

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 2012

A Message from the Principal

Hopefully you have noticed that Saint Mark underwent a facility-wide renovation this past summer. This major renovation involved the complete remodeling of the library, administrative offices, and older classrooms. Some of the specific improvements included the addition of new windows, ceilings, doors, fixtures, white boards, and energy efficient lighting. Other infrastructure enhancements included all new paint, as well as new cabinets,

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

sinks, desks, and chairs. These upgrades have been very well received and, by many accounts, have improved the overall learning environment for the Saint Mark students in transformative ways.

We are happy to report that the school upgrades did not stop with the renovations. Besides improving the look, feel, and functionality of the facilities, Saint Mark made another exciting change this summer. The school purchased a set of 30 new iPads to be used across all grades in a one year pilot program. The short-term goals of the iPad program are to increase student participation, engagement, motivation, and collaboration. The long-term goals are to improve students' attitudes towards learning as well as overall student achievement.

Some might say that these goals are perhaps a bit ambitious, but a comprehensive study done at Longfield Academy in Kent, England recently found that iPads had a "significant and very positive impact on learning." In fact, researchers found that among other benefits, student motivation, collaboration, and quality of work all increased. However, they also found that effective planning and project management were critical to the overall success of the iPad program. In other words, if teachers and administrators don't properly research, plan, and train on how to most effectively utilize the iPads, the program may fail.

So, while we are thoroughly enjoying our enhanced facilities and are excited to have new technology at our disposal, we must understand that educational transformation happens in the classroom not to the classroom. Freshly painted rooms, beautiful new desks, and fancy iPads are nice, but they are by themselves not transformational. They are the tools; they are not the teachers.

What truly defines a good school are the connections made between teacher and student. Please rest assured that at Saint Mark we will continue to nurture those connections while outfitting our teachers with the tools they need and the training they deserve to properly prepare their students for the increasingly complex world of 21st century learning.

Donations Make a Difference

Now that the much of the renovations are complete and the iPads are being integrated into the classrooms, it's fitting for us to pause and thank our generous donors. We thank the **Harold K.L. Castle Foundation** (\$75,000), the **Samuel and Mary Castle Foundation** (\$50,000), **alumni & families** (\$25,000), the **First Hawaiian Bank Foundation** (\$5,000), and the **Saint Mark PTC** (\$4,000) for their amazing support of Saint Mark. Their gifts are greatly appreciated and have made a dramatic difference to Saint Mark. Mahalo Nui Loa!

Dates to Remember

September 28: 1st Quarter Ends

October 1-12: Fall Intersession

October 1-5: Grades 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

October 15: School Resumes; K-5 Report Cards go home with Students

October 17: Flu Vaccination Clinic at 8:30 a.m.

October 17-19: Grades K-5 Parent Teacher Conferences

October 19: 11:30 a.m. dismissal due to teacher conferences

October 21: Grades K-2 Concert and Potluck at 5:00 p.m.

October 31-November 2: Grades 5 and 7 Outdoor Education at Camp Erdman

November 3: 3rd Annual Benefit Gala at *The Pacific Club* at 5:30 p.m.

November 12: Veterans' Day Observed - No School

November 13: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

November 15: Open House for Prospective Parents at 5:30 p.m.

November 16: Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences Grades 6-8

November 18: Grades K-2 sing at the 9:30 a.m. Service

Mahalo
YOUR DONATIONS MEAN THE WORLD TO US!

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: The classroom was overflowing with grandparents and even great-grandparents for our Grandparents' Day celebration. There were some tears of joy 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've all started reading, a proud moment for all. We will be starting our study of the five senses. The class also enjoyed "The Five Chinese Brothers" at the Tenney Theater, making stone soup, and going to the pool with a different class weekly for the entire quarter.

First Grade: The first grade class has been very busy this month studying a Literacy, Science, and Math Apple Unit. They have been engaged in making apple graphs,

predictions, finding a hidden secret in the center of the apple, experimenting with weighing apples and potatoes, learning about Johnny Appleseed and making homemade applesauce. They are excited to see their plants growing in the first and second grade garden. The first graders are the proud parents of a



bin of worms that will also help our garden grow. They take pride in bringing in scraps from home to feed the worms. They also take time to tear newspaper for the worms' food and bedding. Each week, Miss Jen helps water the

worm bins to make sure they are nice and moist. We are proud of the many ways the first graders have grown and blossomed this quarter!

Second Grade: If you are on our campus, you may notice students walking around with green thumbs. Those students would be our awesome second grade growers! The second graders have been excited to watch their seeds and plants grow in their garden. Only three short weeks ago, they planted corn seeds that have already grown to over two feet tall! The students have been anxiously watching as their carrot and green onion seeds have sprouted and peeked out of the soil. The second graders are looking forward to harvesting and tasting all of their hard work!

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: It is amazing to think that we have almost completed a full quarter of the school year. The most exciting thing that will be going on in our classroom now is getting ready for our class book. We will be focusing on an ABC book. Each child has chosen a letter of the alphabet that they will be responsible for. They will be writing a little about the word they chose to go with the letter. An added bonus this



Grade 3 students as the letter "B"

year will be the letter added to each page has been created with the bodies of the students in our class. We have a field trip planned in October to visit a wetland location through the Hawaii Nature Center. These kids are really becoming readers. They have pretty much mastered the form of a friendly letter which is part of our writing curriculum.

Fourth Grade:

The fourth graders had their first science lab of the year this past week. Chocolate candy was used to represent the rocks and how they change to become different types of rocks



Grade 4 students working on a science lab using the new iPads to record their findings to present to the entire class

through a natural process. This process is a scientific model of the rock cycle. During the lab students used iPads to take pictures of each step of the process. With these pictures they will put together a presentation. They all enjoyed working with the iPads!

