of North and South America while learning about the history of individual countries of the Western Hemisphere.

In **sixth grade social studies** they have enjoyed learning about ancient civilizations that developed in Egypt, India, and China. They also finished reading the book, *Tuck Everlasting*, and constructed a story cube and summary of the story. It's been a busy and exciting first quarter!

Miss Morris' News:

Great job on your 'Fitnessgram' testing everyone! Let's see if you can get one more "Healthy Fitness Zone" score in our next round of testing at the end of September. I think you can! Keep up the good work!

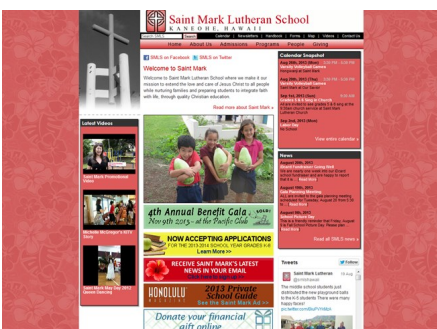


Grade 8 students working on a recent science lab

Seventh graders learned the mystery of "release" in *The Giver*, and the **eighth grade** had their own "Pretty" makeovers. Check my web page for some before and after pictures.

Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!

Old Design



Check out the New Website!

Saint Mark Website
www.smls-hawaii.org

New Design



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

Athletics



volleyball gets underway next week with their first practice on Monday, September 30 from 3:00-5:00. Their games will start when we return from Fall Intersession and continue through November.

Congratulations to both the boys and girls varsity volleyball teams and **Coach Tony**. They will be playing in the post-season tournament this Thursday (girls), Friday (boys), and Saturday (girls and boys). All games will be held at Hongwanji. JV



Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team

Give Aloha

Saint Mark is again participating in Foodland's Annual **Give Aloha program!** During the month of September, customers are invited to make donations of up to \$249 (per person, per organization) at checkout to Saint Mark Lutheran School. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation up to a total of \$350,000 for all organizations combined.



give aloha
Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program



Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

The PTC is busy at work planning the **4th Annual Benefit Gala...**

The gala is scheduled for **Saturday, November 9** at *The Pacific Club* at 5:30 p.m. and will include an evening of delicious food, live entertainment and an exciting silent/live auction for our community and friends. There are many ways to help support this important event. You can purchase tickets, donate auction items, assist with the class projects and baskets or simply talk-up the event!

This & That

Fall Family Night was a great success. The fourth grade fundraiser provided dinner and snacks, children played, parents relaxed, and everyone enjoyed the movie.

September **Chapel Offerings** are currently being collected for Aloha United Way. We collected \$365 in August for LCMS world relief.

Everyone is invited to the **K-2 fall concert** on Sunday, **September 29** at 5:00 p.m. in the church. A potluck will follow in the gym. Join us for our program called "**Magical Musical Moments.**"

The end of our first quarter and the beginning of **Fall Intersession** are quickly approaching. Our last day of school is **October 4**, and classes will resume on **Monday, October 21**.

Report cards for students in grades 6-8 will be mailed home during Fall Intersession. Students in grades K-5 will receive their report cards when they return to school on October 21st.

Students who handed in their **flu vaccination** forms will receive their shots on **Wednesday, October 23**. Those handing in late forms will be waitlisted and will receive vaccinations if there is a sufficient supply.



Mahalo to all the parents, faculty and staff who are working together to plan the 4th Annual Gala

Kindergarten, third, fourth and fifth grade have the privilege of having a tour of the **Hokulea** while it is docked in Kaneohe. The date is **September 30**. In the spring the Hokulea will begin a four year trip around the world and children statewide will be able to follow the crew's adventures.

We are still in **need of donations** for the silent auction at our **Benefit Gala - "Kulia I Ka Lani - Strive for the Heavens"** on November 9 at 5:30 p.m. We encourage any of you who would like to attend the Gala to come by the school office to purchase tickets.

Mahalo to all who supported our **Scholastic Book Fair**. We sold nearly \$5000 worth of books. We will use the profits to buy additional books

for the school library.

On **October 29** the Performing Arts Center of Kapolei is coming to Saint Mark to present "**School House Rock LIVE, Jr.**" The show presents educational topics of social studies, grammar, math and much more in a fun and entertaining way.