

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 2010

A Message from the Principal



As 2010 rapidly draws to a close, it is fitting to pause and reflect on some of the many events of the year gone by.

We began 2010 with an extremely important visit from the WASC/HAIS/NLSA accreditation team which led to a six-year term of accreditation and the creation of a school-wide action/improvement plan. Two themes of our plan involve updating our technology and increasing our fundraising efforts.

In response to our action/improvement plan, over 30 new computers were purchased this past September. And in November, Saint Mark had its 1st Annual Benefit Gala which

I'm happy to report raised approximately \$18,000 in support of the technology upgrades and our increasingly important financial aid program. The gala was undoubtedly a resounding success that would not have been possible if not for the collaborative effort between parents, faculty/staff & students.

So, as we prepare to bid farewell to 2010, we profoundly thank all of you for your service to Saint Mark and encourage you to continue your support in 2011. Your enduring assistance is needed to help Saint Mark Lutheran School continue to improve its programs in the months and years ahead.

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas season full of all of the warmth and love of the Christ Child's birth.

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

Help the School and Get \$750



Word-of-mouth has always been a very positive form of advertising for our school. This is why \$750 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 3, 4, 5 or 6 between November 20, 2010 and **January 31, 2011**.

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 12: K-3 Christmas Program at 5:00 p.m.

December 14: Grades 4-6 Choir & Grades 4-8 Band Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m.

December 17: 2nd Quarter Ends, 11:30 a.m. Dismissal No Aftercare

December 20-January 4: Winter Intersession

December 20-23: 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 9:30 a.m.

January 5: School Resumes

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

January 12-14: Kindergarten Parent Teacher Conferences

January 17: MLK Jr. Day No School

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

February 4: Staff Professional Development Day - No School

February 10: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

February 11: Spring Family Night

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

February 21: Presidents' Day No school

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

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergartners

Along with reading every day and working in our brand new thick first grade math books, the children are singing lots of Christmas songs and know their speaking parts for their Christmas program. There are also many art projects for Christmas: Santa mobiles, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, shoe box stables with nativity scenes, and angels made from paper plates. The children left carrots for St. Nick's horse on Dec. 6 and they will have a posada for their Christmas party—that's a Mexican Christmas Celebration.



Kindergartners Playing Indians

First Graders

First graders are learning about communities near and far through the "Flat Stanley" project. Each student sent a flat replica of themselves to a host family in different communities around the world. Many "Flat Kids" have made it back from their exciting journeys, with information to share. We've received correspondence via email, postcards, and packages sent through the mail. We've learned about communities in Japan, England, New Zealand, and the United States. We're excited about upcoming holiday activities. And we're heading to Waikiki to see an

extraordinary gingerbread village and the lights at Honolulu Hale. On Friday, December 17th we'll make our own gingerbread creations at our class celebration. Happy holidays!

Second Grade

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in the second grade! We have been busy working on Christmas art and writing projects. The students have been working hard learning their speaking parts and songs to prepare for the Christmas concert. We are looking forward to our Christmas Movie Party and celebrating the birth of Jesus. The students wrote their second letters to their pen pals in Louisiana and are anxiously waiting to hear back from them.

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade

The third grade has been busy getting pictures and information on their pages in the *Life's A Beach* book. It should be finished by December 8 and ready to order. The price is around \$31 and they should be here before the Christmas break. Orders are now being taken. We have also been practicing our parts for the Christmas program and working on a research paper about Benjamin Franklin. Getting ready for all these things has made us very tired.



Fourth Graders

The 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 was enjoyed with a dash of sugar. 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 have been busy preparing our classroom and hearts for the birth of Jesus. The students had a chance to make their own advent wreaths. The students have been gluing their flames onto their candles as the real advent candles in class are being lit.

The fourth grade class would like to wish everyone Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade

Christmas is a time of giving and Fifth Grade wanted to do something

"they were excited to have a small part in helping children..."

for children who have very little. Our students donated small gifts and supplies to fill shoeboxes that

will be sent to children throughout the world as part of Operation Christmas Child. As a class, they were excited to have a small part in helping children have at least one gift this year for Christmas.