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, Californians, the Southwestern, the Plains, and the Woodlands Indians. Each group did research at Kaneohe Library and in our class-

room utilizing their textbook, the internet, and various books. They then created a poster and shared the information with the rest of the class. In addition, each student constructed a Native American project that demonstrated some aspect of the Native American culture.

Projects were to be made "in the Native American way" using natural materials and methods and varied from fry bread to arrowheads. They presented their projects and explained what they learned about Native American culture.

Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News:

In **seventh grade Bible** class we will spend the last few weeks of the quarter, celebrating Christmas! The seventh graders are learning about the birth of Jesus and all its wonderful meanings. Don't be surprised if you stop by room 203 and hear Christmas carols.

The British are coming! No taxation without representation! The **eighth grade American History** students are getting personal with the Revolutionary War through many ways which includes writing a break-up letter to King George and creating a scrapbook for a Patriot or Loyalist.

How do I get from point A to point B? The **seventh graders** should be able to help you answer that question with the different tools of **geography** they have been learning about. They have also been staying up to date with important current events. These students are beginning to understand the importance of staying up to date with current events and how these events affect their lives.

The **6th-8th grade math classes** have been exploring how math is used in many different areas of life. These experiences have included planning a fictitious trip to the mainland, creating secret codes, playing equation games and finding the proportions of sugar in different soft drinks.

Miss Maddick's News:

As the first quarter comes to a close, **sixth through eighth graders** are reading books in a flurry! With class novels coming to a close, the book fair to tempt our reading appetites, and AR points due Sept. 24,

the library is busy, and students are enjoying a variety of books. We are exploring mysteries and creating our own adventures.

In **eighth grade Bible** class students are learning how to define and be assured of our salvation through Christ through reliance on Scripture.

In **sixth grade world history**, we have explored Mesopotamia, and have now moved on to Egypt. We enjoyed learning how the Israelites played roles in these powerful empires, and even watched a clip from *Prince of Egypt*. The **seventh and eighth grade Communications** classes are enjoying the adventure of our first speeches of the year. We cannot wait to see what adventures we will face in the weeks to come!



Mrs. McGregor's News:

In **sixth grade Bible** students are writing scripts and acting out the parables in the Gospels. We will be making a video of these skits.

Sixth graders have been studying minerals in **Earth Science**. The students studied how scientists use characteristics such as hardness, luster, streak, fracture, and color. Students made a poster advertising their mineral of choice. Very creative and artistic!

In **Life Science**, students are studying about the needs of living things and classifications of organisms and have completed a lab on the

presence of bacteria in yogurt. The **seventh graders** will be using iPads to learn about and explore cells.

Eighth graders have been learning about the chemical and physical properties of matter, and the differences between elements, compounds and mixtures. They enjoyed watching video clips of Roadrunner and Wyle E. Coyote to enhance their understanding of potential and kinetic energy.

Miss Morris' News:

Junior high P.E. classes are working on their volleyball and basketball skills during the first quarter.

We have also been striving for our **Presidential Fitness Awards** in Curl Ups, Push Ups, V-sit Reaches, Shuttle Runs, and One Mile Run. Congratulations to sixth grade student **Katy Koopman** reaching all of her

Presidential Award Goals! Keep up the good work! We will be working on basketball and soccer in the second quarter.

Thank you to all the junior highers that came to the Lock-In! We had fun and did some learning. Our next big junior high event will be the **Haunted Lagoon on October 19th**. Any junior high or high school student is welcome to come with us, as long as you have signed up and have given your money to **Miss Morris** by Wednesday, October 17th. Tickets are \$15 - \$20. Any parent who is willing to drive to the Polynesian Cultural Center, please talk to **Miss Morris**.

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

Be sure to check out the new feature which allows you to receive **automatic e-mail alerts** when new news items are posted to the school website.



Athletics



We are at the end of the varsity volleyball season and both the boys and girls are looking forward to the post-season tournament which will be played during the last week of September. Both teams are doing well and improving with every game.

The JV volleyball season will begin when we come back from Fall Intersession, however, they will start practice during the break. The fifth and sixth graders, along with Coach Kim, are anxious to get started!



Facebook



Twitter

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. More details will be sent home in the near future.



give aloha

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC continues its work planning the **3rd Annual Benefit Gala**. The gala is scheduled for Saturday, November 3 at *The Pacific Club* at 5:30 p.m. and will include an evening of international food, live entertainment and an exciting silent 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 enjoyable despite a little rain. 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 Family Promise. We collected \$450 in August for LCMS world relief.

The end of our 1st quarter and the beginning of **Fall Intersession** are quickly approaching. Our last day of school is **September 28**, and we will return **Monday, October 15**.

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 15th.

Students who handed in their **flu vaccination** forms will receive their shots on **Wednesday, October 17**. Students handing in late forms will be waitlisted and receive vaccinations if there is a sufficient supply.



Everyone is invited to the K-2 fall concert on Sunday, October 21 at 5:00 p.m. in the church. A potluck follows in the gym. Join us for our program called "There's

Music in the Air."

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 3 at 5:00 p.m.

A big mahalo to all who supported our **Scholastic Book Fair**. We made a profit of almost \$1000 with which we will buy library books and AR quizzes.

Saint Mark received a **\$10,000 grant** from **The Pettus Foundation** to continue improvements to the school's facilities and technology. We are extremely grateful to **The Pettus Foundation**. We particularly thank Pettus Foundation Trustees, James Finch and Lisa Hamilton, and Advisor to the Pettus Foundation, Al Castle, for their generosity and commitment to Saint Mark.



Congratulations & mahalo to the top sellers and prize winner of our catalog and cookie dough fundraiser!