



Saint Mark Lutheran School News

January 2008

*"Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you."
(Job 22:21)*

It is our sincere hope that all of you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas season. I am happy to report that our faculty and staff were able to get some much needed time off and are now well rested and quickly back into the swing of things.

The spring semester will most assuredly be a busy one with many activities and events. In addition to all the fine classroom instruction and numerous class excursions, we look forward to the Jump Rope for Heart, Fine Arts Display Night, Spring Scholastic Book Fair, Lutheran School's Spirit Week, Music Festival, and the Marine Expeditions Trip in the weeks to come. It certainly will be an exciting 3rd quarter!

We are also looking forward to the upcoming release of our new website scheduled for the week of January 28th. Hopefully, you will find the site to be helpful and enjoyable. We thank Steve Clemons for his time, talents, and overall commitment to St. Mark as he has worked countless hours over the past several months helping us to redesign our new website. We welcome your feedback once the site is released.

As we enter this new year, I pray that 2008 will be a blessed year and that you will find "peace with Him" and "prosperity will come to you." Happy New Year!

In Christian Love,

R. David Gaudi Jr.

Dates to Remember

January 20:	Grades 4 & 5 sing at 11:00 a.m. church service
January 21:	No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 30:	Second flu vaccinations grades K-5 at 8:30 a.m.
February 3:	Grade 6 sings at the 8:30 a.m. church service
February 6:	Ash Wednesday
February 11:	Mid Quarter Reports go home
February 13:	Jump Rope for Heart potluck
February 18:	No School - Presidents' Day
February 22:	K-8 Fine Arts Display in gym
February 25—29:	Scholastic book Fair

K - 5 CLASSROOM NEWS:

Kindergarten: The Kindergartners welcomed 2008 by making glitter fireworks and writing New Year Resolutions. Special January activities include learning about Martin Luther King, Jr., Wheel Week—bringing bikes to ride at recess, going to the aquarium as part of our ocean study, celebrating the 100th day of school, and learning about winter, especially the snowy kind of winter. And right around the corner is Chinese New Year and the church season of Lent, and learning how to jump rope for our Jumpathon. Always lots of fun activities and learning.

First grader: First graders have had an exciting start to their new year by learning about compound words, fractions, friendly letters, contractions, and adjectives. Students are also getting excited about our 100th Day Celebration coming up at the end of this month. Many exciting activities are planned for this special day!

Second grade: The second grade students had a great winter vacation. They have jumped right back into learning and exploring new things. They are having fun learning about dinosaurs and fossils. We are approaching the 100th day of school and the children are looking forwards to celebrating being 100 days smarter! They are having fun exploring their creative side through their writing and art work.

Third grade: Plants in the cupboard for one week? Bread and cheese in the cupboard for two weeks? These are just two of the exciting experiments we are doing in third grade as we learn about relationships among living things for science. There is also a lot of excitement about jumping rope after the demonstration in the gym. Our P.E. unit this month is jump rope skills, so we will be “learning the ropes.” Welcome aboard to our newest frog, Grace. We now have 5 girls and 13 boys; the girls prayers were answered!

Fourth grade: In English we are working on sentences with compound parts joined by conjunctions. Fourth graders are learning about river systems and erosion in Science and about fishing in Hawaiian Studies. We plan to take a field trip to Waikalua fishpond here in Kaneohe at the beginning of next month. We also are scheduled to watch the play put on by Hawaii Theatre for Youth, Maui-vs-Hercules, delving deeper into our study of myths.

Fifth grade: In our study of plants, we have been using the Scientific Process to discover aspects of plant functions. We found that even mistakes can help teach us a lot. We substituted water with paint instead of food coloring, but observed that the plant's xylem (the tubes in the plant's stem) did not transport the liquid to the leaves. Our conclusion was that the water was too thick due to the paint, but food coloring would have worked because it is a thinner liquid.

JUNIOR HIGH CLASSROOM NEWS:

Sixth, Seventh & Eighth Graders will be participating in the Ninth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Poetry Contest, sponsored by the International Peace Poem Project. Contest winners will be announced in March. Deadline for entries is February 28.

Eighth Graders continue to earn money for their upcoming Spring trip. Students have been busy selling sodas, having bake sales, and working at the huli huli chicken sale on Saturdays. At the same time, they are competing in the Japan Airlines haiku contest and all Junior High students are writing poetry for English class. Hopefully, St. Mark students will have a winning haiku! Eighth graders will also be participating in Scholastic Challenge 2008. It is sponsored by the American Scholastic Achievement League and is a nationwide, online contest in which students have an hour to answer 100 questions divided into six categories: general knowledge, language and literature, history, geography, science, and mathematics.

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Junior High had their annual Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 16th. The winner was **Nalei Akau (gr. 7)**, with **Kelli Lyman (gr. 6)** coming in second. Nalei will now compete in the District Spelling Bee at Le Jardin on February 12 at 6:30 p.m., Kelli will be the alternate. Winners then move on to the state finals held at Windward Community College in April. Good Luck girls!



NEW WEBSITE
coming last week of January!



www.smls-hawaii.org

Choir Singing at St. Mark Lutheran Church

Grades 4 & 5 sing at 11:00 a.m. service on January 20

Grade 6 sings at the 8:30 a.m. service on February 3



Athletics

Our girls' and boys' varsity basketball season has just gotten started. Both the girls and boys played in 20/20 tournaments last month and did very well. Our next home game is on Thursday, January 24 against Hongwanji. Come out and have a fun time supporting our teams.

This & That:

St. Mark is once again participating in the American Heart Associations annual "Jump Rope for Heart" program. Students raise money for the American Heart Association and also learn more about exercise and the importance of staying healthy. The actual Jump-A-Thon will be held Wednesday, February 13 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and will be followed by the annual all-school Potluck Lunch. Please let your child's teacher know if you are interested in volunteering for this event.

A total of \$360 was collected in December for the Lokahi Tree, thank you St. Mark families for sharing with those less fortunate. In January chapel offerings will go towards Cystic Fibrosis Research.

We are looking forward to the Art Expo and Family Night on February 22. Art work for all grades will be presented in the gym. You will be amazed at how talented our students are.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) News

Our first PTC meeting of the year was held on Tuesday, January 15th. Thank you to all who attended. Meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Please join us at the next meeting on February 19th, 3:00 pm.

We are currently working on **Teacher Appreciation Week** tentatively scheduled for the first part of May. Bring your ideas and take part in the planning.

Fine Art Expo and Family Night will be Friday, February 22nd for K-8th grade. PTC will help with set-up and are looking for volunteers. If have an artistic side or are simply interested in helping, please call the office and leave your contact information.

Microsoft and Scholastic have teamed up to present Search and Give. It is a fundraising program that provides participating schools with a free and automatic way to raise money. This Microsoft program, supported by Scholastic, is powered by Live Search and allows supporters to donate to the school of their choice. More details will follow once St. Mark is set-up.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next meeting. Hope to see you there!