

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**

May 2011

A Message from the Principal

It's hard to believe that we only have a few more days remaining in the 2010-2011 school year. In a lot of ways it seems like just yesterday that we embarked on the new year, yet now it's almost over.

It's truly been an eventful year for us. We had our first ever benefit gala, and we were fortunate enough to outfit the school with dozens of new computers and other new technology. We had a wonderful night of student speeches, countless student excursions, chapels, concerts, presentations, demonstrations, and collaborations. All in all, we had many moments of student success as well as student struggle.

As our students and teachers step onto campus day-after-day, they are being continually challenged. Students are being challenged to learn a myriad of new knowledge, while teachers are being challenged to disseminate that knowledge in a manner that's personalized and meaningful. In essence, we are asking both our students and teachers to constantly change, grow and develop in their respective roles. And that is not always easy!

EVERY TRUE
strength
IS GAINED THROUGH STRUGGLE

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle." When I look back at the student victories and struggles of the year gone by, I can't help but smile at both. It has been a true pleasure to watch your children experience success and overcome failure as they mature. We sincerely thank you for allowing us to help shepherd your children through their moments of jubilation and frustration this past year. You can rest assured it's a privilege we don't take for granted!

To those of you who are moving on from Saint Mark, we wish you all of God's blessings in the future. Please come back to visit. To those returning, we look forward to seeing you in July. And, to all of you, we wish you a safe, relaxing, and altogether refreshing summer!

Dates to Remember

May 27: Kindergarten Graduation at 7:00 p.m.

May 30: No School - Memorial Day

June 2: Grade 8 Graduation at 7:00 p.m.

June 3: Last Day of School 11:30 a.m. dismissal with **NO AFTERCARE**

June 3: K-5 Report cards go home with students

June 6-10: Gr. 6-8 Report cards mailed home

June 6-10: Vacation Bible School at Saint Mark

June 13-17: Summer Mailing Packets go home

July 28: First Day of School 11:30 a.m. dismissal **NO AFTERCARE**

August 3: K-5 Back to School Orientation at 6:30 p.m.

August 4: Grades 6-8 Back to School Orientation at 6:30 p.m.

August 5: Fall School Pictures

August 19: No School Admissions' Day

September 1 & 2: Grades 1-8 Parent Teacher Conferences

September 5: No School Labor Day

Pink Bracelets



Everywhere you look around Saint Mark these days you see pink! The staff and students wanted Mrs. McGregor to know that she has our prayers and our support in her fight against breast cancer.

The pink silicon bracelets hanging from our wrists are a continual reminder of Mrs. McGregor's battle and the battle of millions of others who are defeating this disease.

We still have some bracelets in the school office if anyone would like to join us.



Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: Wheel week was a big hit. We dodged the showers and puddles. The kindergartners are excited about performing their graduation operetta, *Honey Pirates*, "with many speaking parts, songs, dances, and scenery made by the class. They have hosted the new kindergartners, welcoming them to Saint Mark, and are saying aloha and good-bye to their wonderful 8th grade chapel partners. Spelling quizzes every week is a new thing this quarter - just like the "big kids." Most of the new academic work is "pau" so they are enjoying reviewing math and reading through games and singing lots of songs from the year. Everyone is excited to go to first grade for an hour to get acquainted with Mrs. Olson and all the first grade adventures.

First Grade: May continues to be a busy month for the first graders. We did a great job on the SAT testing, and we were quite excited to welcome the seven chicks that hatched from the eggs in our classroom incubator. We've been busy measuring the chicks weight and the distances they can walk in one minute. It has been fun to learn how to use a triple balance scale and a yardstick. We're also working on writing books about how to take care of baby chicks. "How To" is the latest form of writing that we are focusing on. The year will wrap up with special activities planned for each day of our last week of school. We're really looking forward to the "First Grade Silent Auction", and a trip to Senator Fong's

Plantation for a nature walk and a chance to blow giant bubbles! The year has flown by and the first graders are beginning to look more like second graders!

WE ♥ SCHOOL!