Mele Kalikimaka!



5th graders with gifts for some of the less fortunate

Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News

The **math** classes are diving into brand new material after a few chapters of spiraling review. The **sixth graders** are working with equations with the all-time favorite, fractions. The **seventh graders** are discovering how to simplify fractions that contain both variables and exponents while the **eighth graders** are solving multi-step equations and graphing their solutions on number lines.

The **seventh grader Bible students** are becoming more familiar with the life of Jesus, more specifically His miracles and parables. The students are also continually memorizing Bible verses and learning how to apply the verses to their lives.

The **seventh grade geography** students are finishing up their exploration of European culture. For their final project, they will be bringing in cultural artifacts from Europe and sharing the importance of these artifacts in a 2-3 minute speech. The **eighth graders** are remaining in the United States as they finish up their study of the first few presidents and the precedents they set for our nation.

Miss Maddick's News

Busy, busy students have been finishing up their novels for the quarter. **Sixth grade** is discovering what Christmas spirit can be along with Ebenezer Scrooge. **Seventh grade** is deciding what they would do if they were faced with a simple situation that turned into a media circus with their book by Avi. **Eighth grade** is faced with the question, "Would you rather be beautiful and clueless or 'ugly' and clued in with people who are trying to capture you and make you clueless (I know, crazy stuff, ask them about it!)"

Seventh and eighth grade are finishing their demonstration speeches and are preparing monologues for third quarter. **Sixth grade** is talking about the Roman Empire and making connections to Scripture. Christ's life and the spread of Christianity were highly influenced by the Romans - both positively and negatively.

Eighth grade Bible is wrapping up their discussion of prayer and their Bible study groups. As we enjoy Advent and prepare for Christmas, we are staying focused on the reason for the season by sharing our earthly and spiritual wealth. We will be shopping with our chapel buddies to give gifts to individuals who will spend their Christmas without a home through the Family Promise program. Blessings on your Christmas celebration!

Mrs. McGregor's News

In **science sixth graders** have studied seismic waves and earthquakes. One activity allowed students to gain perspective on the number of earthquakes that occur daily. We plotted on October 25, 2010 and on that day a massive 7.5 earthquake struck Indonesia. They understood the devastation. Students continued their study on volcanoes. They integrated science and language arts to create illustrated story books or factual brochures about volcanoes.

Seventh graders have studied the "phases" of mitosis and meiosis and learned that DNA makes us all unique. Students had fun making their DNA code name bracelet too! Students transitioned to learning about the Punnett Square, dominant and recessive genes, and genetic disorders. Classmates have paired up to present the pros and cons of genetic advancements (i.e. selective breeding, cloning, and gene therapy to name a

few). Each student has researched the evidence and statistics to formulate an opinion on whether genetic advancements are favorable or unfavorable.

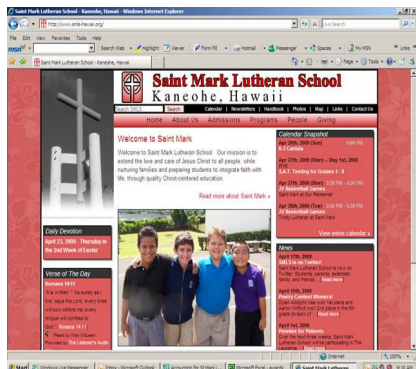
Eighth graders finished studying the periodic table of elements and they became familiar with the purposes of specific elements and how the elements are organized in the table. Students further studied ionic and covalent bonds and chemical reactions. Recently **eighth graders** tested for evidences of chemical reactions while completing the following experiments: Exothermic reactions, White Smoke, Black Snakes, and Green Fire. All students completed an official lab report defending their hypothesis.

