

# 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**

**January 2011**

## A Message from the Principal



I hope and pray that you all were able to enjoy some quality time with your loved ones over the Christmas break. I am very happy to report that the faculty/staff appreciated the break, and is now recharged for the semester ahead.

As we pass the mid-point of the school year, it is time for us to pause and ask you how we are currently doing. We do this because your opinion means a great deal to us and, quite frankly, is critical to our success. Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is very dynamic, and Saint Mark must work diligently to meet the needs of our parents as we endeavor to fulfill our mission and prepare our students for the rigors of high school and the ever-changing challenges to follow.

A letter was sent home last week inviting you to participate in our annual parent survey. We know that you are very busy, and we humbly ask you to take a few minutes to complete the survey before this Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

It is available at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/saintmarkparentsurvey>

Please call the school office should you have any questions or prefer to complete a hard copy of the survey.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your help!

**SPEAK UP SPEAK UP SPEAK UP SPEAK UP**

## Get Active & Support SMLS



Saint Mark is participating in "Get Active" - a push to get students moving and physically active. The students are being asked to promote physical activity and collect donations in support of Saint Mark athletics.

Monies collected will go towards the purchase of new P.E. equipment, recess balls, athletic equipment and travel, etc.

Our "Get Active" hour will be on **Wednesday, February 16 from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.** and will be followed by the annual all-school **potluck lunch**. We are asking that each family provide one small food dish that will feed 4-5 students.

Students must return their sponsor pledge forms by **Wednesday, February 9**. This event will be held in lieu of Jump Rope for Heart.



### Dates to Remember

**January 30:** Grades 4-6 sing at the 9:30 a.m. church service

**February 4:** Staff Professional Development Day - No School

**February 10:** Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

**February 11:** Spring Family Night at Ice Palace at 6:30 p.m.

**February 16:** "Get Active" Potluck

**February 19:** PTC Rummage Sale at 9:00 a.m.

**February 20:** Grades K-3 sing at the 10:15 a.m. church service

**February 21:** Presidents' Day - No school

**February 21-25:** Scholastic Book Fair

**February 24:** Speech Festival at 6:00 p.m.

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

**March 7-11:** Lutheran Schools' Spirit Week

**March 9:** Ash Wednesday

**March 18:** 3rd Quarter ends

**March 21-April 1:** Spring Intersession

**March 22-24:** Grades 6-8 Report Cards Mailed Home

## Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

### Kindergarten

The kindergartners were happy to see each other after 'break.' January is a very busy time: we wrote wonderful New Year Resolutions, we're learning all about life on the Coral Reef and will go to the aquarium wearing special T-shirts we're making.

We learned about Dr. King and remembered to treat everyone with respect. Ronald McDonald's visit will be entertaining. We are celebrating four class birthdays this month, we'll learn how to jump rope (Mrs. Gundermann assures us it's not that hard!), we'll celebrate



**Kindergartners Loading the Salvation Army Van with Christmas Toys**

the 100th day of school, and last but not least we'll have Wheel Week when we bring bikes, wagons and cars for a week of parking lot riding. Can February get any better? Mrs. Gundermann thinks so. We'll have Chinese New Year fun for starters.

### First Grade

The first graders are studying penguins as part of an integrated science unit. Students are engaged in the process of inquiry, and researching things that interest them about these intriguing birds and the ecosystems they are a part of. They are also learning about food webs & how penguins are dependent on a healthy ecosystem for survival. A

highlight of our studies has been using our projector to access a "penguin cam" & other videos that give us a glimpse of what penguins do in their natural surrounding.

### Second Grade

Second grade students are tackling new and challenging things! We have started learning multiplication facts and are now in the third grade reading and spelling series. We are continuing to write letters to our pen pals and are having fun teaching them Hawaiian words and customs as they teach us French words. We will soon be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! We will be making fun t-shirts, creating 100<sup>th</sup> day booklets, drawing pictures of what we will look like when we are 100 years old, and a lot of other exciting things! The students are looking forward to their next Open Market where they get to spend their hard earned "moola".

