

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 2011

A Message from the Principal



**Students + Collaboration
= Learning**

With only one week left in the first quarter, I am happy to report that we have successfully navigated our way through the occasionally choppy waters of the beginning of the school year. From excursions to explore the dolphins at Coconut Island and monk seals on the North Shore, to specialized reading groups and engaging gardening activities, it has been an exciting and busy first quarter. Our teachers continue to work hard to create learning opportunities for our students that nurture their curiosity and engender investigation through cooperation. Whether it be observing an endangered species or attacking a new word, our students are learning through inquiry, and it is exciting to watch!

As we continue to look for meaningful ways to engage your children's curiosity while teaching them the foundational information they assuredly require, we want to profess our need for your help. We rely heavily on the collaborative work of our school families and want to encourage your involvement. In just the past few days alone, I've seen parents meeting with the PTC, driving on excursions, assisting with class activities, working in the book fair, and selling items for our school fundraiser. It's all important and appreciated!



And with your support, we also just completed our Passport/Cookie Dough fundraiser and are thrilled to have met our goal of raising \$10,000. Fantastic Work! Our next big endeavor is our 2nd Annual Benefit Gala scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2011 at *The Pacific Club*. Our PTC with the leadership of event coordinator, Cissy Shaner, has been working for months to make this year's gala even more successful than last year. We encourage your help in supporting this important event. I leave you with the words of the manufacturing revolutionary - Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

Dates to Remember

September 30: 1st Quarter Ends and Cookie Dough Pick-up

October 3-14: Fall Intersession

October 3-7 Gr. 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

October 17: School Resumes; K-5 Report Cards go home with students

October 19 -21: Kindergarten Parent Teacher Conferences

October 23: Grades K-2 Concert and Potluck at 5:00 p.m.

October 26: Flu Vaccination Clinic at 8:30 a.m.

November 2-4: Grades 5 and 7 Outdoor Education at Camp Erdman

November 5: 2nd Annual Benefit Gala at *The Pacific Club*

November 11: Veterans' Day No School

November 14: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

November 17: Open House for Prospective Parents at 5:30 p.m.

November 18: Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences Grades 1-8 11:30 a.m. Dismissal

November 20: Grades K-2 sing at the 9:30 a.m. Service

Passport Fundraiser a Huge Success



The three week push to sell the discount card and cookie dough has ended and we are happy to report that **over \$10,000** was raised for the school. We will continue to have additional Passports available in the school office for those who would like them.

We congratulate our top sellers and prize winners - **Melia Kekaulike, Mariah Basques, Alana Nagata, Martine Marantz, and Abigail Hilpert**. We greatly appreciate everyone's support of this very worthwhile endeavor!



Congratulations & Mahalo !

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: The kindergartners are reading. They finished their alphabet study and are putting them into words and sentences. It's exciting! They also enjoyed two wonderful theatrical productions at Honolulu Theatre for Youth and the Hawaii Theatre. We had 45 grandparents and even great-grandparents visit for Grandparents' Day. We proudly showed them what we've been learning. One grandpa was Skyping with us from Florida. We all made some beautiful trivets to sell for the Gala and now will paint some fun birdhouses. Bodhi's dad is taking our pictures to make a photo composite of us with dinosaurs. Always a lot going on in our room!

First Grade: The first graders have enjoyed learning about plants through the tending of our garden. We look forward to our first harvest meal on September 29! We'll use basil to make pesto for "green spaghetti", spinach and Manoa lettuce to make a healthy salad, and greens and herbs to make a healthy marinara sauce. The children will also work together to make fresh salad dressing. Then, we'll sit down to a meal that they've helped bring from "garden to table"! We'll continue to learn more about the foods we eat, as we look more closely at nutrition in the coming months. Our biggest hope is that the children realize fresh, organic food grown locally not only tastes the best, but is also the best for our bodies and the environment!

