

# 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**

**May 2012**

## A Message from the Principal



*The May Day Queen dancing to "Palehua"*

With the May Day Program, Big Island Trip, and Choir & Band Concert now behind us, it is about time to say good bye to 2011-12 and begin focusing on the new school year.

As I do this, I am filled with mixed emotions. I am sad because this is the time of the year that we say good-bye to many wonderful families, but I am excited to see all the new faces and welcome the new families to Saint Mark.

Besides bidding farewell to some terrific students, we also say good-bye to three Saint Mark teachers. We bid a warm aloha to Mrs. Olson, Miss Mirikidani, and Mrs. Patten as they transition to the next phase of their lives. Mrs. Olson is exploring some new opportunities in town closer to her daughter, Miss Mirikidani is taking a break from full-time teaching while she considers

going back to school, and Mrs. Patten is relocating to the Big Island to be with her husband as they plan for the arrival of their new baby. All three teachers are true ambassadors for Saint Mark, and we profoundly thank them for their years of outstanding service while wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

But as is often the case, as we say good-bye we also say hello. We are thrilled to welcome three experienced and talented educators to the Saint Mark ohana. We welcome Mrs. Julie Venagas in grade 1, Mrs. Kimberley Gonzalez in grade 2, and Miss Jackie Camit in grade 4. All three were raised on the Windward side of the island and come with a combined 25 years of teaching experience. We are excited to have these skilled educators joining the Saint Mark team.

As is customary, I bid the school year good-bye by saying:  
*To those of you who are moving on from Saint Mark, we wish you all of God's blessing in the future. Please come back and visit. To those returning, we look forward to seeing you in July. And, to all of you, we wish you a safe, relaxing, and altogether refreshing summer!"*

## Still Time to Double Your Donation

For the past three months we have promoting the fact that the Harold K.L. Castle foundation graciously offered to match every dollar we raise from alumni and their extended families up to \$25,000. **We are thrilled to report that we have thus far raised nearly \$15,000.** However, we are not stopping there. **Our hope is to raise \$25,000 by the end of June!** And with nearly 60 years' worth of Saint Mark graduates, we are very optimistic that we will meet our goal. The monies are going towards facility renovations (due to begin in June) and the purchase of iPad's to be used in a pilot program.

### Dates to Remember

**May 22:** PTC meeting at 5:30pm

**May 25:** Kindergarten Graduation at 7:00 p.m.

**May 28:** No School - Memorial Day

**May 31:** Grade 8 Graduation at 7:00 p.m.

**June 1:** Last Day of School  
11:30 a.m. dismissal with  
**NO AFTER CARE**

**June 1:** K-5 Report cards go home with students

**June 4-8:** Gr. 6-8 Report cards mailed home

**June 4-8:** Vacation Bible School at Saint Mark

**June 11-15:** Summer Mailing Packets go home

**July 31:** First Day of School  
11:30 a.m. dismissal  
**NO AFTER CARE**

**August 8:** K-5 Back to School Orientation at 6:30 p.m.

**August 9:** Grades 6-8 Back to School Orientation at 6:30 p.m.

**August 10:** Fall School Pictures

**August 17:** No School Admissions' Day

**August 29-31:** Grades 6-8 Optional Parent Teacher Conferences

**September 3:** No School Labor Day



# iPad

## Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

**Kindergarten:** The kindergartners are “almost” ready for their graduation operetta, “The Birthday Celebration.” They’re excited about dress rehearsal when the Saint Mark students will enjoy it and then, of course, when they present it at graduation. Other exciting happenings before the wonderful school year ends: visiting first grade to see what’s in store for us as first graders, celebrating our graduation with a beach day after we put our graduation lei on the graves of veterans at the Veterans’ Cemetery, Kaneohe in honor of Memorial Day. We’re counting down the days until we’re first graders.

**First Grade:** The first graders are spending the last month of school making connections between the various units we’ve studied this year. We’re making connections between the water cycle and the life cycle that we’ve learned about through our study of clouds, plants

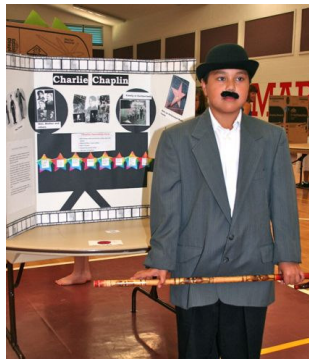
from our garden, and the chicks we hatched in our classroom incubator. These cycles are connected in interesting ways that have helped us to notice the interdependence we share with the natural world around us that God has created. We tied everything up with a visit to a native Hawaiian fish pond, where we learned how Hawaiian people long ago sustained themselves right here in Kane’ohe. We’ll also visit Windward Community College and meet with Aunty Kathy McGovern Hopkins to learn all about how to grow edible plants through aquaponics. Each child will create a closed ecosystem in a 2-liter bottle. They’ll activate their prior knowledge as they recall what living things need in order to survive and be sure that is incorporated in the system they create.



