

# 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 2014**

## Message from the Head of School



As I sit down to contemplate the focus of this month's head of school message, the topic of **school accreditation** continues to monopolize my thoughts. For those who are not familiar with the school accreditation, it's a renewing and reflective process whereby schools comprehensively assess their strengths as well as their areas in need of improvement in an on-going effort to enhance their programs.

It specifically involves a school doing a thorough and rigorous self-evaluation that is documented in a detailed self-study report. The process culminates with a four day visit from a visiting team trained to scrutinize the merits of the school's report and progress since the last accreditation visit.

The accreditation process provides an invaluable opportunity for schools to pause, evaluate, and thoughtfully reflect on every aspect of their program, and when done properly, validates and celebrates the successes of a school while identifying the areas a school should focus on to facilitate meaningful improvement.

Saint Mark Lutheran School is proud to be fully accredited by three organizations: **WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges)**, **HAIS (Hawaii Association of Independent Schools)**, and **NLSA (National Lutheran School Accreditation)**. Our last full accreditation visit was in 2010 and resulted in a maximum six year accreditation that is due to expire in the summer of 2016.

In preparation for our re-accreditation visit in the spring of 2016, we are beginning the self-study process this fall and will continue it through 2015. While this process will be a tremendous amount of work, it will most certainly be a meaningful endeavor that will lead to the creation of a detailed action plan for school improvement. It will be a collaborative and transparent process where we will call upon representatives from our various constituencies to share their insights. One very important way that parents can contribute to this inclusive process is by taking the time to complete the **parent survey** that will be distributed in February 2015. The survey responses will be used as one form of evidence as we work to develop our self-study report in preparation for our big visit.



Mahalo for your support of this important school improvement process!

### Dates to Remember

**September 26:** 1st Quarter Ends

**September 29 - Oct 10:** Fall Break

**October 1-3:** Grades 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

**October 13:** School Resumes; K-5 Report Cards go home with Students

**October 15:** Picture make-ups

**October 19:** Grades K-2 sing in church at 9:30 a.m.

**October 23 & 24:** 11:30 a.m. dismissal due to Parent Teacher Conferences

**October 29 - 31:** Grades 5 & 7 Outdoor Education at Camp Erdman

**November 6 & 7:** SOTF Teachers' Conference - No School

**November 8:** 5th Annual Benefit Gala at *The Pacific Club*

**November 11:** Veterans' Day Observed - No School

**November 19:** Mid-Quarter Reports go home w/students

**November 20:** Open House for Prospective Parents at 5:30 p.m.

**November 27 & 28:** Thanksgiving Break - No School

## Building for the Future - Early Education Facility !



Saint Mark continues its multi-year endeavor to raise money for the construction of a new early education building on the footprint of the current administrative offices, kindergarten room, and computer room. The architect has developed a beautiful building which includes three pre-school classrooms, library, technology center, meeting rooms and administrative offices.



*New Renderings of Early Education Facility*

**We need everyone's help** to bring our plans to fruition. Our most immediate and pressing goal is to **raise \$100,000 by this December**. Please call the school office to set up a meeting with Dr. Gaudi to learn more about how you can support this very important project. Mahalo Nui Loa!

## Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

**Kindergarten:** The kindergarten classroom was overflowing with lots of aloha when grandparents, grandfriends, and great grandparents visited for our Grandparents and Grandfriends' Day Celebration! The children sang some of their favorite songs and had fun making a craft with their tutu. The kindergarteners have also been enjoying swimming every week with their friends during these hot summer days. They have been writing, counting and are beginning to read lots of books and listening to lots of stories. They are excited about becoming expert readers!

**First Grade:** First grade students have had a busy first quarter! In math, we learned many new rules about addition and began memorizing addition facts. Gumball Math and Math Minute help reinforce

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 our "Flat people" off to visit communities around the globe. Finally, we enjoyed our weekly swim lessons at Kokoahi YWCA. We are busy caring for and tending our garden and our worm bin with the second graders. We also take pride in caring for our pet bunnies named Butterscotch and Licorice.

