

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 2012

A Message from the Principal

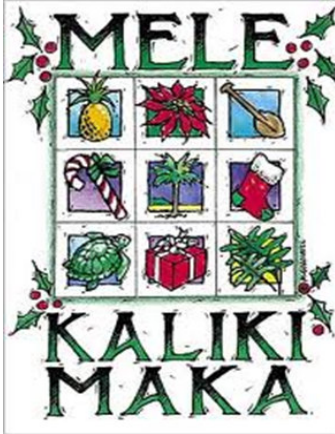
With two weeks to go until Christmas, I find myself once again amazed at how fast the year has come and gone. It seems like just yesterday we were excitedly ushering in 2012 and yet here we are quickly winding it down.

It has been an exciting year of change and growth for Saint Mark. We bid a fond farewell to some old friends and a warm aloha to several new members of the Saint Mark ohana. We increased our enrollment to its highest level in over ten years. We received several generous grants that were used to make many valuable and much needed school improvements. And thanks to the generous and dedicated hard work of the members of our PTC along with Event Coordinator, **Cissy Shaner**, we had our most successful benefit gala to date - raising over \$30,000 for the school's financial aid program and technology improvements.

While there are numerous people who helped make the gala so successful, I want to particularly thank the members of the PTC who worked so very hard. We thank President **Denise Warrington**, Vice President **Lila Marantz**, Secretary **Rachel Hilpert**, Treasurer **Mele Manu**, **Robin Kaha`ulelio**, **Melissa Wilson**, **Jennifer Seibold**, **Cheryl Chang**, **Kaui Dias**, **Jamie Kekaulike**, **Liz Stone**, **Joy Bueno**, **Janet Medeiros**, **Kathleen Funk-Linton**, **Victoria Flores**, **Nikki Hantel**, **Dale Gibo**, **Mele Manu**, **Pam Kong**, **Miki Henriques**, **Sara Alimoot**, and **Penny Rapoza** for their amazing work.

As we bid farewell to 2012, I wish our entire ohana well, thank you for your continued commitment to Saint Mark, and 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.*"

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau`oli Makahiki hou!



Dates to Remember

December 11: Grades 3-6 Choir & Grades 4-8 Band Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m.

December 16: K-2 Christmas Program at 5:00 p.m.

December 19: 2nd Quarter Ends, 11:30 a.m. Dismissal No Aftercare

December 20 - January 2: Winter Intersession

December 21-27: Grades 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

December 24: Christmas Eve Church Services 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Day Church Service at 9:30 a.m.

January 3: School Resumes

January 3: K-5 Report Cards go home with students

January 9-11: Optional Parent Teacher Conferences for Grades K-5

January 16: "Get Active" Kick-Off at 8:30 a.m.

January 20: Grades 3-6 sing at the 9:30 a.m. church service

January 21: MLK Jr. Day - No School

January 31 & February 1: Lutheran Teacher's Conferences - No School

February 5: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

February 9: PTC Rummage Sale at 9:00 a.m.

February 15: Spring Family Night

Reminder!

Save Your Rummage

We are looking forward to another great PTC rummage sale on **Saturday, February 9, 2013.**

Please start saving items that can be donated to the sale. All of the money raised from these sales goes directly to the school!



Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: Along with reading every day and learning how to do addition and subtraction, the children are singing lots of Christmas songs and know their speaking parts for their Christmas program. There are also many art projects



Grade 2 Students with Corn from their Garden

for Christmas: Santa mobiles, Rudolph, shoe box stables with nativity scenes and angels made from paper plates. The children left carrots for St. Nick's horse and will have a posada for their Christmas party. They look forward to shopping for the needy with their chapel partners, a trip to the Princess Kaiulani Hotel to meet the chef of the gingerbread extravaganza, and viewing the decorations at Honolulu Hale.

