

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 2009

A Message from the Principal

"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)



Every year the Christmas season seems to grow busier and more hectic! From the relentless bombardment of advertisements, to the unremitting pressure to find that perfect gift for everyone on your list, it is certainly not a restful or relaxing season. Nevertheless, I always make it a point to set aside some time from the holiday craziness to reflect on the year gone by as I prepare for the year to come.

This year I pause to appreciate the people in my life. Besides my family and friends, I am incredibly thankful for the Saint Mark ohana who continually put their trust in us. Educating your children is a responsibility we take very seriously and greatly appreciate!

Thanks to your continued commitment to Saint Mark in 2009, we have been able to maintain our enrollment in the midst of a depressed economy, add some extremely talented educators to our staff, and work to strengthen our programs.

As we look forward to 2010, we prepare for an important visit from our WASC/HAIS/NLSA accreditation team in February, anticipate the growing support of the PTC (Parent Teacher Committee), and continue to seek innovative ways to enhance student learning at Saint Mark.

But before we embark on 2010, I pray that you are able to slow down long enough to enjoy a wonderful and relaxing Christmas full of the warmth and splendor of our *"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki hou!

Help the School and Get \$300



Word-of-mouth has always been a very positive form of advertising for our school. This is why \$300 is being offered to any current SMLS family **referring** a new student to Saint Mark who applies for, is accepted, and begins attending class in grades 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 between November 20, 2009 and **January 31, 2010**.

For more information on this program please come to the school office. We sincerely hope that you will take this opportunity to get the word out and promote Saint Mark Lutheran School and its programs!

Dates to Remember

December 15: Grades 4-6 Choir & Grades 4-8 Band Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m.

December 18: 2nd Quarter Ends, 11:30 a.m. Dismissal No Aftercare

December 21-January 5: 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 10:00 a.m.

January 6: School Resumes

January 6: K-5 Report Cards go home with students

January 13: Jump Rope for Heart Kick-Off

January 13-15: Kindergarten Parent Teacher Conferences

January 18: MLK Jr. Day No School

January 31: Grades 4-6 sing at the 9:30 Service

February 10: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

February 12: Spring Family Night

February 15: Presidents' Day No school

February 17: Ash Wednesday Lent Begins; Jump Rope for Heart and Potluck

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergartners have done lots of Christmas projects this month as they talk about the special meaning of Christmas and Jesus' birthday. On December 7 St. Nick's horse left treats for all the children, naughty children were to receive coal but of course no one got any. On December 15th the kin-



K-3 Christmas Program

dergartners and their grade 8 chapel partners will shop at "Let's Party" at the Mall for the needy keiki of Kaneohe. The Salvation Army will distribute the toys and food to windward families to make a merry Christmas for the needy. Some children spending Christmas week housed in our gym with the

Family Promise program will also receive individual gifts. We are able to purchase gifts because of your generous December chapel offerings. Mahalo for supporting this endeavor! And a special thanks to "Let's Party" for giving us a 20% discount!

First Graders have had a very busy December! We've been busy making and exchanging gifts, memorizing speaking parts for the Christmas program, learning holiday songs, and making gingerbread houses. All of these things have helped us to remember the season of Advent on the "outside". We have also spent time preparing on the "inside" for the celebration of

the birth of our Savior, by learning about Advent through the study of symbols. A symbol is a picture of something familiar that helps us understand something bigger.

Second Grade has been making a lot of different Christmas art projects, singing Christmas carols, and learning about ways we can share God's love with others during this Advent season. The students have been doing some creative writing. They have written help wanted signs for job openings as Santa's Helper. Curious as to what a Reindeer Groomer would do? Or how much you would get paid as a Sleigh Mechanic? Stop by our classroom to find out! The students are looking forward to making gingerbread houses and having our Christmas movie party.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade Things are really buzzing! We are busy creating Christmas projects, practicing for the Christmas concert and trying to keep balanced with fun and academics at the same time. The Keiki books were completed and sent home with your students. If and parents are interested in ordering additional copies after the holidays, I will be happy to do that for you. There were a few things that escaped my editing eye, and I am working on getting those fixed before the next order.

The students are whizzing through their math skills in quick order. I am amazed at how they understand and can explain what they are doing in math. We will continue to work on the Roman Empire even after the Christmas Break. We had

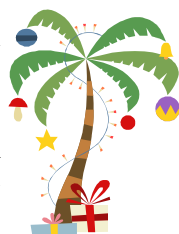
a great time at the Hawaii Youth Symphony and our students were very well prepared with the music they were supposed to know for the program. We will be having our class Christmas Party on Thursday, December 17. With Friday being a short day, it makes it much easier to do the party the day before. Once again thank you for your support collecting the pictures for our book. It was an incredible help to have your pictures. Have a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year. I can't believe that 2010 is just around the corner.

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 poi wasn't a huge hit amongst the students. The students 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 were treated to a wonderful musical performance by the Hawaii Youth Symphony this month. The students were extremely impressed with the youth's talent. I bet that we have some future Hawaii Youth Symphony candidates in our class. The fourth grade class wishes everyone a Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade Congratulations to Sean Oketani! He won second place in a writing contest that was sponsored by Windward Shopping Center for his wonderful essay about why he was thankful. Kudos to you, Sean, and I bet you're even more thankful now that you won \$30.00!



Our class joined all the fifth graders from the Lutheran schools on this island for a wonderful Outdoor Education Program at Camp Erdman for three days and two nights.

Our students were kept very busy from early in the morning to late at night. According to

them, their highlights were making new friends, hiking, campfire, group challenges, the food, archery, swimming, and staying in cabins. 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.

Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News:

The students in both **algebra** and **pre-algebra** are experiencing some of the visual aspects of math. They are learning about various types of graphs and what situation merits each graph. They are also discerning the different qualities that can make graphs misleading

The **life science** and **physical science** classes should be the best smelling on campus! They are learning all about soap! We are exploring the early beginnings of soap, the making of soap in colonial times, the science of soap, and using math in soap recipes. They may even get the chance to make their own bars of soap!

Sixth grade earth science students are becoming experts on volcanoes and earthquakes as they are working on their mini-projects. The students are allowed to choose several projects from a long list of possibilities. They are enjoying the freedom to share their understanding of volcanoes and earthquakes in a manner that best suits their talents. We look forward to seeing board games, models, children's stories, and much more!

Sixth graders are temporarily leaving their Old Testament adventure to take some time in the New Testament Bethlehem. The students are becoming acquainted with the journeys of Mary and Joseph and their child, Immanuel.

Miss Maddick's News:

As the quarter comes to a close, we look back at what we have learned and look forward to building on those foundations. **Eighth grade** had a good time at Camp Erdman, and enjoyed adventures that gave them confidence in their abilities. Even when looking at the world from 40 feet off ground, we learned that accomplishing our goals can be exhilarating (much like jumping off that 40 foot tower safely!). We will be using those leadership skills as we go shopping with the kindergartners to buy gifts for children in need this Christmas season.

In **Bible classes** we talked about what we are thankful for versus what we "need" and want. We are so blessed! **Seventh grade Bible** completed the study of the Lord's Prayer and are examining the differences between the accounts of the birth of Christ in the Gospels. In **eighth grade Bible**, we are examining the symbols that help show us what the Bible is and can do. The Word is a powerful tool that we should use to deepen our faith.

Our **language arts** adventures have taught us good life lessons. In **sixth grade**, *A Christmas Carol* has used Dickens' words to help us value the people in our lives over the things we have or want to have. In *Robin Hood* we are shown that the right thing to do is not always the easy or popular thing. In *The Odyssey* we are reminded that we have to persevere and never lose hope that one day our dreams will come true, even if everyone else thinks they are impossible.

In **sixth grade world history** we examined adventures in ancient Greece and Rome. The histories of these societies are filled with adventure and war in both the earthly and ethereal world of their gods. As we conclude our study of Rome, we examine the world that Christ entered and the impact His life and legacy had on the Roman Empire.

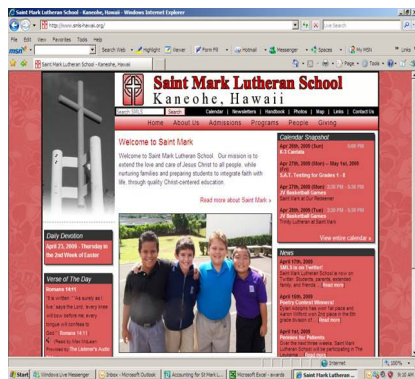
As everyone enjoys family time over winter break, I encourage our students to find opportunities to have adventures as a family without even leaving your lanai. The worlds of adventures that books can open are so meaningful when shared with those you care about. God's blessings on your adventures!

Mr. Johnson's News:

The junior high **P.E.** students have started their basketball unit. They will all be doing the Presidential Physical Fitness testing during the last two weeks of the quarter. They will be doing curl-ups, sit-ups, the shuttle run, the sit & reach, and running a mile.

The students and teachers have all been preparing for the Christmas season! There are Christmas chapels, programs, and parties planned throughout the last week of the quarter. I've enjoyed watching students practice for their Christmas programs. They really understand the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus Christ! "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:11). Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

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

The website is continually kept fresh with **calendar updates, news updates and Twitter updates**, as well as **daily devotions and daily Bible verses**.



Mr. Annis

Thank you for all the prayers and good wishes for **Mr. Annis**. He is doing well and is in good spirits! While Mr. Annis recovers, his students are being entrusted to the care of long time Saint Mark teacher - **Mrs. Tongg**. She knows many of the students and is able to continue his great work until he returns. Get well Soon! You are missed!

No After Care

Friday, December 18 is the last day of school before the beginning of the Winter Intersession.

There is early dismissal at 11:30 with **NO AFTERCARE**. Please plan accordingly.



Athletics



The varsity boys and girls have started basketball practice under the leadership of **Coach Ryan** (Ryan Won's Dad) and **Coach Kim**.

The boys are off to a great start as they took first place in their preseason 20/20 tournament. The girls' played hard and did well in their 20/20 tournament this past Saturday here at Saint Mark.

Go Warriors !!

The first game of the season for both the boys and girls is on **Tuesday, January 19** here at Saint Mark against Our Redeemer. Go Warriors!

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC encourages everyone to continue collecting **Box Tops & Labels for Education**. Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Monday, January 11 at 3:00 p.m.** where we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on February 13, 2009.



This & That

Thank you for your support of our **Great American Opportunities fundraiser**. We were able to raise **\$5,500 in profit!**

Chapel offerings for October and November totaled over \$375 which was donated to the *Leukemia and Lymphoma Society*.



1st graders showing off their Halloween costumes

We raised \$150 by participating in the annual **Nike 5K Fun Run for Kids!** Thanks to all who supported Saint Mark though this event!



3rd and 8th graders working together on a bible project

Please remember to save your belongings for the **PTC Rummage sale** which will be held at the school on **February 13, 2010**.

The **fourth grade class** earned an ice cream social party by having the highest student average for number of **Box Tops and Labels for Education** collected at the end of October. The next collection is **Thursday, December 17**. The class with the highest student average will earn a pizza party this

time around, so keep clipping those labels and send them in to your child's class.

Please be sure to check out Saint Mark on Facebook and Twitter!



Facebook



Twitter



3rd graders at the recent trip to the Hawaii Youth Symphony