

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 2017

A Message from the Head of School



ANGEL TREE *Angel Tree.*

With the increased commercialization of Christmas all around us, I love the way the students and families of Saint Mark continue to share their gifts with those less fortunate than themselves. Within the past few weeks, Saint Mark students, together with the church, have given generously to multiple causes. Specifically, we have supported *Operation Christmas Child, Toys-For-Tots, the Food Bank, & the*

While these gestures may seem small to some, they have an extremely positive impact on the lives of others and represent profound teachable moments for our keiki. These formative elementary years are an important developmental time when students must be taught (and modeled) the importance of generosity and empathy.

Giving to total strangers is a great way to demonstrate our support as well as spread our love both here and abroad at this special time of the year.



Students collected hundreds of canned goods for Saint Mark's Food Bank



Students collected over 100 new toys for Toys-For-Tots

As we bid farewell to 2017, we sincerely thank our families for their commitment to Saint Mark and pray that every one of you are able to slow down this Christmas season long enough to relax and enjoy the full splendor of our *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*



Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau`oli Makahiki hou!

Save Your Rummage

We are looking forward to another great PTC rummage sale on **Saturday, March 3, 2018.**

Please start saving items that can be donated to the sale. All of the money raised from these sales goes directly to the school!



Dates to Remember

December 12: Grades 3-4 Choir and Beginning Band Christmas Concert at 6:30 p.m.

December 14: Grades 5-8 Choir and Advanced Band Christmas Concert at 6:30 p.m.

December 20: 2nd Quarter Ends 11:30 a.m. dismissal with **No Aftercare**

December 23-29: All Report Cards mailed home

December 21 - January 3: Winter Intersession

December 24: Christmas Eve Church Services 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

December 25: Christmas Day Church Service at 9:30 a.m.

January 4: School Resumes

January 10-12: Optional Parent Teacher Conferences for Grades K-8

January 12: 11:30am Dismissal

January 15: MLK Jr. Day - No School

January 17: "Get Active" Kick-Off at 8:30 a.m.

February 1-2: Staff Professional Development Day - No School

February 4: Grades 3 & 4 sing at the 9:30 a.m. Church Service

February 6: Mid-Quarter Reports go home with students

February 16: Spring Family Night

February 19: Presidents' Day - No School

February 21: Get Active for Saint Mark and Potluck

Classroom News - Kindergarten through Second Grade

Kindergarten: Kindergarten is learning a lot as we go into the Christmas season! We are learning about the birth of Jesus Christ and the days leading up to that amazing event! We learned about helping others when we donated for *Good Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child*, and we are working even harder to help local underprivileged children with the *Toys-for-Tots* program. We enjoyed the symphony and learned about different instruments. We are working on writing friendly letters so that we can send Christmas cards out to friends or family members that live far away. We sang at our Christmas Concert, and we have been doing activities with our chapel buddies! We are just so excited to get ready for Christmas!

First Grade: The first graders have been busy building a thankful list this month as we celebrated for the Thanksgiving holiday. Our class

enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast together with grade 2. Each student brought a special family dish to share at our feast. The kindergarten through grade 8 students participated in the 6th Annual Turkey Trot. It was a huge success as was our drive to collect canned goods for our Saint Mark Lutheran Church Food Bank. We couldn't have done it without our parent volunteers who stamped the children on each lap and the donation of otter pops by the school for a treat at the end of our run. The first graders also participated in completing over eight *Operation Christmas Child* shoeboxes that will bless needy children and share the love of Jesus with them all around the globe. We are especially excited to begin using our Little Passports and head out on a global adventure during our unit on geography. The kindergarten through grade 2 classes prepared for their Christmas Concert by learning new songs and memorizing

speaking parts. It was a wonderful event to celebrate Jesus... the true reason for the season.

Second Grade:

The second graders have been busy researching animals. Each child chose an animal they wanted to learn more about. They have used the computer and iPad to search for their animals and read various articles about them. They visited our school library and borrowed books to help with their research. Once their research is complete we will use it to create books about the animal. They'll write paragraphs and include pictures in their non-fiction book. The students have been so excited to share all the facts they have learned and are constantly talking about how cool their animal is!

