

Saint Mark Lutheran School News

December 2007



"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

The last couple of months have been very eventful for Saint Mark. In addition to the wonderful everyday classroom activities, our students, faculty and families have been busy with our annual school fundraiser, the family work day, the 50th Year Celebration Luau, various excursions and student performances, and most recently our open house for prospective parents.

This frenzied pace is not likely to soon abate with the Christmas season upon us. We are now busy fighting the holiday traffic, shopping for the greatest gadget, hanging holiday decorations, planning family potlucks, and mailing packages to the mainland.

Sometimes we get so caught up in the fervor of Christmas consumption that we forget that "to us a child is born, to us a son is given." In the mad dash to get the best deals, brightest lights, and biggest tree, we often forget to take some time to slow down and appreciate the splendor and wonder of the Christ Child's birth.

My prayer for all of you this season is that you have a wonderful and joyous Christmas full of the warmth and love of our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki ho !

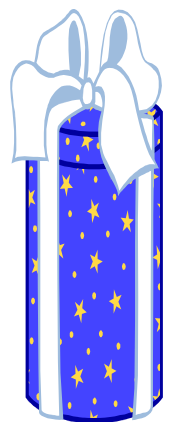
In Christian Love,

R. David Gaudi Jr.



Dates to Remember

- Dec. 9: K-3 Program "Christmas 2020" @5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 10: All school field trip to Youth Symphony
- Dec. 11: Grades 4-6 Choir and Band Christmas Concert @ 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 14: Early Dismissal @ 11:00 a.m. **NO AFTERCARE**
- Dec. 17-Jan. 2: Winter Intersession
- Jan. 3: School Resumes
- Jan. 9: Jump rope for Heart Kick-off
- Jan. 10 & 11: Optional Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences





K - 5 CLASSROOM NEWS:

Kindergarten: If you peek into the Kindergarten room, you'll see a beautiful tree the children decorated, lots of art projects in progress, lots of Christmas carols being sung, and lots of very excited students. The children know the real Christmas story, are looking forward to their first Christmas program, and are 'counting down' the days in Advent. And all of this in addition to learning lots more reading, vocabulary words and how to add and subtract like 'big kids.'

First graders: First graders have been busy these last few weeks creating a Thanksgiving feast, making seed turkeys, making Christmas gifts and practicing for the Christmas program! We will be having our Christmas party on Thursday, December 13th at 1:45. Parents are invited to join us and bring their cameras!

Second graders: The second graders had a lot of fun learning about the first Thanksgiving and having a delicious classroom feast. We learned about how the Native Americans taught the pilgrims how to grow corn, and we even planted our own corn. We will be singing Christmas songs, making fun crafts, and learning about the birth of Jesus. Merry Christmas from the second graders.

Third graders : The third graders have been working really hard on their speaking parts and songs for the Christmas program. We are working together as a class to make decorations for school and home that help to proclaim the Good News about Jesus, our Savior. Each day we read a miniature book that tells the story of Christmas, then we hang the book on our Christmas tree. Merry Christmas to all from the 'friendly frogs.'

Fourth grade : The 4th graders have been busy learning about the ways Hawaiians farmed and the crops they raised. We will visit the lo'i kalo (taro patch) and heiau (place of worship) at Ulupo this Friday! There students will get a hands-on experience working in a lo'i and learn more about the ancient Hawaiians who lived in our community. Next week, we will end our unit on volcanoes by building and erupting our own in the classroom! We are also looking forward to our quarterly Open Market and our class Christmas party next week.

Fifth grade : Fifth grade has been studying geometry this month and learning about lines, angles, polygons, congruence, transformations, and more. Now identifying various polygons in class seems so simple. The students created a bulletin board with over 45 geometric terms to help with their understanding and learning of them. In addition, they used symmetry to create some interesting pictures using their names and various designs during an art lesson. Who said math can't be fun???

JUNIOR HIGH CLASSROOM NEWS:

Sixth grade will be watching a video and learning about Dinosaurs. They will also be making a Prehistoric sea to be their class pet. There will be a test on the Geological time table, and next week will be making their own fossil.

Both **Seventh** and **Eighth grade** will be performing Christmas plays for the school. Seventh grade performs "Long Live Christmas" on Wednesday, December 12th at 12:30 p.m.; Eighth grade performs "Santa Goes Mod" and "You're on the Air" Friday, December 14th at 8:15 a.m. Parent's are welcome to attend the performances!

