

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**

August 2013

A Message from the Principal

We are four weeks into the new school year, and I am happy to report that the students seem to be settling in nicely. We are excited to welcome four new educators to the Saint Mark ohana this year - **Ms. Katie Gerling** (grade 3), **Mrs. Kristy Schroppel** (grades 6-8), **Mrs. Lorine Pelletier** (grades 6-8), and **Ms. Courtney Gibo** (grade 1 educational assistant and aftercare) . Please join me in extending them a warm aloha as they join our family.

The complete 2013-2014 Saint Mark faculty and staff are listed as follows:



Kindergarten - **Mrs. Gundermann**
Grade 1 - **Mrs. Venegas**
Grade 2 - **Mrs. Gonzalez**
Grade 3 - **Ms. Gerling**
Grade 4 - **Ms. Camit**
Grade 5 - **Mrs. Flores**



Middle School Science, Math & Bible - **Mrs. Brooks**
Middle School English, Math & Bible - **Mrs. Schroppel**
Middle School Social Studies, English & Bible - **Mrs. Pelletier**
Middle School P.E. & Director of Christian Education - **Miss Morris**
Middle School Art, Grade 2 Educational Assistant & After Care Dir. - **Mrs. Gibo**
Assistant Head of School, Director of School Programs & Athletics - **Mrs. Kong**
Band, 4 & 5 Ukulele, 5 & 6 Choir - **Mr. Bauchle**
3 & 4 Choir - **Mrs. Pescht**
K-2 Choir - **Mrs. Gundermann**
Kindergarten Educational Assistant & Before Care Worker - **Mrs. Akaka**
Grade 1 Educational Assistant & After Care Worker - **Ms. Courtney Gibo**
Library, Grade 3 & 4 Educational Assistant & After Care Worker - **Mrs. Manu**
After Care - **Mrs. Gibo, Mrs. Manu & Ms. Courtney Gibo**
Administrative Assistant/Admissions Coordinator - **Mrs. Lee**
Business Manager - **Mrs. Lawrence**

As is customary at Saint Mark, in addition to the new staff, we also want to welcome all of our new school families and welcome back our returning families. We know that you have many choices when it comes to your children's education, and we thank you for putting your trust in us. You continue to be our most important ambassadors, and we greatly appreciate your commitment!

A Few Days Left for Fundraiser



We are nearly halfway through our iDcard Fundraiser where students are being asked to sell at least five iDcards by next **Wednesday, August 28**. The iDcard is an annual membership to an exclusive network of savings at your favorite restaurants, retailers, and attractions. The iDcard can be used over and over again unlike coupons or online group discounts. Big City Diner, Papa John's, Teddy's Bigger Burgers, Aloha Crepes, iHop, Ryan's Bar & Grill, Young Laundry & Dry Cleaning, Cinnamon's Restaurant, Round Table Pizza, The Shack - Kailua, Maui Tacos, Taco Del Mar, and Islands are just a few of the 100's of merchants accepting the iDcard. Please call the school office at 247-5589 if you have any questions or are interested in purchasing an iDard.

Dates to Remember

August 28: iDcard Fundraiser Ends

September 1: Grades 5 & 6 Sing in Church at 9:30 a.m.

September 2: Labor Day No School

September 3: Mid-Quarter Reports go home

September 13: Fall Family Night - Movie Night

September 15: Grades 3 & 4 Sing in Church at 9:30 a.m.

September 16-20: Scholastic Book Fair

September 17: Gala Planning Meeting at 5:30pm

September 18: Grandparents' Day in Kindergarten

September 29: K-2 Concert and Potluck at 5:00 p.m.

October 1: Fall Picture Make-up Day

October 4: 1st Quarter Ends

October 7-18: Fall Intersession

October 7-11: Grades 6-8 Report Cards mailed home

October 21: School Resumes K-5 Report Cards go home with students

October 23: Flu Vaccination Clinic at 8:30 a.m.

October 23-25: Parent Teacher Conferences (Grades K-8)

October 24 & 25: 11:30 a.m. dismissal due to the conferences

October 30-Nov. 1: Grades 5 & 7 Outdoor Ed

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: Twenty-six kindergartners are quickly making new friends, learning routines, and "digging" in to exciting kindergarten work. There are lots of reading and math activities, swimming every week, and making "surprises" for Grandparents' Day. We are having a daily alphabet letter: learning how to make the letters correctly, learning a song and hearing a story for each letter. And most fun of all: having a food treat. Mrs. Gundermann is happily visiting everyone, seeing their rooms, yards, pets, and getting acquainted with everyone in the family.



Grade 1 & 2 students working in new and expanded their garden

First Grade: The first grade family has experienced lots of "firsts" this month. They completed their first

Math Minute and Spelling Test. They each received their first bank to save money for their upcoming Open Market. They had their first lunch date with their seventh grade chapel buddies. They planted corn for the first time with their second grade friends. They are learning how each first grader is special and unique as individuals, and how they fit together to form the First Grade Family.