First Grade: The first graders are learning about places all over the world through our "Flat Stanley" project. The first graders made their own flat person and sent it near and far. We are getting correspondence from all around the world. We have received emails, packages, letters, postcards, etc. The children have been also very busy working

on their holiday projects. We celebrated a special feast with our pilgrim friends in November. This month we are all very busy preparing for our Christmas Program. The K-1 graders are looking forward to visiting the Honolulu Hale and the extraordinary gingerbread village on December 17th. From our classroom ohana to yours...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Second Grade: The second graders are excited to be participating in a gingerbread person exchange with other second grade classes on the mainland! The students wrote to other second graders across the mainland and sent a decorated pa-



K-2 had a Blast Running in their 1st Annual Turkey Trot

per gingerbread person to represent our beautiful state. The second graders' gingerbread people are dressed in slippers, leis, and aloha wear. In turn, their mainland friends are sending letters and their decorated gingerbread people. The second graders can't wait to track their new friends on the map and learn more about different places in the U.S.A.!

Merry Christmas

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: Lots has been happening in the third grade this month. Almost every student is well over their A.R. goal for this quarter. I am so excited. It is fun to hear them ask, "Are we going to read today?" I have been very pleased. We have been working on our presentation for the grade 3-6 Christmas concert. They have had a good time working on it. There are a few actors in this class! The class book will be available soon. I will have it posted on my Shutterfly account so you can order your own when it is convenient for you and take advantage of the promotions that come up during the holiday

season. Keep checking our weekly newsletter for other important, upcoming events. The students recently spent time writing a "Reading Rainbow" type book recommendation and are now taking turns recording each other on the iPads during class time. They are having lots of fun doing this project.



Grade 4 Students Getting Their Hands Dirty on a Recent Trip to Kualoa Ranch

Fourth Grade: For most of the 2nd Quarter the fourth graders have been working together to learn more about our eight main Hawaiian islands. They did individual research, shared what they discovered with each other and are now busy making their own non-fiction information book on the islands. It's been a great collaborative project and got the students working together!

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade has been learning what life was like during the Colonial Days. We visited the Honolulu Museum of Art where students dressed-up in colonial outfits, did weaving on a loom, and went inside a reconstructed colonial house. The

Merry Christmas

following week, we continued to do various activities that were common during the 1600s. We made candles, wrote with quill pens, sewed buttons on material, designed a floor plan for a home, and did limner which were typical during that period.



Mrs. Flores congratulates the Saint Mark Geographic Bee semi-finalists from grade 4-8. They all did a fantastic job.

Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News

In **Bible** the **seventh graders** are beginning to journey through Christ's ministry. They will examine how this little baby born in Bethlehem transitions into a young man sharing God's love.

"We the people..." The students in **eighth grade** are finishing up their unit on the US Constitution. As they study this important document, they are becoming well informed and active citizens. Perhaps we will see one of these students in the White House.

After spending a few weeks studying China, the students in **seventh grade social studies** are travelling over the Sea of Japan to spend a couple weeks immersing themselves in Japanese culture. It should be some fun and exciting times.

In **Jr. High Math** the students are finishing up their chapters and are preparing for end of the semester testing. Over the break they need to be "exercising their brain" to prepare for the challenging material they will face after the New Year.

Miss Maddick's News

Christmas is coming and the students are already celebrating. We are celebrating our finished class novels that remind us that sin in this world can get in the way of Christmas cheer and hope. This message is found in so many books.

Seventh and eighth grade communications enjoyed many persuasive

speeches that will improve students' ability to convince you not only to get them the new gadget they want for Christmas, but also to donate to those in need as well.

Sixth grade world history has traveled to Ancient Greece with all its battles, culture, and gods. This is a good reminder that we believe in the one true God, that babe in a manger in Bethlehem.

Obviously Christmas is an important part of **eighth grade Bible** class. We discussed the season of Advent, shared the Christ-centered message of songs and carols, shopped for homeless families, and discussed the honor we have to pray to "Our Father" with permission from the grown up Christ child. No "Seasons Greetings" from Miss Maddick - just a very blessed, "Merry Christmas!"