Second Grade: In the second grade we are learning as much as we can to get ready for the third grade. In Math we are learning about measurements and multiplication. We are reading longer stories and learning how to write different types of poems. The students are looking forward to spending their "moolas" during our end of the year auction and Craft Day. The students have grown academically, spiritually, physically, and behaviorally this year, and I am very proud of all of their accomplishments.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: I am so appreciative of your prayers, cards, gifts, meals, and patience during the recovery period from my recent cycling accident. I am doing well, but sometimes the progress seems slow. I get tired easily and look forward to being able to take off all of the braces and slings that I need to be wearing. I have missed the kids terribly and have had a difficult time being away from the classroom. I am hoping to be able to be back full time this week. By the time you read this we will have held our first, hopefully annual, Wax Museum. The students worked hard and really seemed to enjoy learning about their historical figure. Thanks to all the families that helped gather the items needed for costumes.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders had a fantastic trip to the Big Island. Mahalo to Pastor Matt, Tonia Mahi, Tracy Crowell, Larry Inouye, and Barbara Wong for being incredible chaperones. I am very impressed with how well the students responded to our jammed packed itinerary. While on the Big Island, the students visited an ancient heiau, explored and recreated the K a l o k o - Honokohau fish pond, walked through a beautiful botanical garden, enjoyed the breathtaking views of Akaka Falls, tried to lift the famous Naha Stone, enjoyed their visit to the Hilo Zoo,



were amazed by the power and sites of Volcano National Park, felt the mana at Pu'uuhonua Honaunau (place of refuge), and got "hands-on" at the Onizuka Space Museum. I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to see my students learn and thrive outside the classroom. I want to thank the 4th graders for being so well behaved. The chaperones and I were extremely impressed with their level of maturity for their age. Mahalo nui loa for such a fun and memorable trip!

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: California, Massachusetts, Idaho, etc., etc. ...

For our fifth grade study about the United States, our students have each selected one state to learn about and present to the rest of the class. They will be utilizing their

skills in research, technology, organization, and oral language as well as visual design to complete their state project. We will end our study by learning all the fifty states with their capital cities and abbreviations. Hopefully, one day they'll get to visit all of them!



Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News:

This has been a blessed year for Junior High. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to share my passion of math, history and the Gospel with the students. All of the Jr. High students are now recovering from completing their 4-6 page research paper. Even though the students may be exhausted from this seven month process, they have grown tremendously as writers and historians. We have had many great experiences such as travelling to Camp Erdman, learning new material, having great discussions and visiting different places, such as the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor. God's blessings to all the 8th graders graduating this year and maturing on to high school. We will miss you!

Miss Maddick's News:

The quarter is flying by as students are finishing books and group projects. Sixth through eighth grade language arts classes will have the opportunity to convince their classmates that their reading group book is worth reading individually.

In seventh and eighth grade Communications, we are finishing the year with entertaining speeches. It will be interesting to see the wide variety of topics and tools the students use to entertain the class.

Revolutions and major changes are taking place in sixth grade world history. From the American Revolution to the Industrial Revolution, the world changed setting up the stage for WWI.

The "Five Love Languages" topical Bible Study closed by applying the Love Languages directly to students' and their families. By identifying the best ways for students to receive and give love through primary Love Languages, we hope to change the world with God's Love. Blessings to the eighth graders as they graduate and face new challenges. May you shine with the Love of Christ in your life! Have a Safe and Blessed Summer!

Mrs. McGregor's News:

Sixth graders studied Earth's moon, reviewed the moon's phases and discussed adventurous missions to space. Students completed a moon crater lab and worked on collaborative projects. Currently, the sixth graders are studying the solar system and have integrated math lessons with science to understand the dimensions of the inner and outer planets. This month, watch the night skies, you may see some of the planets lined up.

In science, seventh graders have studied living organisms, their habitats, and factors affecting population growth. Students had the opportunity to formulate ideas about issues regarding the white-tailed deer and its rapid population growth in parts of the United States and then defend their viewpoint. A mini research project on Earth's biomes will conclude their studies in Life Science. Keep inquiring!

Eighth graders have studied the electromagnetic spectrum and the different wavelengths emitted, and the many medical advances that have been made in the uses of elec-

tromagnetic waves. Students are wrapping up their school year studying behavior of light, concave and convex mirrors, the human eye, and advances in laser surgery. Keep discovering!

Mrs. Moerbe's News:

Congratulations to all the students for a great job in the Presidential Fitness Challenge! I am very proud of each and every P.E. student! The last couple weeks of school will be spent playing kickball and softball, so please continue to remember that proper athletic shoes provide great support for the ankle and will help prevent injuries.

