

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 2011

A Message from the Principal



With the calendar soon turning to 2012, I am reminded that we are over a decade removed from the 20th century. It's hard to believe, but we all somehow managed to survive the Y2K scare and have quickly gone from a society where approximately 40% of us were using the Internet in 2000 to one where we now have 95% of all teens ages 12-17 on-line. Internet usage has most certainly become an ever-present part of our daily lives.

Information is now only a click away. Our students can easily google the answer to most factual questions in less than 0.2 seconds and must therefore be taught to do more than just regurgitate readily assessable facts. They must be taught to think and communicate.

As we work at Saint Mark to meet the intellectual, physical, social and emotional needs of our students, I am happy to say that we also challenge them to think critically, inquire creatively, and communicate collaboratively. These are skills that should serve them well in the information rich, technology laden world of 21st century learning. But we don't stop there! At Saint Mark we also try to impart to our students knowledge of and love for the most wonderful gift of all - the gift of the precious Christ Child. It is a calling that we take seriously and thoroughly enjoy doing.

As we bid farewell to 2011 and move yet another year deeper into the 21st century, I thank you all 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!



Save Your Rummage

We are looking forward to another great PTC rummage sale on **Saturday, February 18, 2012**. Please start saving items that can be donated to the sale. All of the money raised from these sales goes directly to the school!



Dates to Remember

December 11: K-2 Christmas Program at 5:00 p.m.

December 13: Grades 3-6 Choir & Grades 4-8 Band Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m.

December 16: 2nd Quarter Ends, 11:30 a.m. Dismissal No Aftercare

December 19 - January 3: Winter Intersession

December 19-22: 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 4: School Resumes

January 4: K-5 Report Cards go home with students

January 11-13: Kindergarten Parent Teacher Conferences

January 15: Grades 3-6 sing at the 9:30 Service

January 16: MLK Jr. Day - No School

February 2-3: Lutheran Teacher's Conferences - No School

February 9: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

February 10: Spring Family Night

February 15: "Get Active" for Saint Mark and Potluck

February 18: PTC Rummage Sale at 9:00 a.m.

February 19: Grades K-2 sing at the 9:30 Service

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: After lots of Thanksgiving activities, including making ice cream by shaking bags of milk (delicious), we are enjoying this Advent season - a time to get ready for Jesus' birthday. We know our speaking parts for the Christmas program when we get to use a microphone, and are making lots of Christmas decorations to take home and enjoy. In math we're learning about addition and subtraction. That's what the big kids do. And Mrs. Gundermann says we're getting very good at "sounding out" new words in the stories we read.

First Grade: The first graders are busy getting into the Christmas spirit. We will visit Honolulu Hale

to look at all the beautiful lights, decorations and Christmas wreaths, and have a chance to listen to the Royal Hawaiian Band. We're excited



Grade 1 Garden Play

about our Christmas program and are working hard to memorize our speaking parts and the words to all the beautiful songs. We'll visit Boston's Pizza as we seek to learn more about our local Kaneohe community. Our families will come to help us make gingerbread houses on December 15, and we'll have a gift exchange with our chapel buddies. We have so many things to be thankful for, but there's one special gift that we are most thankful for, Jesus!

Second Grade: The second grade students learned a lot about the first Thanksgiving. The children looked at the differences between England and Massachusetts, made paper models of the Mayflower, and planted corn. Then we celebrated all the things that we are thankful for by having our own classroom feast. Now it's time to put away the turkeys and move on to Christmas! The children have been busy practicing and preparing for the Christmas Choir Concert. We will be making gingerbread houses, writing creative Christmas stories, making winter crafts, but most importantly preparing our hearts for the birth of our Lord and Savior.



Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: We have completed and ordered our class book entitled *A Child's Guide to Hawai'i*, and we are hoping they will be here by Christmas break. There is one order already on its way. We have been working hard in math using data to create different kinds of graphs. We have also been learning about the changes in Earth caused by erosion and weathering. We are planning a Christmas breakfast as part of our party scheduled for December 16. We are looking for old jigsaw puzzles, those with the small pieces that we could use for an art project. If you have any you



Grade 4 Students Around Their Advent Wreath

would be willing to donate, we will be more than happy to take them. Open Market is coming up as well. Be looking for notes from school.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders are becoming ancient Hawaiian farmers. They are exploring the ancient

Hawaiian methods of planting kalo (taro), 'uala (sweet potatoes), uhi (yams), mai'a (bananas), ipu (gourds), kō (sugarcane), and 'ulu (breadfruit). They have learned about how each crop is planted and how it can be prepared. Many of

these crops have been brought into the classroom to be eaten. The students enjoyed some poi at our "Hawaiian Kine" Thanksgiving feast. They have also learned that the ancient Hawaiians were not wasteful people. They used every part of each plant. The fourth graders are trying very hard to adopt that lifestyle in our classroom.

We have been busy preparing our classroom and hearts for the birth of Jesus. The students had a chance to make their own advent wreaths. The students have been gluing their flames onto their candles as we light our real advent candles in class.

The fourth grade class would like to wish everyone a Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Our class joined all the fifth grade students from the other Lutheran schools on Oahu for a wonderful Outdoor Education Program at Camp Erdman for three days and two nights. The students were kept very busy from early in the morning to late at night. According to our fifth graders, their highlights were making new friends, hiking, the campfire, group challenges,

archery, swimming, sleeping in cabins, and eating delicious food. They learned about recycling, preserving our environment, and the animal hierarchy of predators and their prey. Camp Erdman is one of those experiences that our fifth graders will always remember!

Mele Kalikimaka



Grade 5 Students Enjoying Themselves at Camp Erdman

Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News

After several weeks of hard work and preparation, the **eighth grade American History students** completed their Simulated Congressional Hearing. They shared their Constitutional expertise before a panel of experts. After giving four minute speeches they were asked a series of difficult questions. We are very proud of their success in this endeavor.

The **seventh grade World Geography students** are finishing their studies on the cultures of South America. They find the similarities and differences between their lives and those living in the region very interesting. In **Bible the seventh graders** are learning about the wonderful miracles Jesus performed to show compassion to His children. The students are brainstorming ways they can show this compassion to those around them. **Math students** in grades **six - eight** are continuing to learn new concepts and how to use these concepts in the real world.

Miss Maddick's News

As the Advent season continues to Christmas, **sixth - eighth grade students** are examining the strength of human will in their class novels. **Eighth graders** are wrestling with a family divided by the revolutionary war. **Seventh graders** are persevering through great mental, physical, and spiritual obstacles, and the sixth graders are learning to focus on the attitude of joy & determination to share with those less fortunate at Christmas.

In **Communications, seventh graders** are editing and formatting their

own newspapers, while **eighth graders** are finalizing their scripts. Both have the opportunity to communicate facts, ideas, and morals in unique formats.

Sixth graders in World History are learning about the power and influence of the Roman Empire. As Americans, we can look at our government and see many ideas and concepts from the Romans.

In their small group **Bible studies, eighth graders** are examining what the message of the Sermon on the Mount has to teach them today. They are also taking a closer look at the Lord's Prayer.

Mrs. McGregor's News

In **Bible, sixth graders** studied the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Students learned stories about battles, tragic deaths, and family relationships. Our future studies will be in I & II Samuel.

In **Science, we love doing labs! Sixth graders** had fun learning about earthquakes and volcanoes. They participated in labs to enhance their understanding of how P and S waves travel and how magma flows in a volcano. They also created model volcanoes using gelatin and a syringe (magma chamber and pipe) to inject colored water (magma) in the gelatin.

In **Life Science, seventh graders** are studying meiosis and mitosis. Students used pipe cleaners, beads, and yarn to model the different phases of mitosis and then acted out the cell cycle. The students greatly enjoyed observing how DNA is extracted from cells.