Miss Morris' News

December is a very busy month with Christmas parties and performances all throughout the month. How easily we get caught up in all of the stuff of this season. Let us take a moment to remember what we are celebrating at each of those parties and performances. God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to be born in a stable in Bethlehem and to die on a cross so that we may be saved from our sins and live eternally with Him in heaven. What an awesome God we have! Keep working on those physical fitness goals! Next quarter we will start getting ready for our Track and Field Meet as well as work on

our soccer skills. Have a great break!

Mrs. McGregor's News

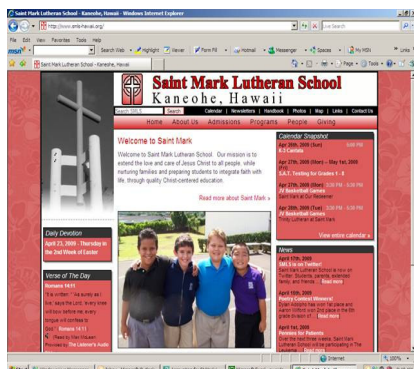
As most of you have already heard, we recently received some very sad news regarding our beloved junior high teacher, Mrs. McGregor. Unfortunately, she has been diagnosed with cancer and will need to take an indefinite leave of absence as she fights to get well. She bravely battled cancer in 2011 and is committed to fight again. We humbly ask that you keep Mrs. McGreg-



or and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. Mahalo Nui Loa!



Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!



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

Saint Mark Website
www.smls-hawaii.org

You are invited to visit the SMLS website and **opt-in** to begin receiving Saint Mark **automatic email alerts**. Be on the lookout in 2013 for our all new Saint Mark School website.



No Aftercare

Wednesday, December 19 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.

Please join us!!

Athletics



Volleyball is over for the year with the end of the JV season. Both the boys and girls did well and celebrated the end of their season with a parent/athlete game followed by a potluck. Thank you, **Coach Kim**, for two wonderful and exciting seasons of volleyball!

Varsity basketball for boys and girls has started with practices held every day from 3:30-5:30 p.m. **Curtis Lau** has agreed to be our coach this year, and we are looking forward to some very fast paced basketball.

Our first basketball game is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at Pearl Harbor Christian Academy.



Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the

2013 Rummage Sale!



Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Wednesday, December 12 at 5:30 p.m.** when we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on February 9, 2013.

This & That

For the **December chapel offerings**, please bring unwrapped new toys, money and food for Windward Oahu's needy keiki. Kindergartners and their 8th grade chapel partners will do the shopping. Mahalo to Price Busters for giving us a 20% discount at their Let's Party store.

Everyone is invited on Sunday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m. to the **K-2 Christmas musical** entitled, *Signs of Christmas*. Also, please join us for the **Grades 3-8 Choir and Band Christmas Program** on Tuesday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Students in Grades K-6 were excited when "**The Reptile Man**" visited their classes and had an interesting hands-on experience with his many reptiles and amphibians.

A **BIG mahalo** goes to everyone for their support of Saint Mark's **3rd Annual Benefit Gala**. We are extremely pleased to have raised approximately **\$30,000**. We owe our special thanks to our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) for their hard work in support of the gala!



Merry Christmas

Once again Saint Mark students in grades four through eight participated in the **National Geographic Bee**. Students **Reece Flores, Benjamin Brophy, Noah Graham, Kaleimakalii Saunders, Seth Denis, Bronson Buck, Rhys Kalama, Sage Iona and Isiah Graham** were our semi-finalists with **Rhys Kalama** being our final winner. Congratulations Rhys! He will now complete the Qualifying Test from National Geographic to determine eligibility for the state-

level competition that will be held at the Blaisdell Center in March. The first-place winner from each state-level competition will be sent, all expenses paid, to Washington, D.C. to compete at the national level of the National Geographic Bee hosted by Alex Trabek from *Jeopardy*. Students will then compete for various prizes with the top prize being a \$25,000 college scholarship, \$500 in cash, and a trip to the Galapagos Islands.



Saint Mark offers a special mahalo to its gold level sponsor at the 3rd Annual Benefit Gala - **Ed and Veronica Buck** of **E.A. Buck Family of Companies**.



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