Mrs. Moerbe's News

Mele Kalikimaka & Happy Advent to everyone! "It's the most wonderful time of the year" and the busiest to say the least! This month, there are a lot of exciting **Jr. High Youth Events** and service projects coming up. On December 10 the **Jr. High** are invited to go Christmas caroling at Kina Ole. We will leave after school and return by 4:30pm. Also, the youth are invited to babysit for the K-3 Choir Concert on December 12 from 5-6 p.m.

This month, we are wrapping up our soccer season and enjoying our favorite games from this semester! Fun times are always to be had in **P.E.**, so don't forget to wear appropriate shoes to prevent injuries! If your student's uniform is getting too small, or if you are finding holes in the seams, we have extras that can be purchased! Simply contact Mrs. Kong or Mrs. Moerbe to purchase a replacement.

Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!



Please take some time to visit the SMLS website. It continues to be updated!

Saint Mark Website
www.smls-hawaii.org

You are invited to visit the SMLS website and **opt-in** to begin receiving **automatic email alerts** for Saint Mark School.



No After Care

Friday, December 17 is the last day of school before the beginning of the Winter Intercession. There is early dismissal at 11:30 with **NO AFTER-CARE**. Please plan accordingly.



Christmas Services

You are invited to worship with us during the holiday season. Saint Mark Lutheran Church is offering Advent church services on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and special services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day:

Christmas Eve Services at 6:00 & 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m.

Athletics

The fifth and sixth grade JV volleyball boys and girls finished a great season Thursday winning both their games. Congratulations to **Coach Kim** and both teams! They all learned a lot and had fun in the process. We would also like to thank Coach Pu for his help during the season.

The first LSSL golf tournament of the 2010-2011 year will take place on Saturday, December 18 and is open to students in grades 4-8. Letters have gone home to those interested. If you are interested in having your child participate and did not get a letter, please see Mrs. Kong.

Our varsity basketball teams have already begun practicing with **Coach Bruce**. They are working hard and looking forward to their first games in January. The boys play in a pre-season 20/20 tournament on January 8 at Hanalani, and the girls play in their tournament on January 15 here at Saint Mark. Their first regular season game is on Tuesday, January 18 when we play Hanalani here at Saint Mark. Check out the school's website sports calendar for the rest of the schedule and come out and support our teams.

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, January 11 at 5:30 p.m.** when we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on February 19, 2011.



This & That

Chapel offerings for December will go to **Family Promise** who will be hosting homeless families the week of Christmas at Saint Mark. We will make their Christmas a little merrier with gifts. Other food and toys will be given to Kaneohe's Salvation Army who will be distributing Christmas baskets and gifts to needy families in windward Oahu.

All are invited to the **K-3 Christmas musical** entitled *Miracle on Bethlehem Street* on Sunday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m. Child care is available during the show.

Please join us for the **Grades 4-8 Choir and Band Christmas Program** on Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. The title of the musical is *Breaking News! Baby Born in Bethlehem*.

Please remember to **write your child's name** on the inside of their jackets and sweaters! Mrs. Lee always ends up with lots of them in the lost and found and no idea who to return them to!

On December 15th kindergarten and first grade are going to see the **Gingerbread Extravaganza** at the Sheraton Hotel and Christmas decorations at Honolulu Hale.

We will begin offering hot **lunches** from **Lanakila Kitchen** beginning in January 2011. Lanakila Kitchen's focus is on providing a healthier option for meals for both children and adults at a reasonable cost. The school lunches follow the USDA guidelines. Each lunch includes an entrée, starch, vegetable or salad, fruit, wheat bread, margarine & a milk. Pizza Hut will still be offered on Fridays! The cost & procedures will remain the same as they are now.

Please remember to save your belongings for the **PTC Rummage sale** which will be held at the school on **February 19, 2011**.

A **BIG mahalo** goes to everyone for their support of the **1st Annual Benefit Gala** for Saint Mark. We are extremely pleased to have raised approximately **\$18,000** in our first year. We owe an extra bit of gratitude to our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) for of their hard work in support of the gala!



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Twitter

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