**Second Grade:** Second graders have been very busy this month. They went swimming with kindergarten and had a lot of fun! The students are also excited to be learning about money in math as they will be putting those skills to work during their very first open market on September 26. The second graders are also eager to learn new and challenging words from our new Wonders curriculum. If you see a second grader ask them what onomatopoeia means! The class will be ending the first quarter by completing a family project which they have started at home.



*Grade 1 students working in the grade 1 & 2 class garden*

## Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

**Third Grade:** Third graders have had a busy month. We went on a very exciting field trip to visit a wetlands where we studied Hawaii's endangered birds as well as why wetlands are an important part of our world. In math we have been working very hard learning how to count money and give change. We



*Grade 3 students spent some time reading a story under a beautiful tree*

set up a store and sold our goods to the second graders who were patient shoppers. **Fourth Grade:** Fourth graders have been busy learning about our Hawaiian Islands and the special way they were created! We have explored volcanoes, natural

disasters, and how the earth is shaped. With first quarter coming to an end students are busily working on their project, making a canoe. The goal is to create a small scale Hawaiian canoe that floats and has specific canoe parts with all reusable material. All of the students canoes will be displayed on Wednesday September 24 from 8:40 am - 12:45 pm in Room 2 for all to see!

## Classroom News - Fifth Grade

**Fifth Grade:** Our fifth grade had a blast swimming at the YWCA pool with kindergarten. The sun was shining, the water was cool, and everyone had a wonderful time. We think it might be the best PE class that we'll have all year! Thank you to the many parent drivers that made our field trip possible. Mahalo from Fifth Grade!



*Grade 5 students recently enjoyed a quick swimming excursion with the kindergarteners*



*Grade 4 students spent some quality time working at Kualoa Ranch*

**5th Grade  
ROCKS**



# Classroom News - Middle School

## Miss Pelletier's News:

In **sixth grade Bible**, students are finishing up the first unit on Jesus' arrival and early works. They are excited to be learning more about how to be active and loving disciples in this world!

In **science**, **sixth graders** took their first test and rocked. They are now moving on to a unit about minerals and rocks. **Seventh graders** have learned about cells and all their incredible parts and processes. And in **eighth grade science**, there have been some really neat activities and labs! Students are currently working on their first project about the changes of states of matter.

In **seventh grade math**, they are finishing up a chapter on exponents, factors and fractions.

**Eighth grade algebra** students have been zipping through chapters and are currently working on solving equations.

## Mrs. Schroppel's News:

**Seventh graders** began a new unit in **Bible** that looks at the work of the third person of the Trinity: the Holy Spirit. They have learned that this work is called 'sanctification'. Next month they will actually know what that means!

**Seventh and eighth grade pre-algebra** students have wrapped up their Mathenger Hunt project and interviewed "real people" to find out how they use math in their jobs. Thank you to all you patient moms, dads, aunties, uncles, and tutus who patiently answered questions and shared your love of math with the kids.

**Sixth graders** are doing all things decimal and learning new words like "LUTDP", which means, interestingly enough, Line Up The Decimal Point. As you may remember, that is a very important thing to remember when adding and subtracting decimals.

The **eighth grade English** class is finishing reading *Uglies* and will be doing Ugly to Pretty transformations this week. They are also working through the process of writing research essays. The **seventh grade** class has finished reading *The Giver* and is working on a book cube project.

## Mrs. Souki's News:

**Eighth grade Bible** class has finished unit 1 of the Old Testament curriculum and have taken the unit test. Now students are focusing on the Law and Gospel aspects of each lesson and how to apply it to their own lives. They continue to work closely with their kindergarten buddies and escorted them to the Book Fair to help with their wish lists.