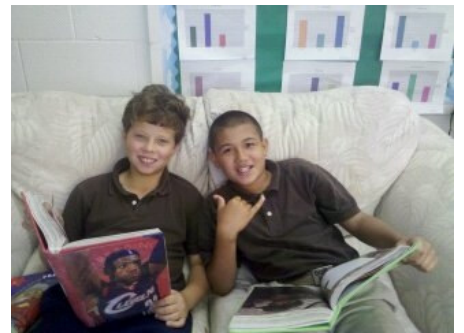
## Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

### Third Grade

The third grade continues to buzz along. Our *Life's A Beach* books arrived and were sent home. I have heard from many families that they love the books. The kids and I were thrilled that the books were so well received. We are working on multiplication in math and learning about the explorers of North America in social studies. Look for materials coming home soon that your child will be memorizing to present for our school wide Speech Festival scheduled for February. By the way, if your child hasn't mentioned anything about our "Wax Museum" ask them about it. It will be a major project due in May. They are really excited about it.

### Fourth Grade

It was so wonderful returning to school and hearing all about the winter break. They had fun being descriptive about their Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations in their writing. Now that we have started a new year, the students are buzzing with conversation about our annual 4th grade Big Island trip. Even though it is 5 months away, the students can't stop asking questions about our trip. Thank you again to all the parents that volunteered to chaperone the trip. The students are really looking forward to visiting the Polynesian Cultural Center later this month. This will be a great way to get the students ready for the big trip in May.



**A Couple of Grade 4 Students Enjoying their Books**

## Classroom News - Fifth Grade

### Fifth Grade

Karen Scharfenstein, who was in charge of decorating the Honolulu Hale this year, thought it would be a great idea to have a tree representing Saint Mark. She created a wonderful display



using the paper slippahs which our fifth grade drew as ornaments along with the slippah box that the fourth grade made for the fundraiser gala. The result was fantastic and appreciated by all!



**Honolulu Hale Tree Adorned with Saint Mark Decorations**

## Classroom News - Junior High

### Mrs. Hantel's News

The eighth grade American history class is beginning to tread the hostile waters of the Civil War. They are learning about the tension during this uneasy time in American history. The students will also begin Project Citizen which is a cooperative activity where the students will work as responsible citizens to evaluate (and possibly change) community policies.

"Sisi ni kujifunza juu ya Afrika!" (Swahili for "We are learning about Africa!") The seventh graders are learning about the history, geography and culture of the African continent. So far, the students have traveled through the Sahara Desert, through the Nile River and across the Congo Rainforest! This quarter will include African music, dancing and even a little Swahili!

Both algebra and pre-algebra students are working hard as they are learning new concepts. During this quarter, they will participate in a few math projects that will help stimulate critical thinking and problem solving skills

### Miss Maddick's News

Our language arts classes are starting new books this quarter. They are reading *A Wrinkle in Time* in sixth grade, *The Giver* in seventh grade, and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* in eighth grade. I am looking forward to great discussions in all three classes.

Seventh and eighth grade Communications and sixth grade Language Arts are preparing monologues for the school wide speech festival in February.

In social studies we are exploring the impact of Islam on the course of world history. Grades six through eight are working hard typing their rough draft for the social studies/language arts research paper. Eighth grade Bible is discussing the great power of the Gospel message and how we can share that message with our little corner of the world.

### Mrs. McGregor's News

In science, sixth grade students studied fossils and took on the role of a paleontologist during their dinosaur excavations. Three members in a team were assigned responsibilities such as captain, investigator, and reporter. As students rotated through five different sites, they chiseled away one quadrant at a time to find bones. Detailed journal entries and sketches were made each day.

Seventh grade students studied viruses and watched a video simulating how viruses multiply. Additionally, students researched the pandemic flu attack during 1914 to the most recent-SARS virus. While studying bacteria, seventh graders designed an experiment to find the greatest amounts of bacterial growth in highly used areas on

campus. The students understand that bacteria can be harmful and helpful.