**Second Grade:** During this last quarter we are expanding our vocabulary by doing *Wordly Wise*, working on writing creative stories, learning about motion and energy in science, and exploring different measurements in math. The students are greatly looking forward to having our class auction where they will bid on books and toys using their “moola” they earned throughout the year. We will soon be going on a field trip to Senator Fong’s Plantation and have a dance party with the first grade class. The second grade students have worked incredibly hard this year. They have risen to the challenge of conquering all of the things that were given to them. The students have grown and matured and as they head off to the third grade they are leaving behind a proud teacher. We want to give a special mahalo to Kate Chaffin for all of her help throughout the school year.

## Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

**Third Grade:** What a year we have had! We have seen so much growth in the children. We just completed our Wax Museum. It was a great success. The kids were exhausted when we finished. It seems that each year it gets better and better. We have only two weeks left of school and still several things to complete. The students are working on an autobiography in class. We hope to have it published by the end of the year. On Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> we will be having our end of the year party at Kailua Beach with grade 4 & 5 classes.



*Charlie Chaplin in the Grade 3 Wax Museum*

**Fourth Grade:** The fourth graders had a fantastic trip to the Big Island. Mahalo to Mele Manu, Kathleen Funklinton, Malia Nickison-Beazley, Brandon Cruz, Garret Medeiros, and Greg Jardon for being incredible chaperones. I am very impressed with how well the students responded to our

jammed packed trip itinerary. While on the Big Island, the students visited an ancient heiau, explored and recreated the Kaloko-Honokohau fish pond, walked

through a beautiful botanical garden, enjoyed the breathtaking views of Akaka Falls, tried to lift the famous Naha Stone, enjoyed their visit to the Lyman Museum, were amazed by the power and sites of Volcano National Park, felt the mana at Pu’uhonua Honaunau (place of refuge), and got “hands-on” at the Onizuka Space Museum. I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to see my students learn and thrive outside the classroom. I want to thank the fourth graders for being so well behaved. The chaperones and I were extremely impressed with their level of maturity for their age. Mahalo nui loa for such a fun and memorable trip!

## Classroom News - Fifth Grade

**Fifth Grade:** California, Massachusetts, Idaho... The students have each selected one state to learn about and present to the rest of the class for our fifth grade study about the United States. They will be utilizing their skills in research, technology, organization, and oral language

as well as visual design to complete their state project. We will end our study by learning all the fifty states with their capital cities and abbreviations. Hopefully, one day they’ll get to visit all of them!



# Classroom News - Junior High

## Mrs. Hantel's News:

The **junior high math** students really challenged themselves in their classes. They had fun learning new mathematical concepts, and learning to solve difficult problems they initially thought were impossible. Hopefully they will be able to use these problem solving skills outside of the classroom!

**Seventh grade social studies** students are winding down studies of the different cultures around the world. This year they completed many tests, projects, and activities, wrote a four page research paper, and learned the location of every country in the world!

The **eighth grade social studies** students had an amazing year. One of their biggest accomplishments in **American History** was to become fluent in Constitutional concepts. They have grown into mature and knowledgeable citizens of this country. In about 30 years, I will be anxiously awaiting the announcement of one of my former eighth graders running for President of the United States!

The **seventh grade** had a great year in **Bible!** They learned about the wonderful gift Christ gave us on the cross. They are now prepared to be "disciples of all nations" as they spread this Good News!

The **seventh and eighth graders** had the wonderful opportunity of staying overnight on the USS Missouri Battleship and experiencing the life of a sailor aboard that ship. The next day they were able to visit Pearl Harbor and pay their respects at the USS Arizona Memorial. It was definitely a memorable trip!

## Miss Maddick's News:

As we are all dreaming of summer, the **sixth - eighth grade** students are polishing final projects for our **themed reading groups**. They have the challenge of convincing us to read their group's novel! Good luck to all.

In **Communications eighth graders** are writing, revising, and formatting poems. They have created descriptive passages that make us visualize, laugh, and/or contemplate our own lives. The **seventh graders** are sharing demonstration speeches that show off their skills and interests (this usually includes lots of samples).

We are bringing **World History** to recent and current events. It is interesting to see how much things have changed, but still stayed the same over time.

I look forward to sending the **eighth grade** students out into the world of high school and life in general. We spent time in **Bible** class equipping ourselves for the battles we will face. These **eighth graders** will support each other and continue to live dynamic Christian lives. God's blessings on your new road less traveled!