This summer we will be providing a Vacation Bible School the week after school lets out, June 6 - 10 from 12:30 to 3:30pm. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a great opportunity for your keiki to come and have a blast with other students while learning more about God's Word through crafts, Bible stories, skits, games, and much more! Please see Loretta Moerbe with any questions!

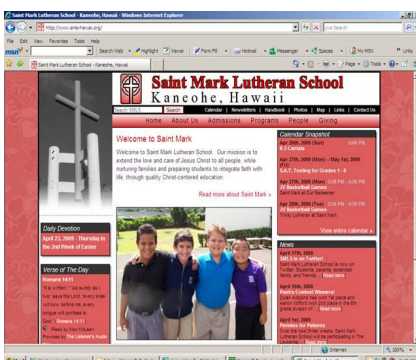
I want to also thank Saint Mark for such a wonderful opportunity to serve this year! I will miss you all, and I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer!

BIG Mahalo to PTC

The Jr. High teachers and staff would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the students and parents for your show of appreciation during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Mahalo Nui Loa!

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

You are encouraged to visit our website and **opt-in** to begin receiving **automatic email alerts** for Saint Mark school.



Athletics



Congratulations to the following students on their achievement in the Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge. Qualifying for the presidential award was 8th grader **Jason Lau**. Sixth graders **Adrienne Bonham, Johannah Wilford, and Courtney Young**; 7th graders **Kyla Alamida, Christian Eaton, Megan Howland, Alexandria Lauro, Madison Lee, Kailani Linton, Stephen Manuel, Desmond Mello, Nicole Pang, Haley Pilien, Brock Staheli, and Alana Thomas**; and 8th graders **Chasey Abrams, Pa`ahana Kaha`ulelio, Anastasiya Melnyk, Shaiann Smith, Daniel Traylor, and Aaron Wilford** all qualified for the national award.

Our sports year has come to an end and we celebrated with a banquet this past Thursday. Thanks to **Mr. Lau** and the parent committee who spearheaded the event. Many thanks, also, to all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends who came out to cheer and support the athletes throughout the year.

This year over three-fourths of our 5th-8th grade students played on our Lutheran School Sports League volleyball and basketball teams. We had fun, learned the sports of volleyball and basketball and improved our skills. Mahalo nui loa to **Coach Kim** (volleyball) and **Coach Bruce** (basketball) for all of their hard work and patience.

We also had over half of our kindergarten through 3rd graders participate in our intramural kickball games which just ended. Although couple of our games were rained out, we all had a lot of fun playing together and learning the game. Many thanks to our coaches (**Mrs. Hantel, Miss Arban, and Mrs. Kong**) and our pitchers, **Pastor Matt** and **Miss Callie** (a former 9-year student who has been volunteering this month). Thanks also to all the parents and other friends and family members who came out to cheer on these budding athletes.

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC met last Tuesday and began to formulate their plans for the **2nd Annual Benefit Gala on November 5, 2011**. Thanks to all who attended and are otherwise helping with the preparation. Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Tuesday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m.**, as we continue the planning process. We need your help and would love to see you there!



This & That

Chapel offerings for April totaling \$300 went to the *Make a Wish* foundation. Our May offerings are going to **Susan G. Komen for the Cure**. As always, we greatly appreciate your generosity!

Office hours during the **summer break** will be shortened. Generally, the office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

If you have left over **lunch tickets**, they can be used again next school year.

Please take a moment to say **aloha** to **Loretta Moerbe** before she leaves the islands. Her farewell church service is on June 12th. Mrs. Moerbe and her husband, **Kevin**, will be missed. Our new DCE intern, **Sarah Morris** will be arriving the next day, June 13th.

Remember our **last day of school** is **Friday, June 3rd** and the children will be dismissed at 11:30. There is **no aftercare that day**.



Saint Mark would like to invite keiki (ages 4 - 12) to attend "**Big Jungle Adventure**" this summer's **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**! Surrounded by the jungles of the Windward side of Oahu this offers an exciting opportunity to go wild on a faith journey with Jesus! Come and learn about

Jesus' amazing love each day as the adventure begins **June 6 - 10** from **12:30 - 3:30 p.m.** Please call the church office for more information at 247-4565.

The **first day of school** for our new school year is Thursday, July 28th with an early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. and no aftercare.



The Entire School Showing Off their Pink Bracelets in Support of Mrs. McGregor