Grade 6 students working hard in P.E. doing their sit-ups

**Sixth grade world history** students are entering civilization with the study of Egypt. They are completing the unit on Mesopotamia by learning about some firsts in civilization. Such as, Cuneiform, the first written language used for trade in the fertile crescent, and Hammurabi's Code, the first set of laws and punishments.

**Seventh grade geography** students are finishing up the Core Concepts in the final unit of the quarter and are

looking forward to next quarter. We are going to apply what we have learned about geography and all the different aspects of the subject to different regions. We will start with North America.

In **eighth grade U.S. History** students are finishing up the unit on colonization and learning more about the American Revolution. We will end the quarter with an exciting project. Students will colonize their own countries and will choose a government, economy, education system, and legal system.

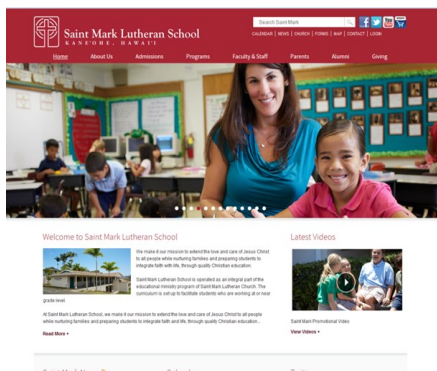
In **sixth grade English** we learned our fourth Shurley jingle which we practice every day. Ask your 6<sup>th</sup> grader to share the jingles with you! We will be classifying sentences and continuing our Wordly Wise work. We look forward to completing our Figurative

Language Poetry Books in the next quarter. We will also be reading a class novel.

## Miss Morris' News:

P.E. middle school students are continuing to work on their volleyball skills and their running in our twice a week PE classes. Keep up the good work! All middle school and high school students are invited to join us every Sunday night from 6 to 8pm for Youth Night. Come play some games, have a devotion, and spend some time with your friends!

# 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](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 with the school!



## Athletics



We have come to the end of our varsity volleyball season and headed for the playoffs. Both the boys and girls learned a lot from **Coach Kuulei** and had a lot of fun in the process (along with lots and lots of sweat!). Next up is JV volleyball for boys and girls in the 5th and 6th grade. Information and permission slips will be sent home soon. Practice with Coach Kuulei will begin when we get back from Fall Break.

Be sure to stay well informed by checking out the latest schedule of Athletic Events on the Saint Mark website calendar at:

[www.smls-hawaii.org/calendar/](http://www.smls-hawaii.org/calendar/)



## 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 \$300,000 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 **5th Annual Benefit Gala...**

The gala is scheduled for **Saturday, November 8** 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 HUGE success with a larger attendance than any of our previous movie nights. The weather was perfect, the fourth grade fundraiser provided dinner and snacks, children played, parents relaxed, and everyone enjoyed the movie.

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

The end of our first quarter and the beginning of **Fall Break** are quickly approaching. Our last day of school is **September 26**, with classes resuming on **Monday, October 13**. The school office will remain open from 8:30-1:30 during break.

**Report cards** for students in grades 6-8 will be mailed home during Fall Break. Students in grades K-5 will receive their report cards when they return to school on October 13th.



*Kindergarten students sharing a very special visit from their grandparents on Grandparents Day*

Forms for flu vaccinations will be sent home soon. Students who hand in their **vaccination** forms will receive their shots on **Wednesday, December 3**. Those handing in late forms will be wait-listed to receive vaccinations if there is a sufficient supply.

We are still in **need of donations** for the silent auction at our **Benefit Gala**. The event, "**Kulia I Ka Lani - Strive for the Heavens**" on **November 8** at 5:30 p.m., will once again be held at the beautiful Pacific Club. We encourage any of you who would like to attend the Gala to come by the school office to purchase tickets.



*Middle school students smiling for the camera*

Mahalo to all who supported and volunteered for our **Scholastic Book Fair**. We sold a little over \$4200 worth of books. We will use the profits to buy additional books for the school library.