

Warrior News

Saint Mark Lutheran School
Kaneohe, Hawaii

February 2009

A Message from the Principal

I guide you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.
(Proverbs 4:11-13)

Saint Mark Lutheran School has recently embarked on a very important and meaningful journey. We have begun our self-study as part of the re-accreditation process. We are currently accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) and the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA), and we are working to renew all three in the near future. The self-study is a crucial exercise whereby the school, with valuable input from its various constituencies, evaluates itself and tries to assess its overall health and efficacy.

The year long self-study culminates for us in the spring of 2010 with a three day visit from an accreditation team comprised of three or four experienced educators. Our self-study and strategic plan, along with the visiting team's written report will all serve as valuable tools to help guide future school improvement at Saint Mark.

To help us gather essential data and better understand how parents regard various aspects of the school, all current school families will be receiving a parent survey in the mail in the next couple of days. We humbly ask that each family please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it to the school office. Parent perception is a vital part of our self-study and will help us to better understand how well we are accomplishing our mission and how to further student learning in the future.

Thank you for your support as we "hold on to (the Lord's) instruction" and work to enhance our own.

In Christ,

R. David Gaudi Jr.

Hawaii Lutheran School Music Festival

You are invited to hear the combined bands and choirs from Emmanuel (Maui), Our Redeemer, Our Savior, Saint Mark and Trinity Lutheran Schools as they perform at the Hawaii Lutheran Schools Music Festival Concert.

The concert is on **Saturday, February 28th** beginning at **7:00 p.m.** at the **Leeward Community College Theatre** (96-045 Ala Ike,

Pearl City). Tickets are on sale in the school office for \$2.00 each and are available until Thursday, February 26th.



Dates to Remember

Feb. 23 - Feb. 27: Scholastic Book Fair

Feb. 25: Ash Wednesday

Feb. 28: Grade 4-6 Choir & Grades 5-8 Band All Lutheran Schools' Music Festival at 7:00 p.m.

March 2-6: Lutheran Schools' Spirit Week

March 2: Grade 3 Devotions & Refreshments at 7:30 am

March 3: Grades 1 & 2 Devotions & Refreshments at 7:30 am

March 5: Grades 4 & 5 Devotions & Refreshments at 7:30 am

March 6: Grades K & 6-8 Devotions & Refreshments at 7:30 am

March 13: 3rd Quarter ends

March 16-18: Grades 6-8 Report cards mailed home

March 16-27: Spring Inter-session

March 30: School Resumes

March 30: K-5 Report cards go home with students

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: The kindergartners are sharing daily entries from their February Journals where they tell all about themselves, such as favorite colors, best friends, and fun family activities. We rejoice with **Makenna Nelson**, her dad is home safely from a 7 month deployment to Iraq. We thank God for his safety and thank her dad for his service to our country. It was fun learning to jump rope (we all did it!), addressing our valentines, learning phone manners, and phoning each other. Good excursions include the Teddy Bear Clinic at Castle Hospital and a trip to the aquarium to culminate our "The Ocean Around Us" lesson. **Mrs. Manu** made malasadas with us on Shrove Tuesday and we're having special activities on Girls, Day.

First grade: First graders have been busy learning the 50 states in alphabetical order, how to count coins and gearing up for our upcoming chapel by practicing Bible verses and songs. A few fun activities this month included going to see the play, "The Wind in the Willows", Jump Rope for Heart and a fun Valentine's Day party! All parents are invited to our Parent Devotions on March 3rd and/or First Grade Chapel on March 4th as this is our last chapel to perform.

Second grade: The second graders had fun celebrating Valentine's Day by playing fun games, making banana splits, giving Mr. Gaudi a "heart attack", and being extra loving to others. The students have been enjoying learning about the different classifications of animals in science, how to make a variety of graphs in math, and how to write a two point paragraph in writing. We had a lot of fun jumping rope and practicing new tricks during Jump Rope for Heart.



Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third grade: February was a busy month for the 3rd graders with numerous holiday and birthday celebrations. We enjoyed jumping to help the American Heart Association and had lots of good food at the potluck. In class we learned about whales in our reading unit and



learned to divide and write division stories. Now we are looking forward to sharing our devotion time with parents next week. We are also looking forward to Spring Break!

Fourth grade: Fourth grade is looking forward to visiting the Waikalua Loko Fishpond here in Kaneohe early next month as a fol-

low-up to our Hawaiian studies unit on fishing in old Hawaii. Students recently presented their timelines for the first ten major events of their lives. Also, students have been working on reading news articles and sharing current event paragraphs telling who, what, when, where, why or how to describe the event. Students recently made fantastic pointillism art pictures, and the class will soon be starting their Science Fair projects.

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth grade: Westward Ho! For the next few weeks, fifth grade will be assuming the roles of different pio-



neers as they head westward on a wagon train. They will be learning

about what it really would have been like to live back in the 1850's. The students will choose an actual character and load up their supplies in the covered wagons that

"They will be learning about what it really would have been like to live back in the 1850's."

they built as they prepare to hit the trail. Each wagon train will face hardships, sickness, and even danger as they travel across the Oregon Territory in hopes of making it

to their final destination of Hacker Valley. Will they make it? We'll have to wait and see!



5th graders during a recent trip to Windward Community College

Classroom News - Junior High

Mr. Weber's News:

6th grade science is finishing up a chapter on fossil fuels and alternative energy sources. They will have a test on February 26.

7th grade science is studying birds and mammals. They will have a test on February 26.

8th grade science is studying Newton's Laws of Motion and will be tested on February 27.

Congratulations to **Kelli Lyman, Eddie Dunn, Leila Latorre, Korinn Trinies,** and **James Chaffin** for having their science projects selected to compete at the District Science Fair. The District Science Fair was held at Keehi Lagoon on February 10th. These students did a great job representing Saint Mark!

Mrs. Dunn's News:

6th grade English - Students are working in their *Shurley Grammar Books*. They should be working on their AR assignment. Students' quarter project is to do a research paper on topic assigned. Research papers are due Feb. 27th. Please follow instructions for the research paper given out in class.

7th grade English - Students are also working in their *Shurley Grammar Books* and are reading *Joan of Arc* on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They should be working on their AR assignment. Students' quarter project is to do a research paper on topic assigned. Research papers are due Feb. 27th. Please follow instructions for the research paper given out in class.

8th grade English - Students are also working in their *Shurley Grammar Books* and are reading *Homer's Odyssey* on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They should be working on their AR assignment. Students' quarter project is to do a research paper on topic assigned. Research papers are due Feb. 27th. Please follow instructions for the research paper given out in class.

6th grade social studies - Students are finishing up a chapter on the history of Asia. Students will not have a project in history this quarter due to the research paper assigned in English.

6th grade literature - Students have started reading *King Arthur, Tales from the Round Table*.

8th grade drama - Students are doing debates this quarter. They have been assigned resolve topics and will present their debates affirmative or negative starting this Friday.

Mrs. Eyer's News:

8th Grade Bible Class students are completing their study of the Lord's Prayer by designing a children's learning game and a children's teaching book about the Lord's Prayer. They will be reading and playing the games with the kindergarten class when finished.

7th grade bible class has just finished their study of the Apostles Creed and the 3 articles that it contains. Some of the foundational Biblical things that they have learned about are: God and who He is; Angels; humans as God's creation; redemption; Jesus Christ and His life

and work; Holy Spirit; church; and life everlasting.

6th grade bible class students have been reading the Psalms and have even been writing some of their own. They have learned and tried their hands at writing a Praise Psalm; a Creation Psalm, and a Lament Psalm. Students will be also reading and learning about Proverbs next week.

8th grade algebra students have been learning about exponential functions. The students have even learned how to calculate growth and decay of living and dead things using exponents.

7th grade pre-algebra students have been learning how to solve equations and inequalities. The highlight of the last two weeks has been learning how to figure out simple and compound interest.