Eighth grade students gained a better understanding of motion through experimentation. The purpose of one lab was to identify the factors that affected speed/velocity of an object. Students clarified their understanding of acceleration by asking how mass affects acceleration and designed an experiment to collect data and draw conclusions.

### Mrs. Moerbe's News

Happy 2011!!! Hopefully, everyone is enjoying the new year! We have a lot going on here at Saint Mark, and we'd love for you to join in. Keiki through grade 4 get together every Sunday morning for an exciting lesson on the Bible. We have crafts, games and awesome teachers!

Youth Quest, junior high and high school youth groups are the place to be! There is always something happening so check us out!

It's basketball time in P.E. and that means a lot of running! Please provide good foot support to help prevent injuries. Hopefully, it's something better than a regular tennis shoe. Also, if you need to purchase a new P.E. uniform we have plenty. Please feel free to e-mail me any time at [loretta@stmarkhawaii.org](mailto:loretta@stmarkhawaii.org).

## Junior High Awards

### Principal's List

(GPA 3.75 - 4.0)

Adrienne Bonham  
Martine Marantz  
Sean Oketani  
Jayson Wong  
Megan Howland  
Madison Lee  
Kailani Linton  
Haley Pilien  
Brock Staheli  
Alana Thomas  
Tiana Buckley  
Jason Lau  
Samson Low

### Honor Roll

(GPA 3.0 - 3.74)

MiKayla Aki  
Aimee Clark  
Isaiah Graham  
Risa McGregor  
Lannin Nakai  
Darrin Tsugawa  
Braeden Watanabe  
Courtney Young  
Autumn Butler  
Jaron Pagaduan  
Keaka Rodrigues  
Chasey Abrams  
Deja Lee

### Anastasiya Melnyk

Jonathan Pond  
Shaiann Smith  
Daniel Traylor  
Aaron Wilford

### Principal's Award

(Improved GPA by 0.3)

Lannin Nakai  
Nainoa Sanchez  
Darrin Tsugawa  
Braeden Watanabe  
Chasey Abrams

### Citizenship Award

Adrienne Bonham  
Isaiah Graham  
Risa McGregor  
Martine Marantz  
Sean Oketani.  
Jayson Wong  
Courtney Young  
Autumn Butler  
Skye Hinazumi  
Megan Howland  
Madison Lee  
Kailani Linton

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## Awards (cont.)

Stephen Manuel  
Nicole Pang  
Jaron Pagaduan  
Keaka Rodrigues  
Alana Thomas  
Jason Lau  
Deja Lee  
Anastasiya Melnyk  
Jonathan Pond  
Daniel Traylor  
Aaron Wilford



Keep up the Great Work!!

## Athletics



The varsity boys and girls basketball teams both played in their 20/20 preseason tournament on Saturday.

Their first regular season game was played here at Saint Mark on Tuesday, January 18 against Hanalani School. The

season continues through the month of February. Come out to watch and cheer on our teams!

The complete schedule of games is located on our school website at [www.smls-hawaii.org/calendar/htm](http://www.smls-hawaii.org/calendar/htm). Please check it out!



## Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the Rummage Sale!

Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Tuesday, February 15 at 3:00 p.m.** when we'll be putting the finishing touches on our plans for the Rummage Sale on February 19, 2011.



## This & That



The Saint Mark Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) is sponsoring their **Spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, February 19** beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please make plans to support the sale with both donations and purchases.

Friday, February 11 is **Family Night at the Ice Palace!** Everyone is welcome to join us for skating, fellowship, and fun. Special discount rate of \$7.50 for all skaters. Come and join the Saint Mark ohana. Skate from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. or

later. A special reservation form will be sent home.

We have a good selection of **used uniforms** for sale. If you are interested, please ask our office staff.



With your help we received \$816 from **Box Tops for Education!** A big mahalo goes to **Mrs. Olson** for her continued

work organizing this fundraiser and to all of you who have collected and continue to collect those small little box tops. We continue to collect them all year-round. Thank you!

December **chapel offerings** went towards making Christmas merrier through the Salvation Army and Family Promise programs. We raised \$625!



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