Classroom News - Third & Fourth Grade

Third Grade: Third grade has been busy as we finish up our second quarter. The students have been hard at work learning and practicing their multiplication facts. In reading, we have been learning how to identify main ideas and im-



Grade 3 in zoo costumes

portant key details along with recognizing the cause and effect in a story. Recently, we turned our classroom into a zoo! Each student completed research about an animal they were interested in learning more about, dressed up as that animal, and presented information to other classes who came to visit. In social studies, we are learning

about culture. We will "travel" to different countries to learn about how they celebrate Christmas. We will end our culture study with a show and tell. Each student will interview a family member and share something related to their culture. We are also participating in the hour of code during our weekly STEM time. The students are learning early skills on coding and computer programming. Sadly, at the end of this quarter we have to say goodbye to our student teacher, **Ms. Harman**. The students have enjoyed learning from Ms. Harman this semester!

Fourth Grade:

Last week the students went on an exciting field trip to Coconut Island. They collected plankton sam-

ples and were able to categorize various sea creatures. The fourth graders also finished celebrating their Makahiki festival as it relates to their ancient Hawaiian studies. They played ancient Hawaiian games and had a traditional Hawaiian meal. The students were excited to write their own cinquain poems and are busy writing the final draft to their fictional narrative papers. In math, the students are excited to be starting multi-digit multiplication. However, they are not sure if they prefer the traditional way or the lattice way. Last, but not least, the students will be using the 3D printer to make special Christmas ornaments to take home to their families. They are excited about the advent season and the upcoming

Classroom News - Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade: As we make our way to the end of the quarter, we have been looking at the 13 colonies in social studies and are now looking at the start of the United States through the American Revolution. In science, students are taking dif-

ferent lessons in our weather unit and working to teach the class those lessons. They will be using experiments, 3D models, and anything else they need to teach the lesson to its maximum capacity. We also continue to progress in our

math, reading and writing. We are half way through the year, and as their teacher, I have really enjoyed seeing the progress they have already made. I look forward to see what the rest of the year has to offer.



Classroom News - Middle School

Mrs. Kuster's News:

In **sixth grade Bible**, we've learned all about Martin Luther and the Reformation, and we've talked about what we're thankful for. We're currently studying Jesus' miracles, teachings, and parables.

In **sixth grade earth science**, we are studying earthquakes and building earthquake-resistant houses.

Seventh grade life science just finished our chapter on modern genetics. We listened to a couple radio articles about a controversial DNA transfer procedure, made posters about rare genetics disorders, and researched and discussed GMOs.

Eighth graders in physical science are finishing their chapter on chemical reactions and will be studying acids, bases, and solutions in the next chapter.

In **seventh grade math**, we are finishing a tough chapter on equations and inequalities. We will be learning about ratios, rates, and proportions next.

Eighth grade algebra students just finished our chapter on solving inequalities and are now studying graphs and functions.

Mrs. Schroppel's News:

The **seventh graders** are looking forward to some special Christmas related events: On Wednesday, the 13th, we are presenting a *Charlie Brown Christmas* in chapel. Please join us as we discover along with Charlie and the gang what the true meaning of Christmas is. We are

also planning a chapel buddy lunch and activity on Friday, the 15th. The class is also busy preparing to present their musical gifts in the 5-8 grades' choir and band concert on Thursday evening, December 14.

In **pre-algebra**, the **seventh and eighth grade** students will continue their study of fractional operations as they begin some in-depth work with ratios, proportions and percents. These will assist them in finding the best deals on their Christmas shopping!



Kindergarten and their grade 8 chapel buddies shopping for gifts to give to Toys-for-Tots

The **sixth grade** has just finished perfecting addition and subtraction of fractions and are moving on to multiplication and division. If you have gotten a little rusty with your fraction operations, you might want to review some of the rules with your student. Letting them explain it to you is a good way for them to learn it better.