Mr. Annis' News:

6th grade math students are working on figuring percents, including % of increase and decrease and sales tax.

7th graders are finishing up their Physical Fitness Challenge in P.E. and are practicing their play to present to the school in March. They also conducted a very successful chapel program on February 18.

8th graders pre-algebra class is working on solving multi-step equations and finding compound interest. In History class they have finished the Civil War and reconstruction and are moving into the 1900's.

Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!

The website continues to be a wonderful way to keep up with the latest school activities.

We now have all of the **Financial Aid Forms** available on-line and a **Giving** page which allows for **on-line donations** to be made directly to the school through PayPal. We also now have all the **SMLS sporting events** on the website calendar.

Saint Mark Website
www.smls-hawaii.org



Athletics

Congratulations to both the boys and girls varsity basketball teams! They both finished first in their division, the boys were undefeated and the girls finished with a 9-1 record. They will be playing in the postseason tournament on March 5-7 which will be held here at Saint Mark. Come out and cheer them on to victory.

Our JV boys and girls have started practice under the enthusiastic leadership of **Mr. Tim Walsworth**, our DCE intern. Both the players and especially Mr. Tim are looking forward to an exciting season - their first game is Thursday, April 2.



The second graders gave Mr. Gaudi a "Heart Attack" to help celebrate Valentine's Day

Go Warriors!

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) sponsored Rummage Sale on Saturday, January 31 was a resounding success! The PTC worked very hard to plan, organize and direct this fantastic event which resulted in a total of \$1,279 being raised for the school! In addition to the PTC, staff, and families who helped support this endeavor, we specifically thank **Anthony and LeNore Warren, Garret and Janet Medeiros, Lila Marantz, Laurine Pagaduan, Kris Sproat, Ralph Aona, Carmen Pilien, Penny Rapoza, Lisa Maa, Denise Iseri-Matsubara, Cary Rupert, Frandee Lum, Mele Manu, Malia Clemons, Kenui Flores, Brenda Jiannino, Darrell Schuetz, Jesselyn Oketani, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Kong, Mrs. Knott, Mrs. Gunderman, Mrs. Dunn, and Mrs. Eyer** for their time and commitment. And an extra bit of gratitude is owed to the PTC Rummage Sale Committee/Organizers, **Nalani Nelson, Kathleen Funk-Linton, and Victoria Flores** who put in numerous hours to assure the success of this wonderful fundraiser.

This & That



Chapel offerings for January totaled \$290 and went to Cystic Fibrosis research. Chapel offerings from February and March will go to the Hawaii Food Bank.

Dr. John Rosemond, a well known psychologist who writes a column for the Honolulu Advertiser, will be speaking at the Koolau Golf Club in Kaneohe on Monday, March 16 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Cost is \$10. He comes highly recommended by Mrs. Gundermann. His topic: **"The Keys to Successful Discipline."**

Family Night at the Ice Palace was a great success! We had 154 skater and many spectators.

Oldest skater? Pastor Wichner! What a good sport!

Our annual **Jump Rope for Heart** jump-a-thon and all-school potluck event was held Wednesday, February 18. Students had a great time jumping with classmates and celebrating their health by sharing a heart-smart lunch together. Thank you to the parents and grandparents who came to share their love by turning ropes and assisting with the potluck set-up, serving, and clean-up! The school raised \$5,076 thus far, with more donations still coming in! Student prizes should arrive in the next few weeks to reward them for their hard-work in raising funds for the American Heart Association. The school will also receive \$300 in P.E. equipment

from U.S. Games and our top fundraiser, **Sophie Rupert**, will be entered in a drawing to win a trip to Walt Disney World in Florida! Thank you for your HEART work!

Congratulations to **Nalei Akau** and **Blair Adams** for representing our school at the Windward District **Spelling Bee** held at Le Jardin Academy on February 12th. They did a great job, and we are proud of them.

We have a selection of **used school uniforms for sale**. Anyone interested, should ask at the school office.

Various **student art work** is being displayed at Windward Mall through Saturday, March 4. Check it out!