

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**

September 2010

A Message from the Principal



We are delighted to report that the finishing touches are currently being put on a very important school improvement project - upgraded technology. Specifically, we have replaced over two dozen older computers in the computer lab with brand new Dell's, installed a school-wide wireless network, and purchased new computers and projectors for the faculty/staff.

While these improvements are exciting for our faculty/staff and students, they are only the first step in what is planned to be an on-going technology improvement process. In addition to the continued acquisition of new hardware and software, this process will include teacher training on how to most meaningfully utilize this new technology to improve student learning.

As you might imagine, these improvements are costly and do require increased funding. One way we are hoping to raise the needed funds is with our 1st Annual Benefit Gala at *The Pacific Club*. We sincerely thank our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC), faculty, and staff for their hard work in planning for this significant event. We also thank all of you, our Saint Mark Ohana, all for the immense support you are giving to this event. From your gift basket and other silent auction donations to your help with the class projects and verbal support of the gala, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The monies raised at the gala are extremely important to us and will be used to help fund our new technology and to support our financial aid program.



Mahalo Nui Loa for your Support!

Passport Fundraiser a Big Success



The three week push to sell the Passport Discount Cards has ended, and we are happy to report that over \$9,000 was raised for the school. We will continue to have additional Passports available in the school office for those who would like them. We congratulate our top sellers and prize winners - **Melia Kekaulike, Alana Nagata, Mahina Amoy, and Hana Jardon**. We greatly appreciate everyone's support of this very worthwhile endeavor!

Dates to Remember

- October 1:** 1st Quarter Ends
- October 4-15:** Fall Intersession
- October 4-8:** Gr. 6-8 Report Cards mailed home
- October 18:** School Resumes K-5 Report Cards go home with students
- October 20:** Flu Vaccination Clinic at 8:30 a.m.
- October 20 -22:** Kindergarten Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 24:** Grades K-3 Concert and Potluck at 5:00 p.m.
- November 1-3:** Grades 5, 7, & 8 Outdoor Education at Camp Erdman
- November 4 & 5:** Lutheran Teachers' Conference No School
- November 6:** 1st Annual Benefit Gala at The Pacific Club
- November 10:** Open House for Prospective Parents at 5:30 p.m.
- November 11:** Veterans' Day No School
- November 16:** Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students
- November 19:** Optional Parent-Teacher Conferences Grades 1-8 11:30 a.m. Dismissal
- November 21:** Grades K-3 sing at the 8:30 a.m. Service

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: Kindergartners had 48 guests for our Grandparents' Day celebration. Even great-grandmothers and grand "folks" from Kauai, Maui and Louisiana! Lots of proud grandparents when they saw their grandchildren "in action." The children worked on some nifty projects that will be sold at the Gala. We attended two plays - even got to sit on the stage with dinosaurs at one. This week is 5 Senses Week. If you want to see more of the Kindergartners in action, check the kindergarten site on Saint Mark's web page.

First Grade: The first graders had a busy first quarter! In math we learned many new rules about addition and subtraction. We also began memorizing our addition facts. In reading, we strengthened

our word attack skills through learning word families and reinforcing our knowledge of the sounds that letters spell. The children enjoyed exploring some basic art principles, such as the use of lines, shapes, positive and negative space, and the use of complimentary colors. We applied what we learned and worked together to make a large piece of art to hang in our room. We also enjoyed reading *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown, as part of our social studies unit focused on "communities". We made flat replicas of ourselves, just like "Flat Stanley" and sent them off to visit communities around the globe. Finally, we've enjoyed visiting the Kaneohe Fire Station and Boston's Pizza as part of our community studies.

Second Grade: The second grade students are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their first letters from their pen pals in New Orleans, Louisiana. They are already thinking about all the things they want to write to their new friends. In math we are counting up nickels and dimes and learning all about money. The students have been having fun working on our art projects that we will contribute to the silent auction. The second graders had a great time swimming with the kindergarten class at the pool.



Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: The third graders have been working very hard in all academic areas. We have completed a science unit on ecosystems and are now learning about the Early Americans in social studies. We have been estimating sums and differences in math and have written four pieces during our Writer's Workshop time. We will be choosing one piece to do the entire writing process on, including publishing. We have gone swimming with the kindergarten class, and we had Mrs. Lee come and show us how to cut the pieces that we will use for our quilt for the Gala in November. We will have accomplished lots by the time we go on our break at the end of the month. We will begin assigning the beach that each student will research for our class book *Life's A Beach*. The students will be working on that over the break.

Fourth Grade: The fourth graders really enjoyed their month. Even though some students have known each other since kindergarten, they found out a lot more about each other from their Pride Projects. The students were asked to share some interesting unknown facts about their "animal personality", ancestral background, qualities that they look for in a friend and one exciting event that took place in their life. The best part of the presentation was the guest speakers. Moms, dads, aunties, uncles and tutus shared some entertaining stories about our classmates. Our fourth graders also enjoyed a presentation from a geologist from the Papahana Kuaola-Lelekamanu Program. She helped us explore the history of our Hawaiian Islands. The students learned all about shield volcanoes and how they have changed over

time due to weather erosion and natural disasters. She shared a few mo'olelo (legend or myth) with the students to help them understand how the ancient Hawaiians explained how the islands were formed. A BIG mahalo goes out to all my fourth graders and their parents for supporting the Fall Family Night! Thank you to all the staff that volunteered their time to make the night happen. They helped make Fall Family Night a huge success. I would not have been able to do it without all of their hard work. Mahalo nui loa for supporting our fourth graders. All proceeds from our bake sale will help fund their trip. Big Island, here we come!

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade culminated their study of Native Americans by presenting various projects that demonstrated Indian culture. Projects varied from a deerskin canoe to beaded wristband. Students were encouraged to make their project in the "Indian way" by using natural materials and methods. Students then did oral presentations to ex-

plain how they constructed their projects and compared it to how Na-

"Projects varied from a deerskin canoe to a beaded wristband"

tive Americans would have made it. They also discussed what they learned about Indian culture and how it compared to theirs.



Classroom News - Junior High

Mrs. Hantel's News:

It's Christmas time in the seventh grade class! We are learning about the most important and miraculous birth, the birth of our Savior! The seventh grade geography students have begun their "journey" around the world. Their first stop was to the mainland United States and Canada. They learned about the physical geography and culture of these two countries. To finish up their journey, they are authoring a children's story about one of the states they had visited.

The eighth grade American history students have immersed themselves in the history of the beginning our country. To show what they have learned, these students have created scrapbooks that a colonial teenager might have created during this time. If you happen to see an eighth grader walking the halls, ask them to recite the Preamble to the Constitution, and they will be able to do so with much ease.

Miss Maddick's News:

In English we are wrapping up our class novels by reviewing what the novels taught us. *Tuck Everlasting* reminded us that life is precious, but immortality on earth may not be the best experience. *Old Man and the Sea* reminds us to persevere and show Christ in our lives no matter what troubles we face. *My Brother Sam is Dead* reminds us that war is complicated and we must try to look at life from other people's perspectives.

The communications class has dusted off their speaking skills by sharing a personal story. Now we are going to introduce each other

to people who have directly or indirectly impacted our lives in an informative biography speech. The words "um", "uh", and "like" better watch out because they are doomed in our classroom!

Travels in World History have been short so far. Mesopotamia to Egypt, Egypt to India, India to China have been our short trips so far. The River Civilizations are important cultures to examine because they impact society today.

Eighth grade Bible class is wrapping up a unit on Scripture by learning how to best study the Word. Soon we will be formatting small group Bible study and discussing the impact of prayer on our lives.

Mrs. McGregor's News:

The sixth grade Earth science class observed different minerals and did an experiment on calculating the density ($d=m/v$) of various minerals such as feldspar, calcite, pyrite and quartz. Now that they studied rocks, they are creating a comic strip showing how a rock travels through the rock cycle. Students made posters showing the many uses for rocks in everyday life. Singing to the song, "Rocks Rock Harder" was fun too!