Second Grade: Ready, set, go! Second grade is off to a fantastic start! The second graders have been spending their first few weeks of the year building their classroom community and learning new routines and expectations. They



Grade 2 students enjoying a fun team building activity

are excited about all the new learning. They also had a chance to get down and dirty in the newly expanded first and second grade garden. They are looking forward to their first harvest of the year, this fall. The second graders were also excited to welcome two new friends to their second grade ohana.



Students enjoying their garden

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: Third graders have been busy getting routines started for the school year. They are doing a wonderful job of keeping their desks orderly and coming to school ready to learn. Several students have already gathered some Accelerated Reading points as we enjoy using the school iPads in the classroom. Cursive is underway as we begin to work on posture, pencil grips, and



Grade 3 students enthusiastically enjoying a math activity

the slanting of our letters. In Religion, we are learning how to look up the books of the Bible, chapters, and verses. We are also working through the review section of math as we learn to organize our work problems on lined paper. As a whole

we have a super class and they are eager to learn!

Fourth Grade: The 4th grade class has been very busy! All the stu-



Grade 4 students pausing this week for a class photo

dents are excited to focus on our Hawaiian Islands and its unique culture. We dove right in and have started learning about how the islands were created and what makes each of our main islands special. We will continue this study through the quarter and complete a project to show our learning.

We are all looking forward to a great year together!

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: What helps a student be successful? Fifth grade was asked this question on the first day of school and wrote down their ideas. They classified these into four categories that their classmates, their teacher, their family, and they would do to help them be successful this year. From these ideas, they selected

the most popular ones and created a list of rules for the classroom which we called *Our Plans for Success*. They included doing our best, studying hard for tests, being nice to each other, staying on task, being positive, plus ten more. They are all excited about following these rules, so they can have a terrific year in fifth grade!



Grade 5 students collaborating to create a set of class rules

Classroom News - Middle School

Mrs. Brooks News:

In **middle school science**, we are learning about the scientific method, how to develop a hypothesis and run an experiment. We have conducted some experiments in class to model valid methods. We have investigated how many drops of water fit on a penny. We are also working to determine if microwaving radish seeds causes an increase or decrease in germination rate. Our next challenge is to come up with an experiment of our own and perform it.

Eighth grade algebra students are reviewing types of numbers, graphing on a coordinate plane, and order of operations. We are also using variables to model relationships with equations and are determining function rules. Soon, we will be investigating rational numbers. We will begin by reviewing how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative integers.

Seventh grade math students have reviewed estimation strategies and are working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals. We have completed some visual, hands-on activities that model decimal multiplication and division. We will continue to model math concepts when we learn about positive/negative integer addition and subtraction.

Sixth grade Bible students have tested their Bible knowledge with a fun Bible scavenger hunt (ask them about their trick question!). We are moving forward from the Old Testament knowledge from last year to the New Testament. We will begin with the four Gospels and compare/contrast each. Currently, we are learning about Jesus' life through Matthew.

Mrs. Schroppel's News:

The **seventh grade** homeroom is quickly becoming a comfortable place to be. The walls sport "Who am I" posters that introduce us to each student. And a popular feature for all middle schoolers is the SPPRAK (Special People Performing Random Acts of Kindness) board where kids can catch each other doing good. Our day begins with student led devotions, beautiful singing, and a study of the Life of Christ as presented in the gospel of John.

Seventh and eighth grade English students are relearning just how fun grammar can be when taught the Shurley method way! Our goal this year is to become excellent communicators in both our speech and writing. In this first quarter, both classes are reading science fiction novels where technology has been implemented to create utopian societies: seventh grade is enjoying *The Giver*, and the eighth graders are deep into *Uglies*.

In **sixth grade math & seventh and eighth grade pre-algebra** we are getting into the flow of things. Sixth grade is currently studying numbers, expressions, and equations, and pre-algebra is learning the language of algebra. The quarter 1 project will be coming soon!

Mrs. Pelletier's News:

The school year started with the usual routine of learning student's names, nailing down class schedules, and diving into the textbook materials that we will use.

Sixth grade social studies student's are learning about ancient civilizations, especially the Fertile Crescent area.

In **language arts** they are reading the novel, *Tuck Everlasting*, an interesting look at a family that never grows any older. They are also expanding their vocabulary with Wordly Wise, their grammar with the Shurley Method, and their writing with journal entries. And don't forget about the required outside reading using Accelerated Reader books!

The **seventh graders** are learning the tools of **Geography** so they can better understand the different world regions that will be covered later in the year.