## Mrs. McGregor's News:

The **sixth graders** have been studying the Solar System. We have been reading the book, "*The Heavens Proclaim His Glory*" which provides spectacular photographs of creation through the lens of the Hubble Telescope. Students shared websites such as [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov) and [www.billionsandbillions.com](http://www.billionsandbillions.com) Extremely fascinating!

In **seventh grade math**, the students studied 3-D figures and constructed castles, buildings, and vehicles from recyclable materials. A fun hands-on activity.

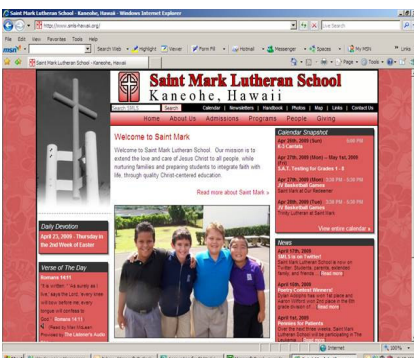
The **seventh grade science students** are exploring interesting facts about different body systems. These include: the Nervous System, Muscular System, Circulatory System, Endocrine System, and Respiratory System. They have shown their creativity in power point presentations, videos, and skits. Amazing!

In **physical science, 8<sup>th</sup> graders** were required to design an experiment from scratch. One group tested "Which type of pulley is most effective at decreasing the amount of force needed to lift an object?" Another group tested, "How does the steepness of a ramp affect its usefulness?" The independent and dependent variables were identified, data was organized in a table, experiment conducted, results were interpreted, and all the students gave an oral presentation on what they learned. A great pleasure to observe them in action!

## Miss Morris' News:

Congratulations to all of our ribbon winners from the Track and Field meet! Also good job to all of our Presidential and National Fitness challenge students: **Desmond Mello, Adrienne Bonham, Kailani Linton, Mikayla Aki, Kamaile Labanon, Kiki Lo, Martine Marantz, Jackson Wadsworth, Kaimi Won, Jayson Wong, Kaimana Cameron, Sage Iona, Kala Kahapea-Aquino, Rhys Kalama, and Makoa Sanchez.**

## Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!



Please take some time to visit the SMSL website. It continues to be updated!

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

You are encouraged to visit our website and **opt-in** to begin receiving **automatic email alerts** for Saint Mark school.





## Royal Hawaiian Band Plays at Saint Mark

Saint Mark was recently treated to a special performance by the Royal Hawaiian Band. They played for nearly an hour and even invited the Saint Mark band to join them for a few songs.



*Saint Mark Students Playing  
with Royal Hawaiian Band*

## Athletics



The JV basketball season ended with our boys finishing undefeated and our girls finishing strong and playing with no reserves for most of the second half of the season. Congratulations to both teams!

Our Athletic Banquet was a big success thanks to Mrs. Warrington who planned, organized, and worked very hard. Mahalo nui loa, Mrs. Warrington, for the ono

food, great live music and program.

Kickball for our K-3 students has been a lot of learning and fun. Special thanks to Mrs. Hantel and Mrs. McGregor for coaching and to Pastor Hilpert and Mrs. Hinton for their wonderful "pitching" and refereeing.

Coach Curtis will be holding several free basketball clinics on Saturday mornings during the summer for students currently in the grades 3 to 8. More information about the days and times will be forthcoming. If you are interested in participating, please see Mrs. Kong for a release form.

## Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



Please join us at the next PTC meeting **on Tuesday, May 22 at 5:30 p.m.**

We are working hard planning for **teacher appreciation luncheon** and preliminarily planning for the **3rd Annual Gala** next fall - Saturday, November 5, 2012.

We need your help and would love to see you there!



## This & That

**Chapel offerings** for April totaling \$215 went to the *Make a Wish* foundation. As always, we greatly appreciate your generosity!

**Office hours** during the **summer break** will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

If you have left over **lunch tickets**, they can be used again next school year.

Remember our **last day of school** is **Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>** and the children will be dismissed at 11:30. There is **no after care that day.**

The kindergartners enjoyed a cupcake decorating contest since they brought the most "**Box tops for Education**" this quarter. Thank you Mrs. Cameline for all your help with the box top collection and counting!

Saint Mark Lutheran Church

would like to invite keiki (age 4 to those entering grade 5) to attend "**Babylon**" this summer's **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**! Come learn about Daniel and his friends and how God took



care of them while they were in Babylon. Each day we will experience a new adventure and see how God takes care of each of us everyday. Join us in Babylon **June 4-8 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm.** Please call the church office at 247-4565 or stop by if you have any ques-

tion or are interested in registering.

Congratulations to **Kailani Linton**



*Grade 4 Students Enjoying the  
Akaka Falls Lookout on their  
recent Big Island Trip*

(grade 8) who represented Saint Mark in this year's Middle School Honor Band.

The **first day of school** for our new school year is Thursday, July 31st with an early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. with **no after care.**