Second Grade: This month has been filled with fun! They saw two plays and had fun swimming with the kindergarten class. The second graders are excited that they will be pen pals with students that live in New Orleans. They have written their first letters and are anxiously waiting to hear back from their new friends. The first and second grade garden is flourishing with a lot of care from the students. It is time to harvest the fruits of their labor. We are going to make a healthy lunch using the produce that was grown. The students have been learning a lot of interesting things in class. We are learning about money, landforms and bodies of water, reading lots of fun stories, memorizing Bible verses, and learning different language arts centers.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: The third grade has been busy learning about ecosystems. The highlight of our study



was our trip to Coconut Island. We are getting ready to start our class book. We will be creating a travel guide for kids and have some really exciting topics that will be covered. We recently sang at the morning worship service. We have also been exploring food webs and food chains. Dissecting owl pellets gave

us a better understanding of the food chain.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders really enjoyed their month. Even though some of the students have known each other since kindergarten, they found out a lot more about each other from their Pride Projects. The students were asked to share some interesting unknown facts about their "animal personality", families, qualities that they look for in a friend and one exciting event that took place in their life. The best part of the presentation was the guest speakers. Moms, dads, aunts, uncles and tutus shared some entertaining stories about our classmates.

A BIG mahalo goes out to all the fourth graders and their parents for supporting the Fall Family Night!

Thank you to all the staff that volunteered their time to make the night happen. They helped make Fall Family Night a huge success. We would not have been able to do it



4th Grader Having Fun with His Pride Project

without all of their hard work. Mahalo nui loa for supporting our fourth graders. All proceeds from our bake sale will help fund their trip. Big Island, here we come!

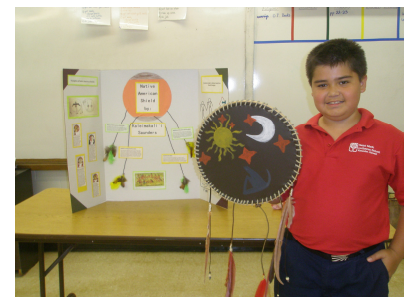
Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade culminated their study of Native Americans by presenting various projects that demonstrated Indian culture. Projects varied from a grass house to an Apache shield. Students were encouraged to make their project in the "Indian way" by using natural materials and methods. Students did oral presentations to explain how

they constructed their projects and then compared their method to how Native Americans would have made

"Projects varied from a grass house to an Apache shield."

it. They also discussed what their project taught them about Indian culture and how Indian lives compare to their own.



Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News:

The sixth through eighth grade math classes are diving into new math territory. They are finished reviewing previous concepts and are learning new and exciting (and challenging) material. This includes decimals, solving multi-step equations, and inequalities. Check out my teacher website to see some of the fun ways the students are learning these concepts.

If you walk into the seventh grade Bible class, you may hear some Christmas carols (yes, we know it is September). They are learning about the birth of our Savior and singing songs of praise. In social studies, the seventh graders are finishing up their unit about the culture and geography of our 50 states and Canada. Eighth grade history students are learning about the cornerstone of our country: the Constitution! If you see any eighth grader, ask them to sing the Preamble to the Constitution. They should have it perfected!

Miss Maddick's News:

In sixth through eighth grade, language art students are finishing their class novels. Sixth graders have traveled through time and space to discover that their faults can be their greatest strength. Seventh graders experience a color-blind world that has no history, and decided that the world of the unknown is better than a world that does not see that they are repeating mistakes of the past. Eighth grade has seen a future that thinks it has fixed all the problems we face in the 21st century, but sacrifices positive self-image which makes us think: maybe we have not fixed anything after all ...

Seventh communications students are sharing autobiographical speeches focusing on who they are or who they want to become. Eighth grade communications' students have picked a communicator that can help them become better communicators. We are all learning a bit more about ourselves.

In Sixth grade world history, we have traveled through the four Ancient River Valley Cultures. Each culture saw the same growth from hunter-gatherers to civilizations.

Eighth grade Bible: Students have explored the reliability of Scripture. We will be examining some of the many ways we can study Scripture individually and in small groups.