In **Physical Science, eighth graders** continued studying the Periodic Table of Elements. Now they are more confident and knowledgeable about key elements and the organization of the table. They also learned about ionic bonds and covalent bonds. They made headbands to demonstrate how an element's atom will gain or lose valence electrons in ionic bonding, and how two atoms share electrons in covalent bonding. It was exciting to witness the "ah ha" moments when students wrote formulas for ionic compounds.

The **eighth graders** enjoyed a fresh salad from our garden harvest and shared tomatoes, eggplant, basil and zucchini with their family.

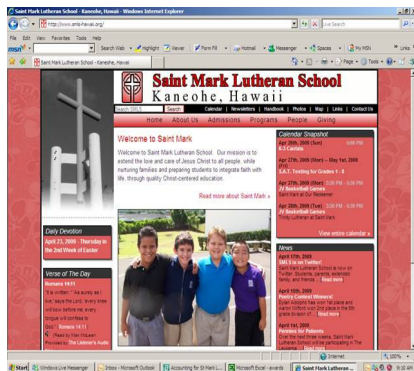
Miss Morris' News

Mele Kelikimaka! Well, almost! The next few weeks are all about preparing for Christmas. In the church we call this the season of Advent, meaning coming. We would love for you to join our church 'ohana on Wednesday nights for dinner at 6:00pm and an Advent service at 7:00pm as we learn not only about the miraculous birth of Jesus, but also the miraculous births of Isaac, Samuel, and John.

We would also love to have you join us for a special showing of *The Nativity Story* on December 18th at 6:00pm in the sanctuary as we look forward to the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!



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.



No Aftercare

Friday, December 16 is the last day of school before the beginning of the Winter Intersession. There is early dismissal at 11:30 with **NO AFTER-CARE**. 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

The JV volleyball season has ended with both the boys and girls doing a great job. They learned a lot and continued to get better with each game thanks to **Coach Kim** and their hard work. Both teams had winning seasons with the girls losing only one game. Great job and congratulations on a wonderful season!

The cross-country meet went well with four of our students participating. Thank you, **Coach Morris** and congratulations to **Jackson Wadsworth**, seventh grader, who received a ribbon for tenth place.



The varsity basketball teams have already started practicing one to two times a week. They will begin in earnest this week, practicing two hours every day after school. **Coach Bruce** is very excited with the progress that they have already made. We are looking forward to their season which begins in mid-January.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the

2012 Rummage Sale!

Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Tuesday, January 24 at 5:30 p.m.** when we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on February 18, 2012.



This & That

In October \$350 was raised for the **Susan G. Koman Foundation** thanks to your generous chapel offerings.

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 11 at 5:00 p.m. for the **K-2 Christmas musical** entitled *Christmas - That Special Night*. Child care is available during the show. Also, please join us for the **Grades 3-8 Choir and Band Christmas Program** on Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m.



Merry Christmas

A **BIG mahalo** goes to everyone for their support of Saint Mark's **2nd Annual Benefit Gala**. We are extremely pleased to have raised approximately \$22,000. We owe our special thanks to our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) for their hard work in support of the gala!

Seneca, Cayuga, and Owasco make up some of the Finger Lakes in which state? This is just one of the questions our fourth through eighth grade students had to answer during our **National Geographic Bee**. Preliminary competitions were held in each of the classrooms to determine the ten semi-finalists who would compete in our school-wide competition. The winners of the classroom competitions were **Kahekili Catrett, Alexis Chang-Takayama,**

Allisa Cormack-Keohokapu, Alexis Keliikipi, Rhys Kalama, David Murray, Lannin Nakai, Nainoa Sanchez, Kahiau Souza, and Dasha Wilson. Each competed to become the champion of Saint Mark Lutheran School and the chance to become champion of Hawaii. **Rhys Kalama** was declared the winner with **Kahiau Souza** in second place. Rhys will now advance to the state competition this March in Honolulu. Saint Mark wishes all our best to Rhys and offers our congratulations to all the students who participated in this year's Geographic Bee!



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