This quarter in **eighth grade English**, the students are doing a non fiction book report and oral presentation. We also continue to improve vocabulary, grammar skills, and writing with our Wordly Wise and Shurley practice.

Mrs. DeMello-Kuntz's News:

This quarter, the **eighth graders** are working on projects that illustrate one of Elijah's miracles. We will be viewing murals, movies, and power point presentations made by the students.

In **sixth grade English**, we are finishing up our quarter-long personal narrative project. These stories about the sixth graders' life experiences will surely make the readers laugh, cry, and reflect on similar experiences.

Seventh grade English students are busy completing their short stories. The premise of each of their stories is to be careful what you wish for. They've been working hard to create writing that is descriptive and interesting.

In **sixth grade social studies**, we have just completed a digital project on the nation of Israel using Google Slides. For many sixth graders, this is the first time using this program, and it's been a learning experience for us all!

Seventh grade social studies students have just completed a group research essay on who should benefit from a country's resources and will be working on South American Country Projects next.

In **eighth grade social studies**, students have just completed two debates on the following subjects: the military draft and felons retaining the right to vote. Both affirmative and negative teams had to reference the constitution and amendments during their arguments. We are currently learning about George Washington's presidency.

Saint Mark Lutheran School is on-line!



Check out the School Website
as it continues to be updated!

Saint Mark Website
www.smls-hawaii.org

If you haven't done so already, please sign up to receive **automatic e-mail alerts** when new items are posted to the school website. It's a great way to stay connected!



No Aftercare

Wednesday, December 20 is the last day of school before the beginning of the Winter Intersession. There is early dismissal at 11:30 a.m. with **NO AFTERCARE**. 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 & Christmas Day:

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

You're Invited

Athletics



The Cross Country Meet took place in November with our JV boys team taking 1st place! Top 10 individuals from Saint Mark included JV boys **Alex Lerner** (1st place), **Beau Pruett** (2nd), **Kaysen Dulay-Gorai** (4th), **Aidan Camp** (8th), and **Jacob Remily** (9th); and varsity boy **Hayden Jenkins** (7th). Congratulations to these boys and all who participated! Thank you, **Coach Fosket!**

The varsity volleyball has ended. The boys played a great season; they worked hard, gave it their best (our 4th and 5th graders competed against 8th grade and under teams), and never gave up! The girls finished the season in 2nd place and earned a spot in the post season playoffs. Congratulations to both the boys and girls and a great, big mahalo nui loa to **Coach Sheri!**



All-star honors go to **Ryli Kalahiki** (also our girls' MVP), **Rachael Williams**, **Conor Williams** (also our boys' MVP), and **Marcellus McCullah**. Congratulations!

Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) - News Flash



The PTC encourages everyone to save their items for the

2018 Rummage Sale!



Please join us at the next PTC meeting on **Monday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m.** when we'll be planning for the Rummage Sale on March 3, 2018.

This & That

For December's chapel offerings, we are collecting unwrapped new toys, money, and food for *Toys-for-Tots*. With the monies collected kindergartners and their eighth grade chapel partners went on a shopping trip to Ross' and purchased more gifts.

Everyone is invited to the wonderful Christmas programs put on by our students. We've already enjoyed the **K-2 Christmas program**. The **grades 3-4 Choirs & Beginning Band Christmas program** is on Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. and the **Grades 5-8 Choirs & Advanced Band Christmas Program** is on Thursday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m.

A **BIG Mahalo** goes to everyone

for supporting Saint Mark's first **'Ohana Fun Fair and Hawaiian Plate Fundraiser**. And a special thanks to our Planning Committee and our Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) for their hard work!



Grade 1 & 2 students harvesting corn from their garden

theran School jackets. These are available through our uniform store, Pueo Print, in Aiea.

The **Geographic Bee and Spelling Bee** will be held in January. This



All students enjoyed Saint Mark's 6th Annual Turkey Trot

will give our students a chance to show off their geographic and spelling knowledge!

If you have friends or family interested in applying to Saint Mark please let them know that we are **now accepting new applications** for the 2018-2019 school year. All applications received no later than **January 15, 2018** will get priority consideration.

APPLY NOW