Mrs. McGregor's News:

In Bible, sixth graders studied Moses, the ten plagues and the Ten Commandments. They used their creativity and created flipbooks. Sixth graders sang their memory verse Exodus 15:1-2 to the kindergarteners and they sang *Jesus Fed Five Thousand People* to us. The students are being introduced to a study of The Tabernacle.

The sixth graders are studying rocks and minerals in earth science. They completed a density lab to identify minerals and tested the effect minerals in toothpaste have on its ability to clean. Students learned that our teeth have the same composition as apatite, which has a hardness of 5 on the Mohs scale and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of using a toothpaste containing a mineral harder than apatite. We enjoyed singing to *Rocks Rock Harder* too!

In life science, seventh graders are studying about the characteristics of living things and how organisms are classified: Domain, Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species (Dear King Phillip Came Over For Good Spaghetti). Students are creating cell story books and brochures for the first graders. One title is Robosomeo and Vacuolet. Clever!

The eighth graders have been challenged to design experiments independently. Students identify a problem, make hypothesis, conduct an experiment and evaluate data. Students tested density, types of mixtures, observed gas behaviors and designed experiments to test Charles' Law. It has been exciting!

All sixth, seventh, and eighth graders should be prepared to start their Science Fair experiments . The research draft is due October 18th.

Miss Morris' News:

Junior High P.E. has been so much fun! We are continuing to practice volleyball skills as well as playing some new games. Next month we start working on basketball while continuing our Presidential Fitness Challenge. (I know how much you guys love our running, push-ups, curl ups, and v-sit reaches!)

Don't forget about Youth Quest!! We are having a lot of fun learning about the Ten Commandments and how they apply to our everyday lives. Youth Quest meets every Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:15 in room 201. It's not too late to join and we would love to add more students. If you have any questions, please e-mail at: sarah@stmarkhawaii.org

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



Our varsity volleyball season is rapidly coming to an end. Both the boys and the girls continue to work hard and get better and better as they have played exciting volleyball. Both teams made it to the post season tournament and will be playing at Hongwanji gym on Thursday (girls at 3:30), Friday (boys at 4:30), and Saturday (girls and boys, time to be determined). Congratulations to both teams and thank you to all the parents, grandparents, friends, and Saint Mark staff for all the support and help during the season.

The JV volleyball season for girls and boys in the 5th and 6th grades will begin after our Fall Intersession. Information about the practice and game schedule and a permission form was sent home. Coach Kim will again be coaching the teams.

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. 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 **2nd Annual Benefit Gala**. The gala is scheduled for Saturday, November 5 at *The Pacific Club* and will include an evening of international food, live entertainment and an exciting silent auction for our community and friends.

Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Tuesday, October 18 at 5:30 pm** to continue planning for the gala. We are hoping for a good turn out!

This & That

Fall Family Night was enjoyable for all. Fourth grade's fundraiser provided dinner and snacks, children played, parents relaxed, and everyone enjoyed the movie.

September **Chapel Offerings** are currently being collected for Family Promise. \$540 was collected in August offerings to help Japan recover from their devastating earthquake and tsunami.

The end of our 1st quarter and the beginning of **Fall Intersession** are quickly approaching. Our last day of school is **September 30**, and we return on **Monday, October 17**.

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 the October 17th.

Students who handed in their **flu vaccination** forms will receive their shots on **Wednesday, October 26**. Students handing in late forms can be waitlisted and will receive vaccinations if there is sufficient supply.

Everyone is invited to the K-2 fall concert on Sunday, October 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the church. A potluck follows in the gym. Our program is called "**Celebrate the Movies**". Come & enjoy!

We are still in **need of donations** for our silent auction at our **Benefit Gala** - "Flavors Around the World" on November 5th.

Grade 4 students will be taking a hike into the past on Wednesday, September 28. They will visit the ruins of King Kamehameha III's summer palace in Nu'uano, dis-

cover the historical importance of the Pali lookout, and experience the mana that still exists at the Ulupo Heiau in Kailua.

A big mahalo to all who supported our **Scholastic Book Fair**. We were able to buy more than 60 books and AR quizzes for our school library.



Grade 2 Having Some Fun at the Pool with Kindergarten