The seventh grade life science students have been studying cells. They understand the characteristics of living things and how organisms are classified. In order for 7th graders to comprehend the functions of organelles of a cell, each student participated in a fun project where they used their creativity to make a cell travel brochure. Each brochure has a cover page such as

"CELL HOTEL - An exCELLent place to stay!". Eight clever descriptions of organelle parts and functions on the inside of the brochure and on the back is a cross section map of the cell (plant or animal) that the student chose. Here is an example of a student's creative description: "Mitochondria Spa-It is the main power generator...It converts nutrients into energy which makes a happy, better you!"

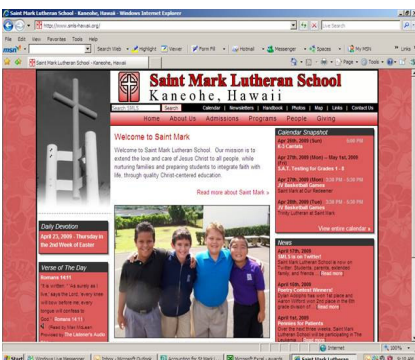
The eighth grade physical science students studied the physical and chemical properties of matter and then worked on understanding density. Students performed a lab to answer the question, "Does the density of a material vary with the volume?" We are also studying states of matter, and students are performing experiments to understand the relationship between temperature, pressure, and volume of a gas.

Mrs. Moerbe's News:

P.E. classes are still going strong! The students are currently working to improve their football skills through various football drills and games that focus on putting those skills to good use. We will begin flag football scrimmages shortly! We do a lot of running in football, so a friendly reminder to encourage your student to wear athletic shoes that give good support to protect their ankles from injury!

We have been having a great time in Jr. High Youth Night (Sunday night). We have a lot of exciting things planned, so keep an eye out for the brightly colored flyers that go home, or e-mail me. My office door is always open! I am always happy to talk!

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

Be sure to check out the new feature which allows you to receive **automatic email alerts** when new news items are posted to the school website.



Athletics



Congratulations to both the boys and girls varsity volleyball teams and to Coach Kim on a great season. Both teams will be playing in the post-season tournament. Go Warriors!

The JV volleyball season is about to begin with Coach Kim. Practices will begin next week. Their first game will be on Tuesday, October 26 at Pearl Harbor Christian Academy in Waipio.

Congratulations to **Desmond Mello** (grade 7) who came in first in the Boys 11-12 HJGA September Championship at the Hawaii Kai Executive Course. Desmond shot a 60 on the par 54 course. Way to go Desmond!

Give Aloha

Saint Mark is again participating in Foodland's Annual **Give Aloha program!** During the month of September customers are invited to make donations of up to \$249 (per person, per organization) at checkout to Saint Mark Lutheran School. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match a portion of each donation up to a total of \$325,000 for all organizations combined. More details will be sent home in the near future.



give aloha

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC continues its work planning the **1st Annual Benefit Gala**. The gala is scheduled for Saturday, November 6 at *The Pacific Club* and will include an evening of international food, live entertainment and an exciting silent auction for our community and friends.

Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Tuesday, October 19 at 5:30 pm** to continue planning for the gala. We are hoping for a good turn out!

This & That

Fall Family Night was enjoyable for all. Fourth grade's fundraiser provided dinner and snacks, children played, parents relaxed, and everyone enjoyed the movie.

The end of our 1st quarter and the beginning of **Fall Intersession** are quickly approaching. Our last day of school is October 1, and we return on October 18.



Grade 2 Having Some Fun at the Pool with Kindergarten



Grade 4 Student Exploring Hawaiian Geology

Report cards for students in grades 6-8 will be mailed home during Fall Intersession. Students in grades K-5 will receive their report cards when they return to school on the October 18th.

Students who handed in their **flu vaccination** forms will receive their shots on **Wednesday, October 20**. Students handing in late forms can be waitlisted and will receive vaccinations if there is ample supply.

Everyone is invited to the K-3 fall concert on Sunday, October 24 at 5:00 p.m. in the church. A potluck follows in the gym. Our program is called "**A Potpourri of Music.**" Come and enjoy!

September **Chapel Offerings** are currently being collected for *Family Promise* - an innovative program helping families with children escape homelessness.

We are still in **need of donations** for our silent auction at our **Benefit Gala** - "Flavors Around the World" on November 6th.

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



Facebook



Twitter