As Christmas is quickly approaching, the Eighth grade is enjoying the festivities of the season. Every year 8th graders share lunch and exchange gifts with their Kindergarten chapel buddies. This year they will also go shopping together at Price Busters buying gifts for needy children in Kaneohe. On Thursday, December 13th, all of the middle school students will be singing Christmas carols at the Kaneohe Senior Residents. Parents are more than welcome to come and sing along!

St. Mark Lutheran Church invites you to worship with us during this holiday season.

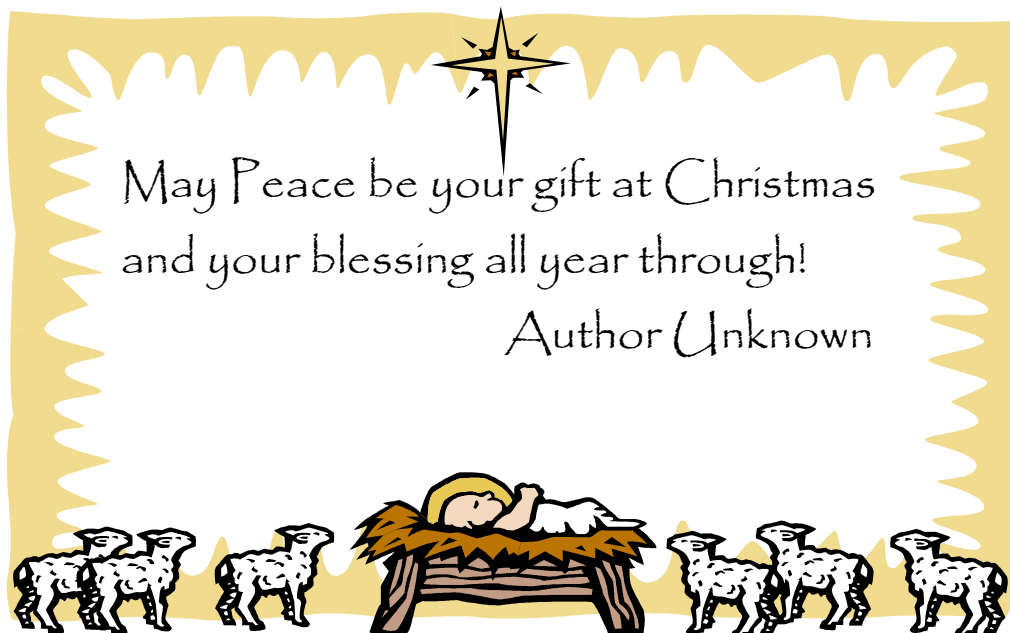
Monday, December 24: 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

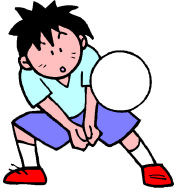
8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 25: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Please be looking for the new school website - coming in January!

www.smls-hawaii.org





Athletics

Our boys' and girls' JV volleyball season has just ended. Both teams did well and learned a lot thanks to our coach, Rudy Reese. Our girl's JV team finished in a three way tie for first place. Well done girls!

Varsity basketball practice has already begun. The boys played in a 20/20 preseason tournament this past Saturday and the girls play in their 20/20 tournament this Saturday here at St. Mark. The regular season starts in January. Once again, Miles Yasuda will be coaching both teams.



This & That:

The **Give Aloha Foodland's** annual community matching gifts program raised \$130.00. Our **For Your School** fundraiser profits totaled \$7,074.00. The proceeds will be used to help upgrade the school's technology. Thank you for your support of these programs.

Last month's **chapel offerings** of \$243.00 went to St. Mark's foodbank which assists windward families in need. This month's donations will go to the **Angel Tree** program providing Christmas gifts to children who might otherwise go without. It is good for our students, who have so much, to think about others who are less fortunate.

Kamehameha Schools has a new program offering assistance to student's of Hawaiian ancestry who will be entering Kindergarten in the 2008 school year. Information is available on their website at: www.ksbe.edu/finaid/pksk.php

The **Open House** for prospective parents was a huge success. Please continue to tell your neighbors and friends that this is the time to apply for admission to St. Mark. Your spreading the word is our best form of advertising.



St. Mark is once again participating in **SmileSafe Kids**, a child safety program developed in partnership by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Lifetouch National School Studios. A pair of Safety ID Cards, provided free of charge, featuring your child's current portrait and an introduction to the program will be sent home next week. For more information please visit www.smilesafekids.com.