In **Bible** the **eighth graders** have begun the study of salvation using their *Dynamic Christian Living* workbooks, journals, and memory work. And in **social studies**, we have dug into **American History** from the earliest humans in the Americas. Soon we will be comparing the different colonies that developed in North America.

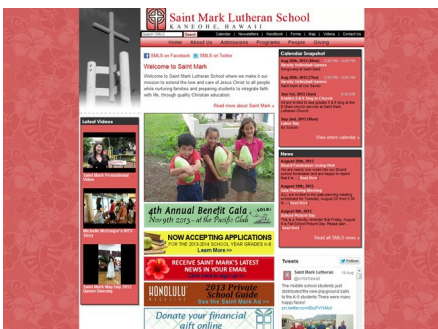
We look forward to an exciting year with much spiritual, physical, social, and academic growth!

Miss Morris' News:

Welcome back! In PE we are starting off by working on our volleyball skills. We will be participating in Fitnessgram instead of the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Fitnessgram has many of the same activities, with the addition of measuring the student's Body Mass Index and Aerobic Capacity, doing flexed arm hangs, and trunk lifts. Instead of being evaluated on a Presidential or National Level, each student will be placed in a zone - either Healthy Fitness Zone or Needs Improvement Zone. For more information on Fitnessgram please see Ms. Morris or visit: www.fitnessgram.net

Saint Mark Lutheran School is On-line!

Current Design

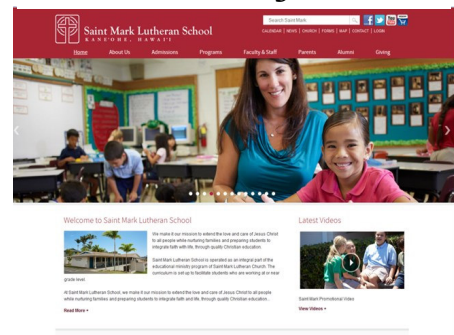


Coming Soon!!

Saint Mark Website
www.smls-hawaii.org

A completely redesigned Saint Mark website....Please be on the look out for it in early September!

New Design



Athletics



We have a new coach, Mr. **Tony Kanoa**, who is working well with our athletes. They have been perfecting skills and plays and RUNNING, as well as having fun.

We are looking forward to a great year of sports as we participate in the Lutheran Schools Sports League (LSSL). The League offers JV volleyball (grade 5 & 6 boys and girls), varsity and JV basketball for both boys and girls, a cross country meet for grade 5-8 boys and girls, and a golf tournament. All scheduled games are listed on the school calendar on our website. If you have any questions, please call or email **Mrs. Kong**. Our first games were on Monday and both the boys and girls won their matches. We have more home games so come on out and cheer our athletes on.



2013-2014 Faculty and Staff at the Installation and Rededication Church Service on August 4

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash

The PTC is busy at work planning the **4th Annual Benefit Gala...**



The gala is scheduled for **Saturday, November 9 at The Pacific Club** and will include an evening of wonderful food, live entertainment and an exciting silent auction for our community and friends. The money raised in this event will be used to support our financial aid program and to continue to enhance our computer technology. Thank you to the parents who have offered to serve on the PTC. It takes all of us working together to make Saint Mark the best it can be.

This & That

The **iDcard fundraiser** will run through Wednesday, August 28. Thank you for helping your keiki with this venture.

On September 9, **Grades K-2 will visit Tenney Theatre** for Honolulu Theatre for Youth's production of "Korean Cinderella."

Make plans to attend the **Fall Family Night** on Friday, September 13. It will be a fun-filled movie night!

Kindergartners will Celebrate **Grandparents' Day** on Wednesday, September 18. We expect an overflowing crowd and the kindergartners will be proud to show off with songs, activities, and to introduce papa and tutu to their classmates and classroom.

August **Chapel Offerings** are going to Lutheran Church World Relief. September offerings are going to Family Promise. Mahalo for your support!

Parents of students in grades K-2 be sure to circle September 29 on your calendars. At 5 p.m. the children will present "**Magical Moments.**" The children meet twice a week with Mrs. Gundermann for choir and are busily learning many songs for this fall's concert.

Football, volleyballs, soccer balls, basketballs and the always popular **bouncy balls**, in a rainbow of colors were out on the playground and blacktop as our students enjoyed the new equipment. Thanks to all of you who supported **Get Active** last year, we now have balls, balls, and more balls for all the classes and the After Care program.

Saint Mark will once again be 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 \$350,000 for all organizations combined. More details will be sent home in the near future.



give aloha

Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program

We need everyone's support to help make the **4th Annual Benefit Gala** scheduled for Saturday, November 9, 2013 a huge success!

In mid-September, parents will begin receiving access to Saint Mark's new administrative software system - **GradeLink**. The access will be gradually rolled out beginning with the middle school grades. Please call the school office with any questions.